



Irish language rises to prominence

By Martina McLean

Tír gan teanga, tír gan dúchas – A country without a language is a country without heritage / birthright.

Thanks to a \$46,500 grant from the Irish Government, Concordia University will soon be offering a course in *Modern Irish*. The grant comes from Eamonn Ó Cuív, the Minister of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in Ireland, whose mission is to advance the use of the Irish language. The idea is to encourage the Montreal community at large to participate in the learning of the language, providing a key to their Irish heritage and birthright. A Dubliner born and bred, Ó Cuív now lives in the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking community) and reared an Irish-speaking family.

The grant was given partly in recognition of Concordia's having put on Irish courses intermittently in the past, and partly because of the Montreal Irish community's investment and interest in Irish culture here in Montreal – dance, music, Gaelic football and Comhrá, the Montreal Irish language study circle (MILSC).

The new communicative *Modern Irish* course will lay emphasis on conversation, supported by popular written, aural and visual media in the Irish language, including the controversial award-winning soap opera in Irish called *Ros na Rún*.

This new course will affirm Concordia as the pre-eminent centre in Canada for the study of Modern Ireland and enable students to awaken the windows of wonder on a magnificently rich culture of language,

folklore, literature, dance, song, music and sport. Students enrolled in this course will also have the opportunity to continue their studies of the Irish language on a trip to Ireland's Gaeltacht areas in the summer of 2007 as well as to participate in immersion weekends in Montreal and Kingston.

It is anticipated this new initiative will have a positive impact on Montreal's Irish community and that once their interest is piqued students in *Modern Irish* at Concordia will be inspired to move on to Comhrá, which has been offering Irish language courses at progressive levels of expertise since 1993, to continue their learning and to become conversant in the language.

Irish has had the status of first official language of the State since 1937. Over the past ten years, great progress has been made based on that status, through the Official Languages Act, the Good Friday Agreement and most recently, official and working status at a European level.

Upon the creation of the office of President of Ireland under the 1937 constitution, *Dubhghlas de hÍde* / Douglas Hyde was unanimously elected by all parties and inaugurated as the first president of Ireland in 1938. He recited the Presidential Declaration of Office in his native Roscommon Irish dialect, just as Mary Robinson and the current President, Mary MacAleese, have done. A founding member of the Irish language movement, *Conradh na Gaeilge* (Gaelic League) and its first president in 1893, Hyde published a pamphlet called "The Necessity for De-Anglicising Ireland," believing that Ireland should follow her own traditions in language and literature. When Hyde felt that his language movement was becoming political, he resigned the presidency in 1915 to be replaced by the renowned Irish-language teacher and political activist, Patrick Pearse. Hyde became Professor of Modern Irish at the National University of Ireland 1908, a position he held until 1932.

There is no doubt that were he alive today, Douglas Hyde would have every reason to be very proud and delighted, considering the exciting developments for Irish last year, thanks to the efforts of

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A Word from the President

In June 2004, when I took on the responsibility of president of St. Patrick's Society, I did not anticipate how much pleasure and satisfaction would be derived from holding this position. It is with a great sense of pride that I look back over the past two years. When asked what I considered to be the highlight of my term of office, my response was that the support of the Board of Directors and other members of the Society was what made all things possible. Much less would have been accomplished without their encouragement.

I want to mention the following: the Radio Show now broadcasting on the first and third Saturday of each month; a new SPS Directory for members; our Christmas Concert, held for the first time in the new Loyola High School Concert Hall, raising close to \$9,000; our charitable and cultural donations of over \$80,000 between April 1st, 2005, and June of this year thanks to a productive portfolio; and the first SPS-supported lectureship which is scheduled at Concordia this coming September.

The festivities and frenzy of the St. Patrick's Season are but memories. However, we won't forget the Ball with its 401

attendees – up from last year – and the graciousness extended to us by General and Mrs. John de Chastelain as well as the strong support of our Patrons' Fund Chairman, Pierre Boivin. This year's Lunch saw 540 diners, down slightly from last year. One either loved or was disappointed by John Doyle's remarks (see p.5), but nevertheless, he gave us plenty to reflect on. March 19th was a chilly and blustery day, but our large contingent braved the elements and marched on nobly. And for the first time in its history, the February issue of *NUAHT* was a 20-page publication – and could have been even longer had all the submissions been included.

My sincere and special thanks to Doris Rooney who helped me with many queries on numerous occasions. I wish her every success and happiness in her retirement.

Finally, we have two more events coming up that shouldn't be missed: the St. Patrick's Society Golf Day, June 20th (see p.3) and our Annual General Meeting which will be held on June 27th at Loyola High School. I look forward to seeing you shortly when I can thank you all for your support.

John Little

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In Memoriam

Lena Blickstead

Is buaine clú ná saol (is booine clew naw seel – fame is more enduring than life). On the 24th February, 2006, at noon as the Angelus bells were ringing, Lena Blickstead, aged 107, passed from this life. A wonderful organist at St. Ann's parish, from 1937 until she retired, Ms. Blickstead enthralled many with her dexterity on the multiple keyboards of the organ while her feet danced on the bass notes. Terry Clahane, organist and choir director at Saint Gabriel's Church on Centre Street, was one of her many pupils.

A Griffintowner, Lena was one of the five sisters of famous fire chief, Charles Blickstead, a member of a family very proud of their maternal Irish heritage. Her mother was a Kelly from Quebec City whose mother was from Waterford and whose father hailed from Kilkenny in Ireland.

"A very fine musician," according to her brother Charles, Lena played for the daily masses in Latin, funerals, christenings, weddings and the Tuesday devotions. She also played piano at the Saint Patrick's concerts which were held on the top floor of the boys' school on Ottawa Street, between Young and Colbourne (now Peel) Streets.

Dennis Delaney met me promptly on the first Friday in March to share his memories of the lady he secretly loved since he was six, when he first joined the choir. With misty eyes, he openly acknowledged her as the inspiration of his love of music ever since. To this day, when he listens to recordings of Lena playing

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Irish language (cont.)

the Irish Government prompted by organisations such as *Conradh na Gaeilge*.

Imagine, when Douglas Hyde founded *Conradh na Gaeilge*, the Irish language had no official status whatsoever. Since the independence of Ireland in 1922, Irish identity has been inextricably linked with the Irish language, music, dance and games. The symbolic importance of the Irish language in normal everyday speech is demonstrated by the use of words for official State positions such as “*Dáil*,” “*Taoiseach*,” “*T.D.*” (*Teachta Dála*) and “*Tánaiste*” as well as the names of official places or bodies such as “*Áras an Uachtaráin*,” “*an Bord Bia*” and “*Bord na Móna*.” In Montreal, the National Anthem of Ireland is invariably sung in English, as originally written. Nonetheless, on similar auspicious occasions, people in Ireland sing it in Irish.

June 13th, 2005, marked an auspicious day for Irish when the EU voted unanimously to accept the Irish Government’s proposal that official and working status be given to Irish in the European Union. This Treaty language status will take effect on the 1st January 2007.

In Ireland, the main supports for Irish are:

- The *Irish Constitution* Article 8 states that Irish, as the national language, is the first official language.
- The *Official Languages Act* provides a statutory framework for the delivery of services through Irish Language.
- The principal responsibility of *Foras na Gaeilge* is to increase the use of Irish in everyday life, throughout the island of Ireland. *Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch* promotes greater awareness and the use of *Ullans* and of *Ulster-Scots* cultural issues throughout the island of Ireland.
- *TG4* (formerly *Teilifís na Gaeilge* or *TnaG*) and *Raidió na Gaeltachta* are the national Irish language television and radio stations.
- *Údarás na Gaeltachta* is the Gaeltacht development authority, a mainly elective body for the promotion of the Gaeltacht economically, culturally and socially.
- *Ciste na Gaeilge*, financed from proceeds of the National Lottery, provides grant aid to Irish language organisations and various Irish initiatives such as *Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge* and *Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann*.

The benefits of these historical developments are now being felt here in Montreal. Whether you want to get in touch with your roots, learn more about Irish heritage or you are linguistically inclined, you are sure to enjoy the new language course at Concordia. Many enrolment options are available to ensure that the greater part of our Irish community benefits from this course.

For further information contact either:

- ❖ The Centre for Canadian Irish Studies at:
cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca
- ❖ Classics, Modern Languages & Linguistics at:
cmlladv@alcor.concordia.ca



Proposed SPS slate for 2006-07

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Patrick Dunn (Chair), Lynn Lonergan Doyle, Brian O’Neill, Michael Kenneally and Peter Shea, are proposing the following SPS members as Officers and Directors;

President	Mary McDaid
Vice-Presidents	Paul Dunne Edward Eustace Alistair O’Hara
Treasurer	Andrea Bobkowicz
Secretary	Scott Phelan
Board of Directors	
Thomas Brady	Frank McMahon
Rob Brodrick	Joe Mell
Christie Brown	Geoffrey Moore
Dylan Griffin	Thomas Mulcair
Wayne Hogan	Patrick Shea
John Lemieux	Edward Short
Maureen McCormick	Robert Travers
Sandra McDonough	Danny Zangwill
Elizabeth McIninch	

Where will you be on June 20th?

Where will the Grand Marshal Brian O’Neill be on June 20th? Where will the past Grand Marshal Wayne Hogan be on June 20th?

Where will these hardworking Irish men and women... Dave Dubeau, Andrea Bobkowicz, Ed Brennan, Paul Doyle, Andy Fogarty, David Hannan, Des Irving, Ron Pilon, Matthew Rooney, Betty Scott, Peter Shea, Ed Stokes, and Al Strong ...be on June 20th?

They will all be at the St. Patrick’s Golf Tournament at the beautiful Belle-Vue Golf Course. To quote Ralph O’Donnell who has attended every tournament since the beginning, “This is by far the best tournament and I’d never miss it!”

Yes, Tuesday June 20th is the date. There are prizes for all, plus 16 super prizes plus four super, super prizes! Carts, green fees, roast beef dinner and lots of wine are all included in the price of \$120.00; or \$40 for dinner and wine.

If you would like to join your fellow Irish for a great day of golf, call Doris Rooney at 481-1346. Remember we can only take 144 golfers. First come, first served.

See you all at the 19th hole!

Paul Doyle



Thank you, Doris

In case you don’t know, Doris Rooney is retiring after 17 years of wonderful service. We wish Doris a happy and healthy retirement with no stress, annoying phone calls or deadlines. She will be a hard act to follow!



March festivities: 2006



Frank Mell, grandson Liam, and son Tim (walked in 46 consecutive parades)



Alistair O'Hara & Conall Francoeur



Bernadette Short Dancers on float



Spectators enjoying the Parade



Photo: John Mulholland



Frank Mell (walked in 73 parades!) & Richard Lord of Leo's Boys



Catherine & Thomas Mulcair



Patrick Rourke & John Little



*The Presidential Suite:
Bruce McNiven (St. Andrew's Society);
Larry Smith (UIS); John Little (SPS);
Richard Waring (Irish Protestant
Benevolent Society); and Brian
Llewellyn (St. David's Society)*



*MaryAnn & General John de Chastelain
with Maureen and John Little*



*Dancers present flowers:
Orla Mahon & Meaghan Kilmartin*

John Doyle's luncheon speech was food for thought

Sónas na Féile Pádraig

"... I'm a journalist. And lately, to my astonishment - because, as a journalist I rarely believe what I read in the newspapers - I'm a distinguished author. You see, I wrote this book, *A Great Feast of Light: Growing Up Irish in the Television Age*. (It nearly killed me.)

My topic today is how the Irish, both here and at home in Ireland, have emerged from darkness and into the light. The book is about me, about growing up in Ireland during the 1960s and '70s when Television helped bring Ireland out of the murky past and into the present."

So began a luncheon speech that had everyone spellbound. Space prevents a comprehensive account of what John Doyle had to say: He discussed the influence of television, the conflict in Northern Ireland, the visit of the Pope, the arrival of J.R. and *Dallas*, how the Ireland of today differs substantially from that of 25 years ago, the Famine and how today *Live 8* is trying to redress similar situations world wide. This article will focus on the latter.

... Even as prosperity pleasantly engulfs Ireland, the past lingers, hovers and motivates. But, no longer is it the impulse to anger and violence. ... in May of last year. Bob Geldof was in the news again. The story was that he was going to organize *Live 8*, a follow up to *Live Aid* - a series of pop concerts around the world to raise awareness and call for debt cancellation, more and better aid, and economic justice for the poorest people in the poorest countries - those countries where 30,00 children die of poverty each and every day.

In the build-up to *Live 8*, it became obscenely common to sneer at Bob Geldof and, by association, Bono of *U2*. ... To sneer at Geldof and Bono is to sneer at common decency. To sneer at their motivation is to misunderstand everything. Both Geldof and Bono are Irish, as I am. We all carry with us the famine memory. That is their motivation. The famine memory is not widely discussed in Ireland or even outside. ... It is a searing, angry sore beneath the surface of the collective Irish consciousness, an anger at the avoidable deaths. It is the lacerating memory of a country and a culture brought to its knees by death and grief. One million died in that famine, and another two million emigrated. Most of those who left sailed away on "coffin ships" and some made it to another country, but many didn't. Many of those who died are buried at Grosse Île in Quebec.

... In 1845 when blight struck the Irish potato crop and destroyed it, Ireland was under colonial British rule and five per cent of the population owned 95 per cent of the land. The 95 per cent non-owners were Irish tenant farmers, most forced to live where little could grow except the nutritious potato. The five per cent were landlords, mostly British and many living in England. During the famine years, in adherence with economic philosophy of the time, grain that could have fed the starving was routinely exported from Ireland. Further, during the early years of the famine, the British government refused to send food to Ireland for relief, because bulk buying by a government would have interfered with the free market.

Anyone can see the parallels with the plight of many poor countries today - the lives of the poor and starving are manipulated by economic decisions made in distant cities and by economic orthodoxies that nurture a culture of greed, not decency.

The famine devastated Ireland. ... It could have been avoided. That's the point. That's the true horror. The food was there, but not under the control of the Irish. Help could have been provided but wasn't, because of strict adherence to laissez-faire economic policies that still dominate much of Western capitalism to this day. That's why the situation of poor countries, burdened by debt and grossly manipulated by foreign governments and corporations, strikes a resonant chord with Geldof and Bono. We Irish know. We will never forget.

... Nobody ever danced to a pundit's newspaper column. Nobody was ever moved to tears by a pundit's pithy put down of a rock star. Nobody was ever stirred into a reverie of hope by a pundit, or given a sense that the world could be made a better place. ... Songs do that. Television images can do that. Put the two together and a true, global awareness about poverty and deprivation can be created. It's the songs, though, that really do it. ... "The Fields of Athenry," is magical and moving when sung together by thousands of people. It's the chorus, sung in low tones, that forces home the message. It captures the sense of loss and devastation, and it was in my head because it goes to the heart of what *Live 8* and all of Geldof's efforts were about.

The song includes these lines. "Our love was on the wing/ We had dreams and songs to sing/ It's so lonely round the fields of Athenry." In the time it takes someone to sing the song, 200 children will have died of poverty. They too had dreams and songs to sing. The melodies and lyrics of pop music are keys to the dream life of our culture. All sunny optimism and sentimentality, they have a fabulously potent force. Even the most obnoxious, preening pop star can have a transcendent emotional power over an audience.

... The broadcast of the *Live 8* concerts was not the first time that the power of pop music and the reach of TV technology have been harnessed to create an emotional event that strains for global significance. But it was the most optimistic attempt. This series of pop concerts was about changing the world... Pop songs and pop stars can touch something deep inside that we can never reach. In the case of *Live Aid* and then *Live 8*, the drive, the force behind everything came from an Irishman and his Irish sidekick. Mere pop singers, some say, but the force that drives them, that fuses the past with the present, with the central ideal of never letting the horror of the past happen again, is rooted in the Irish experience. It's an ideal, it's optimistic, it is heartfelt, pragmatic and gloriously positive.

Out of darkness have we come. We have left our hatreds behind. We have not left our pain behind but we have learned to use it to try to make the world a better place, And of that we can be proud, on this, the feast of St. Patrick, and on all other days we are lucky to be Irish, to be human, and to be alive. Long may we continue!
Thank you.




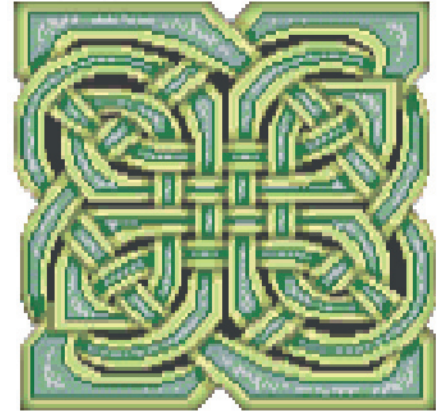
Pilgrims, peacemakers and possibilities...

By Kathleen Dunn

No one was more surprised than Monsignor Sean Harty when applause broke out in response to his homily at the Mass of Anticipation at St. Gabriel's Church on March 12th. He had appealed to their pride and the predominantly Irish congregation could not help but respond with enthusiasm. He asked, "What have we to offer the world where the clash of civilizations seems to dominate our horizons? We must not let the rich tapestry of our Christian Celtic roots be reduced to 'Kiss Me, I'm Irish' or the caricature of the wee Leprechaun with his fists outstretched portraying the 'Fighting Irish.'"

Only a few weeks earlier, Ned Eustace and Michael Kenneally had asked similar questions in *NUAcht* (see "Shamrocks, shillelaghs and stereotypes...", p.8, February 2006). Mgr Harty adds a spiritual dimension to the issue. Some of his suggestions follow about what those of Celtic heritage have to offer today's struggling world.

- We, who spring from the faith of Celtic saints, must be immersed in the wondrous reality of the Incarnation which shaped the Island of saints and scholars.
- The history of salvation has to become not only our personal history, but also the gift we offer to the world. The Celtic way, of ever inviting God into their activities and seeking to become aware of Him in everyday events, is the most natural way of achieving this. Like the Celtic patterns on stones and in the illuminated Gospels, Christ moves in and out, over and under. We are encircled by Him, encompassed by His presence and love. It is a reality to become aware of a glory that is ours, but one we so often miss.
- It can be far easier to recognize God in one who is obviously holy, or in the beauty and power of nature, than to perceive that divine light in the eyes of one who is uninteresting or a stranger, one who dresses differently or who has a different faith. We can be sure that the contemporaries of Jesus of Nazareth saw no halo, nor divine glow. The face of Jesus was the human face. Only deep faith saw beyond it. Now and ever since, the face of Christ awaits recognition. Our Celtic fore-parents had a keen awareness that in their treatment of any stranger lay their measurement of their treatment of Christ.
- Celtic Christians treasured the sacramental understanding of "Christ in friend and stranger." The Celt did not so much seek to bring Christ, as to discover Him; not to possess Him, but to seek him in friend and stranger, to liberate the Christ who is already there in all His riches.
- Our Celtic ancestors had a keen attachment to the idea of pilgrimage and at the root of that attachment was their understanding that nothing is static. They had an innate sense that life was in a constant state of development, change and growth, charged like the rest of creation with the energy of Christ. To be a pilgrim, was to take the outward path which acknowledged the reality of the inner journey of the individual human soul.
- We too must take the model of the Celtic knot, and those endlessly intertwining ribbons and ever-curling spirals which adorn so many Celtic artifacts, as the symbol of our spiritual journey. If it seems a mass of detours and diversions, false trails and cul-de-sacs, then that is the way that the Lord marked out for His pilgrim people Israel when He led them out of Egypt. Not the most direct track if it offers endless opportunities along the way. It is also the path of waiting and suffering, disappointments and frustrations, the "via Dolorosa" which leads to the Cross.
- Our gift of faith to our world is meant like the Celtic knot to interweave the old and the new, the Christian and the non-Christian, the secular and the sacred, nature and grace, creation and redemption, matter and spirit, masculine and feminine, in this world and the next. Along its tangled and twisting threads, like the conflicts within our world, we profess that all is connected and nothing stands alone. We profess this faith with all its risks and possibilities, circumscribed only by the constant guidance and protection of God, who ever enfolds and encircles human kind. This is the faith of our Celtic ancestors, and it is that faith we must 'gift' our world with.
- The Celtic spirit of today must portray to the world that we are indeed blessed by the Creator, that we must be builders of peace within a world filled with conflict. We must profess and live the values that all people, Christian, Jew, Muslim, people of all nations, are pilgrims walking to different steps, but together, all is indeed connected, nothing stands alone. 



The Irish were in the money

By Shawn McAlear

The history of the Montreal City and District Savings Bank, now known as the Laurentian Bank, embodies the very notions which were basic to Canada's development. From its inception in 1846, its customers were divided between French and English-speaking, with the Irish representing a quarter of the total. By its centennial in 1946, five of its fifteen presidents had been of Irish origin.

The idea of the bank began with Bishop Ignace Bourget in order to foster major colonization projects. He recruited an important group of patrons, including, on the one hand, Morin, Lafontaine, Papineau, and Cartier and, on the other, Hincks, Drummond, Curran, O'Brien, Ryan, Workman, and Mayor John Mills.

Many of these same people – all moderate reformers – would become part of the "Great Ministry" and the "Great Coalition" which subsequently led to Confederation. They thus played a leading role in nation-building in Canada.

The bank's first president was William Workman who held the post from 1846 to 1852. In later years, Henry Mulholland would serve as president for two years; Edward Murphy, 18 years; Sir William Hingston, 12 years, and his son, Dr. Donald Hingston, eight years. Workman and Sir William would become mayors of Montreal. Sir William, along with Murphy, was also a senator. James O'Brien, a director of the bank for 27 years, would also become a senator, after Thomas Ryan and Edward Murphy, for Victoria – a Senate seat occupied by the Irish since Confederation.



Edward Murphy

Francis Hincks and Charles Doherty both returned to the bank as vice-presidents after their federal political careers. Hincks had been Minister of Finance (1869-73) and Doherty, Minister of Justice (1911-21).

Six of the bank's first 15 presidents were French-speaking, among them J. Aldéric Ouimet (10 years) and Senator Raoul Dandurand (26 years). During the latter's term in office, the number of depositors doubled to 300,000 and deposits themselves nearly tripled, approaching \$100 million.

Also indicative of French-Canadian interest in the bank was the 1912-29 directorship held by Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec from 1905 to 1920. A firm believer in industrial development, Sir Lomer was determined that French-speaking Canadians should share in its benefits.


Rt. Hon. Raoul Dandurand (1861-1942)

Educated at Collège de Montréal and Université Laval, he was called to the Bar in 1883. Appointed to the Senate in 1898, he was its Speaker from 1905 to 1909 when he was named Minister of State and leader of the Liberal Party in the Senate, a position he held until his death. He represented Canada at the League of Nations and, in 1925, was its president. He was president of the Montreal City and District Savings Bank for 25 years until his death. He was honoured and decorated by many universities and many countries.



Raoul Dandurand

Hon. Edward Murphy (1818-1895)


Born in Ireland, he came to Montreal with his parents in 1824. Choosing a career in sales, he worked for the Frothingham and Workman Company, becoming a partner in 1859. With William Workman and Sir Francis Hincks, he was a founder of St. Patrick's Society in 1834 and of the Montreal City and District Savings Bank twelve years later. He became president of the Society in 1860 and of the Bank for eighteen years until his death. He was called to the Senate in 1889, succeeding Hon. Thomas Ryan. He was also active in the educational field. He devoted 54 years of his life to the St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Society. 

NUA CHT 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.

Stories wanted for children's book

Anne Renaud, writer of children's books, is finishing up her research on Grosse Île for a book to be published in spring 2007 by Lobster Press for their "My Canada" series. The intended audience is children 9-12 years of age.

Ms. Renaud would like to know if any of you have ancestors that have shared their stories with you of having been quarantined on the island, or who immigrated to Canada by way of Quebec City during the years that Grosse Île was open, 1832-1937. If anyone is willing to share his/her stories with the writer, she would be happy to include them in her book. Also, photos would be great too for illustration purposes.

You may contact Anne Renaud by email at: earnenaud@yahoo.com or find out more about her by going to: www.accessola.com/forest2006/silverbirch/renauidbio.html. 

Celebrate World Peace Day: September 21st

By Neil McKenty

It is difficult not to watch the nightly news with a mixture of horror and frustration. Horror because the pictures of car bombs exploding and limbs flying is a gruesome sight. Frustration because there is nothing much we can do about it.

Not directly that is. But indirectly we can now do our part to advance a “culture of peace.” It’s a long slow process. But a journey of a thousand miles begins with a first step; a book begins with a sentence, a symphony with a note and a “culture of peace” with an action.

First off, an action related to the International Day of Peace this September 21st, the day on which people around the world observe a minute of silence at noon local time. A day of global cease-fire, when hopefully all countries and all peoples around the world will stop all hostilities for the entire day — long enough for the combatants to look over the barricades or through the barbed wire to see that there is another path.

This other path has been illuminated by an extraordinary film called *Peace One Day*. The film began as the vision of one man, the British filmmaker, Jeremy Gilley. The project gained support from all sectors of society including world leaders such as Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland. Gilley’s vision in *Peace One Day* extends far beyond the cessation of violent conflict and represents an opportunity for individuals to join in a moment of global unity.

This opportunity in being pursued in our own community by Circle of Peace, www.circleofpeace.ca, a group whose main mission is to raise awareness of the International Day of Peace on September 21st, to engage civil society in the peaceful observance of that day and to convince the three levels of government to back the project. Montreal Mayor Gerard

Tremblay is one of 1,600 mayors world wide who has put his city squarely behind this project. The Padua Centre on St-Antoine Street is also involved with Circle of Peace to make September 21 a memorable milestone for peace.

Do you need to be a member of an organization to start building a culture of peace? Not at all. The United Nations has suggested ways an individual can become part of the international peace project:

- Join the Countdown to Peace – every day is an opportunity to create peace and to spread the message about humanity’s day of peace on September 21st (www.CountdownToPeace.org).
- Plan a local event. Use schools, places of worship, libraries, parks or municipal building to host events. Use the day to build partnerships within your community. Involve children (www.PeaceDayEvents.com).
- Incorporate prayer and meditation into your plans. Join with others to create a global International Day of Peace Vigil (www.idpvigil.com).
- Ring a bell, light a candle for peace. Be kind, forgiving and compassionate in all relationships, with all circles of life (www.forgivenessworks.org).

These are a few of the UN’s suggestions for becoming part of the peace movement around September 21st. The important thing is to become part of the solution – peace – and not part of the problem – hostility and aggression.

True, it is a long journey building a “culture of peace.” But the only thing we need do now is take the first step. SPS will hold a general meeting that night in support of this special day.



In Memoriam (cont.)

the organ at St. Ann’s church, “they always transport [him] to a place of wondrous beauty.”

“*Theastaigh sí san áit a ndeachaigh sí.*” (Hastee she san ah-it a nyahee she – She was needed where she went). As Dennis aptly puts it “The choirs of angels in Heaven have a new organist today.” “*An té a bhíos fial, roinneann Dia leis.*” (An tay a will fee-ul, ryan Deea lesh – He who is generous, God shares with him). “*Ar dheis Dé go rabh a h-anam!*” (Ar yesh Day guh row a hah-nam – may her soul be on the right-hand side of God).

A memorial mass will take place in June at the Annunciation Parish in the Town of Mount Royal. Roberta Wheeler will advise the Irish Community of the details when they are known.

A thank you to Roberta Wheeler, Dennis Delaney, Fr. MacEntee and *The Shamrock & the Shield*, by Patricia Burns for their input.

Iona Monahan, OC, fashion writer, 1923-2006

A Montreal icon passed away on March 8, 2006, at the age of 82. Much has been written about Iona Monahan and her 40-year career as a fashion writer and promoter of Canadian designers, her rise from humble beginnings in Point St. Charles to couture buyer for Eaton’s by the age of 21, her success at mounting fashion shows, her love of theatre, her drive, her perfectionism, and her trademark owl-eye glasses.

Fellow journalist, theatre critic and book reviewer, Pat Donnelly, mourns her loss. “She was one of my favourite people at The Gazette,” she told *NUAHT*, adding, “she always lifted my spirits. When she retired, they gave me her desk.” Pat has nothing but praise for the woman some people called the Dragon Lady. “She was always a lady. She rose above all circumstances,” Pat recalls.



Dublin in the 'Rare Ole Times'?

By Jim Kirby

I have just completed a visit to Dublin, the first such visit for a number of years. Mostly I have just transited the airport on my way to Montreal via New York over the last three years. Even in that short period of time I have been quite astonished at the changes that have taken place. Let me tell you the first thing that blows your mind is what looks like utter pandemonium at Dublin airport. The place has vastly outgrown itself and I am sure at a pace way above anyone's expectations. There is a crying need for a new terminal and with Dublin's low ceilings the whole place with all the crowds is far from people friendly.

Some months ago the security system at the airport was breached by national newspaper reporters and of course splattered across the front pages, resulting in questions being flung across the floor of the *Dáil* (Ireland's Parliament). In the era of post 9/11 the government was embarrassed into defining new measures to implement a more secure process of checking passengers as they went through the airport. That resulted in employing additional personnel and adopting a system similar to that used at U.S. airports. One of the measures is the removal of footwear as you pass through the x-ray machines. The net result of this is the slow process that now ensues. On top of this a slot system for aircraft movements is now employed similar to major airports around the world. There are so many flights that this became a necessity at the beginning of May this year. Bottom line to all of this is you get to the airport now at least two hours before departure, no matter where you intend flying.

So from a negative let me move on to a positive item. Exiting the airport you can now avail yourself of the completed M-50 road link. What this does is allow you to move to any part of the country without the old appalling slow drive through Dublin city centre. The road systems in Ireland have definitely improved over the years and most of the major centres are now linked by motorways which by-pass the towns. The completion of these links has not been without its problems. Planning in Ireland is a task to test the patience of Job, as objections came in all forms of protest from environmentalists, to traders feeling their businesses would be deprived and of course from accusations of kick backs to landowners from constructions companies. However persistence has paid off and I must say the road systems away from Dublin must be complimented.

...by 2009, 22% of the population will be foreign born.

Dublin centre is a melting pot of nations never seen before on the footpaths and corners so well described by Joyce, or in the more recent writings of Roddy Doyle. There is an incredible fusion of colour and language with all the new immigrants mixed in with the locals. Having visited London on this trip as well, I must say though how much less intimidating the scene is here. In London you get an impression that people are in your face, you don't connect with people's eyes and overall there is a tension in the air. None of this exists in Dublin and it would seem that the Irish charm by osmosis has seeped through and is still maintained. I


certainly hope it is maintained. The statistics say that if the rate of immigration continues along the lines it is at now, by 2009, 22% of the population will be foreign born. Now that is an incredible task for any country to undertake. To give you some picture of the way this pattern is developing let me tell you that there are some 50,000 Poles in and around Dublin, so much so that on Fridays the Evening Herald publishes a supplement called Herald Polskie.

The new immigrants are led by the Poles but there are huge groups of Nigerians, Lithuanians, Latvians and Slovaks as well as many people from Britain who have taken up residence to fill the ever growing number of jobs available. In the service industry such as hotels, pubs and restaurants, you will probably be served by an East European while I have it on good authority that hospital staff is supplied with many Africans and Filipinos.

The Celtic Tiger is alive and well...

There is a definite smell of affluence in the air everywhere. Prices are frightening by Montreal standards but then standards are superb on a world scale. The fashions worn by locals send out a statement loud and clear. This is the New Ireland at the head of Europe. The Celtic Tiger is alive and well and for years there have been doom mongers saying it will all end in tears, yet I think not. There is such confidence in business, building, investment and an incredible work ethic, something not noticeable in the days of by-gone Catholic Ireland. Oh yes, that's another thing, this is no longer Catholic Ireland. This is a pluralistic society, some might say hedonistic. Whichever way you look at it, the signs of confidence are all over the place and the young people have no truck with historical chips on the metaphorical shoulder; for them it is 'go-get' time and they are getting it.

There is a new tramline service going though the city and out to the suburbs called the Luas. A new Metro system is being devised for the government by the German company Siemens and is in an advanced stage of planning. It will link Dublin airport with the downtown area, a desperately needed measure. Every major hotel group in the world has built or taken over a property in the city and some of the finest gourmet restaurants are there for the asking.

All this augurs well for progression on a united Ireland. The entity of Northern Ireland cannot exist on its own and has only maintained its present situation with a huge economic subvention by the British government over the years. This is not sustainable and the fact is that Northern Ireland needs the Republic more than the Republic needs it. Things have never been so balanced in society down south to coerce a long-sought union. 

Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club gears up for its 49th year of existence

By Frank Rooney

The club has been training indoors since February in preparation for the new season. This year there will be more growth in our total numbers as there are now two women's teams – Super League and Division 2.

Founded in 1957 we have been playing at our own home grounds in Ste-Julie (near St. Bruno) since 1969. (Directions on our web site – see below).

In 2005 our men's First Side continued to improve by reaching the championship finals and losing to Parc Olympic in the First Division. The Premium Division is always a target to reach for. The women's side is now a major presence in Quebec and won the 2005 Division championship in only the fourth year of operation. With large turnouts at the training, a second team can now be supported. All in all approximately 100 players will be wearing the green and white this season and your support will help the cause. All information on recruiting, training times, location and the full 2006 FRQ schedule will be posted on our web site www.mirfc.ca in May.

We encourage you to come out and support our club whether at the Ste-Julie grounds or when any of our teams play in your area.

Under our new president, Eric Hough, the club is looking forward to an exciting year including our annual Labour Day Invitational men and women's 15-a-side weekend tournament. Recent winners were Western University, Bermuda National side, U.S. Naval Academy, and Burlington Rugby Football Club.

... and for all you rugby fans

Rugby Canada will be hosting both men's and women's national rugby teams this upcoming summer in Edmonton, Alberta. The men will be competing in Barclay's Churchill Cup, alongside Scotland, England, New Zealand, US and Canada. The women's national rugby teams will be competing in the Women's Rugby World Cup, the premier championship of women's rugby.

Barclay's Churchill Cup: June 17th, 2006
Edmonton, Alberta
www.churchillcuprugby.com

Women's Rugby World Cup: August 31st to September 17th,
Edmonton, Alberta
www.rwcwomens.com

Why not plan a trip to western Canada and support the Canadian teams?

For more information, contact Jocelyn Hickey, Manager, Marketing and Communications, Rugby Canada at (780) 466-8351 or by email: jhickey@rugbycanada.ca.



Canadian Irish Studies offers an interesting lineup for summer and fall

The Centre for Canadian Irish Studies is proud to announce that Dr. Margaret Kelleher has been appointed as O'Brien Visiting Scholar in Canadian Irish Studies for 2006, and will be based in the English Department. With an impressive track record, Dr. Kelleher brings rare and valuable expertise to Concordia's students in Canadian Irish Studies who will have the opportunity to attend two classes taught by her this fall. These are **Literature of the Irish Famine in a Comparative Context** & **History and Memory in Modern Irish Literature**. Dr. Kelleher received her doctorate in English from Boston College and is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.



Dr. Margaret Kelleher

Canadian Irish Studies will be offering courses during the summer and through the fall and winter. Here are a few that may be of special interest:

Introduction to Irish Popular Culture

Starts: July 3, 2006, on Tuesdays & Thursdays 18:00-20:15
Professor: Lorrie Blair.

This new course provides an introduction to critical issues and approaches in the study of recent Irish popular culture. It will examine different fields, including Sociology, Communications, Anthropology, History, Literature, Cultural Studies, Women's Studies, and Art Education.

Modern Irish

(A New Course Sponsored by the Government of Ireland)
Spans both Fall and Winter Semesters in 2006-2007
Tuesdays 18:00-20:15 Professor: TBA

Discover Ireland through the Irish language! This 6-credit course will focus on basic elements of the language, with a special emphasis on oral and communicative skills and the various forms of Irish cultural expression in the Irish language.

Introduction to Irish Studies

Professor: Michael Kenneally

James Joyce

Professor: TBA

Literature of the Irish famine in a comparative context

Professor Margaret Kelleher (Visiting O'Brien Scholar)

History and Memory in Modern Irish Literature

Professor: Margaret Kelleher (Visiting O'Brien Scholar)

To reach the Centre for further information:

Tel.: (514) 848-8711

Email: cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca



Irish heritage lives on at St. Brigid's in Quebec City

By Kathleen Dunn

It is no longer exclusively Irish or English-speaking or Catholic but Saint Brigid's Home in Quebec City has survived to celebrate its 150th anniversary. The executive director, Louis Hanrahan, told *NUAHT* that "Saint Brigid's would have frittered away in the new context unless changes were made. We have to adapt to changing demographics and go along with what is happening in the health system and in society in general. The only way to keep services and develop them for anglophones is to offer them to the whole community."

Saint Brigid's is a 162-bed public long-term care facility for the elderly. Just over half of its residents are anglophone. Since 1992 it has partnered with the Holland Centre to provide home care services for anglophone seniors. The Holland Centre will soon come under the umbrella of Saint Brigid's to provide health and social services to anglophones of all ages in the greater Quebec City region which includes Upper Town, Sillery, Ste. Foy, Lower Town, and communities further afield like Shannon, Valcartier and Portneuf. At the same time, Saint Brigid's is finalizing a merger with Jeffery Hale Hospital which, itself, has undergone a transformation from a general hospital to one that specializes in long-term care as well as emergency, diagnostic and active geriatric services and palliative care. Its clientèle is about 20 per cent anglophone. "We don't have exclusively English services but staff are all bilingual," explained Mr. Hanrahan who has been executive director there since 2002. The two institutions have one board and one management team and will soon have a new name, something like Saint Brigid Jeffery Hale. "We're still working on the apostrophes," joked Mr. Hanrahan.

It would appear that Saint Brigid's is going back to its roots, providing a safe haven for those in need. When it opened in 1856 as Saint Brigid's Asylum, its mission was to care for the homeless and in particular the elderly and the orphaned. It fell to the parish priest, Father Bernard McGauran, a native of Sligo, and the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church to care for needy English-speaking (mostly Irish) Catholics. They began with rented premises on St. Stanislaus Street near the church but soon bought land and a larger building in what was considered the suburbs on Grande Allée and de Salaberry.

The matron, Anne Bradley, was a volunteer from the parish and was supported in her work by the St. Patrick's Ladies' Charitable Society for day-to-day activities and maintenance, and by the men of the parish, under the auspices of the Saint Brigid's Asylum Association, for funding. In 1877, the parish invited the Grey Nuns to take charge, which they did until 1945 when they could no longer fulfill their promise to provide at least four English-speaking, preferably Irish, sisters. By then, Saint Brigid's had cared for 590 men, 1,383 women, and 2,223 children. The Sisters of Charity of Halifax, who had been in Quebec City since the opening of the Leonard School for Girls in 1935, then took over at Saint Brigid's and remained until the last sister retired in 1996.

By 1972, management of Saint Brigid's reverted to the laity and Harry Hannon took over as director general. It was he who saw Saint Brigid's through the transition from private to public institution caring solely for the elderly and a move to brand new premises on Chemin St-Louis in suburban Sillery where it is still located. Government

policy by then called for children to be cared for in foster homes rather than in institutions. In 1990, 23 residents from the Ladies Protestant Home joined the Saint Brigid's family when their home was forced to close.


Mr. Hannon held the reins until 1996, when Mr. Hanrahan took over, and remained active with the Saint Brigid's Foundation and with the organizing committee for the 150th anniversary celebrations until his death in 2005.

The celebrations were launched on February 1st, the feast of St. Brigid, with a special Mass officiated by Monsignor Paul-André Fournier, Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec City. "It would have been hard not to have a Mass," said Mr. Hanrahan. "It's still very much part of the tradition."

One has only to read Marianna O'Gallagher's history of Saint Brigid's, which was published in 1981 for the 125th anniversary and is now out of print, to understand the tradition of Irish family involvement as volunteers, workers, leaders, and residents. "The Church and the Home have been the heart of the Irish community for a long time," she said, and in her family as far back as her great-grandparents. There are other stories in the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph which published a special supplement to mark the anniversary on February 1st. Interviews with current and former employees, many of them francophone, reveal more than one generation of families working in administration, nursing, the kitchen or maintenance who all consider Saint Brigid's a home away from home.

It often falls to volunteers nowadays to provide what the Home "can't get from the government," said Gertrude Grogan, President of the ladies auxiliary which is known as Saint Brigid's Guild. That includes things like wheelchairs, electric beds, large TVs for every floor, birthday parties, bingo and other entertainment, and, of course, St. Patrick's Day celebrations. We try to provide a "homey atmosphere," she told *NUAHT*. The Guild was quick to support Saint Brigid's special anniversary project by contributing \$25,000 towards the creation of a Memory Garden.

To be the first of its kind in the Quebec City region, the Memory Garden is intended to provide residents and their families with a safe, calming, and stimulating environment. Its circular paths will have no decision points, giving the impression of constant forward motion, a feature which is particularly valuable for those suffering from dementia. Sections of the garden will honour the nuns and priests who founded and ran the Home, past and present employees, the Guild and other donors. It will be filled with objects reminiscent of the residents' past, brightly coloured non-toxic plants and flowers to stimulate the senses, birdhouses, flowers that attract birds and butterflies, a vegetable and herb garden. Those who are able will be encouraged to work in the garden. Who knows, they may even grow their own shamrocks.

The Memory Garden will help to ensure that the past is not forgotten. Hopefully it will also create new memories. 

To sell or not to sell...

By Neil McKenty

The decision to sell the building housing the Catholic Centre at the corner of de Maisonneuve and St. Mark streets is turning out to be controversial among various Catholic groups who benefit from the Centre. Many of the services provided by the Centre impinge, at least indirectly, on the Irish Catholic community. Some feel that the loss of one of our heritage buildings is nothing short of a tragedy. One of the tenants is Catholic Community Services. Its president, Fr. John Walsh writes: "The English Catholic Centre and the buildings used by CCS are not just pieces of property. These buildings, which house many services, were built by the community over many years of sacrificial giving. The sale will be tragic even if another location is found or provided."

However, David Dubeau, the president of the Foundation of Catholic Community Services, thinks otherwise. He writes that "Real-estate ownership and acquisition are not part of [FCCS's] mission statement. The board of the Foundation believes that, in reality, at the end of the process, the English Catholic community will emerge stronger and better equipped to handle the challenges of the 21st century." Dubeau has also made it clear that purchasing another building is not one of the options the Foundation is considering. But would selling to a developer who agreed to make space available to some of the current tenants be a viable option?

Nevertheless, the Foundation is coming under increasing criticism for the way it has handled this matter. Critics say FCCS made this important decision unilaterally without sufficiently consulting its tenants and the community at large. Some believe the Foundation has more than enough money on hand to undertake the necessary repairs to the building, estimated to cost about half a million dollars. There is a further question of what will happen to the money from the sale of a prime piece of downtown real estate to which over the years the Catholic community has contributed funds. On the other hand, the Foundation claims it is losing \$90,000 a year subsidizing its Catholic tenants who pay minimal rents. It further claims that it is in no position to continue these subsidies or to come up with the money needed to bring the building up to the standards required.

A former member of the English Catholic Council agrees with this. Dick Macklem attended the special meeting of FCCS at which the sale was approved: "The directors have an obligation to protect the capital of the foundation. The tenants, dependent for their existence upon the generosity of the donating public, are in no position to pay the amount required to keep the buildings viable." At the same time, Macklem says flatly, "this sale is a disaster for the cohesiveness of the English-speaking Catholic community. With the dispersal of services, we shall become invisible, and contacts and communications between these services will be more difficult. Indeed, it is entirely possible that some vital services may not survive."

Some others take a quite different view. They argue that some inhabitants of the Centre, hooked to their computers, are

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insulated from the real world. It would be much more productive if they got out where their clients are and this despite the fact there is a synergy in the building from which all the tenants benefit.

At this point, we leave the last word to Dick Macklem: "Come on, folks, we need ideas! If a way can be found to keep these services together in a new location, or even some of them, it would go a long way toward alleviating the situation now facing the community." 

John White: a life to remember

By Anne Forrest

For anyone interested in learning more about the hardships and accomplishments of the Irish immigrants who came to Quebec, and of their descendants, *Grandfather's Books* is an informative and engaging read. Using historical records, memoirs, and letters that her father, George White, had been given by his father, author Teresa White traces the history of her ancestors who arrived in Quebec City in 1823 and moved to the St. Catherine's/Shannon area 20 miles north of the city some three years later.

Organized in three sections, the White family history spans a period of almost 200 years. Book I, "From Ireland to Quebec," introduces us to the four Irish families – Teresa's great-grandparents – the Whites, Meaghers, McKnights and Cahills. Then follow details of grandfather's (John White's) life. My only criticism of this section was that there were so many characters of the same name that I was often confused. Luckily, Ms. White provides a family tree to which I could refer. This record is fascinating as it shows how large the families were – one couple had 14 children, another 12 – and, sadly, the high rate of infant mortality.

Book II, "In His Words," was the section I enjoyed most and found very illuminating. After he retired from his work as telegraph operator and train dispatcher, John White kept a journal from 1932 until ten days before his death. Reading his brief, usually one-line, entries, I could empathize with him as he worried about his children, the outcome of World War II, or the health of his wife and himself. A couple of the tragic-comic lines are: February 12, 1936, Got all my teeth out (6), and May 31, 1944, I mailed a letter to Horace, asking him to see if he can get an eye for George in Montreal. There are many references to the cost of goods and services: 1930 – a bottle of wine 30 cents; 1936 – a Montreal hotel room \$1.00 per night; and 1944 – a new eye for George \$12.00. Medical expenses (pre-Medicare) were distressingly high and only at the age of 80, when OAS came into effect, did John receive his first pension cheque of \$40.00.

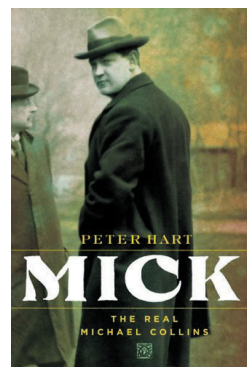
Book III, "Timepieces," is a collection of documents. Twenty pages relate to California where Charles White, John's uncle settled, became mayor of San José, and was killed when the steamer, "Jenny Lind," exploded. There are eulogies for Edmund White (John's wealthy uncle who moved to Bath, England), one for Patrick White (John's father), and two obituaries for John himself. In addition half a dozen letters written by his children are included, all of which illustrate the close ties that existed among them. A collection of family photos completes Book III.

Grandfather's Books is published by Carraig Books, a Quebec City publishing house specializing in Irish-Quebec history. This well-documented and carefully researched work (195 pages), may be purchased for \$24.00 including shipping and handling. To order a copy, contact RTS Canada at (514) 481-0010 or check www.rts.canada.ca/grandbook.htm. You won't be disappointed. 🍀

Meet the real Michael Collins

By Ned Eustace

Two iconic figures emerged alive from the Irish War of Independence that followed the 1916 Easter Rising. These were Michael Collins and Eamon De Valera. Certainly, until recently, the loyalty of Irish men and women to one or other of these huge personalities dictated which of the main line political parties, *Fine Fail* or *Fine Gael*, one supported. They shaped the political structure of modern Ireland although it would take a metaphysician to distinguish the philosophical differences between the political parties, both being right of centre.



If Canadians have any image of Michael Collins, it is likely that portrayed by Liam Neeson in the memorable Neil Jordan movie of the same name. The Jordan/Neeson heroic, larger than life figure is close to being a mythic Celtic legendary view and is the one cultivated in Irish imaginings since his death in an ambush during 1922 in the Irish Civil War that followed the signing of the Treaty with Britain in 1921. Few biographers – and there have been many – have done anything to pierce this veil until Peter Hart wrote *Mick: The Real Michael Collins*. It took a Canadian; Hart is a history professor at Memorial University in Newfoundland and is honest enough to express surprise at the book's success. He has also taken some abuse from those who want the Collins' myth preserved.

Interestingly, he has based the book solely on publicly available sources leaving aside some weaker largely unconfirmed references used by previous biographers. This is a very detailed study of Collins and sheds much new light on his family and upbringing in west Co. Cork. It also deals in sometimes painful detail with his formative years as a young man working for the Post Office – the Savings Bank actually – in London. His political and organizational skills were honed in the Irish sports and social clubs of that city. This is a first class piece of work but it is not for those without some knowledge of Irish history during the period leading up to and following the Easter Rising. Hart's writing style is fast-paced, holds the reader's interest and belies the major historical academic study it clearly is and makes the journey through its 465 pages a real pleasure.

Collins' personality bursts out of the pages. He is revealed as smart, energetic, manipulative, courageous, rambunctious, calculating and loyal – a man for whom no detail was too important. It kept him alive and added to the legend of his biking around Dublin under the noses of the British occupying forces. The man who could make decisions that led to the deaths of others at the hands of others is revealed as what he must have been – a fascinating and believable mixture of conflicting qualities and failings.

Mick: The Real Michael Collins, published by Viking and retailing at \$27.95, is a triumph! 🍀

People in the news ...

By Kathleen Dunn

Isn't it amazing how quickly things can happen when a group of enthusiastic, like-minded people get together such as those concerned with the St. Columban gravestone restoration project. Since their story appeared in the last issue of *NUAHT* (p.15), committee chair **Fergus Keyes** reports that **Jeff Legault** of Ottawa has revamped the initial attempt into an "absolutely terrific" website (www.stcolumban-irish.com). **Kelley O'Rourke** has done an "unbelievable" amount of research and she and **Jeff** will soon have it all on line, names, dates of birth and death, spouses, children, tombstones, pictures. **Kelley** and company also produced a publicity folder to raise awareness during the St. Patrick's season. They carried a banner in the Parade, attended the Luncheon, spoke on various radio shows and were interviewed for newspaper articles. Meanwhile, **Ken Neil** has been looking into repairing and/or replacing tombstones, erecting monuments, and the possible costs involved. With her bilingual, bi-cultural background, **Anne McLaughlin** is interfacing with the St. Columban Parish on the logistics of the project. Donations have fallen off since the flurry of activity in March so fundraising became a priority at the committee meeting on May 13th. **Fergus** says, "The growth of the whole thing is very interesting to watch. Originally, I just intended to have a page to perhaps meet a few other descendants, then the cemetery restoration project came along. Once this was finished, in a year or two, I thought that basically our job would be done. But now with the recent vandalism of the cemetery of nearby St. Canut and the vandalism of the little Catholic chapel at the Bonnibrooke Golf Course in St. Columban, there are many other possible projects to consider.

Also, **Claude Bourguignon** is discussing with the Town to set up a permanent Irish heritage display at City Hall. I guess the work of preserving the Irish heritage in St. Columban and the surrounding communities will likely go on and on for many years to come!!!" We'll keep you posted.

We wish a warm welcome to three new members: **James B. Kelly**, **Michèle Friel**, and **Robert Cox, Jr.**

Congratulations to newly nominated SPS director **Patrick Shea** and his wife, **Sara Collier**, on the birth of their first child, Liam Collier Shea, on Friday, April 21st. Liam is a first grandchild for past president **Peter Shea** and his wife, **Margaret**.

St. Patrick's Day seems like a long time ago already but we would not want to omit a report from **Dennis Dougherty** that, for the second consecutive year, **Erin Sports Association** marched proudly along New York's Fifth Avenue on March 17th. Decked out in black coats, top hats, white scarves and gloves, green sashes, and walking sticks – the same outfits they wear for our own parade – the 35-strong Montreal contingent did themselves proud. They were cheered along the route with clapping and shouts of "Yeah Canada," and "You're the best looking group in the parade." The day began with Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. "Considering there were 2,500 people in the church and thousands outside," **Dennis** says, "we were lucky to have received thirty reserved seats from the parade organizers." **Father Tom McEntee** accompanied the group and joined **Cardinal Egan** on the altar.



Integrated schools in Northern Ireland have to overcome many obstacles in order to meet their objectives

In February, 2003, and again in May, 2004, *NUAHT* reported on the successful implementation of integrated schools in Northern Ireland. Prospects of the scheme being successful were very encouraging. However, recently the Government turned down the development plans for four integrated schools. Originally, the Government criteria for approval for integrated schools were centred on (a) numbers of children (for viability), (b) a roughly equal mix of tradition/religion, and (c) that (segregated) schools nearby were given the choice to transform to an integrated ethos.

There is now a new provision – a proposed integrated school must not impact adversely on the segregated schools nearby. As long as there are empty seats at existing (segregated) schools in the area, integrated schools will not be given support. Sadly, it is the integrated schools which are over-subscribed – nearly 700 children were turned away this school year. The empty seats are all in the segregated schools. Apart from the devastating news for the parents and children of the four schools involved, it looks like the Government is 'capping' the growth of shared schools at 58 schools.

Consequently, the Integrated Education Fund has launched a major

£1.5 million grant programme for the Support And Development of Integrated Education (SADIE) to benefit existing integrated schools as well as increase the number of integrated school places in Northern Ireland.

Making the announcement, IEF Board Chair, David Heyworth said: "I am delighted that the Fund is launching this new grant programme. I believe that it will be a huge boost to the many parents and schools who want to make the choice of integrated education available throughout Northern Ireland. All of us are becoming increasingly aware of growing parental demand as well as the societal and economic benefits of the integrated education model. Our hope is that this grant programme will inspire similar initiatives from our education policy makers to facilitate and encourage integrated education."

The programme will be spread over three years with an initial £500,000 available for funding for the first academic year with similar allocations earmarked for the next two years.

For more information about IEF, visit their website at www.ief.org.uk or contact their Fundraising Manager, Brian Small, at Brian@ief.org.uk.



Around Town

Ancient Order of Hibernians promises a great line-up of activities

The annual **Walk to the Stone** will begin at St. Gabriel's Parish, Sunday, May 28 at 1:30 p.m.. after the UIS Mass at 11:30 a.m. All are invited to attend. Transportation "to" and "from" the Stone will be provided for those with difficulties. A complimentary buffet will follow at the Church Hall.

On Wednesday, July 26th, the Annual **Mass in the Park** will be held at 7:30 p.m. Celebrate the Feast of Saint Ann at the site of the gone, but never-forgotten, at Saint Ann's Church located at the Griffintown-St-Ann Park at the foot of Mountain Street.

The **Annual Pilgrimage to Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial** is on Saturday, August 26th The luxury coach leaves Picasso Restaurant, 6810 St-Jacques, at 6:00 a.m. (free parking). Price is \$75.00. Pilgrims may also travel by car if they wish.

This summer marks the **3rd Annual AOH Golf Tournament** to be held at the Caughnawaga Golf Course in Khanawake. Enjoy great fun, warm company and good prizes. Cost is \$75.00 so book early.

Finally, on Saturday, November 4th AOH will walk the **Stages of the Cross** at the historical Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery to be hosted by Father Thomas McEntee.

For more information or to make reservations for any of the above events, contact Victor Boyle at (514) 928-7196, or Kevin Muldoon at (514) 939-7196 or by email at: info@aoh-montreal.com.

Book early for Comhaltas concert

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eiréann, a traditional Irish group, will be performing in Montreal on Sunday, October 15th, 2006. The musicians, dancers, singers are champion amateurs, chosen through county, provincial and national competitions in which overseas Irish traditional entries are accepted. Visits to Montreal by the Group occur only every couple of years because of the increasing demand for the group to perform elsewhere. The tour can accommodate only 12 cities each year. For tickets, contact Carole Shaw, (514) 935-3961, Sandy McDonaugh (514) 697-6918 or Beverley McGuire. (514) 767-2105. The concert will be held at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall (Loyola Campus) 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. at 7:45 p.m. Tickets only \$12.00.

Two ICCC activities not to be missed

Networking Evening, Wednesday 7 June, 2006- 5:30-7:30 p.m, Hurley's Pub, will be a great opportunity for members and their friends and those who might be interested in becoming members to meet at Hurley's for an early summer evening of good conversation and good cheer.

Organized for the 5th time by 13 European Chambers of Commerce and Trade Commissions, **Carrefour 2006** is expected to have over 80 exhibitors and attract over 1000 visitors. The ICCC has been involved in organizing this event since its inception. Information on how you may participate can be obtained by contacting the Chamber office (514) 845-0973 or by e mail: contact@icccmtl.com

International Celtic-Acadian-Louisiana Festival, 4th Edition, June 16 – 18

This year's Festival will be held at the St. Michel Church, the municipal arena and at other locations in downtown Vaudeuil. Among the performers will be the famous Cape Breton fiddler, Ashley MacIsaac, the Red Stick Ramblers from Louisiana, Paddy Keenan from Ireland, April Verch from the Ottawa Valley, Glamour Puss from New-Brunswick, Oro and Arisaig, Jean-François Breaux, Celtic Grace Irish dancers, Black Watch Pipes and Drums, Highland dancers, and Rapetipetam .



For more details, email info@quebecceltic.ca or check www.quebecceltic.ca. To view extracts from previous events go to: www.acadienfete.ca/Video2005.html

World-famous Irish piper returns to town

If you miss seeing him at the Celtic-Acadian-Louisiana Festival in June, plan to attend a concert to be given by Paddy Keenan, talented uilleann piper. This former member of the Bothy Band will be performing for one night only, June 19th, in Salle de Nantes, Château Ramezay Museum which is located at 280 Notre Dame East in Old Montreal. Tickets are \$20.00 and the show gets underway at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on this event which is being sponsored by the Montreal Shamrock Gaelic Athletic Association, call (514) 937-6749 or (514) 849-2944.

The Irish take over St. Denis



For the first time ever, the Just for Laughs Festival is featuring a gala evening dedicated to Ireland's finest stand-ups. Hosted by world-renowned comic, Ed Byrne, the show will feature a special performance by Irish superstar, Tommy Tiernan. Also on the billboard are Owen O'Neill, Andrew Maxwell, David O'Doherty, Colin Murphy, Jason Byrne and many more.

This gala event will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 20th at the St. Denis Theatre. Tickets begin at \$35.50 (including taxes) and may be obtained by contacting the Just For Laughs Box Office at 2111 St-Laurent Blvd., Montreal, or by phone at (514) 845-2322 or toll-free 1 888 244-3155 or find out more by visiting their website at: www.hahaha.com.

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAI 2006

DATE	EVENTS	FURTHER INFORMATION	
May 20	Ville Marie Feis, John Abbott College	Pat Short	697-4343
May 20	Tara Golf, Opening Tournament, Club de Golf St. André	John O'Shea	697-8889
May 20/21	Montreal Shamrocks 9-a-side Tournament, LCC, 4090 Royal Ave., NDG, 11:00 a.m.	Redmond Shannon	651-1584
May 28	AOH Walk to the Stone (following the UIS Mass)	Victor Boyle	928-7196
June 3	Book Launch, <i>St-Colomban, Une épopée irlandaise au piedmont des Laurentides</i>	C. Bourguignon(450)	438-8077
June 7	ICCC Networking Evening, Hurley's Pub, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Diana James	845-0973
June 9	Irish Radio Show, 5:00 p.m.	Kimberly Sullivan	947-7661
June 16	Innisfail Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers, NDG Legion, 7:00 p.m.	Roberta Wheeler	768-0613
June 16	Bloomsday Celebration, O'Regan's Pub, 1224 Bishop St., 6 p.m.	Martina McLean	290-3135
June 16	Bloomsday in Quebec City, St. Patrick's Church, 1145 de Salaberry, 7:00 p.m.	Catherine McKenna (418)	692-4764
June 17	Tara Golf, Mountain Acres Golf Club	John O'Shea	697-8889
June 19	Paddy Keenan Concert, Château Ramezay Museum, 280 Notre Dame est, 7:30 p.m., \$20	Ralph Thompson	937-6749
June 20	St. Patrick's Society Annual Golf Tournament, Belle Vue Golf Club	Doris Rooney	481-1346
June 27	St. Patrick's Society Annual General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Casey Lounge, Loyola High School	Doris Rooney	481-1346
July 15	Tara Golf, Craigwood, Lake Placid, N.Y.	John O'Shea	697-8889
July 16	Tara Golf, Craigwood, Lake Placid, N.Y., (Best Ball)	John O'Shea	697-8889
July 26	AOH Mass in the Park at the Griffintown St-Ann Park, 7:30 p.m.	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Aug. 04	AOH 3 rd Annual Golf Tournament, Khanawake, \$75.00	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Aug. 12	Tara Golf, Alburg Golf Links, Vt.,	John O'Shea	697-8889
Aug. 26	AOH Annual Grosse Île Pilgrimage, dep. 6:00 a.m., \$75.00 (see p.15 for details)	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Sep. 9	Tara Golf, Adirondack Golf Course, Plattsburg, N.Y.	John O'Shea	697-8889
Sep. 21	SPS General Meeting, World Day of Peace, location TBA	SPS Office	481-1346
Sep. 30	Tara Golf, Hemmingford Golf Club	John O'Shea	697-8889
Oct. 15	Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eiréann concert, Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, 7:45 p.m., \$12.00	Carole Shaw	935-3961
Nov. 4	AOH "Stages of the Cross" Walk, Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Nov. 7	ICCC's Carrefour 2006, Delta Hotel Centreville, 777 University St., 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Diana James	845-0973

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