

# The Society bids farewell to one of its greatest assets



By Ken Quinn

With regret, a mainstay of our Society tendered her resignation effective August 25<sup>th</sup>. Erin Matheson is moving on to other professional adventures. While we are sad to see her go, we are equally excited for her.

Erin began her St. Patrick's Society career in September 2007, when she was mother of one-year-old Molly. She quickly got to work as the Office Manager and didn't look back. Along the way two additional bundles of joy came into Erin's life, Caitlin in 2008 and Finley in 2011. The three girls were put to work at an early age. According to Erin, "they were excellent envelope stuffers and label fixers."

Back then my knowledge of who Erin is came from the pages of *Nuacht*. My first interactions with her were most likely during my presidency with the United Irish Societies where my observation was that she was an efficient and pleasant person to deal with.

But it was when I joined the Society and the Board that I really got to know Erin, to understand and appreciate exactly what she has meant to us. She was the face and voice of the organization. The most common response given to questions was "You will have to ask Erin," that's how instrumental she was to the success of the organization. She had her finger firmly planted on the pulse of this organization.



Erin Matheson at the 2008 United Irish Societies Banquet

I asked Erin what her fondest memory is of her time with the Society. She had great difficulty pinpointing anything specific. She has many good memories. She appreciates having had the opportunity to work in the community she grew up in. Her grandfather, Thomas Duffin, was a proud member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Her late mother and aunts have been long time St. Patrick's Society members.

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**NUACHT**

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## A word from the President

The summer season is now ending and fall is not too far off. I would like to thank all of our members who turned out to the various events over the summer. To say the least, it has been active with the Canada Day Parade, Golf Tournament, and Ambassador Bassett's receptions as he ends his mandate.

We are now in the planning stages for next year's events. The ball and luncheon committees have started to organize them and with 2017 being the the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Montreal, we are aiming to theme both events around this special anniversary. The Irish were instrumental in the evolution of Montreal and we will be proud to encapsulate our heritage in our events this coming year.

I would like to thank Paul Doyle, Wayne Hogan and the golf committee on a job well done. This year marked the 21<sup>st</sup> annual St. Patrick's Society golf tournament. The event was sold out again this year and all enjoyed a rain-free day.

We are planning our Annual General Meeting for members, to take place in mid -to-late November. A notice will be sent shortly to confirm the date and location. We would like to see as many members as possible attend.

By now all members have received their invoices for this year's membership dues. We would ask that you remit your dues as soon as possible, either through the website's pay pal option or by cheques sent to the office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Erin Matheson for her dedication and hard work over the years to the Society. Erin has chosen to take on a new challenge with McGill. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her new adventure. The Executive has started the search for her replacement and we will advise all members once a candidate has been selected. In the interim, it is business as usual, as the office phone and emails are being monitored.

Here's to another busy year ahead of us as we ramp up to all the events that truly make our heritage stand out in the community.

*Jim Killin*

*September 2017*



We would like to thank the following who contributed articles to this issue of NUACHT:

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### Proofreaders wanted

If anyone is interested in volunteering for this task, the Production Team would appreciate your help. Please contact Anne at [nuacht@spsmtl.com](mailto:nuacht@spsmtl.com).



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Deadline for submissions for next issue: November 7, 2016

### A ghoulish discovery: Quebec's Gaspé coast

In late July, archaeologists found bones and skeletons of at least eight individuals — likely five adults and three children — near Cap-des-Rosiers. These might be those of Irish immigrants who died in an 1847 shipwreck when fleeing the potato famine.

All available evidence suggests they belong to victims from the Carricks of Whitehaven, an Irish ship that sank almost 170 years ago during a storm off the Gaspé coast while on its way to Quebec City.

The bones which appear to be quite ancient, were likely hurriedly and haphazardly placed together in a shallow trench.

This discovery follows one in 2011 at a nearby location where the remains of three European children were found.

Historians believe more than 80 of the almost 200 people aboard the Carricks died.

For more details, check CBC TV news, August 3, 2016.



# News from the Society

By Dave Dubeau

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual St. Patrick's Society Golf Tournament took place on a beautiful summer solstice Tuesday. Members of the Montreal Irish community and those who wished they were Irish all gathered at the Bellevue Golf Club for a day of golf and fellowship.

The event first began in 1995 as a means of bringing the community together during the summer and raising money to support the many worthy causes of the Society. Over the years, more than a quarter of a million dollars has been raised. It's believed that this year's tournament garnered around \$10,000. The event is organized by a committee chaired by Wayne Hogan and Paul Doyle supported by many members of the community especially Jim Killin, the president of the Society. This year a full breakfast was added with no increase in price.



Photo: IPI

*One of the finest showing great form*



Photo: IPI

*And they're off! The carts get underway*

It is a fun event where score doesn't really matter. The Irish know how to improvise so foot wedges were allowed!! After golf, the players and guests met in the lounge for happy hour where 150 yd. drives became 250!!! It was an opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. A fantastic three-course roast-beef dinner was followed by distribution of great prizes. In recent years participation was down. However, this year,



Photo: IPI

*Denis Trudel and Ann-Mary Butts providing snacks*

the tournament was sold out with additional players on the secondary course. It really is the best deal in town. We're hoping it will be bigger and better next year so tell all your friends. Even if they don't play golf they can come for dinner. See you all in 2017.



## In Memoriam

The Society wishes to extend its condolences to the family of **Allan Edward Strong** who passed away on June 21, 2016. Allan will be remembered by many as a passionate Irishman and as a staunch member of SPS with whom he served as a proud and hard worker for the Golf Committee.



For further details of his long and active life, please check <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/montrealgazette/obituary.aspx?n=allan-edward-strong&pid=180453086>

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the political and business landscape in Ireland lost an important figure when former *Tánaiste*, Lord Mayor of Cork, and *Teachta Dála* for Cork South-Central **Peter Barry** passed away. Mr. Barry was also an important member of the Barry's Tea dynasty. Most importantly to us, Peter Barry was the father of Society Director **Conor Barry**. We extend our deepest sympathies to Conor and his family during this sad time. Please join with us in expressing our most sincere condolences at the Barry family's loss.

St. Patrick's Society member and former CBC sportscaster and Concordia journalism professor **Bob McDevitt** passed away on September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Jewish General Hospital at the age of 85. His career in broadcast journalism spanned 34 years – 27 of those were at CBC, where he worked in radio and television as a sportscaster. To honour their father's wishes, the family will not be holding a funeral, but McDevitt did ask for a memorial. No details have been finalized yet. The Society extends its sympathies to the family.



# Be part of the only Canadian screening of new high profile film on 1916

By Michael Kenneally

On Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, Concordia’s School of Irish Studies, in collaboration with the University of Notre Dame’s Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, will host ‘Reframing 1916,’ a day of public events to mark the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising – the historic moment when, in the midst of the First World War, a small group of rebels in Dublin challenged the might of the British Empire, suffering initial defeat but setting into motion a revolutionary process that ultimately produced an independent Ireland. Along with a morning symposium featuring Irish historian/author Brian Hanley plus speakers and panelists representing Irish Studies at Concordia and Notre Dame, the day’s main event is a free public showing of the Notre Dame-produced landmark documentary, *1916 The Irish Rebellion*, at 6:30 p.m. in the D.B Clarke Theatre, followed by a panel discussion with the film’s writer/producer (Notre Dame Professor Bríona Nic Dhiarmada) and other historical experts.

In a centenary year marked by hundreds of Easter Rising commemorations, conferences, publications, and other initiatives in Ireland and throughout the worldwide Irish Diaspora, Notre Dame’s feature length film stands out as perhaps the most ambitious effort to re-narrate the Rising in an accessible and compelling way that also critically reconsiders the event’s historical significance for Ireland and beyond.

A big budget production involving a large cast of researchers and archivists, *1916 The Irish Rebellion* features rarely seen film footage of the fighting and destruction in Dublin, interviews with leading historians, segments filmed on location across the world, and the narration of Oscar-nominated actor Liam Neeson (of *Schindler’s List*, *Star Wars: Episode One*, and the *Taken* franchise). As Professor Nic Dhiarmada explains, the story of 1916 is “a specific story but one with universal echoes,”

and thus the aim was to “pull back the lens” from Ireland and place the Rising in its international contexts, with attention to the role of Irish-Americans in the lead up to the Rising and the Irish Revolution’s influence on later anti-colonial struggles throughout the British Empire.

The documentary has already garnered rave reviews. The Irish Times described it as “that rare thing: a thoroughly engaging history lesson,” while Liam Neeson has enthused at the film’s success at capturing the Rising’s radical ideals “in a most delicate and human and powerful and profound way.”

The organizer of the event – Concordia professor of Irish history and Notre Dame alumnus, Gavin Foster – notes that Concordia is the only Canadian stop in the film’s current international tour, which includes screenings not only in the U.S., U.K., and Ireland,

but in France, Hungary, Estonia, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, India, and Argentina. Foster observed: “It’s fitting that Concordia and Notre Dame, the premier centres of Irish Studies in Canada and the U.S. respectively, are working together to remember and reconsider the Easter Rising, an event that was intrinsically collaborative as well as being international in its conception and ramifications. With our combined resources and shared intellectual passions, the goal of ‘Reframing 1916’ is to capture the imagination of the wider Concordia community and Montrealers of all backgrounds, while promoting rigorous debate and discussion of this pivotal event’s complex history and legacies.”



**Date and Time:** Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Seating on a first-come, first-served basis

**Location:** D.B. Clarke Theatre, Hall Building, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve W.



# Canada Day enjoyed by huge crowds in Montreal

By Ken Quinn

July 1<sup>st</sup>, commonly known as Moving Day in the Montreal area, is an excellent opportunity for friends and family to gather in celebration of the birth of our nation in 1867. St. Patrick's Society is connected to Confederation through member Thomas D'Arcy McGee, a Father of Confederation and Member of Parliament for Montreal West who gave up a seat at the post-Confederation cabinet table in the interests of building the nation. Next year is going to be a big year across the country and this city as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation and the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Montreal are celebrated.

This year's Canada Day Parade also has a connection to St. Patrick's Society. Honorary Colonel Jim Killin of 3 Wing Bagotville, whom we call our president, served as Grand Marshal of Montreal's 39<sup>th</sup> Canada Day Parade. Dressed in his military uniform, President Jim proudly walked at the front of the parade with such dignitaries as Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Stéphane Dion, Saint-Laurent Borough Mayor Alan DeSousa, City Councillor Peter McQueen, and Parade Organizer Nick Cowen behind the Colour Party supplied by Royal Canadian Legion Branch #4 in Verdun.



Photo: Ken Quinn

Honorary Colonel, Jim Killin and Saint-Laurent Mayor Alan DeSousa on the reviewing stand



Photo: Ken Quinn

Members Montreal's Irish community marching down Saint Catherine Street

Montreal's Irish community again participated as a unit, primarily St. Patrick's Society and United Irish Societies members, though numerous participants are members of multiple organizations. The unit was sandwiched between two pipe bands, a pleasant problem to have. Led by the Montreal Pipes and Drums and followed by the colourful RCMP with its pipe band and walking unit, there was little quiet time along the route.

The parade itself was a one of the better Canada Day Parades I have attended. Music, colourful costumes, and cultural communities were in abundance. Both sides of Saint Catherine Street were crowded with families and people, young and old, out to enjoy the seasonal weather among friends.

President Jim and friends made their way to the reviewing stand, where they were joined by more dignitaries such as MP Marc

Miller, MNA David Birnbaum, Hon. Denis Coderre, City Councillor Sterling Downey, and retired cardiologist Dr. Roopnarine Singh, the founder of the Canada Day Parade in Montreal.

At the conclusion of the parade, the dignitaries moved to a stage in Place du Canada where numerous speeches were made. Following these, the delegation moved further into the park to cut the traditional birthday cake under the protection of a giant tent.

To conclude the festivities, at least for the dignitaries, the multi-talented Mayor of Montreal accompanied a band on stage in its rendition of Robert Johnson's blues standard, Sweet Home Chicago. The celebrations continued for as long as the weather held out though I'm sure a little rain couldn't dampen the party.



Photo: John Gilroy

Dignitaries cutting the birthday cake



**Erin (cont.)**

Erin considers her association with the Society to be a family affair. From attending the annual Luncheon with her sister, to her daughters helping to stuff envelopes, to inviting her sister to help at this major event, she observed that “all in all it was a great place to be for the last nine years.”



*Gus Ó Gorman, Erin and Julie Dunn, 2008 AGM*

One particular incident has left Erin with a good feeling. At the 2016 Ball while President Jim Killin was speaking to those in attendance he took the time to thank her. The members and guests erupted in applause. Erin noted that “I never received that much applause before and it really meant a lot.”



*Erin, Mary McDaid, Sheila Showers, Fiona McGeachy and Bernadette Short, UIS Banquet 2010*



*Erin, Ambassador Declan Kelly and Sister Kay Duffin CND, Irish Embassy Residence, 2010*

Around the Executive and Board tables we shared many laughs while conducting business at meetings. She was efficient, knowledgeable, pleasant, resourceful, and stepped up to the plate when required. At the annual and special meetings Erin made sure the Executive was equipped with everything it needed. Of course all our activities ran as smoothly as they did due in large part to Erin’s attention to detail throughout the year

and especially at the events themselves.

While Erin has left us, she is not too far away. We know we will see her at our events. We wish her the best of success in her newly chosen career path and thank her for the years of loyal and dedicated service to the Society.



*Jim Kellett, Mark Gallagher and Erin, Tourism Ireland Lunch, Sheraton Hotel, 2013*



*Erin and Pat Short, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 2014*



*Mary McDaid, Erin and Kay Dunn, SPS Luncheon 2016*

**Editorial note:**

I cannot let Erin go without thanking her for all the support she has given to *Nuacht* and to me. She always kept me up to date on what was happening within and around the Society.

In particular, I’ll always remember her flair for selecting unique locations for such events as the Annual Christmas Reception or the AGM – a board room atop Place Ville Marie, L’Auberge Ste-Gabrielle, L’Espace Canal, the University Club, the Montreal West Curling Club—all wonderful venues-.

Erin, you will be a hard act to follow! Thank you and good luck!

*Photos: Anne Forrest*



# Two celebrations to honour Ambassador Bassett

By Fergus Keyes

Six years ago, His Excellency Dr. Ray Bassett was appointed as Ireland's Ambassador to Canada, Jamaica and the Bahamas, and last month he retired and returned to Dublin. During his tenure, there is no question that Ray Bassett, and his lovely wife Patricia, earned a great deal of respect and admiration across Canada.

A true gentleman, with great credentials, Ambassador Bassett seldom mentioned his many achievements including a PhD in Biochemistry and serving as member of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement implementation section.

He certainly won the hearts, minds, and friendship of the Montreal Irish community as seen by the two separate farewell events that were held in his honour.

The first and more formal event was held on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Atwater Club in Montreal and was organized by Dr. Michael Kenneally, Principal, School of Irish Studies, Chair in Canadian Irish Studies, and Honorary Consul General of Ireland. At this sold-out event, the majority of Montreal Irish organizations were well represented – including St. Patrick's Society, the United Irish Societies, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Erin Sports Association.

By Jim McDermott

Under a canopy of stars and with a backdrop of Irish and Canadian bunting, the Irish Embassy Pub's courtyard was the perfect setting on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The ambience was pleasing as Celtic music filled the air. It was a time to celebrate and an opportunity to raise a glass and bid Ireland's Ambassador Ray Bassett and his lovely wife Patricia a fond adieu.

Paul Loftus organized the gathering on behalf of the Irish community and the guest list included prominent members of the Irish community as well as executives and presidents from all our societies. Not surprisingly, several distinguished politicians



Photo: John Gilroy

Minister Kathleen Weil, Paul Loftus, Geoff Kelley, MNA, Ambassador Ray Bassett and Patricia Bassett

During cocktail hour, guests were able to wish Ray and Patricia a healthy, happy and long retirement. Then followed the formal dinner. While the Atwater Club provided excellent food and service, you could hear the buzz of laughter and good cheer throughout the room.



Patricia and Ray Bassett

Host, Michael Kenneally, and others gave entertaining speeches and thanked Ambassador Bassett for his service to the Montreal Irish Community over the last six years. In response, Ray mentioned how pleased he was to find so many good friends in Montreal whom he will definitely miss.

It was a glorious evening touched with just a bit of sadness that Ray and Patricia would be leaving Canada.

paid homage, including Tom Mulcair, Mayor Denis Coderre, Dominique Poirier, Kathleen Weil, Geoff Kelley, and Marc Miller.

All of the tributes went over extremely well. Mayor Coderre was hilariously funny, while expressing many kind words in honour of the Ambassador. I think his recent trip to Ireland led him to a deeper appreciation of his Irish ancestry. He is proud to be a McCabe descendant from county Cavan. Next, speaking reverently, Fergus Keyes glanced towards the Mayor and politely commented that the area around the Black Rock was in need of revamping. Let's hope restoration will begin in the not too distant future. Award winning novelist Peter Kirby also spoke and presented Ray Bassett with a copy of his new novel, *Open Season*.

Shortly before Paul Loftus invited the Ambassador to the stage, his daughter Mary Lynne Loftus, presented the Bassetts with an agenda on behalf of the University College Dublin's Alumni Association.

Ambassador Bassett spoke straight from the heart, reflecting on the wonderful friendships he has made within the Montreal Irish Community. He also praised and thanked his wife. Then, encouraged by Lynn Doyle, Patricia joined her husband on the stage. While the couple stood together, an ensemble from Siamsa played a beautiful rendition of "The Parting Glass," singing softly as the audience chanted and hummed along. This was indeed a priceless moment.



# Michael Collins runs for the Canadian-Irish community

By Fergus Keyes

Michael Collins is an award winning author of 10 novels, and an ultra long distance runner.

On a visit to Quebec City last year, he was quite surprised to hear stories about Grosse Île and the Canadian involvement in the Great Hunger tragedy of 1847. He mentioned that although he was educated in Ireland, for some reason, this period in Irish history was not really highlighted. He decided to make an individual effort to raise awareness of the many Irish immigrants who died in British North America (Canada) in 1847, and to raise funds for various Irish memorial efforts, including the effort of The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation to have a beautiful cultural green space built around the area of the Black Rock.



Photo: Fergus Keyes

Michael Collins arrives at Grosse Île on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

On Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, he began a run from Grosse Île all the way to Toronto – following the route that the Irish immigrants of 1847 would have taken. On hand to wish him well as he set out on his 30-day journey were members of the Quebec City Irish, including James Donovan, Joe Lonergan and John O'Connor. I was also pleased to be there as a representative of the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation.

He wrote a great daily blog of his travels including photos and videos on his facebook page at (<https://www.facebook.com/irishdiasporarun2016>), and he arrived in Montreal on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. When he reached the Black Rock, members

of the Montreal Irish community welcomed him as Danny Doyle, President of the UIS, spoke on behalf of all the Irish Montrealers and congratulated and thanked him for his effort. Michael Collins mentioned how amazed he was at the tremendous support that Montrealers gave to these poor Irish emigrants in 1847 and in particular the individuals who gave their lives in providing this care and comfort – like John Mills, the Mayor of Montreal in 1847, the Grey Nuns, and the many other Catholic and Anglican clergy, as well as regular Montreal citizens.

After a few days rest and a quick tour of our city, Michael was off and running again toward Toronto which he reached on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Robert Kearns, Chairman of the Ireland Park Foundation, Toronto, was there to greet him. As well, Victor Boyle, and I, were also there to congratulate him on his tremendous journey of basically running the equivalent of a marathon each day for 30 days.

Recently, Michael Collins presented the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation with a donation of \$2,000 US0 that he raised during his run to help with the marketing efforts of our Montreal project.

We thank him not only for these much-needed funds, but also particularly for his helping to increase the awareness of our Montreal project in other Irish communities in Canada and across the United States and Ireland.



Photo: Fergus Keyes

Fergus Keyes, Michael Collins, and Victor Boyle at Toronto, July 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 when he finishes his 30-day run. 

By Denis Trudel

## What a summer!

The members of Tara Golf were spoiled this year having enjoyed thus far five tournaments, all under beautiful clear skies. Our annual weekend tournament on July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> was held in St-Jean de Matha instead of the customary Craigwood, Lake Placid venue as a result of an overwhelming vote to stay local due to the value of the Canadian dollar. The weekend was a huge success! The course was in great shape, the accommodations were top notch and a great dinner was enjoyed by all.

With summer almost coming to a close, we look to our end of year tournament where the Tara members compete for the President's Trophy and the prestigious Aer Lingus Trophy. We are proud to welcome this year the Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club,

the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the United Irish Societies, the Erin Sports Association, the Montreal Shamrocks GAA Club and St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, all attending to compete for the Aer Lingus Trophy. In 1962 the Irish Tourist Board and the Irish international airline, Aer Lingus, presented the Tara Golf Association a trophy for an annual Inter-Irish Societies competition. This year, the tradition has been revitalised thanks to the presidents and directors of our fellow societies. Who will win? Tara Golf will be vigorously defending the title this year. Good luck to all!

Stay tuned for our next article in which the winners will be revealed. 



# Parade Queen enjoys revisiting Ireland

By Samantha Cambridge

My trip to Ireland this past August was not my first visit to the Emerald Isle, nor will it be my last. It did feel different this time around though, more important somehow. I don't know if it was because this was the trip graciously provided to me by the UIS and Air Canada and I felt like I was representing the entire Montreal Irish community, or if it was because this was an experience I was getting to share with my younger sister for the first time and I wanted her to fall in love with Ireland as much as I have. Either way, I had extremely high hopes going into this trip, and Ireland, as always, delivered.

Knowing that two weeks is not nearly enough time to see all that there is to see in Ireland, we hit the ground running almost as soon as we got off the plane. The first few days were spent taking in the sights and sounds of Dublin City. With a bit of Irish luck on our side, we had a few splendid days of warm temperatures and sunny skies as we explored Phoenix Park and walked along the gorgeous shores of Dublin Bay.

By far the highlight of my trip was getting to cheer on Team Canada at the finals of the GAA World Games at Croke Park, and not just because it meant cheering on my cousin Kelly Cambridge. It was an almost surreal experience, sitting in the stands of a stadium with so much deep-rooted Irish history while waving a Canadian flag and watching a group of born and raised canucks play a uniquely Gaelic sport. I was a proud cousin, a proud Canadian, and a proud member of the Montreal Irish community.

The last few days of our visit were spent exploring the unparalleled beauty of the Northern Irish coastline. We drove along the scenic coastal highways, discovered the myths and the realities behind



Sam taking a break on one of the Causeway coastal walking trails

the breathtaking Giants Causeway, and hiked through cliffs and caves alike.

The visit went by far too quickly, and saying goodbye was harder than ever. I could spend the rest of my life exploring all the wonders of Ireland and not have enough time to see them all. Needless to say, I'm already planning my next Irish adventure.



## Peter Kirby's latest novel won't disappoint

*Open Season*

By Peter Kirby

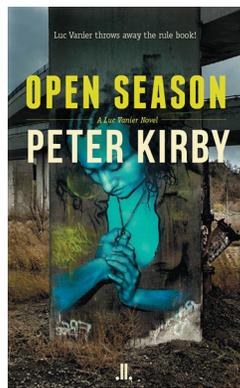
Linda Leith Publishing • 349 pages • \$16.95

Reviewed by Anne Forrest

The title, *Open Season*, of Peter Kirby's latest Luc Vanier novel, is very appropriate. One dictionary definition reads "A situation that allows or causes a particular group of people to be treated unfairly." There were many instances of this in the novel. It was also 'open season' for murder, graphic torture, accidental deaths, and an abundance of foul language!

The convoluted plot unfolds with multiple twists and turns as we follow the plight of Katya, a young woman from Ukraine who was exploited long before she reached what she thought would be the sanctity of Canada. How she fights for survival is a miracle in itself.

Our protagonist, Inspector Vanier, reminds me of his counterpart in Ian Rankin's Rebus novels. His limitless energy and stamina is remarkable. Perhaps he consumes fewer drinks than does Rebus,



but he also enjoys an interesting love life (and I wish we'd seen more of Anjili)

Characterisation is excellent, ranging from Luc's indefatigable and beautiful Saint Jacques, to the sordid sex traffickers, conniving politicians and unscrupulous business men. In fact, there were so many people in this novel that I sometimes got confused.

Launched a year ago, *Open Season* is now on sale. Also, kudos to Peter Kirby on being the recipient of the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime Novel 2016.

*Open Season* is the third of a trilogy featuring Vanier and set in Montreal. It follows *The Dead of Winter* and *Vigilante Season*. I sincerely hope that there is another one in the works.



# Sacred Heart welcomes largest incoming class in ten years with technological innovation

By Isabel Brinck

Older than Canada itself, The Sacred Heart School of Montreal welcomed its 156<sup>th</sup> class this September. While cherishing its storied tradition, the school is firmly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with a host of technological advances at the disposal of its students.

Beginning this school year, The Sacred Heart School of Montreal becomes the first among private schools in the city to offer all of its students an unlimited, online tutoring service called GradeSlam. GradeSlam is a trusted and innovative Montreal-based company whose expert tutors are available for students in every subject area 24/7.



This is not the only technological innovation at the preeminent English Catholic high school for girls. After a successful pilot project with Google apps for Education and Chromebooks in 2015-2016, the school is providing the internet-based laptops to all of its students.

All of this innovation will benefit a growing number of girls. Although class sizes remain purposefully small, with a ratio of one faculty member per six students, the 2016-2017 school

year will see the largest incoming class in ten years at Sacred Heart, with three incoming grade 7 classes.

To accommodate the growing interest in the school, a second Open House has been added to the usual one at the end of September.

Families with a daughter in grade 5 or 6 who is interested in enrolling at Sacred Heart are invited to tour the school on Saturday, September 24, between 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. or on Tuesday, October 4, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. In addition, the school offers a Student-for-a-day programme and admissions throughout the year. More information can be found on the school's newly redesigned web site, at [www.sacredheart.qc.ca](http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca).

## Building Renovations

The iconic school building is also being updated in key areas: a bathroom reno on the main floor; a brand-new auditorium with theatre-style seating for 350 people, and renovated boarding quarters on the top floor. Alumnae and others may recall that Sacred Heart housed boarders until 1993. With a growing international student population, the school has decided to bring boarding back, beginning in 2017.



## Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club starts them off young

By Mark Gallagher

The Montreal Irish ran another successful mini rugby programme in Verdun this summer, thanks to the kind support of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal. From late May until the end of August around 35 children (aged 4-10) participated in the program every Sunday morning in Parc Beurling. The children were introduced to the sport and with six committed coaches, they were taught skills, discipline and the values of team work, all whilst having fun over the course of the summer. The feedback from both kids and parents was fantastic and it was great that there were so many returning players from last year's programme. This is always a good indicator that the kids are enjoying themselves.

There was definitely a lot of enthusiasm from the kids and parents when the Canadian women's rugby team won the bronze medal at the Olympics and it was great to have a few players from Quebec involved in that success. Hopefully this success translates into growth of the game in Canada and we have even more kids wanting to play next summer.



Photo: Andy Pilmer

*They start them young! The under six group*

The Montreal Irish aim to grow and develop the game in Verdun and the south shore next year and welcome all players of all levels. For further info please visit; [www.montrealirish.com](http://www.montrealirish.com) or call Mark at 514-805-3243



# Brexit and beyond: general effects and what it might mean for Ireland

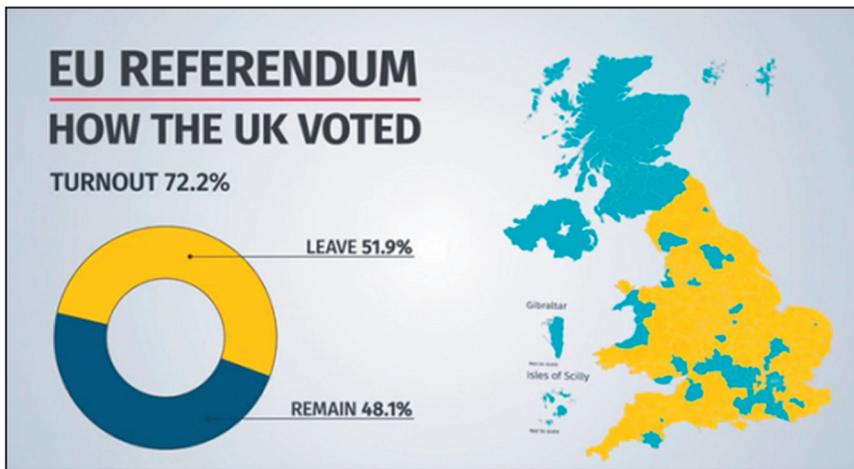
By Jim Kirby

In May 2015 there was a General Election in the UK. There were three main political parties going into that election, Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats. The Conservatives (aka Tories) had spent the previous five years in a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats (aka Lib Dems). The election was forecast as a close one which would probably result in another need for a coalition to be formed as it was suggested that no one party would have enough votes/seats to achieve a majority. There were other smaller political parties as well but the one among them that worried the Tories most was the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), as it was seen as one party that could nip away at the core Tory vote and might rob them or deny them the majority they sought. UKIP was all about migration and promulgated a very anti-European Union (EU) stance saying that Britain needed to put a stop to what it called mass immigration foisted on the UK by being a member of the EU, a group over which membership by the UK did not allow it to control its own borders and impeded passing laws by the UK for the benefit of the UK. This was the staunch UKIP mantra that caught the imagination of a certain group of mainly voters in England (not Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland), who would be seen as nominally Tory voters. So as the election was about to start in its campaign, David Cameron, sitting Prime Minister and leader of the Tory Party, decided in his wisdom to tell the UK public that if they voted Tory he would guarantee them a referendum on membership of the EU. This he thought would convince them to stay with the Tories and not consider a dalliance with UKIP. It really was his fear that core Tory voters would vote with UKIP costing him his premiership and government.

any threat to their constituency at that time. Therefore, David Cameron was using this process as solely a gambling chip to win election for the Tories and he was willing to play cards with the EU membership as his stake in the election game.

Cameron went on to win the election with a majority and was forced to keep his promise and set a date for holding the referendum. We all know he lost that referendum, having argued for and putting forward the case for Britain to remain in the EU. Now he has “fallen on his sword” and resigned. His own party was bitterly divided over the referendum but has actually rebounded by choosing a new PM, Theresa May, quite quickly. She was actually against Brexit but has balanced her Cabinet by putting in some pro and con Brexit people in ministries including Boris Johnson, the arch Brexiteer, as Foreign Minister. There have been immediate repercussions though for the UK. In the first month alone the pound lost almost 15% of its value. This resulted in the downgrading of the UK’s economic status by the three rating agencies, Fitch, Moody’s and S & P, so that the outlook for trade, development and prosperity is looking bleak with many predicting a recession. It does not augur well in the negotiations for a deal on Brexit from the EU membership countries who do not feel too buddy-buddy with someone who wants a divorce from an unhappy spouse. These negotiations will not start until January 2017 and then it will be two years before the ‘decree absolute’ is issued. Great uncertainty abounds and lots of recriminations are heard and calls for a second referendum, which will not by the way be granted.

Unlike countries such as France, the USA and Ireland, the United Kingdom has no written constitution. Laws are passed constantly by Parliament through voting on bills usually put forward by the party in power and then voted on in Parliament. This process, known as Parliamentary Sovereignty, has been in existence in the UK for centuries and there has been no tradition of going to the public with a referendum, although there have now been three occasions in the last forty years where they have taken place.



In the 2015 election, it should be noted that it was only the Tories who promised a referendum should they win. The Labour Party, seen as the main opposition, and who had up to five years previously been in power for over ten years with Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, did not offer any such promise. They did not see UKIP as

Other repercussions have also been felt by the official opposition Labour Party which has had a new leader since the election of last year, one Jeremy Corbyn. He was elected by the wider party membership and is very much from the left wing of the party and is not popular with the actual Labour Party elected MPs, so much

so that they have set a motion of no confidence in him to unseat him. They were never happy with his becoming leader anyway and it has been muted that the Parliamentary Party Members (PLP) was waiting for an opportunity to oust him. This becomes urgent now as the Labour Party needs to unite under a leader who is seen as someone who can win an election. Corbyn was divisive and with him they were unlikely to ever win power. Why is this important now? It is seen as crucial for Labour to

*cont. p.12*

# Cine Gael prepares for special season

By *Tim Hine*

In January, Cine Gael will proudly open our 25<sup>th</sup> year of bringing the best of Irish cinema to Montreal. As outgoing Irish Ambassador, Dr. Ray Bassett, told our audience at last season's special weekend of films commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising, we are the oldest and remain the preeminent Irish film festival in North America. We are working on some very special events for our upcoming season, which coincides with Montreal's 375<sup>th</sup> birthday, and will reveal specifics in upcoming editions of Nuacht.

We are also delighted to have added Dr. Emer O'Toole to our committee. Emer introduced *Song of the Sea* for us in 2015 and we are thrilled to have her add her talents and knowledge to Cine Gael. In addition to being a professor in Irish Studies at Concordia and a frequent contributor to *The Guardian*, her credentials and accomplishments are far too many to list here so we shall leave you to Google or introduce yourselves at one of our films.

Our tentative dates for 2017 are listed below.

Friday Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Friday Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Friday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Friday Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Saturday Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Friday Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>  
 Friday Apr 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Saturday Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>

We hope to see you all at the de Sève cinema.

Tim Hine and the Cine Gael Montreal committee



## Brexit (cont.)

get a new leader to unite them as they feel a General Election will come sooner than 2020 which is the official next time for an election. The party has their election for a new leader, or a return of the present one, in early September.

There is no doubt that Brexit has cast a dark cloud over not only the economy but also on the political parties in the UK and while it is now accepted that the break is final there is a major task ahead to unite the divisions among the nation's people. These divisions are seen whereby those wishing to stay in the EU are generally better off and are in good employment, often with healthy pensions. They are joined by the younger generation, especially the university level, who see opportunities in the wider Europe. Sadly those unemployed and on low wages with so-called zero contract hours, who have no guarantees of job security, see the EU as the cause of their plight. They also have strong resentment against immigrants and view the free movement of people in the EU as a major blight on their daily lives with immigration filling up their schools, crowding their hospitals and doctors' offices as well as taking their jobs. Hence this block voted for Brexit and now have their response.

So what has happened? The UK has had a referendum pushed on them quite unnecessarily by one political party acting in its own interest to protect its core voter group and thus its access to power. That referendum has unleashed immeasurable chaos economically so far on this country which will have lasting effects; a referendum that need never have taken place. It has created divides in families, friends, English, Scots, Northern Irish, Welsh, old and young alike and in a lot of ways created a class and intellect divide that will do untold damage to the public psyche of the British people for a very long time. No one wants to predict the outcome, but all the political parties want to be seen to be ready for what will be a very rocky ride to a possible General Election, probably after a messy divorce from Europe.

For Ireland Brexit holds good and bad. Britain is Ireland's biggest trading partner. Around 30% of all Irish exports go to the UK. On the other foot, Britain exports more to Ireland than it does to Brazil, Russia, India and China (the so-called BRIC Countries) combined. Ireland will not be allowed to negotiate separately any trade deal as it will have to act in unison with its EU partners. This could mean tariffs damaging to both countries. On top of this the question is being asked what happens with the border between the North and the Republic. Will border controls be introduced again?

On the plus side for Ireland, it will now be in the only English-speaking country within the EU, where English is the main language anyway. However, many see Ireland being able to play a major role in banking and finance, taking work away from London. Other areas are also research and development which carry huge EU grants. Britain will no longer receive any of these vast sums of money that are valued so much at British institutions and universities. Ireland already has major production in pharmaceuticals and research with the bonus of large sums of money coming from Brussels is something to be hoped for.

So the picture is really vague, very unclear. People can talk it up and say that Britain will do a deal similar to those of Norway and Switzerland who are outside the EU but who operate with all the EU rules and receive benefits from that cooperation and agreement. However, to get that status they have to allow free access, free movement of people. Britain, by virtue of its referendum, will never allow free movement to continue, so it will not receive any such deals. If anything they will be punished for the 'marriage break-up' because giving them an easy passage out would set a bad example to other members of the EU who might look for a similar scenario. Brussels will be careful to protect its existing membership. One word sums it up for all of us living here in the UK and in Ireland – uncertainty.



# Annual pilgrimage to Grosse Île a wonderful experience

By Lynda Premerl and Martina Branagan

On a beautiful hot and sunny Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, thirty of us boarded a luxury coach for the trip to Grosse-Île. Our coach arrived at Berthier-sur-Mer where we boarded a ferry for a pleasant 35-minute crossing to Grosse-Île. This is an annual pilgrimage organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians – and our first.

The 46-foot grey granite Cross stood proud among green foliage on the cliff top, giving us goose bumps. Later, atop Telegraph hill, the view which many Irish immigrants never saw was breathtaking. *Ochón!* We commented among ourselves on the nuances in Gaeilge found in the trilingual inscriptions on the base.



*The Celtic Cross from the ferry*



*The Irish Memorial – a mini pilgrimage*

At first, it felt like a labyrinth, dark, earthy and even damp in places, smelling of decay. In little nooks we found miniature sculptures. Suddenly the bright curved glass wall came into view etched with lists of names known and the “unknown but not forgotten” beneath. People respectfully and easily searched for their family names. Through the wall to the right we glimpsed *The Irish Cemetery* with its long trenches of white crosses in lush green grass marking mass graves. The starkness of those white crosses brought other graveyards to mind but *this* battle was for life.

Designed to shelter immigrants, this sole surviving prefabricated building was turned into a hospital in 1848. Housing a wonderful exhibition on 1847 and how the diseases were treated, we needed more time. Appalled to learn about an unmarked Irish grave under a landing strip nearby, we hope for a speedy resolution.

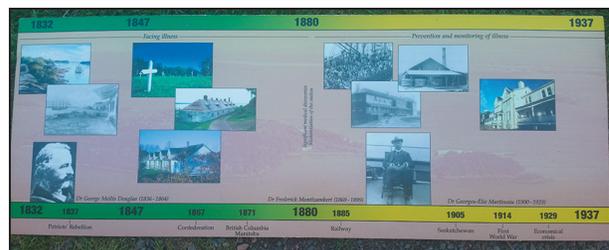


*The Lazaretto Hospital*



*Warning: the Disinfectant Station*

Two young women roleplayed officious nurses checking “immigrants” for contagious diseases. Fortunately for us, we received a clean bill of health and were presented with our “Preuve de Désinfection.” If only the disinfection building had existed in 1847, many lives would have been spared but those diseases were treated as miasmas back then.



*The Timeline (as presented by the second tour guide)*

The guides informed us that the quarantine station was in operation for more than a century and usually there were few if no deaths among the immigrants. 1847 was a rare exception with appalling suffering and extraordinary commitment from the staff, many of whom also lost their lives.

If you’ve not yet been to Grosse Île, you should certainly consider doing so. It is an unforgettable destination of great natural beauty, boasting breathtaking landscapes and a poignant moment of Irish history remembered.

Here is a link to a virtual tour of Grosse-Ile:

<https://www.chaudiereappalaches.com/en/activities-attractions/cruises-and-visit-of-grosse-ile/virtual-tour/#>

Photos: Martina Branagan



## The Irish dancers keep on competing

By Pat Short

This summer has been very busy for the Irish dancers in the Montreal area with many families travelling to *Feiseanna* in Ontario and northern New York State. This year dancers from the Costello School are competing for the first time and bringing home lots of medals mainly in Beginner grades.

The North American Championships (Nationals) were held in Orlando, FL this year and dancers from Moran and Short were qualified to compete. There were two eligible dancers from Eileen Moran's school and 38 representing the Bernadette Short School. Of these 18 recalled and placed in their competition with the following qualifying for the World Championships in Dublin, Ireland next Easter: Lucas Lawton, James Houghton, Michaela Isaacson and Guillaume Choiniere-Shields from the West Island. Also, from the Quebec City school, Gabrielle McBain and Lydia Boutin are all set to head to Dublin.

Belated congratulations are owed to Janice Young A.D.C.R.G. Janice worked very hard and passed the exam held in Washington D.C. earlier in the year and is now an Adjudicator of Irish Dancing Competitions.



Casey Costello and Isabella  
Parent

*Photo: Brant Hinkey*  
We have been advised that Natasha Woytiuk has now joined the full-time teaching staff at the Bernadette Short School. Natasha brings to the school great experience of all types of dance from courses she took at Dawson and UQAM. Her passion for Irish dance is deep rooted as she placed many times in Nationals and recalled often at Worlds.



Members of the Bernadette Short School of Irish  
Dancing, Orlando, Florida

*Photo: James Labrecque*

Our next big event is our regional *Oireachtas* to be held in Toronto's Sheraton Centre from November 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. We wish all competitors from all the area dancing schools "bonne chance" at this alternative World qualifying event.



## A sunny summer evening for Mass in the Park

By Fergus Keyes

In 1854, St. Ann's Church in Griffintown was completed. The Church then served as the focal point for the mostly Irish-Catholic residents of the area for the next 100 plus years until it was demolished in 1970.

Each year, Victor Boyle, and the AOH, organize a Mass in the Park at the corner of Basin and Mountain Streets where the Church was located.

This year, the Mass took place on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> and was well attended by many former residents of Griffintown, and others, on a beautiful warm summer evening.

The Mass not only provides a remembrance of the much beloved St. Ann's Church but also an opportunity for the many former residents of the neighbourhood to meet and talk about "the good old days."

As so much new condo development changes the very face and identity of Old Griffintown, and as memory fades, the Mass in the Park continues to honour both St. Ann's Church and this very important Irish Montreal community.



# Canadian Immigration news – September 2016

By Stephen Fogarty, immigration attorney

## Electronic Travel Authorization leniency period for Canada-bound air travel to end September 29<sup>th</sup>

The Canadian government has been allowing foreign nationals from visa-exempt countries to enter Canada by air who would otherwise be required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) during a “leniency period.” This has enabled many Irish and UK nationals, for example, to delay obtaining their eTA up to now.

However, starting September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, airlines will be required to comply with the new rules. This means an eTA will be obligatory for Irish and UK nationals flying to or transiting through Canada, unless the person concerned qualifies under an exemption. Here are examples of some exemptions: the person also holds Canadian citizenship (and has a valid passport to prove it); the person is also a permanent resident of Canada (and has a valid PR Card); the person is also a U.S. national; the person was legally admitted to Canada as a tourist, student or worker, exits to visit the USA or St. Pierre et Miquelon, then seeks to return to Canada directly from such destination prior to expiry of their Canadian permit; and a few other cases.

An eTA is valid for five years, or until the expiry date of the person’s passport, whichever comes first. The fee is only \$ 7.00. Most eTA applications can be approved in less than an hour, though some applications can take several days to process. Apply in time to avoid disrupting your return to Canada.

## PR Card Renewal is serious business

As stated above, permanent residents do not require an eTA. Indeed, PRs cannot even apply for an eTA. However, permanent

residents flying back into Canada are required to have a valid PR Card, unless they have obtained a special one-time exemption from a Canadian visa office.

We often meet permanent residents who submitted their own PR Card renewal application, did not give this procedure the proper attention it deserves, and as a result are facing serious problems. Often persons rush a last-minute application just before the Card’s expiry date. Questions on the form may be misread, or information entered by the applicant regarding his or her travel history may be the result of guesswork, rather than taking the time to obtain correct answers.

Doing a haphazard job on this important application may lead to long delays in processing the PR Card renewal, make travel very difficult during this waiting period, result in a possible determination of loss of permanent residency status, and/or cause additional problems for a current or eventual application for citizenship.

It is always prudent to have an important application regarding one’s status in Canada reviewed by a licensed professional who routinely handles such matters *before* submitting it to the authorities.

*Stephen Fogarty is an attorney assisting clients to secure their futures in Canada, in Canadian citizenship and immigration law applications, as well as providing special legal services for musicians, at Fogarty Law Firm in Montréal. His law firm’s website is [www.fogartylaw.ca](http://www.fogartylaw.ca). The views in this article are Stephen’s 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.*



## Montreal Shamrocks compete in world and Canadian championships

By Ronan Corbett

Eight female players and two male players from the Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Club were part of the Canadian team which took part in the Gaelic Football World Games in Dublin between August 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Canadian teams acquitted themselves very well, with the ladies reaching the final, and the men reaching the semi-final of the Plate competition. The players also embarked on a tour of Ireland playing some challenge games against local clubs in County Meath and County Galway. Well done to all of the players involved!

Montreal Shamrocks men’s and ladies’ football teams reached the finals of the Eastern Canadian GAA Championships, held in Quebec City on Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The teams performed very well on the day, with victories over Halifax, Quebec City and Prince Edward Island along the way, but were beaten by Ottawa in both the men’s and ladies’ finals. Unfortunately, our hurlers were defeated by Halifax in the final also.

In all, over 100 players from across Eastern Canada attended the tournament and a great weekend was had by all.



*The Shamrock’s men’s team relaxing in the heat on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Quebec City*

# In the papers, September 2016

By Paul Dunne

## Irish GDP growth in 2015? - WOW! %

In July of this year, the Irish Central Statistics Office revealed that the official GDP growth rate for 2015 was 26.3% which is a cricket score in economic terms. This is up “slightly” from their pre-announcement estimate of 7.8% which is already three times Canada’s 2015 growth. The 26% obeyed the letter of the calculation formula but maybe not its spirit. The main explanation for the explosive growth number is a phenomenon called “tax inversion” meaning that if a multinational company changes its tax domicile to Ireland following a merger or acquisition, the assets involved in the transaction immediately get counted as Irish assets. Ireland’s 12.5% corporate tax rate attracts a lot of that sort of activity as it did in 2015 which caused the very high apparent rate of growth. In simple terms the 26% represents growth by acquisition as opposed to “organic” growth. Some commentators put the organic rate as low as 5.5% but even that’s not to be sneezed at. The economic basics in Ireland are remarkably strong. Unemployment is down from a high of 15% in 2012 to 8.5% today. Property prices are tracking upward again and the country returned to net immigration in 2015 for the first time since 2009.

It all looks so good and then along comes.....

## BREXIT

I’ll declare myself up front to be no fan of the UK decision to exit the EU. That puts me in good company. This was not what the majority in the south of Ireland wanted, not to mention the 48% of Brits who voted against it. I’m not going to bore you with what I think the future holds for the UK economy because if I knew, I’d be busy counting my stock market billions instead of the mere millions I earn for writing *Nuacht* articles. I can write about the current effects however. The immediate and universal effect of Brexit is uncertainty and this affects the global economy including Canada whose pending free trade agreement with the EU might possibly not be ratified.

What is not uncertain, however, is that the pound sterling instantly devalued against the euro meaning that Ireland’s exports to the UK (about 16% of the total) have become more expensive in the UK and imports from the UK cheaper creating an immediately unfavourable trade shift with the UK. This is bad news for the Irish economy regardless of how Brexit negotiations with the EU go.

Then there’s the uncertainty about the border with Northern Ireland. Like most political frontiers in the EU, this is now a “soft” border meaning no immigration or customs controls. However, this is certain to change and, at worst, the Northern Ireland border could “harden” again meaning it would look like what you’re used to dealing with at Lacolle on your trips to the US. This would be symbolically negative in a country that has been tearing itself apart over the existence of this border for almost 100 years.

On the bright side, Ireland becomes the major English-speaking member of the EU making it the natural pied-à-terre for US companies wishing to establish a presence in the EU. (fun fact: when the UK exits the EU, no member state will have English as its official language. Ireland’s only declared language in the EU is

Gaelic!). A dollar not invested in the UK during Brexit uncertainty is a potential investment in the Irish economy. Brexit may not therefore be a bad thing in the long run.

## RIO 2016 – not so golden for Ireland

Ireland’s greatest Olympic sport seems to be managing expectations. There were six medals in 2012 one of them gold thanks to Katie Taylor. Before that you need to go back to 1996 for a gold when Michelle Smith-de Bruin won three and a bronze in the swimming pool, but we don’t talk a lot about that because of a subsequent four-year suspension for tampering with a urine test that some believe may cast a shadow over her performance in the Atlanta Olympics. However, she retained her medals, has always denied doping accusations, and today is a successful barrister in Ireland.

Ireland won two silver medals in Rio and congratulations to the sailors who brought them home, but unfortunately Ireland made the news not because of the sporting prowess of its athletes but the antics of the head of the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI), Patrick Hickey and others. Facts are hard to come by for now but the unravelling began on August 18<sup>th</sup> when Brazilian police went to Mr. Hickey’s hotel to arrest him at 6 a.m. for illegally reselling Olympic event tickets. As they recounted the proceedings, they were met at his hotel room door by his wife who claimed he had already returned to Ireland. However, noticing an open suitcase and men’s clothes in the room, the police were suspicious that he had not yet left the hotel and a deeper search turned him up - stark naked - in a room in the same hotel registered to his son. As I write, the 71 year old Mr. Hickey is languishing in a maximum security prison in Rio awaiting formal charges and a bail hearing. At best, if charged with an offence, he may be permitted to remain in Brazil under house arrest but he is unlikely to be permitted to leave the country before trial. Given the snail’s pace at which the Brazilian justice system progresses, he could be there for a long time.



Vladimir Putin, Mrs. Hickey and Patrick Hickey

Meanwhile in Ireland, an investigation has been initiated into corruption in the OCI. Yet, as it happens, the charges Hickey might face in Brazil are not crimes in Ireland, so had he in fact made it back before his arrest, an extradition request would probably not have succeeded which is another reason he’s unlikely to have his passport returned for a while.



# The Vallelys have a big river adventure

By Martina Branagan

Our famous intrepid adventurer Kevin Vallely, son of Marie Vallely (Cinegae) attempted to buck the modern trend for more screen time and less daily physical activity by challenging three youngsters to “fully immerse themselves in a rugged wilderness experience” albeit intending to encourage them to chronicle what happened to them through blogs, videos and photographs.

So, two families set off on Canada Day, 2016 to paddle the 1750 kilometer Mackenzie River called “Deh Cho” / “Big River,” by the Dene people, which stretches from Great Slave Lake to the Arctic Ocean with one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Kevin, his wife Nicky and their daughters, Caitlin and Arianna made it, realizing an ambition they’ve had for a few years. “Thank God!” said a very relieved Marie, trying not to remember some of the hairy moments she discovered while following the blog and occasionally heard about first hand whenever Kevin managed to get a few bars on the mobile phone.

In two fully loaded kayaks, Kevin with Caitlin and Nicky with Arianna, the parents willingly paddled mostly solo with the odd boost from “Catie Turbo Charge.” It was anything but an easy if rewarding adventure for everyone involved. They battled rough waves, high winds, multiple species of pesky, aggressive mosquitos, lightning storms, forest fires, curious bears, hungry, angry wolves, long days, late nights, heavy rain and eventually an unsatisfying predominantly carb diet which pleased none of them all the

while keeping up the attack on the planned daily paddle distances.

There were surprises too: this vegetarian family choosing to eat small amounts of meat to help with muscle repair, their tent becoming their friend, their refuge and probably the greatest lasting take-home gift, the northern sense of interdependent community which Nicky and Kevin are so delighted the girls experienced firsthand.

Looking back at the expedition, the Vallely parents are thrilled to see how their daughters blossomed. The girls’ composure amazed them especially when they witnessed what lengths their parents could go to protect the family e.g. Kevin firing his shotgun to scare off a wolf who got too close or when their parents, true to form, showed the duress they felt. Most importantly “we’ve come together as a family stronger than I’d ever thought possible, we’ve experienced something

we’ll cherish the rest of our lives,” said Kevin.

And to answer your question, no, it is Kevin who did the blogging and uploaded photos and videos to Instagram where you will also see some of Caitlin’s drawings. Well worth the visit!



Photo: Kevin Vallely

Exhausted and elated, they’ve done it!

Go to the following for further highlights of this incredible journey: Blog: <http://www.paddletotheartctic.com/> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/paddle2arctic/>



Portrait of the Phantom Wolf sketched by Kevin Vallely

On the 26 July 2016, 04:30 a.m., very near Normal Wells, this big white Alpha, nicknamed “The Phantom Wolf” terrified the Vallely family with his uncharacteristic up-close staring and howling. Even the shots fired 30 metres over his head did not scare him more than 50 metres from their tent. They found out later from locals that this dog eating carnivore was only trying to protect his pups.



## People



Martina Branagan

For the past 14 years, St. Patrick's Society member **Martina Branagan** has been a frequent and prolific writer for *Nuacht*. This issue alone includes articles by her (p.13 and p. 17). However, it is as a translator that she is best known.

While teaching Irish Gaelic at Concordia University, Martina met with Suzanne Aubry, who was writing an ebook *Fanette Uptown Conquest* and was looking for someone to translate some sentences from French to Irish Gaelic (Martina has an MA in French and primary degree in both languages). Aubry chose her as the English translator because she's an Irishwoman. Translating has given her wonderful insight into the process of writing at all levels and finally helped to answer the question Martina always had on her mind: Are translators writers? And the answer is a resounding "Yes." Published in November 2015, Aubry's first book is followed by the sequel *Fanette The Lumber Lord's Revenge* which will appear in November of this year. See [www.fanette-saga.com](http://www.fanette-saga.com) for more.

In addition to translating, Martina is working on two of her own poetry projects, one in Irish Gaelic and one in English. She is a member of the Quebec Writers' Federation. 



Ned Eustace

Congratulations to **Ned Eustace** on being awarded The Ebola Medal for Service in West Africa, a service medal for issue to the Armed Forces, and to civilians working either for Her Majesty's Government or NGOs in support of the British Government's response to the Ebola crisis that began in 2014. This is the first time a national government has honoured those who have tackled

a humanitarian crisis, and is in recognition of the highly dangerous environment within which aid workers were required to operate in West Africa.

Ned was never an aid worker but received the medal just for staying in Sierra Leone when many – including doctors – fled. He was present for about 3-4 months including during the height of the epidemic and when it hit the capital, Freetown, where he's been based for four years. He never had to wear a personal protection suit, but did unmask abuses in real time such as theft of donated drugs, shipments of urgently needed drugs held up in the port for months because bribes were not paid to customs officers and rampant corruption in abuse of donor funds by officials and politicians.

He's pleased to have received it but feels there were many frontline doctors, nurses and virologists who really do deserve it and Sierra Leoneans, who continue to deal with the unanticipated aftermath of Ebola. The UK government gave £498 million in aid for the outbreak alone.

The Society is delighted that one of its members is being recognised in this way. 

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## In and Around town

### Erin Sports turns 85

On October 22, 2016, Erin Sports Association will celebrate its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will be held at Buffet Il Gabbiano, 1550 Rue Lapierre, LaSalle, with entertainment by the Clahanes and DJ Soundcheck. Buy your tickets early, \$95.00 per person, to avoid disappointment. Please contact Glen Cambridge for further information at 514-668-1943.

### Papineau Cup debate to return in November

The Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation has initiated the restoration of the Papineau Cup at the McGill Debating Society. The cup was a bequest created in memory of Talbot Mercer Papineau, killed in 1917 at the Battle of Ypres. It was to have been presented annually to the best speaker in a debate at the university, but this rarely happened. In November (date to be determined shortly), there will be a series of debates showcasing well-known contestants. The subject will be a re-enactment of the discussions published worldwide between Papineau and Henri Bourassa (*Le Devoir*) on the participation of French Canadians in World War I. Check [www.jeaniejohnstoneducation.com](http://www.jeaniejohnstoneducation.com) for further details.

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

### ICCC invitation is open to everyone

The ICCC is pleased to invite you to the second Ireland-Canada Business Summit, on October 27, 2016 at the Iveagh House in Dublin. It will bring together Irish and Canadian representatives from industry, governmental bodies, cultural entities and public authorities to celebrate and strengthen the business links between both countries. The summit comes at a critical moment for Ireland-Canada trade, post Brexit and pre-finalisation of CETA. Ideas emanating from the conference could have an influence on the infrastructure and scope of further trade and investment between the two countries.

The conference will be opened by Garrett Monaghan, chair of the Dublin-based Ireland-Canada Business Association. Keynote speakers include Mr. Charlie Flanagan, TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Mr. Jean Charest, former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and former premier of Québec. Additional speakers include Danny McCoy of IBEC, Kevin Toland of DAA, Aidan Cotter of An Bord Bia and Ian McKay of Vancouver Economic Commission. The provinces of Ontario, Ottawa, Québec, British Columbia and Alberta will be strongly represented by attendees and speakers alike. The 2016 agenda, which is in an advanced stage of preparation, already features four ICCC Montréal members as speakers: Paul Loftus, Vivian Doyle-Kelly, Mary-Jeanne Phelan and Patrick Shea.

For more information, please contact [contact@icccmtl.com](mailto:contact@icccmtl.com). And more details will be published on [www.irelandcanada.com](http://www.irelandcanada.com) and [www.icccmtl.com](http://www.icccmtl.com) when available. 



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## 2016-2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2016-2017

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION
Sept. 18	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle, 2 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Sept. 21	1916 The Irish Rebellion, D.B. Clarke Theatre, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve, 6:30 p.m.	Matina Skalkogiannis 848-2424
Sept. 23	Innisfail General Meeting and Social, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
Sept. 29	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Oct. 1	Tara Golf , Aer Lingus Trophy & Closing Tournament, Hemmingford (Frontiere) 11:04 a.m.	Joan Tousaw 538-4311
Oct. 21	Innisfail Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
Oct. 21	Erin Sports Association 85 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Buffet Il Gabbiano, \$95.00 per person	Glen Cambridge 668-1943
Oct. 23	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Oct. 27	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Nov. 24	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Nov. 27	UIS General Meeting / Christmas Draw, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Dec. 1	ICCC Christmas Reception, 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, 6 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Dec. 2	Innisfail Members' Christmas Party, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
Dec. 29	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Jan. 13	Innisfail Kick -Off Cèili (members only), NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
Jan. 15	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Jan. 26	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Feb. 4	UIS Queen's Selection Evening, Plaza Centre-Ville, 777 boul. Robert-Bourassa, 7 p.m.	equinn17@videotron.ca
Feb. 19	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Feb. 23	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Mar. 12	UIS Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Church, 2157 rue Centre, 11:30a.m.	ploftus@colba.net
Mar. 12	UIS General Meeting, St. Gabriel's Church, 2157 rue Centre, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
Mar. 19	194 <sup>th</sup> Consecutive St. Patrick's Parade, Downtown, noon	Patty McCann 932-0512
Mar. 23	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@icccmtl.com
Apr. 1	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Plaza Centre-Ville, 777 boul. Robert-Bourassa, 6 p.m.	coach_shawn12@hotmail.com
April 7	Innisfail Pasta Night, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
May 7	UIS Mass for Deceased Members, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle, 11 a.m.	ploftus@colba.net
May 7	UIS Annual General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com
May 27	Innisfail Memorial Mass for Deceased Members & F. Tom McEntee Memorial, Ladies' Chapel, noon	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217
June 9	Innisfail Annual General Meeting, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn 450-671-7217

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