

Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society



St. Gabriel's renovations take off

By Mary McDaid

At their September Board Meeting, the Executive and Directors of St. Patrick's society voted unanimously to donate \$20,000 to St. Gabriel's Renovation Fund. True to the St. Gabriel's tradition of not embarking on any project until the funds were there to pay for it, the St. Patrick's donation was the final amount needed to enable work to begin on the second phase of the parish's renovation project.

In 1997, at a meeting to plan that year's *Garry Clahane Golf Tournament*, parishioners and friends of the parish discussed the various structural problems of the 130-year-old church. This was the first meeting of what would become a project team mandated to investigate the extent of the building's deterioration, determine the costs of repair and develop a funding plan to complete an ambitious restoration of the church that is known as the heart of Montreal's Irish community. Architects *Werleman, Guy, McMahon* had mapped out three major areas requiring immediate attention: (1) the façade, including the east and west towers; (2) the front entrance, from street level to door; (3) the roof – not only were leaks to be repaired immediately, but the whole roof would have to be replaced within five years of the inspection.

The total cost was estimated at over \$600,000 and with parish pride, Project Team Co-Chair, David O'Neill, could



St. Gabriel's Parish Church, circa 1900

announce by February 2002 that \$349,000 had been raised through parish efforts alone! Then it was time to ask the rest of the Community to help out. Members of the Project Team made presentations through the General Assembly of Irish Organizations and the response was swift, so much so that David can now make his second announcement: over \$440,000 has been raised, this time through Montreal community support! The funds are available – the work can begin.

In over 133 years, St. Gabriel's parish has been home to 13 pastors, two religious communities, three schools – and one Bishop, along with the descendants of over 6,000 Irish who settled in Point St. Charles in the 1840s. The church was built in 1868 and the first Mass was celebrated in 1870. The parish has long been home to two communities: the first, its immediate parish members, comprising the families who raised their children, educated them, and watched them go far beyond Centre Street; the second is that extended family, those who grew up there and still go home for the special times.

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November 2003
Volume 16, Issue 4

A word from our President

Having spent the weekend of November 7-8-9 at the Eastern Canadian Oireachtas organized by the Irish Dancing Teachers Association of Canada, an event which St. Patrick's Society was proud to support, I am once again in awe of the number of Canadians who embrace Irish culture so enthusiastically, to say nothing of energetically. I would like to congratulate the nine Montrealers who qualified for the World Championships of Irish Dancing in Belfast next Easter (see story, p. 8) and their teacher, Bernadette Short, who not only coached them to excellence but also co-chaired this huge event.

I am delighted to have been able to hold our general meeting on November 10th at Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel in Old Montreal and to visit the adjoining Marguerite-Bourgeoys Museum. Since the archaeological dig beneath the chapel is open to the public by appointment only, we were privileged to be able to include it in our visit. Except for the foundations of the original chapel built by Marguerite Bourgeoys in 1675 and the ashes from the fire that destroyed it in 1754, the site has been relatively undisturbed and therefore contains many clues about the life of the Amerindians who preceded us on the Island of Montreal, dating back to about 400 B.C. There is also a strong Irish connection at the Chapel since it was the first place of worship for English-speaking, mainly Irish, Catholics in the early days of the 19th century. The Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame (CND), founded by Ste. Marguerite-Bourgeoys, opened the first English Catholic school there in 1838. On the ceiling of the Chapel, there is a Hamel painting depicting the priests and nuns who nursed the Irish famine victims in the fever sheds of Montreal. We are pleased to bring this bit of history to our members and to encourage Montrealers to maintain their ties with the Chapel and the CNDs.

The Christmas Season is almost upon us and we are delighted to be able to present our tenth annual St. Patrick's Society Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Basilica on December 3rd. I would encourage all members to come out for what promises to be an excellent evening of carols, complete with an improved sound system, and to invite family and friends to sing along. This is our last fund-raising event of the year and deserves our full support. It provides an excellent opportunity, by the way, to invite people who might not otherwise have occasion to visit St. Patrick's Basilica.

Finally, we invite one and all to come to our annual Christmas reception the following Monday, December 8th. This is the culmination of our fund-raising efforts when we get to meet the recipients of our grants. Since Villa Maria High School has been among the recipients in the past, we asked the Directrice-General, Sr. Arlita Matte, CND, if we might hold the event in the school's historic parlours. Formerly the residence of the Governor-General, Villa Maria has been a school for girls since 1854. Beverly Rozek, one of its graduates, will be our hostess.

Thank you all for a good year. I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Patrick Dunn

A Christmas concert that's not to be missed

The Society will host its Annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 3, 2003, in the historic one hundred and fifty-six-year-old Saint Patrick's Basilica, 460 René-Lévesque West.

This year's concert will feature the Orpheus Choral Group, an arm of the Ottawa-based Orpheus Musical Theatre Society. The role of this group is to take music out into the community and over the years, the main performance venues have been service club functions, church and public concerts, seniors' residences and hospitals, and community and charity fund-raising events. The program on December 3 will feature popular traditional and classical Christmas carols with many sing-along selections for our audience.

The proceeds of the event help to fund the endeavours of the St. Patrick Society. This year a donation will be made to the SUN YOUTH organization, in gratitude for the help they extended to the families of two Irish rugby fans involved in a hit-and-run accident this past summer.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$12.00 each. To obtain tickets or for further information, please telephone Doris Rooney at (514) 481-1346 or visit our website at www.stpatrickssociety.com.

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Deadline for submissions for next issue: February 1

www.stpatrickssociety.com

Renovations... (cont.)

Margaret Healy, Past-President of the United Irish Societies commented: "St. Gabriel's belongs to the whole community. Sure, St. Patrick's is our basilica, but St. Gabriel's is our parish church!" That's why Phil Desmaries and Dan McCrory from the West Island go home to take up the 8:00 a.m. collection every Sunday morning, and it's also why the Irish community flocks to the Point for the annual 'Mass of Anticipation' preceding every St. Patrick's Day Parade. St. Gabriel's unbroken traditions are a symbol of the Irish Community's continuity and the families who helped to build this parish were instrumental in preserving those traditions. Names such as McQuillan, Dillio, Clahane, Healy, Fitzgerald, Hanley, Byrnes and Burns, Killen, Duffy, Weippert, Marchand and Figsby echo through the years in the lists of so many parish celebrations. They were represented at the 100th anniversary in 1970 and again in 1995 when the community celebrated the episcopal consecration of its pastor, Mgr. Neil Willard. St. Gabriel's choir, under the gifted direction of Terry Clahane, contributes to the solemnity of every Sunday liturgy. Its many benefit performances in aid of the church and parish have raised thousands of dollars and its reputation is second to none among Montreal parish choirs.

Sr. Dianna is known throughout the city for her efforts on behalf of the hungry and homeless...

Today, over 600 families are registered at St Gabriel's and welcome the leadership of a parish team headed by Fr. Jim MacDonald and including Fr. Murray McCrory (in residence), Sr. Dianna Lieffers, NDS, and Deacon Francois Lehmann. Since 1999, the community of Point St. Charles has generated over \$268,000 for distribution to numerous projects within and outside its boundaries: Christmas Food Baskets, the Children's Wish Foundation, Montreal General, the Royal Victoria and the Children's Hospital. Sr. Dianna is known throughout the city for her efforts on behalf of the hungry and homeless, so many of whom find their way to St. Gabriel's knowing that they will not be turned away.

Food baskets are distributed monthly to 200 families, and 80 hot meals are distributed each week. The parish has a distribution centre for used furniture and clothing, and serves as a home-support centre for A.A. groups, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Senior Citizens, Teen Clubs and Sports Groups. St. Gabriel's receives 25 requests daily for financial assistance and no one is ever turned away empty-handed.

"St. Gabriel's is a strong and generous parish community and its legacy should be preserved and maintained."

Project Co-Chair David O'Neill, who started life in St. Ann's Parish, then moved to St. Gabriel's when it closed, is now on the parish list of St. Veronica's in Dorval. When asked why, in the face of so much poverty throughout today's society, the Point St. Charles parish elected to promote and support this restoration project, he replied: "St. Gabriel's is a strong and generous parish community and its legacy should be preserved and maintained. In building this church our forefathers built a community and its loss would be a sorrow for all of us, near and far."

St. Gabriel's has been declared 'territorial' by the Archdiocese of Montreal in recognition of its importance to a community far outside its borders. People come from across Canada and the United States for baptisms and marriages; sons and daughters come home to claim their part of the heritage of their parish church. The territorial privilege allows the church to dispense the sacraments to non-residents, a privilege that is shared by only a few other churches in the province of Quebec. The Church's recognition of the historic contribution of St. Gabriel's to generations of Irish confirms that it is indeed a parish without borders and will have a central place in Irish Catholic life for generations to come.

Much more information on this project is available, but space constraints prevent it from being included.

St. Gabriel's Restoration Project Team

Co-Chairs

*David O'Neill
Pat Clahane*

Team Members

*Frank Faherty
Frank Figsby
Mabel Fitzgerald
Margaret Healy
Maureen Kelly
Bill Killen
Sr. Dianna Lieffers
Fr. Murray McCrory
Ruth Morin
Marilyn Patwell
Shirley Quinsey*
Robin and Debbie Robert,
Sheila Waite
Joan Wilson
Maureen* and Charlie Weippert
Since deceased

Pastors of St. Gabriel's

*John J. Salmon, 1868-1886
Thomas McCarthy, 1886-1890
William Canon O'Meara, 1890-1919
Frederick Elliott, 1919
James Canon McCrory, 1919-1927
Thomas W. O'Reilly, 1927-1935
Thomas Bracken, 1935-1957
George Thoms, 1958-1963
John Ryan, 1964-1975
Neil Willard, 1975-1980
Murray McCrory, 1980-2000
John Lyng, 2000
Jim MacDonald, 2001-present*

Stop Press!

Erin Sports is proud to announce that the Irishman of the Year for 2004 is none other than David O'Neill. Based on what you will have read in *Nuacht*'s lead story, David well deserves the honour that will be bestowed on him. The dates of the "sashing" and the breakfast will be announced before the end of 2003. Details of these and other St. Patrick's Day-related events will be published in our February issue.

Joe Mell: a man who makes a difference

By Ned Eustace

Forty years ago Joe Mell was known well enough to receive a letter from Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson, apologizing for not being around to welcome him to Ottawa. Nowadays, it seems that any place you go in Montreal, people know this quiet man from the Point with a hand in every good cause.

Born in Point St. Charles to a large family with strong Irish connections – his mother Katie's grandparents, named Callen, hailed from Raphoe, Co. Donegal – he has lived there ever since, apart from fourteen months of active service as a section leader infantryman in the Korean War. His mother enjoyed horse racing and from the age of four Joe could calculate racing odds with uncommon skill! At 13 he started work as a bicycle delivery boy for the American Drug Store earning 35¢ an hour. He won a full scholarship to Loyola College in 1948, but family circumstances made it impossible to take advantage of it. After his service in Korea, he attended McGill University for two years studying business. Eventually he worked for the CPR and later was Sales Manager for Keating Ford although he couldn't drive a car.

His work as a community activist began early too. It started through his family's association with pee wee hockey and other sports in what became known as Leo's Boys – named for his brother who had died in 1951 from leukaemia. Leo's Boys had over 3,000 members at its zenith. Few people in our community have been active for so long and even fewer have the reputation he enjoys for getting things done quietly and effectively. He is presently active in Maison Decision House, St. Leonard's Cross Roads, Waseskun House, Meals-on-Wheels Unit 46, Roger Doucet Food Co-op, Roger Doucet Drop-in Centre, Quebec-Canada Student Exchange, Lion's Club-Laval, Comhaltas Ceolteorai Eireann, Korean Veterans Association,



Jean Beliveau, Carole Mell, and Joe Mell at a Trees Canada Foundation awards ceremony where their contributions were formally recognized

Veterans' Hospital Shows and St Patrick's Society. His work with veterans, ex-convicts, the poor and the marginalized and disenfranchised generally has not gone unnoticed.

Previously he has served on the Boards of Catholic Boys Services, Catholic Rehabilitation Services, John Howard Society, Catholic Community Services, Catholic Men's Hostel, Centraide, Good Shepherd Residence, St. Ann's Senior Hockey League, Kiwanis Little League Baseball, Point St. Charles Boys & Girls Club, Fairshare Inc., and a plethora of other organizations.

Joe is married to Carole Shaw, who is also a community activist, and between them they have five children and nine grandchildren.

Looking for a Christmas gift?

By Anne Forrest

The Other Key, Neil McKenty's first novel, was launched earlier this month. McKenty, a St. Patrick Society member, is a Montreal writer and broadcaster who hosted talk shows on CJAD and on CFCF television for many years. This is his fifth book.

Set in Montreal in 2003, with brief forays to Ireland and England, *The Other Key* focuses on Inspector Julian Main and his budding relationship with Chantal, sister of one of the novel's two murder victims.

Clearly McKenty has done his homework as he describes police procedures and the men in blue with confidence. He develops his characters primarily through dialogue using unique speech patterns to create diverse personalities. In addition to the Inspector and his colleagues, we are introduced to lawyers, doctors, a talk show host, a loan shark, a construction company boss and a Jesuit priest among

others. McKenty's preoccupation with food is evident. Almost all of Inspector Main's meals are documented in detail and his patronage of many Montreal restaurants possibly reflects McKenty's own enjoyment of fine cuisine (however, I prefer not to have my Chateaufort du Pape chilled). The main (forgive the pun) love interest is handled delicately although at times it seems too good to be true. But I did wonder why Henry Branson's mistress was mentioned, but failed to put in an appearance.

Julian Main is not Adam Dalglish, although they share a love of good music, nor is McKenty a P.D. James, but she does have 16 novels to her credit and this is a first for McKenty.

To reveal more of this Who-done-it would be unfair. The mystery will be solved for you when you read the book. Copies are now available at Nicholas Hoare on Greene Avenue, or by mail from Price-Patterson Ltd., Box 711, Victoria Station, Westmount, H3Z 2Y2. The price? \$22.50.

Cholera and typhus decimate the Irish immigrants

By Shawn McAlear

Even before the conquest, the Irish who had come to Quebec from France were joined by deserters from the English colonies to the south. On the heels of the American Revolution, soldiers and others in the colonies chose Quebec, feeling it offered them greater freedom to practise their Catholic faith.

However, it was in 1815 that immigration from Ireland itself began in earnest. Ireland's population had been growing rapidly at a time when British North America badly needed labour to build canals and railroads. The timber trade ships, returning empty, offered an obvious solution. From 1816 to 1860, it is said that over a million immigrants — 60% of them Irish — passed through the ports of Quebec City and Montreal.

For the most part, the voyages were arduous, if not perilous, and the authorities, anticipating an outbreak of cholera, set up a quarantine station at Grosse Île, about 30 miles downstream from Quebec City, in 1832. Still, 3,452 people were to die from the disease in Quebec.

The worst and most tragic disaster, however, occurred in 1847 as huge numbers of Irish, fleeing the potato famine and hoping for a better life in America, developed typhus. It is believed 5,424 Irish were buried at Grosse Île that year and another 6,000 at the Pointe Saint-Charles sheds in Montreal. The Irish Stone Monument near the entrance to Victoria Bridge and the Celtic cross on Grosse Île were erected in 1859 and 1909, respectively, to commemorate the tragedies.

Of the 42 Catholic priests who served at Grosse Île in 1847, 19 came down with the fever and four of them died. 22 of the 26 doctors also developed the disease. 18 Anglican priests (two Irish born) also served, of whom three died.

In Montreal, the Grey Nuns lost seven sisters; the Sisters of Providence, three; the Sulpicians, four priests, and the Jesuits, three. The then mayor of Montreal, John Easton Mills, was also to die from typhus while caring for the Irish immigrants.

The happy note of the disaster was that 600 orphans in Quebec City and 500 in Montreal were adopted by local families, many of them French-Canadian.



Celtic cross – Grosse Île

The *Jeanie Johnston* visit — an epilogue as \$7,000 pilotage fees are recovered

At the end of the *Jeanie Johnston*'s visit, as we reflected on Jean Charest's memorable speech, on the thousands who went on board, and on the elation of a jaded *Jeanie* crew delighted with the *joie de vivre* of Montreal, someone was heard to say, "If you want to get something done, call Leo Delaney."

... the only port in North America to make such a demand.

With a well-earned reputation for pushing ahead and rarely leaving anything unsaid, however appropriate that might be, Leo was present when the ship's pilot went on board two hours prior to the vessel's departure and demanded \$12,000 in pilotage fees for the previous inbound leg from Trois-Rivières to Montreal. This unhappy episode gave Montreal the distinction of being the only port in North America to make such a demand. What did not get reported in the *Gazette* was the aggressive tone of the pilot and the further threat that if he had to leave and return later in the day, it would cost an additional \$1,700. Leo was called and he watched (not silently), as the crew counted out \$12,000 mostly in one and five dollar bills from the money donated generously by the thousands that went on board to see and reflect on how their forebears got here. The crew stuffed the money into brown-paper

bags and two ship's officers hand-delivered it to the appointed place dictated by the pilot organization's petty ambassador of greed.

The story, and Leo's restrained characterization of the demand as "Disgraceful!" made the press all round the world from Dublin's *Irish Times* to papers in the US, Australia and Asia. Leo even had a call from a friend in Sydney he hadn't heard from in years. However, his subsequent protests, by phone and letter to anyone who would listen did not go unheard. Someone got the message and a cheque for \$7,260.33 was recently paid to the *Jeanie Johnston* Company, returning part of the outrageous pilotage levy.

The organizing committee reported the *Jeanie*'s visit had not only been a smashing success and had also even made a little money. At a recent meeting, David Hannaford presented Leo with two *Jeanie Johnston* engraved cut-crystal whiskey glasses in recognition of his staying power — like the man said, "If you want to get something done, call Leo Delaney." Congratulations to everyone involved!

Quebec-Ireland Wider Horizons program proves highly successful

By Margaret Ann Smith

This past spring, the Montreal Children's Hospital, through the departments of Pediatric Social Work and Nursing, participated for the first time in the Quebec-Ireland **Wider Horizons** program, an initiative of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and operated locally by the Montreal-based ERS (Employee Readiness Skills) Youth Development Corporation. Since ERS began this program in 1997, some 1200 Catholic and Protestant young people from both the north and south of Ireland have benefitted from the job training they received here in Montreal.

One of the participants, Ursula Maguire of Belfast, spent two months working at the Children's as a child-care worker on the hospital's psychiatric ward for young children aged 3-12. With some background from her high school experience and in her large family which has included foster children (one of whom is now a permanent family member as an adopted child), and with her considerable personal charm and human relations skills, Ursula quickly integrated into the multi-discipline team, thanks to the supervision of Jenny Milne Smith, Head Nurse, and the support of other team members. Carol Tymchuk, Coordinator the Irish Program and responsible for placing Ursula, clearly has a special talent for matching students with work that interests them. Ursula loved her work and her contact with the children on the ward and the feeling was reciprocated by patients and staff alike.

Financed by the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), these young adults are here not only for job training but to expose them to the cultural and social life of Montreal and Quebec. In the process, they also learn to understand each other so hopefully the theme, Wider Horizons, will be achieved and will have an impact when they return home.

Ursula not only honed her skills while here but was an ambassador of her country as well. *Irish Eyes Are Smiling* was probably written with someone like this lovely young Irish girl in mind. She loved the work she did at the hospital,



Ursula Maguire (far right), Dr. Hy Freedman (second from left), director of the Children's psychiatric ward & the ward staff

the people she met (she and her fellow-students discovered Crescent Street without any help!), and the trips she took with her group on the weekends to various sights in the province. While here the participants are housed with local families, and that too, contributes to better understanding on both sides of the ocean.

This wonderful collaborative venture of the International Fund for Ireland – the sponsoring and funding body – of Springboard, a Belfast program that recruits the candidates, and of ERS which provides the training and exposure to life in this part of Canada, is truly a person-to-person endeavour. All three organizations are to be commended for this initiative.

To future trainee-visitors: *Céad mile failte* and to Ursula *Slán leat!*

For further information about this program, contact Carol Tymchuk (514) 731-3419 (tel), (514) 731-4999 (fax), or email: ers@youl.ca

Margaret Ann Smith, now retired, was Director of Pediatric Social Work at the hospital and mentored Ursula. She provided ongoing contact with Ms. Tymchuk.

St. Patrick Society's Christmas Reception to be held in elegant surroundings

Villa Maria School, which celebrates its 150th anniversary next year, is the location of the upcoming St. Patrick Society Christmas Reception. In 1951, the Palladian-style villa was declared an historic monument because of its excellent state of conservation and its historical importance.

The central section of the present-day school was the first residence of the Monk family, built in 1804 by James Monk, Chief Justice of Lower Canada, on the Montreal estate he purchased in 1795. The property, known as "Monklands," was left to his niece, Elizabeth Ann Monk. Later, in 1844, the family leased the house to the Crown as a residence for the Governors General of Canada. At this time the building underwent significant modifications to create a more imposing residence. Three Governors General, Sir Charles

Metcalf, Lord Cathcart, and Lord Elgin resided at Monklands during the period from 1844 to 1849. And in 1849 the future Viceroy of India, son of Lord and Lady Elgin, was born there.

For the five years that followed, Monklands was transformed into a country hotel. It was sold in 1854 to the Sisters of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame who opened a boarding school, Villa Maria, accommodating 45 girls.

Today, the school offers secondary education to over 1,000 girls in the English and French linguistic sectors. While remaining true to its traditions and heritage, Villa Maria boasts modern facilities and offers a program leading to CEGEP and university. In the recently released Fraser Institute survey of Quebec's 453 secondary schools, Villa Maria has moved up from 26th to 12th place in the province.

Former prime minister and foreign minister, economist, statistician, journalist, historian and architect of peace in Ireland visits Montreal

By Ned Eustace

It was Thursday, October 9, 2003, and though not a tall man, and carrying his 78 years very well, Garret Fitzgerald seemed to lope into Concordia's Faculty Club in the eminently forgettable Hall Building with the same energy, sharpness and room-filling presence I remember from 1964 at University College, Dublin, when he arrived, frequently late, to deliver his high energy lectures. Remarkable fluency of language, staccato rapid-fire delivery, peppered with wit and humour characterized his lecturing style as he presented complex and frequently very original political and economic analysis all supported by mind-numbing statistics without a note in sight. That was then and he has not changed very much since. Dr. Garret Fitzgerald had just delivered the Second Annual Bishop Neil Willard Irish Studies Lecture to a capacity crowd at the DeSève Theatre at Concordia University.

His lecture was on *Northern Ireland and the Normalization of the British-Irish Relationship*. He posed the question, how could two countries with a profoundly troubled relationship for hundreds of years, in the space of little more than a decade, become solid allies, friends even, and partners on many but not all issues in the European Union. He built his case for the existence of this normalized relationship on Irish independence (based, incidentally, on the model of Canada in the British Commonwealth); both Britain and Ireland becoming members of the European Union; Ireland's astounding economic growth in recent years; and a mutual need to solve the Northern Ireland question. Dr. Fitzgerald supported his thesis with a strong fact base. Of particular interest was his suggestion that without the European Union Ireland's dependence on Britain would have relegated it to a continuously impoverished existence on the fringe of Europe with chronic emigration. He based this on the fact that the British economy, to which Ireland exported 80% of its predominantly agricultural production, had been in a state of decline from 1890 to 1980. This, when combined with the United Kingdom's low-cost food policy, ensured a declining low standard of living for Ireland. The result of independence and rapid economic growth was a change in the Irish inferiority complex vis-à-vis England and, for the latter, increased respect for the Irish. He showed how little communication there had been between Irish and British politicians and officials between the 1920s and the late 1960s, restricted as it was to little more than passing contacts at the League of Nations and later the United Nations. Upon joining the European Union, this all changed to constant contact in Brussels among politicians and officials resulting in strong personal relationships that made progress on Northern Ireland – a threat to both countries – possible.

On Friday, October 10, he spoke again to a full house at a luncheon hosted by the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce in the University Club. His theme was *The Celtic Tiger and the Irish Economy* and in less than forty minutes he bombarded the audience

with humour, analysis and statistics showing how investment in education, well-planned tax-incentives and other elements made the *Celtic Tiger* possible. He is optimistic about Ireland's economic future but does not envisage the growth rates of recent years.

The son of Desmond Fitzgerald, the first Irish foreign minister, to whom he frequently refers in his speeches and with whom he obviously had a close and admiring relationship, he was educated at the Jesuit-run Belvedere College and University College Dublin graduating in economics and law. Recognised as a brilliant child he occupied himself by memorising train timetables of the countries he visited with his father. He is regarded, somewhat



Dr. Garret Fitzgerald presenting UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, with an honorary DDL in Dublin Castle

unfairly, as an academic who entered Irish politics. Thus in an exchange supposedly with one of his Ministers at a cabinet meeting he is said to have commented: "That's all very well in practice, but will it work in theory?"

He worked in Aer Lingus from 1947 to 1958 then founded his consulting firm, the Economist Intelligence Unit of Ireland, and lectured in economics at University College Dublin until 1973. He was elected to the *Dail* in 1969 as a member of Fine Gael, was Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1973 to 1977 and *Taoiseach* from 1981 to 1987. Perhaps one of his most important achievements will prove to be the Anglo-Irish Agreement signed by him and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on November 15, 1985, which was a cornerstone for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. After losing elections in 1987, he resigned the leadership of Fine Gael and retired from political life. Currently he is an active Chancellor of the National University of Ireland.

Oireachtas 2003 produces nine Montreal world's qualifiers

This year's "Parade of Champions" included six Montrealers among the 26 first-place winners at the Eastern Canadian Oireachtas held at the Delta Centre-Ville Hotel the weekend of November 7-9. They were repeat winners Michael O'Gorman, 22, Anne-Marie Keenan and Casey Costello, both 19, and Caitlin O'Hara, 17, as well as first-time winners Michael Keane, 16, and Jaime Poirier, 11. The Parade of Champions was, as usual, the highlight of the dinner dance following two days of solo competitions where dancers vied for a limited number of coveted spaces at the World Championships of Irish Dancing to be held in Belfast next Easter.

This year's event, held for the first time in Montreal, drew 482 female and 36 male competitors in 15 age groups from under-8 to over-21. Nine of the 45 Montrealers who participated were among those who qualified. In addition to the first-place winners mentioned above, Marie Short, 22, Katie Irving, 24, and Tom Levy, 10, also qualified for the World's. All are students with The Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing. The Short School had the second highest number of first place winners at this year's Oireachtas. Seven other schools had one or two winners each.



Michael Keane, 16, a grade ten Loyola High School student, winner of the under-16 boys category who qualified to compete at the World Championships of Irish Dancing in Belfast next Easter

Among the 118 teams entered in 12 four-hand and eight-hand céilí figure categories, 17 were from the Short School and four from the Moran Academy in Deux-Montagnes. Three Short teams came in first, four placed second, fifth and seventh, and one Moran team was third. The Short four-hand team made up of Julie Dunn, Anne-Marie Keenan, Shannon Keenan, and Caitlin O'Hara won the only perpetual trophy of the day. Short School teams have won the Peggy O'Neill perpetual trophy in the over-17 age group for five years in a row.

So you think you're Irish? Try this short quiz!

- What is the leprechaun's legendary profession?
 - tour guide
 - tailor and cobbler
 - banker
 - garden ornament
- Where was the seat of the High Kings of Ireland?
 - Tara
 - Dublin Castle
 - Armagh
 - Galway
- Where did the potato blight of the 1840s, which led to famine in Ireland, originate?
 - England
 - Turkey
 - Ireland
 - The United States
- What is a bodhran (bow-rawn)?
 - a musical instrument
 - a type of cow
 - a farm tool
 - a musical tune
- How many pints of stout does Guinness's fermenting vessel ferment at one brewing?
 - 1,406,000
 - 502,000
 - 421,000
 - 2,304,000
- What is the official symbol of Ireland?
 - the wolfhound
 - the harp
 - the shamrock
 - the Celtic cross
- What are the two most common surnames in Ireland?
 - Kelly, O'Connor
 - O'Sullivan, O'Connell
 - McCarthy, Byrne
 - Murphy, Kelly
- On what days are Irish pubs closed?
 - never
 - every Sunday
 - Good Friday and Christmas Day
 - Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- Where is the Book of Kells displayed?
 - the National Museum
 - the National Gallery
 - Dublin College
 - Trinity College Library
- What is "blarney"?
 - lies
 - flattery
 - Gaelic
 - insults

see p.10 for answers

Around town

Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce

On Thursday, December 11, ICCC will be holding its annual Christmas reception from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The venue is the University Club at 2047 Mansfield Street, Montreal. The cost is \$40.00 for members and \$55.00 for non-members. ICCC looks forward to seeing you there. For further details, contact Diana James at 845-0973.

Concordia to host NAACLT Conference

The tenth annual North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers Conference will be held in Montreal from May 27-29, 2004.

Abstracts for individual papers or workshops are welcome on topics involving any one of the modern Celtic languages. Celtic language teachers are especially encouraged to present workshops or papers concerning methods, materials and program development.

Deadline for Papers: January 23, 2004

All presentations must be 20 minutes long with a 10-minute discussion period following. Please email a 200-word abstract of your paper, including your name, address and phone number to John Donahue — JD1050@aol.com

Innisfail

Reservations are a must for the two Innisfail activities: Dec. 6 – Christmas party, dinner and céilí; and Jan. 31 – Irish Season Kick-Off Céilí. Both will be held at the NDG Legion (Addington/deMaisonneuve) from 6:30 p.m. A \$10.00 donation is requested. For more details, contact Roberta Wheeler at 768-0613.

Centre for Canadian Irish Studies

Two courses will be offered in the Winter 2004 session:

- *History of Ireland* (starts Jan. 7, 2004) — Professor Ronald Rudin. 6:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- *Contemporary Irish Writing: Landscape, Nation and Identity* (graduate course starts Jan. 6, 2004) — Professor Michael Kenneally. 10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

In May and June 2004, CCIS is organizing a symposium *Ireland on the St. Lawrence*. This series of courses, lectures, and musical events related to Grosse Île and Irish Settlement in Quebec will culminate in a guided tour to Grosse Île. Contact the Centre at 1590 Dr. Penfield Ave., Montreal, H3G 1C5, tel: (514) 878-8711, fax: (514) 848-4514, or email: cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca for more details.

Would you like to be more aware of the cultural, academic and social activities of Montreal's Irish Community? Join our electronic mailing list of more than 400 members and receive regular announcements of interesting events. Send an email to the Centre at cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca or phone (514) 848-8711 for further information.

Siamsa

In addition to holding regular céilís, the Siamsa School of Irish Music offers group classes in fiddle, whistle, flute, guitar, percussion, singing, set dancing, and Irish drama. Winter 2004 registration will take place on January 22, 2004, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 5964 NDG Ave. For more information, contact Emily Andrews at (514) 932-0135 or check our website: www.siamsa.org.

Application for Membership of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

Céad míle fáilte or a hundred thousand welcomes!

The St. Patrick Society is the oldest Irish cultural society in Quebec and we warmly invite you to join us in celebrating your Irish roots. As a charitable organization run by volunteers, the Society seeks to provide leadership and support for Montreal's Irish community, and through its commitment to a variety of associations and institutions, works for the good of society as a whole.

Founded in March, 1834, predating its sister societies (St. Jean Baptiste, St. Andrew's, St. George's, St. David's and the Caledonian), its aim was to provide charitable, social and educational support for the rapidly growing Irish population of Montreal. Its stance was to be non-political and non-sectarian.

From 1846-48 the Society helped to alleviate the suffering of the Irish immigrants who flocked to Canada to escape the ravages of the Great Famine of the 1840s. Since then, the Society has continued to provide a focus for the community, while at the same time offering assistance to immigrants arriving from Ireland.

Annual membership fee is only \$50.00 or \$30.00 if under 30.

To join, please complete the following and mail with your cheque for the fees to:

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Home address _____

Tel: (home) _____

Bus. address _____

Tel: (bus) _____

Email _____

Sponsor's name (if applicable) _____

I hereby agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Society.

Signature _____

2003-2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLAR IMEACHTAI 2003-2004

DATE	EVENTS	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Nov. 29	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White	737-9222
Nov. 30	UIS General Meeting & Christmas Draw, St. John Brebeuf Church, 1:30 p.m.	Joe Glover	766-1246
Dec. 3	St. Patrick's Christmas Concert, St. Patrick's Basilica, 7:30 p.m., \$12.00	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Dec. 6	Innisfail Christmas Party: dinner & céilí, NDG Legion, 6:30 p.m., \$10.00 donation	Roberta Wheeler	768-0613
Dec. 8	St. Patrick's Society Executive Meeting & Christmas Reception, Villa Maria School	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Dec. 11	ICCC Annual Christmas Reception, University Club, 2047 Mansfield, 5:30 – 8:00	Diana James	845-0973
Jan. 18	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 1:30	Joe Glover	766-1246
Jan. 22	Siamsa winter 2004 registration, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., 5964 NDG Ave.	Emily Andrews	932-0135
Jan. 23	Cine Gael 2004, DeSève Cinema	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Jan. 26	St. Patrick's Society Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Jan. 26	St. Patrick's Society Directors' Meeting, 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Jan. 31	Innisfail Irish Season Kick-off Céilí, NDG Legion, 6:30 p.m., \$10.00 donation	Roberta Wheeler	768-0613
Feb. 7	UIS Annual Selection of Parade Queen, Delta Centre-Ville Hotel	Elizabeth Quinn(450)	672-5087
Jan. 18	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 1:30	Joe Glover	766-1246
Feb. 15	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White	737-9222
Feb. 16	UIS Annual Flag Raising, Place Ville Marie, 11:30 a.m.	Jane Skelton	486-4918
Feb. 16	St. Patrick's Society Executive Mtg., 5:30 p.m. /General Mtg 6:30 p.m. TBA	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Mar. 6	St. Patrick's Ball, location TBA, \$170.00 & \$90.00	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Mar. 7	Annual Mass of Anticipation & UIS General Meeting, St. Gabriel's Church, 11:30 a.m.	Colleen Curran	481-4835
Mar. 13	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White	737-9222
Mar. 14	St. Patrick's Day Parade, noon (director@montrealirishparade.com)	Kenn Quinn	932-0512
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Society Luncheon, Hotel Bonaventure, \$50.00	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Mar. 20	UIS Awards Banquet, Buffet Sorrento, LaSalle, \$60.00	Beverly Murphy	694-0206
Apr. 19	UIS Mass for Deceased Members, St. Dominic's (bus available), 8:00 p.m.	Colleen Curran	481-4835
Apr. 24	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White	737-9222
May 10	St. Patrick's Society Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney	481-1346
May 10	St. Patrick's Society Directors' Meeting, 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney	481-1346
June 7	St. Patrick's Society AGM, 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney	481-1346
June 15	St. Patrick's Society Annual Golf Tournament, Bellevue Golf Club, \$110.00	Doris Rooney	481-1346



If you are interested in being chosen as Queen or one of the Princesses
in the St. Patrick's Parade on March 14, 2004,
contact

**Elizabeth Quinn for information at (450) 672-5087
or by email at elizabeth@charlesboulanger.com**
All entries should be submitted by December 2003.



Answers to the Quiz

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. b) tailor and cobbler | 6. b) the Celtic harp |
| 2. a) Tara | 7. d) Murphy and Kelly |
| 3. d) The United States | 8. c) Good Friday and Christmas Day |
| 4. a) a tambourine | 9. d) Trinity College Library |
| 5. d) 2,304,000 | 10. b) flattery |

So, did you do as well as you expected? Don't worry, these questions were borrowed from *So You Think You're Irish* by Margaret Kelleher. There are over 500 great questions on everything Irish.

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*"For those of you who were once children, please
support the Montreal Children's Hospital
Foundation."*

— an anonymous friend of St. Patrick's Society

St. Patrick Square
6767 Côte St. Luc Road
(514) 481-9609

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