



Presidential term about to end

By Patrick Dunn

Two years have flown by since I took on the presidency of St. Patrick's Society. They have been good years for me and, I hope, for the Society. Personally, I have had an opportunity to attend just about every event organized by the Irish community in Montreal and have gotten to know people I might not otherwise have met. I like that. Likewise, I have represented St. Patrick's Society at events organized by other cultural and charitable groups in the City and have come to appreciate just how strong the volunteer spirit is in reaching out to help others. I also get to hear good things about St. Patrick's Society from outside observers who see us as blessed with hard workers and goodwill. I like that too.

As for the Society, there have been many accomplishments:

- A refurbished *NUAcht* through which we can communicate with members and the community at large. Thanks to an editorial team, and I stress team, led by Ned Eustace, *NUAcht* presents a polished and professional image in



First Family leads Society in the 2004 Parade

addition to news and historical perspective. What it lacks is feedback in the form of letters to the editor.

- An up-to-date membership directory, thanks to Doris Rooney and Anne Forrest.
- General meetings held in such historic places as Bon-Secours Chapel and Villa Maria High School.
- Outreach to the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, which has resulted in a joint trip to Quebec City and Grosse-Île, in association with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, scheduled for the weekend of July 24-25 (see p. 3).
- A re-evaluation of our investment portfolio and, thanks to Geoff Moore and Andrea Bobkowitz, the selection of a new investment manager with a reputation for positive results even in difficult economic times.

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NUAcht

May 2004

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Presidential term (cont.)

- Inspired choices as recipients of our Community Award: David Hannaford in 2003 and Sr. Maura McGrath in 2004. Not only do they deserve our recognition, they both make us look good. As an added bonus, the award has proved to be a boon for Sr. McGrath's current fundraising campaign for Refuge Juan Moreno.
- Very successful fundraising events: Balls, Luncheons, Golf Tournaments and Christmas concerts, which brought in a total of \$99,000 (gross) over the two years. I cannot begin to thank, or to name, everyone who helped make this possible.
- Donations to charitable and cultural organizations to the tune of \$109,000 over the two years. This, of course, is our purpose as a benevolent society.
- An increase of \$10 in annual membership fees, from \$50 to \$60, approved by the Board of Directors and ratified at the Annual General Meeting in June 2003. This first increase in 12 years allows us to cover the increase in day-to-day expenses without infringing on our capital or on funds raised for charitable purposes. The junior member rate has been maintained at \$30.
- Scholarships, established for the Canadian Irish Studies Program at Concordia University.
- Past Presidents, invited to meetings of the Board of Directors to offer input and to provide continuity, thus maintaining an active role in Society affairs.
- Two awards for Best Sister Society participation in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, thanks to sashes by Maura Druda, discipline by Rob Brodrick, and the enthusiasm of about 75 walkers each year.
- Memorable guest speakers such as Simon Potter, Tom Mulcair, Gary Schroder and Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan.

As I reflect on our achievements, I realize that our activities are designed to appeal to a broad range of members. There literally is something for everyone and each event draws its own following.

The Ball, for instance, had an attendance of 306, seventy of whom were juniors, the future of the Society. There were seven and a half corporate tables and many new faces. Chairman Alistair O'Hara and his committee are to be commended for reacting so quickly and capably to the necessity for a change in venue from the Chateau Champlain (where the strike is still unresolved) to the Bonaventure Hilton. No committee should have to deal with that on three weeks' notice! Despite the difficulties and the lower attendance from previous years, the Ball, the silent auction and the Patrons' Fund managed to bring in about \$15,000. Our thanks to all who made that happen.

The Luncheon, under John Little's continued guidance, attracted 560 guests, many of whom are regulars who can be counted on to support our efforts. John reports that net proceeds were in the order of \$5,000.

The Golf Tournament draws yet another clientele and we are looking forward to a sold-out event on June 15. If you do not play golf, you can always join us for dinner.

In closing, I would like to congratulate all the sister societies for a successful and enjoyable St. Patrick's Season. There was the occasional negative stereotyping of the Irish in the press but generally the coverage was excellent. The truly unfortunate incident was the spraying of the Parade Queen and her court with paint by an unobserved bystander who was never tracked down and who deserves no recognition. The Queen and princesses did themselves proud by handling this insulting incident gracefully and not allowing it to become the focus of an otherwise successful season.

Thank you all for allowing me the privilege of serving as President.

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www.stpatrickssociety.com

AGM scheduled for Monday, June 7

The Annual General Meeting of St. Patrick's Society will be held on Monday, June 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the usual venue of McCormick Hall, St. Patrick Square. Refreshments will be served after the meeting and everyone is invited to attend.

This year's Nominating Committee — Peter Shea (Chairperson), Lynn Doyle, Michael Kenneally, Gus Ó Gorman and Brian O'Neill — proposes the following slate of officers and directors for the year 2004-2005.

President	John Little	
Vice-Presidents	Paul Dunne	
	Edward Eustace	
	Geoffrey Moore	
Treasurer	Andrea Bobkowicz	
Secretary	Mary McDaid	
Directors	Jeremy Bolger	Monica McIntyre
	Rob Brodrick	Frank McMahon
	Christie Brown	Joe Mell
	Maura Druda	Shawn O'Donnell
	Dylan Griffin	Alistair O'Hara
	Wayne Hogan	Scott Phelan
	John Lemieux	Edward Short
	Mary McGovern	Robert Travers
	Elizabeth McNinch	

AOH donates Celtic vestments to St. Gabriel's

At the Mass of Anticipation at St. Gabriel's Church organized by the United Irish Societies on March 7th, the concelebrants, Msgr. Sean Harty and Father Jim McDonald, wore beautiful new vestments with a Celtic motif generously donated to the Parish by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The vestments, three stoles and three chasubles, were designed, embroidered, and made by Barbara Gale for the AOH. Altar cloths will follow.

AOH President, Kevin Muldoon, explained that the gift is an attempt to contribute something to the community that will be a permanent reminder of the AOH's Irish-Catholic origins. To help make such a gift possible on an ongoing basis, they will be holding their first annual golf tournament on Friday, September 10th, at the Lafleur Golf Club in Khanawake. The fee of \$65.00 includes golf and a roast beef dinner in the clubhouse. For information or to book a foursome, the person to call is Victor Boyle at 928-7186 or go to info@AOH-MONTREAL.COM

In Memoriam

St. Patrick Society offers condolences to the family of St. Patrick (Paddy) J. Dunne, who passed away on February 22, 2004, in Chateauguay, after a year-long battle with illness. Formerly of The Heath, Co. Laois, Ireland, Paddy was a great servant of the GAA in Montreal for many years, and will be sadly missed by those who were fortunate enough to know him. Our sympathies go out to his wife, children and grandchildren.

Sign up now for weekend trip to Grosse-Île and Quebec City

St. Patrick's Society (SPS) and the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society (IPBS), in association with the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), are planning a trip to Quebec City and Grosse-Île on Saturday and/or Sunday, July 24-25, 2004. The SPS/IPBS bus will leave Montreal Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and depart from Quebec City on Sunday at 5 p.m. The AOH bus, which is already fully booked, will make a one-day trip on Sunday. All three societies will meet up to take the boat from Quebec City to Grosse-Île on Sunday.

The SPS/IPBS trip is limited to 55 bus passengers and will cost \$135/single and \$250/couple. This includes the bus, accommodations, Sunday breakfast, a walking tour, and the boat. Accommodations have been booked at a Laval University student residence. Those wishing to stay elsewhere can make their own arrangements and the SPS/IPBS rate will be reduced by \$35/single or \$50/couple. There will be a centrally located drop-off and pick-up point.

The tentative SPS/IPBS itinerary is as follows:

Saturday, July 24

8:30 a.m. Leave Montreal by charter bus from Loyola High School. Arrangements have been made with Father Maclean, President of Loyola High School, so that cars can be left for the weekend free of charge in a specially designated area.

11:00 a.m. Check-in at Laval University

11:45 a.m. Depart for downtown. Lunch on your own.

2:00 p.m. Walking tour of Irish Quebec City with guides from the Irish Heritage Quebec Association

4:30 p.m. Return to Laval for happy hour and/or rest
(Those wishing to do so may remain downtown.)

7:00 p.m. Departure for downtown. Dinner on your own.

10:30 p.m. Return to Laval University

Sunday, July 25

7:00-8:15 a.m. Breakfast at Laval University (included)

8:45 a.m. Departure for Port of Quebec City

9:30 a.m. Boat departs for Grosse-Île

11:00 a.m. Tour of Grosse-Île (Parks Canada). Lunch on your own.

3:30 p.m. Boat returns to Quebec City

5:00 p.m. Bus leaves for Montreal.

Reservations will be taken on a first-come first-served basis and must be confirmed with payment by Visa or cheque no later than June 15th. Please e-mail SPS office at stpatsoemtl@qc.aibn.com or call Doris Rooney at 514-481-1346.

A reign that was exciting and rewarding

By Tara Hecksher

Flash...Flash...Flash.....All I could see were bright lights flashing, second after second. People all around were clapping and cheering triumphantly as I was adorned with flowers, the royal robe, a sash and a dainty tiara. I couldn't believe that I had actually won, and all I kept thinking was: "Don't stop smiling!"

People always ask me, "What is it like to be queen?" This is definitely not something I can answer in one sentence. The story of my reign so far has been extremely exciting, hard to conceptualize and undoubtedly a most rewarding experience.

It had begun to sink in as the applause in the banquet hall faded, but it was only after I stepped into the crowd and almost anyone who had a chance to congratulate me, did, that I realized this was a big deal. There were 700 people there, and in those closing minutes of the night, all eyes were on me. I remember saying goodbye to my PR, Jolyon, and he said, "Your name has gone out on the airwaves." It was surreal.



l. to r. Kay Dunn, Patrick Dunn, Queen Tara, Alistair O'Hara and Fiona McGeachy

... friends with whom to share this unique opportunity.

Marie Lortie, Jessica Earley, Melissa Proietti, Theresa Casey and I, together made up "The Queen and her Court." From the beginning, we attended all events together, sat together, ate together, drank together, laughed together, cried together, danced together and inevitably, we went on an incredible journey together. One of the things I loved most was that the Princesses were always present, friends with whom to share this unique opportunity. With about four events per week, we became family.

My royal duties began straightaway as I was requested to give interviews for the press. In the three weeks that followed I became more and more accustomed to dealing with the media: newspapers, radio and television. The attention generated was far beyond anything I had ever imagined.

Two memorable events were visits to the Shriner's and the Children's hospitals. The Princesses and I visited in our royal regalia and it was warming to see the children's eyes light up as we entered the room. We played games, chatted and took lots of pictures. They seemed to enjoy our company as much as we enjoyed theirs.

I was privileged to attend receptions held by the Mayors of Montreal, Verdun and Kirkland. Before being crowned, I had

never dreamed of being entertained by such distinguished people. I also soon became familiar with the Irish dancers and singers who performed at most events.

At each public appearance, the Princesses and I were called upon to give a speech. This was perhaps one of the most nerve-racking duties we had. Even though we were selected based on our public speaking abilities, it took getting used to, and became a valuable life lesson.

The St. Patrick's Ball and the Awards Banquet were definitely highlights. It was fun for the Princesses and I to dance the night away, all glowing in our gowns and tiaras. Also a big treat was attending a Canadiens / Leafs hockey game.

As each event passed, the parade got closer. It is hard to describe what it feels like to be the Queen on Parade Day. As our float cruised down St. Catherine Street, I wore a fixed smile and gave a firm wave. I was astonished to hear people frantically screaming out my name. Someone even threw a letter into the float for me. This then, was quite the experience. When we reached the end of the Parade, we stood on the reviewing stand waving at the passing floats. The biggest honour came when Prime Minister Paul Martin casually popped into the reviewing stand and had his picture taken with us. Unbelievable! Four hours later, while it had been a fantastic day, my toes were frozen and I was ready to go home.

My reign was overwhelming. As well as being afforded the opportunity to attend balls, receptions, the hockey games and the like, we received countless gifts and donations from many kind supporters and sponsors. I also was given my trip to Ireland. Being a Queen has truly been an eye-opening, rewarding experience and I would like to thank the United Irish Societies for giving me this honour.

Where are they now?

Manon Berube, a researcher for Quebec Family History Society, is trying to locate descendants of John James Hogan and Jean Brown Seivewright who were married on August 23rd 1941 in St-Ann's Church (Griffintown). If anybody knows what happened to this couple, the names and marital status of any children, and if Jean Brown Seivewright (who was born in Scotland in 1917) is still alive, please contact Manon at manonberubeedyp@hotmai.com.

Quebec owes a debt to politicians of Irish ancestry

By Shawn McAlear

To attempt to grasp the role played by the Quebec Irish in federal, provincial, and municipal affairs is to pinpoint highlights of Quebec's political history. Indeed, elected Irish representatives span the time and geographical frame of key periods.

On the heels of the British conquest, the political situation began to take shape with the 1774 passage of the Quebec Act by Governor Guy Carleton, a native of Ireland from Strabane. The Act protected the French language, the Civil Code, and the Catholic Church.

In 1791, Carleton, now Lord Dorchester, presided over the creation of Lower and Upper Canada, each with an elected assembly but without any real powers. The absence of authority among the elected representatives was to draw increasing criticism. Many Irish joined the French in pressing for reforms, strongly influenced by the similar demands of Daniel O'Connell in Ireland. The drive there was fruitless and rebellion broke out in both Canadas in 1837-38.

In 1841, a new Act was passed by Lord Durham, merging the two provinces into one province of Canada, and Irish and French politicians took advantage of the Act to achieve responsible government by 1848. Deadlocks were to persist, however, until Confederation in 1867.

The legal system had improved in the meantime with the 1850 establishment of the Quebec Superior Court. A number of prominent Irish lawyers and politicians were named to the Bench — roughly in line with the 10% Irish makeup of the population.

Accordingly, the political and legal annals from 1792 to today are dotted with familiar Irish names: McCord, Cannon, Drummond, Flynn, Johnson, Power, Doherty, Fitzpatrick, Guerin, Ryan, Curran, Hackett, Kennedy, Devlin, Alleyn, etc. Others like Louis Saint-Laurent, George Vanier, Gérard D. Levesque, and Jean Charest had Irish mothers. They came from various parts of the province, not only Montreal and Quebec City which, in fact, accounted for only 30% of the Quebec Irish in 1871.

The population of Quebec owes a debt to the Irish who devoted themselves to public service. *NUA^{CH}T* features three of these fine politicians and will focus on others in a subsequent issue.

John Samuel McCord (1801-1866)

Born near Dublin, he was the son of Thomas McCord and Sarah Solomon and the brother of William King McCord (1803-1858). Thomas McCord hailed from Antrim, Ireland and first came to Quebec in 1764 with his father John. He was twice elected to the Lower Canada



John Samuel McCord

Assembly after returning to Ireland for a few years. Each of Thomas' sons was admitted to the Bar, John in 1828 and William the next year, and both were appointed judges in Quebec Superior Court in 1857.

John was the father of David Ross McCord, who was to found the McCord Museum. William's son, Thomas, also served as a Superior court judge (1873-86).

Lewis Thomas Drummond (1813-82)

Born near Derry, Ireland, he came to Quebec in 1825 and studied at Collège de Nicolet, becoming a lawyer in 1836. He gained prominence by defending the Rebels of 1837-38. By 1848, Drummond was solicitor-General of Quebec. He became Attorney-General three years after successfully reforming the seigniorial system.

Always a strong reformer, he was part of several ministries which also included Baldwin, Lafontaine, Hincks, and Morin. He left the legislature in 1864, serving as a judge until he retired in 1873. From 1846 to 1851, he was director of the Montreal City and District Savings Bank.

His two sons attended Collège Sainte-Marie. One, Lewis, Jr., became a Jesuit and the first English-speaking rector of the college. By the time he died, his reputation as an educator was firmly established in various parts of the world, including the U.S., England and Ireland.

Hon. Daniel Johnson (1915-68)

Born in Danville, the son of Francis Johnson whose parents were Irish, and Marie-Adeline Daniel, he graduated in law from Université de Montréal in 1940. First elected to the Quebec legislature in 1946, he became Premier of Quebec in 1966 and served until his untimely death two years later. He was married to Reine Gagné.



Daniel Johnson

Two sons, Pierre-Marc and Daniel Johnson, were later elected to the Quebec legislature and both also served as Premiers of two different governments.

NUA^{CH}T would like to acknowledge Patrick O'Hara and thank him once again for his permission to use the research that has led to the development of this continuing series of articles.

Canadians support an integrated school system in Northern Ireland

In the February 2003 *NUA^{CH}T*, integrated education in Northern Ireland was examined. A year later there are now 50 integrated schools with seven more to be established. A major Midsummernight Madness celebration, featuring some “big-hitter Canadians” is planned for June 21 in Belfast’s City Hall. Brian Small, Fundraising Manager, tells us that they’ve received a great deal of financial assistance from Canadians over the past few years for which IEF (Integrated Education Fund) is most grateful.

Earlier this year, Jane Kennedy, MP, the Minister with responsibility for Education, approved the establishment of four new integrated schools, the transformation of two existing primary schools to integrated status and approved proposals to increase admissions in two integrated post-primary schools.

Announcing her decision the Minister said: “I am pleased to make this announcement today. The Department has a statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education and it provides support and funding for the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education.

“Each proposal is considered carefully based on all the information available including the evidence that a new school would be viable in the areas concerned.

“I recognise that this news is eagerly awaited and will provide clarity for many parents and children making decisions about their future educational options.”

Brian Small is thrilled that ordinary parents are showing politicians the way forward and is proud that Canadians are contributing by helping these parents build a new and more understanding Northern Ireland.

For further information, visit the IEF website: www.ief.org.uk or contact Brian Small at Brian@ief.org.uk. The Integrated Education Fund is recognised as Charity by the UK’s Inland Revenue under Reference XR52574.

St. Ann’s births and marriages now indexed from 1873-1899

A amateur genealogists with family roots in Griffintown will be happy to know that the Quebec Family History Society (QFHS) recently launched a new compilation of baptisms and marriages from St. Ann’s Parish from 1873 to 1899. Baptisms, all 9,011 of them, are listed in alphabetical order by family name, with a cross reference to the mother’s name. Likewise, the 1,849 marriages are listed in alphabetical order according to the groom’s name but there is a separate index listing brides’ names. This mammoth three-year undertaking is the work of Sheila Hennessy of Mississauga and Robert Dunn of Montreal, both volunteer researchers. Although St. Ann’s Parish opened in 1854, it did not start keeping its own records until 1873. Prior to that, baptisms and marriages of the congregation of St. Ann’s Church were entered in the parish register of Notre Dame de Montréal. The QFHS is a non-profit organization founded in 1977 to foster the study of genealogy among the English-speaking people of Quebec. For information on membership and services, or to purchase the St. Ann’s compilation (\$55), contact the QFHS office in Pointe Claire by telephone at 514-695-1502 or by e-mail at: www_qfhs@cam.org or check the website at: <http://www.cam.org/~qfhs/index.html>

Benedict Labre House reopened

After an eighteen-month period for renovations, Benedict Labre House reopened on Friday, April 30. Visitors and volunteers were delighted with the new facilities including an expanded kitchen, dining room and a second floor now able to accommodate coffee house events. The basement has been deepened so that those over 5 feet no longer risk injury when standing up.

Bishop Tony Mancini blessed the new facility and John Buell used the occasion to launch his new book, *Traveling Light*, a new biography of Tony Walsh who founded Benedict Labre House in 1952. The well known house of hospitality in Griffintown is now ready to begin a new chapter.

Montreal Shamrocks all set for a great season

A new executive committee was elected at December’s AGM. Brendan O’Connor was nominated as Club President but unfortunately was unable to take up the position. Nigel Harney is the new Club Treasurer, and Stephen Bourke was nominated as Club Vice-President, a position he held until his departure for Ireland in early April. His position has yet to be filled. Two members of the women’s team were also nominated to the executive committee, Ann Carroll as Club Secretary and Christina Piamonte as Club Public Relations Officer. Paddy Mahon acted as interim President until Micheál (Mick) Martin took over. The team also welcomed O’Regan’s Irish Pub (1224 Bishop St.) as their new sponsor this year.

The committee has been hard at work getting the 2004 season

under way. This year the Montreal Shamrocks will once again field a men’s and women’s team. The teams managed to get a few indoor training sessions in during the winter months and are now back into full training.

Montreal will once again be hosting the first tournament of the season to be held at John Abbott College (May 22nd and 23rd). The teams are looking forward to this year’s tournament when they expect to play host to teams from Ottawa, the Greater Toronto area and Edmonton.

For more information on the Montreal Shamrocks’ schedule and other GAA events, please visit their web site at www.montrealgaa.com.

Twenty-fifth Feis Montreal at John Rennie High School

By Kathleen Dunn

The 25th edition of Feis Montreal will take place on Saturday, May 22nd, at John Rennie High School in Pointe Claire. The Feis is expected to draw 800 Irish dancers in competitions ranging from beginner to open championship and in all age groups from under-6 to over-21. Also scheduled are Irish Language Workshops, Irish instrumental and vocal competitions, Hurley's Irish Pub and BBQ, boutiques selling Irish goods, a parent-run café, and an outdoor concert stage featuring Belfast Andi, Orealis, and Rosheen, a Celtic band from Quebec City with numerous awards and CDs sold across Canada. Doors open to the public at 9 a.m. and admission is \$8.00. The concert stage and pub/BBQ open at noon.

...set their sights on staging an Irish festival like the ones they had known and enjoyed in Ireland.

This is quite a milestone in the annals of Irish Montreal. The first Feis (pronounced fesh) Montreal was held in the Kirkland Arena in 1980 under the rules of the North American Feis Commission. Pat and Bernadette Short had come from Dublin in 1974 and, after establishing the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing in 1977, set their sights on staging an Irish festival like the ones they had known and enjoyed in Ireland. They started small with the help of a group of energetic and enthusiastic parents. About 140 dancers, mostly from Montreal and Toronto, came to compete. Over the years, Feis Montreal evolved until, in 1992, it became the focal point of the Irish celebrations of the City's 350th anniversary. That year the Feis was held in the Old Port and attracted first class entertainment such as Cherish the Ladies and Barley Bree and a large audience.

ICCC's first annual pub quiz proved successful and enjoyable

Hurley's Pub was full on April 20 as Montreal's brightest pitted their wits against each other. Fourteen teams, including representatives from St. Patrick Society, Cine Gael, Canadian Irish Studies, and ICCC, competed for the Brian McKeown Memorial Trophy under the leadership of Sean Murphy (quizmaster) and his associate Steve.

The questions, three sets of ten, focused on the Montreal Irish community. In first place came Canadian Irish Studies – Ann English, Ruth Jennings and Brad Kent, led by captain Michael Kenneally – who each won a \$25 Hurley's gift certificate. In second place, and recipients of gift certificates from Nicholas Hoare Books & CDs were ICCC's team of Paul Loftus, Diana James, Vivian Doyle-Kelly and Ed Stokes. Third place went to St. Patrick's Society's team (Dads & Lads) with Peter Shea and son Kevin and Gus Ó Gorman and son Michael. They also won Nicholas Hoare gift certificates.

A special thanks to Geri Newell (SPS) for her donation of two door prizes: various versions of Celtic breads.

This successful evening will surely become an annual event thanks to the efforts of Bill Hurley and his staff, Gary McKeown, and Diana James.

The next step was a move to John Abbott College which had ample space not only for dancers but also for the Gaelic Athletic Association to host its annual Irish football tournament. And it had a proper stage for the champion dancers. Other organizations got involved: the Montreal Irish Language Study Circle, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Hurley's Irish Pub, and St. Patrick's Society. Local musicians joined others like the Barra MacNeils on the outdoor concert stage. And then there was Riverdance which brought flocks of children to Irish dancing. Schools of Irish dancing opened all over Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes and soon John Abbott College was no longer large enough to host the growing number of competitors. The layout at John Rennie High School is much better suited to handle the crowds. Unfortunately it cannot accommodate the Irish football tournament.

The Feis became far too big for the Shorts to handle on their own. Under the umbrella of the not-for-profit Ville Marie Feis, volunteers were recruited from the Moran Academy in Deux-Montagnes, the Chateauguay Academy, and the Shannon Irish Dancers as well as from the Short classes in NDG and the West Island. Friends from the broader Irish community also help out to make Feis Montreal one of the highlights on the North American Feis Commission circuit which now includes some 150 annual feiseanna (fesh-nah) across the continent.

Congratulations to Pat and Bernadette Short and to all involved in Feis Montreal for 25 years of dedication to keeping our Irish heritage alive and vibrant.

Alarm at Shannon Airport as US troops smoke up

Some commentators have been critical of the language used by the US media in describing the actions of US forces against Iraqi detainees. Not only did George W fail to apologise appropriately, but the US media describes the action against the prisoners as abuse rather than torture, as the conduct clearly merits.

Well, Ireland is not a member of the alliance of the willing, but over the loud protests of the many Irish anti-war activists, the government made Shannon Airport available as a refuelling stop for US military aircraft going to and from Iraq.

This gets us to a more correct usage of "abuse." The troops ignored Ireland's recently enacted very tough anti-smoking laws by lighting-up in the toilets, triggering automatic alarms six times and causing the airport to be evacuated once when emergency staff failed to locate the source of the alarm. Now this is a clear abuse of Irish law carrying a fine of up to 3,000 Euros. As Irish officials did not apprehend the offending soldiers, we can only speculate as to what the US troops would have done had they been detained. The mind boggles at the range of possibilities given their recent behaviour. No doubt, at a minimum, they might have objected to the officials interfering with their constitutional right to bear and use tobacco.

A Night in November was a night to remember

By Maureen McCormick

Montreal theatre audiences were recently treated to the Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre's presentation of Marie Jones' play, *A Night in November*, starring Daniel Giverin in a brilliant solo performance. Seven simple, stark rows of aluminum stands made up the set. This arrangement was used to full effect as the actor bounced energetically up, down or under the rows when changing scenes.

"The Troubles" form the play's backdrop from the outset. Before leaving for work, Kenneth McCallister, the play's main protagonist, checks for the presence of explosives under his car. In turn, he uses his position of authority as a job placement officer to exhibit his own brand of oppression against his Catholic clients. Kenneth reels with joy when he is finally accepted as a member of a prestigious local golf club. He does not hesitate to promptly inform his supervisor, Jerry, a Catholic man.

Kenneth is married to Debra, whose main pre-occupation in life is "keeping up with the Murphys." They share an immaculately tidy home and a similarly tidy life. While attending a World Cup elimination match with Ernie, his father-in-law, Kenneth is shocked when Ernie chimes in with the home crowd's intimidating chants. His awakening begins. The next day, as he faces the very same Catholic man returning to seek another opportunity at landing a job, Kenneth realizes that he is part of the problem.

This seed of change prompts him to accompany Jerry to his home one night. The contrast between his own failing marriage and that of his colleague's strikes him. He realizes that his marriage and his life must change. He tries in vain to convince Debra but his new found wisdom is met with apathy. A transformed Kenneth takes drastic measures, flying off to America to take in the World Cup with his Irish Catholic compatriots. He's proud to be both Irish, and Protestant.

A Night in November tells a universal story. The script's use of Irish wit and humour balances the serious subject matter with just the right touch of lightness.

Summer symposium offers variety of activities for lovers of things Irish

The Centre for Canadian Irish Studies has an exciting programme lined up for its summer symposium, *Ireland on the St. Lawrence*. Many of the activities have already taken place or are in progress. The following is a small sample of what is available for the balance of the summer.

Film: *The Two Traditions in Ireland*

May 21, H-937, Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W) 6:00 p.m.

Public Lectures:

Situating the Irish in the Material Culture of Grosse-Île

June 2, Rhona Richman Kenneally, Department of Design Art, Concordia University

Celtic Music, Celtitude and the Irish Diaspora

June 8, Desi Wilkinson, University of Limerick & Mary Immaculate College Limerick

Brian Moore's Ginger Coffey: transforming the Irish exile motif in Montreal

June 14, Michael Kenneally, Chair in Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia University

Lectures begin at 8:30 p.m. and take place in H-507, Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West)

Concert

Concert of Irish and Quebecois Musicians,

Corona Theatre, 2490 rue Notre Dame West (two blocks east of Atwater Market) 8:00 p.m., June 12.

(Admission is free to films, lectures and concert.)

Trip to Grosse-Île:

Friday, June 4. One-day bus trip from Montreal.

Courses:

The course scheduled to begin in late June, *The Irish in Nineteenth-Century Montreal* is full. Already in session is *Irish and Quebecois Music: Influences and Developments*, being taught by the legendary traditional Irish musician, Desi Wilkinson, who has chosen to come to Concordia rather than going to China to play with the Beijing Symphony Orchestra.

Further information on any of these events: call 848-8711 or consult the website at <http://artsandscience.concordia.ca/irish>

Celtic music to be highlighted strongly at the Acadian-Cajun Festival

The International Acadian - Cajun Festival, which will take place at Parc des Rapides in LaSalle, from June 18 to 20, 2004, will focus on Celtic music and culture. The programme will celebrate Irish, Scottish, Welsh, and Breton talents from across the country and beyond. Over 100 musicians and artists have confirmed their participation.

Acadian music has its roots in Celtic music, and many emerging bands are using influences of both genres while playing Celtic and francophone music. This year's Celtic theme will also celebrate the culture of the founding peoples of Canada. Natalie McMaster, Grand Dérangement and other well-known bands are among the participants.

There will be activities for the whole family, featuring buskers, mascots, face-painters, and games sure to please all age groups. Artisans and artists will display unique and remarkable works of art such as the Mi-carême masks. Kiosks will feature authentic Acadian, Cajun, Celtic and Breton products and foods.

For a unique and affordable experience, come share the joie de vivre of the Acadians, the Cajuns, and the Celts and let the good times roll!

Tickets cost \$6 per day, or \$15 for the three days. Additional information is available at www.quebecceltic.ca or by calling (514) 748-7816.

Around town

Thomas McEntee celebrates 50 years as priest



The Golden Jubilee Celebration Mass for Father Thomas McEntee will take place on Sunday, May 30, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, 4455 West Broadway, Montreal. This will be followed by cocktails and dinner in the church hall. The cost will be \$50.00 per person for a catered roast beef dinner, with wine. For ticket information, please call: Barbara Gale (514) 697-5689 or Kevin Muldoon (514) 939-9496

Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club to host English rugby team

The Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club will welcome and host the Selby Rugby Club visiting Montreal and Canada for the first time. Selby will play the Montreal Irish (1st Team – Presidents XV and the Old Boys' side being age 35+) at St. Julie on Sunday, May 30th, in a festival day of rugby starting just after noon and including a match between the Women of the Montreal Irish and Beaconsfield. It promises to be a fun day out!

Also, you are invited to the Farewell Rugby Dinner on Friday 4th of June beginning at 5.30 pm. in the Molson Rooms. Tickets are available for this sit-down banquet from John Dennett at 626-7346.

Further details concerning the May 30th rugby matches, various planned activities and directions to St. Julie can be obtained via our Montreal Irish RFC web site <http://www.mirfc.ca/> or by contacting: Gordon Murray President MIRFC at 341-3221 (work) or murrayg@abgs.com

St. Patrick's Society 9th Annual Golf Tournament

The secret is out about the best all around golf tournament in Montreal, dollar for dollar. This year's tournament will once again be held at the beautiful Belle Vue Golf Club.

We will accept the first 144 players registered. This charity tournament is organized by St. Patrick's for the good works of the Society.

The tournament takes place on June 15th with a 12:45 shotgun start followed by refreshments and dinner. Once again we will have many great door prizes. The cost for the day, including green fees and roast beef dinner with wine, is \$110.

Those interested should contact Doris Rooney at 481-1346.
Wayne Hogan, Co-Chairman

Commemorate Bloomsday Centenary

All who attended Cine Gael's special weekend 'Bloomsday' Festival or heard about how much fun it was - will want to get in touch with fellow Cine Gael cinephile, Seán Treacy, about a reprise he's planning for the real Bloomsday this June 16th.

If you're not one of those planning to be in Dublin for the Bloomsday Centenary this June and want a chance to celebrate, contact Seán by email at seantreacy@sympatico.ca or call him at 637-4539

Silver Anniversary for St. Patrick Square

St. Patrick Square will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a gathering of tenants and invited guests on Thursday, June 10th in McCormick Hall. The building houses autonomous seniors (aged 55 and over) and offers many activities for everyone. An active and involved volunteer Board of Directors monitor the financial soundness of the project and recommended improvements. In the 1970s, thanks to support from St. Patrick's Society and the Federal Government, Joseph Dunn, the architect, realized his dream. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau officially opened St. Patrick Square on March 10, 1979.

British soccer is live and kicking in NDG's Real Pub

The Glasgow Celtic Football Club founded in 1888 is experiencing a banner year in its long history and passed the record for the longest undefeated streak in Scottish history.

In this year's UEFA cup, which features Europe's premier teams, they reached the quarter finals, only to lose 2-0 to Spain's Villarreal after tying them 1-1 at home earlier.

Celtic matches are presented live on TV by the Montreal Glasgow Celtic Supporters Club at the Real Pub (formerly the Peel Pub) located at 6180 St. Jacques West in NDG (near Cavendish Blvd.). A standard fee is collected at the door.

Die-hard fans may want to go to Toronto to see Celtic play AC Roma on Saturday, July 31, at the Sky Dome.

Call Jim Traynor (365-9602) or Frank Rooney (341-4454) for details on the upcoming games.

If you would like to publicize any activity that might be of interest to *NUAHT* readers, or wish to respond to any of our features, please contact the editor at annegaynor@yahoo.com. We will be happy to hear from you.

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLAR IMEACHTAI 2004

DATE	EVENTS	FURTHER INFORMATION	
May 22	Feis concert stage with Belfast Andi, Orealis, & Rosheen. Noon. (see details p.7)	Pat Short	697-4343
May 22	Tara Golf, St. André	Bob Batah	630-4482
May 30	AOH Annual Walk to the Stone (Bridge St. Monument)	Kevin Muldoon	939-9496
May 30	Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving for Fr. Tom McEntee, St. Ignatius of Loyola, 5:00 p.m.	Barbara Gale	697-5689
June 7	St. Patrick's Society AGM, 7:00 p.m., St. Patrick's Square	Doris Rooney	481-1346
June 12	Tara Golf, Mountain Acres	Bob Batah	630-4482
June 15	St. Patrick's Society Annual Golf Tournament, Belle Vue Golf Club, \$110.00	Doris Rooney	481-1346
June 18-20	Acadian-Cajun Festival, Parc des Rapides, LaSalle, \$6.00 or \$15.00 (three days)	Bill Mardelli	748-7816
July 10	Tara Golf, Craigwood	Bob Batah	630-4482
July 11	Tara Golf, Craigwood (Best Ball)	Bob Batah	630-4482
July 24/25	AOH, SPS and IPBS Pilgrimage to Grosse-Île	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Aug. 7	Tara Golf, Alburg (followed by Clubhouse Supper)	Bob Batah	630-4482
Aug. 30	St. Patrick Society's Exec. Mtg. 5:30 p.m./Directors Mtg. 7:00 p.m., St. Patrick's Square	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Sep. 10	1st Annual AOH Golf Tournament, Lafleur Golf Club, \$65.00	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Sep. 11	Tara Golf, Adirondack	Bob Batah	630-4482
Sep. 13	St. Patrick's Society General Mtg., 7:00 p.m. St. Patrick's Square	Doris Rooney	481-1346
Oct. 2	Tara Golf, Hemmingford (Team Invitational for Irish Organizations)	Bob Batah	630-4482

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