



“The most patient man in Ireland” - General John de Chastelain, Guest of Honour at St. Patrick's Ball

By Ned Eustace



General John de Chastelain

On March 10th, 2006, General A. John G. D. de Chastelain, OC, CMM, CD, CH, Chair of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning in Northern Ireland, formerly Chief of the Defence Staff and Canadian Ambassador to the United States of America, will be the Guest of Honour at the St. Patrick's Society Annual Ball being held at the Marriott Chateau Champlain on March 10th.

He has been described as the most patient man in Ireland and has, it's been said, within his gift the ability to bring peace, finally, to the entire island of Ireland. After over five hundred years of on-again-off-again conflict, that would be no mean achievement. Since 1995 the General has walked the tortuous road to arms decommissioning. “The IRA has met its commitment to put all its arms beyond use” – with these long hoped for

words he announced to the world on an inauspicious wet September day in 2005 that the IRA had disarmed.

In the struggle for peace in Northern Ireland General de Chastelain has shown himself to be a principled man of infinite patience. He is not given much to public utterances about the work of decommissioning, although he has given some public lectures and made speeches in the interest of furthering the process. For over ten years he has dealt not just with the para-militaries on both sides but also, no less dauntingly, with political parties in Westminster, Dublin and Belfast as well as the security forces, the police, religious leaders and near countless others. His vantage point has been unique. Few other men – and no politician – involved in the Good Friday Agreement have had the lines of communication he established; and even fewer have been so actively involved for so long. He has overseen at least four acts of paramilitary disarmament, three by the Provisional IRA and one by the Loyalist Volunteer Force. Much of what he has accomplished will, through necessity, long be shrouded in a veil of secrecy and remain unreported.

Before being asked to assist U.S. Senator George Mitchell in the negotiations that were to lead to the Good Friday Agreement, and ultimately to his appointment as Chair of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning in Northern Ireland in 1997, General John de Chastelain's only experience of Northern Ireland had been a stopover on a childhood visit to the Republic. It is a measure of the organisational and personal skills that mark the career of this soldier turned diplomat that he was able to grasp so early on the complexities of the situation in which he found himself.

His selection for the leading role in decommissioning was not without controversy. Appointed by the British there were strong initial objections from the Irish government and Sinn Féin. After all, he was a Canadian of Scottish ancestry and both of his parents

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A Word from the President

I must begin by thanking Fr. Maclean of Loyola High School for providing the new Centre for the Performing Arts for our very successful Christmas concert. I also offer my congratulations and thanks to Rob Brodrick and his Concert committee for bringing it all together. Moving to a new venue presents its own logistical and organizational issues and it all went off without a hitch. Well done!

The 2006 Irish Holiday Season has already started. It began with the selection of the elegant and eloquent Courtney Mullins as Parade Queen at a great UIS event in the Delta Hotel on January 28. Our own annual banner occasion, the St. Patrick's Ball, takes place on Friday, March 10th, at the Marriott Chateau Champlain. We are privileged this year to have as Guest of Honour General John de Chastelain, the highly regarded Chair of the International Commission on Decommissioning in Northern Ireland and a central Canadian figure in negotiating the Good Friday Agreement. We thank him for honouring us by accepting our invitation.

This issue of *NUA^{CH}T* tells us about these events and more. There's a profile of Pierre Boivin, our 2006 Patrons' Chair, whose charitable endeavours are legend. For me as a physician involved with the Children's Hospital his association with

Dr. Clown is especially meaningful. Patrick Rourke, whose commitment and community involvement over decades have garnered him the 2006 St. Patrick's Society Community Award, is also featured. The selection by the UIS of our own Brian O'Neill as 2006 Parade Grand Marshall is very real recognition of his contributing years of volunteer effort to our community. The *NUA^{CH}T* team brings it all alive in this issue.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual St. Patrick's Luncheon on March 17th at the Hotel Bonaventure and please join us on March 19th for the Parade. Also, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to Ernie Butler and all the crew on the Irish Radio Show – after just one year, commencing in March, the show will be on twice each month – well done everyone! Listen to the show and support it with your advertising – its website is <http://www.irishradioshow.com/>.

Finally, have a wonderful St. Patrick's Season. And as Martina McLean says in her now regular bi-lingual feature in *NUA^{CH}T*: *Beannachtaí na Féile Bríde agus na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir!* The blessings of the feasts of St. Brigid and St. Patrick on you all!

John Little
February 2006

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In Memoriam

Jackie Coogan – A man of his word
1927-2005

In November 2005, the Montreal Irish community said goodbye to an old friend – Jackie Coogan. At his requiem mass in Saint Augustine Church the atmosphere was sad, yet enlightened by the voice of a classical Irish soloist, Bev McGuire. It was indeed an honourable adieu to Jackie; flanked by his loving family and surrounded by friends.

Jackie Coogan was a passionate Irish man who grew up in the North of Ireland and fully understood the harsh realities of the "Troubles" and all the stresses endured by political prisoners and their families. Over the years he wrote letters to hundreds of young Irish men and women who languished in British jails. He sent just a few friendly words to try to ease their despair and add a spark of light into a dark corner of a cell to show his solidarity. Every Christmas for over two decades, Jackie Coogan collected nickels and dimes to send to the Prisoners Families Fund. His kindness and humility will never be forgotten.

John O'Gallagher
October 16, 1930 - December 25, 2005

Surrounded by his family he passed away early on Christmas morning at home after a truly courageous and long battle with cancer. Born into a large Irish family in Quebec City which helped make Grosse Île the sacred site it has become, John graduated from Laval University with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1955. He went on to obtain a degree in Land Surveying and opened his own business as a surveyor in Pierrefonds in 1963, which he continued until his retirement in 1999. John was a passionately

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Community Award goes to Patrick Rourke

By Kathleen Dunn

Just over 25 years ago, Patrick Rourke and a group of like-minded Montrealers decided there was a need for a strong voice to counteract what they considered to be “increasing government infringements” on long-established anglophone institutions. As a result, in December 1980, the English-Speaking Catholic Council was formed, with Patrick Rourke as its first President, to speak on behalf of the community. The ESCC has become the focal point for co-ordinating community concerns about health, social services, education, social justice and culture and it has evolved to represent all English-speaking Catholics in Quebec, not only those in Montreal.

Patrick was well placed to take on this task. He had a bird's eye view of the community as he was or had been active in Annunciation of our Lady Parish in TMR, Centraide Montreal, St. Patrick's Society, Catholic Community Services, CCS Foundation, Father Dowd Memorial Home, St. Mary's Hospital, and Sacred Heart School. Married to Alanna Malone and the father of four children, he also had a day job as a founding partner of Rourke, Bourbonnais & Associates, consultants in human resources and executive search.

It is for his lifelong contributions to these and other organizations such as more recently Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation and Refuge Juan Moreno that St. Patrick's Society is pleased to bestow on Patrick Rourke its Community Award for 2006.

Patrick Dunn, Chair of the Selection Committee, told *NUACHT*, “For close to fifty years, ever since he first came to Montreal, Patrick has not only been active but has taken a leadership role in every organization he has joined. We salute him for his vision, his generosity, his tenacity, and his enduring good humour. We truly appreciate and thank him for his contribution to helping Anglophones find their voice at a time when we felt our place in Quebec was at risk.”

Patrick Rourke was born and raised in London, Ontario, which perhaps gave him a different perspective on Quebec politics. It was there, too, that he got his first taste of community involvement as a public speaker, football and basketball player, and as President of the Junior Kiwanis Club in 1950-51. He earned a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario in 1954 and went on to obtain his MBA in 1959. He moved to Montreal later that year to join P. S. Ross & Partners where he remained until 1971 and became a partner along the way. He struck out on his own in 1971 to form Rourke, Bourbonnais & Associates (later Rourke, Lizotte & Associates). The firm grew to 25 consultants with offices in Montreal, Toronto and Calgary.

Patrick looks back on the circumstances that drew him into so many organizations and singles out four events. The first, shortly after he and Alanna were married in 1960, was when the Men's


Club at Annunciation Parish called for volunteers to help with a fundraising event. That first step led eventually to his serving as a warden for two three-year terms and to becoming the founding Chair of the Parish Council in 1975. The second event was meeting Nini Brennan who, he says, “was famous for chairing the St. Mary's Ball Committee.” She invited Patrick and Alanna to join her on the Committee in 1970 and he went on to serve as President of St. Mary's Hospital Board of Directors (1980-82), the Foundation (1991-93), and the Board of Governors (2000-01). The third event was a chance meeting with Father Tom McEntee on a train from Toronto to

Montreal in 1957. Patrick kept Father Tom's suggestions about the Irish community in mind and eventually joined St. Patrick's Society in 1971, becoming a director from 1989 to 2000 and Vice-President from 1992-2000. The fourth event involved sending his daughters, Maureen, Jacque and Andrea, to Sacred Heart School where he joined the Board of Directors in 1975 and stayed on until 2004 long after they had graduated. During his time there, he spearheaded a fundraising campaign that brought in \$1.5 million for the new gym complex.

In 2000, at the age of 68 when most people have retired, Patrick sold his business and started a new one, granted on a smaller scale, dealing mainly with relocation counselling. Around the

same time, as Secretary of Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation (formerly St. Patrick's Orphanage), he was asked to investigate a request for financial support from Refuge Juan Moreno, a residence for refugee women and children. Before he knew it, he was taking the Board of Directors under his wing and guiding them through a \$500,000 fundraising campaign to gain financial stability.

Patrick's daughter Jacque has followed her father onto the fundraising committee at Refuge Juan Moreno. “I used to think everybody did stuff like that,” she says of growing up in the Rourke household where Alanna was as involved in the community as Patrick. “It was fun to know they were active and caring,” she adds. “I value that so much. They are great role models.” Their son Michael is a director of the English-Speaking Catholic Council where Patrick continues to play a role as Chair of the Advisory Board.

Patrick and Alanna received the Ignace Bourget Medal in 1985, the first couple to be so honoured by the Archdiocese of Montreal for outstanding leadership and service to the community. In 1991, Patrick received the Bishop Crowley Award for excellence in volunteer service to the Catholic community of Quebec. 



Patrick Rourke

General (cont.)

had worked for British intelligence during World War II. It was not too great a stretch for some factions to imagine that the British were slipping their own man firmly into a key slot in the peace process jigsaw. The Nationalist reaction, both north and south, was guarded to say the least. However, there was one important supportive voice on the Nationalist side. Former Republic of Ireland Taoiseach (Premier) Albert Reynolds had checked out his bona fides with then Prime Minister Jean Chretien and came away reassured that he was first and foremost an honest, decent man who would play no favourites.

Indeed, General de Chastelain soon proved he was nobody's man. With a love for precision, directness and accountability it is said that at first he often fitted at best awkwardly into the scheme of things in Northern Ireland. He apparently had little time for the creative ambiguity and political spin used to keep moving things forward. An October 2003 near-deal on decommissioning went off the rails when the then Ulster Unionist Party backed out at the last moment allegedly because de Chastelain refused to divulge or fudge information on IRA armaments which he had seen destroyed, as it would have compromised his standing with that organization. For that failure he was unfairly given a lot of the blame and subjected to unwarranted abuse from a number of quarters. He was vindicated by the September 2005 announcement when The Irish Times headlined his role as a "Shining Performance from the General after Dark Days of Muck and Mockery." His language was straightforward. "Very large quantities of arms which we believe include all the arms in the IRA's possession have been put beyond use ... the Commission has determined that the IRA has met its commitment ..."

The son of a Scottish oil engineer and an Irish-American mother, he was born in Bucharest, Romania, educated in Fettes College, Edinburgh, and followed his parents to Canada in 1955 when he was 18.

In 1956, while a student at Mount Royal College in Calgary he joined the Canadian Army (Militia) as a Private in the Calgary Highlanders. In the same year he transferred to the Regular Army and attended the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, graduating in 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a commission in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

General de Chastelain has held assignments across Canada and overseas. He was Deputy Chief of Staff of the UN Forces in Cyprus and Commander of the Canadian contingent. His other senior command appointments included Commandant of the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Commander of Canada's 4th Mechanized Brigade Group in Germany and Deputy Commander of Mobile Command in Saint-Hubert, Québec. He was Director General Land Doctrine and Operations, Assistant Deputy Minister for Personnel and Vice Chief of the Defence Staff before being appointed Chief of the Defence Staff in September 1989, an appointment he filled during the end of the Cold War, the first Gulf War and the events at Oka.

In January 1993 General de Chastelain transferred to the Reserves and was appointed Canada's eighteenth Ambassador to the United States of America. In January 1994 he was recalled to active duty and re-appointed Chief of the Defence Staff, a position he held until the end of December 1995.

General de Chastelain is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Commander of the Order of Military Merit, a Companion of Honour (UK), a Commander of the Order of St. John, a Commander of the Legion of Merit (USA), and has the Commendation Medal for Merit and Honour of Greece. In 1992 he received the Conference of Defence Association's Vimy Award. In 1996 he was made an honorary Doctor of Military Science by the Royal Military College of Canada, and in 2001 he was made an honorary Doctor of Laws (Conflict Resolution) by Royal Roads University in British Columbia.

He is a former President of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, a former National Vice President of Scouts Canada, and a former Colonel of the Regiment of the PPCLI.

He plays and composes music for the bagpipes and indulges in Scottish Country dance. He loves to fly-fish in Ireland and is an accomplished artist raising money for charities in Ireland with his paintings.

General de Chastelain and his wife MaryAnn live in Ottawa; they have a son, a daughter and five grandchildren. 🍀

Irishman of the Year – a worthy choice

As a descendant of two well established and highly esteemed Irish-Canadian families – the Parés and the Howletts – Peter Howlett continues their tradition of supporting the community. He is President and founder of Les Amis de la Montagne and committed to the Portage Programme, regarded as a world leader in the treatment



Peter Howlett

of drug addiction. In addition, Peter served as governor of Concordia University for 12 years and has been actively involved and supportive of many other organizations devoted to the needs of the community.

A fine athlete, Peter was a member of the Alouettes and the Canadian national rugby team. On leaving Loyola he studied law at McGill and has had an exciting career building major urban projects across North America as well as working in the communication, technology and service fields.

Peter and his wife, Morag McGilvray, have two daughters, Sarah and Jane. 🍀

Pierre Boivin – 2006 St. Patrick's Society Patrons' Chair

By Ned Eustace

Every full-blooded Irishman and woman knows that ice hockey is the Gaelic game of hurling evolved for an Arctic climate. We've been playing it in Ireland from time immemorial (admittedly without the ice until very recently).

Indeed, research has turned up a mention of a hockey-like game, played in the early 1800s in Nova Scotia by the Micmac Indians, and these well-informed researchers said that it appeared to have been mainly influenced by the Irish game of hurling; it included the use of a "hurley" (a bent or steam-shaped ash stick) and a square wooden block instead of a *slitear* (ball). It was this game that spread throughout Canada via Scottish and Irish immigrants and the British army – strange bedfellows admittedly, but there you have it! So if the Chinese can lay claim to soccer then the Irish can ... well you know what I mean.

The Irish association with hockey and the Habs is not illusory. The Shamrocks hockey team was started in 1893 by Collège Sainte-Marie students but was associated with Loyola College by 1900. The team won the Stanley Cup twice in a row. In 1910 the Montréal Canadiens team was started by owner Ambrose O'Brien and managed by George Kennedy, the team's next owner.

So, with all this background, it should be no surprise to anyone that Pierre Boivin, President of the Montréal Canadiens, has very graciously accepted the position of St. Patrick's Society Patrons' Chair for 2006 and as such will lead fund-raising for the Annual Ball Patrons' Fund. Proceeds from the Fund will be donated to three well-deserving charitable organizations: the *Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation*, the *Pointe St. Charles Scholarship Initiative* and *Doctor Clown*.

For those who may not know, since 2002 *Dr. Clown* has offered 40,000 prescriptions of tenderness to hospitalized patients, their family and medical staff around Montreal. With the mission to reduce the stress of hospitalization for the young and the not so young, *Dr. Clown's* therapeutic artists go by the names of *Dr. Coucoune*, *Dr. Spring* and *Dr. Quenouille*. They magically convey children, and adults too, into an imaginary world full of silliness and mischievousness by their tenderness, their sense of humour and their wild imagination.

The *Pointe St. Charles Scholarship Initiative* provides post-secondary education support to students of merit, resident in the Pointe and with demonstrated financial need. The project is part of the Hall of Recognition program of the Pointe St. Charles YMCA. Since starting in 2004 over \$20,000 has been distributed in individual amounts ranging from \$700 to \$2,000.

Pierre Boivin is a builder and corporate leader who pursued his entire career in the sports and entertainment industry. He has been President of the Montreal Canadiens, L'Aréna des Canadiens Inc. and Gillett Entertainment Group since 1999. He oversees all sports and entertainment activities presented by these enterprises which attract more than two million people each year.

Prior to his current appointments he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Canstar Sports Inc., now part of Nike



Guests of the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation with Pierre Boivin in José Théodore's box at the Bell Centre.

Canada, and President and Chief Executive Officer of Weider Sporting Goods Inc., a leading sports and fitness equipment manufacturer based in Los Angeles.


Pierre started his career in 1976 as Operations Manager of a sports equipment retail chain. He founded Norvinca Inc. in 1979 and the company rapidly became the most important sporting goods distributor in Canada. He remained President and CEO, and a shareholder of the company until it was acquired by the Benetton Sports Group in 1991.

Pierre is a member of the Board of Governors of the National Hockey League. He is the chairman of the board of Kangaroo Media Inc. and a member of the board of Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. (XM Canada) and Med-Eng Inc.

Heavily involved in the community, he is Vice Chairman of the Sainte-Justine Hospital Foundation, a member of the board of Special Olympics Canada and Special Olympics Quebec as well as a member of the Centraide of Greater Montreal Campaign Committee for 2006.

In 2001, he founded the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation. Since its inception, the Foundation has donated over \$3 million to support more than 100 organizations in Quebec dedicated to improving the well-being of children. His Irish connection? Well he loved *Riverdance* and *Celtic Tiger* and plans on golfing in Ireland next summer. Sounds like the real thing to me!

Pierre is married to Lucie Nadeau. They have three children, Patrick, Catherine and Richard.

Please give generously to the Patrons' Fund! 

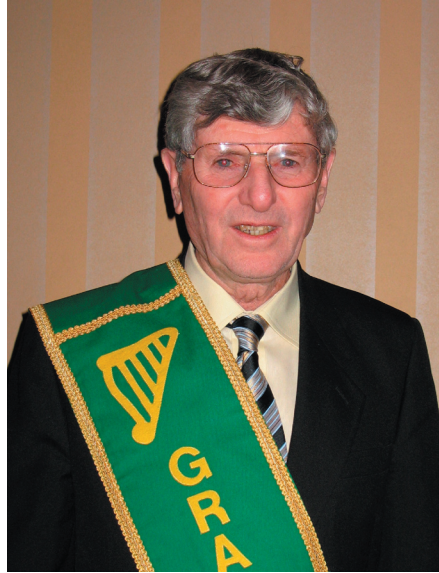
Brian O'Neill: Parade Grand Marshal for 2006

By Kathleen Dunn

Brian O'Neill has marched proudly in the St. Patrick's Day Parade for more years than he can remember. This year will be different. He will be leading the whole show. The Parade organizers, United Irish Societies, named him Grand Marshal for 2006 and presented him with the official sash at the Queen's Pageant and Sashing Ceremony on January 28th.


Brian, who was President of St. Patrick's Society in 1996-98, has received many honours in his lifetime, among them: Hockey Hall of Fame, 1994; Irishman of the Year, 1991; St. Patrick's Society Community Award, 2005. "This one ranks right up there," said Brian in a telephone interview with *NUA^{CH}T*. "I have always considered the Parade the highlight of Montreal's, not just the Irish Community's, public events," Brian added. "It's quite an honour for me. I'm very humbled by it."

Being Grand Marshal involves more than leading the Parade. Brian will attend every Irish event until the end of March, events like the flag-raising ceremony, the Innisfail Kickoff Céilí, the Irishman of the Year Sashing and Breakfast, the Ball, the Luncheon, the Montreal City Hall reception, the Mass of Anticipation, the Green Mass, and the Parade Awards Banquet. "There are so many things involved, all kinds of events," Brian noted. "I'm really impressed with how it's all organized."



Brian O'Neill, January 28, 2006

It's a good thing Brian keeps fit by swimming and playing tennis year-round. At 77, he keeps mentally fit by going to his NHL office every day where, since "retirement," he remains a consultant, looks after a fund to help former players in financial difficulty, and is a trustee of the Stanley Cup. He is still a Warden at St. Patrick's Basilica, sits on the Board of Governors of St. Mary's Hospital, on the Board of the Loyola Alumni of Concordia University, and on the Board of his condo. He also remains an Associate Member of St. Mary's Hospital Foundation. These and many other organizations have benefited from his expertise and generosity since the sixties. The highlight of Brian's volunteer career remains heading the fundraising committee that enabled the \$3.5 million renovations to St. Patrick's Basilica for its 150th anniversary in 1997. (See *NUA^{CH}T* February, 2005)


Brian and his wife Jean celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August. They have three sons, two daughters, and ten grandchildren. This native Montrealer, who grew up in NDG and Montreal West and was educated at Loyola High School and College, also has two brothers and two sisters. They will be coming from near and far no doubt to cheer Brian on as he leads Montreal's Irish Community down St. Catherine Street on March 19th. 

In Memoriam (cont.)

committed federalist and was elected twice as member of the National Assembly in the riding of Robert Baldwin from 1975 to 1984. A man who loved travelling and company, only weeks before his passing he went on a Baltic cruise with a group of friends in the full knowledge it would be his last trip. Deeply devoted to his family he raised five children in a home he built with his wife Nicole on the West Island. Last year he and Nicole journeyed in his RV with his grandchildren to James Bay because he felt they should appreciate the grandeur of the north and the engineering achievement the hydro-electric project there represented. In many ways a larger than life character, he will be fondly remembered for his generosity, fierce loyalty to his Irish roots, his sparkling blue eyes and ready smile, and his endless patience as a willing ear, as ready to share a tear as a smile with his many friends. He will be sadly missed by his wife and soul-mate Nicole Paquette, his sons Danny O'Gallagher (Kelly), James O'Gallagher, Eric Gohier (Carolyn) and Marc Gohier (Carole), his daughter-in-law Alanne, his thirteen grandchildren, his sisters Marianna, Ellen Clare (Ken), his brothers Patrick (Lilianne), Neil and sister-in-law Terry.

Frank Hanley

April 5, 1909 – January 23, 2006

He used to say you can't keep a good man down but the incorrigible Frank Hanley has just passed away at age 96. He represented St. Anne's constituency at both Montreal city hall and the National Assembly as an independent in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. A flamboyant personality and a populist politician in the tradition of the old-style ward boss he never missed a baptism or a funeral and in a more easy-going era he could get things done for those he represented – the people of Pointe St. Charles. He fought for the poor, the unemployed, the troubled and the sick usually with a flair for publicity when needed but effectively as well. Bitterly opposed by Jean Drapeau, Montreal's famous mayor, Frank Hanley and Quebec premier and strong man, Maurice Duplessis, supported each other. Without his efforts we likely would not today have the Atwater Market which he described as the Place des Arts of the Pointe. A fixture on the St. Patrick's Day Parade reviewing stand for decades he was elected Irishman of Year in 1978 by the Erin Sports Association. He was married for 60 years to Noreen who passed away in 1998. They raised a daughter, Barbara O'Reilly, and four sons, Colin, Franklyn, Brian and Patrick. We will not see his like again. 

UIS honours three special people



Patricia Burns

Liam Daly Award

The Liam Daly Award is presented annually to someone who exemplifies Liam's love of his heritage and promotes the Irish heritage through the arts. This year's recipient, Patricia Burns, member and former director of the St. Patrick's Society, well deserves the honour. Her passion for Irish history is reflected in her books: *The Shamrock and the Shield* – an oral history of the Irish in Montreal – and

They Were So Young – Montrealers remember World War II. Both books are published by Vehicule Press of Montreal.

A retired teacher, Patricia was a former director of Siamsa Music School, is a member of Innisfail and is currently Secretary of the Royal Canadian Legion in N.D.G. Her hobbies, other than anything to do with history, include reading, set dancing and tennis. Patricia has one daughter, Erin, who lives in Ottawa.

Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award

This year's recipient of the humanitarian award is no stranger to the Montreal Irish community. A member of UIS since 1980, Ann Cruise-Broden is also Secretary of Innisfail and a member of the Royal Canadian Legion. She has worked as a volunteer at the Ville Marie Feis, Celtic Festival, Canada Day Parade, the Jeannie Johnson visit, Bernadette Short events and for charitable foundations.



Ann Cruise-Broden

Because of her positive attitude, Ann has been able to cope with personal tragedies including the deaths of her husband, Brian – grandson to the first president of UIS – and her daughter, Alana. She lives by this creed: "We are a community together no matter the religion or ethnic origin. If we work together, we can make a difference."

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UIS hosts another great evening

By Anne Forrest

Prior to the Parade Queen Selection Evening held January 28th at the Delta Hotel, Elizabeth Quinn told *NUACHT* to expect contestants of a very high calibre. She was right! Almost all of the 23 "shamrocks" were attending university or had graduated. One had spent a year at the Sorbonne, and another was completing her PhD in micro-biology. Evaluating these young women would prove a daunting task for the seven judges.

The evening began with the customary piping in of the President's table and the judges. Larry Smith, UIS President, welcomed everyone and Colleen Murphy introduced the seven people who would be responsible for selecting the royal court. These were: AOH President, Victor Boyle, CTV's weather girl, Lori Graham, Peggy Curran of the Gazette, Fr. McEntee, Linda Farley (Bank of Ireland), Kate Fitzpatrick (1999 Queen) and Andrew Carter of CJAD. Also, UIS acknowledged the winners of their prestigious awards: Patricia Burns (Liam Daly) and Ann Cruise-Broden (Simon McDonaugh) as well as "sashing" the Grand Marshal, Brian O'Neill, and Chief Reviewing Officer, Alan Hustak.

Interspersed with the selecting of the Queen was a variety of entertainment including the Marie-Claude Rousseau Irish Dancers, Derek Lengwenus, and the Melotones accompanied by the Belles of Erin. Elizabeth Quinn nobly filled in for an absentee soloist and sang sweetly and with warmth.



Courtney Elizabeth Mullins

The process of whittling down 23 contestants to the final five went smoothly. Praise should be given to each participant. Facing a huge crowd and speaking about oneself is never easy. It came as no surprise to the 700 people in attendance that Courtney Elizabeth Mullins (*Wexford, Monaghan, Meath*) was the judges' choice. For Courtney, the experience was similar to one that she'd enjoyed three years ago when selected as a princess. This 22 year-old McGill student is presently pursuing a triple concentration in marketing, strategic management, and entrepreneurship. In her spare time(!) she teaches ballet, is the Public Relations coordinator of the Management Undergraduate Society, plays volleyball, skis, snowboards, and enjoys travelling. She looks forward to her first visit to Ireland in the summer. Another princess, from 2004, Marie Lortie (*Cork, Belfast*), once again joined the court. The remaining three princesses were Tara Lee Duffy (*Derry*), Catherine Conway (*Down, Donegal*), and Liane Cerminara (*Belfast*). All five girls are to be congratulated on their poise, articulate delivery, brilliant smiles, and the wonderful rapport they achieved with the audience. They will surely delight the crowds on March 19th in the Parade.

This was my fourth Selection Evening and I felt that the organization was exceptional. Everything moved quickly and without delay. UIS once again did a great job! 🍀

Shamrocks, shillelaghs and stereotypes...

By Ned Eustace and Michael Kenneally

We're nearing that time of year again when we celebrate our Irishness. We have much to be proud of generally and specifically in our Montreal community. On the international scene the new-found wealth of modern Ireland, the recognized richness of our culture, the numbers of our authors and artists all far outweigh our size. The presence of some of our best minds in political, economic, academic and religious institutions world-wide is a legitimate source of pride. We occupy a lot of positive space for a small country, even allowing for our numbers in the Irish Diaspora. And it should also be a mark of pride that many who are not Irish celebrate our national holiday with us.

Locally, and despite the many obstacles that some feel plague the Anglophone population, ours is a vibrant community. Most of our institutions are strong, we are a presence in the highest ranks of government, business, the professions and academia, and our culture is visible and respected throughout the city and the province. Yet this is also the time of year when many - ourselves included but the media in particular - see fit to raise the old Irish stereotypes that show us as beer-swilling, shamrock-laden loudmouths without a brain in our heads. We repeatedly are defined as shillelagh-swinging leprechauns, drunk or sober, and are expected to just take it; yet, most communities would not. Nor should we.



In a letter to The Globe and Mail of December 5th, 2005, Eileen Watson of Toronto said it well:

The Irish community has been too tolerant for too long, always being made to feel that we should be 'good sports' about anti-Irish jokes. I do not feel that stereotyping is funny. It has the effect of circumscribing and marginalizing an entire group. I cannot think of any other group where the media feel free to take such liberty.

Nor is *NUAcht* addressing this issue for the first time. Gus O'Gorman, former President of SPS, co-founder and first co-editor of *NUAcht* with Pádraig Ó Laighin and the person who introduced "shamroguery" into the lexicon of Montrealers, authored an article in the February 1989 issue titled "Celebrate Irish Culture, Shun Shabby Shamroguery". Considered controversial at the time, in it he said, among many other things:

Overt and covert anti-Irish negative stereotyping seems to be passively accepted even by some people of Irish origin and actively promoted by other non-Irish with a more racist agenda. This is particularly surprising given that we have become sensitized over the past number of decades to respect the diversity making up our Canadian fabric. Now, nobody publicly pokes racist fun at French-Canadians, Native-Canadians, Polish-Canadians, Jews, Blacks, Italian-Canadians or others of hyphenated identity. Nobody is surprised when any of these groups become angry at unfair, hurtful and demeaning jokes aimed at their heritage. Why therefore do we continually see such liberties taken with Irish racist stereotypes?

Last year some Gazette writers were taken to task by members of our community for this type of abuse. Many of you saw the exchange. In the end it remained clear that they simply did not get it. We need to remind ourselves where this derisive racial imagery comes from and to decide, individually and collectively, how we want to respond.

Stereotypes about the Irish and those of Irish heritage are so pervasive in North American society that sometimes they aren't even recognized as generalizations, or considered offensive, as they would be if they were directed at racial minority groups. These stereotypes have emerged from a complex set of factors, most obviously from Irish cultural nationalism and colonialism.

In Ireland, nationalist movements from the 17th through the 20th centuries sought to resurrect or perhaps even create visual Celtic icons that distinguished them from their Norman and Anglo-Saxon overlords promoting what, even today, is seen as a distinctive Celtic motif. With the decline of the Irish language and much of the Gaelic culture it embodied, particularly in the period after the Famine, replacement badges of identity were sought. Thus wolfhounds, round towers, shamrocks and harps were seen as cultural icons to be embraced as necessary precursors to political nationalism and independence and were actively promoted. Famine immigrants to the 19th century U.S., where a "No Irish Need Apply" mentality prevailed, and the poor, exiled, historically aggrieved Irish saw themselves as the poorest of the poor, cut off from their past and their cultural heritage. An emerging American culture began to transform this perception into the iconography we know, often with the active participation of the Irish themselves. The result was largely negative caricature reference points and, starting with popular songs, tin pan alley and later Hollywood (the James Cagney tough guy) this was further debased into leprechauns, loud braggarts, naive yet somehow untrustworthy figures, and even a language with expressions ("Top of the mornin' to ya!") never heard, before or since, in Ireland.

Immigrants and their children were the central energizers of the view of the auld sod, an idealized and romanticized image of the home from which they were displaced and, over time, necessarily was transformed in their memories and imaginations. Thus with

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Shamrocks (cont.)

few distinct or authentic cultural markers, the Irish in Canada and America began to re-invent Irish identity or rather re-configure it around church, politics and their version of popular culture. Even in Ireland, it was only with the cultural renaissance at the turn of the 20th century and the achievements of the Irish literary revival that there was an emergent culture which might underpin and define identity. Indeed, much of the dance and musical traditions so crucially a part of Irish culture today had to be re-imported into Ireland in the 1920s, having been preserved by small groups of emigrants in North America in reaction to popular versions of Irish culture.

Parallel to this, in the 19th century, was the attitude of, and popular image created in, the British press, especially using cartoons in response to perennial Irish issues — the Famine, emerging nationalism, the Land War, demands for Home Rule and threat to Empire. These representations, long a tradition on the English stage, were racist and demeaning but they could, in more popular forms, dovetail with the Irish and American iconography described above. Thus, it was a short step from the kind of simian figures created in the satirical English magazine *Punch* to the supposedly harmless leprechauns of North America — hence the Fighting Irish at Notre Dame. The untitled American cartoon below, by James Albert Wales probably from *Judge* magazine in the 1880s, is an example among thousands. It depicts Paddy as an obese, violent, drug-abusing monkey. In the background John Bull shows Uncle Sam that he will take care of the Irish troublemaker.



It's time to displace these images and icons in our own minds and in those of the larger community in which we reside. If we don't, they won't. It's time to embrace a truer image of who we are and take pride in our extraordinary accomplishments. To resist and debunk the stereotypes does not in any way diminish the harsh circumstances and momentous struggles of our forebears. Nor does it imply that the miseries of the 19th century famine ships or McCourt's 20th century Limerick City in *Angela's Ashes* are untrue. Equally it does not say we are a people without a love for conversation, humour or, yes, even a drink or two, but it does say, loudly and proudly, we are much more than that! 🍀

Three special people (cont.)



Alan Hustak

Chief Reviewing Officer

Born in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, educated in Regina and Washington, D.C., Alan Hustak has made Montreal his home since arriving here in 1967. An award-winning journalist, broadcaster and author, he has worked for the Ottawa Journal, the CBC in Montreal, and was CTV's Quebec Bureau Chief.

Three of his books chronicle Montreal's Irish history: *William Hingston, Montreal Mayor, Surgeon and Banker*; *St. Patrick's, the Biography of a Basilica*; and *The Ghost of Griffintown, the True Story of the Murder of Mary Gallagher*. Today he writes for the Gazette when he isn't working on a history of St. Mary's Hospital.

A volunteer with the John Howard Society, a supporter of terminal AIDS patients, and a frequent lector at the chapel of Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours, Alan Hustak is considered an adopted Irishman in Montreal. 🍀

Test your knowledge: ICCC pub quiz

The Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Annual Irish Community Quiz Challenge for the McKeown Trophy.

This is now a very popularly attended event. The format will be the same as last year. There will be six rounds of questions including a picture round, spot questions in between and a system to allow the scores to be visible after each round to spur on competition.

Get your team of four together. If you wish to participate as an individual or a couple, don't worry, we'll put you in a team. The questions will be varied, General Knowledge and one round on Ireland. But everyone will have a chance at winning as we will be introducing once again "The Joker." That's where, in the round you think you have the most correct answers, you put your "Joker" forward, and if your answers are correct, you get double points in that round. Obviously you can only use "The Joker" once.

Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places and 2nd last. There will be a door prize and other spot prizes.

Details: Venue – Hurley's Irish Pub Upstairs
22nd February 2006. (17:30-20:30)
\$20.00 per person (includes entry, finger food, first drink)
Information from Jim Kirby 514-733-5980
Or e-mail: jaskirby@hotmail.com

Irish students get a taste of Montreal

By Kathleen Dunn

Liam Neeson thought he knew everything there was to know about bartending. He had been working in a neighbourhood pub in his native Enniskillen since the age of 13. When the pub closed unexpectedly last year, Liam, 20, found himself unemployed and unable to find another job close to home. Then he discovered Wider Horizons and the Fermanagh-Leitrim-Sligo (FLS) Partnership. They were offering a two-month Hotel and Hospitality course in Enniskillen, a two-month internship in Montreal, and the promise of a job upon successful completion of the course. All this for people just like him from disadvantaged families, unemployed, and between the ages of 18 and 28.

In August, Liam joined a class of 21 students: seven Roman Catholics and seven Protestants from Fermanagh in the North and seven from Sligo/Leitrim in the South. An added feature of the program is to foster teamwork and better relations between Catholics and Protestants and between Northern Ireland and the Republic. Together they studied basic food hygiene, first aid, health and safety, silver service, bar skills, customer service, kitchen preparation, and the like. By October, they were ready for Montreal where ERS Youth Development had homes and jobs waiting for them.

Liam found himself billeted in Notre Dame de Grace with St. Patrick's Society member and recently retired university professor Moira Carley. Moira had responded to the ERS appeal for homes which she had heard about through Canadian Irish Studies. She is single, lives alone, has a spare bedroom, is comfortable with young people, and her parents were born in Ireland. "Why not?" she asked herself, and signed up. Her only demand of Liam, whom she came to know as a bright and motivated young man, was: "don't wake me when you come in late."

Work proved to be an equally good match for Liam. He was assigned to bar and banquet duty at the Dorval Hilton. "I was meant to shadow other employees," he told *NUAHT*, "but I prefer to pitch in and work." Within the first week, he was being left to set up for banquets on his own. Language was never an issue as his job did not include serving the public. Bartending duties meant filling orders for the waiters. "Gin and tonic is the same in English and French," observed Liam who was quick to pick up key words and phrases.

Getting to work was a different matter. He who had found a ten-minute commute to work back home to be more than enough discovered public transportation took over an hour in Montreal. He cut his travel time in half once he found a more direct route but meanwhile gained a new perspective about going further afield to look for work.

Liam called the course "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." All he wanted was "a reference from one of the best hotel chains in the world," he said. What he got was the offer of a job in any Hilton in the world. The closest ones to him are in Belfast and Dublin. It is too soon to say what his choice will be as he is in the midst of a computer course in Enniskillen to enhance his management skills.

Montreal presented some culture shock for Liam and his fellow students who didn't realize the city is "as French as it is." All of them wished they had paid more attention in their high school French classes. They were also amazed at the City's multiculturalism. "It makes it easier to accept the Polish immigrants back home," Liam observed. He noticed the parallels between English-French tensions here and the Catholic-Protestant ones back home. The number of homeless was another shock for Liam who claimed, "I've never seen so many in my life." Food wise, when the Hilton management offered him a farewell dinner and the chef refused to "burn" good meat, Liam learned to like his steak rare. What he never got over, however, was his "allergy" to salad.

Liam's fellow students were equally enthusiastic about their experiences. Some, like the gregarious former salesman Sean Donnelly, were disappointed at first with their job assignments. The 22-year-old native of Enniskillen did not appreciate being isolated in the kitchen of a small catering company in Westmount. However, he soon discovered a whole new career path thanks to "Simply Wonderful" owner Pam Layton who shared her cooking skills and then invited him to accompany her in serving clients in their homes. Others

have been promised jobs with their internship employers if they wish to come back to Montreal. And they do. Avril Porter from Enniskillen found a boyfriend as well as a job and can't wait to come back to the Dorval Hilton. Stephanie Green, 19, from Leitrim, and Amanda Kyle, 18, from Sligo, hope to return to the kitchens of the Airport Holiday Inn and the Days Inn in Dorval, respectively. Both girls found freedom in Montreal, "freedom to

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SPS Director Robert Travers (r.) with his two Irish house guests, Patrick Boyle, 25, from Enniskillen who worked at Hurley's Irish Pub (above) and Sean Donnelly, 22, also from Enniskillen, who worked at Simply Wonderful Catering. The backdrop behind the dart board bears the signatures of all the Irish students who have benefited from the Travers family hospitality since 1998.

Irish students (cont.)

be yourself, to dress as you want, especially because everyone else is so different," they said.

While Moira Carley was a first-time hostess, another SPS member and director, Robert Travers, is a repeat host. His family has taken in two students once or twice a year since 1998. "I thought it would be an interesting thing to do," he told *NUACHT*. The one-time educator finds that the program takes these students "out of where the troubles are and gives them a new perspective." He added, "I would do it for nothing. In every group there is someone whose life is changed forever. And that is the motivating thing for me."

Host families do not have to have Irish connections. In fact, ERS director Carol Timchuk, told *NUACHT*, "it's a coincidence if host families have Irish roots. We try to avoid the politics by attracting host families from all over the world and with various backgrounds."

ERS Youth Development Corporation is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1986. It grew out of Batshaw Social Services and the Shawbridge Boys Farm. "It started," Carol explained, "for those coming out of group homes and evolved to include government-funded job training for people referred by Emploi Québec." The international students' program was added in 1996 when Wider Horizons heard about the possibility of internships. Wider Horizons is funded by the International Fund for Ireland, a non-government, non-political organization that receives financial support from Canada, the U.S., Australia, South Africa, the U.K., Ireland, and the European Union. Wider Horizons has sent at least 25 groups to Montreal for programs in health services, business administration, sports and recreation, youth and community, property maintenance, information technology, customer service and tele-marketing, retail sales, merchandising and visual displays, as well as hotel and hospitality. The certificate students receive is apparently well regarded in Ireland. ERS seems to have no trouble finding employers in all these fields where there are English departments or English-speaking bosses and being unilingual is not a problem. Places such as Voyages Calèche in Montreal West, Travel Lodge in Dorval, Chateau Westmount, Hurley's Irish Pub, Air Canada Aeroplan and the Patricia McKenzie homeless women's shelter are among those that offer employment.

While in Montreal, students spent four days working and one day in the classroom for personal development and group discussions. Weekend activities were planned for them as well and included trips to Kahnawake, Niagara Falls, La Ronde, the Planetarium and the Biodome, a hockey game at the Bell Centre, an IMAX film, go-karting, ice skating, an outdoor adventure in Rigaud, things they would not be exposed to back home. The students had a great time with a treasure hunt the first week they were here that introduced them to tourist sites in Montreal and taught them to find their way around the city. It even got Liam's team into a Montreal Canadiens' practice at the Bell Centre.

The students and their supervisor, Jackie Boston, were all homesick at first but quickly grew accustomed to a different way of life and were even reluctant to go home in mid-December. Too bad they didn't stay long enough to experience our 42cm snowfall on December 16th! 🍀

AOH representatives meet Gerry Adams at Sinn Fein Canada Dinner

By Victor Boyle

On November 9th, 2005, AOH National President Victor Boyle and members from Montreal, Hamilton and Whitby attended the 5th Annual Friends of Sinn Fein Canada Dinner in Toronto. AOH's National Vice-President, Mark Gallagher, born and raised in Belfast, accepted the invitation to send a delegation of the Society. He wanted members to hear what guest speaker, Gerry Adams, had to say about recent events in Northern Ireland and what lay ahead.

Before dinner, a relaxed Gerry Adams steered the conversation away from politics and focused on how Irish Canadians are keeping their heritage alive. He expressed a desire to participate in an annual AOH pilgrimage to Grosse Île, not as President of Sinn Fein but as an Irishman.

When Adams took to the podium, he received an ovation usually reserved for rock stars. Thanking Canadian officials for their great role in aiding Ireland's peace process, he said that the world is witnessing a watershed moment in history with the disarming of the IRA. He expanded on the importance of the contributions of Al Hutchinson and prominent Canadian judges, William Hoyt and Peter Corey. Mr. Hutchinson is a former Assistant Commissioner of the RCMP and is now a commissioner in the Office of the Oversight Commissioner on policing in Northern Ireland.

Many Protestants including Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), still mistrust Sinn Fein, but Adams reiterated his organization's determination to attain both peace and freedom for Northern Ireland. He identified three major challenges that face Sinn Fein: finalizing the peace process; getting the Irish and British governments to stick to their Good Friday commitments; and building long-term harmony among the people of Ireland. 🍀



Gerry Adams and Mark Gallagher

SPS Christmas Concert showcased fine young talent

Frank McMahon
Architect and SPS Director

The architects for the Loyola Expansion project are the Montreal firm of Werleman Guy McMahon Architectes, of which Frank McMahon was the design & project architect. Frank graduated from Loyola in 1965 and proceeded to earn a BSc (Arch.) and a Bachelor of Architecture at McGill University. Married to Cynthia Owens with two children; his son graduated from Loyola in 2000.



Frank McMahon

Throughout his professional career he has been involved with projects of all domains, including a considerable number of commercial, school and church projects. These projects include the firm's work at John Abbott College, Lower Canada College, Horizons de la Jeunesse, CP offices at Windsor Station, office fit-up for IBM at their Montreal headquarters, the restoration of St. Patrick's Basilica, St. George's School of Montreal, office fit-up for MacDougall MacDougall & MacTier, interior lighting of St. Joseph's Oratory, and several projects for the EMSB. Currently, his projects include restoration of the façade of St. James United Church on St. Catherine St., for which the project consortium was recently awarded a "Prix Orange" by Save Montreal.

Elected to the Board of l'Ordre des Architectes du Québec in 1993, he was later elected to serve as vice-president for a one-year term, and as president of the Canadian Commission of Architectural Councils, also for a one-year term.

Over the years Frank has remained involved in community activities. He has served on boards, and committees at McGill's Graduate Society, St. Mary's Hospital, Loyola High School and The Sacred Heart School of Montreal; and he now enjoys a seat on the SPS Board. He is active on the SPS Annual Lunch committee and, with respect to its portfolio, has kept the Board focused on ethical investment issues.

When asked several questions on his more personal side and opinions, the following points were noted:

- Recreation: "Skiing & golf, with generous handicaps"
- Music: "Eagles & Blue Rodeo"
- Favourite vacation spot: "Ocean Park, Maine"
- Life in general: "As good as it gets"
- TV shows: "News"
- Age: "Young!"
- Hobby: "Pursuit of a patent for a new umbrella design"

Frank's contribution to our community and to SPS is important – NUA^{CH}T is pleased to recognize and commend it.

By Anne Forrest

On December 7, about 400 people braved the cold weather, searched long and hard for those elusive parking spots, and then enjoyed an evening of song and dance. The event – St. Patrick's Society's Annual Christmas Concert; the venue – the newly opened Loyola High School Centre for the Performing Arts.

Ernie Butler, host of the Irish Radio Show, was the emcee and did an excellent job as he introduced performers and other luminaries. Even the long delay following the dancing was handled well.


To open the concert, the 42-member Loyola High School Concert Band, under the direction of John Pasquini, presented a selection of Christmas music. For me the number of pieces could have been cut significantly. However, the boys in the band are to be commended for their efforts, especially as they had sat quietly behind the curtain before the show began some 20 minutes late.

Next the combined choirs of Queen of Angels Academy and LHS came on stage, directed by Brenda Neeson and Gerald Lewis. I particularly enjoyed "Celtic Christmas" and was impressed to see the versatility of one red-headed boy who not only sang in the choir but also played several different instruments in the band and in the small combo that accompanied the choir.

After the intermission, came Celtic Grace Dancers and the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing. I could have watched them all night! Their agility and precise sense of rhythm never cease to amaze me.

The final performer was Sandra D'Angelo, a young soprano whose repertoire included arias from *Messiah* and show tunes. Her true and lilting voice rang out clearly but would have benefited from an alternate form of accompaniment. The electronic keyboard was at times too heavy and mechanical. When the audience was encouraged to join Sandra in the singing of three favourite carols, there were problems: the carols were pitched far too high for 90% of the would-be-singers; and even when the house lights were raised, no one could read the words in the programmes because it was still too dark.

Inadequate lighting is a flaw in this otherwise impressive auditorium. There is no illumination on the landing and stairs that form part of the balcony. This could be fatal should one have to vacate a seat during a performance.

Rob Brodrick and his committee are to be congratulated on a fine evening. Clearly, a great deal of work went into organizing this concert in what might become its new home. It was especially pleasing for those of us in the audience to watch these talented young people as they played their instruments, sang their hearts out, and danced so energetically. It was rewarding to see so many teenagers enjoying themselves in such a positive way. 

The St. Patrick's Day Parade – a long tradition in Montreal

By Don Pidgeon

Irish soldiers celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Montreal as far back as 1759. Since at least 1817 the observance of St. Patrick's Day has been marked by special dinners and the celebration of religious services. Including a parade in the actual celebration of St. Patrick's Day began on March 17th, 1824. Michael O'Sullivan, lawyer, member of the Parliament of Lower Canada and later Chief Justice, was the main organizer.

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal was incorporated by prominent Montrealers of Irish heritage on March 17th, 1834. It was the first of a cluster of so-called "national" societies established around that time. Others were the St. Andrew's Society, the German Society and the Société St. Jean Baptiste. St. Patrick's Society organized the parade until 1892. It was a manifestation of Irish success in the community and was held in Old Montreal each March 17th. Church services – Protestant and Catholic – would precede it and a banquet was held afterwards with numerous toasts in celebration.

In 1847, St. Patrick's Church (now the Basilica) was completed and officially opened on March 17th. On that date, the parade started at 7:00 a.m. from the Old Recollet Church off Notre Dame and proceeded on Notre Dame to Notre Dame Church and then up the hill to St. Patrick's Church. After the service, the parade regrouped and marched back to the St. Patrick's Society headquarters in St. Patrick's Hall on Commissioners Square.

In the late 1860s, Father Patrick Dowd, pastor of St. Patrick's Church and the first Director of St. Patrick's Orphanage, appealed to the Irish people of Montreal to maintain the parade against a strong wave of opposition related to the Fenian problems that would ultimately result in the assassination of Thomas D'Arcy McGee on April 7th, 1868. It was conceded that as long as Father Dowd lived there would be a parade. He died on December 19th, 1891 and it was suggested that, out of respect to his memory, the 1892 parade not be held. However, saner heads prevailed and indeed out of respect and in his memory, the parade was held as usual.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians organized the St. Patrick's Parade from 1893 until 1917. In 1918 the route was temporarily changed to avoid clashes with military conscription agents who were active in the city. The agents knew better than to enter Griffintown, the Irish stronghold, and St. Anne's Parish, supported by the AOH and the St. Anne's Young Men's Society, held the parade through the streets of Griffintown.

In 1928, the United Irish Societies of Montreal was founded with the mandate to continue the organizing of the annual parade. The U.I.S. held its first parade in 1929 and continues the proud tradition to this day.

You can't stop it ... but some have tried!

During the Depression years of the 1930s the parade's floats were discontinued because of the expense, with the result that the parade consisted solely of marching units.

In 1942, Montreal's 300th anniversary, fifteen parish priests petitioned the UIS to cancel the parade for the duration of the war. John Loye, President of the UIS, refused to cancel it. Many parishes and their parishioners did not participate, but the parades went on anyway with the inclusion of the Canadian military.

On March 21st, 1949 the parade was officially cancelled by the UIS because of severe weather conditions. However, the military command, who had agreed to participate, stated that they had made a commitment and would march regardless. Parish units quickly began to organize to march as well. When it became clear that the parade would take place officially or otherwise, the President and UIS executive acceded to the public outcry and joined in with their guests.

On March 13th, 1993, the eve of the St. Patrick's parade, a major snow storm hit Montreal. The media speculated that the parade would be cancelled as approximately 47 cm (1.5 feet) of drifting snow had fallen. On parade day the storm stopped in the morning and the city plows pushed the snow to the sides of Ste. Catherine Street. There was no thought of cancellation – the Parade went on!

The Parade evolves ...

While the position of Grand Marshal goes back to the early beginnings of the parade, in 1952 the position of Chief Reviewing Officer was created. The first officer to take the salute from the reviewing stand on Sherbrooke Street in front of the Ritz Carlton Hotel was William J. Bryant, Past-President of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society replacing J.J. Russell, the President who was unable to attend.

In 1956 the selection of the Parade Queen and Princesses was established. The Queen and her Court have participated in the parade since then.

The Green Line marking the parade route, now a well-established tradition, was first painted down the centre of St. Catherine Street in 1963.

In 2002, Mabel Ann Fitzgerald, a Past-President of the UIS., was the Chief Reviewing Officer. She is first woman to be so honoured. In 2005, the first lady Grand Marshal was Margaret Healy, following in the steps of her father, Thomas P. Healy M.P. who was Grand Marshal in 1943.

(Editor's note: The St. Patrick's Day Parade has been held without interruption since 1834. Responsibility for it has been passed through three organizations for over 170 years. Each of these groups is still active in our community. St. Patrick's Society members come out each year to march in the Parade. Join us this year on Sunday, March 19th, 2006!).

Don Pidgeon is official historian to the United Irish Societies of Montreal 

Whither the Church in Ireland?

By Neil McKenty

In the mid 1980s, I spent some weeks in Dublin researching the biography of the Benedictine monk, John Main, subsequently published as *In the Stillness Dancing*.

Several of my interviews were with former Catholic colleagues of John Main at Trinity College, where he had been a law student and a professor in the Law Department. Sometimes our discussions broadened into an analysis of the deteriorating state of the Church in Ireland.

It was an authoritarian Church that had reached its triumphalist apogee in the 1950s: a Church of piety and ritual, regular mass attendance and church building, processions, pilgrimages, the erection of crosses, statues and the widespread dissemination of devotional literature and the cult of indulgences. It would scarcely be an exaggeration to say that the bishops and priests ruled supreme.

Some of that began to change in the '60s. Rising prosperity and the second Vatican Council began the liberalisation of Irish society. The bishops reacted defensively. Their conservatism clashed with the emergence of a Catholic intelligentsia, propagating more liberal attitudes and championing the "new" theology.

The '70s and '80s saw a Church more open to liberation theology, to ecumenism and to issues of justice and peace generally although change was gradual and piecemeal. My Catholic friends at Trinity College expressed their concern that the Catholic hierarchy was trying to hold the lid on and they feared an explosion.

The explosion was triggered in the '90s when a succession of clerical sexual scandals subverted the unique moral authority of the Church which had been its greatest strength. So, overwhelmed by a tide of secularism and economic prosperity, challenged by a new mood of independence in the population and decimated by a decade of scandals involving serial child abuse by clerics, the Catholic Church in Ireland found itself demoralized.

When church officials thought the situation could not get worse, it did. In October of last year, the government published the Ferns report, a devastating account that found for a period of many years a bishop in charge of the rural diocese of Ferns did not discipline priests against whom abuse allegations were made but simply transferred them to different posts or another diocese temporarily. The report also criticized the bishop's decision to ordain "clearly unsuitable men into the priesthood," when he knew or should have known they might abuse children.

Ireland's Minister for Children, Brian Lenihan, said the inquiry showed a clear failure on the part of the Church to protect the vulnerable. The Archbishop of Dublin (where another

full-scale government inquiry into clerical abuse is now under way), Diarmuid Martin said, "This has also resulted in enormous damage to people's faith, not only in the Church but in God."


A survey published in the Sunday Tribune in December confirmed the Archbishop's fears. The survey indicated that almost two in three Irish Catholics have lost trust in their clergy. Seventy-three per cent in the 18-24 age group said their trust had been severely damaged. Most disturbing for the bishops is the finding that a small but clear majority of Catholics now oppose the Church running the system of primary and secondary schools.

"Irish Catholicism as we knew it in Ireland is gone," wrote the religious editor of the Irish Times. Does this mean that Irish Catholicism is dead, or does it mean that a re-invigorated faith is emerging? There are some signs that it is the latter. The increased number of pilgrims going to Lough Derg and Croagh Patrick and the unprecedented three million people who went to see the relics of Saint Thérèse de Lisieux when they came to Ireland would suggest that there is still a healthy commitment to things spiritual among the Irish.

Even more basic perhaps is a shift from an adolescent faith to a more mature one. This is the view of a writer in *Reality*, a publication of the Irish Redemptorists: "[Ireland] is going through a traumatic transition from being a small, poor religious country on the verge of Europe to being a highly prosperous, hi-tech centre, which has moved away from blind allegiance to the church triumphant." What also has deflated the church triumphant is the appointment of a series of mediocre bishops although there are exceptions. Bishop William Walsh of Killaloe stated publicly the Church should find room for both celibate and married priests.

Another Catholic writer, Tony Flannery, also underlines differences when he describes the religious life as it was handed down to him:

It was a negative spirituality. It had negative things to say about life, about the world, about creation, about humanity and about the individual. It set up a conflict between the body and the soul. It despised creation. It proclaimed life here on earth was not important in itself, but merely a preparation for eternity. It led to the suppression of the human person, who was most of all a sinner.

As many will recognize, these words are redolent of the Baltimore Catechism, on which so many Irish Catholics grew up, including myself. It is the only publication I know that provided all the answers before one had asked a question. In that sense I would venture to say the searching and uncertainty of Irish Catholics, both here and in Ireland, is preferable to the "certainties" of the past and provides good reason to predict the growth of a more mature faith in the future. 

St. Columban – a pre-Confederation Irish township

... a challenging restoration project

By Ned Eustace

NUACHT first heard of the St. Columban gravestone restoration project in an e-mail from Fergus Keyes, one of the twenty-five volunteers – descended from St. Columban's Irish families – who have taken it on.

He said, "Almost all of the original settlers in St. Columban were Irish, arriving around the 1820s – before the later waves of famine victims. The fact that the broken tombstones of these Irish settlers were just 'dumped' behind the church upset us greatly and we determined to do something about it." Fergus went on, "We had heard in 2005 that some tombstones had fallen over due to vandalism and the simple ravages of time. We had also heard that many of them had been unceremoniously discarded by workers and left behind the St. Columban Catholic Church; but that did not prepare us for what we found ... tombstones were piled on top of one another, broken and forgotten. As well, we found some others smashed but still in the cemetery. They simply lay on the ground or were standing against others that remained upright."

St. Columban is an important but little known Irish heritage site in Quebec. In the foothills of the Laurentians, it is located approximately forty miles north of Montreal between St. Jerome and St. Scholastique. It was founded in the 1820s by Fr. Patrick Phelan, a Sulpician, born in 1795 at Ballyragget, County Kilkenny, Ireland and who later, in 1852, became Titular Bishop of Ottawa and Kingston. After Father Phelan was ordained in 1825, he was interested in establishing a township and surrounding settlement in the vicinity of Montreal, where Irish immigrants "of the farming class" could be placed after their arrival in Montreal. He had in view the people of his native county Kilkenny, as well as those of Carlow, Kildare, Offaly, Laois and Tipperary. Rev. Fr. Phelan, who had great devotion to the Irish monk, St. Columban, gave his settlement this name. The Parish of St. Columban was officially founded on October 14th, 1835.

Says Keyes, "Many of the people of Irish heritage in Montreal today are descendants of the first group of St. Columban settlers and from others arriving there later in famine times." He may be right, as most of the family names from the 1851 Census Records for St. Columban – shown on the project's information-filled website – will resonate for Montrealers as they read like a Who's Who of our community today: Barrett, Bourke, Bradshaw, Breen, Brennan, Casey, Connors, Cooper, Dobie, Donahue, Donnelly, Doyle, Drennan, Dwyer, Grace, Grimes, Hanolan, Hart, Hughes, Kehoe, Kelly, Kennedy, Keyes, Lanigan, Lea, Loughlin, MacDonald, Madden, Maguire, Manning, McEvoy, McGrath, McKenna, Meighan, Molloy, Mooney, Moore, Morgan, Murphy, Murray, O'Brien, O'Connor, Phelan, Power, Purcell, Riley, Ryan, Sexton, Slattery, Tracey, Walsh, Wells and Whelan. I can confirm the Kilkenny connection too; I was born and raised in the county and names like Walsh, Grace, Lanigan, Purcell and Drennan are commonplace there even now.



St. Columban was largely a farming and logging community that never got rich. At its peak it had 200 families working the land, the forests, stone quarries and five saw mills. An early and perhaps most unusual claim to fame was as a centre where francophones came to learn English. Its most illustrious student was Bishop Bourget of Montreal who spent two winters there in the 1870s learning the language. The decline of St. Columban correlates with the growth of Montreal which by 1880 had a population of over 130,000 inhabitants. The increase in trade and commerce affected St. Columban negatively. Due to the difficulty of farming the poor land, bad roads, the lack of reforestation, the small financial returns, the younger folk of St. Columban became dissatisfied and started to migrate all over North America. Many drifted to the large city of Montreal, where working conditions were better and relatively good wages were paid. The result was that by the early 20th century the community was diminishing in terms of its Irish significance although Irish families continued to live there certainly into the 1960s albeit in much reduced numbers. The Church still exists but is now French.

Perhaps St. Columban's most famous citizen is Supreme Court Justice Emmett M. Hall. He was born there in 1898 and moved to Saskatoon when he was 12. He is most remembered as Chair of the Royal Commission on Health Services whose 1964 report proposed a universal Medicare system for all in Canada.

Should you wish to volunteer or just learn more about the gravestone restoration project and the St. Columban community in general go to <http://www.stcolumban-irish.com/> or contact Fergus Keyes by e-mail at fergus@stcolumban-irish.com. This project deserves our support. 🍀

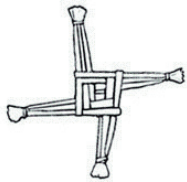
Lá fhéile Bríde / The feast of St. Bridget

By Martina McLean

St. Bridget's day, *Lá Fhéile Bríde*, (Law ehle Breda) falls on February 1st, officially recognized as the first day of spring in Ireland when farmers traditionally prepared for the spring sowing. The 1st February is also known as the Celtic Feast of *Imbolg* (ih mulog - in the belly, denoting fertility), dedicated to the goddess Brigid.

St. Bridget, *Naomh Bríd* is the Secondary Patron of Ireland. She is invoked as the patron saint of scholars, poets, blacksmiths, healers, and especially cattle, dairy workers, newborn babies and fugitives.

Although little is known of *Naomh Bríd*, much folklore surrounds her. Born in Faughart, Co. Louth, of a Christian mother named *Brocessa* and a pagan chieftain, *Dubhthach*, it is believed that *Bríd*'s youth was not a happy one. However, from an early age, it was obvious to all that *Bríd* was special and knew what she wanted of life. Stories abound about how she gave away from her father's wealth to the poor.




According to legend, the well recognisable *Cros Bhride* (krus - vreed) St. Bridget's cross, was first made as *Bríd* sat by the bedside of a dying chieftain explaining what it meant to be a Christian while weaving the cross from the *luachra* (luahra - rushes)

which covered the floor. In many Irish homes, the *Cros Bhride* is still hung over the door for protection.

Naomh Bríd was especially kind to the weak, vulnerable and marginalised. So, it is not surprising that the *ribín Bríde* (ribeen Breda - Bridget's ribbon) or *Brat Bríde* (brawt Breda - Bridget's mantle) was traditionally put outside the house on St. Bridget's Eve and often not brought in until dawn as it was believed to have a cure for sickness or pains or to provide protection against harm.

Folklore has it that when Bridget asked for the site beside the green Curragh for her convent and saw that she was meeting great resistance, she told the King that she would be content with what her mantle would cover. When the King assented and the mantle was thrown down, it began to spread until it covered the wider Curragh itself, and seemed likely to grow further.

Naomh Bríd, whose life spanned the second half of the fifth century and the first quarter of the sixth century, was a friend of *Naomh Pádraig*, St. Patrick. Many schools, churches, clubs and places are called after her as are called after our patron Saint. Probably the most notable is the *Féile Bríde*, the Festival of Bridget, hosted in Kildare annually to promote peace, justice and reconciliation.

Beannachtaí na Féile Bríde agus na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir! The blessings of the feasts of St. Brigid and St. Patrick on you all! *Is go mairfidh sibh faoi bhrat Bríde!* And may you live beneath Brigid's mantle! 

The Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce is co-ordinating a trip to Ireland with side trip options, the highlight of which is an opportunity to join the

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Novel makes Gazette bestsellers' list

By Anne Forrest

Within the past three years, Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan – SPS member and daughter of one-time President, the late Denis F. Kindellan, 1967-69 – has produced three books. Her latest, *Cutting Corners*, a thriller, was listed as a bestseller in the 28th January Gazette. Featuring the two protagonists of her previous work, *The Sands Motel*, readers are reintroduced to Caitlin and her loyal sidekick, Carmen, as they play detective and try to prove to the police the culpability of Nicolina Pastore, a drunken legal counsel and would-be murderess.


Set in Montreal, the action takes place primarily in Westmount and N.D.G. A map is provided for those who may be unfamiliar with these neighbourhoods. Also useful is a list of most of the characters, including Monsieur Patate. Being able to visualize the locale in a novel is, for me, a plus. I enjoyed this feature of the book as I did when reading *Sheila's Take*, the author's autobiography published in 2003.

Unsure of the significance of the title, I contacted Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan who pointed out the short cuts taken by many of the characters, especially Nicolena and Frank. The story unfolds smoothly with cleverly crafted sub-plots woven into it. All the elements one expects to find in a thriller are evident; slow, oft-times bungling progress of the police; wealthy people juxtaposed with those less fortunate; a villainess with murder in mind; sex (heterosexual and lesbian); and the tension and stress associated with suspense.

For the most part, characters are well rounded, but there are some inconsistencies. Maggie Donovan, who is virtually catatonic for several days after the family tragedy, recovers miraculously, almost overnight. However, Kathryn Traynor is very convincing as she battles terminal cancer. Clearly Ms. Kindellan drew on her own first-hand experiences from having watched her husband's vain struggle with the disease. Also, I wondered if the author identified with Caitlin and was told that she did, but that she felt closer to Frank Donovan, Caitlin's father. And, as the owner of a yet-to-be trained puppy, I could relate to Sophie and her exhausting supervision of Monsieur Patate – a most plausible pug.

This novel had few typographical errors, unlike the previous work. It was rather long, but I found it moved more quickly than did *The Sands Motel*.

In talking to the author, I discovered that a third thriller (to complete the trilogy) will be published in September 2006. *An Easy Mark* is set in Montreal and features a Concordia student. I'm expecting Frank Donovan to be named President of the St. Patrick's Society in this novel! Already being planned is another biographical work. This prolific writer tells me that she spends seven days a week writing, so expect much more from her.

Cutting Corners, published by Redlader Publishing, a division of Price-Patterson, retails at \$12.95. For over 400 pages that is quite a bargain. 

Only in Ireland ...

The next round's on you, Sister!

A visually impaired nun has been awarded maximum compensation in a discrimination case by Dublin District Court after she and her guide dog were thrown out of a Dublin pub. - **The Irish Times** – November 24, 2005

Keep up the good work, lads!

A large majority of Irishmen do almost no cleaning, laundry, or cooking at home, a survey by the Economic and Social Research Institute has found. The study, the first of its kind in Ireland, suggests that 81 per cent of men do no cleaning work on weekdays, while 71 per cent avoid all cooking or food preparation. The figures "change little at the weekends," the report adds.

- **The Irish Times** – November 24, 2005

Shocked and appalled ...


Sir: I was shocked by the language of Molly McAnailly-Burke's piece on lesbian rockers, and your allowing it in a family newspaper. The offending phrase "five writhing beauties hot for each other" should be "five writhing beauties hot for one another," since "each other" applies only to two.

- Letter to the Editor of **The Sunday Independent**

... and God bless America!


A North Carolina federal judge has ruled that Irish set-dancing replicates the rhythms of sex and that lap-dancing clubs should not face discrimination. ... Judge Carlton Tilley accepted "convincing" evidence that the pounding rhythm replicated the rhythm of sex...

- **The Irish Times** – November 23, 2005

A huge upsurge in young men enrolling in Irish dance classes will likely ensue. "This is exactly what we needed to get the lads involved and now that the Riverdance phenomenon is beginning to wane ... sur' it's a great day entirely and it'll drive the bishops mad!" a NYC Irish dancing school proprietor said on condition of anonymity. 

STOP PRESS

John Doyle – Speaker at SPS Annual Lunch on March 17th, 2006

The speaker for the March 17th St. Patrick's Luncheon at the Bonaventure Hotel is confirmed as **John Doyle**, The Globe and Mail's television critic and author of *A Great Feast of Light: Growing up Irish in the Television Age*. Born in Ireland and always argumentative, Doyle won a gold medal, at the age of ten, debating in Irish. Widely published in Canada, the U.S., Britain and Ireland, John Doyle is described by Robert Fulford as an intelligent, industrious and ambitious critic who should be cherished. 

People in the news ...


By Kathleen Dunn

We wish a warm welcome to new SPS members **Fergus Keyes** and **Shannon Smith**.

Speaking of **Fergus Keyes**, who is spearheading the drive to restore vandalized tombstones in St. Columban (see story, p.15), a chance e-mail to him led me directly to my great-grandmother, Ann Grace, who was born in St. Columban in 1844. I had no idea! The detective work of researching one's family tree is made all the more enjoyable by such contacts with the living. Thanks, Fergus.

Again speaking of St. Columban, historian **Claude Bourguignon** is putting the finishing touches on an up-dated version of his 1988 book *St. Colomban, Une épopée irlandaise au piedmont des laurentides*. He is expecting the book to be launched around St. Patrick's Day. Copies are \$39 plus postage and will be available through him at 1-450-438-8077 or **claud.bourguignon@videotron.ca**.

Congratulations to **Cathal** and **Flora Marlow** and their children, **Fiona**, **Shannon** and **Brendan**, on the birth of their son and brother, **Ryan Stanley**, on December 22nd. Cathal is Chair of the Montreal Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, past president of the GAA, and a member of Innisfail Social and Sports Association. Just days before the birth of their son, Cathal and Flora organized a fundraiser with Irish and Indian music and dance. Despite the huge December 16th snowstorm and a smaller-than-expected turnout, they managed to send \$1,700 to the Canadian Red Cross for earthquake relief in India and Pakistan.

Did you know that the First Secretary to the Apostolic Nuncio in Ottawa is an Irishman, born in Mitchellstown, Co. Cork? **Monsignor Michael Crotty** was the guest homilist at the third annual Ecumenical Worship Service organized by the downtown Montreal churches and held at St. Patrick's Basilica on January 22nd. The Irish connection was emphasized because this year's international Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was designed by the Archdiocese of Dublin under the banner "Gathered in my name." The underlying theme of Mgr Crotty's homily was hope and forgiveness. He suggested to the congregation that "the promise of tomorrow should not be darkened by the shadows of yesteryear." Mgr. Crotty, 35, came to Ottawa from Kenya for a three-year posting in September 2004. He is assistant to Archbishop Luigi Ventura who serves as the Pope's representative in Canada, both as a spiritual leader and as a diplomat. 

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Canadian Irish Studies

The Centre and the St. Patrick's Society are working together to launch a prestigious Annual Lecture in Canadian Irish Studies. It is hoped that Former Taoiseach, Garret Fitzgerald, may be the first speaker at this event. Stay tuned.

CIS is about to enter a new and exciting stage of its development thanks to a significant increase in annual funding provided by the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. With the additional funds, Concordia has agreed to add four new courses and make two faculty appointments in Canadian Irish Studies. One of the appointments will be a senior position in History and the other will be a limited term appointment in Irish Literature.

Two summer courses in Canadian Irish Studies will be on offer at Concordia starting in May 2006:

Introduction to Irish Pop Culture

Instructor: Dr. Lorrie Blair

The Irish Literary Revival

Instructor: Dr. Michael Kenneally

Dr. Margaret Kelleher has agreed to be this year's O'Brien Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies at Concordia. Dr. Kelleher


received her doctorate in English from Boston College and is presently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. She is author of *The Feminization of Famine: Expressions of the Invisible?* (1997), co-editor of *Gender Perspectives in Nineteenth-Century Ireland: Public and Private Spheres* with Dr. James Murphy (1997), editor of *Making it New: Essays on the Revised Leaving Certificate English Syllabus* (2000) and co-editor of *Nineteenth-Century Ireland: A Guide to Research* with Larry Geary (2005).

The following courses have also been confirmed for the fall semester (more details on these and other courses in the May edition of *NUAHT*):

Literature of the Irish Famine in a comparative context

History and memory in modern Irish literature

Introduction to Irish Studies

The Centre for Canadian Irish Studies continues to disseminate academic cultural and social information to the wider community. If you are not on the mailing list to receive these announcements, please contact us on 848-8711 or by email at **cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca** 

Around Town

Support our children's hospitals in a fun way!

The UIS is proud to host the first annual "Irish Challenge" Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament. Proceeds from this event will benefit three children's hospitals: the Montreal children's Hospital; Ste-Justine's Hospital; and the Shriner's Hospital.



This will take place on Saturday, February 11, at the two McKibbins Irish Pub locations: 1426 Bishop St., Montreal, and 6361 Trans Canada Highway, Pointe Claire. Cards will be dealt at 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$50.00 for UIS or sister society member, or \$65.00 for non-members (includes UIS membership) and entitles you to a meal (Irish buffet) and a pint of beer or a glass of wine.

Table sponsorships may be purchased for \$200.00 per table which includes advertising on one of the six final tables, recognition on the Irish Radio show and on the UIS website. Table sponsors may also provide a banner to be displayed at either location during the event.

A limited number of tickets are available. To purchase, contact:

Ken Doran 944-5246
publicrelations@montrealirishparade.com
 James Tweedie 577-5658
james_tweedie@videotron.ca
 Marlene Demers 366-3623

News from Innisfail

INNISFAIL is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary and plans are underway for a memorable evening. The date is Friday, April 28th, the venue is St. Ignatius of Loyola Church Hall on West Broadway, and the price is \$10.00 (reservations necessary).

Father McEntee still has a few calendars available and will gladly take orders (either via phone: 989-1869 or email: **mcentee@videotron.ca**). This annual fundraiser benefits Mariners' House of Montreal which serves as a hospitality centre for visiting seamen who dock in the harbour. The calendar, which sells for \$20.00, offers the buyer a chance of having his name in a daily draw for \$20.00, as well as a monthly draw for \$100.00 (held on the last day of the month) and four drawings of \$500.00 (held on the first of March, June, September and December). There are 365 drawings held per year for cash prizes totalling \$10,180 and winning tickets are re-entered for each draw. Your chances of recouping your original "investment" of twenty dollars are better than the 6/49! Furthermore, Father Tom has had several winners over the years, so let's support this worthwhile project by giving him a call.

Cine Gael offers interesting line-up

The general consensus on the opening film of the Cinegael season – *Mickybo and Me* – was that it was one of our best evenings. Fabulous film, a full house and great *craic* afterwards. Special thanks to John Griffin (publicity) and to Antoine Maloney (mailing list, etc.) for all their help.

Two great films will be shown in February: the documentary, *The Rocky Road to Dublin* (Feb. 10th), reveals, through the words of sportsmen, priests, censors and "brain-washed" children, the truth about a repressed, suppressed and massively censored Irish Republic (it received one screening in Dublin in '68 and was never shown again in Ireland); and *Headrush* (Feb. 24th) by Director Shimmy Marcus is about a pothead named Charlie who is down on his luck and conceives of an elaborate scheme to smuggle a consignment of cocaine back from Amsterdam (a big favourite at the 2004 Galway Film Festival).

Our evening of award-winning shorts on March 3rd promises to be the crowd-pleaser it always has been and, of course, the audience gets to vote for their favourite films in the line-up. The themes are wide-ranging and include a cast of characters from a paramilitary faced with giving the right answer, a very special birth, a man hovering at a point between life and death, an evil landlord face-to-face with a Celtic witch and more.

We are still working on confirming our choices for our week-end special (March 24th & 25th) and for our last two screenings – April 7th and April 27th (our Closing Gala). All screenings are at Concordia's De Sève Cinema and start at 7:00 p.m. Check our website (www.cinegaelmontreal.com) for new developments. Membership is \$30 and includes five films and the opening reception, as well as a reduction of \$5 for the weekend and Closing Gala. Admission for non-members is \$7 for each of the remaining evenings. The weekend series and our Gala Closing are \$20 each.

Dana Hearne

Celebrate Samuel Beckett's 100th anniversary

Gleams Theatre is happy to announce its up-coming stage production **BECKETT 100** (three short plays by Samuel Beckett - *Play*, *Rockaby* and *What Where*) which will premiere on April 13th, 2006 and will mark Beckett's Anniversary – 100 years after his birth to the day. Directed by Constantin Sokolov, there will be five performances: from April 13th to April 16th (Thursday to Sunday) at 8:00 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. Performances will take place at MainLine Theatre, 3997 St. Laurent Boulevard, Montreal, Tel: (514) 849-3378. Tickets are \$35.00 (sponsors), \$25.00 (adult) and \$15.00 (student). For more information on these presentations, contact Ira Sokolov, Executive Producer of Gleams Theatre at (514) 934-0535 or by email: **irasokolov@sympatico.ca**.

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAI 2006

DATE	EVENTS	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Feb. 10	Cine Gael 2006, The Rocky Road to Dublin, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:00 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Feb. 11	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/De Maisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White	483-6262
Feb. 11	UIS Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament, McKibbins Pubs (see p.19 for more details)	Ken Doran	944-5246
Feb. 11	Irish Radio Show, 5:00 p.m.	Kimberly Sullivan	947-7661
Feb. 18	AOH corned beef dinner, St. Ignatius Church Hall, 4455 West Broadway, \$15.00, from 5:30 p.m.	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Feb. 22	Irish Community Quiz McKeown Trophy (organized by ICCG), Hurley's Pub, \$20.00 per person	Jim Kirby	733-5980
Feb. 24	Cine Gael 2006, Headrush, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:00 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 3	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:00 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 4	Irish Radio Show, 5:00p.m.	Kimberly Sullivan	947-7661
Mar. 10	St. Patrick's Ball, Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel	Alistair O'Hara	481-6834
Mar. 11	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/De Maisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White	483-6262
Mar. 11	Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Windsor Station	Mabel Fitzgerald	481-9609
Mar. 12	Mass of Anticipation & UIS Gen. Mtg., 11:30 a.m., St. Gabriel's Parish	Marlene Demers	366-3623
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Society Luncheon, Hotel Bonaventure	Paul Dunne	767-0497
Mar. 18	Irish Radio Show, 5:00 p.m.	Kimberly Sullivan	947-7661
Mar. 19	Green Mass, St. Patrick's Basilica, 10:00 a.m.	Mary McGovern	866-7379
Mar. 19	St. Patrick's Parade, noon	Ken Quinn	932-0512
Mar. 24/25	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:00 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 25	Parade Awards Banquet & Dance, 6:00 p.m.	Sheri Bernier	766-8530
Apr. 1	Irish Radio Show, 5:00 p.m.	Kimberly Sullivan	947-7661
Apr. 7	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:00 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 8	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/De Maisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White	483-6262
Apr. 15	Irish Radio Show, 5:00 p.m.	Kimberly Sullivan	947-7661
Apr. 27	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:00 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 28	Innisfail 2006 60 th Anniversary Celebrations, St. Ignatius Church Hall, West Broadway, \$10.00	Roberta Wheeler	768-0613
May 6	Irish Radio Show, 5:00 p.m.	Kimberly Sullivan	947-7661
May 20	Ville Marie Feis, John Abbott College	Pat Short	697-4343
May 20	Irish Radio Show, 5:00 p.m.	Kimberly Sullivan	947-7661
May 28	AOH Walk to the Stone (following the UIS Mass)	Victor Boyle	928-7196
June 16	Innisfail Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers, NDG Legion, 7:00 p.m.	Roberta Wheeler	768-0613
June 20	St. Patrick's Sociey Annual Golf Tournament, Belle Vue Golf Club	Doris Rooney	481-1346
July 26	Mass in the Park at the Griffintown St-Ann Park	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Aug. 12	AOH Annual Grosse Île Pilgrimage, (details in next issue)	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Aug. 25	AOH 3 rd Annual Golf Tournament, (details in next issue)	Victor Boyle	928-7196

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