



Wayne Hogan

Society member named Irishman of the Year 2016

By Anne Forrest

If anyone ever deserved the title of “Irishman of the Year,” I cannot think of anyone more worthy than Wayne Hogan.

Wayne has been co-chairman of St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Golf Tournament for most of the last twenty years, 2002 Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Parade, warden of his parish, member of the board of St. Patrick's Society, an eminently successful businessman and a generous supporter of many events of the Montreal Irish Societies.

Aside from all his accomplishments, Wayne is as fine a person as I know, always generous with his time and has been the instigator of countless activities not only in Montreal and St. Laurent but also with his late brother, Glenn, in Lake of Two Mountains.

I am grateful to know Wayne and to have worked with him over the past twenty years. This is a well-deserved honour and I am proud to call him my good friend.

Paul Doyle

Wayne Peter Hogan was born in Montreal, in 1944, to Kenneth Bernard Hogan (Co. Tipperary) and Rita Marion O'Rourke (King's County). The eldest of four children, he grew up in Snowdon and NDG and attended St. Malachy's School, Thomas D'Arcy McGee High School and Loyola College.

Wayne and Lillian, his wife of 48 years, have two daughters. The proud father and father-in-law of Kim and David Hannon and Karen and

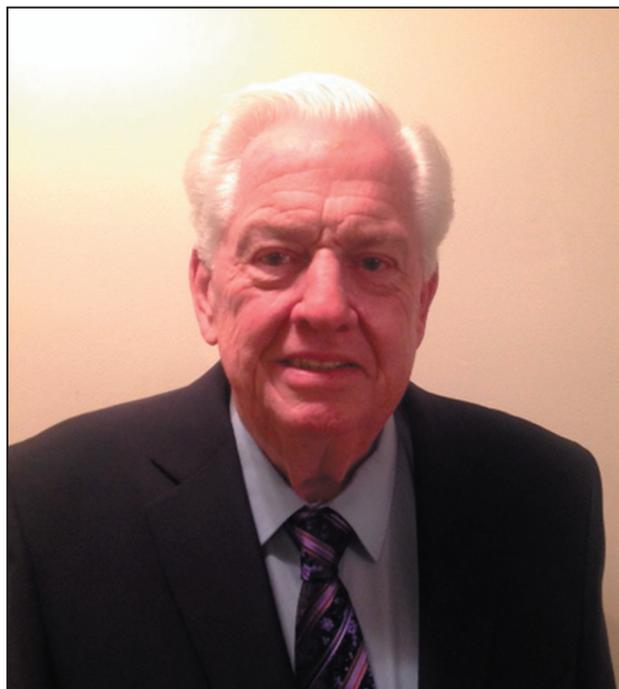


Photo: Lillian Hogan

The 2016 Irishman of the Year, Wayne Hogan

Steve Broad, and grandfather to Ryan, Kaitlyn and Samuel, Wayne has always been an exceptionally devoted family man, not only as a husband, father and grandfather, but also focusing his efforts and energy around his brothers, Glenn and Neil, his sister, Donna, his many nieces, nephews, cousins and godchildren. His love of family, dedication and sense of humour are just some of the traits he has passed on over the years.

Wayne enjoyed an active 40-year career in the insurance industry of Montreal, joining Le Groupe LAH, Insurance Brokers in 1974 and served as president of the Canadian Insurance Accountants Association in 1974 and 1975.

cont. p.5

NOVEMBER
 November 2015
 Vol. 28, Issue 4

I N S I D E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vodka-Oyster party raises money and attendees' spirits!p.3 • “Helping, Giving, Caring” Ball and Lunchp.4 • Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture draws capacity attendancep.5 • An epic toast to Canada's Ambassador to Irelandp.6 • Everyone, meet Joep.7 • The Thomas D'Arcy McGee Foundationp.9 • <i>Grosse-Île: a choral story</i>p.10 • Eastern Canadian Oireachtas a huge successp.11 • United Irish Societies announces 2016 honoreesp.12 • Canada's new Minister of Immigration: Important changes lie aheadp.13 • Ten years in the making ... but well worth the waitp.14 • Special Announcement: School of Canadian Irish Studiesp.15
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A word from the President

The Christmas Season is fast approaching. We will put aside our Irish social events for a number of weeks to focus on family and friends. However, before that happens, the executive and board look forward to seeing you at Hurley’s Irish Pub on December 10th for the members’ Christmas Reception. We do hope to see our members in great numbers.

In the last six months your executive set a goal to offer our members and community at large a Christmas Concert of the highest quality with local and internationally acclaimed talent. Despite our efforts, with a little help from our friends, our plans did not come to fruition. Disappointed, we will not be deterred. We are keeping our eyes and ears open for future opportunities. A spring concert could become a reality for us.

Our Luncheon and Ball committees are hard at work organizing these events. The Ball will take place in the elegant ballroom at the Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel on Friday March 4th. I hope that on the evening of our Christmas Reception, we will be in a position to announce the Society’s Guest of Honour at the Ball. However, it is with great pride that we can announce that Mayor Coderre and his wife will be joining us at the head table this year. Please stay tuned.

For the third consecutive year the annual St. Patrick’s

Day Luncheon will take place in a different location, due to lack of availability at several large venues, with this year’s event unfolding on March 17th at the easily accessible Sheraton Centre on boul. Réne-Lévesque downtown. The Honourable Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, has graciously agreed to be the Guest Speaker. If the few words he spoke at the 2015 Ball are any indication, we are in for a real treat. We are counting on you to support these great events on Montreal’s social calendar.

At the September 30th board of directors meeting your board decided the timing was right and it was appropriate to admit His Excellency Dr. Ray Bassett and his wife Patricia as Honorary members of the Society. Dr. and Mrs. Bassett have been great friends of the Society as well as of the entire Irish community in Montreal. We are thrilled and honoured that they have accepted their appointments.

On behalf of your executive and board of directors, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with health and happiness.

Jim Killin
November 2015

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Deadline for submissions for next issue: February 8, 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 **January 11, 2016 at 11:59 p m.**

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News from the Society

Vodka-Oyster party raises money and attendees' spirits!

By David Crandall

St. Patrick's Society and the Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club hosted their 4th annual vodka-oyster party on Thursday, November 5, 2015 to raise money for the Society and the Montreal Irish Rugby Club.

This year the event was held at Galerie des Soeurs, a hip new art gallery on Nuns' Island. With a quasi-unlimited supply of oysters, a DJ and the great ambiance provided by the gallery, all attendees were bound to have a great time! The beer – courtesy of Les Brasseurs RJ, maker of an assortment of fantastic beers including Belle Gueule – and vodka drinks courtesy of Boru Irish vodka, were flowing freely and the food and oysters were top notch. The crowd was a great mix of Society members, rugby players and supporters and friends. The fantastic staff and our oyster shuckers extraordinaire kept things running and kept people smiling.

I would like to thank in particular the organizing committee, without whom the vodka-oyster party would not have been possible: Mark Gallagher and Seymour Ward and, in particular, Louise Guimond and Erin Matheson, who did the lion's share of the

work. Lastly, I'd like to mention Jim Kellett and thank him for creating this event – we wish he had been able to make it from Singapore!



Photo: David Crandall

James Murray, David Keane, Mike Magee, David Crandall and Huw Roberts

On behalf of the organizing committee as well as both the Society and the Montreal Irish Rugby Club, we want to thank everybody who contributed to this event. The funds raised go to support a number of different initiatives, including the Verdun Mini Rugby Programme, one that is designed to introduce the next generation to the sport of rugby and to the ideals that this sport represents.



Photo: David Crandall

Sterling Downey (Verdun city councillor) and Ankara Bonamy (owner of Galerie des Soeurs).



Photo: David Crandall



In Memoriam

The Society expresses its condolences to the family of Betty Scott who passed away in October. Lynn Doyle wrote the following tribute:

I first met Betty while serving on the board of St. Patrick's Society. At the time Betty and her husband, Peter, were in charge of the decorations for the annual ball. Betty continued for many years. She had exquisite taste.

Betty was an avid golfer and served for a long time on the St. Patrick's Society Golf Tournament Committee. But her

first love was "Share the Warmth" to which she devoted the vast majority of her time and resources. Loyola High School used the motto "Men for Others"; Betty was the consummate "Woman for Others" and through Share the Warmth she was able to help many, many needy people.

Betty touched those who knew her, with her charm and goodness. My own life is certainly all the better for having known her. May she rest in peace.



Save the date! March 4th 2016

**The social highlight of the year celebrating Irish heritage in Montreal.
Come celebrate our 182nd year with us!
“Helping, Giving, Caring.”**

By Scott Phelan

The St. Patrick’s Society Annual Charity Ball, the longest running charitable social event of its kind in Montreal, will be held this year on Friday, March 4th, 2016 at the Marriott Château Champlain.



Photo: International Photo Imaging

Having fun at the Ball in 2014

Our long standing charitable ball is not only the unofficial kick off for the festivities surrounding the Irish season in Montreal but also a key event that helps us raise monies for numerous deserving Montreal charities and Quebec-Irish cultural organizations. Our theme this year underlines the unique charitable nature of our Society: Helping, Giving, Caring, which sums up the work and purpose of the St. Patrick’s Society for almost two centuries as the oldest Society of its kind in Canada.

This year promises to be our best charitable ball ever with exciting new elements that will keep you partying in style into the wee hours! Beginning with a welcome cocktail party the Ball features fabulous

decorations, sumptuous food, a piper, a live orchestra and dancing with the award winning The Directors Showband, a display of Irish dancing by The Bernadette Short Celtic Grace Dancers, an amazing surprise mid meal entertainment and even an authentic Irish Pub, courtesy of Hurley’s Irish Pub. New this year is a photo booth and a midnight snack. Oh and don’t forget the amazing Silent Auction! Again, all of the proceeds going to deserving Montreal charities.

The Ball is a black-tie event that is attended by the who’s who of Montreal’s business, government, sports and cultural community. The Irish Ambassador to Canada Dr. Ray Bassett and our illustrious Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Denis Coderre will be attending together with many other notables...including yourself of course! We hope to announce the names of the Guest of Honour and the Honorary Charitable Chair at the Society’s Christmas Reception on December 10th with details to follow in February’s edition of *Nuacht!*.

This year, in addition to our incredibly affordable regular and junior ticket prices, we will be offering an early bird ticket price, available until December 31st, and a new Senior’s ticket price as well! For full ticket pricing, sponsorship opportunities, more information and to buy your tickets now before they sell out, please visit our website at http://spsmtl.com/purchase_tickets or contact our brilliant office manager, Erin Matheson at office@spsmtl.com or call directly at 514-481-1346.

So save the date, get your tickets, dust off the tuxedo, put on your best gown and we’ll see you at the Ball!

“Helping, Giving, Caring” continues ... with the Luncheon

By Carol McCormick

This year, we have decided to join our efforts in combining the Society’s ball and luncheon for our 182nd year with a theme of “Helping, Giving, Caring.”

The Chairs for these events, Scott Phelan and Maria Cook, (the Ball) and Carol McCormick (the Luncheon) have already met with their respective committees to bring together these “not to miss” occasions to immediately put on your calendar.

You can now purchase at a savings until December 31, 2015; there are “Early Bird” tickets for both events.

We are thrilled to have Montreal’s Mayor Denis Coderre as our Guest Speaker at the 2016 Luncheon. It will be held at the Centre Sheraton Hotel of Montreal on boul. René Lévesque.

We had positive responses last year for our complimentary wine at each table and finishing the Luncheon at a reasonable hour. We will continue this, as well as incorporating new ideas – all to make it the most memorable Luncheon ever!

Over 400 people joined us for the 2015 Luncheon. We want to “double” that in 2016 and have the space for it. We will just need each and everyone of us to attend and make the goal a reality.

I invite you to join us on March 17th, 2016 for our St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal Luncheon and by your presence help us continue our goals of Helping, Giving, Caring for our Montreal charities and Quebec-Irish cultural organizations.

For individual tickets, table sponsorship, etc. visit our website at: http://spsmtl.com/purchase_tickets or contact our Office Manager, Erin Matheson at office@spsmtl.com or call: 514-481-1346



Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture draws capacity attendance

By Lauren Maloney

Irish writer and cultural broadcaster Vincent Woods delivered the 10th Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture on Thursday, November 12. Despite the rain, an audience of more than a hundred people – students, members of the Irish community and the general public – filled Concordia University's York Amphitheatre. Organized by the School of Irish Studies, Woods' talk centered on issues of migration and identity in contemporary Ireland, and how Ireland's history provides a universal experience among recent migrants and Irish society. Blending extracts from his own experiences, Woods spoke eloquently and passionately on the challenges migrants undergo when forced to leave their homelands. His sensitive discussion of concepts of space within a country, both physical and social, for humans seeking refuge, was timely, given today's headlines. But he also talked about the experience of emigration which the Irish have had over many generations, most powerfully the Famine emigrants who sought refuge in many countries, most tragically those who came to Canada and died in their thousands in Grosse Île and Montreal.



Photo: Ken Quinn

A huge crowd fills the auditorium

and poetic sensitivity were evident in his riveting and poignant oratory. The audience was immediately captivated by his easy wit, intelligence and impassioned delivery.



Photo: Ken Quinn

Dr. Michael Kenneally, Scott Phelan, Christie Brown, Vincent Woods and Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally

Originally from Co. Leitrim in Ireland, Vincent Woods is a renowned playwright and columnist, and host of the preeminent cultural programme on Ireland's RTE network. His knowledge, experiences,

Woods fielded questions after his talk with the ease of a seasoned radio host. The questions were both opinionated and probing, reflecting the audience's awareness of immigrant issues, and interest in how Ireland serves as an example of shared global experiences. For me, the opportunity to hear the views of such an informed artist and commentator was a privilege, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the many students who attended. It reminded me that there are many different ways to learn, a fact confirmed by the calibre of the speakers brought to Montreal by the School of Irish Studies. Both the School and the St. Patrick's Society are to be thanked and congratulated for a partnership that brings such high-profile speakers to Montreal. For students and members of the community alike, such lectures are a means of reinforcing the links between Ireland and Canada, and in this specific case, of reminding us that issues of migration and identity are universal ones that impact all of our lives.



Wayne (cont.)

Always a devoted parish member, Wayne was active in the communities of St. Malachy's, Our Lady of Fatima and, since 1967, at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish where he served as a Church Warden for over 25 years, alongside nine of the 10 Pastors. In 1984, Wayne served as a parish representative on the Diocesan committee for the Papal Visit to Montreal of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. He has also served two terms as director on the board for Catholic Community Services. Honoured by Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte in 2005, both Wayne and his wife Lillian were the recipients of the Ignace Bourget Award in recognition of their service and dedication to the Diocese of Montreal.

For over 20 years, he served as a municipal minor league hockey coach and in 1996 was honoured and inducted as a Life Member of the Fossils Club of Montreal Inc. In the 1980s and 1990s, he was active with the Montreal Children's Hospital Lamplighters Association, and over the years, continues to be a devoted supporter of many of Montreal's hospitals.

In his usual low-key and "behind the scenes" fashion, Wayne has always been a generous and devoted supporter of the many Irish organisations in Montreal, including the Erin Sports Association, the United Irish Societies of Montreal and St. Patrick's Society. – on whose board he served from 2001 – 2006.

Wayne's first memory of the St. Patrick's Parade was in 1953 where he, his father and grandfather, Samuel O'Rourke attended the parade on Sherbrooke Street 'in the snow.'

Overall, Wayne's true satisfaction and philosophy of life can best be summarised by three simple words: FAMILY, FAITH and FRIENDS

My thanks to Wayne's daughters for this wonderful biography of their father.

Editor



An epic toast to Canada's Ambassador to Ireland

By Jim McDermott

An unusual celebratory evening was hosted at Hurley's on November 6 with Kevin Vickers as honorary guest. The former parliamentary Sergeant-at-Arms acquired hero status following his October 22, 2014 take-out of shooter Michael Zehaf-Bibeau and was subsequently appointed Ambassador of Canada to Ireland.

Between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m., the towering figure of Kevin Vickers stood watch at the entrance of the upstairs lounge, spreading warm greetings to members of Montreal's Irish societies who came to pay homage. Smiling and congenial, he had a ready spontaneous word for all visitors and quietly acquiesced to photograph requests from a crowd of some 200 people.

In his introduction of the Ambassador, Vivian Doyle-Kelly, president of the Montreal chapter of ICCA, took pains to share details of his lesser-known professional trajectory. In his former role as RCMP Superintendent and Sergeant-at-Arms at the House of Commons, Vickers was responsible for ensuring the safety and security of the House of Commons in addition to being responsible for the logistics of over 1000 people. During his 29-year career with the RCMP, Vickers played an important role in defusing the 1999-2000 Burnt Church Native Fishing Crisis, as the RCMP Incident Commander

In enumerating his deep-seated Irish roots, Vickers highlighted similarities between the Irish and his native province of New Brunswick. "Not only do the Irish have names like us, they look like us, and even drink like us!" However, some divergences remain. His first photo op. with Ireland's diminutive President Michael

Higgins spawned a veritable media frenzy and generated headlines like "Giant Finn MacCool meets President Leprechaun," "Canada sends its Friendly Giant to Ireland," "A diplomat to look up to," and "Welcome to Middle Earth Gandalf!"

Further illustrating trans-atlantic alterations, Ambassador Vickers shared an anecdote from his first meeting

with a minister of the Irish government. In the course of their first conversation, Vickers was advised, "You'll be fine now, as long as you're able to pace yourself." On seeing Vickers' incredulous expression, the minister repeated, "Yes! Just pace yourself." Of course, to a Canadian ear, the word "pace" pronounced with a particular Irish accent, sounds very different. The audience at Hurley's reacted very positively to the fine Irish tradition of 'taking the piss'! Referring to the "white elephant in the room," the ambassador concluded his speech by saying, "I wish that fateful day in parliament had never happened."

Lovely gestures took place in the form of gifts: St Patrick's Society of Montreal president Jim Killin presented a sparkling pair of cuff links, and author Patricia Burns gifted him her fascinating oral historic book, *The Shamrock and the Shield*. Kudos must go to photographer-historian Ken Quinn who immortalised the gathering with his photo shots.

Cheers are due to Bill Hurley and his lovely wife, in addition to their awesome staff, whose delectable spread of finger food truly hit the spot. And, unlike other pubs in town, Hurley's Irish Pub is where one can always rely on getting a perfectly poured pint of Guinness especially when the perfect opportunity occurs to proudly toast an Irish-Canadian hero to the strains of a rousing *Sláinte*.



Photo: Ruth Hanna

An appreciative crowd surrounding Ambassador Kevin Vickers



Photo: Ken Quinn

Vivian Doyle-Kelly, Ambassador Vickers and Jim Killin



Everyone, meet Joe

Joe Kinsella talks Irish sheep and economics

By Joanne Latimer

This is the second article in a regular column, “Everyone, meet...” to introduce members to Montrealers with an Irish connection. The focus will be on newcomers to the city and recent transplants from abroad.

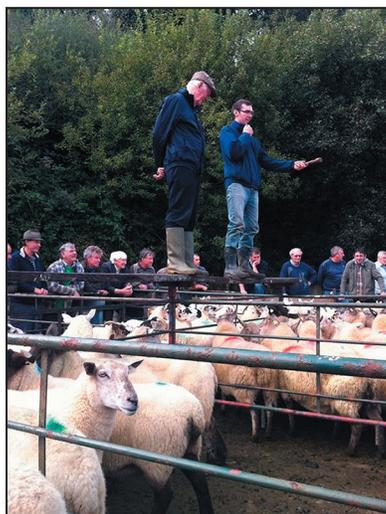
Auctioneer, accountant, farmer—Joe Kinsella is a man of many talents, but he’s so modest that you need to read his LinkedIn page to get the full picture.

“I’m not a benchmark for Irish males!” he jokes, adding that he doesn’t follow football or snooker. (Spoiler alert: he’s taken, ladies).

Kinsella is in Montreal with his wife, Dr. Eirin Carolan, a pediatrician working at the new MUHC for two years on the Alan Ross fellowship from McGill. Joe’s using this sabbatical away from his family farm in County Wicklow as an opportunity to establish trade networks between Ireland and Canada. As a director of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce (Montreal branch), he plans on strengthening ties between the two countries and maintaining those ties once he returns to Ireland.

While he’s interested in helping all Irish products that could gain traction in the Canadian marketplace, his specialty is sheep. Indeed, Joe’s family farm—passed down from his grandmother—raises sheep, lambs, cows, as well as growing tillage crops, corn, barley and turnips.

Irish sheep are superior: “It’s a grass-based system”



Joe’s father and Joe at sheep auction in Ireland

“Most of the mutton you buy here in Canada comes from Australia and New Zealand, and while it is very familiar and popular with Canadians, he believes that Irish lamb is a much better tasting product,” he states. “Ireland has a grass-based feeding system. Our lambs finish on grass. Plus, it only takes about seven days to get the lamb here. It takes four weeks from Australia.”

Why hasn’t someone hooked Canada up with Irish sheep before now?

“Because nobody has sent

a trade commissioner over to get it going, and I would like to raise the profile of Irish lamb over here in Canada,” explains Joe. “In Ireland, there is a large number of small producers, and it’s easy to access sheep—we have about 3 million of them. The question is, can I establish a demand? I hope so.”

Joe misses his sheepdog, Glen, but he’s enjoying Montreal to its fullest. He has 16 years of experience on the floor as an auctioneer and has picked up some opportunities over here, previously working at Manheim and RB Auctions. He has also been spotted at a local karaoke bar keeping his skills in check!

Against the backdrop of the new Canadian-EU Trade (CETA) agreement, Joe and his fellow directors in the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce completed a three-year strategy to take advantage of new import-export opportunities.

“For example, Canada lifted a 19-year ban on beef, after the Mad Cow scare,” says Joe. “There are no restrictions on Irish mutton, either, so I’m meeting with Montreal food service companies, wholesale food caterings and chefs, to explain why our lamb is superior.”

At the same time, Joe is practising his French and consulting as an accountant for clients back home. Astonishingly, he commented on Montreal’s high-functioning public services—public transport, snow removal, water. Give him time. In a few more months, he’ll be cursing when the bus is late, like everyone else.

Pop Quiz with Joe

1. Favourite hero in Irish history? *Mary Robinson.*
2. Best film about Ireland. *The Field.*
3. Favourite Irish writing: *Works by Seamus Heaney.*
4. Favourite Irish saying: *“What’s for you won’t pass you by.”*
5. Guinness, Bushmills, or Bailey’s? *Guinness, hands down.*
6. Favourite Irish destination? *County Wicklow (home) and the Aran Islands.*
7. Advice to newcomers from Ireland? *Join Irish societies and pack those thermals.*
8. Favourite Irish saying? *Céad míle fáilte? (Translation: one hundred thousand welcomes.)*



Joe near his Montreal home

Photo: Eirin Carolan



Cine Gael season opens January 22, 2016

By Tim Hine

Cine Gael held a members' evening at Hurley's pub on Tuesday October 13th. The food was delicious and the documentary film, *A City Dreaming*, a personal chronicle of Derry over the last 100 years, seemed to delight our audience. Derry-born Mary McDaid did a wonderful job of introducing the movie with some personal recollections and there was a lively discussion following the film, which had evoked strong feelings and memories for our members.

We are looking forward to some excellent films and also commemorating the 1916 Easter Uprising.

Below are dates for the 2016 Cine Gael season. Please note that these are the tentative dates booked to give us the most flexibility



but that we may not have screenings on all of them. We hope to see you all there and will have further details of the programme in the next issue of *NUACHT*.

January 22
February 05
February 09
March 04

March 05
April 01
April 22
April 23



Wasn't that a party! Over 200 gathered at Hurley's

The FIS End of Summer Party 2015 welcomed Guest of Honour Ray Bassett

By Paul Loftus

A rugby cup, a shot of Jameson and Irish music—now that's a party!

The Federation of Irish Societies, Montreal held its 3rd annual End of Summer Party on October 6th at Hurley's Irish Pub. Over 200 of Montreal's Irish Community turned out for the event. That number greatly exceeded the expectations of the organizers.

At 6:30 p.m., M.C. Paul Loftus started the formalities and introduced committee member Victor Boyle, who informed the gathering of the names of the following presidents of the Irish organizations in attendance:

Ancient Order of Hibernians, Victor Boyle; Cine Gael, Lynn Doyle; Comhrá, Alex Nuta; Erin Sports Association, Tim Furlong; Gaelic Athletic Association, Ronan Corbett; Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Vivian Doyle-Kelly; Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation, Leo Delaney; SIAMSA, Denis Martin; St. Patrick's Society, Jim Killin; United Irish Societies, Danny Doyle; and University College Dublin (UCD) Alumni Association, Paul Loftus.

The following were thanked for their attendance: Nick Baker, British Consul General; John Lawson, Executive Director, British Quebec Business Coalition; and Devin Shanks, president, The Montreal Celtic Society.

Paul next introduced James Acker, captain of the Montreal Irish Rugby team, who won the Quebec Super League by defeating St. Anne's in the final. James proudly held the winning cup on high to a chorus of cheers. Paul then introduced the Guest of Honour, his Excellency Ray Bassett, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, who made a special trip to Montreal for the event. The Ambassador spoke about the improved Irish economy and



Photo: John Gilroy

Victor Boyle, Lynn Doyle, Ambassador Bassett, Paul Loftus and Ronan Corbett

the optimism that exists for further improvement. He remarked on the variety of organizations represented at the evening's event and the large turnout. He said the Federation of Irish Societies in Montreal was an example for other Irish communities in Canada to follow.

Bill Hurley, in his usual generous manner, provided complimentary food for the evening and a shot of Jameson whiskey to all present.

Traditional Irish music set the mood, thanks to SIAMSA. The musicians were Denis Martin, Harold Brooks, Gemma Brooks, Gord Fisch, Martin Barry, Phil Murphy, Rae Shepp, Emily Andrews, Olivier Craig-Dupont and Siobhán Ní Mhaolagáin.

Paul ended the formalities by thanking owner Bill Hurley; manager Rod Appleby; the staff of Hurley's and all who attended. 



The Thomas D'Arcy McGee Foundation

Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one of the founding fathers of the Canadian Confederation, was born in Carlingford, Ireland on April 13, 1825. His journey from physical force Irish rebel to constitutional Canadian patriot, promoting the need for understanding and compromise with

enemies, preceded the similar journey of Nelson Mandela, in South Africa, a hundred years later. McGee's concept of 'unity in diversity' was central in the formation of the Canadian nation. Appropriately, it is an idea that can be identified in the Irish peace process; as in Canada, in the 1860s, Irish nationalists have forged unsteady, but workable relationships with their Orange neighbours.

Mindful of his geographical and political journey, the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Foundation has been established in his birthplace to promote closer cultural, academic and economic cooperation between Ireland and Canada. The Foundation wishes to build on the momentum created by the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School, entering its fifth year next August.

The Foundation is inspired by McGee's vision in which pragmatism, creativity and diplomacy were key contributors in the formation of the Canadian Nation. Dealing with the fractious political environment of Montreal was critical in shaping McGee's national statesmanship. The Foundation hopes that modern Montreal can again invoke the spirit of his visionary zeal; particularly in the build-up to the 2017 sesquicentennial celebrations.

As in 19th century Canada, Ireland is absorbing the impact of large scale inward migration, as well as the social and ethnic consequences of the Good Friday Agreement. Canada, influenced by McGee and his fellow Founding Fathers, embraced similar challenges 150 years ago. Canada, as a beacon of multiculturalism, can help guide Ireland in its ongoing evolution to a society at peace and comfortable with its diversity. Montreal, with its own experience of coming to productive terms with the Orange and the Green can help Ireland embrace challenging change.

We would welcome a dialogue with Montreal civic, business and cultural leaders about how best the 2017 celebrations can be forged into programmes of mutually beneficial cooperation between Canada and Ireland.

The recently opened permanent exhibition to McGee in Carlingford, is proving to be a must-do stop for a growing number of Canadians visiting Ireland. Additional activities, including a 10-day package tour to coincide with the Summer School (August 15th and 16th) are being planned.

Canadian-based board members of our Foundation include Paul Loftus, Montreal; Pat O'Callaghan and former Canadian Ambassador to Ireland Loyola Hearn, Newfoundland; Ireland's Ambassador to Canada, Ray Bassett; and Robert Kearns and David Wilson, Toronto. Irish-based board members include Canadian

Loftus and McGee

Former Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Loyola Hearn, had no hesitation in targeting Montreal based Paul Loftus to help him fulfill a lifetime ambition to celebrate the contribution Thomas D'Arcy McGee made to the shaping of a new, multicultural nation from the former colonies of North America. Along with fellow Newfoundlander, Pat O'Callaghan, originally from Dundalk, Loyola identified Paul as an energetic member of the Canadian Irish community in Montreal, McGee's constituency, who could add value to the newly established Thomas D'Arcy McGee Foundation. Loftus, a passionate Mayo man and a graduate of University College Dublin has established a successful international consultancy business in his adopted Montreal

Paul visits Ireland a number of times a year and is very enthusiastic about the pride the Irish have in their shared history with Canada. Increased emigration has strengthened these ties in recent years, and he believes the networks between the two countries have never been stronger.

"Ireland's recovery from the economic downturn is the envy of Europe, and it presents a solid European foothold for Canadian business looking for expansion as a result of CETA. The historic and cultural bonds between Canada and Ireland present an ideal environment to create mutually beneficial trade. I am delighted to help contribute to those opportunities through the Foundation which draws its inspiration from D'Arcy' McGee's vision, pragmatism and creativity," said Paul.

Ambassador Kevin Vickers, John Kelly and Wally Kirwan, Dublin; Denis Cummins, Dundalk; Anthony Russell, Newry; Mario McBlaine, Banbridge; Helen Thompson, Omeath; and Frances Taylor, Margaret Harold and Bill Tosh, Carlingford.

Those wishing to be kept informed of the Foundation's programs should contact Tommy Fegan tommyfegan@gmail.com for inclusion in mailing lists. A new dedicated website will be officially opened in December, but those looking for information on the McGee Summer Schools and other activities to date can log on to Dundalk Institute of Technology's D'Arcy McGee webpages; <https://www.dkit.ie/thomas-darcy-mcgee/final-programme-events>



Grosse-Île: A Choral Story

By Margaret Forrest, John Halpin and Hubert Radoux

Grosse-Île: *A Choral Story* is about the resilience of the Irish and French Canadian people in 1847. Our musical narrative recounts the “summer of sorrow” at the Grosse Île quarantine station; five thousand immigrants died that summer chiefly due to the disease typhus. Weakened by three years of what came to be known as the ‘potato famine,’ typhus quickly took its toll on the Irish population. Many doctors, nurses, priests and the immigrants themselves were forced to exhibit heroic levels of loving care for these suffering souls. Through their story we witness the triumph of selfless acts of human love over suffering and sorrow. This is a historic and heroic story. It happened here, near Quebec City. It is a story that must be told.

The narrative of *Grosse Île: A Choral Story* is the creation of three Quebecers – Margaret Forrest, Hubert Radoux and John Halpin. The story unfolds through the choral score composed by John Halpin. This musical production features seven soloists supported by a 40-voice choir, Dal Segno, under the direction of Guillaume St-Gelais. The power and intensity of this magnificent choir and professional soloists gives voice to the anguish, the pride and the determination of thousands of courageous Irish who took to the high seas in the spring of 1847 heading for Quebec, seeking a refuge from famine. Les Productions Cibles brings the current production to the Quebec City concert hall, Palais Montcalm next spring, on Saturday, March 12 (8 p.m.) and Sunday, March 13 (2 p.m.).

Forrest and Halpin first visited Grosse Île on the inaugural trip to open the new Parks Canada site. Thanks to the tireless dedication of Quebec

City historian, Marianna O’Gallagher, the Celtic cross and adjacent gravesite as well as replications of the lazarettes (fever sheds) continue to testify to the story of Irish presence in the St. Lawrence lowlands. A preliminary version of *Grosse-Île* was produced in English at Cegep Champlain St-Lawrence in March 2012. The March 2016 bilingual version has been translated and re-orchestrated by the authors to allow seven soloists to recount the story supported by a large choir. This is one of many musical creations that the authors have produced in Quebec City since 1982.

The lyric of the finale of *Grosse-Île: A Choral Story* sums up our joy in bringing this musical story to our audience.

Oh, you can touch those who are near you.
 Yes, you can find a way to brighten up their day.
 There may be pain in this place, but you can still find the grace.
 Yes, you can share your love, take some pain away ... today!

The Authors (November 2015)



Margaret Forrest’s pastel of Grosse-Île; one of the projections planned for the production



Holiday Memories: A dock-side Christmas

By Jim McDermott

I can still taste the salt air and almost feel the motion of the sea. I remember the sweet aromas of Jaffa oranges once picked by weary hands in far off sun-drenched lands, then shipped over the Mediterranean Sea and landed upon the ghostly shores of old Titanic Town.

I was gently aroused from my slumber by the sounds that were reserved for Sundays. I smiled and listened to the street cats meowing like banshees, while the rooftop pigeons cooed hypnotically, and distant ships whistled out in the mist. How cold it felt when I stepped on the oilcloth floor of my bedroom. I searched frantically for my woollen stockings. In between dressing and shivering, I paused to listen to the echo of faint voices whispering in the twisting winds as church bells clanged melodically. The hushed mumblings of praying worshippers continued on their journeys of faith and devotion. Their prancing heels snaked across the cobblestone streets of long ago. Their shadows ricocheted upon the red brick houses like those of old ghosts that danced high shadows on every wall which almost touched the tops of the shipyard gantries and factory gates.

I peered out of my window and watched from a vantage view as the Salvation Army band gyrated in the middle of my street. They looked spiffy. They looked spiffy in their uniforms of navy blue and purple stripes. The leader of the band looked particularly dashing, with his bright peaked cap slightly tilted to the side of his head. His glorious waxed moustache seemed frozen in time.



The sweet sounds brought exhilaration to people of all faiths, who harmoniously chanted in time to the metallic beat of jingle- jangle tambourines.

A dusting of snow set the seasonal tone and voices cried hallelujah. The benevolent leader of the band noticed my ruddy face, as I gazed through my frosty window pane. Looking up, he raised his hand and gallantly saluted, then he graciously smiled a tender smile while the ladies of his group blew kisses and called out “Merry Christmas wee lad.” My face beamed with joy and jubilation; I was overwhelmed by their kindness. It did not matter if my stocking were empty or full because I had received my greatest gift – a traditional carol “Good King Wenceslas” on a Belfast Christmas morning in 1953.



Eastern Canadian Oireachtas a huge success

By Pat Short

From November 6-8, almost 1,000 Irish dancers from the four eastern Canadian provinces packed the Fairmont Hotel on René-Lévesque to compete in solo and céili team competitions at the Eastern Canadian Oireachtas. This is the qualifying event for the World Championships to be held in Glasgow, Scotland at Easter 2016. It is also a qualifying event for the North American Championships in Orlando, Florida beginning next July 1st.

This three-day event featured competitions for boys and girls in single age groups from under eight to over 20 years. There are also four-hand, six-hand and eight-hand céili competitions. Dancers came from the 50 schools of Irish Dancing in Ontario, four schools in Quebec, one in New Brunswick and three in Nova Scotia.

All the G.M.A. schools were well represented: Bernadette Short School, Moran Academy, Marie-Claude Rousseau School and The Young Academy. The dancers were beautifully turned out and they all did their parents and dance teachers proud.



Photo: Leith Steyn

Samantha Ratcliffe, Brittany McKoy, Lauren McLean, Rebecca Mitchell (World Qualifier - 13th place Senior ladies), Monica Passarelli, Kathleen Moran-Pauluk.

Each dancer performed a hard-shoe dance and a soft-shoe dance and their marks were tabulated. In each competition, the top 50% were re-called to perform an Irish Set Dance. Each competition was judged by nine adjudicators; three per dance who came from Ireland, Scotland and the U.S. for this event.

On Friday and Saturday we were entertained to the Solo Competitions and Montreal dancers placed as follows:

1st Place Winners

Lucas Lawton, Emile Choeniére Shields

2nd Place Winners

James Houghton, Spencer Geary & Guillaume Choeniére-Shields

3rd Place Winners

Meaghan Kilmartin; Kevin Paquette; Lydia Boutin

Special congratulations go out to TwoMountains-based school, The Moran Academy. They had their first World's qualifier this year at The Oireachtas. Rebecca Mitchell was among the 15 qualifiers in the Senior Ladies age group.

Other dancers from The Bernadette Short School who placed and also qualified for the World Championships in Glasgow were: Kayla Gagne; Kelsey Crone; Gabrielle McBain; and Katie Gulycz.

The Oireachtas was very pleased to have the Hon. Consul General of Ireland, Dr. Michael Kenneally present to hand out the awards to the 1st place winners of every competition.

After the completion of Saturday's competitions, about 450 parents and senior dancers enjoyed a beautiful gala banquet that included a "Parade of Champions" and modern choreography prepared by the McGinley School of Toronto. This was organized by teachers Jennifer Healy (Nepean) and Marie Short (Beaconsfield). Not forgetting the younger teens, a "Movie Night" was organized by Janice Young (Chateauguay)

On Sunday we had the céili teams from all the provinces totaling approximately 200 teams. They performed four-hand and eight-hand figure and céili dances. Many schools entered multiple teams in each competition so as to include all their students where possible. The Short's "A" team passed over the cup for the Senior Mixed Céili to the well-deserving Ni-Fhearraigh-O'Cheallaigh School, Ontario, a Short team having won it for the past eight years.

Many former champions showed up at the Fairmont to give their support to the 2015 competitors. Spotted among the crowd were: Alison Coull, Elspeth McMurray, Michael Keane, Liandra Doonan, Paula Malolepszy, Erin Matheson and Caitlin Kilmartin. Former Young dancer Genevieve Savage took time off from her two Timmy's to support her ex-colleagues.

Photos selected by Editor



Photo: Eirin Carolan

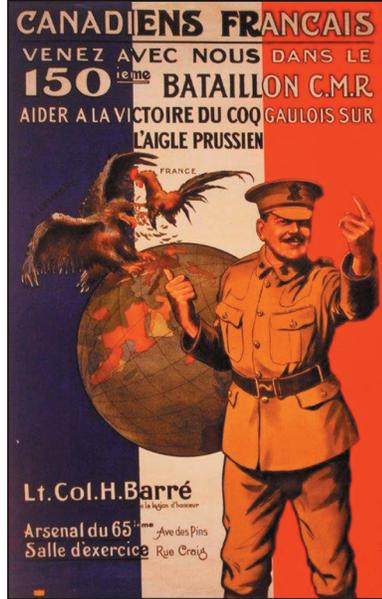
Kate Moran - 13th place Girls under 9 - with Rebecca Mitchell - Ladies 20 and over (world qualifier)

French Canadians and World Wars I and II

By Leo Delaney

A committee has been formed in conjunction with the Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation, Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem and others to explore the role played by French Canadians in the Canadian Military during the First World War and the Second World War, even extending back as far as the War of 1812. **The committee will be assisted by three distinguished historians from the Department of Defence.**

The common approach to history in Quebec, with few exceptions, has reduced the role of French Canadians in the defence of Canada to an insignificant place. Their participation is always overshadowed by the conscription issue imposed by the Government of Canada, without recourse or desire on their part to defend their country. The fact that French Canadians volunteered by the thousands to join the Canadian forces and distinguished themselves in all branches of the service has long been ignored and their involvement generally has not been communicated to students.



When we look at the history of Quebec and Canada, figures such as Michel de Salaberry in the War of 1812 appear; he led forces of French Voltigeurs along with First Nation warriors, Irish and Scottish militia to defeat a far greater American-trained army, defending Montreal in 1813 during the Battle of Chateauguay saving Canada in one of the most defining battles of the 1812 War.

In the first World War, Talbot Mercer Papineau – one of Canada’s first Rhodes’ scholars and great grandson of Louis-Joseph Papineau – distinguished himself with honour in the First World War and was awarded one of the first Military Crosses. His letters to Henri Bourassa then owner of *Le Devoir* were published worldwide, decrying the misguided efforts of Bourassa to publish negative views of the French Canadians who participated in the war. His letters can be found in the War Museum, Ottawa. Papineau died at Passchendaele, Belgium in 1917. His family bequeathed funds to McGill University to promote annual student debates in his memory.

Many others volunteered in the two wars and it is our intention to bring to the forefront their patriotism and distinguished role in the Canadian military. Support for this important cause is welcomed.

Contributions of personal or ancestral background by those interested should be sent to the Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation: jeaniejohnstonfdn@videotron.ca



United Irish Societies announces 2016 honorees

By Ken Quinn

The Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award for 2016 is going to two people who have been active in the community since the 1960s and have been involved with a long list of community organizations.



Pierrette Sévigny and Richard McConomy



The Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Club.

The Liam Daly Heritage Award for 2016 has been awarded to one of the Irish organizations in the city. This group is working hard to promote the sports of Gaelic football and hurling to the members of our community.



Paul Quinn

The Grand Marshal of the 2016 Parade is Paul Quinn, owner of the Irish Embassy Pub & Grill downtown.

Lynn Lonergan Doyle has been selected as the Chief Reviewing Officer of the 2016 St. Patrick’s Parade.



Canada's new Minister of Immigration: Important changes lie ahead

By Stephen Fogarty, immigration attorney

Canada's new Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, is the Honourable John McCallum, who was born in Montreal in 1950. Mr. McCallum brings an almost astonishing list of credentials to the Cabinet table of PM Justin Trudeau.



The Honourable John McCallum

Mr. McCallum earned his academic credentials at the undergraduate, graduate certificate and doctoral levels in economics at three of the world's great universities (being Cambridge, Paris, and McGill, respectively). He had a distinguished teaching career as an economics professor at four Canadian universities, culminating as Dean of the Faculty of Arts at McGill, where he helped secure more than \$ 10M in funding to create the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. (Fans of Dr. Michael Kenneally's efforts in establishing the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia can appreciate Mr. McCallum's accomplishment.)

Following his academic career, Mr McCallum acted as Chief Economist of the Royal Bank of Canada for six years.

Upon the encouragement of former PM Jean Chrétien, Mr. McCallum first ran for Parliament in 2000, and has been re-elected in his Ontario riding in every vote since. He served in Cabinet portfolios under Mr. Chrétien and under former PM Martin, acting as Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions), Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs over the years.

During the last Parliament, Mr. McCallum was official opposition critic for the Liberal Party for Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, and for Seniors, as well as co-chairing the House of Commons Immigration Committee. In his Co-Chair role especially, Mr. McCallum gained widespread respect among members of the National Immigration Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association for his insightful views on immigration and citizenship issues and legislation.

Mr. McCallum starts his tenure as Immigration Minister with the difficult task of seeking a broad spectrum of support across many sectors of Canadian society to deal effectively with the election promise made by Mr. Trudeau to welcome some 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada in the coming months.

As stated in the Liberal Party's election platform, the new government is also committed to important changes to some of the rules recently enacted by the Conservatives. Chief among these is to raise the cut-off age when children are considered dependents and thus part of the family unit. The cut-off age will be raised back up to age 22, from the age of 19 enacted by Mr. Harper. This will be a welcome change to help preserve family unity whether in situations of immigration by the family as a unit, or in the case of sponsorships.

Speaking of sponsorships, the Liberals further pledged to speed up the processing time for such applications, which had become longer by about 125% during the last three years of the Conservative administration, as well as doubling to 10,000 the number of parents / grandparents sponsorship applications permitted each year.

The Liberals have also promised to restore the possibility for individuals living legally in Canada prior to becoming permanent residents, to credit some of that time for the purposes of residency requirements when applying for citizenship. (The full text of the Liberals' promises in immigration-related matters may be found at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/nwb2t9f>.)

Canada will undoubtedly face major challenges and important choices have to be made in immigration policy during the coming years. Whatever one's political affiliations, it is encouraging to know that such an accomplished Minister will be in charge of this key department. Mr. McCallum has the academic and practical insight needed to fit immigration and citizenship policy within the larger economic goals of our great country, moving through the 2010s and beyond. We may look forward to having important public debates and consideration of key immigration issues in a more positive setting than we have experienced in recent years.

Immigration lawyers especially are welcoming the opportunity of contributing to the delivery of fast and effective solutions for our clients' goals, rather than our being viewed with suspicion and distrust as had been the case with the last two Immigration Ministers under the Harper regime, dating back to 2008.

Stephen Fogarty is an attorney assisting clients in Canadian citizenship and immigration law, as well as special legal services for musicians, at Fogarty Law Firm in Montréal. He is Honorary Legal Advisor to the Embassy of Ireland in Canada, as well as a former SPS Board member. His law firm's website is 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.



Ten years in the making ... but well worth the wait

Driv'n by Fortune
 By Sam Allison
 Dundurn • 336 pages, \$30.00

Reviewed by Anne Forrest

Using a quote from Robbie Burns' poem "Frae the Friends and Land I Love" as his title, Sam Allison presents a biography of the 78th Fraser's Highlanders during the period 1745-1812. He focusses on the contributions that these Scottish mercenaries, and others, made to the development of Canada and the American colonies as the Scots marched to modernity..

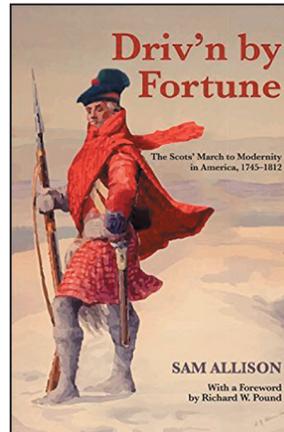
This impressive book which took Allison over ten years to complete, contains an incredible amount of information – much of which was unfamiliar to me. Comprising 12 chapters, each of which is subdivided into several sections, together with a Foreword, Introduction and Epilogue, and interspersed with a multitude of maps, tables and photos (often Allison's own) it is a masterpiece. And, his use of English is virtually impeccable.

For me, despite having studied history through university, I was amazed at how little I knew of what had transpired in Canada and North America (yes, and in Europe and Great Britain too) from 1745 on.

In his Foreword, Richard Pound says, "Scots in general were in the intellectual vanguard of North American modernity" and adds "... there is an apparent reluctance in recent histories to recognize the particular importance to Quebec and Canada of those Scottish contributions, starting with the Fraser's Highlanders ... the facts are evident enough. Pretending they do not exist can be neither explained nor condoned."

This observation was reinforced later in the book when Allison blamed writers such as Sir Walter Scott and Fennimore Cooper for romanticizing the period: "Scott, as the first great romancer, made an impression on social ideas that lasted for decades and decades." So wrote Hamilton James Eckenrode in 1917. The images I'd had of these heroic Highlanders were far from the truth.

Allison emphasizes that history was nation-centred and quotes J. Vincent, *An Intelligent Person's Guide to History* (2006): "the simplest thing that can be said about historical writing ... is that it remains conspicuously national in character." Allison adds: "Each nation has a historical canon containing the fundamental beliefs the intellectual elite wish to transmit. Each national grand narrative is widely believed. Stories such as that of the 78th, which cross the borders of three nations, are seldom told in full." He uses the following as an illustration:



In 2004, Sam approached Leo Delaney after the replica of the *Jeanie Johnston* had been brought to Canada suggesting that they create an organization based on the background of the vessel to promote history in Quebec schools. This was incorporated the Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation, with Sam Allison and Leo Delaney as directors. Tom Mulcair, who was Quebec's Minister of Environment at the time, and Noel Burke Assistant Deputy Minister of Education each contributed funding.

The 78th Fraser's Highlanders made significant contributions to the development of Canada, many of which, other than fur trading, have long gone unnoticed: banking – probably at the forefront then and now!; exploration – especially that of Simon Fraser which was barely recognized together with map making of previously unexplored areas; farming – including the metal plough, the introduction of a potato especially suited to Canada, new strains of wheat and the McIntosh apple; shipping – clippers and steamboats; printing; whisky; the Mounties; and the peaceful commerce between Aborigines and newcomers.

Among the many discoveries I made through reading this book were the following: the Battle of the Plains of Abraham lasted under 20 minutes and Scottish mercenaries were members of the opposing armies led by General Montcalm and General Wolfe; the Scots were forbidden at one point from wearing the kilt and playing the bagpipes (in Scotland!); many Scottish mercenaries had fought in Poland, Holland and Germany before tackling Canada and North America; the English stone buildings in Quebec's Lower Town were demolished and replaced with pseudo "old" French ones; "family" tartan is a relatively new invention; Edinburgh produced the first *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1768-1771); and that immigrant soldiers received generous payment from the British government when they settled in Canada and the Colonies.

Space prohibits me from going into more details. I learned so much about the prominent leaders of this period; names such as McTavish, McGillivray, MacDonell, MacDonald, MacMillan, Murray, Fraser and Nairne resonate. In his book, Allison never ceased to amaze me with his display of knowledge. The research it entailed is incredible.

However, I end with Sam Allison's observation: "There are hundreds of thousands of French-speaking Canadians descended from Scots ... Canadian history writes about 'two solitudes' – the French and the English. ... the Canadian concept of two founding nations is a false dichotomy." In fact there were three! 

News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

Michael Kenneally, Principal

Special Announcement

Because of the generosity of donors to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, I am pleased to announce a new awards programme for students in the Major in Irish Studies. Students in the Major who meet eligibility requirements will receive full fee remission of \$3,000 annually. The requirements include maintaining a record of academic excellence, registering as a full-time student, and enrolling in a minimum number of Irish Studies courses each semester. The full list of requirements appears on the School's website: www.cdnirish.concordia.ca These awards will help students, who otherwise might need to work many hours, to concentrate on their studies and thus make their university experience more successful.

The flexibility of academic programmes at Concordia means that students can combine the programme of Irish Studies with other areas of study. Rather than choosing one programme over another, students can combine Irish Studies with other programmes.

Why might students enroll in Irish Studies? Of course, there is the richness of Irish culture and history, but beyond these valuable educational experiences, students will also learn about issues that have relevance beyond Ireland's shores. Specific aspects of Ireland's history – colonization, post-colonialism, famine, rebellion, civil war, partition, sectarian conflict, linguistic and cultural nationalism, literary revival, cultural nationalism, the rise and fall of the Celtic Tiger, a world-wide diaspora, global music and dance – all offer case studies that have

relevance in many other international contexts. Ireland, therefore, offers a unique lens offering insight into many of today's global problems.

Students will learn in particular about the challenges and accomplishments of Irish immigrants in Canada and elsewhere, and thereby discover an instructive story that has parallels with other groups and with society at large.

Of equal significance to students who are still trying to decide on their careers, the multidisciplinary nature of Irish Studies allows them to keep their options open. Rather than committing to one area of study, students can explore a range of disciplines. As well, our small classes taught by dedicated professors help to develop students' critical thinking, analytic skills, and effective oral and written communication. Students will also be eligible for funded field trips to Ireland during the summer, academic exchange with Irish Universities, and job internships in Montreal and Ireland.

As the only North American university offering a degree on modern Ireland and the Irish abroad, the multidisciplinary programmes of Irish Studies at Concordia provide a solid foundation for careers in fields such as teaching, law, media, arts, business, community affairs, international development, civil service, human resources, etc. Irish Studies, then, creates unique opportunities for students to achieve new self-understanding and follow exciting options in the future.

The School's Course Offerings in Winter 2016

The Global Irish

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

Irish and Jewish Identities: National and International Dimensions

James Joyce

The Irish Literary Revival

Contemporary Irish Theatre

Irish Performance Studies

Celtic Christianity (online course)

*For information or registration assistance, contact Matina Skalkogiannis:
514-848-2424, ext. 8711
cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca*

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



In the papers, November 2015

By Paul Dunne

End of an era

There's something very sad about the news that Sir Tony O'Reilly declared bankruptcy in the Bahamas this week (I'm writing this on November 22nd). Not so much the financial side, mind you. After all he gets to keep a nice home in the Bahamas, a chateau in France and a wife worth about €300m. No it's more about the arc of his life or, to be precise, that the shape of his life is arc-shaped and not the upward slope it was until a few years ago. I mean what a life! He started off as an amateur rugby international - before the game became professional - and still holds the record of the longest playing career (though not continuous) of 15 years and 23 days of any player on the Irish team. But it was his considerable talent off the field that propelled him to the top of the industrial ladder where over the decades he has variously been the man who developed the still famous Kerrygold brand, was the first non-family member to head the Heinz (ketchup etc.) corporation in the US, was a major shareholder of Waterford crystal, Independent newspapers (including the Irish and London Independent newspapers), Fitzwilton property group and in his volunteer spare time he co-founded the Ireland Fund which was instrumental during the troubles in bringing children from the warring communities in Northern Ireland together and which is now an international foundation supporting a number of Irish causes. As recently as 2012 his net worth was valued in excess of US\$1 billion.



Sir Tony O'Reilly

He turns 80 in May of 2016 and this piece is not an obituary rather an opportunity to reflect on his life accomplishments so far. Tony still is the real thing. What he did required lots of talent and even more hard work. Ireland made him but Ireland was his undoing in the end.

He lost a fortune trying unsuccessfully to keep Waterford and his other Irish interests alive and it was Allied Irish, one of the banks that, paradoxically, the Irish taxpayer had saved from bankruptcy in 2008 that was itself an instrument in the bankruptcy of one of Ireland's greatest sporting and business icons.

Yet, as he showed before, when playing his 29th match for Ireland in 1970, he might still have another game in him yet!

Catastrophe

I'll pick this TV program out of the blue and use it to explain to anyone who's interested how to get good British TV over here without waiting for it to find its way on to a Canadian network.



Catastrophe is a very clever comedy being broadcast on Channel 4 (UK) written by and starring Sharon Horgan (older sister of Irish rugby player Shane) and Rob Delaney a London-based Irish American comic. I won't tell you anything about it but I will tell you how to watch it cheaply. Before I go any further, a little disclaimer: I'm sure this is not the only or best way to pick up foreign TV and I don't know if it's legal so you're on yer own and you'll have to do the hard time without my sending you a cake with a file inside on your birthday. I'll just whisper from now on so no one hears us, OK? First, you need to get apps from the various TV stations that rebroadcast episodes on demand of their TV content. But beware, and here's the first trick, the UK stations will only deliver full UK content to UK residents and, dear readers, you're not. So you have to dig a virtual tunnel under the Atlantic and place your computer, iPad etc. in a UK living room because the TV stations can detect from your IP address where you are connecting from and won't deliver to Canada. I use a very friendly app called "Hola". It costs \$5 per month but has an edge over the free services I've tried because once installed it's a breeze to switch on and off. But you may also need to get a UK iTunes account to be able to download the local apps and that's a wee bit more complicated but not so much. Here's a link that will help: <http://www.redmondpie.com/how-to-create-us-uk-or-any-app-store-itunes-account-anywhere-in-the-world/>

Now if you're a hardcore fan of UK TV, I recommend a site called watchuktvonline.com which is a subscription service costing about \$20 per month but it gives you full access to all UK TV channels live (including Sky!) – best for sports events - and on-demand access to all programming for a week after broadcast. You don't need Hola for this service and it's very easy to use but the interface is a wee bit clunky. Anyway, if you need any help or you have suggestions of even better ways, just write to Nuacht and they will put us in touch by email.

Discover *Catastrophe* if it's your cup of tea or try *The Returned* on Channel 4 which I heartily recommend or pick up *Homeland* and *Fargo* and, of course, get your *Corrie* fix without having to wait for the CBC.



In and Around town

UIS Christmas Draw

Upcoming on Sunday November 29th is the annual Christmas Draw to fund the organization's Christmas Basket project. Preceded by a short general meeting that begins at 1:30 p.m. at St. John Brebeuf Church in LaSalle, the afternoon is an occasion to gather in a social setting for a good cause. The United Irish Societies, through the raffle, finances the assembly and distribution of roughly sixty baskets to vulnerable families mainly in the Southwest, Verdun, and LaSalle boroughs.

ICCC's Christmas Reception has new venue

The 24th Annual Ireland-Canada Christmas Reception takes place on Tuesday December 1st from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This year the event will be held downtown at the Sheraton Centre (37th floor), 1201 Rene-Levesque West.

Guests of Honour will be His Excellency, Dr. Ray Bassett, Ireland's Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Nick Baker, the British Consul General in Montreal and Dr. Michael Kenneally, Ireland's Honorary Consul-General in Montreal.

Full details of the Reception can be found at <http://www.icccmtl.com/event/iccc-christmas-reception>

We encourage you to reserve your tickets ahead either using PayPal on the website or by advising anne@icccmtl.com. All are welcome to share the Christmas cheer and we look forward to seeing you there.

Annual St. Patrick's Society Christmas reception

During the year, you encourage the Society with your donations and participation at the events it organizes to support the community. Every Christmas, a reception is held to thank you for your involvement in the community and to cherish you as a member of the Montreal Irish family. Society president, Jim Killin, invites members to join him from 7:00 p.m. onwards at Hurley's Pub, 1225 Crescent Street, on December 10. Please RSVP by December 7 by contacting Erin Matheson at 514-481-1346 or at office@spsmtl.com.

Want to be a Queen or a Princess?

Each year since 1956 the United Irish Societies of Montreal has organized a contest to select a queen and princesses for the annual parade. Originally called the Queen's Pageant and held at the Sailor's Club in Old Montreal, today the Selection Evening is a public speaking contest (location to be determined). This year it will take place on Saturday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are 25\$ (adults) or 12\$ (children under 12).

Individuals interested in competing in this event must be: of Irish descent; single female (18-25 years old); Canadian citizen and permanent resident of the Montreal area; and willing to attend functions during February and March, mainly on weekends

The Selection Evening is an opportunity for the participants to: explore their Irish roots; meet new and interesting people; attend gala events (Queen and Court); travel to Ireland (Queen); and receive many gifts.

Contact Elizabeth Quinn (equinn17@videotron.ca) for further information. Buy your tickets from her! Round tables of ten are available for your family and friends to share and participate in the excitement of this special evening. The evening is enhanced with the inclusion of Irish entertainment (dance and song). There is no food served at this event, but there is a cash bar.

Easter 1916 – 100th Anniversary

The 100th anniversary of the historic Easter Rising, the event which led to the independence of Ireland, will be marked by a reception on Friday, March 18th from 5 – 7 p.m. The event will be held at the Royal Montreal Curling Club, 1850 de Maisonneuve West. Tickets are \$20 and will include two drinks and appetisers. There will be music and speakers, including the Honourable Warren Allmand, PC QC and a special guest from Ireland. The event is sponsored by the Coalition for Peace in Ireland, Friends of Sinn Fein (Canada), and the Montreal 1916 Committee. This will be one of the many events taking place both in Ireland and all over North America to mark this seminal moment in Irish history. For further information, call 514-723-7439.



Everyone at Nuacht wishes you a Merry and Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Enjoyable New Year



People

We would like to welcome the following as members of St. Patrick's Society: **Dr. Ray Bassett** (Honorary), **Patricia Bassett** (Honorary), **Paul Brogan**, **Kevin Callahan**, **Neville-Warren Cloutier**, **Allison Cordner**, **Chris Hebert**, **Jim McDermott** (Returning – and regular, prolific contributor to *Nuacht*), **Caitlin Moynan**, **Willis Sheppard**, **Kathy Sheppard**, **Kenneth Woffenden** (former high-school student of your Editor), and **Ryan Young**. The Society looks forward to seeing them at our upcoming events.

The weekend of October 23-25 saw **Catharine McKenty** in Toronto attending the 10th Educational Conference on Mental Health entitled "Caring Together: Addiction, Homelessness, Forensics & Mental Illness." The keynote address, the Neil McKenty Inaugural Memorial lecture, was delivered by Dr. Peter Selby on Addiction as a Biopsychosocial Developmental Disorder. Following the conference, many participants took home copies of *Neil McKenty Live*, the very popular biography of this esteemed former Society member.

Larry Doyle, late of Montreal and the Montreal Irish and Town of Mount Royal Rugby Clubs, died peacefully at the age of 82 in mid-April, surrounded by his family. He was a loving husband to Jane and a wonderful father to Christopher (Sarah), Mary-Anne (David), Siobhan (Peter) and Marie-Claire (Carson). Pappa Grumps will be sadly missed by his grandchildren, Emma, Caleb, Alyssa, Grayson, Carter, Cian and Regan and all of his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews in Liverpool.

A renowned wit and raconteur, not a bad rugby player even when over 60 and always ready to burst into song although, if we're honest and his membership of the Burlington Welsh Male Voice Choir notwithstanding, he was not blessed with the pipes of Pavarotti. He lived life to the fullest, valued family above all and loved his many friends from around the world and always looked

forward to his next rugby game, or a beer, or two or more ... occasionally. He had a wicked sense of humour that on occasion lapsed into folk-wisdom of sorts. For example, a new father of a first-born lamented to him how tired he and the mother felt and Larry, father of three daughters and son, quipped, "Don't worry about it son, you'll never feel rested again!" On another occasion the ever energetic Larry, rushing, sans handwashing, from the Carabonaire tavern washroom in Alexis Nihon Plaza, where many a Saturday afternoon was spent, he was heard to say, "You only have to wash if you wet your fingers!" Born and raised in Liverpool – in his view "... the real capital of Ireland" – he truly was a citizen of the world.



Larry Doyle,

By profession a management consultant of consummate skill beloved of his clients, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant in his 50s, became a reluctant banker with BMO and ultimately was dragged kicking and screaming to Toronto where, thanks to Jane, he settled into a very good life in Oakville. Corporate life and Larry were not a good fit and eventually he bowed out gracefully probably adopting the philosophy of his life-long friend Tom Reid, a former Irish international and British Lyon rugby player, whose view on work was "Well, if it was any good the jet-set would have discovered it a long time ago!" Of Larry it may truly be said, he will be missed.

A Funeral Mass took place at Saint Dominic Parish - 2415 Rebecca St., Oakville, ON L6L 2B1, on May 14th at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Good Shepherd Centres www.goodshepherdcentres.ca/donate.htm or to The University of Guelph –

cont. p. 19

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People (cont.)

A long-time member, and former vice-president of St. Patrick's Society, **Ned Eustace**, has recently been nominated for the Ebola Medal. Presented by the British government, the medal is in recognition of the bravery and hard work of thousands of people who helped to tackle Ebola in West Africa. It is expected to go to over 3,000 people who travelled from the UK and Commonwealth to work in high risk areas to stop the spread of the disease.

This is the first time a medal has been created specifically to recognise those who have tackled a humanitarian crisis. It shows a flame on a background depicting the Ebola virus – above this are the words “For Service” and below “Ebola Epidemic West Africa.” The obverse bears a portrait of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth.

The medal will be awarded to military and civilian personnel who have been tackling Ebola on behalf of the UK in West Africa such as people from our armed forces, doctors and nurses from the NHS, laboratory specialists and members of the civil service and non-governmental organisations. Ned qualifies having spent a few years in Sierra Leone where he is still hard at work!

Prime Minister, David Cameron, said:

“The Ebola outbreak was one of the most devastating epidemics of our generation but we managed to stop its spread thanks to the hard work of British people who travelled to West Africa. As a result of their efforts, many lives were saved and the outbreak contained. This medal is about paying tribute to those people. They put themselves at considerable personal risk and we owe them a debt of gratitude.”

Thank you!

The editorial board of *Nuacht* would like to thank the following contributors for submitting articles and/or ideas for this issue of the newsletter:

David Crandall
Leo Delaney
Lynn Doyle
Paul Doyle
Paul Dunne
Ned Eustace
Stephen Fogarty
Margaret Forrest
John Halpin
The Hogan family
Dr. Michael Kenneally
Lauren Maloney
Carol McCormick
Jim McDermott
Catharine McKenty
Paul Loftus
Scott Phelan
Hubert Radoux
Pat Short

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

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2015-2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2015-2016

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION
Nov. 28	Tara Golf, Get-together, 1277 Shevchenko Boul., LaSalle, 4.p.m. then supper at Brasserie des Rapides	Joan Tousaw 487-2863
Nov. 28	Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Football Co-Ed Superleague at Concordia's Stinger Dome, noon	www.montrealshamrocks.com
Nov. 29	UIS General Meeting & Christmas Draw, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Dec. 1	ICCC Christmas Reception, Centre Sheraton Montreal Hotel, 6:00 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Dec. 4	Innisfail Annual Christmas Party (members \$10.00/guests \$12.00), NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
Dec. 12	Montreal Shamrocks Annual End-of-Year Banquet and Awards Nignt, Aria Resataurant,700 la Gauchetière	www.montrealshamrocks.com
Dec. 19	UIS Christmas Basket Delivery, 8: 00 a.m.	jeskelton@videotron.ca
Dec. 24	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Jan. 17	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Jan. 22	Innisfail "Kick-Off" Céili, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve, 7:30 p.m.	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
Jan. 28	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Feb. 6	UIS 61 st Queen's Selection Evening, location TBD, 7:00 p.m.	equinn17@videotron.ca
Feb. 14	General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Feb. TBA	Flag Raising, noon	ploftus@colba.net
Feb. 25	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Mar. 4	SPS Annual Ball, Marriott Chateau Champlain	Erin Matheson 481-1346
Mar. 12	Erin Sports, Irishman-of-the-Year Breakfast	timber32@sympatico.ca
Mar. 13	UIS Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Church. 11:30 a.m.	ploftus@colba.net
Mar. 13	UIS General Meeting, St. Gabriel's Church, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Mar. 17	SPS Annual Luncheon, Le Centre Sheraton	Erin Matheson 481-1346
Mar. 19	Le Défilé de la Saint-Patrick de Québec	www.qcpatrick.com/contact
Mar. 20	UIS 193 rd Consecutive St. Patrick's Parade. noon	director@montrealirishparade.com
Apr. 2	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, location TBD, 6 p.m.	coach_shawn12@hotmail.com
Apr. 15	Innisfail Pasta Night, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve, 7:30 p.m.	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
Apr. 17	UIS Mass for Deceased Members & General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	ploftus@colba.net
May 7	Innisfail Mass for Deceased Members, St Patrick's Basilica, (followed by Irish tea), 12:00 a.m.	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
June 10	Innisfail AGM, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
June 21	SPS Annual Golf Tournament	Erin Matheson 481-1346

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