

# It's official! Tom Mulcair to be Guest Speaker at March 17 luncheon

By Carol McCormick



Every year, Saint Patrick's Society succeeds in getting an inspiring yet light-hearted guest speaker who warms up the audience with entertaining remarks and anecdotes. This year is no exception as the Honourable Thomas Mulcair accepts our invitation to be the Guest Speaker.

Mulcair is the leader of the New Democratic Party and the Official Opposition. However, did you know that he was instrumental in creating the "orange wave" which elected 103 NDP MPs – including 59 in Québec which established the late Jack Layton as the NDP Opposition Leader?

Did you know that before entering federal politics, he represented the provincial riding of Chomedey in the National Assembly of Québec? That he was the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks from 2003 to 2006 and that he also served as president of the Office des professions du Québec? Mulcair truly represents the bilingualism and biculturalism of Québec.

Besides the serious side of Tom Mulcair he also can have quite a sense of humour. And he is generous and thoughtful; at a particularly cold parade a few years ago he stepped away and bought Irish coffees for two of his fellow marchers! This was before alcohol was banned for participants.

In addition, Tom is very energetic. Neighbours in Beaconsfield often encounter him as he jogs along Lakeshore Road or through

St. James's Park. However, he's not been spotted too many times during this chilly winter.

The Annual Luncheon is the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts for charitable, cultural and educational purposes. Your attendance will help in our continuing endeavour to assist the ever growing needs of our Montreal community.



A relaxed and smiling Tom Mulcair

I will be thrilled to greet each and every one of you at this event on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> in the Main Ballroom of the Marriott Château Champlain. We promise you will be celebrating in style with a wonderful lunch and a few surprises along the way.

Individual tickets and table sponsorship are still available but will go quickly when the word gets out that Tom Mulcair is our Guest Speaker. You can order on line: [www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com) or you can call our Office Manager, Erin Matheson at: 514-481-1346.

Looking forward to seeing you on St. Patrick's Day, 2015!

Carol McCormick  
St. Patrick's Society Luncheon Chair

Photo: Courtesy of the NDP



**NUA**  
**CHT**

**February 2015**  
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<b>I N S I D E</b>	• SPS's 20 <sup>th</sup> annual charity golf tournament .....p.3
	• SPS welcomes Mayor Coderre as Guest of Honour at the Ball .....p.4
	• Erin Sports Association puts on another great pre-sashing evening ..... p.5
	• United Irish Societies' 2015 Honorees ..... p.6
	• Diamond anniversary of popular competition ..... p.8
	• Québec City hosts another Défile de la Saint-Patrick de Quebec ..... p.10
	• An all-Irish evening not to be missed ..... p.12
	• Cine Gael's 2015 season is one of the best ..... p.15
	• NUACHT needs your help ..... p.16
	• The World Championship of Irish Dancing ... coming soon ..... p.17
• Irish Immigrant Initiative starts collaboration with Youth Employment Services ..... p.19	

## A word from the President

The Irish season is well underway. Happy New Year to all of our members. The sister societies' events have begun to take place and will culminate in a very full calendar toward the end of March.

I had the honour of attending the Innisfail Social Club Kickoff Céili with their members in January. A great time was had by all in attendance. I wish to thank Rose Quinn and her executive team for a festive evening. Congratulations are extended to Queen Carly Meredith and her court on their selection as community ambassadors for the season. Formally sashed during the selection evening were Grand Marshal, Geoff Kelley and Chief Reviewing Officer, Elizabeth Quinn. Mabel Fitzgerald was acknowledged as this year's recipient of the Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award as was Siamsa, recipient of the Liam Daly Heritage Award. The UIS are en route to another busy and successful season. Not to be outdone, Tim Furlong and the members of the Erin Sports Association, sashed Jim Hindley as Irishman of the Year. I offer my congratulations to all and may we all have a fun-filled few months, celebrating our Irish heritage in Quebec.

I am pleased to announce that His Worship Denis Coderre, Mayor of the city of Montreal, will be our guest of honour at this year's St. Patrick's Society Ball. The ball will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel. Please contact the office to book your tables. It will truly be an outstanding evening.

After many years as a director on the board of the Society, the Honourable Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the Official Opposition in Ottawa, will be our guest speaker at this year's luncheon.

Tom has promised to keep the politics aside and put a few Irish tales together. Spoken like a true politician. We are honoured to have him with us on March 17<sup>th</sup>. For all to note, the luncheon has moved to the Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel, the same location as the Ball. As usual your tickets and tables may be purchased through the office and online.

As we approach our two major fund-raising events of the season, your support as members and your network of various company contacts are an important factor to our continued success. I urge you to reach out to your vast network to encourage sponsorships for both events. Please browse the website for patron, bronze, silver, gold and platinum packages. We have many levels of programmes that through our patrons' funding and sponsorships will create true partnerships with our sponsors and increase fund-raising for our activities through the year. Partnerships are a major key to our success

The UIS Parade will be held on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year we have entered a float that will not only have an Irish theme and our logos, but will also serve as a venue for our members who are not able to walk the parade route. There will be approximately 20 seats on the float with room for approximately 8 – 10 people standing. Should you wish to attend and require a seat on the float, please contact the office to reserve your seat. We will also have a walking contingent in the parade. So please join us to represent the Society. Our lineup this year will include the Montreal Pipes and Drums, flag bearers, our walking contingent as well as our float. Be proud of our heritage and come out to participate on a day that is second to none in Montreal. ---ERIN GO BRAGH---

Paul Dunne, our immediate past-president, will chair the nominating committee this year to review the executive and board membership. As per the bylaws, we will hold a General Meeting in June for all members to review and approve the nominating committee slate and other business arising during the course of the year.

I hope that over the next few months our paths will cross numerous times at all of the activities that will be held in honour of our heritage. Based on the weather, stay warm, think green and pray for a little break in temperature for the end of March.

*Jim Killin*

*February 2015*



**NUACHT**, Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

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

**Proofreading:** Maura Druda  
Ken Quinn

**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

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Please address all contributions to the Editor at the Society Office.  
Tel.: (514) 481-1346 Fax: (514) 481-9048

E-mail: [office@spsmtl.com](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: May 7, 2015

## Community Award

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal is calling for nominations for its annual Community Award which will be presented at the Annual Luncheon on March 17.

See <http://goo.gl/QCf1z2> for criteria, list of former recipients, and to submit your nomination via online webform.

Application deadline is March 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:59 p.m.

# News from the Society

## The Society's Christmas reception

By Julie Dunn

SPS members kicked off the holiday season with a gathering at Hurley's for the Annual Christmas Party. While it was cold outside, Hurley's was the perfect warm and cozy atmosphere for ending 2014 and celebrating the year to come. In addition to the great company we were privileged to have wonderful entertainment as well. Dave Gossage kept the music going all night long and the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing's Celtic Grace dancers wowed the crowd, always putting on a great show. Special thanks to Catharine McKenty for her beautiful and inspirational words on the Irish culture and celebrating the launch of her newest book, reviewed on p. 12). Thanks to all who attended!



Photos: Ken Quinn

## SPS's 20<sup>th</sup> annual charity golf tournament

Over the past twenty years, the golf tournament has raised over a quarter of a million dollars for the charitable, educational and cultural works of St. Patrick's Society.

As the last remaining committee member of the very first tournament, I have had the pleasure of working with many great supporters of our cause.

Over the past many years, we have had the past-presidents, grand marshals and Irishmen of the Year on our committee, including past-presidents Brian O'Neill, Andrew Fogarty and Alistair O'Hara.

If my memory serves me correctly, the original six committee members were Philip Nolan, Andrea Bobkowitz, Michael Clayton, Jim Heaslip, Harry Trihey and myself.

At the present time, we still have past presidents Brian O'Neill and Andy Fogarty, past grand marshal Wayne Hogan, past Irishman of the year and past grand marshal Bill Hurley and last but not least, our current St. Patrick's Society president, Jim Killin, all serving on this year's golf committee.

The ongoing success of the tournament is due to the support we have received from such people as Bill Hurley of Hurley's Irish Pub, Paul Quinn of the Irish Embassy Pub, Dean Laderoute of

McKibbin's Irish Pub, Harry Trihey of Harry Trihey and Associates as well as the great support from the former vice-president of L'Equipeur, Jim Killin.

The members of the current golf committee also include Ken O'Donnell and Ron Pilon from the Shriners; two veteran realtors Dave Dubeau of Sutton Realities and Ed Brennan of Century Twenty One and our newest real estate recruit, Brian Marcil; as well as John McGee from St. Patrick Square and myself from the St. Patrick's Society board of directors.

The tournament will take place on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Bellvue Golf Course. The price of \$125 includes green fee, golf cart, roast beef dinner, wine, dessert and coffee.

We are hoping that the 20<sup>th</sup> will be our best yet!

Space is limited so book as early as possible by calling Erin at the office (514-481-1346). If you have any questions or any ideas that you would like to contribute, please call me (Paul Doyle) at 514-481-3503.

Hope to see you on June 16<sup>th</sup>!

Paul Doyle,



# SPS welcomes Mayor Coderre as Guest of Honour at the Ball

By Anne Forrest

Each year, St. Patrick’s Society invites a prominent Canadian to be the Guest of Honour at the annual Ball. This year, Montreal’s mayor, Denis Coderre has accepted the invitation.

Elected in November, 2013, Mr. Coderre is also the executive committee member responsible for economic development, international relations and Mont-Royal. In addition, he is also in charge of the plans for Montreal’s 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will take place in 2017. Earlier this month, Mayor Coderre had an audience with Pope Francis during which he invited the Pontiff to visit our city during the celebrations. Coderre said they discussed Montreal’s Catholic heritage and how it still resonates in the city’s institutions and architecture as illustrated by such symbols as the famous cross on Mount Royal.

The Vatican has not yet indicated if Pope Francis will accept Coderre’s invitation. The last time a pontiff visited the province was September 1984 when John Paul II drew massive crowds in Montreal, Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres. The mayor hopes that discussions with other key members in the pope’s entourage will lay the groundwork for a visit.

“We were told that going forward now for 2017 was the right strategy instead of waiting until the last minute,” Coderre said in a phone interview from Rome. “The Pope has already planned his trips for 2016.”

From 1997 to 2013, Mr. Coderre represented constituents in the Bourassa riding who elected him six times to the House of Commons. He held several ministerial positions in the Government of Canada.

Denis Coderre played a crucial role in issues of critical importance to Montréal, including the establishment of the World Anti-Doping Agency’s headquarters in Montréal. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the Université de Montréal and an Executive MBA from the University of Ottawa.

Married to Chantale Renaud, they have two children, Alexandre and Geneviève. Mayor Coderre is also proud of his Irish roots: his maternal grandmother was H  l  ne McCabe, a true Irish lady.



Photo: Motiti Bembarron (Courtesy of ICCA)

Mayor Denis Coderre proudly receives an Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec) calling card at the Ireland-Canada Business Association’s visit to Montreal on October 7, 2014.



## Get ready for the social highlight of the Irish season

By Alistair O’Hara

The annual St. Patrick’s Society Charity Ball is perhaps the longest-running annual social event in Montreal. It is most certainly one of the highlights of the city’s social calendar and retains its reputation for being a vibrant and joyous celebration for the Montreal Irish community which is open to all.

This year’s event will be held on Friday, March 6, at the Marriott Chateau Champlain. The Ball is a formal event that is attended by approximately 400 people each year who enjoy a cocktail party at the beginning of the evening, a sumptuous meal, a live orchestra “The Directors Showband,” special entertainment and an Irish pub – thank you, Bill Hurley – that opens at midnight and continues into the wee hours.

As usual, proceeds from the Ball will be donated to well-deserving charitable organizations throughout the Montreal area and we kindly ask for your generous participation to meet this ever-rising need.

Tickets may be purchased on-line at the Society’s website at [http://www.spsmtl.com/purchase\\_tickets](http://www.spsmtl.com/purchase_tickets). If you are unable

to attend this year, please consider making a donation to The Patrons’ Fund at the same site. Alternatively, you may contact Erin Matheson at [office@spsmtl.com](mailto:office@spsmtl.com).

Book early and avoid disappointment for what is always a most memorable evening. I hope to see you there!



### In Memoriam

The Society expresses its condolences to the families of the following who have passed earlier this year:

- Audrey McKeown (January 5) – former member
- Terence Furlong (January 16) – life member
- Mary Harty (February 11) – mother of Msgr. Harty
- Maureen Elinor Rourke (February 13) – daughter of Patrick Rourke (SPS Community Award recipient 2006)

# A well-known philanthropist chosen as Irishman of the Year

By Anne Forrest

**I**rishman of the Year, James D. Hindley. Where does one begin to list his many accomplishments of the past 60 plus years? Beginning in 1953, he founded the Sport's Organization of Champlain Village and for the next fifty years he contributed greatly to sporting organizations on the South Shore.

Not limiting himself to physical pursuits, Hindley went on to become president of the Rotary Club of Montreal and was awarded the Paul Harris award by Rotary International for *Outstanding Community Service*. He also devoted time to the Quebec Society for Disabled Children, the Cedars Cancer Institute, and the oncology department at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

A devout and active member of St. James United Church, he worked with the board of Religious Studies at McGill University, the finance and extension board of the United Church Presbytery, and was a member of the Ecumenical Council of Montreal.

His time was also given to the Old Brewery Mission, the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation, the CFL Grey Cup committee, Sacred Heart School, and he established an Aboriginal radio

station in Oka. In later years, as a Westislander, he coached girls' softball. Currently, he chairs the advisory board of the Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir and is president of both the Gilead Jubilation Foundation and the Concordia Brokers Association.

He received the Man of the Year Award from the Lebanese Syrian Canadian Association, the Governor General's Caring Canadian Medal, and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Despite all these philanthropic activities, Hindley ran successful businesses: Hindley and Associates Inc. for 40 years; Hindley Financial Services; and HBO Financial Services Inc. In addition he is frequently called upon to address McGill's business students.

A resident of Beaconsfield, Hindley has been a member of the Royal Montreal Golf Club for 32 years. He and his wife, Irene, have seven children, 11 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. 

## Erin Sports Association puts on another great pre-sashing evening

By Ken Quinn

**O**n February 13, over 100 members of Montreal's Irish community braved the cold temperatures and icy conditions to join their hosts in the Erin Sports Association clubhouse where they were formally introduced to Jim Hindley, the Irishman of the Year, in an impressive ceremony known as the pre-sashing. Guests heard snippets of the honoree's impressive resume. Joe Mell spoke of his experiences as 2014 Irishman of the Year with great enthusiasm and fondness before he temporarily sashed Mr. Hindley for photos, after which Mr. Hindley addressed those in attendance.

The members of the Erin Sports Association offered its guests an evening of lively music, good food, cold refreshments, and great conversation. In an evening steeped in tradition, Francis Baddeley performed the Irish and Canadian national anthems followed by Terry Clahane leading everyone in prayer. Throughout the evening Lisa Forget and Terry Clahane entertained the guests, performing all the classic songs they are known for, including a rendition of *The Prayer*. Representatives from the various sister organizations were welcomed together with political representatives in attendance, including Verdun councillors Luc Gagnon and Sterling Downey, Female Athlete of the Year, Jade Downie-Landry from the Dawson College Lady Blues hockey team, the 2015 Queen and her princesses, former Irishmen of the Year, and, of course, the guest of honour, Jim Hindley.

This year's Breakfast Chairman, Ronnie James, oversaw the pre-sashing ceremony. After inviting the former Irishmen of the Year to the front of the room, he listed several of Mr. Hindley's accomplishments and activities, including his extensive involvement with the Cedars Cancer Institute, the Greenfield Park Athletic Association, and the Rotary Club of Montreal among numerous other organizations.

After a rousing standing ovation, Hindley addressed the guests by first expressing his humility and gratitude to the Erin Sports Association for selecting him as the Irishman of the Year. After introducing his family in attendance he quoted Nelson Mandela in expressing the personal philosophy he has governed himself by, that it is better to lead from behind and put others in front.



Photo: Ken Quinn

*Former Irishman of the Year, Peter Shea, with the 2015 honoree, James Hindley*

During the evening, everyone relaxed as they filled their plates with appetizing food catered for the occasion in a cozy and welcoming atmosphere.

Tim Furlong and his team must be congratulated for organizing this successful event. We look forward to a great an entertaining breakfast at the Sheraton Centre on March 14.



## United Irish Societies' 2015 Honorees

### Geoffrey Kelley, MNA 2015 Grand Marshal

By Anne Forrest



“I guarantee the weather on March 22<sup>nd</sup>,” said Geoff Kelley as he addressed those in attendance at The Queen’s Selection Night on February 7. He was quick to add that if the weather were to be cold and miserable, he would blame the Federal Government!

The popular Beaconsfield resident and current Minister of Native Affairs in Quebec’s National Assembly, Kelley represents the

Jacques-Cartier riding which comprises Baie-d’Urfé, Beaconsfield, Pointe-Claire, Sainte- Anne-de-Bellevue and Senneville. An experienced parliamentarian, he has chaired several committees, including the Health and Social Services Committee, the Education Committee, the Special Committee on the Question of Dying with Dignity, and a special working group that examined issues related to animal welfare.

Kelley studied French at l’Université de Montréal and later obtained both a BA and MA in History an McGill. Before entering politics, he pursued a career as a teacher and lecturer.

Together with his wife, Judy, he has raised five children, four girls and a boy. To his delight, he recently became a grandfather. When time permits, he enjoys reading. It is reported that he’s often immersed in the latest Irish novel or a history book as he waits in the halls of the National Assembly. A keen outdoors’ man, sixteen years ago, he cycled around Ireland – the Cliffs of Moher, Galway Bay, Clifden and Clonmacnoise; he and Judy returned to Dublin last year to explore the pubs and libraries of that fair city. Closer to home, Geoff loves to coach soccer and rugby football teams that usually include a female member of his family.

Clearly, he is thrilled to have been selected as this year’s Grand Marshal of the Parade. He is also planning to cement his relationship with the Montreal Irish community by becoming a member of our own St. Patrick’s Society.

### Elizabeth Quinn 2015 Chief Reviewing Officer

By Ken Quinn

I have known Elizabeth Quinn my entire life, literally, as she is my aunt. She and her family had what seemed like a huge property in St. Hubert on Montreal’s South Shore, at least big enough for rambunctious children to run around and wreak havoc.

For as long as I can remember Elizabeth has had a beautiful voice. I can recall her singing “Itsy Bitsy Spider” to me when I was a child. I still enjoy listening to her sing, though I admit her days of singing children’s songs to me are long gone.

Elizabeth’s Irish heritage stems from numerous counties, including Mayo, Tipperary, Monaghan, and Kildare. She was born and raised in Verdun to Mary Florence Dennison and Joseph Quinn and attended St. Willibrord School and Parish. Elizabeth graduated from Notre Dame Mother House, obtained a BEd from McGill University, majoring in Religious Studies. She also obtained certificates from Concordia University in the teaching of Mathematics and Art and graduated with a Certificate in Pastoral Animation from the University of Montreal.

Elizabeth is married to Alfred Mackay and is retired after 32 years as an elementary school teacher, which leaves her ample time to assist Fred in his printing business.

Active in the Irish Community for over 25 years, she filled several positions on the Executive Committee of the United Irish Societies and led the organization as its president in 2000 and 2001. She

continues to be an active participant on various committees including the Queen’s Selection Committee, the Christmas Basket Committee and the St. Patrick’s Parade Committee. She is a member of the St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal and of Innisfail Social and Sports Association. Among her many accomplishments, she played an instrumental role in raising funds for the Canadian Irish Studies programme at Concordia University when the University of Notre Dame Concert Band performed in a benefit concert at Saint Patrick’s Basilica on March 16, 2000. She also played a role in organizing the visit of the “Jeanie Johnston” to Montreal in September 2003.



A volunteer for most of her life, Elizabeth served on the executive and board of directors of Catholic Community Services for six years and on the board of directors of St. Antoine 50+ Community Centre for nine years as secretary-treasurer, vice-president, and president. She enjoys all things musical and loves entertaining seniors at residences and hospitals. Her hobbies include needlework and sewing and she has made many of the sashes you see on parade participants and dignitaries, including her own.

Elizabeth’s family is pleased to see the Irish community in Montreal recognize her for all she has done throughout the years. We are definitely looking forward to cheering her on as she walks in her position of honour along the parade route on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 

## Mabel Fitzgerald Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award

By Ken Quinn

The Simon McDonough Humanitarian was first awarded in 1993 to Maureen Kelly, a hard working volunteer within the United Irish Societies, who championed the organization's Christmas Basket programme. This year's recipient, Mabel Fitzgerald, has spent significant time involved in the community, emphasizing volunteerism. Born in Griffintown and married to Patrick Fitzgerald, who was also active in the Irish community, Mabel supported him in his activities until his death in 1980.

After his passing, Mabel continued her community involvement, assuming leadership roles within the United Irish Societies as special events chairperson (1981-82) responsible for the Christmas Basket programme, treasurer (1984-89), vice-president (1990-91) and, finally, president (1992-93), and, from 2001 through 2012, chairperson of the organization's Finance Committee.

Mabel is most comfortable at work behind the scenes. For twenty years at St. Patrick Square, Mabel prepared Christmas meals and solicited for Christmas gifts as door prizes for the residents. Also, for thirty two years until 2012, Mabel served as ticket convener for the Erin Sports Association's Irishman of the Year Breakfast.

From 1992 through 2012 Mabel was instrumental in donating claddagh rings, along with Mrs. Joan Conroy, to the Queen and Court of the St. Patrick's Parade. Following Martin Conroy's death in 1992, these women continued a tradition he established in 1980 in memory of Patrick Fitzgerald.

Mabel continues to be active in numerous organizations including the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, St. Antoine Community Centre, and St. Gabriel's Church. She has previously been recognized by the community when she was named Chief Reviewing Officer of the 2002 St. Patrick's Parade, was inducted into the Point St. Charles Hall of Recognition in 2010, received the St. Patrick's Society's Community Award in 2011, and had a tree planted and bench dedicated in her honour by the St. Patrick Square Residence in 2012.



The mother of twin girls, Sharon and Patricia, Mabel Ann is also a grandmother and great grandmother. Having retired from St. Patrick Square Residence in 2012 after 18 years of service, she is enjoying her retirement at the Maywood Residence in Pointe-Claire.

Twenty two people have received the Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award prior to Mabel. While I am sure Mabel's initial reaction may have been "Why me?", receiving this award is clear recognition of a life filled with dedicated service to her community. When Mabel formally receives this award at the United Irish Societies' Awards Banquet and Dinner Dance on March 28<sup>th</sup> the standing ovation she will receive will be the answer to the question "Why me?"



## Siamsa School of Irish Music Liam Daly Heritage Award

By Ken Quinn



Three Siamsa musicians performing in a recital, May 2014

The United Irish Societies of Montreal created the Liam Daly Heritage Award in 2004 and awards it annually to a worthy candidate who exemplifies Daly's love of his heritage and who promotes the Irish heritage through the arts.

A native son of Dublin, Ireland, Liam Daly was proud of his heritage. From the first day he arrived in Montreal, he volunteered his time to the continual presence of Irish arts and culture in the city.

This year the United Irish Societies has chosen a most worthy organization to receive this award, the Siamsa School of Irish Music. Siamsa has quietly promoted Irish culture in Montreal since 1991, when Brendan and Bernadette Walsh were struggling on their own to learn Irish traditional fiddle. They organized group classes with David Papazian while, at the same time, they recruited Nancy Lyon and Philippe Longval to teach tin whistle and bodhrán, respectively.

Since then, the roster of teachers has grown and developed, with the addition of dancing, other traditional musical instruments, as well as a vocal ensemble. The school is now guided by a board of five led by Director Denis Martin. Classes take place at Marianopolis College.

The School organizes céilis numerous times throughout the year, held at either the Georges Vanier Center or Royal Canadian Legion Branch 24/106 in NDG, where their members and friends gather in a social atmosphere to listen to, perform, and dance to traditional Irish music.

If you're ever in the pubs on a quiet week night or on a weekend afternoon you may come across a group of musicians quietly sitting in a corner of the pub playing a melodic montage of traditional Irish music. In all likelihood you're listening to Siamsa musicians, seasoned veterans and rookies alike, performing the music they so love to play.

The next time you're in a pub and you hear wonderful traditional music being played, stop in to say hello. The musicians will love to share their passion with you.



# Diamond anniversary of popular competition

By Lynda (McAssey) Premerl

The 60<sup>th</sup> Selection Evening, a special diamond anniversary event was held on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Buffet Sorrento in Lasalle. It was the first time I had ever attended this event and it was thoroughly enjoyable!

This was due to the immense efforts of the United Irish Societies and their event committee, Colleen Murphy, Elizabeth Quinn, Jane Skelton and Sheila Showers. They did an amazing job and kept things flowing and entertaining the entire evening.

After the dignitaries were piped to their seats by Graham Batty, Francis Baddeley sang the national anthems of Ireland and Canada with Terry Clahane at keyboard.

The panel of judges consisted of: Stephanie Coull (educator & Ottawa Rose 2014); Donna Dodge (Proprietor of Kennedy Celtic Boutique); Stephen Fogarty (Attorney - Fogarty Law Firm & Honorary Legal Advisor Embassy of Ireland); Terry Girouard (Marketing Consultant/Radio Announcer); Dr. Emer O'Toole (Professor Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia); Clifford Lincoln (retired politician and community leader) and Paul Quinn (Proprietor of the Irish Embassy Pub & Grill). The judge's advisors were Dr. Michael Kenneally and his wife Dr. Rhona Richman-Kenneally. The two scrutineers were Sheila Showers and Gerald Showers. Ken Quinn was once again the efficient tabulator and technical consultant.

Both Geoffrey Kelley – MNA, this year's Grand Marshal and Elizabeth Quinn, the Chief Reviewing Officer, received their sashes and traditional gifts of a Royal Doulton horse and walking stick before the contest began.

Once again, the MC was Lori Graham from CTV who is familiar with the process having been in this role at many previous Selection Evenings.

This year, there were 21 contestants. All were interesting, beautiful and poised young ladies with noble pursuits, each with hopes to be crowned Parade Queen for 2015 and to represent the Irish Community proudly for the next year.

The ladies went through three different public speaking segments: initial introductions of a couple of minutes; a prepared speech of about five minutes (semi-final round); and a spontaneous response to a question posed by the judges (final round).

Interspersed between the three rounds of introductions, we were treated to entertainment. Then the 21 contestants were reduced to 10 semi-finalists who shared with us many interesting and informative facts related to events, places and people in history and the Canadian Irish community. The questions were those created by the judges and this year each of the 10 semi-finalists had been assigned a different one.

While the judges deliberated to determine the five finalists, Lori Graham welcomed onto the stage 37 past princesses and queens



Photo: Courtesy of UIS

*Royalty from the past fifty plus years*

who were crowned from 1961 to 2014. They were thrilled to be there to celebrate this diamond anniversary of the selection evening.

Following this, the finalists were announced and each responded to the question: "If you are chosen as Queen of the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual St. Pat's parade, you will have a unique opportunity to act as spokesperson for the Irish community for a year? What do you feel would be important issues to address?" Carly Meredith who had been a princess last year, was selected as Queen.



Photo: Courtesy of UIS

*Samatha Quinn, Shanelle Carbray, Queen Carly Meredith, Catherine Polson, and Jenna Robinson*

During the evening, there was non-stop entertainment by such talented performers as: Bernadette Short's amazing dancers, soprano Brigitte O'Halloran, Ali and her hip hop dancers, an Elvis impersonator, Peter Fox, Christine Forget with sister Lisa Forget, and Pierre Ladouceur of *Les Miserables* who sang "The Prayer" which brought tears to my eyes.

A record crowd of 480 were in attendance with representation from the various Irish societies, their family and friends. Although the process was a lengthy one, the audience was continually entertained and Lori Graham kept us updated with the hockey score announcing the Montreal Canadiens had won.

I look forward to attending next year's selection evening!



# The Montreal Irish Football Club prepares for next season

By Mark Gallagher

After another successful season last year (winning back the provincial title for senior men's super league rugby) the Montreal Irish are now in preparation for the 2015 season with a focus on keeping the cup at Ste. Julie. Both men's and women's teams are currently undertaking strength and conditioning training, as well as indoor skills sessions and are looking for new recruits as always. This is the perfect time for beginners or for those wishing to return to the game to get involved. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to give it a go.

The club is also happy to confirm it will continue with its mini rugby programme, which it extended to Verdun last year, thanks to St. Patrick's Society which kindly sponsored the initiative. Around 40 kids signed up, with ages ranging from 4-11 and the feedback we received from the parents and borough of Verdun was very positive. With the continued support of St. Patrick's Society, we aim to grow the programme and hope to add under-16 and under-18 youth teams. So we would ask readers to help spread the word and bring your kids out to either our programme in Ste. Julie or Verdun so they can learn how to play rugby in a relaxed, fun and safe environment. Rugby is a low cost sport and it encourages many positive characteristics to develop naturally in young people who play the game; respect, discipline, team work and leadership to name a few - all while having fun and running around outside in the summertime. Parents are also encouraged to get involved. Coaching training would be provided to any who want to take it a step further. No previous knowledge is necessary, especially for the under-11 groups. Boys and girls of all ages are welcome.

### Further Details

Mini Rugby (Verdun)  
 Sunday Mornings  
 10 a.m. until noon  
 Parc Beurling - Verdun

Contact: Mark Gallagher  
 (514-805-3243)



Photo: Don Chartrand

Ste-Julie's mini rugby players and coaches of 2014

Mini Rugby (Ste. Julie)  
 Saturday Mornings  
 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.  
 Montreal Irish Grounds  
 707 Rang de la Vallée  
 Sainte-Julie, QC J3E 1Y1

Contact: Don Chartrand (514-952-5491)

Senior Training  
 Thursday Evenings  
 Men 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
 Women 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
 Beurling Academy  
 6100 boulevard Champlain  
 Verdun, Québec, H4H 1A5

Contact: Huw Roberts (514-805-6679)



## Innisfail's "Kick Off Céili" a fun evening

By Rose Quinn

Held on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2015, the event was highly successful. Representatives from our sister societies in attendance were Jim Killin (President St. Patrick's Society), Beverly Murphy (President United Irish Societies) and Danny Doyle (Erin Sports Club).

Our honoured guests were Jim Hindley, 2015 Erin Sports Irishman of the Year, and his wife Irene Hindley, Geoffrey Kelley, Grand Marshal 2015, Chief Reviewing Officer, Elizabeth Quinn and Fred MacKay, the Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award recipient, Mabel Ann Fitzgerald, and the Liam Daly Heritage Award, Denis Martin, representing the Siamsa School of Music.

Our members enjoyed our great dinner of beef bourguignon prepared by Ann Cruise Broden and her great team. Music was provided by Greg Innis.



(Left) Geoff Kelley and empty plate; (Below) Elizabeth Quinn and Ann Cruise Broden.



Photos by John Gilroy



## Québec City hosts another Défilé de la Saint-Patrick de Québec

By Stephen Burke

The board members of *Le Défilé de la Saint-Patrick de Québec* are hard at work preparing for the sixth edition of one of the finest Saint Patrick's Parades in the world! Circle March 28<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and make sure to join us in Québec City. Seven pipes and drums bands have already confirmed their presence, including our very special guests from New York, Boston and Chicago. The RCMP will also be back as four of their members will again this year ride their graceful horses to City Hall.

The Board is quite proud to announce that Mr. Daniel O'Dowd has accepted to be the 2015 Grand Marshal of *Le Défilé de la Saint-Patrick de Québec*. Daniel O'Dowd is a prominent Québec City businessman, proud of his Irish ancestry and a strong defender and benefactor of Irish culture in our city. A finer Irishman you will not find on this side of the Atlantic.

A major first this year will be our partnership with Festibière. This will allow for the *Fête de la Saint-Patrick* to run from Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Irish music and folklore will fill *Le Hangar*, the venue of the Festibière, for the three evenings, and all this with Guinness as a major sponsor.



More information on the Parade can be obtained by visiting our website - <http://www.qcpatrick.com/> - as well as our Facebook account. We look forward to seeing you on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in beautiful Québec City!

*Stephen Burke is the President of  
Le Défilé de la Saint-Patrick 2015*



## Five fabulous themes... to mark the Easter Rising centennial extravaganza

By Jim McDermott

While the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1916 Rising looms brightly on the horizon, the Irish government is planning an avalanche of projects set to become immensely festive, bringing together Irish societies from all over the world with an invitation to partake in various projects connected to the momentous 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries' events of Irish history. There are going to be at least five stunning themes which are as forward-looking as reflective of the past.

- “Remember,” recalling our shared history.
- “Reconcile,” honouring all who have built peace.
- “Imagine,” releasing the creativity of our people, particularly the young.
- “Present,” creatively showing our achievements to the world.
- “Celebrate,” family, community.

Ireland's minister for heritage, Jimmy Deenihan, recently proposed an incredibly important gesture to all the kin-folk of those remarkable men and women who fought for independence. Their descendants and relatives are invited to lead the Dublin city Easter Parade on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2016.

The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, will proudly greet the marchers as they file past the General Post Office and from those ancient steps, he will recite the renowned proclamation.

I'd love to be in Dublin on that particular day, just to enjoy the wondrous *craic* while basking in the nostalgia of good old-fashioned patriotism.

Nobel Prize Laureate William Butler Yeats' remarkable poem “Easter 1916” might be echoing in Dublin's fair city's sweet air.

Those heartfelt descriptions of Yeats' torn emotions and the amazing oxymoron that he skillfully expresses – “A terrible beauty is born” – resonates warmth and respect for the heroes of the rebellion, although his role in the Irish rebellion was largely insignificant but his love for Maud Gonne MacBride and warm regards for Countess Markievicz, likely influenced him, which clearly comes across in his imagery and captivating rhyme.

Speaking of love and devotion, shortly after the rebellion, astonishingly, a wedding ceremony took place inside the small chapel of Kilmainham Jail between Grace Gifford and her fiancé and signatory of the Proclamation, Joseph Plunkett (whose legacies have been largely forgotten by historians). Plunkett was executed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1916 and Grace died on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 1955. She never remarried.

Back in 1985, Frank and Sean O'Meara co-wrote a hauntingly beautiful song to honour Grace and Joseph in order to keep their memory alive. It's a very tender ballad entitled “Grace” and it is sung by The Irish Tenors.

Ah... Old Ireland... is overflowing with terrible beauties it seems.



## When Irish eyes are smiling...

By Lesley Regnier-Kelly

Events are lining up for the 2015 Bloomsday celebrations. Festival Bloomsday Montréal is proud to announce that this year's keynote speaker is Kevin Birmingham, lecturer in History and Literature at Harvard and currently an instructor in the Harvard College Writing Programme. Mr. Birmingham will talk about his recent work: *The Most Dangerous Book: the Battle for James Joyce's Ulysses*, which sheds light on new information about Joyce and the story surrounding *Ulysses* and presents a gripping examination of how the world came to say 'yes' to the greatest novel of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Jewish Public Library, which graciously hosted last year's keynote speaker, has again offered its hospitality and financing for this keynote lecture, which will close the 2015 Bloomsday events on June 16.

As in previous years, Atwater Library, Westmount Library, and Concordia University are all hosting events. On Friday, June 12 kick up your heels at the cabaret at the Atwater Library. Later that afternoon, see the film that was Ireland's entry in the European Film Festival, *Ballymun Lullaby*, at Concordia DeSève Theatre. Also at Concordia on the Monday, the School of Irish Studies is organizing speakers to enlighten us on things literary.

The Bloomsday Gala last year was so very successful that another has been organized albeit with a new format and content. Plans are in the works to invite local singers and Irish groups to take part. Enjoy the show at Victoria Hall, Westmount, in the evening of Saturday June 13. The same day, at 10 a.m., Ruth Rigby will reveal more secrets of "Irish" Montreal in her walking tour of Point St-Charles.

The Irish pubs have always shown great support for Bloomsday and provided warm and friendly venues for day and evening get-togethers. Mclean's Pub and the Irish Embassy Pub are on board again and dying to pour out the Guinness! The popular reading by Kathleen Fee from the final Penelope episode of *Ulysses* will take place on the Sunday evening at the Irish Embassy Pub where you can enjoy a special pub menu and take part in a pub quiz.



Bloomsday 2015 works with wonderful partners. For example, Tourism Montréal has already contacted the organizers to promote Bloomsday in 2015. The Embassy of Ireland is bringing a series of information panels on W.B. Yeats (in celebration of the poet's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday), which will be displayed at the Westmount Library. Also, look for Bloomsday friends and supporters in the St. Patrick's parade!

For all those interested, Bloomsday's Kevin Wright will start a Finnegans Wake reading group at Westmount Library starting on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. As well, Maggie Benfield and David Schurman will lead a study group on reading *Ulysses* at the McGill Community for Lifelong Learning (MCLL) from mid-April to mid-June. Keep up-to-date on events and news at [www.bloomsdaymontreal.com](http://www.bloomsdaymontreal.com)



## Golf ... and much more from Tara

By Lesley Regnier-Kelly

Tara Golf Club has planned a couple of activities that will take place well ahead of their opening golf tournament on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

You are cordially invited to the Hudson Village Theatre presentation of *Thank You for the Music* (A tribute to ABBA) on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 2:00 p.m. The senior rate is \$25, plus tax p.p. You can purchase your tickets directly by phoning the box office at 450-458-5361, or e-mail the theatre at: [hvtbox@videotron.ca](mailto:hvtbox@videotron.ca) Please mention that you are with the TARA group. We suggest that you make your reservation as early as possible because tickets are selling quickly.

### Annual George Mulqueen Bowling Tournament

You are also invited to participate in the ANNUAL GEORGE MULQUEEN BOWLING TOURNAMENT to be held on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Bowling Automatic Valois Lanes, 62 Ave Donegani, Pte-Claire, Qc H9R 2V4, phone (514) 697-1620. The cost is \$25.00 an hour per lane, to be shared among the Tara bowlers. The shoe rental is \$1.50 p.p.

Prizes will be awarded to the winning team as well as to the best male player and best female player.



Following the bowling tournament, you and your guests are invited to dine at Kelly's Pub Restaurant, 88 Donegani, Pte-Claire, Qc H9R 2V4, Phone # (514)694-6438. The reservations should be made between 5:30 and 6 p.m.

Please let Carole Dery know if you and your guests will be attending the bowling tournament and supper to follow by April 10<sup>th</sup>. Phone (450) 458-2396 or e-mail [carole@hudson.net](mailto:carole@hudson.net)

If you would like to become a member of Tara, please contact Carole Dery, Membership Chair. See the Calendar (p.20) for details of upcoming tournaments.

Note: Membership forms received before March 17<sup>th</sup> will be entered into a draw for a free golf fee and half cart at our first tournament at Valleyfield.



## The lines are still blazing!

*Neil McKenty Live! The lines are still blazing –*

By Alan Hustak

Shoreline Press • 144 pages, \$19.95

Reviewed by Anne Forrest

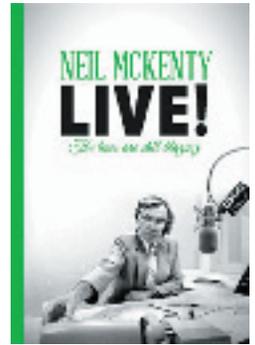
Neil McKenty may be dead, but thanks to his wife Catharine, his multi-faceted life lives on. In December, 2014, the biography, *Neil McKenty Live! The lines are still blazing*, was launched at McKibbin's Irish Pub on Bishop Street. By all accounts this was a successful and convivial event.

Although Neil died almost three years ago, his spirit is alive and well if one checks out [www.neilmckenty.com](http://www.neilmckenty.com). According to David Freedman, "Neil McKenty was one of the most complicated and interesting men who ever lived. For much of his life he wrestled with demons, but through it all he had a great capacity for friendship."

The biography is a fascinating compilation of twenty essays written by himself—the late Jesuit priest, teacher, radio broadcaster, newspaper columnist and author – and by his colleagues, friends and family members including Alan Hustak, Mike Boone and Aislin. We learn about Neil's childhood, the years spent with the Jesuits, his career as CJAD's first open-line talk show host, fun times at the Laurentian ski lodge, his long and lasting relationship with his wife Catharine, his chronic battle against depression, his first novel and the supportive friendship of so many people from various walks of life.

Unfortunately, I only got to know Neil during the last ten years of his life. We met when he joined the editorial board of *NUAUGHT*

in November 2003. For five years, in addition to reviewing at least five novels, Neil contributed interesting and thought-provoking articles on such subjects as the Good Friday Agreement, the unification of Ireland, the state of the Church in Ireland, the Belfast Miracle, World Peace Day, the sale of the building that housed the Montreal Catholic Centre, the murder of Mary Gallagher, the exhumation of Cardinal Newman, and how his ancestors the Sheas, came to Canada. Interestingly, of these the biography only mentions the Sheas and manages to misspell *NUAUGHT* as NAUGHT on p.71).



My main objection to the book is that it is not clear as to who authors the various tributes. I assumed that Alan Hustak was responsible for the majority, but I cannot be sure. Another distressing fact was that words were misspelled, "cottage" or "college" (p.76) and "lightening" instead of "lightning" (p.93). And, even more disturbing was that discrepancies occurred regarding the age at time of death of John Main – was he 59 or 56– (pp.69 & 75) and even worse that of Neil himself, given as 87 in 2012 when he died on the back cover but he was born in 1924!

Despite the above comments, I applaud Catharine's efforts and recommend that you buy a copy of this easy-to-read and attractively presented biography. All royalties are to go to a scholarship in Irish Studies at Concordia..



## An all-Irish evening not to be missed

Here's an event that you can mark on your calendars. *NUAUGHT* spoke with a young and passionate young classical and folk singer who has been making a name for herself – Brigitte O'Halloran.

In speaking of the concert, the young soprano said:

"I'm so touched by the great support that the Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra has shown for international communities in Montreal. I am also very excited to share the values taught to me by my father, with an all-out Irish celebration that goes from classical and traditional symphonic Irish music, to fiddling, to Celtic dance, to even a bit of story-telling. In the warm setting of the Rialto, complete with tables and booths at the floor level, a full bar, image projections on stage, as well as cosy balcony seating, we promise to celebrate the remarkable spirit of the Irish in Canada, to make this evening unforgettable."

**THEATRE RIALTO**

OSMM MWSO  
Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra  
Direction: Joseph Milo

The St-Patrick Symphonic concert of the year  
**Irish Eyes**  
March 21, 2015 at 7:30 pm  
at the Théâtre Rialto

Brigitte O'HALLORAN – Soprano  
Sean O'BRIEN – Tenor  
Kate BEVAN-BAKER – Fiddler  
River Dance by the young stars of the 'Bernadette Short Irish Dance School'

Tickets: \$25 - \$30 (Seniors and students: \$5 discount)  
Théâtre Rialto: 514-770-7773 Orchestra: 514-484-7428  
Ticketpro: 514-790-1111 www.musiciansoftheworld.ca

Théâtre Rialto  
5723, Avenue du Parc, Montréal  
(Québec) H2V 4G9

TicketPro, Ville de Côte Saint-Luc, Montréal, mackibbin's IRISH PUB

The concert is being held the night before Montreal's 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Parade, so attending the concert on Saturday evening, followed by the parade on Sunday, heralds the promise of a memorable Irish weekend.



# Cine Gael's 2015 season is one of the best

By Heather Macdougall

The Cine Gael Montreal Irish Film Society is now mid-way through another successful season. Even before the official kick-off for our annual January–May film series, we partnered with the U.I.S. to put on a screening of the documentary *The Irish Pub* in November. Through the magic of Skype, director Alex Fegan joined the audience live from Dublin for a very interesting and enjoyable Q&A following the film.

We were delighted to see a strong contingent of returning members as well as many new faces at our opening film, *Gold*, starring the inimitable James Nesbitt as well as *Game of Thrones*' young Maisie Williams in a story of family dynamics that alternated between heart-breaking and hilarious. The reception following the film allowed the audience members to discuss the feature over a glass of wine, as well as catch up on other favourite films seen over the spring and summer.

Our second film, *Standby*, was a romantic comedy pairing up Brian Gleeson (one of Brendan's several talented redheaded sons) with Montreal's own Jessica Paré. While Paré herself couldn't make the screening due to the imminent birth of her child, some of her family members attended. The directors of the film, Rob and Ronan Burke, were busy on a shoot in Ireland but taped an introduction for the film saying they were especially excited about screening it to an Irish Montreal audience.

On Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, the stunningly beautiful watercolours of the Oscar-nominated *Song of the Sea* played across the big screen of the de Sève cinema. The animated feature, which touches on the myth of the half-human, half-seal selkies, was presented at a special matinee time of 2 p.m.



so younger audience members could also attend. We all held our breath the following evening when they announced the winner for best animation at the Oscars!

The documentary *Broken Song*, screening on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, dives into darkness, murder, and hate in a north Dublin community and finds young men fighting for a way to express themselves and discovering the power of words. That very urban film provides a contrast to the rural-set *Pilgrim Hill* (Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>), a dramatic debut feature which earned writer/director Gerard Barrett the "Rising Star" award from the Irish Film and Television Awards.



Also coming up is our annual evening of award-winning short films on April 11. The line-up will begin with a special presentation of Scott MacLeod's latest NFB animation, *The Irishman: Child of the Gael*, narrated by Mike Burns, followed by a mix of animation, documentary, and live-action shorts.

Our penultimate film as well as the closing gala have yet to be revealed, but be assured that we have many exciting possibilities up our sleeves and are just working out the details with distributors.

While membership in Cine Gael has many perks, non-members are also welcome at all of our screenings. More information can be found on our website, [www.cinegaelmontreal.com](http://www.cinegaelmontreal.com), which has all the latest updates on our films and guest speakers, including links to trailers. The schedule on the home page also prints nicely,

perfect to put up on your fridge so you won't miss a screening.



## An update from the Montreal Shamrocks

By Tony Cunningham

The Montreal Shamrocks have a very active week ahead. On February 21<sup>st</sup> from noon until 3 p.m. they will be active in the Montreal Superleague at the Stinger Dome at Loyola Campus of Concordia University. This is an internal Gaelic football and hurling league open to all. This will include a first all-women's game in the league.

Then on February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. there will be a strategic planning meeting in the School of Canadian-Irish Studies, Concordia University, 1455, boul. de Maisonneuve Ouest. The room number is H1001, on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor. This is a very important open meeting for the club with the goal of informing those present of the development of a Strategic Plan that will determine the

direction of the Montreal Shamrocks for the next five years. Input from members, stakeholders and all local people is very welcome.



Finally, on February 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 p.m., the Shamrocks will host a fundraising Table Quiz in Hurley's Pub on Crescent St. The Montreal Shamrocks are sending a team to represent eastern Canada in the inaugural GAA World Games in Abu Dhabi in March. Entry for a team of four is \$40 and all support will be greatly appreciated.



# NUACHT needs your help

By Ned Eustace

**N**UACHT has been around now for 27 years. Generally speaking there has been one person at the editing helm, getting it out issue after issue with rare gaps over that time. There have been nine editors for an average of three years each. Remarkably, Anne Forrest has held the job for 12 years and this is the 51<sup>st</sup> consecutive issue she has edited.

Over its 27-year existence there were some short periods when *NUACHT* fell by the wayside and the exact number of issues published since the beginning is not precisely known. Given these gaps Anne has likely edited over half the total number of issues. The fact is that a complete archive of *NUACHT*, as far as I can establish, does not exist. On the face of it that seems a pity, but really, if you think about it, it is the idea of *NUACHT* that matters. Why it was created, the purpose it serves and what its future might be are all far more important.

Former SPS president, Dr. Gus O’Gorman, well known to our community, and Prof. Pádraig O’Laighin, then of Vanier College and now back in Dublin, founded *NUACHT* in 1988. They did so as part of an overall loosely articulated but nonetheless well-orchestrated plan by a small group to open up a virtually closed SPS to the larger Montreal Irish community. A vehicle was needed to communicate fresh ideas and a cohesive vision of our community and modern Ireland. Keep in mind that all this was before the days of now ubiquitous Irish dancing, Riverdance, the Celtic Tiger, world-class Irish movies, Cine Gael, the Montreal Feis, Comhrá, the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia and the many other reminders of who we are, now taken for granted in Montreal.

After the great success of the St. Patrick Square development in the 60s, SPS, officially and legally a non-sectarian organisation, became a Catholic charity serving the archdiocese but was largely irrelevant to the wider Irish community. SPS funds were given mostly to Catholic charities to the near exclusion of secular or Irish cultural activities. SPS was hunkered down, nearly invisible and many liked it that way. It was against this backdrop that *NUACHT* was successfully pushed forward and many of the changes in SPS visible in the intervening years were in no small way helped along by creating this publication.

The management model for *NUACHT* is to have an independent editorial board of working contributors, who need not be SPS members, managed by a vice-president of SPS who is also expected to contribute material. All members are volunteers except the editor, who is a professional experienced writer and is paid a small stipend per issue. This approach had its genesis in the early days of *NUACHT* when the then editor, the late Michael Callaghan, a man not given to the mincing of words or the wasting of epithets, wrote a piece largely critical of Montreal’s Irish community that caused offence in some quarters, almost certainly because Michael made a direct hit! During my period of tenure there were some tense moments as

well, but on balance the editorial board idea worked well. For the most part, the SPS board has largely respected the arms-length relationship to the editorial board which, valuing unspoken limits, on occasion pushed the envelope and received some flack. It has sustained an edginess and currency that differentiates it from most community newsletters

A reasonable question would be why is *NUACHT* necessary? The foundation of SPS and the establishment of *NUACHT*, though more than 150 years apart, are in a sense intimately connected. It is the constitution of SPS, established in 1834 that made *NUACHT* necessary. In 1834, SPS was set up, like its sister societies the St. Andrew’s and the German Society, as a political entity to oppose the reform movement that ultimately led to Confederation in 1867. Yes, it was essentially a status quo organization opposed to setting up Canada! The continuity of SPS is assured by the composition of the nomination committee, as set out in the Constitution, which is largely made up of former presidents. The founders of these societies wanted to ensure that the leadership, initially drawn from the upper echelons of their communities, perpetuated their own kind. While this is not necessarily a bad thing it only works well when the membership of SPS is engaged, active and relevant to the larger community it serves. If the society begins to deteriorate, as in the 1970s, then the inertia, lassitude and the plunge into irrelevance set in. *NUACHT* is, in my view, an essential element, albeit only one of many, in the governance of SPS. It contributes to better governance by maintaining a strong degree of independence and by speaking out from time to time about issues. This relationship places an obligation on *NUACHT* to work for the interests of the larger community while balancing its obligations to SPS.

The health of any organization depends on sustaining a normal equilibrium between countervailing forces – it’s all about a subtle set of checks and balances. Destroying or weakening these creates chaos or inertia that diminishes the body politic. At present rumours abound of stresses inside the SPS board, resignations of key people from essential roles long well done, perceptions of wastage, poor communications and apparent reluctance of people to step forward to take up new challenges. These rumours are harmful and corrosive. If true, then the executive needs to address these matters directly and with transparency. Ups and downs notwithstanding, SPS has served the larger Irish community well for the past 181 years. This needs to continue.

The lifeblood of *NUACHT* is its writers, and Anne Forrest and her proofreaders are requesting help. Right now more people are needed to join the ranks of the editorial board and reinvigorate future issues. The only qualification to join is to have something to say, be able to write reasonably well, and have an interest in things Irish. Typically each issue requires feedback to throw ideas around and generally set up the next issue, its content, allocate tasks and set deadlines. After that, the process is coordinated by Anne Forrest who brings to her job a level of diplomacy that’s not in my genes. Please help.



# The Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation makes history

By Leo Delaney

The Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation is pleased to announce that the Quebec Minister of Education has agreed to include the Battle of the Chateaugay in 1813 and the War of 1812 in the school curriculum. This is the culmination of the initiative in 2012- 2013 of the Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation which brought these historic events to the attention of students and the general public.

The battle defined the history of the country. The American forces, numbering 5,000 trained soldiers, were prepared to invade Canada and take control of Montreal. If they succeeded in this, they would have prevented the British from supporting the Canadians with troops and weapons. The Port of Montreal was not well defended and could not have resisted the Americans. Charles-Michel de Salaberry, a Lt. Col. in the British army, gathered a force of militia consisting of French Canadians, Irish, Scots, Voltigieurs and First Nations' warriors, leading them to a position on the Chateaugay River south of Montreal. By using the First Nation warriors and other militia to make a lot of noise, in many different locations, they intimidated the opposing force which believed that they faced far superior opposition. After several skirmishes, the Americans retreated from the field and Canada retained its sovereignty. Other battles occurred across Ontario including the well-known Battle of Queenston Heights, led by General Brock, which played a significant role in the 1812 War but the Battle of the Chateaugay was one of the most defining in saving Canada.

In 2013 a commemorative dinner was held at the Grenadier Guards Armory at which Dr. David Morton, one of Canada's leading historians, spoke; the evening was hosted by Hon. Col. Richard Pound. In October a re-enactment of the battle was performed at Ormston

and Allan's Corners, with American and Canadians participating. On the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013, a commemorative ceremony was held on the battle site. The First Nations blessed the battle ground and together with regiments from the Grenadier Guards, Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> (Vingt Doos), Black Watch, Glengarry Dundas Highlanders, and the Voltigieurs, paid homage to the men who gave their lives in this historic battle. Senior representatives from Parks Canada and the Ministry of Defence and the American Ambassador attended. The Minister of Defence, Hon. Rob Nicholson named a ship in honour of those fallen, *HMSC Chateaugay*. The City of Valleyfield entertained the participants at the Basilica de Valleyfield with a military concert at which the descendants of the De Salaberry family (seven attended) were presented with a bronze statuette in commemoration of the event.

The Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation in conjunction with the Montreal Commandery, the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and members of St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's Societies were the prime movers in creating this event.

The Foundation together with the Montreal Commandery, the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem and LEARN (Leading English Education and Resource Network) are offering two prizes of \$1000 to high school students across Canada for the best power point presentation on the subject of the Battle of the Chateaugay or the Battle of Queenston Heights during the 1812-13 War.

For more information, click on:

[www.canadarailwaytimes.com/education/competition](http://www.canadarailwaytimes.com/education/competition)



## The World Championship of Irish Dancing ... coming soon

By Patrick Short

Irish dancing activity tends to slow down in January and February. The dancers need to unwind from competition yet those in the Championship category who have qualified for "The World's" will be busy practising every moment available.

*Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne* or The World Championships of Irish Dancing will take place at Montreal's Palais des Congrès, from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

Competitions are continuous during each day on three stages in three separate function rooms. There will be a "Vendors Village," which is open to the public, at the Palais and they will stock, not only Irish Dancing supplies, but also many Irish-made goods.

The *Ard Damhsa Charthanais* or Grand Ball will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets are now on sale at €90 (C\$135) including service charges. During the ball, the formal closing ceremonies will take place and the Globe will be passed to a representative of Glasgow, Scotland, where the 2016 event will be held. There will also be highland dancing, performed by the Jennifer Stephenson School who will be accompanied by pipers from The Montreal Pipes and Drums Band.

One evening is dedicated to dance drama and should be a wonderful night. At the North American Championships in July 2014, a team from The Myra Waters School in Orlando, Florida, told the story, through dance and drama, of Mary Gallagher's murder in 1879 in Griffintown. The price of admission to dance drama is \$30.

About 5,400 Irish dancers will be coming to Montreal from about 15 countries. They will be accompanied by parents, relatives and friends and it is estimated that the event will have a \$14,000,000 benefit to the Ville de Montreal and adjacent towns and cities.

This "World's" is supported by a generous grant from the Cultural Grants Committee of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal. The Society will be recognized at the main stage for the week, in certain categories of competitions, and by pop-up banners in many prominent places. These funds will be totally directed to the dancers' events and making the Palais as welcoming to our visitors, as possible.



By Paul Dunne

# In the papers, February 2015

## Leo's Labels

Here's what you always wanted to know about Irish politics. The country is being run by a party called *Fine Gael* (tribe of the Irish) in coalition with the Labour Party (no translation required). Previously the main governing party was *Fianna Fáil* (soldiers of destiny). After independence in 1921, the country was plunged into a civil war with one side agreeing with the treaty with Britain that granted independence to Ireland and the other disagreeing.

The sides eventually morphed into political parties that survive to this day. *Fianna Fáil* being the anti- treaty side and *Fine Gael* the pro treaty bunch.

Although these days, the civil war is no longer part of the political discourse, one embarrassing element of FG history is often raised mischievously by FF to ensure the embarrassment survives a bit longer. In its early days the predecessor of FG flirted with fascism and formed a "national guard" more commonly known as "blueshirts" aligned to the European fascist movements in the 1930s.

What on earth does Leo Varadkar make of all this?

If anyone embodies the massive changes that have taken place in Ireland since independence, it would be this charismatic, young (36), smart (a medical doctor), half Indian, gay (he came out in January), *Fine Gael* minister of health who is widely tipped to be a future party leader and maybe prime minister of Ireland.

And if he did, nothing would more powerfully proclaim the end of civil war politics in Ireland because there is just nothing in the DNA of the man to connect him to the sometimes sordid history of the party he would lead.

He wears a lot of social labels the most important of which is "Irish" and, while nothing is certain in politics – least of all Irish politics – a flutter with Paddy Power on Leo as a future *Taoiseach* would probably not be the worst bet you ever made.

(He's currently in fourth position at 12-1 to be *Taoiseach* after the next election.)

Dr. Varadkar, I am proud to remind you, was guest of honour at our May 2013 Immigrant Integration event.

## Another Referendum!

You might be forgiven for believing that the Irish constitution is only a draft. There have been 33 amendments (not all successful) since it was adopted in 1937 of which 23 have been since 1990. For the most part amendments must be enacted in parliament and then go to the people of Ireland to be decided in a referendum which is a much simpler process than in Canada hence the seemingly endless visits to the polling booth by the Irish electorate.

The next one is due in May of this year to accept or reject the following wording 'Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex'. Marriage is not defined in the Irish constitution and there is already civil partnership legislation enacted in 2010 which grants same-sex couples most, but not all, rights currently accorded married couples. As in other countries where similar legislative changes have been proposed, the debate is between those who believe in a narrow definition of marriage as a union only between a man and a woman and those who support a broader definition to include same-sex couples.

Despite the opposition of the Catholic Church to the amendment, polls suggest it will pass with a comfortable majority.

So expect lots of silent weddings in June since all the best bells are still in church towers!



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# News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

Michael Kenneally, Principal

By *Matina Skalkogiannis*

## Free and Public Talk

Eibhear Walshe

*Elizabeth Bowen and the Landscape of North Cork*

Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.

McEntee Reading Room,

1455 de Maisonneuve West, Room 1001.01 (10th floor)

Eibhear Walshe is a senior lecturer in the School of Modern English at University College Cork. His biography *Kate O'Brien A Writing Life* was published by Irish Academic Press in 2006 and he edited *Elizabeth Bowen: Visions and Revisions* for Irish Academic Press in 2008. He was a section editor for *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing: Volume 4* (Cork University Press, 2002); a contributor to the *New Dictionary of Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2004) and guest edited *The Irish Review* in 2000. Eibhear Walshe's memoir, *Cissie's Abattoir*, was published by Collins Press in 2009.

## The School's Course Offerings in 2015-2016

### Fall 2015

Introduction to Irish Studies

Irish Plays

The Making of the Irish Landscape

Celts to Tudors: History of Early and Mediaeval Ireland

The Irish in Canada

Narrating Irish Childhoods

Irish Film, Drama and TV

Irish Geography, Literature and Cultural History

The Irish Short Story

Highlights of Irish Literature

### Fall/Winter 2015/16

Irish Language and Culture

### Winter 2016

Contemporary Irish Theatre

The Global Irish

Research Methods in Irish Studies

Rebellions in Ireland (1798) and the Canadas (1837)

James Joyce

Irish Performance Studies

As always, some of these courses can be audited by members of the public at the discretion of the individual professor.

## Apply for a Major in Canadian Irish Studies

Study Ireland and the diaspora at the School of Canadian Irish Studies! Applications for the fall of 2015 can be submitted until March 1, 2015. See [www.concordia.ca](http://www.concordia.ca) for details on how to apply.

For information or registration assistance, contact  
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# Irish Immigrant Initiative starts collaboration with Youth Employment Services

By Stephen Fogarty

Some 15 young persons registered for the inaugural collaborative workshop between the Irish Immigrant Integration Initiative (III) of SPS and Youth Employment Services (YES) Montreal, which was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>.



Photo: Emlyn Nardone

*Stephen Fogarty welcomes attendees at Feb 10th III event on behalf of SPS while Annalise Iten of YES Montreal looks on.*

Annalise Iten, Director of the YES employment search program, gave a very interesting and informative presentation to attendees with many useful insights into cracking the Montreal job market. She also outlined the programs available at YES to assist job-seekers in matters such as drafting an effective CV and cover letter, interview skills, interview follow-ups, networking, etc. Watch the III website [www.irishinitiative.org](http://www.irishinitiative.org) as well as its Facebook page for news of upcoming III events.

YES assists young persons aged 18 to 35 from the English-language community of Montreal to find employment. Its website is [www.yesmontreal.ca](http://www.yesmontreal.ca).

After having acted as chair of the III for the past two years, and having worked on organizing several community events, I am resigning this post. Paul Dunne, immediate past-president of SPS, will be taking over. I wish him great success in this endeavour.

## Immigration news: Quebec and Rest of Canada

**Quebec Immigration** Minister Kathleen Weil announced at the end of January that the Quebec government would be undertaking a comprehensive review of its provincial legislation and policy on immigration.

The Minister has stated that she will seek input from organizations as part of this review process. Montreal's Irish organizations may wish to consider becoming involved in this process. The continued vitality of our Irish community is strengthened by immigration from Ireland. This is of considerable importance considering that many of our Montreal-born young persons are seeking their "fame and fortune" outside of Quebec.

While this review process is ongoing, it appears likely that there will not be any major changes to the current Quebec Immigration system.

Regarding permanent immigration in the **rest of Canada**, the federal government brought in its Express Entry (EE) program on January 1st. This new EE system governs almost all permanent immigration applications other than family sponsorships. Its selection criteria are weighed heavily in favour of candidates who possess an approved job offer from a Canadian employer. To obtain such approval, normally the employer has to demonstrate that no suitable Canadian or permanent resident could be found to carry out the duties of the job. This can be difficult to justify for younger foreign nationals whose work experience in Canada or elsewhere might not be very extensive.

It is likely that this new federal system will have repercussions on many of the thousands of Irish aged 18 to 35 currently in Canada under the International Experience Program, who were looking to stay here permanently, but now may have their chances of a successful immigration application reduced with the new EE criteria. Those Irish who are fluent in French will be well-advised to reconsider settling in Quebec as an option.

*Stephen Fogarty is an attorney and owner of Fogarty Law Firm in Montreal where he practises Canadian citizenship and Immigration law. He is Honorary Legal Advisor to the Embassy of Ireland, acted as chair of the III committee of SPS from 2013 to 2015, and is a Board member of SPS. His Firm website is [www.fogartylaw.ca](http://www.fogartylaw.ca). The views in this article are his alone and not those of any other person or organization. This article is for information purposes only and is not intended to give or to replace legal advice.* 

## In and Around town

Be sure not to miss a Passiontide recital featuring Colleen Bartley, mezzo-soprano, which will take place at 7:30 p.m. on March 5<sup>th</sup> in Congress Hall, St. Patrick's Basilica, 343 René-Lévesque West. Accompanied by Lauretta Altman, piano, Sarah Pistolesi, violin, and Donald Pistolesi, cello, Colleen will be presenting sacred music of Bach, Telemann, Fleming and Barber depicting events leading up to the crucifixion. Admission at the door is \$20.00. 

## People

The Society is delighted to welcome the following new members:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Collette Austin</b>                       | <b>Laurie Bennett</b>         |
| <b>Sophie Daigle</b>                         | <b>Michael Laliberte</b>      |
| <b>Joanne Latimer</b>                        |                               |
| <b>Tim James Matthew McCarty-Weynerowski</b> |                               |
| <b>Mary Jeanne Phelan</b>                    | <b>Justin Thomas Trombley</b> |



## 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2015

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION
Feb. 26	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	<a href="mailto:contact@icccmtl.com">contact@icccmtl.com</a>
Feb. 26	Ciné Gael, <i>Broken Song</i> , DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Mar. 6	St. Patrick's Society Annual Ball, Marriott Chateau Champlain	Erin Matheson 481-1346
Mar. 6/7	Ciné Gael Weekend, (including <i>Pilgrim Hill</i> ) DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Mar. 14	Erin Sports Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Sheraton Centre, \$60.00	Tim Furlong 713-3207
Mar. 15	UIS Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Church. 11:30 a.m.	<a href="mailto:dad.jr@hotmail.com">dad.jr@hotmail.com</a>
Mar. 15	UIS General Meeting, St. Gabriel's Church, 1:30 p.m.	<a href="mailto:president@montrealirishparade.com">president@montrealirishparade.com</a>
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Society Luncheon, Marriott Chateau Champlain, reception 11 a.m., lunch noon	Erin Matheson 481-1346
Mar. 21	Irish Eyes concert, Théâtre Rialto, 7:30 p.m. \$25- \$30 (discount of \$5 for seniors/students)	Ticketpro 790-111
Mar. 22	UIS 192 <sup>nd</sup> Consecutive St. Patrick's Parade, noon	<a href="mailto:director@montrealirishparade.com">director@montrealirishparade.com</a>
Mar. 26	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	<a href="mailto:contact@icccmtl.com">contact@icccmtl.com</a>
Mar. 28	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Buffet Sorrento, 6 p.m.	<a href="mailto:sdoyle@firstonsite.ca">sdoyle@firstonsite.ca</a>
Apr. 11	Ciné Gael – n.b. Saturday. Evening of short films – DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Apr. 17	Innisfail Pasta Night, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve, 7:30 p.m.	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
Apr. 19	UIS Mass for Deceased Members, St. John Brebeuf Church, 11:00 a.m.	Danny Doyle 767-0045
Apr. 19	UIS Annual General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	<a href="mailto:president@montrealirishparade.com">president@montrealirishparade.com</a>
Apr. 24	Ciné Gael, DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Apr. 30	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	<a href="mailto:contact@icccmtl.com">contact@icccmtl.com</a>
May 2	Innisfail Mass for Deceased Members, St Patrick's Basilica, 12:10 p.m.	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
May 7	Ciné Gael, Closing Night and reception, DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
May 16	Feis Montreal, John Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue	Pat Short <a href="mailto:feismontreal@gmail.com">feismontreal@gmail.com</a>
May 16	Gaelic Athletic Association, 9-a-side Tournament, MIIRFC grounds at Ste-Julie	<a href="mailto:ronancorbett@gmail.com">ronancorbett@gmail.com</a>
May 23	Tara Golf Tournament, Valleyfield, 12:30 p.m.	Joan Tousaw 487-2863
May 28	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	<a href="mailto:contact@icccmtl.com">contact@icccmtl.com</a>
June 5	Innisfail AGM, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
June 12-16	Bloomsday activities (see p.9 for details)	David Schurman 450-671-8516
June 13	Tara Golf Tournament, La Cité, Hawkesbury 10:00 a.m.	Joan Tousaw 487-2863
June 16	SPS 20 <sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Bellevue	Erin Matheson 481-1346
July 11	Tara Golf Tournament, Craigwood, Lake Placid, 9:00 a.m.	Joan Tousaw 487-2863
July 12	Tara Golf Tournament, (Best Ball) Craigwood, Lake Placid, 9:00 a.m.	Joan Tousaw 487-2863
Aug. 6	Tara Golf Tournament, St. Jerome, 10:00 a.m.	Joan Tousaw 487-2863
Aug. 29	Tara Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Select, Mirabel, 10:00 a.m.	Joan Tousaw 487-2863
Sept. 26	Tara Golf Closing Tournament & Dinner, Hemmingford, 11:00 a.m.	Joan Tousaw 487-2863

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E-Mail:

[andrea.bobkowicz@nbf.ca](mailto:andrea.bobkowicz@nbf.ca)

