



Meet Ireland's Ambassador to Canada...

By Scott Phelan

Jim Kelly took up duty as Ireland's Ambassador to Canada in September 2016. He is a native of Dublin, while his wife Anne Martin hails from Co. Limerick. Anne has joined him in Ottawa together with their two daughters, Orla and Ciara.

This is Ambassador Kelly's fourth posting as an Irish diplomat. He previously served as Deputy Permanent Representative at Ireland's Mission to the United Nations in New York (2008-13), and also served at Ireland's Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels (2001-05) and at the Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark (1995-98).

The balance of his diplomatic career to date has been spent at Department of Foreign Affairs HQ in Dublin where he has held a wide range of positions covering different areas of the Department's work. These have included a series of assignments with the Department's Political, European and Development Cooperation Divisions.

Most recently, Ambassador Kelly established and directed the new

Policy Planning function at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he led policy development on key issues such as the implications of Brexit for Ireland, and Ireland's response to the refugee and migration crisis.



Photo: Irish Embassy, Ottawa

His excellency, Irish Ambassador to Canada, Jim Kelly

Before joining the Foreign Ministry in 1993, he worked as a consultant with the leading global professional services firm, Accenture, and prior to that he held civil service positions in the Department of Energy and the Revenue Commissioners in Dublin.

He attended primary and secondary school at Drimnagh Castle CBS in Dublin, and is a graduate of University College Dublin (B. Comm. (Hons) 1990).

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A word from the President

By Scott Phelan

Now that the Holidays are over, it may seem the height of optimism to be thinking of spring in the depths of a February deep freeze but as I think of the upcoming Irish Season, I can't help but feel that the warmth and beauty of spring will soon follow.

2016 was a very good year for St. Patrick's Society. Our events were well attended and financially successful and we welcomed many new members. A sad year too in some ways as we lost some extraordinary members who were also pillars of not only our Society but of the Montreal Irish Community as well. Names and faces that were familiar to us all, whose companionship and support we will dearly miss, like Gus O'Gorman, Bernie Woffenden and of course Nuacht's own Anne Forrest. We will meet again.

There was also a changing of the guard in our office with the departure of Erin Matheson to the Alumni Department at McGill University. After 10 great years with the Society, we wish Erin the very best in her new career. We'll miss her energy and personality but look forward to seeing her regularly as a member of the Society. At the same time we are delighted to welcome Katie Irving to her new position with us at St. Patrick's Society as Administrative Assistant since late November. Katie comes with years of affiliation to the Irish community, danced with Bernadette Short for many years and also teaches there. With many years of experience planning and executing events for major companies on a national and international level, I'm sure she'll become a familiar face to us all over the coming years.

With the untimely passing of Anne Forrest, we have also welcomed Martina Branagan as the new editor of our newsletter. No stranger to Nuacht, Martina worked with Anne and indeed with many of us in recent years. We are lucky to have an editor of Martina's exceptional talents and know she will build on the great work of Anne and Gus O'Gorman.

The upcoming year is shaping up to be an exceptional one for all of us at the St. Patrick's Society. Given that this is the 375th Anniversary of our beloved city as well as the 150th anniversary of Confederation, we have been working very hard to make sure that our upcoming events are special. A few dates that people are not including with all these milestones but are also important include the 50th anniversary of Expo 67 and last but not least our 183rd birthday on March 17th!

Certainly our 183rd annual Luncheon is going to be quite the event. Last year saw close to 600 guests, so well attended that we were refusing tickets and therefore decided to move to a larger venue at the EVO on Robert Bourassa Boulevard this year. Likewise our Annual Charity Ball, to be held Friday March the 3rd, is moving from our traditional venue of the Marriott Chateau Champlain to the lofty and beautiful heights of the Chalet at the lookout atop Mount Royal! As the unofficial kickoff to Montreal's 375th birthday, the Ball promises to be one for the ages and the not-to-be-missed event of your social calendar. For more details on both events please read both Carol's and Christie's articles in this issue.

Another not-to-be-missed event will be this year's Parade. Again, the UIS is going the extra mile and they have told me that there are many new and exciting features in celebration of the 375th. Come walk with us! Please contact Katie at our office for more information.

This year also marks the introduction of a few new initiatives for our Society. The most important of which will be the initiation of a new Strategic Plan for our Society to cover the next 7 years until 2024 which will be our 190th anniversary. The Chair of this new committee is Kim Hogan and her mandate will be to consult with all our members and sister societies to help your Board of Directors chart a relevant and successful course over the next few years. As well Conor Barry will Chair a new committee which will investigate the idea of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal Scholarship Competition to help us reach out to younger people and involve them with St. Pat's and with Montreal's Irish community at large. Look for more details on both of these new initiatives at the General meeting to be held June 4th at a venue to be announced in our next Nuacht.

Your Board of Directors are all wonderful dedicated volunteers who, like yourselves, have a love of their Irish heritage and know that keeping these traditions alive from generation to generation is important and rewarding work. That being said, your Society cannot be successful in its charitable, cont. page 3

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The event - not to be missed - Annual Charity Ball

By Christie Brown

This year's Annual Charitable Ball is not to be missed. St. Patrick's Society's Charity Ball, Canada's oldest event of its kind, will be held March 3rd at the elegant and beautifully redecorated Chalet at the Kondiaronk lookout of our beloved Mount Royal. A fitting backdrop for the event, the Chalet will be transformed for a special celebration of our City and it's deeply rooted Irish Heritage.

Founded in 1642, Montreal will celebrate its anniversary throughout the year, and we are delighted that the Annual Ball has moved to the City's most famous skyline, in the very heart of the city. In 2017, St. Patrick's Society not only celebrates the history but the future of our great city. Fittingly, to kick off Montreal's 375th year-long birthday party, St. Patrick's Society is set to host the party of the year with 375 guests. In honour of Montreal's 375th anniversary, tickets are limited in number – only 375 tickets are available, and we encourage you to gather your friends and book your tables early.

Our **special guests** for this special edition Ball include His Excellency, Jim Kelly, Ireland's newest Ambassador to Canada with his wife, Anne Martin. As is fitting for such a historical celebration, His Worship, Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, who remains a true friend of Montreal's Irish community and whose own roots extend back to the Emerald Isle, will also be in attendance as a Guest of Honour accompanied by his wife, Chantale Renaud.

Ambassador Jim Kelly, his wife Anne Martin, and two daughters, Orla and Ciara, arrived in Ottawa in August 2016. Canada is Ambassador Kelly's fourth posting as an Irish diplomat. He previously served as Deputy Permanent Representative at Ireland's Mission to the United Nations in New York (2008-13), and also served at Ireland's Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels (2001-05) and at the Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark (1995-98). The Society is delighted that His Excellency accepted to join

us as our Guest of Honour with his wife for the Annual Charitable Ball. St. Patrick's Society looks forward to officially welcoming him to his new duties and hopes that he and his family will enjoy their time in Canada.

This year funds raised will not only benefit St. Patrick's Society's own charitable, educational and cultural endeavors, but will also be directed to one of Montreal's most worthy non-profit institutions, The West Island Palliative Care Residence. Fittingly, our **Honourary Co-Chair** for this year's Ball will be Teresa Dellar, its Co-Founder and Executive Director. Along with her fellow **Honourary Co-Chairs** Her Honour Pierrette Sevigny and Maitre Richard McConomy, they cordially invite you to make a contribution to our Patron's Fund, and join them for the VIP reception at the summit of our great city.

As in previous years, there will also be a **Silent Auction** to help raise funds for the Society's endeavours as well as the West Island Palliative Care Residence. The residence provides active and compassionate care to comfort and support terminally ill patients and their loved ones. St. Patrick's Society is indebted to the organization as Nuacht's cherished former editor, Anne Forrest, spent her final days at the Residence last fall.

Tickets for this year's event include parking on Mount Royal, appetizers, a five-course meal, an open bar, and all the entertainment that will unfold throughout the evening overlooking our magnificent city. The entertainment this year includes The Directors Showband, the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dance Celtic Grace dancers, a string quartet, and Hurley's Irish Pub musicians. In addition, there will be a special tribute to Montreal with entertainment from the Irish, Scottish, English and French heritages.

Don't miss out – contact the office today or purchase your tickets through the website.



President's message Cont. from page 2

educational and cultural good works without the support and involvement of all our members and friends. In that regard I would urge everyone to become ambassadors for your Society: reach out to friends and business associates to join our Society and to do your very best to chip in by volunteering for whatever event or activity interests you, by writing to us with your suggestions and lastly by participating in the many iconic events that the St. Patrick's Society puts on for our membership and indeed all of those people in Montreal who have Irish blood or wish that they had!

I wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous 2017 and I look forward to meeting you during my next two years as your president.

Sonas agus dea-shláinte libh go léir! 

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Proofreaders wanted

If anyone is interested in volunteering for this task, the Production Team would appreciate your help. Please contact the Editor at nuacht@spsmtl.com

Honorary Co-Chairs at the St. Patrick's Society Ball

By Martina Branagan



Teresa Dellar is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the West Island Palliative Care Residence. With its 23 beds, the West Island Palliative Care Residence is Canada's largest free-standing residential hospice. Since opening in 2002, over 3,500 terminally ill patients have spent their final days at the Residence with over 14,000 of their family and loved ones by their side.

A McGill University graduate with a Master's in Social Work and a Bereavement Facilitator Specialization Certificate from the American Academy of Bereavement, Ms. Dellar was certified as a Fellow in Thanatology in 2012 and by the Association for Death Education and Counseling in 2009. She is a member of the McGill University Palliative Care Council and an Executive on the Board of the Alliance des Maisons de Soins Palliatifs du Québec. She is also active with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association and the International Hospice Association. She is currently a trustee of the Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation and a member of the board of the Jean Cameron Foundation for Palliative Care. Ms. Dellar has been celebrated for her many achievements over the last 18 years including "Personality of the Year" Award – Cite Nouvelles, 1999, "West Islander of the Year" Award – The Chronicle, 2002 and 2012, The Montreal Council of Women "Woman of the Year Award" in 2005 and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. In November 2016, Ms. Dellar was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross by Governor General, David Johnston, recognizing her contribution to palliative care in the West Island community, as well as her acknowledged leadership role in the field throughout Canada.



Hon. Pierrette Sévigny, an attorney since 1975, is a retired judge who presided at the Superior Court of Quebec, Montreal district for 17 years. An accredited civil, commercial and family mediator and arbitrator, she has spent the last 12 years in corporate, family and general litigation with her husband, Richard. Former professor at Concordia University, Lasalle College and Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal plus founder and former president of "Résidence Project Chance Inc." which assists with affordable housing for single mothers who are full-time students. Former delegate to the National Conference on the Status of Women Report, delegate to the National Conference on Women and the Constitution. Founder and Member of the Board of Directors of Montreal Catholic Counseling Inc. Pierrette is currently a member of the board of directors of the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex Foundation and president of the St. George Kiwanis Club, Montreal.

Maître Richard McConomy, an attorney since 1971, is considered a pioneer in the mediation movement since achieving accreditation in 1986. He has practiced family law and general litigation for 46 years. Bâtonnier of the Bar of Montreal, 1996-1997, he pleaded cases that established jurisprudence in many areas. Richard has helped train almost 1,000 mediators in Canada, U.S.A. and France. He helped to create the Child Support Guidelines. He is the Former President of Centraide Montreal, Former President of United Way Canada and Former President of the Family Law Committee of the Canadian Bar Association. He is also Former president of the Montreal Thistle Curling Club, of the St. Laurent Kiwanis and board member of Catholic Community Services. He is currently President of the Board of St. Patrick's Square, a non-profit apartment community for autonomous seniors.



THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL LUNCHEON TURNS THE TABLE ON MR. JOHN RAE!

By Carol McCormick

It's true! Finally our gentleman, Mr. John Rae, Vice President of Power Corporation, who has introduced many a guest speaker at various events, will now be placed on the "hot seat" as he is introduced as Guest Speaker of our March 17th Luncheon by none other than his own brother, Mr. Bob Rae, former Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre.

Some of you may remember back in 2010 when Bob was the Luncheon's Guest Speaker and his brother John had the pleasure of introducing him. A lot of light hearted comments were going back and forth between the brothers, a performance we all enjoyed. This time Bob will have the opportunity to slightly roast John. Our Montreal Mayor who was christened Mayor O'Coderre at last year's luncheon may very well join in with a few comments of his own since he was also introduced by John as Guest Speaker last year. It promises to be a Luncheon like no other with this combination of wit and humor.

We had to turn people away at the doors last year. We certainly do not want to do that this year. Reserve your place as soon as possible.

As mentioned, the Luncheon will be held on Friday March 17th, 2017 at the:

Plaza Centre Ville (EVO)
777 Blvd Robert Bourassa, Montreal

Cash bar Reception – 11:00 am
Lunch – Noon
Cost per person: \$95.00
Corporate Table: \$1,500.00

You will be served a delicious 3-course meal with complimentary wine for the Toast. Irish coffee will be available after the Luncheon, promised to end no later than 1:45pm!

This year we are adding two new features to the Luncheon, a Raffle and a Publicity Brochure for all those who would like to support our endeavours by purchasing advertising space for their company.

Among the prizes for the Raffle will be a trip for 2 to Mexico valued at: \$4,800.00. Tickets will be \$5.00 per ticket, 3 for \$10.00 and 7 for \$20.00.

If interested in our Publicity Brochure please call: Kimberly Payne – 514-922-8083 or Email: Kimberly_p2011@hotmail.com

Reserve your place now for the Luncheon and do not wait to be turned away. For more information, please call the office at 514-481-1346 or go to our website: www.spsmtl.com where you can pay online either by Pay Pal or by Credit Card.

See you all on March 17th, 2017!



Keynote Speaker - Mr. John Rae

Mr. John A. Rae, C.M. has been an Executive Vice-President at Power Corporation of Canada since October 2013. Mr. Rae served as an Executive Vice-President, Office of the Chairman, Vice-President, Executive Assistant to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Power Corporation of Canada. He served as an Executive Assistant to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Northern Development, the Right Hon. Jean Chrétien, from 1967 to 1971.



Photo: Power Corporation of Canada

He was the chairman for Mr. Chrétien's 1984 and 1990 leadership campaigns, and coordinated the Liberal Party's national campaigns in the 1993, 1997 and 2000 federal elections.

He serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Queens' University, Chair of the Capital Campaign of McGill University Health Centre, Director of BNP-Paribas Bank of Canada, Director of the Montreal Heart Institute Foundation and Director of Earth Energy Utility Corp.

He was a director at Power Corporation of Canada from 1988-2012. Mr. Rae graduated from Queen's University, Political Studies and Economics in 1967. He was named to the Order of Canada in 2006. He was awarded a Doctor of Law, *honoris causa* degree from McGill University in 2011.



St. Patrick's Society Community Award Recipient

By Ken Quinn

Lisa Forget, the 2017 St. Patrick's Society Community Award recipient, has nurtured her love for singing



and sense of community since the age of eight when she joined St. Gabriel's Parish Choir. Not long after, she began performing at seniors' residences, hospitals, and community events. For over forty years, she has been a

proud and active member of the St. Gabriel's Choir, volunteering as soloist and assistant to the choir director, Terry Clahane.

Lisa's passion for music led her to the Canadian stage and a fulfilling career as a professional singer and performer, traveling across the country in premiere musical productions, presenting her with many opportunities to assist charity and community groups while on tour, and in and around the Montreal area.

Since her early days in the choir, Lisa has performed in fundraising cabarets and concert evenings and later, as a young adult, began co-directing these events. Aided by many generous volunteers, she has donated her time and talent to a long list of educational, sports, cultural, socio-cultural, and community groups, including her beloved St. Gabriel Parish, Columba House, the Point St. Charles YMCA, and the United Irish Societies of Montreal. She has

produced benefit cabaret evenings with performer and dear friend, the late Geraldine Doucet, for the Roger Doucet Foundation, the Generations Foundation, the Children's Wish Foundation, and other organizations.

A long-time member and current president of the Board of Directors of Le Groupe Paradoxe, a work-reinsertion program founded in Point St. Charles, Lisa has collaborated on community projects with this non-profit group, which among other wonderful achievements, raises funds for bursaries awarded to students of the Sud-Ouest borough. As a way to give back and to get involved in the community, Lisa encourages volunteerism at every opportunity, enlisting the help of husband Shawn Murphy, their daughters Caitlin, Emily and Megan, as well as her family and friends.

In 2009 the United Irish Societies of Montreal recognized Lisa's sustained promotion of Irish culture by presenting her with the Liam Daly Heritage Award, joining other notables such as Lynn Lonergan Doyle, Patricia Burns, and the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal.

Lisa credits the love of her family, the many people who have inspired her over the years, the experiences she has lived in Point St. Charles and the Irish Community for shaping her into the person she is today. Wherever life takes her, Lisa strives to personify the vitality of her community and good old-fashioned values by which she was raised, as she shares her passion for people through music and song.

While Lisa's career as a performer and her responsibilities within the St. Gabriel's Choir place her at the forefront, her additional volunteer activities generally have gone unnoticed. It is for the ensemble of her community work that the St. Patrick's Society will present Lisa with the 2017 Community Award at the Annual Luncheon on March 17th.



Hon. Warren Allmand, Rest in Peace



A member of St. Patrick's Society since June 1998, Warren died December 7, 2016, at the age of 84 from a brain tumour. Buried on December 19, 2016 from St. Patrick's Basilica, we celebrate his multiple achievements and know that he has left a void in Canadian politics. He was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000 for his commitment to democracy, and his pursuit of Justice. Renowned in Canada as a human rights champion, he tabled legislation to abolish the death penalty in our country, humbly served Montrealers as a principled MP and city councillor for decades even though there was personal political cost. He was a passionate advocate for aboriginal rights, gun control and disarmament, and a true internationalist, working for world peace and social justice. He worked tirelessly with the Coalition for Peace in Ireland. In an interview with The Gazette in 2009, he summarized his belief in being politically involved: "I can say that in my 40 years, a lot got done. I've got a long list somewhere, but just for example, when I started out there was no Medicare, no Canada Pension Plan. To get a divorce, you had to get a bill passed in the Senate, hanging was still on the books, you couldn't buy contraceptives over the counter. Gays faced criminal charges for consensual acts. I could go on and on. Sure, there's been backsliding now and then, but on the whole we're pretty far ahead."

The Montreal Gazette wrote a [fine obituary](#). When Mr. Allmand retired from his position as president of the World Federalist Movement-Canada in the Summer of 2016, a wonderful [video tribute](#) was produced.

194th St. Patrick's Parade Royalty beam with Irish Pride

By Ken Quinn

For sixty two years the United Irish Societies of Montreal has been selecting a queen and princesses to reign over the annual St. Patrick's Parade. Originally held at the Catholic Sailors' Club on rue de la Commune and more or less a popularity contest, the event today is a public speaking contest adjudicated by an independent panel of judges.

Approximately 500 people gathered at the EVO Plaza Centreville downtown on February 4th for a night of entertainment and to encourage close to twenty young women of Irish descent competing to be crowned Parade Queen or one of four princesses. The evening began with an introduction from the master of ceremonies, Lori Graham, followed by brief words of welcome from Colleen Murphy, the chief organizer of the event, followed by Danny Doyle, the president of the United Irish Societies.



Catherine Barnwell, Meagan Coleman, Mary Lynne Loftus, Robin Brodrick, Sydney Légaré

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre was presented with his Grand Marshal sash by Paul Quinn, last year's Grand Marshal. He was also presented with a Royal Doulton horse by Danny Doyle, symbolic of a time long ago when the Grand Marshal rode a horse in the annual parade.

Sister Dianna Lieffers, pastoral assistant at Saint Gabriel's Parish, was presented with her Chief Reviewing Officer sash by Lynn Lonergan-Doyle, last year's Chief Reviewing Officer. Danny Doyle also presented her with a traditional walking stick.

The entertainment for the evening was a nice mix of song, dance, and comedy. The Melotonz, Rick Clahane, Holly Law, Shea O'Donnell, True North, and Terry Clahane performed for the guests. The dancers from the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dance absolutely wowed the audience. Comedian Jacob

Greco missed the mark. It happens. We're sure he will hone his comedic skills to the delight of many a Montreal audience in the years to come.

In the preliminary round of public speaking the women introduced themselves to the audience. Having been judged on stature/personality, public speaking ability, confidence, and their self portrait, the top ten women advanced to the

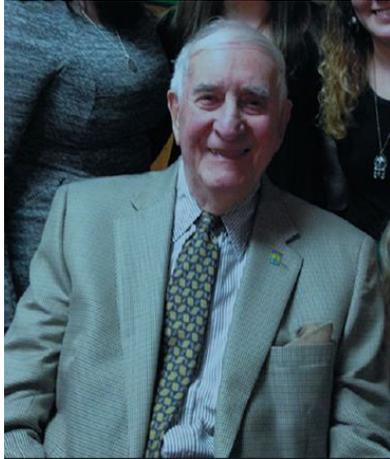
semi finals. In this round the women were given specific questions in advance to research and answer. Some of these questions included "Explain the Claddagh's history, meaning, and significance", "What makes Newgrange so important?", and "Explain his (Thomas D'Arcy McGee's) historical importance and his contributions to our community". Each woman took ownership of her question. Unfortunately, the final round was limited to the top five women. The judges definitely had their work cut out for them. Each of the women was asked the same question which they only heard once they were on stage and were required to answer spontaneously: "Explain your personal philosophy or morals".

The composition of the court has a St. Patrick's Society flavour to it this year. The Queen of the 2017 Parade is Mary Lynne Loftus and the princesses are Sydney Légaré, Meagan Coleman, Robin Brodrick, and Catherine Barnwell. We look forward to meeting them at the Ball, as well as at the many other events.

Comhghairdeas libh a mhná taiste!

Erin Sports Irishman of the Year 2017

By Martina Branagan



Last year, Anne Forrest said that someone should write a book about him and she was right. How can someone who has lived so heartily and given so much, not be an inspiration? Those I spoke to describe him as “humble” and “an absolute

gentleman”. The community is thrilled and sends their congratulations to Andrew Fogarty, named Erin Sports Irishman of the Year 2017.

The choice comes as no surprise considering his pedigree, the list of offices held and the previous titles bestowed on him recognizing his involvement in and care for the community but most of all because of his happy disposition, positivity, great sense of Irish humour, inclusivity and generosity.

Closing in on being a centenarian, Andrew Wilfred Fogarty has volunteered most of his life. Involved in our English Catholic Community for more than sixty years, Andrew has been President or Board member of almost every organization: a Founding Director of the English Catholic Council, President of Catholic Community Services, Director of St. Patrick’s Square, Co-Chair of St. Mary’s Ball (with his wife), and served on the Foundation and Centre Boards of the Lindsay Hospital and Father Dowd Home. When Catholic Community Services celebrated its 80th Anniversary, they announced a Dawson College Scholarship in Andrew’s name. He was also President of St. Patrick’s Society and Foster Home Recruiting Centre and is still actively involved as a Trustee of Montreal St. Patrick’s Foundation.

He has humbly borne numerous accolades and titles including St. Patrick Society’s Community Award, (2016), for a lifetime of community service, the UIS Grand Marshal of Montreal’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade (2013) and the Chief Reviewing Officer (1987). In addition, the UIS also presented him with the Ceremonial Gold Card in 2011.

He won the hearts of many a woman after the St. Patrick’s Luncheon in 1984 as he was behind the decision of the board of St. Patrick’s Society to allow women to join. But there will only be one woman for him, his best friend and wife for more than 63 years, Mary Loretta O’Neill (deceased, September 2011).

Beyond his volunteerism, Andrew has held top executive positions in both the Industrial and Consumer fields. He has also been a Director of the Ireland-Canada and British Chambers of Commerce.

Andrew received his formal education at the University of Ottawa, where he also completed his Canadian Officer’s Training and became involved with the Royal Canadian Air Force in equipment accounting and administration. In 1944, he was appointed Manager/Foreign Representative of War Assets Corporation in Newfoundland and with a staff of five hundred was responsible for the control and disposal of all Canadian Government equipment and assets in what became Canada’s tenth Province. He later held senior management posts at the Corporation’s Montreal Head Office.

Hailing from Ottawa, Andrew’s ancestry stems from County Tipperary and old Irish maps depict large territories as “Eliogarty” – land of Fogarty, testifying to the strong presence of the Fogarty Clan in that part of Ireland; and to this day, near Thurles, still stands Castle Fogarty.

Andrew Fogarty’s life and achievements bring honour to our Irish Community and we are proud to call the king of our hearts, Irishman of the Year 2017.



Front and centre at the pre-sashing evening

By Ken Quinn

On February 10th, over 100 members of Montreal's Irish community braved the cold temperatures to join their hosts in the Erin Sports Association clubhouse where they were formally introduced to Andrew Fogarty, Irishman of the Year, in an impressive ceremony known as the pre-sashing.

The members of the Erin Sports Association offered their guests an evening of lively music, good food, cold refreshments, and great conversation.

In an evening steeped in tradition, Francis Baddeley performed the Irish and Canadian national anthems followed by Father Joe Sullivan blessing the food about to be eaten.

Throughout the evening Lisa Forget and Terry Clahane entertained the guests, performing all the classic songs they are known for.

Representatives from the various sister organizations were welcomed, the names of the amateur athletes of the year were announced and the 2017 Queen and her princesses introduced themselves. However, this night was all about honouring Andrew Fogarty.



2017 Irishman of the Year, Andrew Fogarty, addresses the audience surrounded by former Irishmen of the Year



Andrew Fogarty joins an esteemed group of former Irishmen of the Year



2016 Irishman of the Year, Wayne Hogan
Walter Gregory & Bill Hurley (back)

After the many former Irishmen of the Year donned their sashes and advanced to the front of the hall in an impressive display, last year's man of the hour, Wayne Hogan, rose to speak about his experiences as Irishman of the Year before highlighting Andrew's accomplishments and inviting him to speak.

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

Photos: Ken Quinn



Andrew Fogarty sings "O Danny Boy" with Lisa Forget

Tim Furlong and his team must be congratulated for organizing this successful event. We look forward to a great and entertaining breakfast at the EVO-Plaza Centreville on March 11.



You're invited to walk or volunteer

By Lynda (McAssey) Premerl

Dear Members,

We are pleased to invite you, your families and friends to join the Society's contingent and march proudly in the 194th St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 19th, 2017. Please arrive by 11:15am at the latest unless you are a flag bearer or volunteer, in which case, you are expected by 10:30am to help assemble the flags and hand out sashes.

We will meet on Fort Street between Rene Levesque and St. Catherine Street. There will be NO float this year.

The Dress Code is dark coat and pants, no jeans please. Dress warmly and wear comfortable walking shoes.

The marching formation is as follows:

- Society Banner (carried by children from a high school)
- Montreal Pipes and Drums
- 5 flag bearers (Call me if you are interested)
- Society president with a director on either side
- Everyone else will walk FOUR abreast, aligning with the person ahead of you

The Reviewing Stand is at McGill College on the north side of the street. When we reach the reviewing stand, you will receive a signal from me to remove our hats, salute and wave. Then, we will put our hats back on, face forward and continue walking in formation to our destination, Philips Square.

Parade Dignitaries



Chief Reviewing Officer - Sister Dianna Lieffers nds
Liam Daly Heritage Award - Richard "Ricky" Clahane
Grand Marshal - Hon. Denis Coderre PC, Mayor of Montreal

Volunteers are needed before the parade to help assemble the flags, carry the flags, hand out sashes and afterwards to fold the sashes and disassemble the flags.

Contact Lynda at 514-817-0870 or Katie at 514-481-1346 to let us know if you are interested in being a flag bearer or helping out. Thank you and see you all in great numbers on Sunday, March 19th, 2017!

Lynda (McAssey) Premerl
SPS 2017 Parade Chair



In Memoriam Laura Kathleen Kilcawley



It was at the Irish Women's Network meeting on Nollaig na mBan, 6 January 2017 that I heard about the late Laura Kathleen Kilcawley who died on January 2, 2017, aged almost 86. Those who knew her shared some of her story and felt that she should be remembered as an advocate for social justice and a generous supporter for those less fortunate.

A native of Co. Sligo, she was 17 years old when she left Ireland. She first went to London where she worked in the civil service, spending some time as secretary for a member of parliament, an accomplished writer who helped her hone her own exceptional skills with the English language. Seeking new experiences, she came to Canada in 1957 where she decided to spend the rest of her life. She worked as a secretary and assistant to various senior executives in human resources at Domtar until she retired in 1991.

With a life-long love of learning, she read avidly and enthusiastically took courses at Concordia and McGill in their continuing education programs. Irish through and through, with a deep love of "home", she supported Ciné Gael and Irish Studies at Concordia.



What's new from Ireland?

by Martina Branagan

The [Irish Diaspora 2017 Presidential Awards](#) were presented at Áras an Uachtaráin on the 8th December.

Among them was Robert G. Kearns, a successful insurance businessman in Toronto who won in the [Business-Education](#) category. Kearns is focused on creating inspiring spaces in Canada that celebrate and commemorate the Irish presence here. He set up the Ireland Park Foundation, a charitable nonprofit organization, to celebrate the story of the Irish in Canada. He has been instrumental in creating the Ireland Park Famine Memorial along the quayside in Toronto and he is now engaged in creating a new memorial in Toronto, Grasset Park, to commemorate Canadian medical staff who died ministering to Irish Famine migrants. He is also a member of the Global Irish Network and has helped a number of Irish firms enter the Canadian market, including providing free office space for one company. He chaired the Ireland Fund of Canada for six years and helped raise funds for integrated education in Ireland.

Opportunities for Returning Diaspora?

During the holidays in December, the diaspora comes to mind and there is always the question about whether the holiday home might become a more permanent return. While the usual considerations loom (housing prices, schooling for children, taxation), the inevitable work opportunities become paramount in the decision-making. Despite the political changes and the pending implications of Brexit on Ireland and Ireland's economy, there is positivity. It would appear that legal, accounting, taxation and regulatory skills will be a boon as companies ramp up to deal with changes in those areas. For companies who may wish to be less reliant on trading with Britain, professionals with digital and international experience will also be an asset.

As the government is spreading investment across the country, opportunities will not be confined to the cities either, helping with concerns over housing.

The continued growth of research and development activity within the engineering, pharmaceutical, and technology sectors is still helping to drive recruitment in these areas.



Joan O'Shaughnessy, Chairman of Tourism Ireland; Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross; Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Joe McHugh; and Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland, at the launch of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening initiative 2017.



Global Landmarks turning green

The [Global Greening Initiative](#), Tourism Ireland's unique global campaign which kickstarts the promotional season, is now in its eighth year. In Canada, the landmarks that will "go green" are: Niagara Falls, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, The Distillery District, Toronto and Whistler (ski resort).

Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Joe McHugh TD, said: "The willingness and desire of so many to be involved in celebrating our national day is symbolic of the great friendship and respect that exists between Ireland and so many countries around the world and demonstrates the uniqueness of the St Patrick's Day celebrations. The celebrations allow us to deepen existing friendships, to strengthen awareness of Ireland and our rich heritage and to forge new ties. Tourism Ireland's Global Greening creates a visual calling card, a reminder of home to our Diaspora spread across the globe and sparks the interest of those as of yet unfamiliar with the great heritage that our national day celebrates. As Minister of State for the Diaspora, I know that the "greenings" bring great pride to Irish people overseas and reflect the warm regard in which Ireland and its people are held around the world."

The new landmarks for 2017 include: One World Trade Center, City Hall in London, Heron Tower in London, Plaça de Catalunya and the fountains on Gran Via in Barcelona, Pozzo di San Patrizio (St Patrick's Well) in Orvieto, the four principal monuments in the town of Cosenza (Calabria), City Hall in Antwerp (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the Cloth Hall in Ypres, Matsue Castle in Japan, Gwangandaegyo (Diamond Bridge) in South Korea and even a rhino statue in Nairobi National Park, as well as an Ethiopian Airlines airplane in Addis Ababa. And, the famous red carpet in Cannes (le tapis rouge lumineux) will become the 'green carpet' on 17 March!

Anne Gaynor Forrest (nee Smith)

By Martina Branagan

It is said *"Aithníonn ciarós, ciarós eile!"* No Anne wasn't a beetle, just in case you checked that on the Internet, although she definitely had verbal muscle to wage battles beyond her stature! Yes, there was something in her that I recognized - the teacher certainly - and way more than that - the intrepid learner too. In this era of ageism (and you're over the hill at 35 in some industries), not only do they say you can't teach an old dog new tricks but you're put out to pasture. Not our recently departed, dear editor, Anne.

Tid goa know?

When Kay Dunn's late husband, Patrick Dunn, took on the presidency of the St. Patrick's Society in 2001, Nuacht was an all-volunteer effort, including the design, presentation, graphics and layout. Mary McDaid was the editor at the time. Both Patrick and Mary handled the writing and editing but the technical aspects were time consuming and difficult, resulting in delays in publication. Pat persuaded the board of St. Patrick's to hire someone to take on this responsibility and "he knew just the right person", Kay told me.

It was Anne, a long-time friend of theirs who had just retired after 35 years teaching with the Lester B Pearson school board. A graduate in English (University of Manchester, England) and a qualified teacher (University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, England), she drew the best from her students: she successfully introduced the computer into her high school English classes, started a student newspaper called "FAX" which was widely recognized for its excellence and won numerous prizes and awards and taught her students writing, reporting, and desk-top publishing skills. Of course, it meant that she had to learn how to use the design applications herself and she did put those skills to good use beyond the classroom too, producing her choir's concert programs and even writing delightful parodies of friends and neighbours.

Although she knew no one in the Irish community except the Duns, when Pat asked if she was interested in producing Nuacht, she gladly took on the challenge. Ned Eustace was the VP in charge of communications, chaired the editorial board and introduced Anne to the community. Jim Kirby, the late Neil McKenty, and Kay Dunn were part of that editorial board and did most of the writing along with Ned. With time, and as she became better acquainted with the community, Anne became more known and played a larger role than I ever imagined including administration for the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce and production of the ICCC Newsletter as well as editing and producing "The Canada Times" (The Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation).



Anne had a can-do, competitive spirit as we know from her multiple passions: tennis, swimming, skiing, duplicate bridge, choir (initially Island City Singers and then, Elgar Choir, St Lawrence Choir, which became the amateur core of the prize-winning OSM Chorus with Charles Dutoit) and book reviewer.

Nuacht - how did she get it together?

Anne says that "Nuacht" started as a two-page "mimeograph". It has grown to become a 24-page quarterly newsletter with a global readership. How did she get it all together? Normally, you'd have a team: 1) **editor-in-chief** (journalist, visionary and overall team manager, responsible for the tone and style, look-and-feel, number of pages and meeting the time goal); 2)

"he knew just the right person"

art/creative/design director (organizes and commissions all the art work, manages designers, photographers and illustrators as well

as the look-and-feel of the final product); 3) **copy editor** (responsible for acquiring text articles from writers & the quality of those pieces, writes the display copy such as headlines); 4) **proofreaders** (check text for correct grammar and spelling and cut excess copy, close liaison with copy editor); 5) **Production manager** (oversees the physical compilation of all the materials, sets and manages the production schedule, communicates with the printing-house, sets deadlines for the commission of the text copy, imagery, design, editing deadlines and so on).

What Anne achieved was no mean feat. Considering all her responsibilities within the Irish community, I honestly admire how she found the time to do the follow-up with a totally volunteer team of writers and proofreaders and manage the deadlines for each. I'm so glad to have been part of the Nuacht editorial team over the years. Watching, reading and listening to Anne, she taught me a lot. Sometimes, just before boarding a plane to go on business to Europe, the U.S. or even China, we would discuss issues that had arisen or changes that were required following proofreading and what approach to take. Strong but with a heart of gold, she was always respectful and appreciative.

What a lady! forever encouraging and fostering growth in others. Thank you Anne - I'm glad I got to say that in person, even though we didn't manage to get our cup of coffee in the end. Rest in peace, making heavenly music!



Meet Ireland's Ambassador to Canada...

Cont. from page 1

He enjoys running, hillwalking, reading; political, social and military history; music and cinema. He is also a keen follower of most sports, particularly Gaelic games.

Among his distinctions are: Member of the Royal Irish Academy's International Affairs Committee, 2014-16; Vice Chair of the United Nations General Assembly's Fourth Committee, (Political and Decolonization) during the 66th session (2011-12).

Ambassador Kelly and his family are delighted to be in Canada, as he told us:

"Diplomacy has always been more than just a job to me. It is a true honour and privilege to represent Ireland and to serve the Irish people and their interests at home or abroad. This is ever more the case when it comes to representing Ireland in Canada, an extraordinary

country with which we have always had such deep and strong bonds of friendship, and which has provided a home away from home for Irish people for centuries.

During my time in Canada, I look forward to cementing and further developing our warm relations, and to building ever closer economic, political, cultural and people-to-people links between our two countries.

Our relations with the broader Irish community all across Canada will be a key priority for me as Ambassador and I will be keen to visit with communities around this great country during my term here. So I'm very much looking forward to working closely with the strong and deep rooted Irish community in Montreal, and I expect to be a regular visitor to the city over the coming years!"



Sacred Heart raises additional \$1M toward its Capital Campaign

By Annette Brawley

In celebration of its 156th anniversary, the Sacred Heart School of Montreal held a Blue & White fundraising Winter Gala on Friday, February 3, 2017, at the historic Ritz Carlton Hotel in Montreal. The event raised \$48,000 which will go toward the school's Capital Campaign, to help build an auditorium, a wellness centre and various other capital improvements.



The school made a major announcement: it raised an additional \$1 million toward its Capital Campaign - The Future at Heart or L'Avenir à Coeur. They

have successfully raised \$2.1 million toward achieving their 3-year, \$5 million goal to raise funds for huge projects within the school. The last such fundraising effort was 20 years ago with the construction of its double gymnasium and locker rooms.

"It was a marvellous and magical evening at the Ritz-Carlton for our current and past parents, alumnae, donors & faculty," said Shawn O'Donnell, Head of School of The Sacred Heart School of Montreal. "We are so proud to have raised more than \$2 million for our illustrious school which is celebrating its 156 year anniversary" he continued. Roberto Di Giorgio, Chair of the Board of Directors added, "As a parent of an alumna and of a current student as well as chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, I am proud to steer this

successful initiative and look forward to the next year."

Also in attendance was The Most Reverend Thomas Dowd, Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal, several sisters from the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the principal of École Bilingue Notre-Dame de Sion, in addition to, MNA David Birnbaum, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education.



Shawn O'Donnell, Roberto Di Giorgio & Bishop Tom Dowd



Emcee Maya Johnson, CTV News Quebec City Bureau Chief



Robin Burns, the event's Auctioneer, grandfather of a student and retired Canadian professional hockey player



Canadian Immigration News – February 2017

By Stephen Fogarty, attorney

Citizenship Act – Bill C-6 update

The new citizenship rules are slowly making their way through Parliament. The Senate is set to resume sitting in early February to continue its study of this legislation. If approved, Bill C-6 will permit permanent residents of Canada to apply for citizenship once they can demonstrate having at least three years of physical presence in Canada during the five years preceding the date of their application. The current rules being replaced require four years of physical presence in Canada during the six years preceding the date of a citizenship application, and being physically present for at least 183 days during each of four calendar years that are fully or partially within the six years immediately before the date of application. Many businesspersons who travel frequently found it difficult to satisfy the latter requirement.

Canada has a new Immigration Minister – again

Canada's new Minister of Immigration is the Honourable Ahmed Hussen. He replaces Mr. John McCallum, who is now Canada's ambassador to China. Mr. Hussen is Canada's 18th Immigration Minister in the past 30 years. There have been 9 Ministers of Finance during the same period.

For a profile of Mr. Hussen, see my Blog "From refugee to cabinet member", which may be found here: <https://t.co/TIXHQOrebG>

Canadian passport requirement for dual citizens for air travel to Canada

Remember if you are a dual Canadian citizen used to travelling to or transiting through Canada by air with a non-Canadian passport, you are now expected to have a valid Canadian passport as well to board your flight to Canada. There is no special status in this regard for dual Canadian-Irish or Canadian-UK nationals; only dual Canadian-US citizens are exempt.

(The government had created an authorization program allowing certain dual Canadians to fly back to Canada without a Canadian passport in special cases. No indication has been given as to how long this special authorization program will be available.)

Both the Embassy of Canada in Dublin and the Canadian High Commission in London can issue a Canadian passport in most circumstances. Note that new passports cannot be issued instantly; there is a delay of several days.

The best practice whenever travelling abroad is to ensure you have a valid Canadian passport with an expiration date of at least six months beyond your planned date of return to Canada. In fact, many countries have a regulation requiring a minimum six-month passport validity period for tourists. Keep in mind as well that special circumstances may arise, such as a family or a medical emergency, leading to unforeseen delays for your return to Canada.

Electronic Travel Authorization leniency period expired

Visa-exempt foreign nationals such as Irish and UK nationals flying to or transiting through Canada need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to take their flight. Exceptions include U.S. citizens and travellers with a valid Canadian visa. Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, and Canadian permanent residents cannot apply for an eTA.

Entry requirements for other methods of travel (land, sea) have not changed.

The Canadian government had granted an extended grace period for the eTA obligation, but this expired in November, 2016.

Stephen Fogarty is an attorney assisting clients to secure a better future in Canada, in Canadian citizenship and immigration law applications, as well as providing special legal services for musicians, at Fogarty Law Firm in Montréal. He may be contacted through his firm's website 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.



Deannachtaí na féile pádraig Oraibh
 50 léir



Eulogy: Laura Kathleen Kilcawley

By Margaret Haughey, niece, Edmonton



I'll begin with a quote from WB Yeats, a Sligo man himself:

"Cast a cold eye On life, on death. Horseman, pass by."

Yeats thought that it was important to take an unsentimental look at the life lived, and not dwell on the outward manifestations of death, a position Laura would have supported.

Laura Kilcawley was the sixth of ten children, and the third of four girls, born to Bridget and Charles Kilcawley of Ballymonean in the parish of Castleconnor, Co Sligo in 1931. She grew up on the family farm and emigrated first to England and then in a spirit of adventure, to Canada, to Montreal, in her mid-twenties. She loved the city and I can think of few cities in Canada where she would have thrived as well. For most of her working life, she was a professional secretary and executive assistant to several executives in Human Resources at Domtar, until she retired in 1991.

My childhood memories of Laura are of meeting her on her frequent journeys home to Ireland. She was the aunt who played running and jumping games with the four of us siblings; together, we would go paddling in streams searching for frogspawn or go for walks along the beach in search of seashells. I remember that we laughed a lot and enjoyed the company of an adult who played like a child. Once when we were all staying at Granny's, Laura woke me at dawn, and in the early morning hush, we went tramping through the dewy fields in search of mushrooms. We threaded them on stems and bore our bounty home. She cooked them on the top of the range—a taste never forgotten, nor the early morning

quiet; treasured gifts that reflected her lifelong love of nature and the land. But her main purpose in coming home to Granny's was to spend her two-month holiday cleaning, fixing and mending, painting the house, cooking meals, and helping her brother Joe around the farm—milking cows, haying and bringing in the turf—so that her mother could have a rest. Something she did regularly until Granny's death in 1976. It was hard work but Laura worked tirelessly to provide respite for her mother.

Her generosity was not limited to her mother. About a decade or so ago when my mother fell and broke her arm, she asked Laura to come and help her. Laura went back to Ireland and stayed, took over the running of the house, and made sure that Mam completed all the required exercise routines. Often since, Mam has praised her, noting that without Laura, and her insistence on the exercises, she would not have recovered the full use of her arm. At the time, however, it wasn't without its frustrations—and not only for the clash of personalities. I expect many of you know Laura's penchant for discovering bargains in thrift shops. She would return from town with a shopping bag emblazoned with the thrift shop name. Laura would show off her trophies while my shocked mother went on about what the neighbours would think!

She had a special ability to connect with the children and grandchildren of her siblings. I know that the children of some of her Canadian friends also remained life-long friends of Laura; they too delighted in her unconditional regard and playful love. It was as if her frequent connections with these generations kept her ever young. She was always generous. On my many trips to Montreal, and no matter how I tried to organize it, Laura would never allow me to pay when we went out to dinner. Then I discovered I wasn't alone. Once, when I was staying with Laura, one of her friends came to tea. "Aagh!" said Laura to her friend, "you should not have brought me all these cakes and pastries! "Ah well," her friend responded, "I would stop—if you would only stop bringing them to me!" I imagine many of you have been equally challenged. I'm told that at work she was known for her very capable organizational skills and for her unflinching support and fierce loyalty to the person for whom she worked. Those who worked directly with her knew of her intelligence and her exceptional skills as an editor. She was also an outspoken and persuasive advocate for any employee whom she felt was being dealt with unfairly. As Willy can attest, she was not adverse to exerting some "friendly persuasion" over management in the form of good-humored but pointed advice as to what should be done, beginning with "Now you are going to tell me that this is none of my business, but" and concluding with a pithy admonition such as, "And may the good Lord Jesus strike you dead if you do anything less than that!" A good listener, she enjoyed the trust and confidence of a wide range of employees and often acted as informal advisor and confidant for them in their disputes with administration, providing good counsel, I'm told, even if it didn't always align with company policy. Her support for the "underdog" sprang from her deep concern about the abuse of power,

Canada, Our Old Reliable Friend...

By Ray Bassett, reprinted with his kind permission
First appeared in The Irish Times, November 21, 2016

Sir, - The election of Donald Trump as president of the United States is an opportunity to re-evaluate our policy and commitments in North America. For far too long, we have been mesmerised by the US and failed to give Canada its proper priority. Canada has one of the largest economies in the world, is mainly English speaking and is our immediate neighbour to the west.

When I was appointed ambassador to Canada, the Canadian government readily listened to our requests for greater access for our young people to their labour market. The Canadian government worked with us in the International Monetary Fund to improve our loan terms. Unfortunately, the attitude of the US authorities to our entreaties for immigration reform and the infamous bailout was completely different and far less sympathetic.

Despite this, and Canada's long history of assisting Ireland – whether during the Famine when the US essentially closed its ports to the Irish, or our joint efforts in the 1920s to establish independence for our two dominions, or its help to stop conscription in Northern Ireland during the second World War, or facilitating Ireland's entry into the United Nations in 1955, or helping to stop Britain from taking retaliatory action against us for leaving the then British Commonwealth – Canada has been a steadfast friend of Ireland.

Yet there is very little appreciation in Ireland of Canada's long record of helping this country. So let us stop moaning and being in despair about the Trump victory and look, like many liberal Americans, to the north of the American continent and focus a lot more of our efforts on our old reliable friend, Canada.

Canada is led today by a charismatic young leader, committed to upholding human rights and respect for international organisations. In short, Canada shares our values. – Yours, etc,

RAY BASSETT, (Former Irish ambassador to Canada), Castleknock, Dublin 15.



Cont. from page 11

whatever the context. She read widely and kept herself informed on local and world issues. Deeply insightful, she was not only adept at identifying an injustice, more importantly she lived out the commitment this required. She was ever vigilant and never missed an opportunity to comment on an injustice, or to speak up for those she felt needed a voice. She was at ease verbally, sparring and jousting with people from all walks of life, from university professors and senior executives to some insensitive bureaucrat or misguided film critic, or even her long-suffering friends!

Laura was an extremely accomplished letter writer. Everyone, family and friends, young and old, were delighted to receive the thick envelope addressed in her own unique hand. A captivating and poetic writer, she wrote at length, describing adventures while walking or cross country skiing, visiting friends or attending concerts—all passions she held dear. Her long-time friend, Stancie Trueman, captured the feelings of many friends and family members: "Laura had a truly unique way and style of writing. I always enjoyed her letters. I looked forward to them." ...

At this time, we remember her great love of life as expressed through her quick wit and ready laughter, her deep commitment to and passion for social justice, her bravery in speaking out for others, her incisive conversational and writing abilities, her fondness for and loyalty to her family and friends, and her abiding interest in us and in our lives. We recall her generosity of spirit and active concern for others, often at some cost to herself and often untold. She provoked us into thinking deeply and differently about the importance of friendship and the value of family. I am proud to be her niece and all the family mourns her. May she rest in peace. In the Spring, I will be taking Laura's remains back to Ireland, to Castleconnor where she will be interred with other family members. I'll end with a quote from a song popularized by the Clancy Brothers. Another of Laura's favourites, they echo Yeats's words, if somewhat more irreverently:

"And isn't it grand, boys, to be bloody well dead! Let's not have sniffle, let's have a bloody good cry and always remember the longer you live, the sooner you'll bloody well die."



How cool was Coull at Business School?

By Marie Short

In 2014, Stephanie Coull was selected as the Ottawa Rose and travelled to Ireland to participate in the International Rose of Tralee Festival, Ireland's longest running festival which celebrates the modern Irish woman and brings together Irish women from across the diaspora. Stephanie credits the Rose of Tralee experience with giving her the courage and confidence to apply to Trinity College and pursue her MBA. However, her list of other, and subsequent achievements, would surely give a young, modern, Irish-Montreal woman a reason to be confident.

A student of The Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing from the age of eight, Stephanie danced her way to become the Eastern Canadian Oireachtas Champion in 2007 & 2008. Her dancing career also included qualifying for the World Championships six times and winning a coveted bronze medal in the Senior Mixed Ceili competition in Belfast in 2012. This remains her proudest dance moment. Having reached her goals in competitive Irish Dance, Stephanie spent 6 months touring Europe, Russia and Taiwan with the professional Irish dance and music production "Magic of the Dance".

Stephanie graduated from The Sacred Heart School of Montreal in 2004 and received her BSc in Anatomy & Cell Biology from McGill in 2009. She completed the Bachelor of Education program at The University of Ottawa in 2011. Upon returning to Montreal, Stephanie joined the teaching staff of Sacred Heart School to teach Science and Math. Currently she is also the Academic Curriculum Coordinator.

Stephanie applied and was accepted to the Master of Business Administration program at Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin. Her success continued in this new venture, culminating in her graduating with Distinction and being honored with the "Student of the Year" Award for the full-time cohort of 2015-2016. This

was awarded for a combination of marks, citizenship and involvement. Stephanie says her MBA would never have been possible without the support of Mr. Shawn O'Donnell, Head of School at Sacred Heart, along with the great faculty, staff and students at the school.



Congratulations to Stephanie Coull on this fabulous achievement!



Stephanie advocates that young Irish women in Montreal or Ottawa, aged 18-27 interested in the Rose of Tralee should check out www.roseoftralee.ca and www.roseoftralee.ie for info. 

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The Famine Irish and Canada's First Responders

By Martina Branagan

As Michael Collins was running his momentous marathon, "The Diaspora Run", from Grosse Ile to Toronto; Canadian Documentary film producer, Kevin Moynihan, a former Montrealer, was working on a new 45-minute documentary about "Black '47". It follows the so-called "Famine Irish" journey from Canada's only entry point at Grosse Île, to Montreal and on to Toronto while celebrating the heroism of Canada's first responders along their way.

This beautifully shot documentary brought me back to my visit to Grosse Ile last summer. It can be viewed on-line at <http://www.kmproductions.ca/the-famine-irish-and-canada> in English or with French subtitles.

"The film is terrific, and may be one of the most sensitive treatments of the Famine migration to Canada that I have seen."

Dr. Mark McGowan, University of Toronto's Irish Famine Scholar

Who features in the interviews?

The documentary features interviews with an impressive list of prominent knowledgeable and influential people in this area of our history:

Parks Canada Interpreter and Coordinator, [Jean-Francois Charest](#), at Grosse Ile, Canada's national memorial to the Famine Irish of 1847;

[Dr. Christine Kinealy](#), Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, Connecticut and [Dr. Jason King](#), The National University of Ireland and their project "Saving the Famine Irish";

Congregation leaders of the [Grey Nuns, Sisters of Providence](#) and the [Hospitallers of St. Joseph](#) (Hotel Dieu Sisters), congregations which were involved in saving the Famine Irish as they arrived in Montreal;

[Victor Boyle](#) and [Fergus Keyes](#) of the Montreal Irish Monument Foundation;

Renowned historian on the Irish Famine, [Dr. Mark McGowan](#), University of Toronto;

Author [Sharon Doyle Driedger](#);

Irish author [Michael Collins](#) and his Diaspora Run;

[Robert G. Kearns](#), Founder and Chairman of Ireland Park Foundation and [Jonathan M. Kearns](#), Architect for Ireland Park.

Who were these heroic First Responders?

Grosse Ile, an island 40 miles east of Quebec City, was the first stop for the 100,000 Irish emigrants escaping the "Great Hunger" in 1847. Jean-Francois Charest, a Parks Canada interpreter, explains the significance of the "Fever Sheds": this quarantine station was overwhelmed by the arrival of the very hungry and sick Irish. The First Responders, doctors, nurses, medical orderlies, clergy and religious were heroes who risked their lives serving in these "Fever Sheds" and many of them died in the process. On Grosse Ile, Dr. Douglas, the Chief Medical Officer and his staff ministered to these patients arriving on 440 mostly poorly equipped sailing vessels. Those who made it to Montreal were helped by the Grey Nuns, the Sisters of Providence and the Hospitallers of St. Joseph as well as the Mayor. Then in Toronto, doctors, nurses, the Emigrant Officer at Reeses Wharf, clergy and the Catholic Bishop of Toronto were at hand.

We learn about the 1847 painting, "Le Typhus" *, on the ceiling of the Bonsecours Chapel in Old Montreal. This "eye witness" painting captures the Irish emigrants' story echoed in the Annals of the Grey Nuns.



Photos: KM Productions

Congratulations to Kevin Moynihan and the team at [KM Productions](#): this documentary is well worth watching, especially if you haven't yet had the opportunity to visit Grosse Ile, as it will literally take you there.

* Le Typhus, reprinted with the kind permission of the Society of Priests of Saint-Sulpice of Montréal, the Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum and the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel. 

Remember to buy your pin to help advance the [Montreal Irish Monument Foundation's](#) cultural green space project and honour those emigrants buried in the mass grave under Victoria Bridge, Montreal.



G. M. A. Irish Dancers leave their mark

By Pat Short

More than 1,800 Irish Dancers from the four eastern Canadian provinces packed the Sheraton Downtown Toronto Hotel over the Remembrance Day weekend to compete in solo and ceili team competitions at the Eastern Canadian Oireachtas. This is our qualifying event for the World Championships to be held in Dublin, Ireland at Easter 2017.

This 3 day event features competitions for boys and girls in single age groups from under 8 to over 20 years. There are also 4 hand, 6 and 8 hand ceili competitions. Dancers come from the 50 schools in Ontario, 5 schools in Quebec, and from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. All the G.M.A. schools were well represented. They are **Bernadette Short School**, **Moran Academy**, **Marie-Claude Rousseau School**, **Young Academy** and **Costello Irish Dance**. The dancers were beautifully turned out and they all did their parents and teachers proud. The dancers were judged by 9 Adjudicators; 3 per dance, who came from **Ireland**, **Great Britain**, **Australia** and the **U.S.** for this event.

Friday and Saturday we were entertained to the Solo Competitions and local dancers who placed in the World Championship qualifying positions of their particular age group are as follows: Under 10, Aselin Bates and Morgan Flanagan; Under 11 Michaela Isaacson; Under 13 Britney Shiaman; Under 14 Mary Roper and Emile Choiniere-Shields; Under 15 Spencer Gearey; Under 16 Guillaume Choiniere-Shields; Under 18 Isabelle Chouinard; Under 19 Meaghan Kilmartin, James Houghton and Kevin Paquette; Under 20 Alison McBain and Kelsey Crone; 20 years and over Gabrielle McBain and Lydia Boutin. Special congratulations to **Oireachtas Champions (1st place winners) Aselin Bates and James Houghton**. All of these dancers train with the Bernadette Short School and have qualified for the World's in Dublin next April. There will be a "Pub Night Fundraiser" at St. Gabriel's Church Hall on Saturday Feb 25th to support the travel costs of the dancers. Admission \$20. Tickets Helene Choiniere-Shields (514) 581-8641.



Aselin Bates (U10 Girls) & James Houghton (Men U19)

On Sunday we had the ceili team competitions from all the provinces totalling approx 200 teams. They performed 4 hand, 6 hand and 8 hand Ceili dances. Many schools entered multiple teams in each competition. The Sunday events also included the "Premiere Competitions" featuring dancers who are not yet eligible to enter the Solo

Championship events at the Oireachtas.



A special shout out to **Costello Irish Dance** on their first Oireachtas. Casey's team placed 1st in the Under 8 Four Hand competition and dancer Isabella Parent won the Under 8 Premiere competition.

Heading off to another overseas competition will be Spencer Gearey, Kelly Katigbak, Isabelle Chouinard, Meaghan Kilmartin, Katie Gulycz and Kayla Gagne. This time the event is the All-Scotland Championships to be held in the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow from February 16 to 19 2017. These dancers represent the Bernadette Short School and we wish them the best of luck at this international event.



World Championship Qualifiers: From the Short School (top left to bottom right):

Mary Roper, Emile Choiniere-Shields, Isabelle Chouinard, Kevin Paquette, Meaghan Kilmartin, James Houghton, Kelsey Crone, Spencer Gearey, Britney Shiaman, Guillaume Choiniere-Shields, Alison McBain, Morgan Flanagan, Michaela Isaacson, Aselin Bates, Gabrielle McBain.



Young Academy Awards Night: (left to right)

Alessia (outstanding beginner), Olivia (outstanding beginner); Isabella (most improved), Leah (intermediate dancer of the year), Jessica (most improved), Ariana (teachers award), Kaesye (sportsmanship) Tiffany (senior dancer of the year)

Ciné Gael has a great reputation

By Bill Brownstein, reprinted courtesy of the Montreal Gazette

Neither despot nor diva, Lynn Doyle is unlike any film-festival director in this city — for that matter, probably unlike any fest boss anywhere on the planet. But Doyle has managed to steer [Ciné Gael](#), Montreal’s Irish film festival, to its 25th anniversary this year in her own low-key fashion. Ciné Gael, co-founded by Doyle and the late Patrick Valley, kicks off its season Friday with *The Young Offenders*, a comedic tale about a couple of ne’er-do-well Irish teens creating havoc on their bicycles in Cork.

This year’s nine-film program, running until May 4, once again covers all aspects of the Irish film scene, from dramas to documentaries and animation, and showcases gems that would otherwise rarely show up on the commercial circuit this side of the pond.

This season’s highlights include the provocative doc [Bobby Sands: 66 Days](#) (screening Feb. 3), focusing on the famed IRA leader who died on a hunger strike while imprisoned in 1981, and [A Date for Mad Mary](#) (screening May 4), a charming coming-of-age epic.

Unlike most in the rarified film universe, Doyle had never harboured any dreams about running a festival. Frankly, she was not even much of a film buff. She had been a high-school English and math teacher. She had also been a volunteer on the cultural committee of the St. Patrick’s Society.

“At one of our meetings in 1992, someone suggested we should have Irish films in Montreal,” Doyle recalls. “And that was it. I thought we could do that. Of course, I had no film experience whatsoever.”

Shoestring budget

Naïve perhaps, but ever-persuasive. Since the inception of Ciné Gael, Doyle sets out every year, knocking on doors and frequenting festivals from Toronto to Galway, Ireland, in search of promising titles. Her task is made all the more daunting since distributors tend to want their films to be launched at more big-name festivals or larger screening venues.

Ciné Gael operates on a shoestring budget of \$12,000 a year and gets support from, among others, the St. Patrick’s

Society and the Embassy of Ireland (not to be confused with the Irish Embassy bar). Ciné Gael staff, including Doyle and program director Tim Hine, work pro bono.

Regardless, Doyle and team have landed some classics over the years. In fact, Ciné Gael began on a high note

with the presentation of *The Commitments*, the feel-good musical dramedy, based on the Roddy Doyle novel, which went on to become a box office hit. *The Commitments* also played during the 15th anniversary of Ciné Gael after it was voted by patrons as the festival’s favourite all-time offering.



Tim Hine and Lynn Doyle

‘Made a connection’

Doyle also managed to persuade Lenny Abrahamson, director of the Oscar-nominated *Room*, to present his first three films – *Adam & Paul*, *Garage* and *What Richard Did* – at the Ciné Gael. “I happened to be at the Galway film festival in 2004. When they announced the winner of the best film from a new director, this fellow, who was sitting right beside me, got up to get the award and it was Lenny Abrahamson. “He had just gotten into film,” Doyle adds. “He had been at Stanford studying philosophy, and suddenly gave that up to make films back home in Ireland. So we made a connection, showed his first three films and kept inviting him over here. Hopefully, we’ll get him to come in person.”

If the Ciné Gael gang is unable to get the directors to show up in person for Q&As following the presentations, they invariably have them hook up with local audiences via Skype — as has been the case with Abrahamson.

Ciné Gael has also had its share of distinguished audience guests: Pierre Trudeau showed up for a screening of *Othello*, which featured his friend Suzanne Cloutier. Famed Irish thesp Stephen Rea paid a visit, as did Oscar-winning animator and Concordia grad Torill Kove – her Oscar for *The Danish Poet* in tow. “If we’ve been able to land some wonderful films, it’s due to the fact that along the way I amassed some

really good committee people who were so efficient," Doyle says. "Half of them have PhDs in film or are working on them. We have come a really long way."

'Smooth sailing'

"When Patrick died four years ago, it was a very sad time. But then Tim Hine stepped aboard as a program director, and it's been smooth sailing. I'll be slowly handing the reins over to him." Doyle did not initially realize Hine was an Englishman. "As for an Englishman working at an Irish film festival, I did feel the need to address the elephant in the cinema, as it were, particularly when hosting the proceedings for the 1916 centenary (of the Easter Rebellion) and particularly after mispronouncing the Irish ambassador's name," Hine notes. "But I have been welcomed as only the Irish can do. I was brought in by Patrick (Vallely), who made it great fun and who gave me an earthy, intellectual education on Irish history and the

arts. One doesn't have to be Indian to love the food or culture, and the Irish contribution to drama and literature is as rich as any country."

While Doyle knew little about Irish cinema before undertaking Ciné Gael, she has become rather knowledgeable on the subject and is quite the fan. "What I love about Irish films is that they are a little bit quirky and a little bit dark but so wonderfully convey aspects of Irish life," says Doyle, whose family moved here from county Tipperary in 1825 and who served as chief reviewing officer at last year's St. Patrick's Day parade.

"But what has been so gratifying for us is that these films have found an audience here who just love them and who just keep coming back for more. It may not be the largest of festival audiences, but it has to be one of the most faithful. That's really what keeps us going."

<mailto:bbrownstein@postmedia.com>
<http://twitter.com/billbrownstein>



Ciné Gael's 25th Anniversary season set to enthrall

By Tim Hine

We at Ciné Gael Montreal are proud to announce our 25th anniversary season with the rip-snorting romp, caper film, "Young Offenders", kicking us off on Friday January 20th. Among the other already confirmed films are the acclaimed documentary "Bobby Sands", another fascinating documentary examining the career of ballet choreographer Joan Denise Moriarty, "We Are Moving", and the delightful, award winning "A Date for Mad Mary". Along with the always eagerly anticipated evening of Shorts, we are working on further surprises for our audience.

Going to press, here is the schedule of our screenings:

Fri. Feb. 17 2017 - We Are Moving – Memories of Miss Moriarty; Oíche Nollaig na mBan / Women's Christmas Night; An Rinceoir and Moore Street Masala!

Sat. Mar. 4 2017 - The Luck of Ginger Coffey

Fri. Mar. 31 2017 - Evening of Irish Short Films

Fri. Apr. 7 2017 - Handsome Devil

Fri./Sat. Apr. 21 & 22 2017 - Theme: Women & Film in Ireland

Thurs. May 4th 2017 - A Date for Mad Mary

Details of confirmed films can be found on our website www.cinegaelmontreal.com as soon as we have them. I also invite anyone still unfamiliar to visit our site where you will find our history and enough links to information about the films to keep you busy for days.

All the best for 2017 and hoping to see you at our home, Concordia's de Seve cinema.

Tim Hine and the committee of Cine Gael Montreal

Without a Membership, films are \$12 each, \$20 for the Opening Reception and film, \$25 for our weekend (if applicable), and \$25 for the Gala.

The membership fee is \$75 to include ALL Ciné Gael functions in 2017 including:

- opening reception
- entrance to all films in the series
- closing Gala reception
- member appreciation evenings
- member special screenings
- movie opening preview passes that we may be able to make available

Please send cheques for membership applications to:

Ciné Gael Montreal
c/o Lynn Doyle
311 Ballantyne North
Montreal, Qc H4X 2C4



Please note: we welcome your opinions and would appreciate feedback on the contents of NUAIGHT. Send your comments to the editor: nuacht@spsmtl.com

School of Irish Studies at Concordia Continues to Grow

By Marion Mulvenna, Irish Studies

To mark the seventh anniversary of its founding, Irish Studies has changed its name from the School of Canadian Irish Studies to the School of Irish Studies. The new name reflects the broader topics of courses being offered, as well as the School's growing profile in the international field of Irish Studies. But the focus on the Irish in Montreal, Quebec, and Canada remains, and the School now offers seven distinct courses examining aspects of the Irish Diaspora in Canada and around the world.

When the idea of developing Irish Studies as an academic discipline was raised more than two decades ago, it received broad community support from the Montreal Irish community, as well as from governments, foundations, companies and many generous individuals. Much of the success of this educational initiative can be traced to the unique partnership between the larger Irish community and Concordia University, which, of course, itself has deep roots in that community through Loyola College. Here are some main achievements to date:

- The establishment of the School as a stand-alone academic department;
- An undergraduate degree in Irish Studies;
- The appointment of six permanent professors;
- More than \$50,000 provided annually in scholarships and fee remissions to students
- Over 14,000 undergraduate students have taken Irish Studies courses
- More than 200 academics, writers, and public figures from Ireland have given public lectures at Concordia.

One of the most exciting developments is the number of graduate students doing ground-breaking research on Irish related topics. Here are some of these students, in the Masters or PhD program, with their area of research:

Helene Jane Groarke, "Nineteenth Century Irish Catholic Communities in Montreal and Toronto: A Comparison" (MA, Year 1)

Isobel Plowright, "Behind High Walls and Locked Doors: Québec's Maison Sainte-Madeleine and Limerick's Good Shepherd Magdalen Laundry" (MA, Year 2)

Kelly Nora Druker, "Naming the Traces: Re-constructing an Irish-Canadian Family Narrative of Emigration, Place-Making, and Return" (PhD, Year 2)

Raymond Jess, "Irish Cultural and Intellectual History in Canada 1867-1922"(PhD, Year 3)

Kate Bevan-Baker, "Irish Music History and Fiddle Cultures in Prince Edward Island & Les Îles de la Madeleine" (PhD, Year 3)

Jérémy Tétrault-Farber, "Mapping Montreal's Multicultural Irish Soundscape" (PhD, Year 3)

Linda Fitzgibbon, "Home and Away: Memory and Identity in an Irish Diasporic Community in Canada" (PhD, Year 3)

Julie Guyot, "A Comparative Analysis of Daniel O'Connell and Louis-Joseph Papineau" (PhD, Year 4)

In the 2017-2018 academic year, the School will welcome Concordia's first Fulbright Scholar in Irish Studies, Professor Maureen Murphy as the Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar, and a Junior Irish Language Scholar. In the Fall, the School will welcome a high-profile Irish public figure to give the Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture, as well as a prominent Irish writer to participate in Concordia's Writers Read Series.

As Montreal's Irish community joins with all Montrealers in celebrating the city's 375th anniversary, it can take pride in the School of Irish Studies as the youngest Irish institutional presence in the city. The School is playing its part in laying the foundation for a future Irish community through the courses and public lectures it offers to successive generations of students. All members of the Irish community should take pride in this accomplishment.

We are pleased to report that the **Gus O'Gorman Scholarship in Irish Studies** has now raised \$13,000 with donations ranging from \$50 to \$2,000. We would be grateful to receive further donations. All amounts are welcome and will receive tax receipts. Contact the School: 514-848-2424 Ext. 8711 or cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca

Reminder:
Get your tickets for the **Lúnasa** Irish music fundraising concert on **March 30th** for the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. Raising funds for Irish Studies at Concordia University is crucial to support students through tuition remission and scholarships. Contact the School to purchase concert tickets at 514-848-2424 Ext. 8711 or email cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca



Up close & personal with the Famine Irish at the Motherhouse

By Victor Boyle

During the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation’s negotiations with Dr. Jason King and Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut to host the exhibit “Saving the Famine Irish: The Grey Nuns and the Great Hunger” in Montreal, the students at St. Gabriel’s school were not far from our thoughts. “What a wonderful opportunity for the students to be exposed to the rich history of the area”, we thought. As participants of the Annual Walk to the Stone are well aware, since 2005 the AOH have invited St. Gabriel’s school to honor the Irish Community by laying the wreath at the foot of the Stone.

Thanks to the ever welcoming and inclusive nature of principal Jim Daskalakis we didn’t hesitate contacting him with the idea. As usual, he was all in. After a few false starts, we agreed on November 10th at the Grey Nuns Motherhouse in Old Montreal, an ideal setting for the exhibit that afforded the students access to the Grey Nuns permanent and extensive exhibit of Margaret d’Youville.

To help put the exhibit into context, local historian and raconteur Donovan King (fellow Director of the Park Foundation) provided an inspired orientation to the Grade 5 and 6 students on November 9th. The students were very receptive. Asked if anyone knew about the story of the Black Rock, many hands shot up and students were encouraged to share their own stories passed on by family members.



Raconteur Donovan King has St. Gabriel’s schoolchildren hanging on his every word

Donovan told of the Irish arrival in 1847, The Black Rock, Marguerite d’Youville and les Sœurs Grises and how they were chastised for helping the poor. Aspects of modern day bullying were then blended into the presentation which engaged the students.

As the 35 excited students energetically assembled in the Motherhouse lobby the next day, guide Mylène Laurendeau began by asking the students if they knew about Marguerite d’Youville. She was shocked when more than a few students recounted Donovan’s stories in impressive detail, including the bullying.

As the tour meandered through the Motherhouse, the students continued to ask such interesting questions and offered such meaningful feedback that at the end of the tour, Mylène offered that the students could come back anytime!

It was a fantastic experience, for me especially. I think the students had a good time as well.

Photos:
Vincent Boyle



UCD's Smurfit Business School MBA Team performs in Montreal

by Paul Loftus

The team was here to represent UCD in the 36th edition of the John Molson International MBA Case Competition, a bilingual competition for outstanding MBA students, which this year had 36 teams from 18 countries representing all five continents. The competition was held from 2-6 January at the Bonaventure Hotel. Created in 1981, the competition is currently the oldest and most international MBA case competition in the world. With three hours to solve an unpublished business case, the competition is a round-robin format where the teams are given three hours to solve an unpublished business case. Each team is required to carry out an analysis, develop a strategy and an implementation plan. The team then delivers a PowerPoint presentation to a panel of five judges (one of whom is a lead judge) for 25 minutes. Following the presentation there is a 15 minute period of probing questions by the judges. The winning team receives the coveted Concordia Cup and a cash prize of \$10,000. There are also two awards: the Dr. Pierre Brunet Coach Award and the Richard Outcault Team Spirit Award. This year's event involved a committee of nine, 400 volunteers, 300 local business executives (including myself as a lead judge), 144 participants, 50 coaches and 25 sponsors and donors.

In Case 1, UCD defeated the University of Rochester, USA and in Case 2 they defeated Wilfrid Laurier University. In case 3 UCD was defeated by the Haskayne Business School from the University of Calgary. In Case 4 UCD were victorious again in defeating Lund University School of Business and Economics, Sweden and in Case 5 they defeated EGADE Business School, Mexico thereby becoming divisional winners and winning \$1,000.

In the semi-final UCD faced the American University of Beirut, Lebanon and Queensland University of Technology, Australia. There are three teams in each semi-final. QUT won that semi-final and ended up finishing third overall. Haskayne who were UCD's only defeat in the group stage ended up finishing second overall.

The first place prize went to Memorial University, Newfoundland which received \$10,000 and the Concordia Cup. The second place prize of \$7,000 went to Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary. QUT Graduate School of Business, Australia won the third prize and received a cheque for \$5,000.

The competition this year, included such prestigious

universities as: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel; FIA Business School, Brazil; Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Porto Business School, Portugal; Xiamen University, China; and University of Capetown, South Africa. Local universities included Concordia (the hosts), HEC Montréal and Université Laval.

The Montreal Chapter of the UCD Alumni Association hosted a Meet and Greet Reception for the visiting team on Monday, January 3rd 2017 at The Irish Embassy Pub and Grill on Bishop Street where I welcomed them. The team comprised the following members: **Declan Walsh**, Client Relationship Manager, Profunder; **Derek Anderson**,

Finance Operations Director for a leisure management company; **Catherine O'Brien**, Innovation Senior Consultant, ESB (Electricity Supply Board); **Tanya Kenny**, Senior Scientist, Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland; and **Ann Marie Barcoe**, Senior Project Manager, Exaxe. The UCD team members are all in the Executive MBA programme. The team was

accompanied by their coach Dr. Pat Gibbons who is the Jefferson Smurfit Professor of Strategic Management.

During the evening **Dr. Gibbons** presented two beautiful plaques to me and Paul Quinn (in absentia). These plaques were in Irish and hand-made at the Wild Goose Gallery in Kinsale, County Cork. Mine states "Cairdeas" (Friendship) and Paul Quinn's states Grá Dilseacht Cairdeas (Love Loyalty Friendship).

The following is my interview with team member, Declan Walsh:

When did you decide to enter the competition?

I actually heard about the competition shortly after the 2016 event from reading a blog post, by one of the guys on last year's team, on the University website. As soon as I looked at the John Molson competition website, I knew this was something which I wanted to do. It looked extremely professional and as a keen sports man I love a challenge and some friendly competition.

How did you form your team?

My class received an e-mail from the school back at the start of October inviting all Executive MBA students (those doing the MBA part time whilst working at same time) to apply for the team. Those who applied were invited for a trial case study on Tuesday 11th October. We had to present an individual strategy using one of last year's cases, Mahindra Finance.

A panel of judges picked a team of 4, with one alternate also selected.



Photos: Ken Quinn

How did the team prepare for the competition?

As soon as the team was picked, we agreed we would put as much effort as possible into the preparation. The preparation coincided with an exceptionally busy period of the MBA, along with our full time jobs which meant we basically sacrificed the whole month of December to prepare. We held several sessions with our coaches Pat Gibbons & Paul Slattery and also prepared 4 preparation cases in a similar environment to what we expected in Canada.

How was the trip financed?

UCD Michael Smurfit Business School was kind enough to fund the trip this year and for that we are extremely grateful.

How did the team find Montreal?

COLD!! Apart from the temperature the team had an amazing time in Montreal. Our only complaint was we didn't get enough time to see the entire city because we were so busy with the competition. We did get a chance to do some walking around and we were struck by how friendly the locals were, and how receptive the Canadian people are to the Irish accent. The Irish community in Montreal arranged a reception for us in the Irish Embassy Bar which was an extremely enjoyable night and we were flattered by the large crowd who turned out to greet us. I think all the team would love to return, maybe next time in Summer though.

What were your main learnings from your participation in the competition?

It's hard to put all the learnings on paper. Firstly, I think we learnt that when 4 people come together with a common goal, a good understanding and a strong process you can achieve a lot in a short space of time. We learnt how to work as a team and under significant time pressure and this teamwork is a skill which can be transferred to all professions. We also learnt how to analyze a business case, use appropriate models and come up with a solid and practical implementation plan. The logic and creativity behind each of these steps will be of incredible value going forward in our careers. We learnt so much about the companies in the cases such as 'We Work', LinkedIn and Uber. We also learnt an incredible amount about other cultures from all our fellow participants from all over the world.

How will these help you in your studies?

Working in teams is a key component for any MBA so this experience will help greatly. The logic which we had to apply and detailed analysis we did will also be extremely relevant to all of our MBA subjects. Being able to pick the most relevant facts quickly is a priceless skill to have.

How will they help the team in their careers?

Going back to our companies, the entire team is more confident about our presentation skills in highly pressurized environment. For example if we are presenting for our company and a new piece of information arises 3 hours in advance of the presentation, we now have the confidence and ability to adapt at the last minute. Strategic decision making is critical for every company and the week was an exceptional way to learn about this.

How would you rate your overall performance?

We were delighted with our performance in the competition. We

arrived in Montreal with the goal of winning one of our round robin matches, however once we won the first 2 matches we began to think about winning our division. We were absolutely delighted when we were announced as divisional winners, the pride which we felt was certainly a highlight of the week. Being honest we did not perform anywhere near to our potential in the semifinal which is one disappointment. This was due to a combination of fatigue after a tough week and a case in which we struggled to get momentum with the strategy. These were also factors for the other teams however.

How would you describe your personal experience?

Genuinely this trip was one of the best experiences of my life. It was a massive challenge, competitive and at times during some of the 3 hour cases I felt like going home. But the adrenaline which I felt during the preparation and going in to present to the judges was brilliant. Every single person whom you met at the competition was very friendly and it was just an amazing environment to be in. It was an honor to be in an environment with some of the smartest and best MBA students in the world. This truly was a once in a lifetime experience and one which none of the UCD team will ever forget.

How did you find the other teams?

As I mentioned above, although this was a competition, it was an extremely friendly competition. The other teams were a pleasure to meet and getting the opportunity to mix with people from Mexico, Sweden, Australia, U.S.A., Canada etc. was just an incredible experience. We exchanged details with a lot of our fellow competitors and will keep in touch with a lot of them through LinkedIn etc. We even managed to sing some Karaoke with the other teams on the last night.

What advice would you give to next year's team?

Prepare well for the competition before you go, believe that the UCD team can compete with the very best in the world when you get there and relish every single second of the experience. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity so grab it with both hands. And probably most importantly don't forget to have some fun and socialize with your fellow competitors.

In addition to UCD alumni residing in Montreal, other members of the Irish Community braved the snow and the cold to attend the Meet and Greet reception for the team. Some of the missing UCD alumni expressed their regrets from Florida and Mexico!

The Montreal Chapter of the UCD Alumni Association thanks Paul Quinn, owner, Irish Embassy Pub and Grill, for providing our visitors with their refreshments and the entire attendance with their food for the evening. The Chapter also thanks Ken Quinn for being the official photographer for the evening and for providing information on the history of the Irish in Montreal to our visitors. 

F.I.S. Christmas Party, December 2016

by Paul Loftus

The Federation of Irish Societies, Montreal held its fourth annual Christmas Party on December 19th at the Irish Embassy Pub and Grill. Over 150 people from across Montreal's Irish Community turned out for the event, greatly exceeding the organizers' expectations.

As MC, I welcomed everyone and began the formalities on a sad note, asking those present to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the recently deceased Warren Allmand. Warren's funeral mass and burial took place earlier in the day. Warren was the former Solicitor General of Canada and the Liberal MP for NDG for over two decades. He was an active member of Montreal's Irish Community and a supporter of the FIS. He put his vast experience in human rights to use in playing a part in the Northern Ireland peace process. He is a big loss to our community.

Director Lynn Doyle then acknowledged the Presidents of the Irish organizations who were present at the event as follows: Ancient Order of Hibernians, Victor Boyle; Cine Gael, Lynn Doyle; Coalition for Peace in Ireland, Kevin Callahan, Comhra, Alex Nuta; Erin Sports Association, Tim Furlong; Festival Bloomsday Montreal, Dave Shurman; Gaelic Athletic Association, Ronan Corbett; SIAMSA, Denis Martin; St. Patrick's Society, Scott Phelan; The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation, Fergus Keyes; United Irish Societies, Danny Doyle; and University College Dublin (UCD) Alumni Association, Paul Loftus. Devin Shanks, President of the Montreal Celtic Society also attended.

Fergus Keyes provided us with an update on the proposed Irish Park and Famine Memorial. He highlighted just some of the Foundation's activities over the last months to promote the green space project: the Grey Nuns exhibition, first at the Centaur and then at the Grey Nun's Motherhouse; Michael Collins who ran from Grosse Ile to Toronto to highlight Black '47; assisting the in organizing the Trial of Padraig Pearce in Montreal with a group of Irish actors and the presentations outlining their efforts given to various organizations, from a Unitarian Church group to the Knights of Columbus. He closed by expressing the hope that a meeting would soon be arranged with some representatives of the Irish Community, the City of

Montreal and the Federal Government.

I then read a letter from Ray Bassett, Ireland's former Ambassador to Canada, entitled "Canada, Our Old Reliable Friend" which is reprinted in full in this edition of Nuacht.

Two of our well known Irish politicians were in attendance; Tom Mulcair, Leader of the New Democratic Party and Geoffrey Kelley, MNA for Jacques Cartier and Minister for Native Affairs. Geoff took the mike and gave a pleasant talk in which he informed us that he would be visiting Ireland more frequently. He wished all present a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2017.



Paul Loftus, FIS President & Geoffrey Kelley

Background traditional Irish music was provided throughout the evening by musicians from the Montreal Gaelic Athletic Association.



Montreal GAA Musicians

Photos: Ken Quinn

I closed the formalities by thanking owner, Paul Quinn; Manager, Joe Cannon; the staff of the Irish Embassy, the musicians from the Montreal GAA and all who attended. Then, I wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2017.

We wish to thank the following who contributed articles and/or photos to this issue of NUA^{CH}T:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Stephanie Coull | Pat Short | Ken Quinn | The Montreal Gazette |
| Paul Dunne | Tim Hine | Fergus Keyes | Stephen Fogarty |
| Scott Phelan | Marie Short | Victor Boyle | Marion Mulvenna |
| Paul Doyle | Paul Loftus | Ray Bassett | Margaret Haughey |
| Stephen Fogarty | Kay Dunn | Bill Brownstein | Carol McCormick |
| Christie Brown | Jennifer Anand | Annette Brawley | |

Save the Dates...

Pub Night Fundraiser, Feb. 20

By Pat Short

There will be a PUB NIGHT FUNDRAISER in support of the 16 World Championships qualifiers of **The Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing** on Saturday February 20th 2017. The evening begins at 5:00 PM in St. Gabriel's Church Hall, 2157 rue Centre, Pointe-St. Charles. On the menu are live music, performances by the qualifiers, ceili dancing, Irish stew, bread and dessert. Tickets to the event cost \$20. There is a cash bar. Please contact Helene Choeniere-Shields on 514-581-8641.

Fundraiser, CIFS, March 30



Dubbed as the hottest Irish acoustic group on the planet, **Lúnasa** will be in town to delight audiences as part of a concert fundraiser for the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. Raising funds

for Irish Studies at Concordia University is crucial to support students through tuition remission and scholarships.

The Lúnasa concert will take place on Thursday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the splendid and acoustically perfect, Bourgie Hall of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1339 Sherbrooke St. W. Ticket price is \$75. You will be issued with a 2017 tax receipt for a portion of the cost.

For more information on purchasing tickets; visit <http://concordia.ca/cisf>; call 514-848-2424 Ext. 8711 or email cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca.

St. Patrick's Charity Golf, June 20

By Paul Doyle

If you attended last year's St. Patrick's Charity Golf Tournament, you were treated to our latest addition, breakfast for all. This proved to be well received.

As usual, the tournament was a sold-out event. When you consider that before you tee-off, you have already received a great golf shirt, golf balls, tees, chocolate bar and bottled water to say nothing of a golf cart and the golf game itself and all of this on the Members' Course at the beautiful Bellevue Golf Course, you are well ahead of the registration fee.

And did I mention the super roast beef dinner and the two litres of wine on each table of eight or the \$9,000 worth of raffle prizes? All the proceeds go to the charitable works of the St. Patrick Society. To date, we have raised over a quarter million dollars for this cause.

So if you have never played before, or if you have, this is your chance to attend, dollar for dollar, the best tournament around. You do not have to be a great golfer to enjoy the day.

The tournament is held at the Belle Vue Golf Course in Ville de Lery; Shotgun start at 12:45.

Please register early as we have a limited number that we can accommodate.

Remember the day: TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017
Paul Doyle
Chairman



Shaw Fest, Who knew? Mark your calendars...



Located in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, the **Shaw Festival** is a theatre company inspired by the work of George Bernard Shaw. They produce plays from and about his era as well as contemporary plays that share Shaw's provocative exploration of society and celebration of humanity. The 2017 season begins April 5 and runs until October 15 2017. And there is a Montreal connection. Diana Donnelly, left, award-winning daughter of Pat Donnelly, in her 9th season, stars as Rose in Brian Friel's acclaimed "Dancing at Lughnasa" (May 14-Oct 15) as well as Dora in Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins' "An Octoroon" (July 16-Oct 14). A graduate of the National Theatre School, for Shaw Fest, she has also previously acted in "A Woman of No Importance",

"Engaged", "The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide", "Arcadia (and Mirvish)", "Peace in Our Time", "Half an Hour", "Harvey", "Love Among the Russians", "Arms and The Man", "Major Barbara", "Bus Stop", "The Importance of Being Earnest", "Harlequinade", "Diana of Dobson's" and "The Royal Family".

In his 16th season, her husband, Jeff Meadows, right, plays D'estivet Poulengey in G. B. Shaw's "St. Joan" (May 3-Oct 15) and the mechanic in Will Eno's "Middletown" (July 13-Sept 10).



So, mark your calendars!

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2017

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION
Feb 17	Ciné Gael, DeSève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, Montréal	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
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.	office@iccmtl.com
Feb 25	Short School Pub Night Worlds Fundraiser, 2157 Center St., Montreal	514 581 8641
Mar 4	Ciné Gael, DeSève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, Montréal	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Mar 3	Charity Ball - Chalet atop Mount Royal	Katie Irving (514) 481-1346
Mar 11	Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Plaza Centre-Ville, 777 boul. Robert-Bourassa, 9am	timber@sympatico.ca
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 17	Annual Luncheon - Plaza Centreville 777 Robert-Bourassa, 11a.m.	Katie Irving (514) 481-1346
Mar 18	8th Annual Hudson St. Patrick's Parade	Jim Beauchamp (514) 691-2721
Mar 19	"Green Mass", 10 a.m. , St. Patrick's Basilica, Archbishop Christian Lépine will preside.	Saint Patrick's 170th Anniversary.
Mar 19	194th Consecutive St. Patrick's Parade, Downtown, noon	Patty McCann (514) 932-0512
Mar 23	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	contact@iccmtl.com
Mar.25	8th Annual Quebec City St. Patrick's Parade	contact@qcpatrick.com
Mar 26	Chateauguay Saint Patrick's Parade, Sean Glenane - 514-723-2472; seanglenane@gmail.com	parademan2002@hotmail.com
Mar 30	Fundraising Concert for CIFS, Bourgie Hall, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1339 Sherbrooke St. W.	cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca
Mar 30	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	office@iccmtl.com
Mar 31	Ciné Gael, DeSève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, Montréal	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Apr 1	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Plaza Centre-Ville, 777 boul. Robert-Bourassa, 6 p.m.	coach_shawn12@hotmail.com
Apr 7	Ciné Gael, DeSève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, Montréal	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Apr 7	Innisfail Pasta Night, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn (450) 671-7217
Apr 8	Chateauguay Awards Dinner & Dance, Mike McGinn 514-609-5486; mbmj1969@yahoo.ca	Ernie Presseau (450) 691-1012
Apr 21	Ciné Gael, DeSève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, Montréal	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Apr 22	Ciné Gael, DeSève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, Montréal	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Apr 27	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	office@iccmtl.com
May 4	Ciné Gael, DeSève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, Montréal	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
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 20	Ville Marie Feis, John Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec	feismontreal@gmail.com
May 25	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	office@iccmtl.com
May 27	Innisfail Memorial Mass for Deceased Members & F. Tom McEntee Memorial, Ladies' Chapel, noon	Rose Quinn (450) 671-7217
May 28	Walk to the Stone, 12 noon. Contact Victor Boyle.	vp_boyle@sympatico.ca
June 9	Innisfail Annual General Meeting, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn (450) 671-7217

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