



## A man for all seasons: Neil McKenty

By Alan Hustak on May 18, 2012  
Reprinted courtesy of *The Globe and Mail*

Neil McKenty liked to argue for the hell of it and he made a career doing it.

The irreverent Jesuit who left the priesthood and went on to become the cornerstone of Montreal talk radio died Saturday morning at the age of 87. During his 14 years as a CJAD telephone talk show host in the 70s and 80s he brought a degree of civility to the charged political atmosphere in the province after the election of the Parti Quebecois in 1976, and in the referendum that followed. In its heyday, his programme, Exchange, attracted as many as 85,000 listeners or more than a quarter of the city's English-speaking audience. He later did a television talk show, McKenty Live for three years.

While he was in his element behind the microphone, McKenty, however, wasn't happy being a public figure. He quit his radio show at the peak of his career in 1985 to finish a biography, *In the Stillness Dancing*, about an obscure Benedictine monk, John Main who was influenced by oriental religions and started a Christian meditation movement. McKenty then bared his own soul in a no-holds barred courageous autobiography, *The Inside Story*, in which he revealed, among other things that he was bipolar, was a recovering alcoholic who contemplated suicide and that he never took his priestly vows of celibacy seriously.

"There were two Neils," said his long-time friend, Jim Reed. "The one who needed an



Neil McKenty interviewing René Lévesque on CJAD in 1983

image of himself, and the other who loathed the image that others had of him. He was a super, super guy, but he was distracted by the pain of living. He had no use for hypocrisy. He wanted to be real."

Neil McKenty was born in Peterborough, Ont. on Dec. 31, 1924 and grew up in Hastings. His father, who ran a hardware store was an alcoholic who preached a hard religious line. McKenty and his younger brother were educated by Jesuits at Regiopolis College in Kingston. As a teenager, McKenty worked as a stringer for the Peterborough Examiner. He took his BA at St. Michael's College in Toronto before entering the Society of Jesus as a novice in 1944. He was ordained in 1957. He worked in New York as a summer relief editor on *America*, the Jesuit review and spent time in London. He returned to study history at the University of Toronto where, as his doctoral thesis, he wrote a biography of Ontario Premier Mitch Hepburn. Influenced by Bishop Fulton Sheen, a popular U.S. clergyman who had his own television programme, McKenty went on to take a communications arts degree in 1964 from the University of Michigan. It was during

*Cont. p.4*

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September 2012  
Vol. 25, Issue 3

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- Thomas D'Arcy McGee reinstated posthumously as a Society member.....p.3
- St. Patrick's Society: 20<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Concert ... and still going strong! .....p.5
- Irish Montrealers brave the heat .....p.6
- Check out an exciting English-language community theatre in Point St. Charles .....p.9
- SPS treasurer featured in Irish newspaper .....p.10
- Montreal 1976 versus London 2012 – summers of Olympic fun .....p.12
- Pam gambles ... and gambols..... p.15
- Craig's Road becomes an historical site .....p.16
- 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Chateauguay to be celebrated ..... p.17
- What you may have missed from the Irish papers! ..... p.18
- Vision à Emain Macha : Aisling ag Emain Macha .....p.20

## A word from the President

Dear Members  
Here we go!

My first year as president looks like it's going to be exciting and action-packed. We are already gearing up for the Ball (March 1<sup>st</sup>) and the Luncheon (March 15<sup>th</sup>) but before we get there we will be launching the 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert under the capable and enthusiastic leadership of board member, Carol McCormick and, in October, a brand new event, an oyster evening, in partnership with our friends in the Montreal Irish Rugby Club.

We welcome three new faces to the board this year, Mark Billings, Tim Dunn and Marilyn Meikle and a brand new executive consisting of Scott Phelan, Danny Zangwill and Christie Brown as vice-presidents, Vivian Doyle-Kelly as treasurer, Michelle Vahey as secretary and immediate past-president, Patrick Shea. The entire board will be hard at work this year. Here is a sneak preview of some of the things we will be doing:

- Karen Bright will be leading a membership drive and has some exciting initiatives up her sleeve which you will hear about soon.
- Christie Brown is chairing the new "super" grants committee merging the three separate committees which existed before. She is also taking charge of volunteer mobilization so that those of you willing to help as volunteers will be paired with the committees and events that best fit your skills.
- The highly successful immigrant integration initiative will be headed by the newly-wed Michelle Vahey who will be organizing another networking event for new Irish immigrants sometime before year end so watch your inbox.
- Who better to have as our new treasurer than the brand new president of the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce, Vivian Doyle-Kelly? Vivian will have help this year from two extremely skilful professionals, new board member, Mark Billings who is CFO of a publicly quoted mining company managing the accounting and reporting functions and Jim Kellett, a stockbroker by profession who will be monitoring how we invest our endowment funds.
- Julie Dunn will be strengthening Ógra, our youth wing, and in conjunction with Christie Brown will be recruiting more young people for our volunteer committees so that we can prepare them for full board membership more quickly.
- Marilyn Meikle who tells me she likes to "fly under the radar" will be much more visible this year. Marilyn has taken over communications from vice-president Scott Phelan, who is currently a short leave of absence and, we hope, will be back in the saddle very soon. She also has some exciting new initiatives to share with you which she is keeping under wraps until after our first board meeting.
- We are lucky to have our immediate past-president, Patrick Shea, on our executive and he will be heading up a study into how we distribute our funding with recommendations on a framework for improvement. We donate in excess of \$50,000 a year to the community and we want to ensure we maximize the impact of our contributions while respecting our mission and the stipulations of our endowment donors.

*NUA<sup>CH</sup>T*, Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

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

Marilyn Meikle  
Paul Dunne  
Carol McCormick

**Proofreading:** Maura Druda  
Félix Polesello

**Advertising:** Erin Matheson  
E-mail: [office@spsmtl.com](mailto:office@spsmtl.com)

**Printing:** Centre de copie commerciale  
460 St. Catherine Street West  
Montreal, QC H3B 1A7  
Tel.: (514) 842-2545

**Subscription:** \$25.00 per year  
Please address all contributions to the Editor at the Society Office.  
Tel: (514) 481-1346 Fax: (514) 481-9048

E-mail: [office@spsmtl.com](mailto:office@spsmtl.com)  
St. Patrick's Society of Montreal  
St. Patrick Square  
6767 Côte St. Luc Road, #1  
Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6  
[www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com)

Deadline for submissions for next issue: November 1, 2012

I spoke during my AGM address about the power and influence of the diaspora Irish. We are not an isolated minority in Montreal but part of a globally influential family of some 70 million people who celebrate their Irish heritage. And today more than ever, the Irish government is dedicated to supporting the work we do overseas and recognising the value of those of us who share a common heritage and identity. Just this week I received confirmation that the Irish government has awarded us another grant to support the immigrant integration initiative. As an immigrant from Ireland myself, I am particularly proud of the work our Society is doing in this area and how it is still an important part of our mission. Today, one hundred and eighty eight years after we opened our arms to welcome some of the first Irish immigrants to Montreal, we are doing it again and I want you to help our young Irish cousins in the best way you can by helping them network in our community and find friends in Canada.

At a local level during my term, I am very supportive of unity and communication within the Montreal Irish community. Like the country of Ireland in the world today, we in Montreal are a small but influential group that punches above its weight and contributes disproportionately to the cultural richness of our great city. Martians landing in Montreal during the St. Patrick's parade

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## News from the Society

### Thomas D’Arcy McGee reinstated posthumously as a Society member

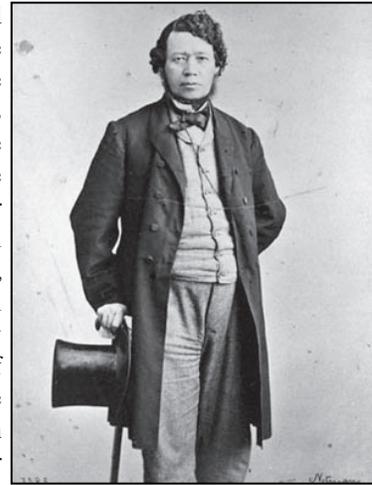
By Patrick M. Shea

The 178<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the members of the Society that took place on June 19, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel featured a special treat for the numerous members in attendance: a debate regarding the possible posthumous reinstatement of Thomas D’Arcy McGee as a Society member. On January 27, 1868, McGee, the Member of Parliament for the riding of Montreal West and a Father of Confederation, was expelled from the Society. The very brief background to such expulsion is that a special committee of the board of directors of the Society had been appointed to investigate various charges against McGee and subsequently made recommendations to the board. The board of directors then voted to revoke McGee’s membership in the Society, with only one board member voting against expulsion.

Over the years, the topic of possibly reinstating McGee’s membership in the Society posthumously has been brought up from time to time, and, most recently, David A. Wilson (a professor in the Celtic Studies Programme and the Department of History at the University of Toronto and the author and editor of several books including the definitive two-volume biography of McGee, the second volume of which was published last year), while delivering the annual St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal lecture at the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University on the topic of McGee and the Society last fall, suggested that the Society consider reinstating McGee.

Prior to voting on such reinstatement, the members watched a highly informative and entertaining debate about the issue that lasted about forty minutes (and was moderated by yours truly) between David Wilson and J. Peter Shea (the current historian of the Society, a Society member since 1974, a long-time former director of the Society and Society president from 2000 to 2002).

The debaters had agreed in advance that they would make their arguments as if the debate were taking place in the period shortly after McGee’s expulsion in 1868. In other words, they did not rely on 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century historical analyses of McGee and his role in Canadian and Irish history. Each debater began with a twelve-minute introduction, followed by a five-minute rebuttal, and then a three-minute concluding argument. David Wilson debated in favour of McGee’s posthumous reinstatement as a member and Peter Shea debated against.



Thomas D’Arcy McGee

Photo: William Norman

After a vigorous and impeccably researched set of oral arguments by the two distinguished debaters, I called for a vote of the members, instructing them to vote with their consciences rather than on the basis of which of the two debaters had, from a technical or oratorical perspective, won the debate. With only a handful or two of members voting against, the overwhelming majority of the members of the Society in attendance voted in favour of McGee’s reinstatement. Therefore, after 144 years as a Society outcast, McGee is once again a fellow member of ours, this time as the Society’s sole posthumous honorary member.



### SPS Annual Golf Tournament party

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, I went to the golf tournament and a good old-fashioned Irish party broke out. Yes, after 16 years of beautiful weather, we finally had a rainy day.

This year we had one of our biggest tournaments ever with 180 golfers and, in spite of the weather, we had one of our best years financially for the charitable works of the society. The bad weather was my fault; after 16 years of attending Mass on Sunday, didn’t I miss Mass on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Of course, the “Big Guy upstairs” did not appreciate that at all and let me know in no uncertain terms.

The amazing part of this is that despite the weather, the vast majority of the golfers joined the party in the club house. We served 175 suppers and as usual, there were prizes for everyone including a golf jacket, golf balls, tees and a chocolate bar.

Next year, I will not miss Mass!  
Paul Doyle



### Ógra update

Attention all Ógra members of St. Patrick’s Society!

If you would like to be a part of *NUACHT*, Community Outreach, the Golf Tournament, Luncheon, Christmas concert, or the new Immigrant initiative let us know. We are looking for volunteers to join all SPS committees.

Anyone under the age of 30 can join the St Patrick’s Society and be part of Ógra.

Contact Julie Dunn ([dunnjulie@yahoo.ca](mailto:dunnjulie@yahoo.ca)) for more information on how you can get involved.



**McKenty (cont.)**

visit to Rome that McKenty began to have serious misgivings about the institutional church. He described it as “a bloated structure, top heavy with oppressive authority.” By 1969, he made a decision to leave the priesthood. “When it came to preaching, I had a lot going for me,” he explained in his autobiography, but he was unable to reconcile “the fact that the words the congregation heard, while theologically sound, did not jibe with my feelings about those words in my heart. The ball did not go smack into the glove.”

After leaving the Jesuits, McKenty worked in Toronto for Red Foster Foundation for the intellectually handicapped and helped organize the first Special Olympics held in Quebec. In 1972, he was hired by CJAD in Montreal to do talk radio. As he saw it, his primary purpose was to serve as a moderator and give listeners an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with each other. Sidney Margles, the station’s former director of information and public affairs, said McKenty was hired for his questioning mind. “Because of his Jesuit background, the depth of his knowledge was most attractive. He was intelligent, a natural communicator, a seasoned analyst, impressive and well spoken,” Margles said. “He had one hell of a good head on his shoulders.” McKenty said one of his proudest moments on air was getting Brian Mulroney to take questions from listeners after Mulroney said he wouldn’t. “His refusing to take calls on a radio talk show made as much sense as going into a television studio and refusing to turn on the lights,” said McKenty, “The Toronto Star got wind of it, and on the morning of the show, put the story on its front page. By the time Mulroney arrived at CJAD, the station was packed with reporters, Mulroney was in a rage and proceeded to excoriate me for causing him political embarrassment. But he was an astute politician, so he squared his shoulders, adopted a thin smile, went on the air, and answered the callers’ questions.”

Although McKenty abandoned the priesthood, he embraced an ecumenical approach to spiritual discipline. He kept a blog, and had a regular column in the Senior Times, Pit Stop. He continued to rail against the Vatican. He deplored what he considered to be the second-class treatment of women by the institutional church and he found it odd that while a married Anglican could become a priest, in the Roman Catholic Church, a Catholic married man could not. His last column, published in the May edition of the Senior Times, challenged the church to take a more nuanced approach to its teachings about homosexuality. McKenty wrote that while the church teaching on the profound significance of sex is correct, its interpretation of ancient scripture is in need of correction. McKenty wrote that he did not believe in a God who would condemn a person to an eternity in hell for a single, unrepented moment of deliberate sexual pleasure.

He leaves his wife of 40 years, the former Ontario government speechwriter, Catharine Fleming Turnbull, with whom he wrote *Skiing Legends and the Laurentian Lodge Club*.



**President (cont.)**

might be forgiven for thinking that Earth is also dominated by little green men! And they wouldn’t be far wrong ...

Finally, I would like to congratulate our new Secretary, Michelle Vahey and her husband Denis Koop on their recent marriage in Tuscany (see elsewhere in this edition for a picture!) and I also would like to pay tribute to the outgoing president of the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce, Paul Loftus, who during his years at the head of that organization has led it to a position of influence and prestige not just in the Montreal community but nationally and internationally.

Be sure to visit our new-look website where it usually is at [www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com) and visit us on Facebook. The website is the easiest way to renew your membership so, if you have not already done so, please go there now where you can pay easily and quickly.

Feel free to contact me directly at [president@spsmtl.com](mailto:president@spsmtl.com). I want to hear from you and if you would like to get involved in any of our activities or committees, please let me know and I will pass your name on to Christie Brown who will find something for you to do.

*Paul Dunne*

*September 2012*



**Save the Date!**

**Thursday, October 25, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Westmount Armoury.**

This is a Save-the-Date for our first annual Oyster Party presented by the Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club to raise money for St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal.

St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal was founded in 1834 to unite the members of the Irish Canadian community and to promote the charitable, educational, and cultural interests of the community. And, since 1957, the Montreal Irish RFC has been a group of men, women and juniors committed to the sport and their community, from winning provincial championships and hosting internationally attended tournaments to supporting community groups with both money and time. They are teaming up to host this event to raise money for the community-minded initiatives of the two groups.

Details will be confirmed as we get closer to the event but we wanted to ensure that you had ample opportunity to reserve the evening. We’ll have the expected vodka and oysters as well as other food and beverages for those just looking for a fun evening.

Suggestions, ideas and/or offers for door prizes or silent auction are welcome. If you have something that we can use, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Kellett at [jkelllett@3macs.com](mailto:jkelllett@3macs.com)

Tickets are \$100 each; tax receipts for a portion of the ticket price will be available. For tickets, please contact Erin at the office, or visit the website.



# A major milestone for St. Patrick's Society: 20<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Concert ... and still going strong!

By Carol McCormick

This year will mark 20 years that St. Patrick's Society has raised funds through the Christmas Concert, one of their major events of the year. Through the hard work of the chair persons and their committees, thousands of dollars have been raised to help the endeavours of the Society in support of the Montreal Community and its surrounding areas in the way of cultural, educational and charitable organizations.

We will celebrate the accomplishments of all those who have worked to make this annual event a success with a very special concert to be held on Thursday, December 6, 2012 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Basilica, 454 boul. René Lévesque, Montreal.

This year our concert will feature the international group, Rosheen. Founded in 1997 by Lynn Vallières, this is a group from Quebec City that has a passion for Celtic music. It was the opening act for Celine Dion during Quebec City's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This group of singers and musicians will celebrate our special anniversary with their repertoire of Christmas music.



*Rosheen en route to a gig?*

Along with Rosheen there will be another international ensemble, Buzz Brass. This five-piece brass group was founded in 2002 by Sylvain Lapointe. They have performed in the United States and in Europe and have won the Opus Prize in 2007 for Production of the Year. Their three critically acclaimed albums will be available at our concert.



*The five faces of Buzz Brass*



*Some of Bernadette Short's dancers*

This 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration would not be complete without a performance from Bernadette Short's Celtic Grace. These award-winning dancers have delighted our audiences year after year and they will complete our anniversary on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Large screens will be set up for those who will be sitting near the back of the Basilica. We will also be reviewing the last 20 years with a special souvenir insert in our programme.

Tickets are now on sale. General admission is \$20.00, and reserved seating \$50.00 per person, including a wine and cheese reception. We also encourage you to bring a non-perishable item to the concert to help our food banks.

Throughout the years, various concert committees headed by people such as the late Pat Dunn (who was the first to come up with the idea of an annual concert), Lynn Doyle, Antoine Maloney, Audrey McKeown, Mary McGovern, Sandra McDonaugh, Joe Mell and Robert Brodrick have made these concerts possible. But we should not forget all those who have attended and performed at these events who truly helped to make each and every one of them a great success.

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal wishes to thank all those who have made this possible.

Come and join us in celebrating 20 years of success in allowing St. Patrick's Society to achieve its yearly goal of helping the community at large.

For tickets, please go to our website [www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com) and pay online or call: SPS office at 514- 481-1346 or Carol McCormick at 514-386-8082.

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you on December 6<sup>th</sup>.



# Irish Montrealers brave the heat

By Lynda Premerl

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Irish Community Family Day, took place on a beautiful, sunny and very hot Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at a new venue on the spacious grounds of a Pierrefonds high school.



Photo: Lynda Premerl

Children enjoying the bodhrán drum workshop

The kids were thoroughly entertained with the Bouncy Castle, free cotton candy, two lively storytellers and colouring activities! As usual, the wonderful Bernadette Short Irish Dancers were at their best. The Comhaltas were great and kept the kids active and enchanted with a bodhrán drum workshop.



Photo: Anne Forrest

Bouncy Castle: a popular attraction

GAA and rugby teams held workshops and the Montreal Irish vs TMR rugby clubs played a full exhibition rugby game in extreme 35° temperatures. Raffle ticket sponsors gave generously and winners left happy. All those who attended this year's event had a super time! It was good to see West Island Minister Geoff Kelley in attendance showing his solidarity with our community.

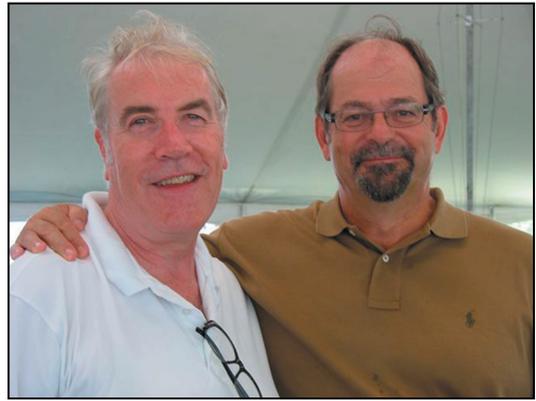


Photo: Anne Forrest

SPS president, Paul Dunne with Geoff Kelley, MNA

The family day is an event organized by the combined efforts of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, United Irish Societies, Gaelic Athletic Association, ICCA and other members of the Irish Community. Thanks to Michelle Vahey, Ronan Corbett, Mike Kennedy and the many other volunteers for their excellent efforts!



Photo: Anne Forrest

A scrum during the MIRFC game against TMR

We would especially like to thank the five sponsors who donated door prizes for the raffle:

- Bramble House
- Galo's Portuguese Grill
- Vago's Cucina Italiana
- Oink Oink (Children's shop)
- Conservatoire d'Études Musicale

New venues offer new challenges, but together we'll make the 2013 Irish Community Family Day event bigger and better than ever. We look forward to seeing you out there in the summer of 2013.



# Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal awarded to St. Patrick's Society member, Robert Wilkins

By Anne Forrest



Photo: Cindy Canavan

Senator David Angus and Robert Wilkins

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, at a ceremony held at the Macdonald Stewart Foundation in Montreal, Robert Wilkins, a member of St. Patrick's Society, was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

This new commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. It is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. The Chancellery of Honours, as part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, administers the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal programme. During the year of celebrations, 60 000 deserving Canadians will be recognized.

Recipients of the medal have to have made a significant contribution to a particular province, territory, region or community within Canada, or an achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.

Robert, a former city clerk and secretary of Westmount in the 1980s, was presented with his medal by Senator David W. Angus.

A graduate of Loyola High School and Loyola College and McGill University, Robert works as a maritime lawyer at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in Montreal and is also secretary-treasurer of The Canadian Maritime Law Association. In addition, he is president of Heritage Branch (the Montreal chapter) of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, a captain-lieutenant in the (recreated) 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Regiment, a member of the Advisory Board of the English-Speaking Catholic Council and a lector (and former churchwarden) of the Parish of the Ascension of Our Lord in Westmount. He is also active in the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce and has been an enthusiastic supporter since its inception of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation.

Robert, who is married to St. Patrick's Society member, Maura McKeown, is proud to be a cousin of Society director Frank A. McMahon, and a nephew of the late James H. McMahon, a former president of the Society.

We congratulate him on this prestigious achievement.



## Peter Kirby's second career is about to take off Another SPS member in the news

By Anne Forrest

“A powerful ride through the dark and raw of Montreal. Temperance Brennan would feel right at home.”

This was the response of Kathy Reichs, the guest speaker at the 2012 St. Patrick's Society luncheon. She was not alone in her praise of Peter Kirby's first novel, *The Dead of Winter*, that will be published by Linda Leith Publishing within the next few weeks.

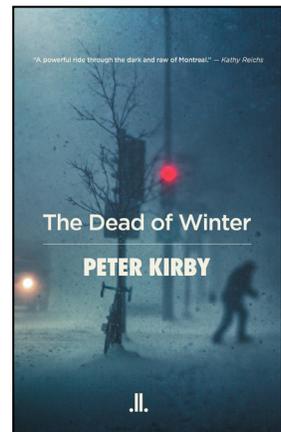
In 2010, an earlier manuscript of the novel was shortlisted for the Unchanged Arthur Award for best unpublished manuscript by the Crime Writers of Canada.

Peter, who practises international law with Fasken Martineau, is a native of Cork. Listed by *The American Lawyer* as one of Canada's 500 leading lawyers, he is also recognised as a foremost international arbitrator.

This crime novel, that is set in Montreal, will be launched at Librairie Paragraphe Book Store, 2220 McGill College Avenue,

between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Ten days later, on October 26<sup>th</sup>, Peter will be reading and autographing copies of the book at the Quebec Crime Writers Festival in Quebec City. On the following day he will participate in a panel discussion at the Festival: “Living the Double Life: to Work and to Write.”

Peter was interviewed on CBC's Sunday Edition on August 19<sup>th</sup>. This may be heard on CBC's website by going to 19/08/12 - Hour Two – Sunday Edition – CBC player.



NUACHT hopes to review this spine-chilling story in our next issue. We wish Peter every success with his latest venture.



# Montreal Irish RFC builds on success of recent years

By Mark Gallagher

Not content with back-to-back championships in 2010-2011, Montreal Irish men will be hoping to hold on to the title in 2012. For the third year in a row, all three men's teams have reached their respective finals.

Having missed out by one bonus point for second place at the end of the regular season and an automatic place in the semi final, the First team had to face Parc Olympique in a quarter final playoff. They disposed of their bottom of the league opponents with a 31-12 win and then travelled to Ottawa the following weekend to play the Indians in the semi final. The journey to the nation's capital was worth the trip as they returned victorious with a 35-24 win.

Having both finished top of their tables, the Second and Third teams sealed an automatic home field advantage in their semi finals. The Third team beat Westmount 41-8 while the Second team beat their opponents, Ottawa Scottish, in a similar fashion, winning 43-3.

The men's finals will once again be played out at the fields of Ste. Julie. The opponents for all three Irish teams, as two years ago, will be Ste. Anne de Bellevue. Two years ago, MIRFC took two of the three championships. This year, they'll be endeavouring to take the full complement. Your support would be much appreciated and you will not be disappointed with the quality of rugby that will be on display.

Earlier this year, the Montreal Irish women's team also reached their final. Having finished third at the end of the regular season, they faced Kingston. The game went to overtime with the score at 10-10 at the final whistle. The Irish came out on top though with two more tries to secure a place in the final against league winners Montreal Barbarians. Irish started strongly and led for most of the game but the Barbs fought back to tie the game and take it into overtime for the second week in a row. Unfortunately, the Irish could not emulate the efforts of the previous week and the Barbs finished the stronger to win 32-24.

MIRFC plans to build a strong club for the future and has developed their youth teams with the introduction of a Junior Girls team. They also provide coaching assistance to CEGEP Andre Laurendeau which has started a rugby programme this season.

Following the end of the Playoffs, the Sevens circuit continues. The first competition will be the John Jones Montreal Sevens on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September at Ste. Julie. The Belgium Barbarians will be returning to defend their title from last year. Proceeds from the tournament go towards the John Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund which provides bursaries for up and coming rugby players pursuing post secondary education.

For further details, visit our club website at [www.montrealirish.com](http://www.montrealirish.com)



## Montreal Shamrocks defeat Ottawa Capital Celts in a closely contested hurling game

By Conor Farrell

**Montreal Shamrocks 6-5  
Ottawa Capital Celts 4-4**

The Montreal Shamrocks hosted the Ottawa Capital Celts at Ste Julie on September 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a nice autumnal day perfect for hurling with the breeze favouring the Celts in the first half. The visitors got off to a great start with the Shamrocks surprised by the fitness and physicality of the Celts. Great deliveries from Celts goalkeeper Liam Tyrell gave plenty of opportunities for the forwards, with Neema Yamunga posing a constant danger at full forward, ending up with two goals to her name.

Montreal Shamrocks took some time to come into the game, as Brendan McManus and Larry Greene dominated midfield for Ottawa. The defense held strong for the Celts with Nick Desson, Eoin Ó Cathain and Conor Farrell keeping the Shamrocks forwards quiet.

Injuries either side of half time slowed the momentum of the game but provided a much needed breather for both sides in what was a great display of hurling. Referee Ronan Corbett halted play to ensure that the players were fit to continue in what was a very sporting contest. The injured players bravely soldiered on to complete the game.

With the wind favouring the Shamrocks in the second half, they began to assert their authority around the middle third of the field. The Celts began to tire and space opened up with Martin Lawless and Damian Conneely beginning to dominate midfield.



Photo: Ronan Corbett

*The Celts (in red) and the Shamrocks (in green)*

A late surge from Shamrocks with goals from Kevin Coughlan and Shane Foley ended the game as a contest with a few minutes remaining. The Celts fought right until the final whistle but could not get through for the late goals required. Montreal's experience showed in the end as Ottawa in only their second game put up a valiant fight. Montreal Shamrocks would like to thank Ottawa Capital Celts for travelling and Montreal Irish Rugby Club for kindly hosting the game in Sainte Julie.



# Check out an exciting English-language community theatre in Point St. Charles

By Fergus Keyes

In 2005, Peggie Hopkins, a real estate agent in Point St. Charles, was offered an opportunity to act in a play at Westmount's community theatre. She had no previous acting experience, but thought that the chance to act might be a new and interesting adventure.

Before long, she was infected with the "theatre bug" and was thinking about starting a local English-language community theatre in Point St. Charles. Of course, the big question was, "how do you start a community theatre?"

With sheer determination, Peggie Hopkins convinced a number of friends that they should be on stage, and was very lucky to find Pavla Uppal, who had theatre training in the Czech Republic, to volunteer as the first director for the new PSC Community Theatre. She also managed to convince another group of friends to volunteer to handle all the other needs of a theatre – reservations, posters, playbills, and so on. On June 2, 2006, the troupe made their first appearance in a play called *The Good Doctor*, with five actors (only one of whom had any formal acting training) and, as they say, the rest is history!

In the last six years or so, the entirely not-for-profit, volunteer Theatre has offered a number different plays by diverse playwrights, from Ayn Rand to David French. The audience now regularly reaches around 600 people over eight or nine performances. It also has more than 30 amateur actors willing to perform and a behind-the-scenes support group of about another 50 individuals. It has definitely become a fun, positive and exciting Point St. Charles community activity!

Peggie Hopkins then decided to team up with the local Point YMCA to provide free acting courses to young actors between the ages of 8 and 17 years old. Her objective was to offer young people a chance to learn acting skills, but also to provide them with a level of self-confidence that should last them a lifetime.

She found a terrific acting coach, Fabienne Le Panse, and the PSC Youth Theatre, called "Acting Out," was founded. These young actors have offered a number of performances over the last years, including *Annie*. These courses are offered free since the financial costs and the organization of the programme are fully supported by the proceeds from, and donations to, the main adult theatre.

There are two Youth Theatre groups - a Junior group (usually attending Elementary School - age 5 to 11) and a Senior group (usually attending High school - age 12 to 17). Classes are now open for the 2012-2013 year and if any young people would like additional information, they can contact the Theatre by e-mail to [info@psccommunity.com](mailto:info@psccommunity.com)

In March 2007, the Theatre got another lucky break, when Pieter Sipjkes, a resident of the Point and the owner of an old bank on Wellington and Ste. Madeline Streets, offered to allow the Theatre to hold their performances in his space. Although the Old Bank presents a number of challenges for a theatre performance, it also offers a unique venue that seems to be loved by the audiences. In this crowded, up-close

space, the audience and the actors really share the live theatre experience. And, after each performance, the theatre offers free food and snacks (again, provided by volunteers) to the audience so that they can stay and mingle with the actors.

Neither the adult PSC Community Theatre, nor the Youth Theatre programme is offered exclusively to Point St. Charles residents; both are open to any actors (young or old) or other volunteers that have an interest in community theatre, regardless of where they live.



Members of the PSC Acting Out group seen here in *Annie*

The next event for the PSC Community Theatre will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2012 when the musical group "Underground Divas" will offer a one-night only performance at the Old Bank – 1900 Wellington Street as a fundraiser event for the Theatre. The cost to attend is \$12.00 and full details, and a reservation form for this event can be found at [www.psccommunity.com](http://www.psccommunity.com).

The next full PSC Community Theatre play is called *Kiss the Bride* by John Wooten and scheduled to open in early November 2012.

You can join the Theatre newsletter, and stay up-to-date on information about the schedule of the next play and/or other various activities by visiting the web site and joining the mailing lists ([www.psccommunity.com](http://www.psccommunity.com)).



## SPS treasurer featured in Irish newspaper

*Reprinted courtesy of Irish Times, August 10, 2012*

Vivian Doyle-Kelly, energy consultant and founder of Eco-Watt Montreal specialises in helping companies reduce their energy consumption by analysing all the equipment used in their production processes. He has found himself “in the right place at the wrong time” on a few occasions since he first arrived in Montreal. But this knack for bad timing, far from setting him back, actually seems to have worked in his favour.

As a young accountant in the early 1980s, the Canadian city seemed like a good bet, an opportunity to gain valuable North American experience in a bilingual setting. So, he jumped at the chance of a transfer from his Dublin firm to the Montreal branch of Touche Ross, a predecessor of Deloitte Touche.

Upon his arrival, he was surprised to find that large numbers of people were on their way out. With Quebec nationalism on the up, the city was losing much of its anglophone talent and money to Toronto.

“I was more ignorant than I should have been about Quebec politics,” he says ruefully. But, despite the timing, Montreal turned out to be the right place for him. As he puts it, he found himself working in the flagship office of a blue-chip company with a team of highly-talented colleagues, who all went on to become esteemed friends. And, his Irish nationality and ability to speak French went down well with the Quebec locals.

While at the firm, he invested much of his free time into volunteering for the Kidney Foundation of Canada, first as treasurer and later as president. “They chose me to take the reins because I didn’t shut up and kept suggesting things that should be done,” he says.

The leadership role provided lots of opportunity for travel, giving him an understanding of the country ‘from ocean to ocean.’ “I learned that different parts of Canada vary widely, with distinct economies, societies and attitudes to life,” he says. He also developed a respect for the Canadian sense of compromise. “At federal level, everything tends to be a negotiated solution evolving from a shared vision, a desire to work together to make things happen.”

After nearly a decade at Touche Ross, he had joined the ranks of senior management. But with the industry on the cusp of large-scale consolidation, this ascension proved to be ill-timed. “There were no longer any opportunities,” he says. “When firms merge, it takes time to sort out where they are going and where to put resources.”

His leadership experience was put to good use in his next day job, as vice-president for finance, and later as president of MBS Bearing Service, a company providing replacement parts for production equipment in industrial facilities.



*Vivian Doyle-Kelly and his wife Marlene at Jay Peak,*

But, timing again proved to be against him, when the company was taken over, making it difficult for him to find his place in the new entity. “It’s the law of nature,” he says.

At this point, Doyle-Kelly took his destiny into his own hands, founding his own company in 2003. Eco-Watt specialises in helping companies reduce their energy consumption by analysing all equipment used in their production processes and advising on ways of cutting inefficiencies. “The initial thinking was that it was a relatively easy way for any corporation to improve their bottom line. But, I believe we can all help to make our environment better,” he says. At long last, he now finds himself in the right place at the right time. “When I started the company, I was ahead of the curve,” he says. “Nowadays most companies have corporate social responsibility objectives, which include reducing their consumption of energy. But, when I started out, it was still very early days for that type of thinking.” The experience of running his own company has been challenging and humbling. “You realise the rest of the world doesn’t necessarily share your vision,” he says.

Still, his powers of persuasion have been well-honed over the years. “I’ve been fortunate to find myself in positions where I’ve been able to see over the horizon and convince people of what can be done.”

Does he himself live in an eco-friendly home? “I try to practice what I preach,” he says. “When my wife and I get to build our ideal house, it will have geothermal and solar energy. It will be a model of energy efficiency.” After all, as he says, none of this is new to him. “I grew up in Ireland where we heated the house room by room, kept the doors closed and turned off the lights when we left,” he says.

With no plans to retire, he expects to remain in Montreal for the foreseeable future. He and his Jamaican-Lebanese wife, whom he met at the Kidney Foundation of Canada, travel regularly to Kingston and Dublin. It’s all very Canadian, he says. “We’re part of the mosaic.”



## Ciné Gael plans pre-season event

By Antoine Maloney

On Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ciné Gael Montréal will be screening the short film, *Beautiful People*, produced by Paradox Smoke Productions and directed by Elzbieta Szoka. This film portrays the Tuesday evening traditional Irish music gathering that takes place weekly at Dempsey's Pub on Second Avenue in Manhattan's East Village.

In late September, this movie will be screened at the Rocky Mountain Irish Festival in Fort Collins, Colorado. Following its Montreal debut, it will be presented in Halifax and Sydney (Nova Scotia) and later at the Maryland Irish Festival.

Most appropriately, Hurley's Irish Pub on Crescent Street will be our hosts for an evening that will include the screening of this 67-minute film, and more than a few traditional Irish music players pulled from the ranks of Hurley's regulars and Siamsa, Montréal's school of traditional Irish music. We're sure that some of them will be compelled to take to their instruments after the screening, and show off their voices.

Although Siamsa has a regular session at Hurley's every Monday evening, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, *Beautiful People* will show how it's done every Tuesday evening at a Dempsey's Pub traditional Irish *seisiún*. Our evening starts at 5:30.



Ciné Gael will be sending out email notices about the event closer to the date. As usual other Irish organizations will undoubtedly be echoing our notices. If you're not on our mail list, you can subscribe from our website at [www.cinegaelmontreal.com](http://www.cinegaelmontreal.com).

We'll be throwing this open to the entire community, but space is finite and we'll explain in our emails how to get your name on the attendance list. If traditional Irish music is one of your loves, you'll want to be on that list. Reserve your place with an email to [BeautifulPeople@icorvus.com](mailto:BeautifulPeople@icorvus.com) and Beautiful People in the subject line; a hello would be nice too.

*The Ciné Gael Montréal Irish Film Series committee*



## An Irish Spring at ICCC (this is not a soap opera!)

By Anne Forrest

The summer of 2012 has proved to be memorable for the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC). In June, Paul Loftus, who has held the position of president for nearly 14 years, was replaced by Vivian Doyle-Kelly. President Paul had become an institution; he and ICCC were synonymous. To an outsider, it may have appeared that his was a life-time appointment.

A co-founder with Peter Kirby and Dan O'Brien in 1981, Paul recognized that the Irish in Montreal needed an organization that would serve the business community. During his tenure, he promoted the Montreal chapter of ICCC throughout the world and particularly in Ireland, the Far East and in the US. Closer to home, Paul ensured that ICCC maintained a high profile in the Montreal Irish community by hosting the ever-popular pub quizzes, holding breakfasts and luncheons, giving lectures and supporting the ongoing activities of sister organizations.

For Paul, running ICCC almost became a full-time occupation. He is to be commended on the incredible effort he expended. One of the rewards of which is that he has added many international diplomats to his circle of friends. In paying tribute to Paul's many years of service, Peter Kirby stated that Paul is one of the most networked people he knows. Owen McAleer, who recently retired as a director of the chamber after more than a decade, commented that Paul by promoting the chamber had greatly contributed to

preserving the collective Irish heritage and history in Montreal. Also Diana James, a board member since 1993, said that the Irish will go to the ends of the earth to do something good for their country and that the chamber is a great vehicle for this.

However, the reign of Paul Loftus is over and a new leader is now in command. Vivian Doyle-Kelly is no stranger to ICCC having served as its treasurer for 10 years. He is also the current treasurer of St. Patrick's Society. (To learn more about Vivian, see p.10). We wish him well in his new position.

The current board of directors consists of:

<b>President</b>	Vivian Doyle-Kelly
<b>Vice-President</b>	Stephen Fogarty
<b>Treasurer</b>	David O'Neill
<b>Immediate Past-President</b>	Paul Loftus

Tom Brady  
Ruth Hanna  
Jim Kellett  
Michelle Vahey

Be sure to check out the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce's website ([www.icccmtl.com](http://www.icccmtl.com)) for notices of forthcoming events and membership information.



# Montreal 1976 versus London 2012

By Jim Kirby

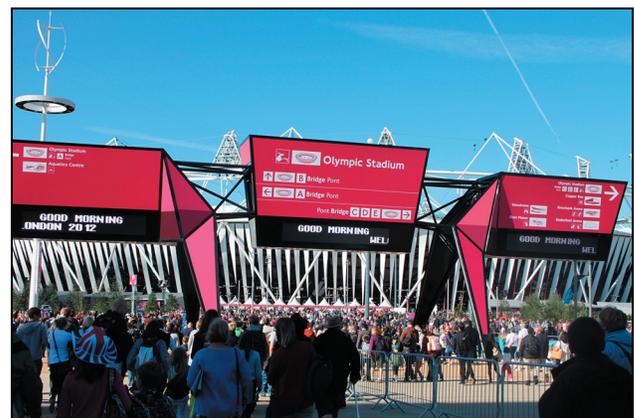
The Olympics in Montreal in 1976 were just one of those memorable periods of my life that I thought could never be replicated. The names of runners like Eamon Coughlin of Ireland and John Walker of New Zealand, along with the Irish rower Sean Dray, were people that featured big at the time. Walker took the Gold Medal in the 1,500 blue ribbon event and Coughlan ran a nervous race taking the lead too early and succumbing to a disappointing 4<sup>th</sup> place. We never had the duel between the two of them that the press had built up. It was a similar situation with Dray in the rowing, fancied for a medal position and being pipped similarly into 4<sup>th</sup> place. Ireland didn't win one medal at those games, but it didn't matter a great deal as they certainly won the party.

Lord Kilanin was head of the IOC (International Olympics Committee) and was an Irishman to boot from County Galway. He had one of those hereditary titles passed down through generations which probably had no more influence other than getting you a good table in a fancy restaurant in London. Irish Peers lost their right to sit in the House of Lords in London after independence. Kilanin was Irish and he flew out on Aer Lingus to Montreal from Dublin with the Irish delegation, athletes as well as officials. He also found time to come to the Irish Ambassador's party, held in the now defunct Engineers' Club on what was then Dorchester Boulevard (René Lévesque) and University Street. The Irish Government was represented by John Bruton, who was then Minister of Sport and would of course go on to become *Taoiseach* at a later date. All the local Montreal Irish societies, business leaders and dignitaries were invited, as was most of the Irish Olympic delegation. I remember Mayor Jean Drapeau showing his presence, albeit short, along with Warren Allmand, then a Canadian federal minister, representing the Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau. At the time in the Montreal Gazette, Tim Burke, one of the finest sports columnists in Canada and a personal friend, devoted his whole column the following day to the party and the stories emanating from it. Somehow I never could figure out how he managed to do that, but Tim had influence other writers could only dream of and in the world of journalism he was a gentleman, very proud of his Irish ancestry. Incidentally as an aside to this story, there are still several Irish Peers today who carry those hereditary titles. Two of the most prominent are probably Lord Henry Mountcharles who runs the Slane Castle Pop concerts every two years, attracting some of the biggest names in that industry and Jeremy Brown, aka Lord Altamont, who runs a thriving tourism industry around Westport House in County Sligo. Both these 'Irish Lords' provide lots of local employment and bring in visitors and tourists from abroad in vast numbers, all contributing abundantly to the economy of Ireland.

The Irish Community in Montreal gave a wonderful farewell party for the Irish team in McGill right after the closing ceremony. Danny Dooner and Martin Conroy (RIP) of the famous Irish 'watering hole,' The Hunter's Horn, were very

instrumental in helping arrange this, along with stalwarts from The Montreal Rugby Football Club (MIRFC), Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), Aer Lingus and the Irish Tourist Board. Anyone who was at that party and looking back, and I think most of the Irish community who were there could have been excused thinking that Ireland was returning triumphant with buckets of medals. However, what they were going home with was a joyful feeling of participation and friendship with the world's athletes and a welcome from all levels of the Irish community, both Irish born and descended, who imbued them with their charm, openness and hospitality from Montreal, Canada.

So with all that said I was wondering what London would offer, and before anything had started I had dismissed the games in my mind, rather cynically. I thought they were a political football locally between Boris Johnson, the Tory 'toff,' and the loser in the mayoral election against him, just before the games, (Red) Ken Livingstone. Livingstone had been mayor when the games were given to London four years previously. He worked hard to achieve that with national government at the time and with the business community. That was hard I am sure for socialist 'Red' Ken, but he had a belief that Londoners, all of them, would benefit in some way from the Olympics. He was right as I would discover in the weeks prior to the opening of The Games. My cynicism would quickly eviscerate as I travelled around London in those days and began to feel the buzz. Signs and flags went up and the appearance of people in freshly made uniforms, popping up all over to assist with directions and advice, was really pleasing. The weather had been dreadful with record rainfalls in early July and the advance press, particularly the Americans, was warning colleagues to arrive with sweaters, rain coats, boots and umbrellas. Well, what happened was that a few days before the opening, the so-called jet stream that had been pitched low in the sky allowing Arctic weather to create this damp, cold, wet atmosphere to pervade, suddenly climbed and allowed warm air to come up from the south and bring with it the most perfect sunshine and heat that lasted for the next six weeks. The weather gods were definitely smiling on London and the south east of England.



Outside London's Olympic Stadium

# 2012 – summers of Olympic fun

My mood and my whole attitude changed one morning as I disembarked from a train at Waterloo Station. Approaching the ticket barrier a young girl in one of the volunteer uniforms approached me and offered me an ice lolly. My initial thought was she was someone taking advantage of the Olympics to flog (sell in London vernacular) anything to make money from unsuspecting visitors. How wrong I was. The ice lolly was free and seemingly they were being given out at all stations courtesy of the mayor. Well this generosity and the abundance of helpers, all uniformed and armed with maps, flags and ice lollies, giving everyone a smile, took me off my feet with the charm offensive that it generated. I was now going to embrace the Olympics and the Paralympics that followed with a similar attitude.

Television all over the world conveyed the Opening Ceremony. The whole thing was designed, conceived and of course directed by Danny Boyle of *Slum Dog Millionaire* fame. Danny's parents are both Irish born by the way. The ceremony was so good, so different, and in its own way eclipsing Beijing, was just the fitting start needed for the event that was to follow over the next few weeks.

The Irish Ambassador, Bobby McDonagh, held a reception for the team and of course the big hope was Katie Taylor, the World Champion boxer. There were some 60 plus in the whole delegation but apart from Taylor, no one was about to bet on any of the others for medals, as there were too many unknowns. He held a similar evening for the Paralympics team. What happened though with these games was an incredible attitude-changing with the Irish in Britain and with those back home. It also changed the attitude of the British themselves. These games were really 'home' games for the Irish. So many Irish now live in the UK and a statistic that stands out is that potentially one person in six here in the UK has some Irish lineage. Now that's a startling figure. If I encompass here the feelings and the way the crowds reacted at both the Olympics and Paralympics, one can get a sense of community spirit never before engendered in my mind.

Every ticket for every event, both Olympic and Paralympic, was sold out. All around the City in the parks and in stations there were large screens to watch if you couldn't get into the events themselves. The actual outdoor events were thrilling with massive crowds, especially the cycling, walking and marathon races. The support of the British for their home country was a wonder to behold because this was not thuggish football support which we have witnessed so often. Neither was it basic nationalistic support, but sheer good-humoured cheering on of fellow-countrymen. What the Olympics did for the Brits was to allow them to take back their flag from the extremists who have used it so blatantly in the past to wave in a triumphalist way. This was often witnessed in the north of Ireland and Scotland by blatant misuse of the Union Jack as an emblem of supposed superiority. It has also been abused and used by nationalistic extreme anti-immigrant and racist parties as though it were their emblem. At the Olympics and all around London the British flag became the rightful symbol of a proud people, proud of their athletes, proud of the achievement in staging such a well organised and totally enjoyable Olympic Games.

What was noticeable and so warming was the support the British crowds gave for the Irish. So noticeable was it that the press commented on it, both here and at home. They stated that it had become the norm to support the Irish as our nearest friends and neighbours, and when there wasn't a British athlete in the frame, then it was their country of choice by adoption to support. I know for a fact that it was similar the other way round. As I said, with the Irish so entrenched in British modern society and Irish families who now have first born, second and third generation all living here, they now feel, quite rightly, at home and celebrate both their country of birth and that of their parents and grandparents alike. This has always been the way in Canada and the United States and at long last, as one of the consequences of the resolution to conflict in the north of Ireland, it is now the way here in the UK. I can truly say London 2012 now has that special slot in my mind right beside the file for Montreal 1976.



*The Orbit: a multimillion tower made of recycled steel, donated by Arcelor Mittal, the biggest steel company in the world, owned by Lakshmi Mittal, now a British citizen, born in India and Britain's second richest man.*



*One of the paralympic events*



*Photographs courtesy of Ailidh Kirby*

## United Irish Societies update

For nearly 80 years the United Irish Societies of Montreal has been very active in the Montreal Irish community. It organizes the St. Patrick's Parade, sponsors the Queen's selection contest, promotes an entertainment group for the benefit of senior citizens, raises funds and supplies food baskets for the needy, holds an annual dance and awards banquet honouring the Grand Marshal and Chief Reviewing Officer, supports sister societies and parishes – in particular helping the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the care and upkeep of the Memorial Irish Stone on Bridge Street – and supports the preservation of Grosse Île as a permanent Irish memorial site.

Members of UIS are afforded the opportunity to explore their Irish heritage, meet others who share their Irish roots, enjoy Irish cultural affairs, participate in benevolent activities, and take a leadership role in the promotion and preservation of Irish culture in Montreal.

This year's UIS Executive Committee consists of:

<b>Mike Kennedy</b>	President
<b>Beverly Murphy</b>	Senior Vice President
<b>Patty McCann</b>	Vice President of Organization
<b>Gordon Lippiatt</b>	Treasurer
<b>Jennifer O'Neil</b>	Recording Secretary
<b>Jonathan Foley</b>	Advertising & Public Relations
<b>Mildred Griffin-Gagnon</b>	Corresponding Secretary
<b>Ken Quinn</b>	Immediate Past President

The activities planned for the upcoming year include monthly meetings, the Christmas raffle and draw, the Queen's selection evening, the Mass of Anticipation, the St. Patrick's Parade, the annual dance and awards banquet, the Memorial Mass and March to the Stone, a Canada Day parade, highland games, Irish family day, and the Mass in memory of Deceased Members.

UIS boasts a very comprehensive website that includes links to its sister societies. Check it out at [www.montrealirishparade.com](http://www.montrealirishparade.com)



## Irish Protestant Benevolent Society 2012-2013

By Nicole Gareau

The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society (IPBS) recently announced its officers and council for the 2012-2013 year.

They are as follows:

### Officers

President	Robert Ouellette
Past-president	Anthony Wait
Vice-president	William Boyd
Honorary Solicitor	Brian Mitchell
Honorary Chaplains	The Most Reverend A Bruce Stavert Rev. James Armour

The positions of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer have yet to be filled.

### Council

David Glendenning	William Eakin	Robert Faith
Peter Flanagan	David Hannaford	J. Arthur Madill
Rev. James McDermott	J. Michael Nelson	John Perry
Edna Ralston	The Most Reverend A. Bruce Stavert	
Richard Waring	Jane Yaple	

In May, at the IPBS annual dinner held at the University Club, Paul Loftus, president of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce was the guest speaker. His topic was "The Irish Diaspora: the Case of Montreal." During the question and answer period after the talk, Mr. Loftus remarked that Ireland's current economic problems had led to a new wave of immigration, but that there was good news to report as well, Ireland being one of the leading exporters of information technology and still managing to attract firms to operate within her borders. He also remarked that there would be favourable consequences should the discussions on free trade between Canada and Europe be successful.

Four IPBS Scholarship Winners have been named for 2011-2012. They are:

**Stephanie Adler** (Matthew Hamilton Gault Scholarship) is currently a B.Sc. Psychology student with a minor in Irish Studies at Concordia. She is particularly interested in the beauty and poetry of the Irish language.

**Patrick Reed** (IPBS Scholarship) who claims to have always been fascinated by Irish history is studying this in Concordia's School of Canadian Irish Studies.

**Camille Harrigan** (IPBS Essay Prize, Concordia University), whose ancestry is French-Canadian, is of Irish descent and presently working towards her BA at Concordia. In her essay, she used contemporary British political cartoons to examine British political, class and ethnic attitudes towards Ireland and the Irish at the time of the Great Famine.

**Nathalie Serralheiro O'Neill** (IPBS Essay Prize, McGill University) is an undergraduate Honours History student at McGill with a minor in Cultural Studies. Her studies are primarily focused on modern European history, and she is particularly interested in the reciprocal relationship between literature and print, as well as other art forms, and the development of cultures and sub-cultures and a sense of national or group identity, particularly in 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe.

The next events for IPBS members are the Christmas luncheon on December 14, 2012, and the 157<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Dinner at the University Club on May 28, 2013.



# Pam gambles ... and gambols

By Pam Cotter

It took six years, but I finally made it to the Limerick races! I have always been curious, but only this year did my friends finally convince me to go. My knowledge of horse racing was based entirely on movies, so I was not quite sure what to expect. In Ireland, the fashion aspect often seems to overshadow the actual horse racing at the event. Every summer you can see the women of Limerick all gussied up in town heading out to the racecourse. Even the men, some of whom you would never expect to own a suit, are equally as fashionable, making the races appear to be the social event of the season.

On the one sunny day of July, we all piled into my car and drove out to the course in Patrickswell. The place was enormous and it seemed like everyone in Limerick had taken the day off work to join in. Horses were being paraded around the front of the racecourse, there was a BBQ and live band in the main area, and then the actual races in the back. While most people were being strategic about their betting (i.e. checking out the horses on parade, looking at their statistics), I did my selection based on names. The clear choice for me was 'Point Your Toes'; how could an Irish dancing reference fail? Feeling very confident among all the seasoned gamblers, I walked right up to the counter and placed a sawbuck on my horse to win (that's right, I know the lingo!). Unfortunately, I was then informed my horse would not be competing that day. Confidence shattered, I quickly scanned the remaining names in the book and chose 'Patrick-John Ború.' I figured my summers spent at Brú Ború would surely bring me luck.



Photo: Pam Cotter

Patrick-John Ború racing to the finish

Despite all my cheering, poor Patrick-John Ború came in 5<sup>th</sup> to last. I am still quite proud of him though. I also felt less silly about my betting strategy when I heard my friend was choosing horses based on his preferred jockey outfit. According to him, red spots were favoured to win over blue stripes. Surprisingly enough, he did not win either. We may have all left empty handed, but it was still an exhilarating experience. Just like the movies, we were all jumping up and down, cheering on our horses from the sidelines. Even if we did not have proper bets going, we still picked horses for fun and talked strategy. Of course when money was not on the table, we all figured out the horses named after Irish whiskeys seemed to be winning every time. Coincidence? I can see how addictive gambling could become if you did start to win. Luckily for me I do not possess the luck of the Irish, so I think I will save my pennies for other adventures.

Speaking of which, the following weekend I was swept up north to attend a wedding in Drogheda. What began as a simple

ceremony in the local church, ended with a two-day reception in Cabra Castle in Co. Cavan. This was my first trip to that part of the country and I definitely saw it in style. The castle was absolutely beautiful and guarded by the biggest Irish wolfhound I have ever seen. A red velvet carpet led into the foyer and each room featured original antique furniture. One room in particular was so fancy it had a fireplace in the bathroom! This is truly an ingenious concept that should be brought to Canada for those cold winter mornings.

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

*Pam continues to entertain us with stories of how she spends her time in Ireland.*

The traditional wedding reception was held the first night, followed by tours of the castle grounds the next day, and then a massive BBQ the second night. Exhausted from the events of the weekend, I was prepared to return home when we were invited to go back to Donegal with Conal's family. I have come to realise it is very hard to turn down an Irish invitation. Much like the cup of tea that is constantly offered/forced, when someone says you will come, you do end up going! After all, Donegal is just up the road, and three short hours later, we finally landed in Buncrana. Unfortunately, the quiet night I craved was not in the cards. Once word got out the 'Limerick visitors' were in town, we were taken to Derry for a night of dancing. It was at this point that I wished I'd taken more than two outfits with me. That being said, I have absolutely no regrets about the extra days spent up north. Now I know where the sun hides all summer, as every day was beautiful during our stay!

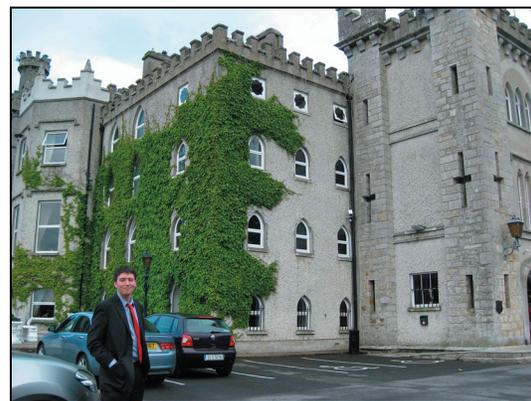


Photo: Pam Cotter

Conal outside Cabra Castle, Co. Cavan

Life has since returned to normal; I am currently back in Limerick City, but many more trips are on the horizon. The coming weeks include an Irish music concert in Sligo, a birthday in Athlone, and let us not forget the annual Canadian-Limerick Thanksgiving celebrations. My Irish friends have come to anticipate this yearly feast, despite never remembering exactly what the holiday is about. It is nice to know that I have been able to introduce my own traditions to the Irish too!



# Craig's Road becomes an historical site

By Steve Cameron

In the early 1800s, Governor General of Lower Canada, James Craig, pushed hard for the opening up of the Eastern Townships to allow for future immigration. His objective was to both settle the area with British immigrants, as well as to connect Quebec City with Boston. In order to do so, he ordered the survey of a road between St- Nicholas (12 miles southwest of Quebec City) and Richmond (where a road already existed to Sherbrooke and beyond to Boston). Craig's order not only resulted in the survey, but actual construction as well, with 180 soldiers completing the road between St- Gilles and Richmond between October 1810 and January 1811.

After initial hiccups in actual settlement, the road did become the entry point to the Townships from Quebec, as well as its developmental heart. The Craig's Road was established! Over the years, the physical road's track has been altered, straightened, re-routed, paved over, literally 'put to pasture' and almost forgotten. One piece of the original road (200 m long) remains in almost 'original condition.' This fifth of a kilometre is situated in St-Sylvestre Municipality, some 40 miles southwest of Quebec City. St-Sylvestre became a major settlement area for the early Irish arrivals (1820-1845), well before the Famine wave of immigrants.



A stretch of the original road

In May and June of this year, *Coirneal Cealteach*\* convinced the municipality of St-Sylvestre to designate this 1/5 km. an Historical Site, the citation itself being conferred in early June. Our ancestors all travelled over this piece of the road when they settled and the municipality was very cooperative in the venture." *Coirneal Cealteach*\* installed information panels on site prior to the end of June, explaining the historical context of the road and its importance. At the time, pre-1840, it was the only entry point to this general area (Ste-Agathe, St-Sylvestre, Leeds, Inverness) leading to the Townships.



Sign seen at each end of the original 200 m of road

St-Sylvestre's mayor, Mario Grenier, stated, "The municipality felt the road's significance should be remembered. Somehow, with a bit of luck, we still have a piece of the road close to its original state." He further noted that the municipal council voted unanimously for the recognition and historical designation/citation. This historic road also leads to a provincial historic cemetery, St-Sylvestre West's St. George's Anglican/Presbyterian, established in the mid 1850s. Numerous headstones of the early settlers remain.

\* *Coirneal Cealteach*...an Irish Historical & Heritage Group in Ste-Agatha (Ste-Agathe de Lotbiniere)

For further info., please contact Steve Cameron cofounder of *Coirneal Cealteach* at 418-599-2814 or [tiranogsa@gmail.com](mailto:tiranogsa@gmail.com) and the CBC broadcast interview with Rachele Solomon: <http://www.cbc.ca/breakaway/rachele-solomon/2012/08/20/the-craigs-road-in-st-sylvestre/>



## News from Innisfail



2012-2013 Executive Committee (l. to r.) Sandra McDonaugh, Ann Cruise-Broden, Rose Quinn, and John J. Faherty (missing is John Gilroy who took the photo)

Photo: John Gilroy

Innisfail has a couple of events planned during the next few months. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, they will hold a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner in the NDG Legion Hall (corner of Addison and De Maisonneuve) for \$12.00 per person. Then, December 7<sup>th</sup>, is the date of their annual Members' Christmas Party to which guests are cordially invited. This too will take place in the NDG Legion Hall and the cost is \$12.00.

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| President:                | Ann Cruise-Broden |
| Vice-president:           | John J. Faherty   |
| Treasurer:                | Sandra McDonaugh  |
| Secretary:                | Rose Quinn        |
| Immediate past-president: | John Gilroy       |



# 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Chateauguy to be celebrated

By Leo Delaney and Sam Allison

The Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation and the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem in partnership with Parks Canada, the Chateauguy Historical Society, the Canadian Army and LEARN, Quebec (Learning English Education and Resource Network) are sponsoring a commemorative ceremony on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> to remember the 1812 War. There will be a weekend re-enactment of the battle sponsored by the Quebec Historical Reenactment Society participating in which will be Canadian militia units and American forces descended from those who took part in the original battle.

The rationale behind this event is to bring attention to schools and the public of the importance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Chateauguy. By using this particular Battle as a springboard, it will be possible to analyze the wider, long-term impacts of the war. We plan to generate Canada-wide attention, especially among students, to those who fought in this battle. Individuals including the French Canadian Lt. Col. de Salaberry (Voltigeurs), his Irish aide-de-camp Michael O’Sullivan, the Scottish, Lt. Col. McDonell (Glengarry Militia) reflected our Canadian mosaic and are featured prominently. We will unite present-day Canadians including the First Nations by using our past. O’Sullivan’s account of the Battle, in the Montreal Gazette, is recognized by French Canadians as the most authentic account of the events. And we hope to influence local and international opinions as well as those of schools and university students.

Prior to the event, the Foundation will sponsor Canada-wide debates and competitions (art, poetry, music, history) at the school and university levels as well as develop a website written by teachers reflecting the official school curriculum using film clips from the CBC archives and the latest U.K. electronic lessons and learning scaffolds. We will also promote a more interactive and

dynamic electronic learning in our French and English schools across Canada. Advisors on the latest electronic technology include Prof. Ben Walsh, National Archives Britain and co-coordinator of Active Learning Technology, History for Europe, and Prof. Kevin Kee, Brock University Ontario. In addition, we will create French and English newspaper inserts for October 2013, written in the style of the times and linked to the website.

We plan to promote an international conference before the ceremony involving Canadian, British and American historians and to bring internationally known authors to Canada. We will be assisted by David Wilson, author of *Thomas D’Arcy McGee* and Chairman of the Celtic Studies Department of the University of Toronto who has prepared material about the Irish and the Scots in the War of 1812. He will be making it available for our new website and newspaper inserts. There possibly will be an additional venue in the Celtic Studies, Department at the University of Toronto.

The Jeanie Johnston Education Foundation has the support of the Canadian Education Association (the arm of the Council of Ministers of Education across Canada) to assist with the co-operation of the various provincial educational systems across Canada.

For more information, contact:  
 Leo Delaney 514-341-7777  
[leodelaney@jeaniejohnstonfoundation.com](mailto:leodelaney@jeaniejohnstonfoundation.com)  
 Sam Allison 450-443-1464  
[samallison@jeaniejohnstonfoundation.com](mailto:samallison@jeaniejohnstonfoundation.com)



## Tara’s newest honorary lifetime member

In the middle of a golf season blessed with wonderful weather, Tara welcomed Kay Farrell as a lifetime member at its Lake Placid Tournament on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Kay is one of a kind, forever smiling, who always has a good word to say. She was at her husband’s side when Gerry was president in 1986 and 1987.

Her beautiful singing voice and her rendition of “You don’t bring me flowers anymore” was a particular favourite of the Tara members.

She is also a talented golfer and scored a hole in one at Lake Placid’s Craigwood Course on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole a couple of years ago.

Tara’s final event of the year will take place on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at Club de Golf Terrebonne. Trophies will be presented after the tournament.



Photo: Carole Dery

Kay Farrell seen here at the Lake Placid Golf Course



# What you may have missed from the Irish papers!

By Paul Dunne



*Each clutching an appropriate emblem left to right Irial Finan, executive VP of Coca Cola, Maureen Dowd, New York Times columnist, our own Loyola boy, finance minister Jim Flaherty and novelist Sebastian Barry were awarded honorary degrees by the National University of Ireland, Galway on June 29<sup>th</sup> last.*

## PEACE AND WAR

Within a year the Queen visits Dublin, shakes hands with Martin McGuinness in Belfast, the head of the Orange Order addresses the Irish senate, Rory McIlroy (whose tribal marker is "catholic") declares he feels more British than Irish and, as I write, an Irish newspaper may shut down because it printed indiscreet pictures of a probable future Queen of England. You have to feel for the diehard republicans who probably had none of this in their vision of a post Good Friday Ireland. What they always missed was that uniting Ireland was never a political issue. It was never an us versus them conflict. It was always about us AND them – a meeting of hearts and minds - of protestants, catholics British and Irish sharing the same corner of the planet in peace. And now we have that peace, how it manifests itself may make some of the diehards uncomfortable.

So when a 32-year-old republican called Alan Ryan, a leader of the dissident "Real" IRA was gunned down in Dublin early September and masked men subsequently fired a 21-gun salute at his graveside, it was a stark reminder in the context of all the happenings above that there are still a few who don't get the plot. And that the fate of some diehards is to, well, die hard.

## THE (BAD) LUCK OF THE IRISH

License plates in Ireland are full of interesting information. They contain a two letter abbreviation of the county of registration, a sequence number and two digits for the year of registration. Unlike Canada, the license plate remains with the car as it changes owners so whatever you drive always shows her age. During the Celtic Tiger splurge it was important for some to show not only that they could afford an expensive brand but that the car was new. There was a proliferation of current year models in the country during that golden era and no one was happier than the car dealer selling cars to drivers who would not be seen dead in anything that did not have the right datestamp.

I can't tell you if buildings in Ireland have 13<sup>th</sup> floors because I have never been in a building in Ireland that tall because they are very few and far between. So until recently, I couldn't confirm that the Irish were as obsessed with the superstition of 13 as North Americans, but I think I can now. You see, the license plate abbreviation for 2013 should be 13, but car dealers are terrified that, in a severely weakened market, buyers will wait until 2014 to make their next purchase and so avoid the certain carnage that would ensue if their license plates contained the number 13. To avoid that terrible inevitability, the registration authority has come up with a brilliant solution to the problem. There will be two three-digit identifiers next year, 131 for cars registered in the first six months and 132 for cars registered in the second half of the year. Problem solved. Irish roads are now safe.

Mind you, there are probably still a few Celtic Tiger survivors out there who will begin to feel restless with a 131 plate as soon as July rolls around. At least the dealers are happy.

## AND YOU THINK YOU HAVE DEBT PROBLEMS?

I don't want to bore you with numbers but consider this. If you were lucky enough to be earning a million dollars a year but unlucky enough to owe your bank \$2.8bn, it would take every penny of your earnings for 2,800 years to repay the bank who would also have to be kind enough to forgive you the interest.

Sean Quinn was Ireland's richest man as recently as 2008. Today his bank wants him to repay them the €2.8bn he owes. Of this, €2.4bn was loaned to buy the bank's own shares at a time when the bank's CEO was another Sean, Sean Fitzpatrick. The bank now belongs to the Irish government (people), Sean Fitzpatrick has been arrested and charged with 16 counts of fraud and Sean Quinn is bankrupt.

However, his family do or did have access to certain overseas assets that his bank would dearly like to liquidate to offset some of the loan debt but through a series of some very bizarre transactions (like a €193m Russian investment sold to a cousin for \$1,000 and a laptop) these assets have apparently slipped out of Quinn control and the family have been arguing to a very sceptical judge that they cannot assist in their recovery. The judge, now both exasperated as well as cynical, decides that Quinn's son, - yet another Sean - and his nephew Peter be jailed for contempt of court. Sean junior is still in Mountjoy Prison and could theoretically be there indefinitely if he does not purge his contempt while Peter is on the run – or more like a walk really since he has been seen at GAA games outside of the jurisdiction in Northern Ireland.

Sean Quinn remains a popular figure in his native Cavan and many in Ireland feel he has been hard done by since Anglo Irish Bank had loaned most of the money to illegally support its own share price. If he wins that argument and manages to improve his earning power from zero to a million a year, he may only need 400 years to pay the rest.



# News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

Michael Kenneally, Principal

The School is pleased to offer the following courses in the Winter 2013 semester.

- The Irish in Canada
- Celts to Tudors: History of Early and Mediaeval Ireland
- History of the Irish Language
- The Troubles in Northern Ireland
- The Irish Literary Revival
- Contemporary Irish Literature
- The Irish Home: Food, Space and Agency
- The Irish Diaspora on Film and Television
- Contemporary Irish Women's Writing

Members of the public are welcome to take these courses and to attend the free lectures. For further information, contact the School at 514-848-2424 ext. 8711 or email: [cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca](mailto:cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca). The website is: [cdnirish.concordia.ca](http://cdnirish.concordia.ca).

## PUBLIC EVENTS

**LIAM KENNEDY** from Queen's University Belfast will give the lecture 'The Planter and the Gael: Explorations in Irish Ethnic History, 1600-1911' on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the McEntee Reading Room (1455 de Maisonneuve West, Room H 1001.01)

Liam Kennedy, BSc, MSc (NUI), PhD (York), FRHistS, is a Professor of Economic & Social History at Queen's University, Belfast. Originally from rural Tipperary, Professor Kennedy's interests include long-term social change in Ireland, from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He focuses on the historical state of wages, prices and living standards, as well as secular change in Irish politics and religion. In 2005 Prof. Kennedy was a visiting professor at the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy's National Committee for Social Sciences.



Kevin Barry

After a dynamic and well-received reading at this summer's IASIL conference in Montreal, Irish writer KEVIN BARRY will be back for another reading as part of Concordia's Writers Read Series on Friday, March 1, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve West, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 767).

Kevin Barry is the author of the story collections *Dark Lies the Island* and *There Are Little Kingdoms* and the novel *City of Bohane*. He has won the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Prize, the European Union Prize for Literature, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, and the Authors Club Best First Novel Award. He has been shortlisted for the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award and the Costa First Novel Prize. His stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Best European Fiction*, the *Granta Book of the Irish Short Story* and many other journals. He also works on screenplays, plays and graphic stories. He lives in County Sligo.



For information about Canadian Irish Studies courses, programmes, and scholarships, contact: [cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca) or (514) 848-2424, ext. 8711 or visit <http://cdnirish.concordia.ca>

# Vision à Emain Macha

## Aisling ag Emain Macha

Par Alexandre Boulet



Another Celtic myth

**Victorieux de son affrontement contre les forces de Medb (Maev près de la rivière Shannon, Cúchulainn revint en son royaume, à Emain Macha. Plusieurs lunes accomplirent leurs cycles. Si bien que l'ensemble des villageois préparait à ce moment la venue de la fête de Lúnasa. Un harpiste assis sur le pourtour d'une fontaine, le pied posé sur une de ses pattes, entonnait un chant à la gloire du nouvel exploit héroïque du chien du forgeron :**

« Balais sur l'eau, saut du poisson, victorieux de la course folle et du cœur rougi de passion. De cette reine impulsive est né le poison qui envenime la tour Mionn Mallacht. Prenez acte! le protecteur des Ulates est de retour. Jouons, fêtons, car il appartient à notre cour. »  
Lúnasa

Ce chant mélodieux remplissait l'atmosphère de la place du marché où des cuisiniers apprêtaient le festin de Lúnasa. Près de la passerelle qui menait à la cour intérieure de la forteresse, des danseurs, jongleurs et cracheurs de feu révisaient leurs numéros.

De l'unique fenêtre d'une des tours de la forteresse, celle dédiée au culte des anciens, s'envola un corbeau. Au-dessus des villageois qui confectionnaient des couronnes et des triskèles à l'aide de feuilles, de fleurs, de trèfles et de branchettes, le messenger vola, virevolta puis bifurqua vers la cour du château. Ses yeux scrutant le sol et le vent supportant ses ailes, il aperçut « les compagnons de la Branche Rouge » qui s'exerçaient aux arts de la guerre. Il amorça sa descente.

La cour résonnait du cliquetis d'épées, du sifflement des flèches et des cris de guerre des guerriers qui se pratiquaient. Leurs entraînements se terminaient toujours par de puissants éclats de rire. À l'écart du groupe, un autre guerrier s'amusait à fendre le centre d'une cible à l'aide de javelots, c'était Cúchulainn. Le corbeau plongea sur lui et se posa sur son épaule, car il avait enfin trouvé l'oreille destinée à écouter son message confié par le druide Cathbad. Croassant à son oreille, Cúchulainn comprit, grâce à son don de communication animale, qu'il devait se rendre à la tour des anciens sous l'ordre du roi.

\* \* \*

### Une vision voilée

Ce que Cúchulainn vécut à l'intérieur de la tour reste encore de nos jours une fabulation pour la postérité des Ulates. Mais les bardes continuent de chanter que lorsque Cúchulainn

y pénétra, il vit dans la pénombre, un ovate assis les jambes croisées, un bol en or rempli de sable entre ses jambes. Le visage du druide Cathbad et celui du roi Conchobar apparaissaient entre les flammes des chandeliers.

À la demande du druide, Cúchulainn regarda à l'intérieur du bol pour y découvrir le dessin de la tour de la couronne maléfique, nom donné à la tour depuis son occupation par les forces de Medb. Tracée dans le sable, la tour Mionn Mallacht comportait une fenêtre par laquelle l'ovate pouvait scruter l'intérieur du lieu physique dans le monde réel. Mais depuis la pleine lune de Lúnasa, un nuage la survolait et empêchait l'ovate de poursuivre sa vision.

Le roi conclut que seul des forces obscures, des forces maléfiques possédaient le pouvoir d'intervenir ainsi dans le dessin sacré de son ovate. Il ordonna à Cúchulainn de partir vers la tour pour espionner Medb.

La légende raconte que le forgeron aperçut un guerrier quitter le royaume à l'aube de Lúnasa sans, toutefois, affirmer que c'était le protecteur des Ulates.



D'autres articles sur la culture québécoise et irlandaise vous attendent sur mon blogue : [www.lesbuzzculturels.overblog.com](http://www.lesbuzzculturels.overblog.com).



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# People in the news ...

By Patrick Short

**Catharine McKenty** has generously agreed to establish the McKenty Scholarship in Canadian Irish Studies in honour of her late husband. The scholarship will honour both **Neil** and Catharine's Irish-Canadian roots and reflect their eagerness to support opportunities for Canadian students to study Ireland and the Irish heritage in Canada. The McKentys have donated a collection of Irish books to the Fr. Thomas McEntee library. Catharine hopes to build on the endowment in the coming years.



After sixteen years of passionate and dedicated work, **Brian O'Neill Gallery, LLD** has retired as Chair of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. Recently, Dr. Gallery was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He has been succeeded by former SPS president, **Dr. John Little**.

Many of our local Irish dancers travelled to Chicago in July for the North American Championships. This event attracts dancers not only from the United States and Canada, but also from Europe, Australasia and South Africa. The Montreal dancers who medaled at this event were: **Natasha Woytiuk, Meaghan Kilmartin, Stephanie Coull, Elspeth McMurray, Orla Mahon, Claire Benoit** and **Sarah McNally**. Among the boys who medaled were **Lukas Lawton, James Houghton, Casey Costello** and **Caleb Bourgeois**. The Bernadette Short Senior Mixed Ceilí team which placed third at World's placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the Nationals which attracted 15 teams. Many of these dancers are now pre-qualified for the World's which will be held this coming year in Boston. It is wonderful to see these young Montrealers, Quebecers and dancers from Plattsburgh represent our Irish culture at such a prestigious event.

I paid a visit to the Sherbrooke Multicultural festival in July and ran into some Montrealers playing or performing. Piper-whistler **Keneth McKenzie** was in great spirits with his new group Arisaig featuring **Linda Morrison**. Irish musicians were in great demand this summer with **Alan Jones** and **Joanne St.-Laurent** leading a troupe at Parks Canada site at Fort Chambly.

Former Irish Dancer and budding anthropologist **Marie Claire Eyllott** recently returned from a four month stage with the National Museum of Ireland from whence she sent regular reports of meetings with Crusade Mummies, jugs of whiskey recovered from bogs, wrestling with 1000-year-old Vikings' helmet horns and the like.

Having graduated in June, former CJAD Irish Show host, **Amber Lebrun**, went globetrotting. Checking in on the London Olympics, she found them running smoothly so took off for the Emerald Isle. She fell in love with the Galway area but the boat trip out to the Aran Islands was too daunting for her. Maybe next time?

The 2012 Queen of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, **Keira Kilmartin** also visited Ireland this summer thanks to the free Air Canada tickets she received as Queen. She took her father, renowned **Doctor Patrick Kilmartin**, along for the trip and they visited family and friends in Dublin, Roscommon and Galway.



This has been a great summer for weddings: sunshine, sunshine and sunshine! Congratulations to the Society's secretary, **Michelle Vahey**, who recently married **Dennis Koop** a German National from Hamburg. They had a civil ceremony on August 24<sup>th</sup> in Montreal and then travelled to Italy to 'Castello di Modanella' a charming Middle Ages castle in the heart of Tuscany 35km from Siena. They had a blessing in the Italian garden on the grounds of the

castle on September 8<sup>th</sup> attended by 100 family and friends from all corners of the world – Australia, Canada, Europe, Kenya and Saudi Arabia. Canapés and cocktails were served after the blessing with a meal in the courtyard of the castle followed by dancing in typical Irish fashion into the wee hours of the morning. Michelle's father mentioned in his speech that this was not a wedding but an International Convention!



On Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, **Maeve Francoeur** (daughter of SPS member **Patricia O'Connor** and twin sister of **Conall Francoeur**) married her long-time boyfriend, **Greg Dobney**, in the Birks Memorial Chapel at McGill. A lively and entertaining reception at Espace Réunion followed with one of the evening's highlights being a display of dancing by **Bernadette Short's Celtic Grace** dancers. Check the photo above for Conall (third groomsmen on the right).

The Society can only claim one new member since the last issue of *NUACHT* (and this is a posthumous recognition): **Thomas D'Arcy McGee** has been reinstated as a member and is welcomed most cordially.



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## Around town

### Ce moment-là : an Irish play in translation

Deirdre Kinnan's play, *Moment*, will be staged at Théâtre La Licorne, 4559 Papineau, from October 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>. This critically acclaimed work received rave reviews in Chicago. It is the story of how a family has difficulty in confronting a past crime committed by one of its members. The French version has been translated by Maryse Warda and produced by La Manufacture. For tickets, contact the box office at 514 523-2246.

### Simon Jolivet at la Grand Bibliothèque

As part of the series *Histoires d'immigrations*, historian Simon Jolivet (former SPS scholarship recipient) and his distinguished guest, Pierre-Marc Johnson, former Premier of Québec, will present the way in which the Irish integrated into Quebec society during the past two centuries.

Of all the immigrant communities that settled in Quebec after 1815, it is the Irish that most actively shared the French-Canadian institutions (parishes, school boards, factories, etc.). Until 1900, Québec's Irish community constituted the second most important ethnocultural group, ahead of the Scots and the English, but following the French Canadians. The experience of the Irish integration into Quebec society is unique within the whole Irish Diaspora history.

Hosted by Dominique Poirier, Radio-Canada Journalist, this event is made possible with the help of l'Université du Québec à Montréal and is co-produced by Télé-Québec and Canal Savoir. It will take place on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of la Grande Bibliothèque, 475, boulevard de Maisonneuve East, Montréal. Admission is free.

### Unitas plans an active fall programme

A potluck supper followed by Taizé will be held from 5:30 p.m. on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Padua Centre, 1950 rue St-Antoine Ouest. Other activities that are on the calendar are a Day's Retreat (November 24<sup>th</sup>) at the Catholic Centre, 1857 boul. de Maisonneuve Ouest, and a Taizé in the Christmas spirit, again at the Padua Centre, on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in any of these events, call 514-485-0009, or email [info@unitas-mediation.ca](mailto:info@unitas-mediation.ca).

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### Don't miss the ICCC European pub quiz

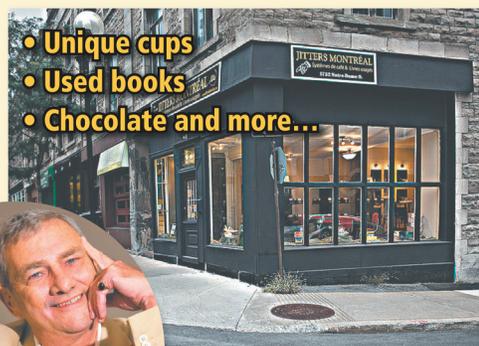
The Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual European pub quiz in the Irish Embassy Pub & Grill on Bishop Street. The quiz kicks off at 5.30 p.m. on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and there is an array of great prizes for the winning teams as well as door prizes. The entry fees of \$20 for members and \$25 for guests include complimentary finger food and one drink and can be paid up front to the chamber's PayPal account or at the door. For more information, check the website: [www.icccmtl.com](http://www.icccmtl.com)

### The Irish Tradition: second edition

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 marks a very special celebration for the Irish in Canada. The second edition of Carl Beaulieu's book will be launched at the School of Canadian Studies at 4 p.m. (1001 Hall Building, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, 1455 De Maisonneuve West). This latest version has considerably more pages than the edition that appeared in November 2011. Invited guests include the Irish Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Ray Bassett, Dr. Michael Kenneally and Larry Smith. Following the launch of *The Irish Tradition*, the Order of St. Patrick awards will be presented. Harpist Isabeau Corriveau will perform celtic songs and refreshments will be served. Please contact Carl at 418-698-4554 or email [edpatrimoine@bell.net](mailto:edpatrimoine@bell.net) if you would like to attend this prestigious event.

Please note that we welcome your opinions and would appreciate feedback on the contents of *NUACHT*. Send your comments to [nuacht@spsmtl.com](mailto:nuacht@spsmtl.com)

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## 2012-2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2012-2013

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Sep. 27	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Sep. 28	SPS Grant Application deadline	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Sep. 28	Erin Sports Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Île Perrot, \$125.00	Ken Doran	944-5256
Sep. 29	Tara Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Terrebonne	Gwyneth Baldry	630-5268
Oct. 12	Unitas, Potluck and Taizé, Padua Centre, 1950 St. Antoine St., 5:30 p.m.	Mary Trautman	485-0009
Oct. 19	Innisfail corned beef and cabbage dinner, \$12.00, NDG Legion (corner Addington and De Maisonneuve)	<a href="mailto:cruisebroden@yahoo.com">cruisebroden@yahoo.com</a>	
Oct. 25	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Oct. 26-27	Remembering the War of 1812, Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation, Chateauguay	Leo Delaney	341-7777
Nov. 24	Unitas, Retraite d'une journée, Catholic Centre, 1857 De Maisonneuve West	Mary Trautman	485-0009
Nov. 25	UIS General Meeting & Christmas Draw, St. John Brebeuf Church	<a href="mailto:jeskelton@videotron.ca">jeskelton@videotron.ca</a>	
Nov. 29	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Dec. 6	SPS 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Concert, St. Patrick's Basilica, 7:30 p.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Dec.	SPS Members Christmas Party (date and venue to be determined)	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Dec. 7	Innisfail Members' Christmas Party (guests welcome), \$12.00, NDG Legion	<a href="mailto:cruisebroden@yahoo.com">cruisebroden@yahoo.com</a>	
Dec. 14	Unitas, Taizé in the Christmas Spirit (bi-lingual), Padua Centre, 1950 St. Antoine St., 5:30 p.m.	<a href="mailto:info@unitas-mediation.ca">info@unitas-mediation.ca</a>	
Jan. 25	Cine Gael, Opening Night and Reception, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Feb. 2	UIS Queen's Selection Night, Buffet Sorrento, LaSalle	<a href="mailto:cmurphy2_3@msn.com">cmurphy2_3@msn.com</a>	
Feb. 8	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 1	SPS Annual Charity Ball, Mariott Chateau Champlain	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 15	SPS Annual Luncheon, Hotel Bonaventure	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Apr. 5	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 12/13	Cine Gael, Film Weekend, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 19	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
June	SPS Annual Charity Golf Tournament (date and venue to be determined)	Erin Matheson	481-1346
June	SPS Annual General Meeting (date and venue to be determined)	Erin Matheson	481-1346



**Andrea Bobkowicz**

Sun Life Building  
 1155 Metcalfe, Suite 1438  
 Montreal, Quebec H3B 4S9  
**Telephone:** (514) 871-4339  
 1-866-843-3088  
**Fax:** (514) 843-4447  
**E-Mail:** [andrea.bobkowicz@nbf.ca](mailto:andrea.bobkowicz@nbf.ca)

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