



GENEROUS GIFT TO THE *BLACK ROCK*

Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal announces the official transfer of legal title to the land upon which the historic Black Rock monument rests to The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation.

On October 18, 2023, the Anglican Church officially donated the parcel of land on which the Black Rock Monument is located to the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation. The Anglican Church had owned the parcel of land, measuring approximately 7,900 square feet, since 1870. This land ownership is a key component in the development of an appropriate memorial to those who are buried at the historic site which sits atop the largest mass grave in Canada.

"We are profoundly grateful to Bishop Irwin-Gibson and the Anglican Diocese for this generous gift," stated Fergus Keyes, President of The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation. "This donation represents a major step in the process to finally create the kind of facility at the Black Rock that recognizes the historical importance of the site not only for the Montreal Irish community, but for all of Montreal."

In 1859, the Black Rock Monument located at the end of the Victoria Bridge, was erected in memory of more than



Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal and Fergus Keyes, President of The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation

6000 Irish refugees who lost their lives, largely to typhus, then called ship's fever, during summer 1847, upon their arrival in Montreal.

The memorial will serve as a world class learning center on the Irish Famine and its impact on Montreal, Canada, and North America. The Black Rock is a symbol of one of the greatest humanitarian efforts ever seen in North America, as people of different races, religions and ethnic groups put aside concerns for their personal safety and administered to the stricken immigrants.

"The Anglican Church has important

roots in Ireland and is very supportive of the objectives of The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation to properly commemorate the victims of the Great Hunger who rest at Black Rock. The record shows that many Anglicans brought food and medicine to the fever sheds and two lost their lives in 1847," said Anglican Bishop of Montreal, Mary Irwin-Gibson. "For these reasons, we are delighted to donate the strip of land on which the Black Rock sits to the Foundation."

Founded in 2014, The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation, which represents the collective interests of Montreal's Irish community, as well as the greater Montreal community, is working closely with its primary partners, Hydro-Québec (which has donated a significant parcel of land for the new site) and the Ville de Montréal (which is shifting streets and infrastructure to allow access) to create a beautiful world-class memorial space around the Black Rock visitor's centre. The memorial will also honour the many Montrealers spanning all languages, religions and origins who provided help and comfort to the dying Irish. Many of these caregivers, including Montreal's Mayor at the time, gave their lives in this great humanitarian effort.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY PAMELA MCGOVERN

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. The past year has been eventful for the St Patrick's Society of Montreal, and I am delighted to bring you a summary of the highlights.

After living through a pandemic and meeting remotely, the Society of organized once again successful events during the Green Season (and on the greens in June) that brought the community together.

1. Grand Ball Extravaganza - A Night to Remember! Our much-anticipated Ball took place on March 3rd at the Chateau Champlain, and it was truly a night to remember. The event was a splendid celebration of Irish culture, featuring music and traditional dancing from the Bernadette Short dancers. We had the good fortune of meeting the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, Eamon McKee. I would like to thank our patron Eoin Ó hÓgáin as well as our Chair Carol McCormick and her committee for all of the work that was put into organizing this wonderful and successful event including the Silent Auction.

2. Luncheon - Building Connections: Our St. Patrick's Day luncheon was a festive event that brought members and guests together for an afternoon of networking and camaraderie. Our guest speaker was P.J. Stock, a former NHL player and sports analyst. City councillor Sterling Downey not only gave a toast but also donated part of his beard for the benefit of the Society's charities. A heartfelt thank you is extended to each member of the luncheon committee for all their hard work in organizing the event. We look forward to hosting next year's luncheon.

3. Swing into Action - Golf Tournament Recap: Our annual golf tournament took place on June 16th at the Bellevue golf course bringing together golf enthusiasts from our community. It was a day filled with friendly competition, beautiful weather, and, of course, a bit of Irish luck on the greens. A big thank you to Chair Dave Dubeau, his committee, and all participants for making it a memorable event.

4. Bylaws Update - Ensuring a Strong Foundation: In our commitment to transparency and effective governance, the Society has undertaken a comprehensive review of our bylaws. After careful consideration and input from our members, we are pleased to announce that the updated bylaws will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. I would like to thank Chris Deehy and Mark O'Neill for their work on this project.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be taking place on December 5th, 2023. please RSVP when you receive the email invitation.

NUACHT

Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

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Submissions for Winter edition: Jan. 15, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONT.

5. Privacy Compliance - Safeguarding Your Information: The Society places a high priority on privacy and data protection. In line with the recent legislation, we will be implementing a privacy policy to safeguard your personal information. Rest assured that we are committed to maintaining data security in compliance with applicable privacy laws.

I would like to thank Martina Branagan who is stepping down from the Board of directors. Thank you for all of your hard work as a Director and Secretary of the Board and more importantly as editor of Nuacht. Your care and devotion in all that you have done will be missed by us all. I would also like to thank Caitlin Moynan who decided to step down. Your views as a younger member of our community were always appreciated.

I would also like to wish you a Happy holiday season and a New Year filled with the luck of the Irish and the warmth of cherished moments! May 2024 bring you joy, prosperity, and the company of good friends and family.

In the spirit of the Emerald Isle, may your days be touched by the magic of laughter, your heart be lightened by the music of Irish tunes, and your path be lined with fields of clover leading to success and happiness.

As you journey through the coming year, may you find the strength of a Celtic warrior, the wisdom of an ancient bard, and the resilience of the rolling hills. May your troubles be less and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door.

Here's to a year filled with the warmth of Irish hospitality, the beauty of the landscape, and the enduring spirit of the Irish people. Sláinte to a wonderful 2024!

SPS COMMITTEE AND EVENT CHAIRS

Charity Luncheon	Pamela McGovern
Communications	Carol McCormick
Community Award	Ken Quinn
Governance and Protocol	Christopher Deehy
Investment Committee	Paul Doyle
Golf Committee	Dave Dubeau
Charitable Giving & Sponsorship Committee	Christopher Deehy
Membership Committee	Vacant
Nominating Committee	Ken Quinn
Strategic Planning	Vacant
Youth Wing	Vacant

Thank you to our committee chairs for all your hard work and dedication to the Society.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR NUACHT

Size	1 issue	4 issues	Saving
Card size	\$75	\$200	\$100
1/4 page	\$150	\$350	\$250
1/3 page	\$200	\$500	\$300
1/2 page	\$250	\$700	\$300

All submissions are to be forwarded directly to our editor, Martina Branagan at nuacht@spsmtl.com

The deadlines for submissions are usually: September 15th, November 15th, January 15th and May 15th.

Rates exclude layout or art. Please submit all art work in JPEG/PDF, sized accordingly. Rates also exclude GST and PST, if applicable.

LET'S HAVE A BALL!

SEE YOU ON MARCH 1, 2024!

BY CAROL MCCORMICK, CHAIR FOR THE 2024 BALL

Last year, St. Patrick's Society took a chance, post pandemic, and in just eight weeks, we managed to develop a plan, prepare the event, and hosted what was hailed as a most successful Ball on Friday, March 3, 2023.

It was obvious from the gathering that everyone was anxious to get out again, enjoy each other's company, be together in person, dance and have a great time.

This year will prove no exception to the standards to which we have grown accustomed. We have worked hard this summer to find an exciting new venue for St. Patrick's Society Ball of 2024.

March 1, 2024, we will be waiting for you at The Westin Hotel, 270 Saint-Antoine Ouest, Montréal, Québec H2Y 0A3 Canada.

The Chef will be creating an authentic Irish menu for us!

Music will be none other than "The Director's Showband".

Please note that the dress code for this event is black tie; this includes ball gowns and tuxedos or business suits.

St. Patrick's Society is also very honoured to have two people that have proven their support of the Irish community here in Montreal as well as across Canada. Our Guest of Honor will be **Mr. James Maloney**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Lakeshore. Mr. Maloney was instrumental in having the month of March recognized as Irish Heritage Month in Canada.



Our Honourary Patron will be **Mr. Patrick M. Shea** Partner, McCarthy Tétrault LLP. Patrick is also a past president of St. Patrick's Society and very well-known for his extensive community involvement.



As you all know, the monies raised by St. Patrick's Society at the Ball and our other events are returned to the community to support many charitable, cultural and educational purposes. This year, we will be focusing our fund-raising on a particular organization that has worked for several years now to protect our ancestors and heritage through the creation of a Monument Park for the 6000+ Irish immigrants, who fled the Great Hunger in Ireland, only to die and be buried in Montreal near the Victoria Bridge in 1847, and to commemorate the many Montrealers who also lost their lives by coming to their aid. Yes, the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation will be the beneficiary of the monies raised at the 2024 St. Patrick's Ball. This is another reason for all of you to join us whether as a couple, a group of friends, another society or as a corporation.

Tickets prices are as follows:

- \$295.00 per person
- \$195.00 for Juniors (18-30 years of age)
- \$5,000.00 for a corporate table of 10 people

Tickets can be purchased online: <https://spsmtl.com/membership/transactions/>. Corporate sponsorships are available. We welcome Patrons as well with special mention at the Ball and in the Ball brochure.

For any other questions please contact Katie Irving at the Society's office at (514) 481-1346 or office@spsmtl.com or myself, Carol McCormick at carol@ramcanada.com.

We have a very strong feeling that we will be sold out! Please reserve early!!

Started in 1834, the Annual Charity Ball is Montreal's longest running social event and is an opportunity for Irish Montrealers and their friends to come together to celebrate the official opening of "The Irish Season".

JOIN THE 190TH CELEBRATION! MARCH 15 FOR SPS ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN, CHAIR FOR THE 2024 LUNCHEON

Hold the date of Friday March 15th for the annual SPS Saint Patrick's Day luncheon! We will be celebrating the 190th anniversary of the founding of our Society.

This year's luncheon will take place at Le Centre Sheraton Montreal, 1201 René-Lévesque Blvd West.

We are pleased to announce that our guest of honour will be **Eoin Ó hÓgáin**, a partner and chief investment officer at Power Sustainable, a Montreal-based investment management firm focused on sustainable infrastructure and private equity in the North America, Asia and Europe. He oversees Power Sustainable's investment teams, leads strategic initiatives, and chairs its Sustainability Committee. Eoin is a native of county Kilkenny and a fluent Irish speaker. He also sits on the board of the School of Irish Studies Foundation.

The SPS luncheon is a highlight of Montreal's 'Green Season' and offers a warm environment to connect with friends, old and new, in the Irish community. We look forward to seeing you there. Feicimid ann thú! Please check our website for further information. <https://spsmtl.com/>



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS SPS COMMUNITY AWARD

We are delighted to announce that the closing date for submissions for St. Patrick's Society Community Award 2024, is **Friday, January 19, 2024**.

Nominations are now being accepted for the SPS Community Award 2024. This award dates back to 1993 when it was presented for the first time to Rev. Russell Breen, Pastor, St. Patrick's Basilica for the restoration achieved. All previous awardees are listed on our website under [History](#).

It has two distinct goals:

1. To honour a person within the Irish community who has served in low-profile positions yet who has worked wholeheartedly for the good of the whole community.
2. To honour a Montrealer of Irish descent who has assumed a broader mandate to serve beyond the borders of our local Irish societies. His/her achievements bring honour to us all and it is fitting that we acknowledge such commitment.

The form can be completed online under the [News](#) tab and will be submitted to us directly. On **March 15, 2024**, the awardee will be honoured at the SPS Annual Luncheon.

To help the committee in its evaluation of nominees, we kindly ask you to elaborate on the nominees' contributions, and their broader involvement in and beyond the Irish community, as applicable. Let us know how long the nominee has served. Think of their achievements to date and list them. The more information you provide, the better. If you are considering the second category, let us know how this nominee's service brings honour to our Montreal-Irish community.

The SPS Community Award Committee thanks you in advance for your submissions and looks forward to reading about those you select to be recognized.

YOU'RE INVITED JUNE 14, 2024 28TH ANNUAL SPS GOLF TOURNAMENT

BY DAVID DUBEAU

On June 16th, 2023, 144 golfers participated in the 27th annual St. Patrick's Golf Tournament. As I was driving out early in the morning, BJ Thomas ("Raindrops keep falling on my Head") was on my mind as it was drizzling. However true to form and despite the dire forecast, the rain held off until the final moments. The Luck of The Irish prevailed once again.

It was a great day. Good food, good drink (especially The Hurley's Hospitality Hole) where I spent countless hours picking up Guinness for a certain volunteer who shall remain nameless! It was an opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones.

The Society benefited greatly from the generosity of the participants. We must never forget that all proceeds realized from the tournament are directed to funding the worthy organizations the society supports.

Finally, "Save The Date". The 28th Annual Golf Tournament will take place on June 14th, 2024. Your committee has already been hard at work to ensure the continued success of the event. Hope to see you all on June 14th.



UNITED IRISH SOCIETIES SAVE THE DATES

BY KEN QUINN

2024 **QUEEN & COURT** will be selected on Saturday February 3rd, 2024.

The Montreal **ST. PATRICK'S PARADE** is going ahead again in 2024. How exciting! The 199th parade will take place on Sunday March 17th at 12 noon, St. Patrick's Day itself. The route is yet to be confirmed.

For more detailed information, whether you are a Spectator, Vendor/Supplier to the Parade or a Participant in the parade, please visit <http://iparade.ca>

We will publish more information in our next edition of Nuacht.

UIS DIGNITARIES & AWARD RECIPIENTS 2024 IRISH SEASON

BY KEN QUINN

The United Irish Societies of Montreal recently announced its dignitaries and award recipients. They are:

Grand Marshal
MIKE KENNEDY



Chief Reviewing Officer
PATTY MCCANN



Simon McDonagh Humanitarian Award
GORDON LIPPIATT

Liam Daly Heritage Award
JANICE YOUNG

We will have more information about these individuals in the next edition of Nuacht.

WE'RE NOT LEAVING!

BY MARK O'NEILL

OPINION

There is a reason the flag of the City of Montreal bears a shamrock as one of its five symbols - the Irish were one of the founding peoples of this great metropolis. Well before my wife and I arrived in Montreal in 2017, I was aware that the Irish thrived in this province and helped to form its beautiful mosaic before there was even a country called Canada – and have been a large part of its flourishing since. But you wouldn't know of the Irish influence to hear Montreal and Quebec's story told by the Revisionists who run things in the capital of Quebec.

The “fact” that French has been the common language and common culture (the definition for which is as a referendum question - elusive) in Quebec for four centuries or that everyone who speaks English is English requires pretzel-twisting of historic proportions. I am not so naïve to have thought that Montreal's tolerant and open society would be free of the not-so-well intentioned leaders and members of the media who can be found in other jurisdictions, but I was taken aback by their gall. The justification for unkindness by turning privileged people into victims happens all over the world but the gaslighting that happens here is almost Trumpian.

If misinformation and falsehoods, sprinkled with victimhood and fear creation are spread without fact-checking, people start believing the re-written history and they support measures accordingly. Quebec is not immune to this.

For my wife and me, as it has been for many others, this bilingual and multicultural burg was an inviting attraction. In the first years in our new home, we have been enthralled by Montreal - the architecture, the great canopy, shops big and small, the food and the aromas, the jazz bars and, of course, the lyrical language – from all over the world. How could you not love this place? A weekend stroll for a few kilometres fills the ears with French, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese and several more. Students, from McGill, UQAM, Concordia and Université de Montreal bob along the streets, speaking to and over their peers in a symphony of French and English - switching from one to the other often in mid-sentence. The city bursts with charm in its colour and diversity. But Quebec pundits speak not of Montreal's beauty. Rather, they choose to dwell on the ways in which a government can make the City and Province more mean-spirited, more ugly. The distorted versions of history are becoming facts for some and this can all be quite disheartening.

Disheartening but not dispiriting. Lies can be fought with truth. Unkindness overtaken by human decency.

The Revisionists make decisions based on polling - polling which is shaped by loaded questions suggesting a perpetual state of victimhood. They spend their time creating altered narratives to shape what their listeners will want to hear – all to move an agenda forward. So, let's change the narrative for the people who respond to those polls.

The Irish contribution to the fabric of Quebec puts us in a unique position to counter the historical re-writing. The Irish have been in Quebec since the 1600s. Irish Montrealers and Quebecers fought alongside French-speaking Quebecers. We have been friends not enemies. Most Irish-Montrealers did not live in an enclave from which some French-Canadians felt looked down upon. Irish influence on Quebecois music is legendary. In government and politics, from D'Arcy McGee to Brian Mulroney to Pierre Fitzgibbon, Irish input to the narrative of Quebec played out and continues to do so. In the world of journalism, surely no one doubts there was an amorous Irishman sitting on a branch of Claude Ryan's family tree. And the story of the Irish famine victims who fell ill, many of whom died on the shores of the St. Lawrence, the response to which became Quebec's and, indeed Canada's greatest humanitarian effort is a testament to the sense of community among communities which forms the unique culture of Montreal. The Victoria bridge was built off the sweat of many Montreal Irish. Irish-Montrealers have led businesses and fed the poor. They have been leaders in hospitals and universities. These are stories worth telling. In French as well as English.

It is not enough to celebrate our role in Quebec culture amongst the Irish-Montrealers. It is time to let our French-speaking neighbours in on the history of our province, to remind our friends of the value, the beauty of using the expressions “us” and “we” rather than “us and them”. We can also work with our friends in other communities – Portuguese, Scottish, Arabic, Chinese and yes, even the English to encourage the spreading of their contributions.

Surely, after all this time here, we will not sit idly as the leaders of our province revel in a struggle against the false indignity of having a language other than one's own spoken in the streets of our city. W.B. Yeats warned of a world where “The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.” Let us put passion and conviction into telling our stories. Let's make the Irish story a Quebec story - one all Quebecers will want to hear.

CINÉ GAEL MONTREAL STARTS JANUARY 26, 2024

BY THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

What an exciting season we had in 2023, the first full season and the first closing gala since the pandemic hit in 2020. We managed to screen a great variety of films and are very grateful for the collaboration with Irish Studies, and Concordia University among others!

The 2024 season planning started a couple of months ago. The programmers are putting together an exciting line-up of features, documentaries and the award-winning evening of shorts.

We said goodbye to Heather MacDougall and Kester Dyer, the indomitable duo who programmed the Evening of Irish Shorts. They have left the city and we wish them every success in their new ventures. We welcome two new people to the programming team: Susie Wileman and Ciaran Hopkins who are already off to a great start. You will meet them soon.

Thank you for your continued patronage and ongoing membership of Ciné Gael. We look forward to seeing you at the De Sève, Concordia University. We ask you to Save the Date of **Friday January 26, 2024** for our Opening night, starting at the usual time of 7:15 PM. Be sure to invite new people to join you.

For further information on the schedule, please visit Ciné Gael at: <https://www.cinegaelmontreal.com/> Links to trailers of the films will become available as we secure the films.

You can sign up for season membership or attend individual events and pay as you go. All details will be listed on this page from mid-December 2023: <https://www.cinegaelmontreal.com/membership.htm>

To stay up to date with film events, you can join the mailing list. Simply send an email to: info@cinegaelmontreal.com.



WE'RE NOT LEAVING! CONT. FROM PAGE 8

When we tell those stories, they will be told with wit and wisdom – in a contrary note to the dreary countenances and fear mongering of the Revisionists. They will demonstrate the ways in which we have helped to weave the societal fabric of this province, how we breathe life into our neighbourhoods – we can open our friends' eyes and ears to the beauty that is before them. As Yeats, on another occasion, intoned ... “We must laugh and we must sing. We are blest by everything.”

And each time we unravel history, we should remind the Revisionists ... “Though you may want to force us out, we have been here for four centuries, too. And we're not leaving.”

MONTREAL SHAMROCKS GAA 2023 REVIEW: LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS, AND MORE

BY STEVE OWENS

2023 marked the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Club and will go down in history as one of its most active and successful years.

Montreal May Tournament and Quebec Championship

The Montreal Shamrocks annual May tournament took place at the Montreal Irish Rugby grounds in Sainte-Julie on the May holiday weekend. Teams representing mens and ladies gaelic football, hurling and camogie participated. The Montreal May tournament is an annual 'holy grail' competition for our local teams due to the high standard of teams attending from across all of Canada and the fact that it's 'our' tournament. The Ladies Senior gaelic football team took home the honors for the first time in our club's history. The men's senior football team were also not to be outdone in 2023. Congratulations on our senior football teams claiming a Senior football double.

The men's senior football team continued their local success later in the year, overcoming an ever improving Quebec Patriotes team on a cold and wet Saturday afternoon in Trois-Rivières to claim the annual Quebec Championship Paddy Dunne Trophy. Club legend Brendan O'Connor lead the team to glory.



Quebec Championship Champions

Eastern Canadian Championships

The Eastern Canadian Championships were hosted by the Quebec Patriotes Gaelic Athletic Club and took place at the sports grounds in Pont Rouge, Quebec, on labour weekend 2023. Teams and participants from Peterborough, Kingston, Ottawa, Quebec City, Halifax, Calgary and Montreal competed for titles in all four codes, mens and ladies gaelic football, hurling and camogie. The ladies senior and junior football and hurling teams reached finals in their respective competitions but were unlucky on the day. The mens gaelic football senior and junior teams were both victorious, the junior team beating old rivals, Ottawa Gaels, in a memorable match which was forced into extra time. The Shamrocks Camogie team were also victorious claiming the title of Eastern Canadian Champions to round out a remarkable year for Shamrocks Camogie.



Montreal May Tournament Mens Senior Champions



Montreal May Tournament Ladies Senior Champions



Eastern Canadian Mens Senior Champions

MONTREAL SHAMROCKS GAA 2023 REVIEW CONT.



Eastern Canadian Mens Junior Champions



Eastern Canadian Mens Junior Champions



Eastern Canadian Camogie Champions

at the Owenbeg GAA centre of excellence in County Derry, Northern Ireland. The Montreal Shamrocks are extremely proud to have sent over 40 players to Ireland, participating in all 4 codes, the largest player representation from a single club in the world. The players played in teams selected from Eastern Canadian clubs and represented either Quebec (Montreal and Quebec) or Eastern Canada (Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Halifax) at the tournament.

The mens and ladies gaelic football teams were made up of players from Montreal Shamrocks and Quebec Patriotes. Despite some excellent performances, both teams did not make it to the finals with tough opposition coming from teams based in Europe, Asia and Australia.

The Eastern Canadian Hurling team, comprised of players from Montreal Shamrocks, Ottawa Éire Óg and Halifax Gaels took home the World GAA Shield Trophy. An unbelievable achievement.

The Eastern Canadian Camogie squad had 14 Montreal Shamrocks representatives out of a 15-player squad (one member from Ottawa), effectively making this a Montreal Shamrocks team at the World Games. Camogie in Montreal is relatively young. The Camogie Superleague is only 3 years old and all the players have taken up the sport in this time. The Shamrocks Camogie team at the World Games produced some of the most heroic performances seen at this tournament. Growing from strength to strength throughout the tournament culminating in taking home silverware in the form of the GAA World Games Camogie Shield, World Champions and the stuff of fairytales and dreams.

Overall the World Games were a phenomenal experience for all those that travelled. A special mention should go to all the Montreal Shamrocks coaches that put in exceptional work dedicating countless hours coaching our players to standards never seen before here in Montreal and displaying them on the International stage:

Camogie: Julie Houle

Mens football: James McDonagh & Marty Lawless

Womens football: Paddy Mahon & Aidan Gallagher

World GAA Camogie Champions

World Games, Derry, Northern Ireland

The GAA commenced the World Games following its current competition format in 2015. Originally held in Abu Dhabi, subsequent tournaments have since been held in Ireland on a three-year rotational basis. The tournament is split into Native (Irish born) and International (non-Irish born) divisions. About 1500 players from GAA clubs located across the globe attended the week-long tournament taking place



MONTREAL SHAMROCKS GAA 2023 REVIEW CONT.



World GAA Hurling Champions

years in the wilderness to claim the trophy. Camogie champions were N.D.G Na Fianna Rouge with the Pointe-Saint-Charles Cú Chulainn claiming the Hurling title.

Montreal Shamrocks Superleague

The bedrock of Gaelic games in Montreal is the Montreal Shamrocks Superleague. Founded in 2012, the Superleague has grown exponentially since then allowing gaelic games to be competitively played in Montreal on a weekly basis, usually at the grass field on the Vanier College campus. Current participating teams in all clubs include the Goose Village Black Rocks (mens and ladies), Verdun Vikings (mens and ladies), Griffintown Gaels (mens and ladies), Concordia Warriors (mens, ladies, hurling, camogie), N.D.G Na Fianna Rouge (hurling and camogie) and the Pointe-Saint-Charles Cú Chulainn (hurling and camogie). It's through the Montreal Shamrocks Superleague that new and old players can improve, allowing the club to develop, and ultimately placing the Montreal Shamrocks in a strong position on the national and international stage.

The Superleague is split annually into the Winter and Summer leagues. The Summer league is the flagship competition and the annual Superleague cups are highly sought by the Superleague teams.

This year's men's and women's football honours went to the Verdun Vikings. The mens Vikings team in particular overcame



Superleague Champions

Looking forward

The Montreal Shamrocks held their annual AGM on Saturday 28th October in the Father McEntee room of the Concordia Irish Studies Department. A new chairperson, Jake Ouellette, was elected. Jake is the first Canadian in the 75-year history of the Montreal Shamrocks to take the lead position of our club, a historic event.

The Montreal Shamrocks would like to thank Saint Patrick's Society for their continued support for Irish culture through the playing of Gaelic games in Montreal by providing financial assistance. Whether it be paying for field time, purchasing equipment, subsidizing young player travel costs, the assistance from Saint Patrick's Society has been vital in the current success the Montreal Shamrocks are experiencing.

REST IN PEACE, TIM

BY KEN QUINN

The end of the 2023 St. Patrick's Parade saw a unique celebration. The Grand Marshal and his bride were married on St. Catherine Street by the Chief Reviewing Officer. Tim Furlong and Kim Lampitt celebrated their big day with the community and they both looked extremely happy surrounded by their loved ones.

Being named Grand Marshal was the culmination of the Montreal Irish community recognition for all the good works Tim accomplished throughout his life.

Early on, he coached hockey and football in the Leo's Boys organization. When he moved to Chateauguy, he immediately got involved in coaching baseball for the [Chateauguy Little League Baseball Association](#) and in 1993 was elected its president, a position he held for seven years. Additionally, he coached minor hockey, and co-chaired a group of Boy Scouts. He was twice recognized by the Chateauguy community. In 1994 the City of Chateauguy named Tim Volunteer of the Year for Sports and, in 2013, the Chateauguy and Valley Irish Heritage Association named him Grand Marshal of their parade.

On the Montreal side of the river, Tim joined the Erin Sports Association in 1999. He held various positions before being elected its president in 2010, a position he held for eleven years.



Tim's first Montreal Irish community recognition came in 2022 when St. Patrick's Society of Montreal bestowed its Community Award upon him. Unfortunately, pandemic measures prevented the Society from organizing an in-person Luncheon. However, it did organize its second consecutive Virtual Luncheon, where Tim was recognized. He and his fellow Erin Sports members gathered at their clubhouse to watch the Luncheon and feted Tim, a fitting recognition from his friends given the circumstances.



Kim Lampitt and Tim Furlong

In the Fall of 2022, the United Irish Societies of Montreal selected Tim as the Grand Marshal of the 2023 St. Patrick's Parade. Tim enthusiastically embraced the honour and, over the following weeks, hatched his plan to marry his honey surrounded by thousands of his closest friends, a plan that was executed flawlessly.

The community first watched Tim battle esophageal cancer in 2020 and breathed a collective sigh of relief when he was declared cancer-free.

Sadly, within days of the conclusion of the 2023 parade, the community learned that Tim's cancer had returned. In true Tim fashion, he rolled up his sleeves and battled once more. However, on October 11, 2023, he lost his battle.

The community gathered on October 23, 2023, at St. Charles Church for Tim's funeral which was presided over by Rev. Raymond Lafontaine E.V. Musical accompaniment was provided by two stalwarts, Terry Clahane and Lisa Forget. At the beginning of the service and at the conclusion, the members of the Erin Sports Association formed their guard of honour.

Tim's wish was that in memoriam donations be sent to the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation.

Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation, c/o 462 rue Bourgeoys, Montreal, Quebec H3K 2M1.



St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

FOUNDED 1834



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November 7, 2023

To: The Members of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

Re: Report of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with Section 2 of Article 6 of the By-Laws of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal (the "Society"), the designated chair of the Nominating committee, Ken Quinn, convened and chaired meetings of the committee consisting of the following members: Laurie Bennett, Christie Brown, James Gallagher, and Scott Phelan. The committee hereby nominates the following 25 members (each of whom has consented to his or her nomination) for the offices set forth below across from their respective names for the term of office beginning at the next annual meeting of the members of the Society.

President and director:

Pamela McGovern

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Carol McCormick

Patrick Short

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Thomas Ireland

Secretary and director:

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Mark O'Neill

Kim Sullivan

Dan Zangwill

6767 Cote St. Luc Road, # 1, Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6 | Ph: 514-481-1346 | office@spsmtl.com | www.spsmtl.com

This letter constitutes the report of the Nominating Committee. According to the By-Laws of the Society, the report of the Nominating Committee must be delivered to all members of the Society. This is being done via the transmission of this letter to all members. The report will also be included in the next issue of *Nuacht*, the Society's newsletter, and in the News section of the Society's website: www.spsmtl.com.

Any Regular Member or Life Member (each as defined in the By-Laws of the Society) in good standing may nominate himself or herself or another Regular Member or Life Member for any of the elected offices of the Society set forth above. All such nominations must:

- (a) be in writing;
- (b) be signed by the nominator and by 5 other Regular Members or Life Members;
- (c) include an indication of the consent of the nominee; and
- (d) be received by the Secretary of the Society no later than **November 21, 2023** - 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting

via mail or courier to:

Secretary
c/o Katie Irving, Office Admin
St. Patrick's Society of Montreal
6767 Cote St. Luc Road, Suite 1
Montreal, QC., H4V 2Z6

or a scan thereof sent by e-mail to: office@spsmtl.com.

We look forward to your attendance at the annual meeting of the members of the Society to be held on **December 5, 2023**. We will provide you with more information shortly.

Sincerely,

Ken Quinn
for the Executive

THE IRISH NUTCRACKER RETURNS

BY PAT SHORT

Ville Marie Feis is proud to present the Irish Nutcracker on **Sunday, December 17, 2023**. This production tells the classic Nutcracker story but with an Irish twist; Young Ciara (Maleah Saussy) receives a special Nutcracker toy from her Uncle Ryan (Emile Choiniere-Shields) at the family's annual Christmas Céilí hosted by Mr. Donoghue (James Houghton) and Mrs. Donoghue (Meaghan Kilmartin).

When the Irish Nutcracker comes to life, Ciara travels with him, to a dreamland of Irish snowflakes, gingerbread cookies, sugar plum fairies, and candy canes!

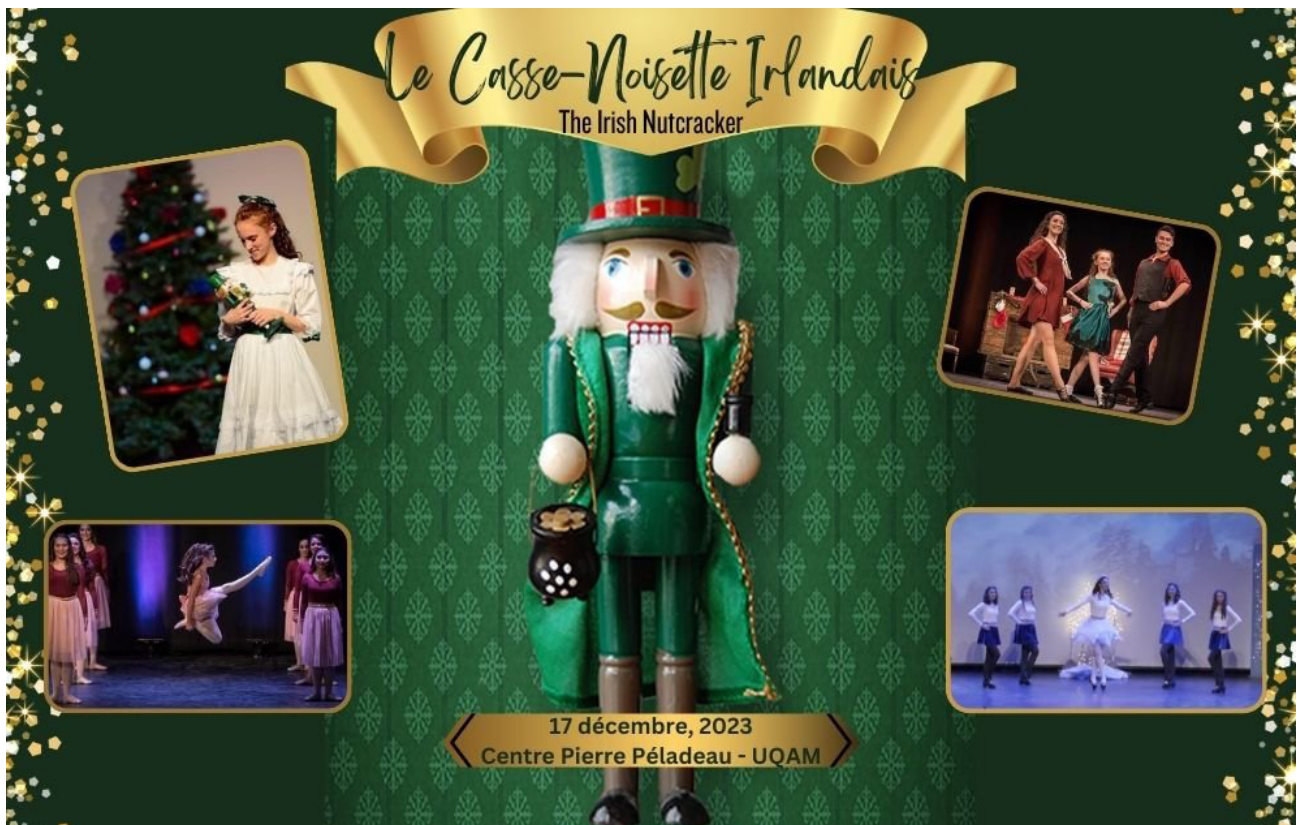
Click [HERE](#) for a short preview clip!!!

For returning guests, this year's show includes some great new additions to this wonderful production! The cast is drawn from the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing as well as invited musicians and singers!

This year's production costs are significantly higher as we are staging the show in the prestigious Montreal Centre des Arts district; Salle Pierre Mercure, Centre Pierre-Péladeau. 300 Boul. de Maisonneuve E, Montréal, QC H2X 3X6

TICKETS:

Tickets are now ON SALE!!! Please click on [HERE](#) to purchase your tickets!!!



We wish to thank the following who contributed articles, photos and ideas to this issue of NUACHT:

Kevin Callahan
Marie Short
Carol McCormick
UIS

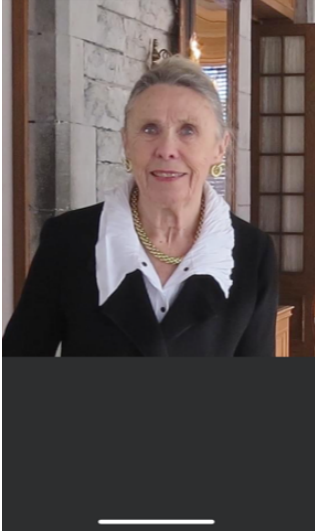
Fergus Keyes
Pat Short
David Dubeau
Patrick Shea

Scott Phelan
School of Irish Studies
Pamela McGovern
James Maloney

Ken Quinn
Embassy of Ireland to Canada
Mark O'Neill
Steve Owens

IN MEMORIAM

BY PAMELA MCGOVERN



Rozek O'Donnell, Beverley (nee Taugher).

In Montreal on September 4, 2023 shortly after her 90th Birthday, Rozek O'Donnell, Beverley passed.

Cherished daughter of the late Marjorie Dade and Patrick James (Percy) Taugher, wife of the late Joseph Julius Rozek and the late J. Vincent O'Donnell, she leaves to mourn her O'Donnell step children Sean, Graham, Jennifer, Dajan and their families; good friends Sharon , Cheryl , Georgia, Frances and many more.

Beveley, through her first husband and her import business, had strong ties and friendships in Vienna and the Austrian ex-pat community in Montreal and Sutton; where she had a chalet for many years.

Beverley was a pillar of the Irish Community in Montreal. She was the first female member of Saint Patrick's Society and served as its Secretary for many years, she was director of Saint Patrick's Square and was on the board of the Loyola College Alumni. Her volunteering did not end there. For years she worked as a guide at Château Ramezay.

She was a warden of Saint Patrick's Basilica from 1998 until her retirement at the end of 2018. During her tenure she was President of the Roof Fundraising Committee and successfully raised over 600,000\$ to see the Basilica's copper roof replaced.

If desired, donations may be made in her memory to Saint Patrick's Restoration Foundation or the Chateau Ramezay.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES THE NOMINATION OF AMBASSADORS

FROM DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On the recommendation of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin TD, the Government of Ireland approved 15 Ambassador nominations on November 14, 2023. These appointments will take place during 2024, subject to agreement by the receiving States.

Among the Ambassadorial nominations approved by the Government is one affecting Canada:

Mr. John Concannon, currently Director General, Global Irish Division, is to be Ambassador to Canada (and Antigua & Barbuda, Jamaica and The Bahamas).

This nomination must be approved by Canada. See the [press release](#).

JUST A LITTLE MORE IRISH

BY MARK O'NEILL



Sinn Féin MP John Finucane with ICC president Paul Dunne, NDG city councillor Peter McQueen, and Dr. Michael Kenneally at the Hurley's event.
Photo Credit: Kevin Callahan

“What the world needs now, is love, sweet love. No, not just for some but for everyone.” Hal David’s lyrics of the 1960’s were his response to the hatred and violence that bubbled throughout the world during that period. Those hopeful words were referenced many times in the decade that followed and could equally apply in today’s world.

On Saturday, May 27, Hurley’s Pub had a little sweet love on tap when The Friends of Sinn Féin hosted a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, emceed by the charming and clever Mark Billings. Guests who sat outside in the warmth of a late May sun were treated to the lyric poetry of Samara O’Gorman whose Irish voice rose like a phoenix from the ashes of COVID and from the doldrums of winter. Dr. Michael Kenneally’s eloquent remarks on the historical significance of the Good Friday Agreement and its unfurling were both informative and moving. Kevin Callahan’s recounting of the important role played by members of Montreal’s Irish community, including the risk to personal safety many of them willingly took, was a reminder of the power of positive contributions to difficult matters. And the soaring harmonies from the women of Gráinne stirred the souls of the gathered.

As though this didn’t make a Spring day perfect already, those present were treated to a speech from the guest speaker, Sinn Féin MP for North Belfast, John Finucane (pronounced feh-NEW-can).

It is not so commonplace anymore to hear stirring oratory that rouses emotions. Today, we are more likely to hear those who govern us (or wish to) deliver bland statements interspersed with sophomoric insults hurled at opponents both real and perceived. It seems that one is either a fascist or woke, and it all gets a bit tiresome. And so, it was entirely refreshing to see the raptly attentive faces listening to Mr. Finucane who, with beautiful articulation, wit, and indeed love, spoke of

his personal experience with The Troubles, The Good Friday Agreement, the years since, and his thoughts for a path forward for Ireland and the North of Ireland.

What a breath of fresh air to hear a politician talk about finding solutions with dialogue and the importance of being serious in discussing these complicated issues (“Serious matters aren’t resolved by a slogan on the side of a bus.”). When, with his Northern Irish accent, he intoned about the issue of the pain and suffering experienced in Northern Ireland, he was talking about all who suffered and the need to avoid that in the future.

It was a poignant moment when Mr. Finucane mentioned, almost in passing, that his father’s death provided him with some familiarity on the subject. One could not blame him were he bitter over the murder of his father which he witnessed as a child. But The Honourable Gentleman focussed solely on the value of working together with those with whom we disagree to find solutions that benefit all and reduce harm for everyone impacted by decisions. At a time in Canada when politicians who make decisions without consultation regularly demonize those who disagree with them, when many people feel they don’t have a voice and are mocked for their questioning, it was almost incredible to hear a Member of the UK Parliament - who had flown so far to speak - discussing a matter about which he is obviously passionate without making one disparaging remark about his countrymen and women who see things differently than he. His commitment to ensure that his children and his neighbour’s children do not endure the violence and hatred around which his childhood evolved clearly drives Mr. Finucane. His love for his country and, more importantly, for those who live in it, abides within his good Irish soul.

As I stood and listened, I could not help but think that what our province, our country and our world need now is just a little more Irish. It sounds so much sweeter.

IRISH DANCING SCHOOLS ROUNDUP

BY PAT SHORT

November 2023

More than 500 Irish dancers from the four eastern Canadian provinces packed the Westin hotel in downtown Toronto over an October weekend to compete in solo and céilí team competitions at the Eastern Canadian Oireachtas. This is our qualifying event for the World Championships to be held in Glasgow, Scotland at Easter 2023, and the North American Championships to be held in Phoenix, AZ, over the national holidays in July.

This 3-day event features competitions for boys and girls in single age groups from under 8 to over 22 years. There are also 4 hands, 6 and 8 hand céilí competitions. Dancers come from about 25 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.

Each year this region offers what is called a "Premiership". This is open to up-and-coming dancers who are new to competitions and gives them an opportunity to perform on the big stage and compete for trophies and medals but has no ranking in the general progression of events.

Marie Claude Rousseau School

There were 2 dancers from this school at the Oireachtas.

Information: m.c.rousseau@videotron.ca

Moran Academy

Eileen had 7 dancers from her school and Kathleen Moran-Pauluk placed 11th in Canada (east)

Information: Eileenmoran28@hotmail.com

Costello Irish Dance

Casey sent dozens of dancers to the Oireachtas and the Premierhips. In the Top 10 of many age groups his dancers placed eight times, many qualifying for World's in Glasgow, Scotland in March 2024. Casey is the recently elected Regional Director for Eastern Canada and a member of the Coimisiún in Dublin, Ireland.

Information: casey@costelloirishdance.ca

Young Academy

Janice had a score of competitors this year competing in Oireachtas, Premiership and Figure Céilí Dancing.

Information: youngirishdance@hotmail.com

Bernadette Short School

This year Bernadette also sent dozens of dancers to compete. In the Top 10 of many age groups, eighteen of her dancers placed, many of these dancers also qualifying for World's and the North American Championships. Bernadette wants to thank her assistant coaches Marie, Katie, Natasha, Anne-Marie, Michael, Kayla, and Lucas, all with their T.C.R.G certificates as teachers and/or adjudicators, for all their work.

The following dancers placed in the top 3 on the podium and are but a partial list of ECRé dancers, from GMA, who have qualified for Glasgow 2024:

- **Casey Costello School:** Hanna Koch, Caleb O'Flaherty, and Henry Campbell.
- **Bernadette Short School:** Lillian Mooney, Susan Roper, Michaela Isaacson, Meaghan Kilmartin, Marco Popovic, Nolan Short. and Abby Chaub

Information: info@shortschoolirishdance.com



IRISH STUDIES WINTER 2024 COURSES

Time-sensitive for auditors and Concordia students: it is recommended that you register for your Winter 2024 courses as courses that are under-enrolled may be cancelled.

Inhabiting the Irish Landscape: Irish Cultural Geography

IRST 398 Sec. AA / GEOG 398 Sec. AA

Schedule: Monday 17:45-20:15

How have people inhabited, interacted with, and shaped the Irish landscape over time?

This course investigates the relationship between people and the Irish landscape across Ireland's four provinces: Leinster, Ulster, Munster, and Connacht. Students will examine lived environments

through core themes in cultural geography, including urbanity and rurality, gender and sexuality, migration, and identity. Lectures will draw on a range of materials to explore and learn about Ireland's cultural geography, including relevant documentaries and films, music records, and podcasts, as well as virtual maps and online walking tours. Students will have opportunities to communicate their knowledge of Irish cultural geography in multiple ways, such as through visual/sonic analysis of maps and independent research.

Some interactive aspects of this course:

- Guest visit from Irish-Canadian artist whose work was featured in the Museum of Fine Art's Du Musée Avenue last year (<https://www.mbam.qc.ca/en/exhibitions/niamh/>)
- Walking tour of Irish Montreal
- Film screenings at DeSeve Cinema

Cultural Geographies of the Irish Night

IRST 398 Sec. BB / GEOG 398 Sec. BB

Schedule: Wednesday 17:45-20:15

The Irish night is shaped by cultural, political, and economic forces. Drawing on the emerging field of 'night studies', this course considers the contemporary development of 'night space' in Ireland. This includes the night-time economy (for example, policies on closing times, gig-economies, transportation, and extended closures of cultural spaces during the Covid-19 pandemic) as well as 'night culture' (for example, the development of major nocturnal events, including Ireland's 'Culture Night', as well as night-time



Source: [School of Irish Studies](#)

street art galleries and music festivals). We'll examine how systems of power operate within the Irish night, asking how access – and at times lack of access – to night spaces shape geographic processes, including gentrification, migration, gender (in)equity,

and employment. The course will

draw on a range of multi-media materials and diverse case studies, as well as virtual and in-person visits from night studies scholars and community activists. As part of the course, students will attend Montréal en Lumière, to examine how nocturnal culture is presented, experienced, and shaped in different urban environments.

Some interactive aspects of this course:

- Involvement in Montreal's Nuit Blanche city-wide event
- Guest talks from Irish key speakers, including the activist group 'Give us the night', organizers of Culture Night Dublin and a Night Major from Ireland
- Visit and talk in an Irish pub
- A haunted walk in Montreal

More detailed information on these courses is available here:

<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/irish-studies/programs/undergraduate/courses.html>

For an entire list of possible Irish Studies courses, please view our list of [other possible course offerings](#).

UNITED IRISH SOCIETIES' CHRISTMAS DRAW & BASKET DELIVERY

BY KEN QUINN

The United Irish Societies of Montreal (UIS) is perhaps best known as the organizers of Montreal's annual St. Patrick's Parade, something it has been responsible for since the organization's founding in 1928.

In the mid 1960s the organization began doing some community outreach, organizing entertainment evenings at residences for shut ins and the elderly. Members would bring their instruments and voices to put a smile on the faces of people who ordinarily couldn't get out.

Also around that time, the UIS started raising money at Christmas time. The first draw, held on December 15, 1967 at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Cavendish Boulevard, benefitted what is described in the UIS archives as "welfare and social services". A cheque in the amount of 154\$ was donated to the Montreal Children's Hospital for the purchase of a special wheelchair. To put this in perspective, according to Bank of Canada's Inflation Calculator a good that cost 154\$ in 1965 today would cost 1335\$ in 2023.

The following year, the Christmas Draw was held in the Oak Room of the Windsor Hotel. And so the tradition of assembling Christmas Baskets through the funds raised by the Christmas Draw was born. The purpose of this project is to have a self-financed; membership driven event that helps less fortunate members of the community at a time of the year when they are at their most vulnerable. Members were encouraged to sell a total of eight thousand tickets, and they could confidentially submit names of families in need to the committee chairperson.

Tickets were sold for a modest sum of 5 for \$1.00 or \$.25 per ticket. Initially prizes offered included bottles of alcohol however, in 1979 these were replaced by cash prizes. To keep up with the times and the cost of goods, in 1981 the price of tickets increased to \$1.00, in 1992 total prizes increased to \$2,000.

For numerous years now, the Christmas Draw has been coupled with the UIS general meeting held in November or early December. The community comes out in numbers to support this most worthy project.

Today, proceeds of the Christmas Draw benefit approximately sixty needy families, mainly in the Southwest, Verdun, and LaSalle boroughs of the City of Montreal.

BASKET DELIVERY

Historically the goods were purchased, brought to a physical location, and the baskets assembled and delivered on a Saturday morning close to Christmas Day. Along with the nonperishables, a frozen turkey was provided along with

other provisions to help make Christmas a little happier.

I can recall assembling and delivering baskets from Boucherie G.D.G. on Verdun Ave. in Verdun and, when the business closed, from the owner's home on Bannantyne Street.

In roughly 1998 basket assembly and delivery shifted to Pointe St. Charles and Margaret Healy and Sheila Fitzgibbon's more spacious garage on rue du Parc Marguerite-Bourgeois, allowing more volunteers to get involved in the assembly process. In about 2016 basket assembly and delivery returned to Verdun when the organization was successful in securing Beurling Academy.

In March 2020, much of the world came to a halt. The COVID 19 pandemic had taken hold throughout much of the world, including in Montreal. Restrictions were de rigueur for many months, which impacted the community's ability to celebrate and the UIS' ability to raise funds for this most important project at a time when people were quite vulnerable. Thanks to chairperson Cathy Ross-Doyle and her team's ability to pivot, the UIS Christmas Draw went completely virtual in December 2020, e-transfers were accepted, and gift cards were offered to the recipient families, eliminating the need for members to gather to assemble and distribute baskets. In December 2021 a general meeting and Christmas Draw was held at Kelly's Orchard Pub on rue Donegani in Pointe Claire with the draw streamed online for those unable to attend. In November 2022, the Draw returned to an in-person event at St. John Brébeuf Church in LaSalle while the delivery continues to be via gift cards and some modest gifts to the families, allowing families the flexibility to purchase food it prefers over a predetermined list of food offered by the organization.

While the UIS Christmas Draw and Basket delivery is a self-financed, member-driven project, it would not be the success that it is without the support of the greater community. Members of many other Irish community organizations have purchased tickets, sold tickets, won prizes, and have helped deliver baskets. The UIS is thankful that members of organizations such as the Erin Sports Association, St. Patrick's Society, the Montreal Shamrocks, and others have often helped deliver baskets.

At this time of year, if you are able, please spare a moment to support organizations in your community who service a population that can use a helping hand at a time of year when they are most vulnerable.

REMEMBERING BRIAN O'NEILL

BY DAVID DUBEAU



St. Patrick's Society and the Irish Community lost a great Montrealer when Brian passed away in July 2023.

Brian was born on January 25th, Robbie Burns Day. The irony of a staunch Irish Catholic being born on the most sacred Scottish feast day was never lost on Brian.

His entire education took place in Montreal at Loyola High School, Loyola College, and McGill University. Most of his professional career was spent at the National Hockey League where he was Executive Vice President. He oversaw the 1967 expansion and was in charge of player discipline when he retired. When a player was asked to assess Brian's tenure as the league disciplinarian he replied, "Tough but Fair."

Brian was involved in the Irish community his entire life. He was on the Board of Directors of St. Patrick's Society and served as its President. He was also The Irishman of the Year in 1991. He served on many boards including Loyola High School, Sacred Heart School, Warden of St. Patrick's Basilica and St. Mary's Hospital. He was also on the St. Patrick's Golf Committee where he used his many contacts to obtain donations to help fund the event and support charities in the community.

Finally, a few anecdotes that I feel capture the spirit of Brian O'Neill. He was a "man for all seasons" defined as someone who was able to adapt to any situation and remain true to themselves. His notice in the paper mentioned that for Brian service was not only an obligation but was very much a part of himself.

He is truly missed.

REST IN PEACE, WAYNE!

BY DAVID DUBEAU



Wayne was born in Montreal and spent his entire life as a proud Montrealer. He and his wife Lillian raised their two daughters in Cartierville. They were both active members of the Transfiguration of our Lord Parish. Wayne was a warden of the parish, founded the men's club and was the chief organizer of the parish bowling league. Lillian was the church secretary for many years.

Wayne ran a successful insurance company for many the year. Wayne loved anything to do with sports.

St. Patrick's Society was the beneficiary of Wayne's love of sports. He was actively involved in the golf committee for many years and was the longest serving co-chairman of the event. He donated countless articles, including hockey tickets, football tickets, golf equipment and luggage sets. Wayne's donations raised thousands of dollars for the golf tournament.

Wayne was a regular at most Irish events and was the Grand Marshal of the parade in 2002. He was also chosen by Erin Sports as Irishman of the Year in 2016. Even as his health deteriorated, if anything was needed for the golf tournament, Wayne was there to help out.

Wayne will be missed, but his kindness and generosity will live on. May he rest in peace.

ON THE DEATH OF SHANE MACGOWAN

STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



Source: <https://president.ie>

Following on the sudden death earlier this year of Sinéad O'Connor, at the age of 56, it is noticeable that there is shock in the outpouring of love and loss in the statements and tributes that have flooded our news feeds regarding the passing of legend, Shane MacGowan at 65 (he would have been 66 on Christmas day). We thought that the words of President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins capture the essence of the man, the musician and the poet.

“Like so many across the world, it was with the greatest sadness that I learned this morning of the death of Shane MacGowan.

Shane will be remembered as one of music's greatest lyricists. So many of his songs would be perfectly crafted poems, if that would not have deprived us of the opportunity to hear him sing them.

The genius of Shane's contribution includes the fact that his songs capture within them, as Shane would put it, the measure of our dreams - of so many worlds, and particularly those of love, of the emigrant experience and of facing the challenges of that experience with authenticity and courage, and of living and seeing the sides of life that so many turn away from.

His words have connected Irish people all over the globe to their culture and history, encompassing so many human emotions in the most poetic of ways.

Shane's talent was nurtured from a young age by his mother Therese, herself an award winning folk singer in her own right. Therese, who lost her life in such tragic circumstances on New Year's Day 2017, inspired in Shane the love of Irish music and traditions which resulted in the wonderful music and lyrics which have been a source of such joy for so many people.

Born on Christmas Day, there was perhaps some form of destiny which led Shane to writing 'Fairytale of New York', the timeless quality of which will surely mean that it will be listened to every Christmas for the next century or more. Likewise songs like 'Rainy Night in Soho', 'A Pair of Brown Eyes', 'If I Should Fall from Grace with God' and so many others will live on far into the years and decades to come.

I think too of 'Haunted', and the particular poignancy that both Shane and Sinéad O'Connor have left us in such quick succession.

It was a great honour for me, as President of Ireland, to present Shane with a lifetime achievement award in the National Concert Hall in January 2018 as we marked his 60th birthday. A richly deserved honour.

On behalf of Sabina and I, may I extend my deepest condolences to Shane's wife Victoria, his sister Siobhán, his father Maurice, his bandmates in the Pogues and other projects, and to all his many friends and family.”

CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2023-2024 EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Dec 5, 2023 Dec 17, 2023	SPS AGM, McEntee Reading Room, School of Irish Studies, Concordia, 6 PM The Irish Nutcracker, Salle Pierre Mercure, Centre Pierre-Péladeau	office@spsmtl.com
Jan 19, 2024 Jan 26, 2024	SPS 2024 Community Award submissions are due <i>Opening Night</i> , Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM	office@spsmtl.com https://www.cinegaelmontreal.com/
Feb 3, 2024	UIS 2024 Queen Selection Evening, EVO, Robert Bourassa Blvd, 7 PM	cmurphy2_3@msn.com
Mar 1, 2024 Mar 15, 2024 Mar 17, 2024	SPS Annual Charity Ball, The Westin Hotel, 270 St.-Antoine Ouest SPS Annual Luncheon, Le Centre Sheraton The 199 th Montreal St. Patrick's Parade at 12 noon	office@spsmtl.com office@spsmtl.com director@montrealirishparade.com
June 14, 2024	SPS Annual Charity Golf Tournament	office@spsmtl.com



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ST PATRICK'S SOCIETY

You are cordially invited to submit your articles, photos, events, and other information you'd like to share with the Irish Community here in Montreal or around the world.

You can contact the editor of Nuacht via email at: nuacht@spsmtl.com. The closing date for submissions for the Spring edition is **February 15, 2024**. We look forward to hearing from you.