



## SPS Honoured in Quebec National Assembly

On March 18, Liberal MNA Désirée McGraw delivered a declaration in the National Assembly recognizing the Saint Patrick's Society of Montreal. She honoured the Irish community's historical presence in Quebec, highlighted the Society's many activities, and acknowledged SPS President Carol McCormick and board members Mark O'Neill and Kevin Callahan in the visitors' gallery.



Mark O'Neill, Carol McCormick,  
Kevin Callahan, MNA Désirée McGraw

Déclaration à l'Assemblée nationale du Québec  
le 18 mars 2025

par Désirée McGraw, députée de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce,  
pour souligner le travail extraordinaire de la Société Saint-Patrick de Montréal

Aujourd'hui, ce lendemain de la fête de la Saint-Patrick, je tenais à souligner le merveilleux travail de la Société Saint-Patrick de Montréal.

Founded in 1834, the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal is the oldest fraternal organization in all of Canada. With the goal of bringing people together around Irish history and culture, they host a range of events throughout the year, notably: the St. Patrick's Ball, the St. Patrick's Luncheon, the annual Golf tournament. As well the Society supports important initiatives such as the Canadian-Irish Studies program and the Montreal Irish Monument Foundation (Black Rock project) – which in turn have unlocked millions more in government funding from Quebec and Canada.

The Society also sponsors the annual St-Patrick's Parade, which just celebrated its 200th anniversary this making it the oldest parade in the world. Large crowds over 100,000 strong lined the streets of downtown Montreal.

La St-Patrick c'est vraiment la fête du vivre-ensemble au Québec! Bien que 40% des Québécois ont des racines irlandaises, lors de la St-Patrick tout le monde est Irlandais. C'est une belle tradition qui rassemble tous les Québécois de toutes les origines!

J'aimerais reconnaître dans nos tribunes trois leaders qui sont présents parmi nous aujourd'hui : la présidente Carol McCormick ainsi que le directeurs Kevin Callahan et Mark O'Neill, membre du conseil d'administration.

Comme moi, ils sont tous issus d'une fière ascendance irlandaise, une communauté dont l'histoire au Québec date depuis très longtemps et dont les nombreuses contributions ont aidé à bâtir notre société.

Happy belated St. Patrick's Day to all! Merci! Go raibh maith agaibh go léir !



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Carol McCormick**

Dear members and friends of St. Patrick's Society,

This year's Green Season was amazing! I hope many of you took the time to enjoy all the events that were being offered from the UIS Parade Queen Selection Evening and Parade, Erin Sports Breakfast and our Society's Ball and Luncheon both of which were sold out!!

It just proves that Montrealers love to attend Irish events. What is interesting this year, not all the events were squeezed into one month. The Parade Queen Selection Evening for the 2025 Parade was held in November of 2024.

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal Ball was held in February. People commented that they liked that Irish events are spread out and not all within two to three weeks in March.

In fact, there are other Irish events that happen during the year that some of you may not know about but would be very interested in attending. For example: Ciné Gael Montreal – Irish Film Series. Or Bloomsday Festival Montreal.

NUACHT will be featuring a Sister Society Corner where each of our 4 issues per year will welcome a Sister Society to use a full page in our newsletter to explain to our readers who they are, what they do and invite you to attend their events. You may even be interested in becoming a member of their organization.

I hope you will continue to read the NUACHT to keep you informed about so many Irish events that we don't just have a "Green Season" but should we say a "Green Year" !!

If you have an article you think might be interesting to our Irish community or would like to place an ad of your business or event, please check out our information on the following pages.

Have a wonderful Spring and Summer. Our next issue will be in August. See you then.



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**Andrea T. Bobkowitz, CIM®**  
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**ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL**

**29th Annual  
SPS GOLF TOURNAMENT**



**FRIDAY JUNE 6, 2025**

**CLUB DE GOLF BELLEVUE, VILLE DE LÉRY**

**10:00am | Buffet Breakfast**

**12:45pm | Shotgun Start**

**5:00pm | Reception & Dinner**

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# A Proud Tradition: Montreal Irish Celebrate 191st SPS Luncheon

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

This year's Saint Patrick's Society's annual luncheon was a real highlight of Montreal's Green Season. On March 14th, 460 people gathered at the Hotel Bonaventure to celebrate the Irish presence in Montreal and listen to guest speaker and respected political commentator Thomas Mulcair. Mr. Mulcair spoke eloquently of the resilience of the Montreal Irish community and its many contributions to Quebec society. He also stressed that standing up for positive values and community is essential in this time of growing divisiveness and intolerance.

The rich diversity of the identity of the Montreal Irish community was evident in the toasts to Ireland given by Sinn Féin TD Louise O'Reilly, the toast to Canada given by honorary consul of Ireland to Quebec Bryan O'Gallagher, a toast to Québec by SPS executive member Chris Deehy, and a toast to Montreal by city councillor Sterling Downey, representing Mayor Plante. We were also honoured by the presence of the new Irish ambassador to Canada, John Concannon.

The presence of 14 elected officials from 7 different political parties at the federal, provincial, and municipal level was eloquent testimony to the respect the Irish community has earned in Quebec society. Federal MPs included Liberals Anna Gainey and Francis Scarpaleggia, NDP deputy leader Alexandre Boulerice, and BQ MP Louis Philippe Sauvé. From Québec were Liberal MNAs, Désirée McGraw and Greg Kelley, Quebec Solidaire MNAs Guillaume Cliche-Rivard and Alejandra Zaga Mendez and government minister Eric Girard.

A moving moment came when past president Pamela McGovern awarded the SPS Community Award to former board member Paul Doyle for his many years of service to the Montreal Irish. The audience awarded Paul a standing ovation in recognition for his hard work and dedication. SPS president Carol McCormick urged people to join the Society and showed a short video which made a special pitch to Quebec francophones of Irish origin to get involved.

The luncheon finished on a high note with board members George McCourt and Mark O'Neill on stage for the winning tickets for the SPS raffle. Prizes were a gift certificate from Hurley's Irish Pub, a 1 night stay with breakfast for 2 people at The Fairmont Laurentians, and finally two round trip tickets Montreal-Dublin generously donated by Air Canada and Tourism Ireland. The winning ticket for the trips to Ireland was drawn by Air Canada representative Eric Lauzon and the winner was Mark Gallagher. Luncheon chair Kevin Callahan thanked Tourism Ireland and Air Canada for the incredible support in making the raffle a great success.

The 191st annual SPS luncheon both honoured the proud history of the Irish in Quebec and affirmed our positive presence in contemporary Quebec. It was also great craic, which is the quintessential Irish word for fun. We are already looking forward to the 2026 luncheon that will take place on Friday, March 13th.

## 191st SPS Luncheon – continued



*Guest speaker Thomas Mulcair and luncheon chair Kevin Callahan*

The Saint Patrick's Society of Montreal would like to thank and acknowledge the support of Air Canada and Tourism Ireland in helping make our 191st annual luncheon a great success.



# SPS Community award winner 2025

## Paul Doyle: A Pillar of Our Community

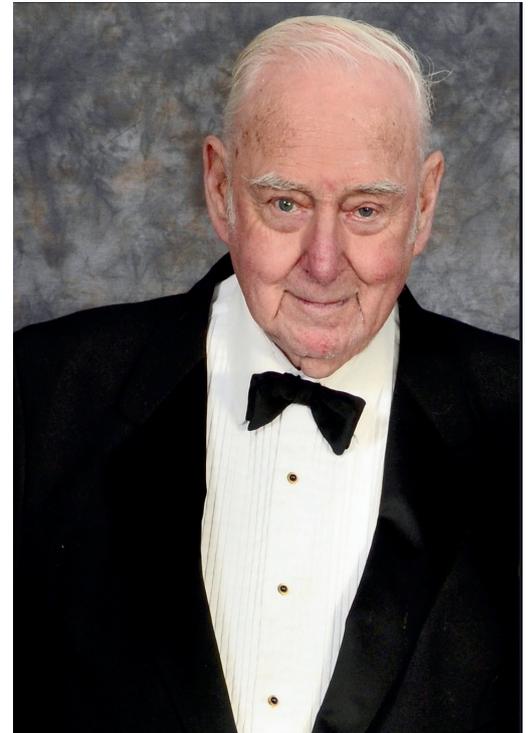
BY Pamela McGovern

Chair of the community award committee

On March 14th during our annual luncheon, the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal celebrated a remarkable member whose dedication has shaped both our Society and the broader community—Paul Doyle.

For nearly three decades, Paul was a driving force on the Society's Board. His leadership of the Annual Golf Tournament helped raise over \$250,000 for charitable causes, and his financial acumen served the community well as Chair of the Investment Committee. In 2018, Paul's deep commitment was fittingly recognized when he was named Irishman of the Year by the Erin Sports Association.

Paul's contributions extend far beyond our organization. He spent 34 years in public education as a teacher, vice-principal, and principal—always championing school spirit, even organizing a memorable St. Patrick's Day parade float.



A gifted athlete in his youth, Paul was drafted by the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Yet, his proudest roles are those of devoted father to eight children and grandfather to twelve. And from 1998 to 2000, he held the unique honour of serving as “first gentleman” to his wife, Lynn Lonergan Doyle, the Society's first female president.

Paul Doyle's legacy of service, leadership, and family is an inspiration to us all!

**Comhghairdeas, Paul—and thank you!**

A graphic banner with a light blue background and scattered blue confetti. A large red ribbon shape is centered, containing the text "RANKED #1 For Full-Service Investor Satisfaction in Canada by J.D. Power" in white. Below the ribbon is the National Bank Financial logo (a red square with a white 'N') and the text "NATIONAL BANK FINANCIAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT". At the bottom of the banner, it says "National Bank Financial Voted #1 by J.D. Power".

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# From the Hearth

Stories, Reflections, and Writings from Our Members

## SECOND CHANCES KATHLEEN COUGHLIN DUNN

SECOND CHANCES IS A SELF-PUBLISHED POETRY COLLECTION BY KATHLEEN COUGHLIN DUNN THAT EXPLORES LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS WITH MOVING INSIGHT. THE BOOK INCLUDES A SPECIAL CHAPTER DEVOTED TO HER IRISH HERITAGE.

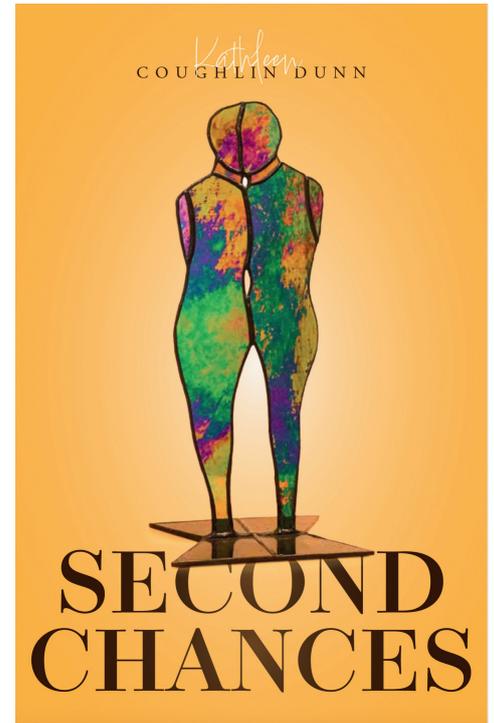
### Reflections on a Dream

What are you doing there  
All alone  
In a corner of the stairs?  
The walls are bare  
The house is gutted  
The only things left are  
Dead wood in the attic  
And you on a chair  
Looking like a doll  
Until you move your head  
And frighten me.

Are you the child  
I left behind in Mont Rolland  
To guard my memories  
Of happier times  
Before illness and death  
Stole my Daddy  
My identity  
My security?

I'm so sorry I left you there, little one  
I thought you would be happy  
Instead you are sad and lonely  
While the rest of me has moved on.

You, my inner child, are trapped  
In a shell of what was  
Take my hand  
Let's leave this place together  
And find our way to wholeness.



Second Chances is available in various formats, including eBook, paperback, and hardcover. Readers can purchase it through major online retailers such as Amazon, Apple Books, Kobo, and directly from FriesenPress.

For more information about the author and her work, visit her official website.

[www.secondchancespoems.ca](http://www.secondchancespoems.ca)

### ADVERTISING RATES FOR NUACHT

Size	1 issue	4 issues	Savings
Card size	\$90	\$225	\$135
1/4 page	\$175	\$375	\$325
1/3 page	\$225	\$525	\$375
1/2 page	\$275	\$725	\$375

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# The Beverley Taugher Rozek Award for Irish Studies

fostering pride in Montréal's Irish heritage through education

The first female member of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, a director of Saint Patrick's Square, and a long-serving warden of Saint Patrick's Basilica, Beverley Rozek was a trailblazer and a lifelong advocate for Montréal's Irish community.

Concordia University is proud to honor her legacy through the new Beverley Taugher Rozek Award for Irish Studies. Established through a generous \$50,000 bequest, the award provides financial support to outstanding undergraduate students beginning their degrees in Irish Studies at Concordia University.

Two scholarships of \$5000 each will be awarded annually for five years, starting this September. For students hoping to study at Concordia this year, applications are still being accepted until early June.



## Sharing the Spirit: SPS President Visits Concordia Irish Studies

A special moment from this past March!

St. Patrick's Society President Carol McCormick dropped by Concordia Irish Studies to meet with students and strengthen the connection between the Society and this incredible program.

Carol was thrilled to speak with the next generation of leaders and invite them to join the Society's New Generation (ages 18–30). We're proud to share that two new members from Concordia have already joined! ❤️



# Montreal Irish Imagine a United Ireland

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN



*Panel on Irish unity: Paul Brogan, Eoin O'hOgain, Sinn Féin TD Louise O'Reilly, Donal Gill, Neal Cunningham, and moderator Lily MacLean.*

A series of cross-country panel discussions on imagining what a united Ireland should look like got off to a brilliant start in Montreal on Saturday, March 15th at Concordia University. The Commissions on the Future of Ireland, organised by Friends of Sinn Féin Canada, seek to involve the Irish in Canada in the growing conversation about building a new Ireland.

The panel offered a wide-ranging discussion of key issues in building a new united Ireland. Concordia Political Science professor and SPS member Donal Gill conducted a thoughtful conversation with Sinn Féin TD Louise O'Reilly on the emotional resonance that a united Ireland has for Irish people. This led to a discussion on how to apply fundamental Irish Republican principles to building a new Ireland. O'Reilly stated that a united Ireland must guarantee a basic level of decency for all its citizens. This includes the right to decent housing, good education, and access to food and healthcare. A new Ireland should be an Ireland of equals.

Prof Gill then talked about the crucial need to get new political structures right. The Irish people are at a unique historical moment where it can choose and shape its future, so it is crucial to build a sound foundation.

ICCC member Paul Brogan from Kildare touched on economic issues and how Ireland could look to the German experience for both good and bad models. He also stressed the importance of dealing with basic needs like affordable housing if the united Ireland project is to win support.

Montreal Shamrocks' Neal Cunningham from Belfast talked of his personal experience growing up in a middle-class SDLP inclined area. The Good Friday Agreement in 1998 brought a period of optimism, but this gradually transformed into a more stagnant mood. He said a national unity project needs to excite people and offer a dynamic vision.

SPS member Eoin O'hOgain from Kilkenny gave a very stimulating talk on political models from the past. He also launched an interesting debate on red lines. He stressed that a united Ireland must keep a distinct Irish identity and not just become a west Britain. A unity project should keep in mind the ongoing decolonization of Ireland and the Irish language plays an important role in this area.

A Q&A followed the panel where there was a lively discussion about issues such as whether a united Ireland might consider joining the Commonwealth or NATO. 60 people attended the Commission and everybody felt this was a great beginning to launching the conversation in the Irish diaspora in Canada on imagining a new Ireland.

People then headed to Hurley's for a fantastic concert by the all-women trad group Gráinne.

# Festival Bloomsday Montreal: Celebrating 14 Years of Irish Culture

A NUACHT spotlight on our sister Irish societies across Quebec

BY KATHLEEN FEE

Festival Bloomsday Montreal, now in its 14th year, is the largest Bloomsday Festival outside Dublin.

In over 60 cities around the world, people gather to mark June 16, the date in 1904 that Irish writer, James Joyce, chose to set his groundbreaking work, *Ulysses*.

Here in Montreal we spread our festivities over several days, the better to celebrate all things Irish seen through the lens of a gloriously bold, irreverent, bawdy novel that has been puzzling, shocking, and delighting readers for more than a hundred years. Famous for its innovative style, stream of consciousness technique, and extremely frank, hilarious, and often controversial language, *Ulysses* re-imagines the Greek myth and takes us through a day in the life of Dubliner, Leopold Bloom.



An appreciative crowd at the Atwater Library.

40% of Quebecers have some Irish ancestry. With a multitude of events both in person and online, we highlight Irish heritage while acknowledging and including the diverse cultures and identities that make up our vibrant city.

Founded in 2011 by David and Judith Schurman, Festival Bloomsday Montreal has found its place on the arts scene in Montreal. In addition to readings from Joyce and other Irish authors, past events have included traditional Irish folk music, play readings, choral music, films, classical music, pub crawls, walking tours, lectures and more!

We've enjoyed the patronage of the Embassy of Ireland and the School of Irish Studies at Concordia, welcomed renowned authors and scholars like Dr. John McCourt, Dr. Michael Keneally, Dr. Kevin Birmingham, Suzanne Aubry, B. J. Powe, Peter Behrens, T. F. Rigelhof, Anne Lewis, and Rachel McCrum, tapped our toes along with Kathleen McAuliffe, Kate Bevan-Baker, David Gossage, Geraldine Mendez, Sean Dagher, Lisa Forget, Chris Barillaro and many others.

Year-long we offer on-line reading groups that attract lovers of literature from around the world. We also participate in Irish-themed activities throughout the city.



Founders: David and Judith Schurman



**FESTIVAL  
BLOOMSDAY  
MONTRÉAL**

Irish culture  
in Montreal  
La Culture irlandaise  
à Montréal

# Festival Bloomsday Montreal: The Celebration Continues

This year's festival runs from  
**June 12-16, 2025**



Ellen Rubin and Karen Sauder performing Ulysses

First up: The Real Thing: the inspiration for the characters in Ulysses. Delving into Joyce's notes and letters we reveal some of the actual people he slandered and satirized. The true stories are often more hilarious or scandalous than in the novel!

**Atwater Library June 12, 12:30-1:30pm**

And we wrap up with dramatized readings from the great work itself. Not to be missed--Kathleen Fee's reading of Molly Bloom's x-rated reverie!

**Westmount Public Library June 16, 2:00-8:00pm**

In between we'll have our ever-popular academic day--scholars bringing new perspectives on Irish history and literature, a musical concert, a candlelight poetry reading, and more!

**[bloomsdaymontreal.com](http://bloomsdaymontreal.com)**  
to stay up to date on our events!

Festival Bloomsday Montreal is a registered charity



Arthur Holden and John Hernan performing Of Thyme and Rosemary

All Photos: Kevin Wright

The festival is proudly supported by the following:



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# CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
<b>2025</b>		
May 31, 2025	Siamsa Céilí, 7:30 pm	siamsa.org
June 6, 2025	SPS Annual Charity Golf Tournament	office@spsmtl.com
June 14, 2025	Irish Music Workshop with Kate Bevan-Baker	bevanbaker@gmail.com
Oct 4 - 12, 2025	Celtic Harmonies Internation Festival	celticharmonies.ca
October 25, 2025	The Muddy Misfits Tour (rugby)	montrelirish.com
<b>2026</b>		
February 20, 2026	St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball	office@spsmtl.com
March 13, 2026	St. Patrick's Society Annual Luncheon	office@spsmtl.com

## MOVING FORWARD!

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, built on a strong support of over 100 years, want to continue growing in members, giving the society the strength in numbers it requires to continue its work in the community.

## NEW GENERATION

We are building our "New Generation" division. All those between the ages of: 18-30 are welcome to build with us new ways to reach out to our community besides: The Ball, The Luncheon and The Golf Tournament. New events will give us a way to expand our help to the community. Won't you join us?

**Sign up on our website: [www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com)**

Please fill out this reply card, if you wish to donate

Yes, I wish to contribute to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

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