

The Shamrock Leaf

Newsmagazine of The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick



Feature Story
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
Celebrating 60 years
Page 16

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Editor: LINDA EVANS
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A note from the Editor



After fifty issues, Farrell McCarthy has decided to retire from the SL. Not only was he the Irish Association's founder, he is still our strongest voice. Those are huge shoes to fill, and I hope I am up to the task.

Farrell began as editor of the magazine from the days when it was run off

manually on a Gestetner machine! Even during the years when Patricia O'Leary Coughlan or I held the position of editor, Farrell continued to contribute to the publication, with the feature "Bits and Pieces" and his tireless work on the book reviews. He deserves a rest and an enormous thank-you for his dedication, but I find it difficult to find the words to express our gratitude. Words are not enough. Enjoy the rest Farrell, and you are welcome to contribute whatever you wish in the future...we'll miss your input.

This issue has some interesting pieces – the regular features as well as an eclectic smattering of news

and information. Thanks to all who contributed. We couldn't do it without your input. Thanks also to Marilyn Driscoll, associate editor, for her professional design and layout skills.

It takes a village to raise a child. It takes the same to put the SL together. I am using this space to encourage all of you to get involved and contribute in future issues. Within our provincial Chapters – and beyond to our supporters 'from away' – this is a call for articles that we can include in upcoming issues.

Every chapter must have someone interested in the history of their area – we want your histories. I know there are SL recipients

out there who write short stories or poetry. We want to print your works.

If there is something in the news that is interesting and has an Irish bent, and you would like to write about it, we would like to hear from you.

I may be the editor, but this is YOUR magazine. Let us make it the best it can be!

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh! (Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!)

Linda Evans
Downtown Irishtown

Email:
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The President's Message



As the newly minted, though somewhat aged, President of our Provincial Association, I want to extend my humble thanks for being asked to head up this intrepid band of Irish New Brunswickers. My first official duty is to thank our outgoing President Roly McSorley, Fredericton, and his provincial Executive, for their leadership and hard work the past two years.

The rest of my duties I'll learn as I stumble forward, and I will spend my time learning as much as I can from the rest of you.

This organization has grown and prospered in the

28+ years since its founding and it has always held carefully to its goal of "supporting, promoting and soliciting all available aspects of the Irish culture of the Province of New Brunswick."

Certainly the "Shamrock Leaf" has provided a window for this message, and our Association has created a bursary fund and awarded scholarships, and has been there to offer publishing support for books related to our goals. The ICCA and its chapters have also lobbied government, taken part in provincial events and commemorations, and supported Can-

ada's Irish Festival on the Miramichi. Local chapters have, through their efforts, erected Celtic crosses, created and distributed scholarships, taken part in heritage fairs, celebrated St. Patrick's, promoted research, and put great effort forward to highlight the Irish foundations of New Brunswick, and I am just touching on the actual work that has taken place. Our partnerships with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB), St. Thomas University, and the Irish Festival are to be respected and treasured.

None of the above would happen without our mem-



bers. In my time with the ICCA, I have met some of the most dedicated, honest and caring people that I have ever encountered with any volunteer organization. Together we will work to expand our group, and move forward in respect of those that have done so much for Irish New Brunswickers in the past.

- Sincerely, Bruce Driscoll



Letters to the Editor



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Dear Editor:

The Irish Embassy in Ottawa would like to make your readers aware of our new Embassy Newsletter, which we plan to send out regularly in the future to keep you up to date with Embassy activities and with important developments in Ireland and here in Canada.

To add an email address to the distribution list, or to have your email address removed should you prefer not to receive this Newsletter in the future, simply reply to me or send an email to embassyottawa@dfa.ie

To access the newsletter online, you can go to our website www.embassyofireland.ca and click on

the "Embassy Newsletter" link on the left hand side.

We will have a new edition out every two to three months and will always have the current newsletter as well as previous editions available on the website.

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Dear Editor:

Here is a link to a video on Clones Town, Co Monaghan - Past and Present.

I created it about my home town with the hope that it's inhabitants and those who have emigrated will enjoy the nostalgia. But more importantly I hope it will encourage a sense of history and pride in everyone especially the younger generation about their town.

In addition to your members, some of your associates from Co Monaghan might be interested in viewing it:

<http://youtu.be/wD6edonHB28>

Hope you enjoy.

Enda Whyte
(via email)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be sent to:

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Due to space limitations, not all letters are guaranteed to be printed. We reserve the right to edit for length or content.

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Nine Famous Irishmen

In Ireland, nine men were captured, tried, and convicted of treason against Her Majesty, the Queen, during what has been referred to as the Irish Rebellion of 1848 or thereabouts. The nine, who were sentenced to death, were Pat Donahue, Charles Duffy, Michael Ireland, Morris Lyene, Thomas McGee, Terrence McManus, Thomas Meagher, John Mitchel, and Richard O'Gorman.

At their trial, the judge asked if there was anything any of them wished to say before being sen-

tenced. Meagher, whose response summed up the attitude of them all, replied, "My Lord, this is our first offence, but not our last. If you will be easy with us this once, we promise on our word as gentlemen, to do better next time--sure we won't be fools to get caught."

The judge, outraged rather than amused at Meagher's remarks, indignantly decreed that the defendants should be hanged until dead, and then drawn and quartered. Passionate protests, however, influenced Queen Victoria to commute the sentence to

banishment for life and transportation to far wild Australia.

In 1874, an astounded Queen Victoria received word that the Sir Charles Duffy who had been elected Prime Minister of Australia was the very same Charles Duffy who had been transported there some twenty-five years before. Curious about the fate of the other eight, the Queen demanded that the records of those transported in the 1848 incidents be researched and revealed. This is what was found:

Thomas Meagher: Governor of Montana

Terrence McManus: Brigadier General, U.S. Army

Patrick Donahue: Brigadier General, U.S. Army

Richard O'Gorman: Governor of Newfoundland

Morris Lyene: Attorney General of Australia

Michael Ireland: Attorney General of Australia, after the term of Morris Lyene

Thomas McGee: Member of Parliament, Montreal, Minister of Agriculture and President of Council - Dominion of Canada

John Mitchel: Writer and prominent New York politician. His son became Mayor of New York City



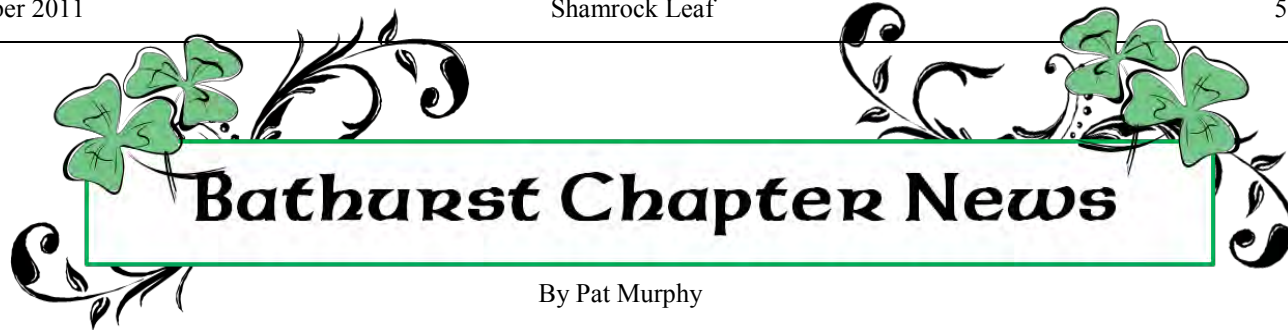
Charles Duffy



Thomas D'Arcy McGee



Thomas Meagher



Bathurst Chapter News

By Pat Murphy

The Bathurst Chapter had another active year with good participation from our members for which I wish to thank everyone.

The Chapter had a booth at the Irish Festival again this year and had ten members volunteer to help with the Chapter and Provincial booths. Thanks to those volunteers. It was mainly concerned with the sale of tickets for our bursary fund which was kicked off at the St. Patrick's supper. This year's prize was a 10.5 inch stained glass shamrock. The drawing took place at the end of the afternoon on Saturday and was won by Mrs. Levesque from the Miramichi. Congratulations.

The local Bathurst Chapter bursary went to

Katrina Cleveland, grand-daughter of Hubert and Claudia Duivenvoorden of Belledune. Katrina is a graduate of Bathurst High School and will be attending Dalhousie University in the fall.



The following week was the Hospitality Days parade in Bathurst and the Irish Float was a prominent part of the parade again this year. With the beautiful weather we had a full float. Thanks to every-

one who participated and especially Marie and Lorenzo who got things done.

This year's Corn Boil was held again at the Belledune centre in mid-September. We had a wonderful day and thanks to everyone who participated and helped with the proceedings.

In mid-November, Mrs Josephine Power, 106, an honorary member of our Chapter, passed away. We offer

sincere condolences to Allie and all her family.

There will be a Christmas Eggnog party on December 4th which will also be the start of the membership renewals for 2012.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a happy and generous New Year.



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The Charlotte County Chapter

- It was always "The Little Engine That Could"

The Charlotte County Chapter became a chapter of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of NB in January 1986 when about forty people met at St Patrick's Hall in Milltown. The first executive of the Chapter were Joan Jones, Ed Sheehan, Joan Mulhern, Pat Connors, Paul Sweeney, Linda Babineau, and the board of directors included Francis Larkin, Ann Breault, Earl Caughy, John Healey, Jim Cloney and Doug Dougherty.

It was always our smallest chapter, but mighty nonetheless throughout the years. It not only had members from the southwestern region of the province but also served those Irish in 'downeast' Maine as well. Many of their activities brought musicians and storytellers from 'across the border' for their musical events. When they gave their chapter reports at our annual provincial meetings many of the larger chapters were amazed at how much could be done in a chapter with so few members. We always referred to it as the "little engine that could".

Like the parent organization, it recognized and promoted Irish culture, history, genealogy, traditions, music and dance and entertainment. Many events were held over the years, not only on St Patrick's Day but throughout the year. It was one of the first chapters to have municipalities fly the Irish flag on St Patrick's Day, not only in St Andrews, but also in St George and St Stephen as well.

Soon after formation, the Chapter immediately went to

work. A Celtic cross that once adorned the top of the Kirk-McColl United Church in St Stephen had been stored away somewhere outside Charlotte County. The Chapter brought it back home and it was unveiled outside the Charlotte County Museum in June 1986.



In 1995, the Chapter was proud to place a Celtic cross on Indian Point at St Andrews to honour the Irish who had landed at the nearby quarantine station, Hospital Island, in Passamaquoddy Bay. Known also as Little Hardwood Island, several Irish are buried on the island in unmarked graves. Without the monument to remember them, this important part of Charlotte County's history may have been forgotten, but the Chapter made sure that the county's Irish past was etched in stone for all to see. Members from across the province attended the event.



In 2000, when a replica of the Jeanie Johnston sailing vessel visited New Brunswick, Charlotte County Chapter was pleased to have a reception for the vessel's crew when it sailed into St. Andrews. Built in County Kerry, the Jeannie Johnston was modeled on an original sailing vessel of the same name which carried many Irish to New Brunswick and Quebec during the famine years. The event provided an opportunity for many Irish descendants to go aboard the ship and see the confined space that their ancestors had to endure on their long sea voyage across the Atlantic.

The movers and shakers for the Charlotte County Chapter over the years were many. Of particular note is Joan Jones of St Stephen who tirelessly and energetically represented the Chapter for many years. With her teaching experience and vast knowledge of her county's Irish history, she spoke often to school children throughout the area so that they would not forget where they came from. Ann Breault of Bocabec,

“The Little Engine That Could” – (cont’d)

past president of the ICCA, was also instrumental within the Chapter and is one of the area’s strong advocates for Irish recognition provincially. The last president of the Charlotte County Chapter was Linda McShane Babineau, who sadly lost her battle with cancer just as she was enjoying her new role as chapter organizer.

As small as the chapter was, it was the only chapter that could boast that the police had to be called to an annual provincial meeting to tell those in attendance to ‘please keep the noise down’ – not once but

twice! The “Little engine that could” is no longer active and it is sad to see it dissolved. A great thank-you to all those involved in the Chapter over the decades for your time, determination, and devotion to the Irish cause. Words don’t seem to be enough for all the work you’ve done. The Celtic cross at St Andrews will always stand as a monument to your mighty endeavours over the years. It says more than words could ever say.

If anyone in Charlotte County would like to revive the Chapter, the Association




Some members of the Charlotte County Chapter visited the replica of the Jeanie Johnston

would love to welcome them back into the fold. There will still be Irish celebrations in the region for the engine may have lost her steam, but the Irish heritage and culture within Charlotte County

has not disappeared with the chapter. It will always live on.

NOTE: Photos and information for this article were contributed by Ann Breault and Joan Jones.





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Refurbished Clarke-Robinson Cairn Rededicated at Murray Corner

By Eldon Hay

On a sunny Sunday, 25 September 2011, at an impressive service in Pioneer Cemetery, Murray Corner, N.B., a refurbished cairn was rededicated. The cairn had been originally erected in 1940, to the memory of two early Irish Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter) ministers - Rev. Alexander Clarke and Rev. Alexander Robinson.

ICCA WAK (Moncton) Chapter President, Paul McCloskey, pointed to the significance of the occasion: "These cairns are so important. They say we were here, and you're still here, and you're going to stay here, and I congratulate you." McCloskey pointed to the genius of the Irish - being able to cooperate and collaborate with others to build up the fabric of community and country.

The cairn illustrates several aspects of that collaboration.

In the mid-1930s, Rev. Emmanuel Lockhart (1876-1959) became a United Church minister in Shemogue, NB. Born in P.E.I. of Scots ances-

try, he had gone west, was educated theologically in Manitoba, and served as a missionary in British Guiana. He then returned to the Maritimes, serving with distinction a succession of rural congregations. He concluded his career with a long ministry in the Little Shemogue/Murray Corner area. In recognition of his commitment to the rural church, Pine Hill Divinity Hall in Halifax awarded him an honorary DD in 1948.

Rev. Lockhart marshaled his community to clean up Pioneer Cemetery which had partially fallen into disuse, as families turned to Fernwood Cemetery in Port Elgin. Moreover, Lockhart helped the community recall and celebrate the witness of two pioneer pastors - Revs. Clarke and Robinson - whose efforts at the outset had led directly to the present Murray Corner United Church congregation.

Lockhart probably envisioned the memorial, though local craftsman, Russell Trenholm constructed it. Made of field



Paul McCloskey and Eldon Hay at the rededication of the cairn at Murray Corner

stone, the cairn was constructed in a four-sided block placed on the top and containing two plaques.

One plaque reads:

THE FIRST CHURCH IN BOTSFORD PARISH WAS ERECTED AND DEDICATED HERE IN 1831 BY REV. ALEX. CLARKE D.D.1795 - 1874.

The other reads:

IN MEMORY OF REV. ALEX. ROBINSON 1819 - 1886 FIRST RESIDENT MINISTER OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION OF SHEMOGUE 1858-1861.

There is little doubt that Lockhart researched the inscriptions, which he shared at the 1940 dedication. At that service, Mr. T.A. Blacklock, the oldest member of the congregation, unveiled the memorial to the first Reformed Presbyterian Church. The memorial to Alexander Robinson, the first resident pastor, was unveiled by a daughter, Mrs. Trenholm Spence. In the early 1900s, the remaining Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter) congregations joined The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Later, most of them became United Church of Canada in 1925.

Clarke-Robinson Cairn - (cont'd)

Missionary Covenanter Alexander Clarke was born in 1874 in County Londonderry and came as an ordained minister to Saint John in 1827, accompanied by wife Catherine McMillan and two young daughters. A small group of Covenanters in Saint John had earlier appealed to the Irish synod for a missionary.

A few years prior to Clarke's arrival Matthew McMorris had emigrated from the North of Ireland and, with his family, had settled on Grindstone Island near the head of the Bay of Fundy. He went into the quarrying business and, with a small schooner, carried on a coasting trade, frequently visiting Saint John. On one of these occasions he met Mr. Clarke. An intimacy sprang up between these two fine Irish Covenanters. Conditions at the Head of the Bay were discussed - the lack of gospel ordinances dwelt upon, and finally an urgent appeal was made to Clarke by McMorris - to transfer the scene of his labours to the settlements forming near the Isthmus of Chignecto. Clarke seized the initiative, coming to Amherst in 1828. Clarke ministered to the few Covenanters in

Amherst and surrounding region.

In the meantime McMorris had removed from Grindstone Island to Shemogue on the north shore. Here a new settlement was forming - the settlers coming from Scotland and the North of Ireland. The North Shore settlers were distant from Amherst some thirty miles - and for the most part that country was covered with dense forests. A few settlers were digging themselves in at one or two intervening points, and these struggling communities were connected merely by a bridle path through the bush. McMorris kept in touch with friend Clarke, and in due time invited him to visit the North Shore. Once more the suggestion was acted upon, and the summer of 1829 witnessed the first visit of a minister to that part of the province. For the first time the scattered settlers were called to gather to hear the gospel preached by Rev. Alexander Clarke.

Clarke's visit was an immediate success, and he was destined to return to the north shore many times, though his peripatetic preaching meant he could come only sporadically. Clarke and his fol-

lowers petitioned the Covenanter church in Ireland to send helpers. Rev. William Somerville, born in 1800, came first, in 1832, labouring for a year in New Brunswick, and marrying a woman from Goose River/Linden, N.S. An able man, Sommerville was soon lost to Chignecto, for he was called to Horton in Nova Scotia, where he spearheaded Covenanter efforts in the Annapolis Valley. In Grand Pré the Covenanter Church, both a provincial and national historic site, is a living monument to Somerville's labours.

Clarke continued to make occasional visits to Little Shemogue/Murray Corner until his death in 1874. He and Mrs. Clarke and some of their children are buried in the West Amherst Cemetery, close to what is now the Wandlyn Inn.

Alexander Robinson (1819-1886) was among the other Irish ministers following Alexander Clarke and William Somerville. Receiving his early education in Ireland, Robinson came to America in 1849 and studied theology in Philadelphia. In 1854, he married Mary Anna Robinson, who had also been

born in Ireland and had the same last name. As a licentiate, not yet fully ordained, Robinson came "for the first time to Murray's Corner on Sabbath at 11 o'clock A.M. the first day of July 1855" (Robinson, *Commonplace Book*). The first Covenanter pastor to live in the community - later purchasing a farm - Robinson worked well, gaining the early praise of senior missionary Alexander Clarke. Ordained in New York City in June, Robinson was installed as pastor of Shemogue and Port Elgin congregations on 14 July 1856.

Robinson continued to minister in the communities until 1860, when the connection with the congregation was dissolved; Robinson was charged with inappropriate sexual advances. Having already bought a farm, Robinson, his wife and family of several children continued living in the community. For a time towards the end of his life, Robinson was successful in clearing his name. Rev. Alexander Robinson died in 1886, and was interred in the Pioneer Cemetery. Mary Anna Robinson then moved for a time to western Canada, dying in

Clarke-Robinson Cairn - (cont'd)

Manitoba, in 1920. An unnamed hand made an addition in Robinson's *Commonplace Book* : "Her remains was [sic] taken back to Murrays Corner ... and interred in the old cemetery beside her husband the Rev. Alexander Robinson."

The cairn is a testimony to the missionary efforts of Revs. Clarke and Robinson; though not all the inscriptions are completely accurate: Rev. Lockhart did not have at his disposal the sources available in our time. By 1940, it had been forgotten that there was a Covenantan church before the one built in 1831 - the Lanchester church, worship venue of

the Covenanters for a short time. The one built in Murray Corner was in use for over 40 years - small wonder that it was easy to call to mind. And Alexander Robinson is remembered, quite appropriately as the first resident pastor, diligent and hard working; other facets of his career blessedly forgotten.

It was not unusual for congregants to name children after a beloved pastor. In a Brownell family, a son was called Alexander Clarke Brownell. When he grew to manhood, he married Caroline, a daughter of Alexander and Catherine. Alex Allen, who attended the September 25 rededi-

cation shared with me, that his uncle had been named Alexander Robinson Allen.

It was a July 2010 visit by American descendants of Rev. Alexander Clarke that drew attention to the then dilapidated condition of the cairn. Efforts were then undertaken to refurbish and restore it. Clarke and Robinson family descendants, some *Shamrock Leaf* readers, and local folk all contributed so that the rededication could take place, 25 September 2011. A subcommittee of the Pioneer Cemetery board, consisting of Ronald Murray, Kim Murray-Atkinson and Eldon Hay, super-

vised the effort.

The original cairn was a testimony to the 1940 faith of those who first constructed and hal- lowed it by their presence and prayers. The 2011 refurbished cairn is likewise a tribute to those who, by contributing, by witnessing the event, also add their blessings. ❁

Note: Eldon Hay is professor emeritus of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. He is the author of the upcoming book, The Covenanters in Canada: Reformed Presbyterianism from 1820 to the Present Day (McGill-Queen's University Press).

Saint John Chapter makes donation

A donation of \$1000 from the Irish Canadian Cultural Association was made to the Chicken Noodle Soup Club. The club provides free hot lunches to school aged children in Saint John and has operated in the area for over 20 years. The donation was raised from the sale of tickets on a Tinker's Tea Basket. The cheque was presented to Brian Grant by Katherine Coughlan and Santa Paddy Addison.





Miramichi Chapter News

Miramichi Chapter plans a Dinner Theatre in February

By Lynn Doyle

Fall is upon us again and with it we return to our routines and our fall and winter enjoyments. *The Shamrock Leaf* is one publication that keeps us in touch with all the activities of the Irish around the province and here in Miramichi.

The Miramichi chapter recently held its annual meeting and a new executive was installed. Lynn Doyle, past-president of the chapter, welcomed Frances Connell as the new president, Carol Ann Hilchey, secretary, Reg Flynn, director, Maureen English, membership chairman and Mike Connell as treasurer.

Special guest speaker at the meeting was Jim Doyle, retired principal of James M Hill Memorial High School, and a member of the Miramichi chapter. Jim spoke about the "Miramichi Irish Society". Established in 1972, this society was very active. He gave a brief history of the group and its activities on the river until its demise in recent years. On behalf of the society and its remaining members, Jim presented the Miramichi chapter a donation.

This donation was used to give four Miramichi students graduating in 2011 a bursary on behalf of the Miramichi chapter. The bursary recipients were Ryan VanBuskirk from Miramichi Valley High School, Sarah Legere from James M Hill Memorial High School, Katie Bryanton from

North and South Esk Regional High School, and Jordan Coughlan from Blackville High School.



Mike Connell accepts donation from Jim Doyle

The Miramichi Chapter celebrated Irish Festival weekend with an evening of singing and dancing at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Chatham, featuring Jimmy Lawlor and Bob McCullam. This ceilidh was a little quieter than the event at the Lord Beaverbrook arena and caters to an older crowd and is a lovely way to celebrate the Irish weekend.

Plans are now underway to have an "Irish Reading Club" and a Christmas Social in the latter part of November. New this year will be a Winter Play in February. The chapter contacted Bernie Colepaugh of the Miramichi Heritage Players to see if he and his fellow actors would be interested in presenting a play on behalf of the chapter on the interesting saga of the Miramichi Connell moose from Bartibog being shipped to Newfoundland back in the early

nineteen hundreds. Entitled "*John Connell, Come and Get Your Moose!*", this tale is well-documented and the chapter is looking forward to having this play presented. It will be held at the Chatham Head Recreation Centre on Saturday February 18th at 6 o'clock. This will be a dinner theatre.

Tickets will be on sale before Christmas and will be offered first to Miramichi Chapter members first, and then to the general public if there are any tickets left. So make sure to get your tickets early! All of the Miramichi Heritage Players events are well-attended and, with a Miramichi flavor, this one will be no exception.

On behalf of the new executive, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.



(L-R) Reg Flynn, Maureen English, Lynn Doyle, Carol Ann Hilchey, Frances Connell, and Mike Connell

Miramichi Chapter Bursary Recipients



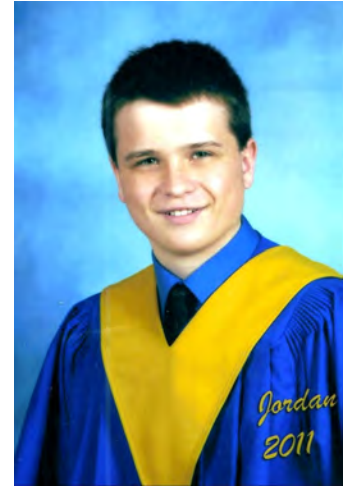
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everyone a
healthy and
happy
holiday season.**



1871 Census Now Available On-line

By Diane Lynn Tilbert

The digitized images of the original returns for the 1871 Census of Canada are now available for viewing on-line at the Library and Archives Canada website (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1871-index-e.html>).

This was Canada's first regularly scheduled collection of national statistics and includes the four provinces making up the Dominion of Canada: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec.

The total number of individuals enumerated were 3,485,761, including 285,592 in New Brunswick and 287,800 in Nova Scotia. The information gathered in 1871 was basic: name, age, country or province of birth, nationality, religion and profession.

The information was to be filled out as it existed on April 2, 1871. An individual who died on April 3 should have been included in the census as living and a baby born on that same day should not

be included. However, even today it's impossible to have all forms completed on the exact day of the census, so it is possible babies who were born shortly after April 2nd were recorded and individuals who died after that date were excluded.

Individuals who were temporarily absent – students, fishermen, hospital patients – were to be counted at their household. This may not have happened in every instance.

The census also recorded the deaths occurring within the previous twelve months. These were listed together at the back of the census questionnaire. Information regarding household goods, vehicles (ships/wagons) and livestock were recorded.

To learn more about the census, a clear description of each column and the instructions given to enumerators who gathered information, visit the About the Census page. There it ex-

plains the recording of age in Column 9 indicated the age at the last birthday. Fractions were used for babies younger than one year. Column 10 reveals the month in which an infant who was less than a year was born. Column 16 indicates the month in which the couple were married if they tied the knot within the previous twelve months.

Information concerning an individual's education and their ability to read are noted in Columns 17, 18 and 19. Physical and mental conditions were recorded in Columns 20, 21, 22 and 23.

Keys to the abbreviations used for religion are also found on the About the Census page. The number 1 was used to indicate Yes and a dash – was used for No.

The census images are searchable by surname, a huge time-saving

capability, particularly if you don't know exactly where a person lived or you're searching for someone with a common name, such as William McDonald (there are 272 in Nova Scotia). Visitors can search through the index pages to find the right person, or they can narrow the search by using district names or numbers and subdistrict names and numbers.

Images are available in PDF and JPG. The basic information appears in the index results which can save time downloading the image if you find this is not the person you seek. Images can be magnified, cropped, flipped, printed, saved and e-mailed.

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**Some would make us just names on a list,
But we are people in a place—and resist.**

*- Inspirational slogan of Saltscapes—
Canada's East Coast Magazine*

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Pâtisseries / Pastries
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From The Provincial Archives...



Patrick Bennett The Unknown Irish Crusader

By David Folster

In 1831, discerning readers of the **New Brunswick Courier**, in St. John (which is how the city then spelled its name), knew immediately that a rare individual had landed in their midst. One Patrick Bennett, lately arrived, via St. Andrews, N.B., from Ireland, advertised that he could teach “short hand writing” in four lessons. If he failed to do so, a pupil’s fee of four dollars would be refunded in its entirety. Readers also learned that, before placing his advertisement, Bennett had checked with another teacher of stenography in the city to determine that, in starting this venture, he wouldn’t be harming the latter’s business.

Thus was St. John introduced to a man who would become an earnest and feisty presence in the city for the next half-century, a teacher, public debater, publisher, journalist, and champion of the Irish immigrant. And yet his story, ultimately tragic, is essentially unknown today.

Denis Noel, who heads the sound and

moving image section of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, first encountered Bennett’s name more than decade ago. The newspaper advertisement placed by this “professor of stenography,” and especially its generous codicils, so intrigued him that he has spent a dozen years researching Bennett in his spare time.

What has emerged is the sense of a man who, more than anything, sought to be a crusading journalist, almost at any cost. “The press,” he believed, “is an engine whose tongue is thunder to the tyrant, and a most powerful instrument for constitutional liberty.” Nothing deterred him in a land he perceived to be well stocked with tyrants and personal liberties regularly trampled upon.

Bennett started, in 1836, with **The Irishman**, a weekly newspaper aimed at St. John’s Irish population but also hoping for a wider audience; he thought his gentle, written sketches of the homeland could help overcome anti-Irish prejudice in the city. But

both **The Irishman** and a local literary magazine he started were gone within a year.

In the early 1840s, Bennett launched the **Liberator and Irish Advocate**, which was said to be anti-Catholic, although it was sometimes hard to tell on which side of the sectarian fence he stood. Years later, when he was being regularly admitted to the Saint John Alms House, Bennett first listed his religion as Protestant and, later, as Roman Catholic. In any event, he managed, in 1845, to get himself convicted for libeling three men and was fined 25 pounds.

By 1847, his newspaper had become the **True Liberator**, and Bennett himself had rounded into top form. Within sight of the city was Partridge Island where thousands of Irish emigrants were quarantined under terrible conditions. He attacked those responsible. “Why are they deaf to the voice of humanity, and to the language which, in dying groans, portrays the suffering of human

beings, buffeted by adversity and at the mercy of the stranger”?

There was apparent corruption, notably with the operator of the single boat plying between the island and the mainland. His craft was “always laden with provisions, sold at nearly double price to unfortunate creatures famishing with unutterable privations.” The man was a Shylock “making his fortune from a people plunged in the lowest abyss of earthly misery.”

Reprinting some of Bennett’s journalism a decade and a half later, the **New Dominion and True Humorist** said he was not only the most polished newspaper writer in New Brunswick but also one “as outspoken and fearless as he was brilliant.”

But not invincible. A year later he and his wife Jane suffered a personal blow with the death of their four-year-old son, Thomas Edward. The Bennetts had had their share of hardships, including what was surely a hand-to-mouth existence, and an occasion when four men attacked and



From The Provincial Archives (cont'd)



and beat Jane. But the loss may have proved more than they could handle.

Patrick's descent did not begin immediately. But he eventually began turning up drunk in public places, and fined and sent to the gaol. In one court appearance, the magistrate told him: "I am sorry to see you here again."

"And I am sorry, too," Bennett replied. "I cannot find words to express the remorse I feel at having yielded to temptation again. I am sorry to say that when under the influence of these paroxysms, which seize me periodically, I lose all control of myself, and allow the passion for drink to mas-

ter me; that is the weak point of my character. Yet, on reviewing my life, I can say that it has not been idle; that I have not been a barren fig tree."

The magistrate fined Bennett, but then paid the fine himself.

For all the admiration he held within the community, Bennett was, beginning in the mid-1860s, a regular return tenant at the alms house. He died there in 1882, at the age of 85.

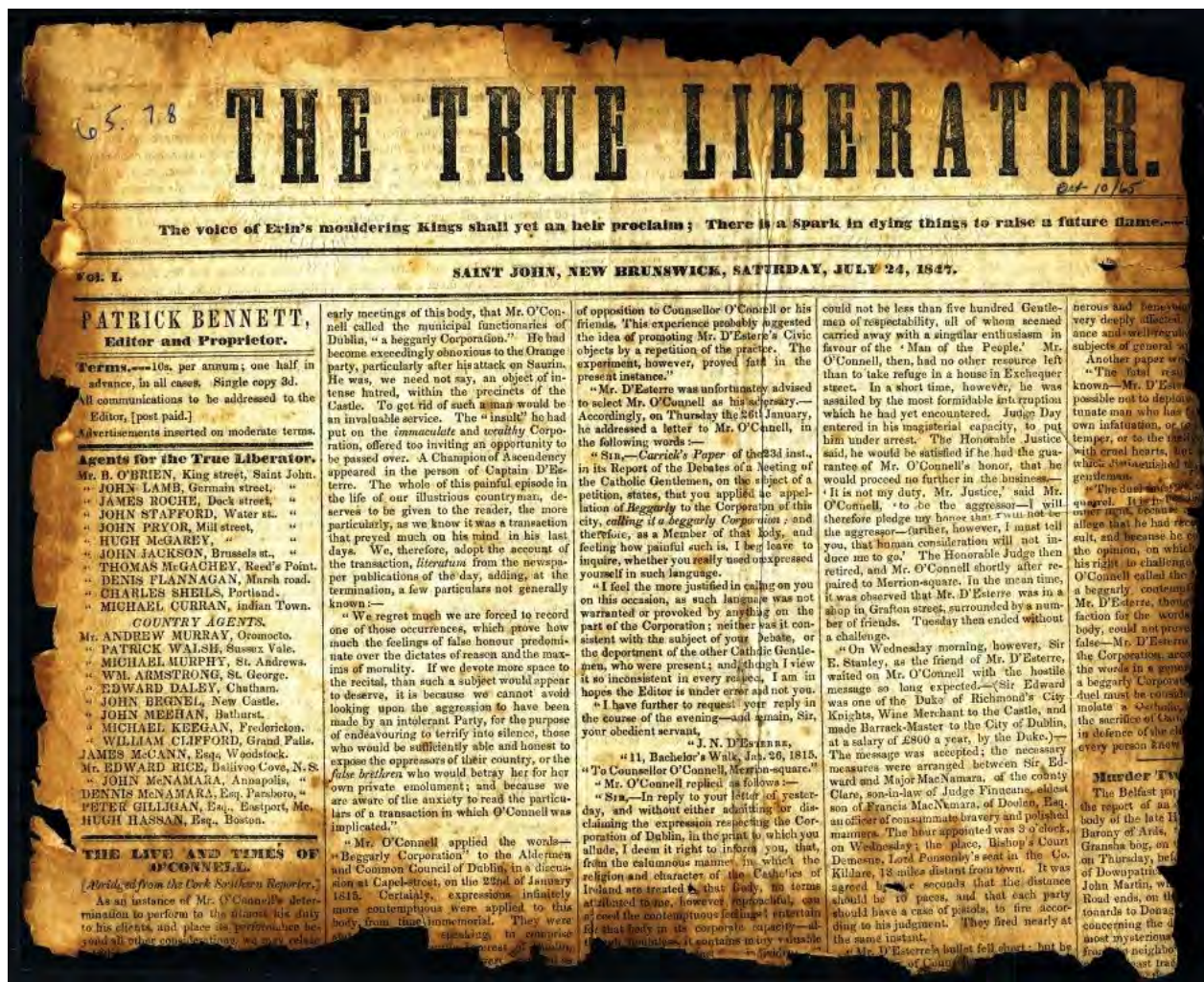
Another community sympathizer, Thomas Furlong, a local wine merchant and liquor importer, provided the money to mark his grave in the Catholic Cemetery with a tablet of Italian

marble. Though it didn't make it onto the headstone, Bennett had, in a sense, summarized his life as part of a poem he wrote from the Alms House long years before:

"A Pedagogue by choice or fate,
Or some rash oath that fortune swore;
I show that little golden gate,
That opens to the fields of lore,
The [soft] retentive mind of youth,
With lofty principle I line;
Connecting tender thoughts with truth,
This noble ill paid task is mine."

Reprinted courtesy of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick and the Associates of the Provincial Archives.

<http://archives.gnb.ca/archives/default.aspx?culture=en-CA>



Comhaltas Achievement Awards Given to Saint John Members

By Helena Hook



For sixty years, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, (commonly pronounced Col Tas), has been spreading traditional Irish music and culture throughout each of the 32 counties of Ireland as well as to Britain, Europe, Japan, Australia, North America and Canada. With over 400 branches worldwide, many consider Comhaltas to be one of Ireland's most successful cultural movements, fostering the Irish and non-Irish alike to study, perform, promote and preserve traditional Irish culture. Tens of thousands of youngsters have learned to play music on traditional instruments, while over two million people attend sessions, concerts, festivals and workshops sponsored by Comhaltas annually.

Comhaltas was formed in 1951 in Mull-

ingar, County Westmeath, Ireland by a few musicians from the Piper's Club of Dublin and cultural groups throughout the country. They sought to improve the standing of traditional Irish music, song, dance and language in Ireland, which was at risk of extinction. Comhaltas came to life in North America in 1972 and developed rapidly. Canada has thirteen branches from Alberta to New Brunswick.

Here in New Brunswick, Saint John Comhaltas is extending its cultural arm to our youth and have taken their talents and musical instruments to the students of Saint John High School and the Touchstone School in Quispamsis - a program that they hope will continue to expose Irish music at the grass roots.

Comhaltas traditionally participates in the Irish Canadian Cultural Association's Saint Patrick's Week celebrations and usually hosts the St. Patrick's Week Pub Night and Ceili.

Comhaltas was proud to perform at the 2011 Miramichi Irish Festival and conducted successful Tin Whistle and Bodhran workshops.

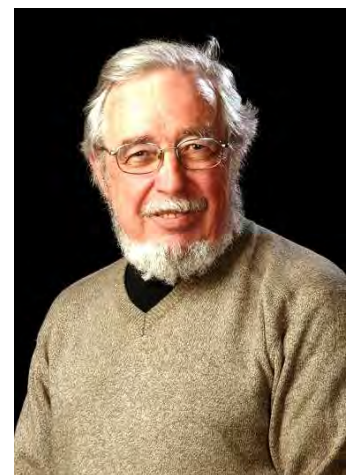
The Saint John branch of Comhaltas meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm in the function room at O'Leary's Pub on Princess Street, where they practice Irish music and learn a little Irish language. The great thing about the group is that you don't have to be Irish to be-

long. All you have to do is enjoy Irish music. Newcomers are always welcome. If anyone wants to learn how to play instruments like the guitar, mandolin, tin-whistle or bodhran (Irish drum) it's a great place to start. The advantage of learning Irish session tunes or popular Ceili dances means that you can participate in Comhaltas sessions and Ceilis anywhere in the world where there is a Comhaltas group.

The quarterly magazine *Treoir* is mailed, directly from Ireland, to members throughout the world; the magazine



New Brunswick award recipient Eva Steele dressed all in green for St. Patrick's Day celebrations



New Brunswick award recipient Bryce Neill

Comhaltas Achievement Awards (cont'd)

contains stories, Irish music, interesting articles and lists upcoming sessions and musical festivals throughout Ireland.

To celebrate Comhaltas' 60th Anniversary, each branch was invited to nominate two people, who have contributed to the success of their branch, for a special achievement award.

Saint John proudly nominated Bryce Neill and Eva Steele for their years of dedicated service. Bryce Neill, a longstanding member of Comhaltas, has held the positions of secretary and treasurer for numerous terms and is a staunch supporter and active musician of the branch.

Eva Steele, our oldest member at 96, has been the best promoter for Comhaltas one could ever wish for, selling tickets, making phone calls to promote activities. Eva, dubbed Saint John's Irish Queen, usually dressed in her emerald green at the ICCA St. Patrick's week celebrations and is always ready to dance her Irish hornpipe or recite the poem, "An Ode to Dr Collins." The poem tells the story about the young doctor who died while treating so many Irish Immigrants at the quarantine hospital on Partridge Island in 1847 during the worst exodus of Irish people fleeing the famine.

Over the years, both achievement award recipients have

been very active in numerous Comhaltas events: Eva and Bryce were part of the Comhaltas performance on stage at Saint John's Imperial Theatre during the 150th Commemoration of the Great Irish Famine - a musical tribute to the Irish immigrants who arrived at the Quarantine Station at Partridge Island.

They were part of the Comhaltas musicians and dancers given parts in the Boston/Irish film *Vendetta: No Conscience, No Mercy*, produced in Saint John and available on DVD. When the Irish replica of the immigrant ship the "Jeanie Johnston" was in Saint John, once again, Comhaltas provided dockside entertainment.

The Canadian Achievement Awards were presented in Kingston Ontario by the Irish Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Ray Bassett. As neither Bryce nor Eva could travel to Ontario for the ceremony, the president of Comhaltas Canada-East Region, Anne McConnell-



Strong presented the awards at a special ceremony held at the Chateau Saint John Hotel.

Unfortunately, our "Irish Queen" was in hospital at the time, but Eva proudly received her award, which was presented by Anne McConnell-Strong in the hospital ward in Saint John, with her family and friends around her.

Comhaltas is proud of these two loyal members and their dedication to the promotion and preservation of Irish Culture in Canada. For further information visit the international website: <http://www.Comhaltas.ie> or the local Comhaltas website: <http://www.Comhaltas.ca>



"Everywhere I go I'm asked if I think the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them. There's many a best-seller that could have been prevented by a good teacher."

- Flannery O'Connor

"All the world's a stage and most of us are desperately unrehearsed."

- Sean O'Casey

The Irish Room Genealogy Tidbits

By Linda Evans

New Brunswick's Irish history has, for many reasons, been largely ignored in this province, and yet our rich and colourful past deserves a place within New Brunswick's story. While gathering research on NB Irish families, I often come across small snippets of information that compel me to dig deeper. Often found buried in the most unusual and unexpected places, these little tidbits of information often provide insight into the lives of individuals who are mostly forgotten today, but surely deserve a place in New Brunswick's Irish story. Here's one that I stumbled upon recently:

The O'Neill family – New Brunswick's first Australian immigrants?

Anyone who has played the children's "pass the secret" game knows that whatever phrase whispered by the first child into the ear of the second child is significantly different once it is passed down a line of children and finally revealed when it reaches the last child in line.

Oral history, passed down through many generations, can suffer a similar fate. Names and particulars change. Details are altered or embellished over time so that dissecting fact from fiction becomes an onerous task.

This is certainly the case with the story of Ellen Hennessy O'Neill's adventurous travels to Australia and return to Moncton in the mid-nineteenth century. Related in most of Moncton's local histories, the story is different in each, and in all of them, the tale contradicted information I had gathered over the years.

The unofficial

story stated that Ellen Hennessy met and married Patrick O'Neill in Ireland and then went off to the gold fields of Australia. After his death – a heart attack – in Australia, Ellen gathered her four children and captained a ship back to Saint John to join the rest of her family here in Moncton. The voyage included an adventurous run through the treacherous waters of Cape Horn on the southern tip of South America. Although this rendition is full of romance and adventure, it is miles from what actually happened. Here is the real story....

Mary Ellen Hennessy was born in 1832 in Graiguenamanagh, County Kilkenny, the daughter of Michael Hennessey and Elizabeth Byrne. Surviving the famine years, she set sail with her mother, sister and brother in 1851 and arrived in Saint John, NB in April of that year. They then travelled to Moncton to join her fa-

ther, who had sailed to the colony three years earlier and set up trade as a shoemaker in Moncton. They lived at 80 King Street. The family states that Michael Hennessy was a learned man who read both Latin and Greek. He apparently had to learn a trade to marry into the Byrne family and so 'chose shoemaking because he could read while presumably working on his cobbler's bench'. Ellen's parents lived to a good age and neither of her siblings married. Her sister Catherine (Kate) was well-known in Moncton as one of the town's longest serving school teachers. Ellen's brother, Patrick, went into the shoemaking business with his father.

Ellen Hennessy's adventurous life began when she met and married Patrick Byrne O'Neill in Moncton on 7 Nov 1854. Her sister Kate Hennessy and Pierce Delahunt stood up for them. Although the

marriage record stated that Patrick O'Neill was 'from Saint John', he was born in Whitehall, County Cork in 1819, the eldest son of Michael O'Neill and Annie Byrne. Descendants of the Hennessy family stated that his parents "died at sea on the way to Canada during the potato famine and are buried on Partridge Island."

Patrick Byrne O'Neill was a sea captain. His father was a master mariner working out of Liverpool, England, and he had two younger brothers: Henry Michael O'Neill, who was also a sea captain and William H O'Neill who was a sea pilot – both working out of Queenscliff, Australia.

Patrick O'Neill may have sailed to Saint John from Liverpool with his parents to purchase a new ship, as New Brunswick was well-established as a worldwide shipbuilding centre at this time. How and why Patrick O'Neill

The O'Neill family (*cont'd*)

ended up in Moncton where he met Ellen is a bit of a mystery. Perhaps he was searching for a ship to purchase in the area, or maybe he was simply visiting kinfolk. Both Patrick O'Neill and Ellen Hennessy's mother's maiden names were Byrne. He may also have come to visit the large family branch of O'Neills who had settled in Irishtown for they too had come from County Cork.

Soon after their marriage, Captain Patrick O'Neill and Ellen Hennessy set sail across the seas for an adventurous future in Australia. They no doubt sailed around the dangerous waters of Cape Horn on the tip of South America on the way to Australia. They had six children: Eliza Ann O'Neill in 1858, Henry Michael O'Neill in 1861, Daniel

O'Neill in 1862; Alice Maria in 1864, Charlotte Theresa in 1866, and Patrick in 1868. Two of the children died in Australia: Alice before 1867, and Patrick, in 1869.

Although one local history book states that they went to Australia for the 'gold rush', Captain Patrick O'Neill was a seafaring man and no doubt continued to sail the seas once back in Australia. They settled in the southern reaches of the state of Victoria, first living on the ship near Hobson, where Eliza was born. Hobson is now part of central Melbourne. They eventually settled in Queenscliff where Patrick continued to ply his trade as a sea captain. Located at the narrow entrance into Port Philip Bay, Queenscliff was a busy and vital port. From here, ships were piloted

through the treacherous channels into the bay and up to Melbourne or Geelong, the access port to the Ballarat gold fields inland.

Ellen Hennessy O'Neill's life took a tragic turn when her husband Patrick became ill and died on 30 Sep 1867 of double pneumonia and pleurisy while in Melbourne. He is buried with his brother Henry in Point Lonsdale in Queenscliff. His death occurred while Ellen was still carrying her last child, Patrick. Ellen was only 35 years old and left virtually destitute with four young children and a ship. The family also states that Patrick's brother, William, "prospered but was not kind to her [Ellen] when she was widowed."

Wild Australia was no place for a young pregnant widow with four young children.

Ellen Hennessy O'Neill had no choice but to bring her children to the orphanage. The boys, Daniel and Henry were admitted to the St Augustine's Orphanage in Geelong on 16 December 1867.

On the same day, the girls, Eliza and Charlotte may have been placed in the nearby Our Lady's Orphanage in Newton, Geelong, which was attached to the Sisters of Mercy convent. After she brought the children to the orphanage, Ellen gave birth to Patrick, but he died within a year. One can imagine her visiting her children regularly and desperately trying to find a way to get out of her situation. Records at the orphanage also stated that she was a cripple so it would not have been easy for her. The children were finally released from the orphan-



St. Augustine's Orphanage, Geelong, Australia



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CONVENT & FEMALE ORPHANAGE.

The O'Neill family (*cont'd*)

age on 17 Sep 1869, almost two years after they were admitted. They were not released to Ellen herself, but "taken by friends" on her behalf.

Nearly three years after the death of Captain Patrick O'Neill, Ellen and her four surviving children boarded the passenger steamship, the SS Great Britain, in Melbourne in June 1870.



SS Great Britain

They sailed to Liverpool, England and from there found their passage back to Saint John, New Brunswick. Her sister, Kate Hennessy in Moncton received word that they were there. "They had no money, so Kate went to Ezekiel Taylor and borrowed \$50 to get them to Moncton."

Ellen Hennessy O'Neill lived out the rest of her life in Moncton with her family on King Street. The ordeal had been a difficult one and her health was not good as she "was going blind and becoming paralyzed". She died in January, 1888 and is

buried in the family plot in St Anselme. She had lived a fascinating and adventurous life, until the unthinkable occurred when her husband died young and left her destitute.


Ellen Hennessy O'Neill's strong pioneer spirit was passed down to her children. Her eldest, Eliza Ann O'Neill left for 'the Boston States' in 1882 and married a Virginian Irishman, John McCubbin two years later. They lived in Boston and had one son, John. She died in 1934 in Boston. Her brother, Henry Michael O'Neill was living with her in Boston in 1900, but returned to Moncton where he died in 1907. Daniel suffered a tragic death after falling down the stairs of Mrs. Byrne's boarding house on Clarence Street in Saint John in September of 1879. He was only 17 years old and his brother Henry was with him at the time. Charlotte (Lottie) stayed in Moncton and was well-known in the city. She married Henri Honoré Melanson, who eventually became Vice-President of Canadian National Railways. She was a strong willed woman and, by all accounts, possessed her mother's feisty spirit.

They had three children: Frances Melanson, who was disabled; well-known Moncton physician, Dr. Paul Melanson, and Catherine Melanson, who married Dr. J Paul LaPlante, and lived in Montreal. Their cottage in Pointe-du-Chêne, near Shediac, is still in the family, and is still known as "Queenscliff".



Charlotte (Lottie) O'Neill Melanson

Ellen O'Neill was undoubtedly a strong spirited young woman who led a life that was remarkable indeed. Faced with an uncertain future after the death of her husband, she realized that the Australian frontier was no place for a widow with four small children. Undaunted, she found a way to sail around the world to bring her children home to New Brunswick in an age when such a feat would seem almost im-

possible. What a brave woman! 



O'Neill-Hennessy gravesite in St Anselme, N.B.

If you know of other Irish New Brunswickers who deserve a place in New Brunswick's story, please contact us at the Irish Room, 102 Park Street, PO Box 26022, Moncton, NB, E1E 4H9, or at irish-room@rogers.com. The Irish Room is a research and genealogy centre and home to the WAK (Moncton) Chapter of the ICCA.



Saint John Chapter News

By Donna Blanchard

The Saint John Chapter of the ICCA welcomed spring with a draw on Mother's Day for a beautifully hand crafted queen size quilt. Many tickets were sold and the lucky winner was Helena Hook of Quispamsis, N.B.

In June, President Owen Boyle hosted a Lobster Luncheon in appreciation of those chapter members who have volunteered their time and/or donated to our chapter over the two years of his presidency. A large crowd gathered at O'Leary's Pub on Princess Street for salad, lobster and tea/coffee or soft drinks. The rain outside made for a kitchen party atmosphere with Comhaltas entertaining throughout the afternoon. There were prizes and young and old alike en-

joyed a grand old day.

Later in the summer, local historian Harold Wright presented an evening of 'Irish Fact and Fiction'. A number of guests were welcomed at Tanner's Bed and Breakfast to enjoy this beautiful heritage house where refreshments were served and a delightful evening followed. A portion of the price included a donation to the SPCA - Animal Rescue.

Mr. Wright revealed many things. We discovered that it was illegal to show an effigy of St. Patrick in the city of Saint John in the early nineteenth century and, in the early 1850's, it was illegal to play the Irish bag pipes. He also spoke about the local City Cornet Band, the Irish Catholic band and the Carleton Cornet Band,

the Irish Protestant band. The City Cornet Band was the first to propose the Celtic cross on Partridge Island for 1927, and they also built the King Edward VII memorial bandstand in King's Square. St. Malachi's Chapel and its small graveyard were also mentioned.

Harold also told the large group some of the ghost stories and folklore on Partridge Island. Of the 2,000 who died during their trip to Saint John in 1847, 600 died on the island, including some mariners. Another 595 died in the City of Saint John, including some non-immigrants and non-Irish. About 800 died aboard ship, and were buried at sea.

There were numerous jabs at our Irish past, but all done in a manner

to make us proud of our 'green'. This event was well received and we look forward to repeating this event in the coming year.

New executive were recently elected for the Saint John Chapter. They are: President, Marijka Blok, 1st Vice President, Christina McGinnis Pump, 2nd Vice President, Eileen Gauthier, 3rd Vice President, Mary O'Leary May, Secretary, Donna Blanchard, Treasurer, Bill Pump and Past President, Owen Boyle. Directors are Eva Steele, Helena Hook, Ron Oliver, Mary Quinn, Katherine Coughlan, Clare Walsh, Lorraine Brown, Eileen Costigan, Paddy Addison, and Peggy Fitzgerald.



Kathryn Magee and Samantha Hanley stand with their winning presentation about Partridge Island. They pose with ICCA's Mary O'Leary May who presented them with ICCA medals. See next page for the young ladies' presentation.

Editor's note: In conjunction with the annual provincial heritage fair, Kathryn Magee and Samantha Hanley of Millidgeville did their project on the Irish and Partridge Island. They came first in the Saint John region and received \$100 for their great effort. In recognition, the Saint John Chapter of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association also presented them with our association medals. They were very excited with their win. Here is their presentation.

Partridge Island and its Irish connection

By Kathryn Magee and Samantha Hanley

Partridge Island is a tiny island located in the Bay of Fundy. It is located on the city's Westside at the mouth of the Saint John Harbor.

When the loyalists arrived and the city of Saint John was established, a lighthouse was built on the island. In 1791 it began to guide ships coming into the port. It was only the third to have been built in Canada. A signal station was added on the island soon after the light was erected. Today we refer to this signal as the "fog horn." For almost 200 years many light keepers have lived on the island. Eight of them were of Irish descent.

During the early 1800's Partridge Island became Saint John's military post. It was the only one to be used dur-

ing all of Saint John's military activity. Remains of a gun battery built and used during the War of 1812 and used during WWI and WWII can be seen on the island today. Over 4000 soldiers served on the island. Half of these soldiers were of Irish descent.

In 1785 a "pest house", which was a hospital for people with infectious disease, was built. Any ship that carried Yellow Fever, Putrid Bilious or any other contagious disease could travel no further than Partridge Island. During the period 1819-1829 the physician inspected 28704 immigrants. Half the burials on Partridge Island were of Irish descent.

In the 1800's, Ireland was supporting the people with its potato crops. For several years

these crops were poor and this led to "The Potato Famine." To help the situation thousands of people were shipped to North America. The passengers travelled in ships that were overcrowded with very little in supplies. This led to many becoming very sick.

Thousands of Irish travelling to Saint John had to stop at Partridge Island to be looked over by a doctor. Between 1840 and 1845, 88% of the 33500 immigrants that landed in New Brunswick were Irish with the majority landing in Saint John. Those who were sick were quarantined to the island.

They were subjected to a kerosene shower in what was called a delousing plant then a hot shower to wash away the oil. All

of their belongings were steamed clean. These immigrants would remain on the island in one of the 13 pest houses until they got better or died; in which case they were buried in one of the six graveyards. In 1847 alone, more than 600 people died of Typhoid fever.

As time went on the need for quarantine stations lessened. In 1942 it was officially closed down. It is believed that close to 3,000,000 immigrants, passengers, and mariners went through a quarantine inspection. This number consisted of not only the Irish, but Scots, Germans, Swedes, English, and Ukrainians. There were 23 doctors on duty during the history of this quarantine station. Nine of these doctors were of Irish descent. ❁

"You cannot conquer Ireland; you cannot extinguish the Irish passion for freedom. If our deed has not been sufficient to win freedom, then our children will win it by a better deed."

- Patrick Pearse, at his court-martial

Middle Island Irish Historical Park Plans Delayed by Funding Snag

By Marven McCarthy, Chairman, Middle Island Commission

Middle Island, a small island east of the city of Miramichi, is a special place in the hearts of all Irish New Brunswickers. The island was a quarantine station during the Great Famine years and remained so until 1948. Many Irish immigrants are buried on the island, the exact number is unknown because no records can be found. It was virtually unknown to visitors to the region before 1984 when, at the first Irish Festival, a large Celtic cross was placed on the island to commemorate the significance of the site. Since then, much has been done to develop the site so that its historical significance can not only be recognized, but preserved as well.


The focus of our Middle Island Irish historical project is to enhance the visitor experience by immersing them in the poignant and vibrant stories of the Irish immigrants who made the island their first point of contact in North America. The first phase of our project involved the improvement of infrastructure and the preservation of the island from the forces of nature.

With that view, improvements to the appearance of the island such as improved drainage, landscaping and electrical amenities were vital to our future developments. Erosion protection was also a major concern and we have now completed approximately 85% of the total island, protecting it for future generations. The improvements we have completed to Middle Island have given it a completely new and refreshed look and appeal.

During our first phase of development we recognized that the stories of the people involved with the island from the mid 1800's into today were the major attraction. To this end, we developed an interpretive action plan that would highlight these stories within the visitor experiences of the island. We were given development money to begin this work and Phase 2 of the project included interpretive elements that would highlight people such as Dr. John Vondy, the first doctor who tended to the sick immigrants and Capt. John Thain, who captained the largest of the Irish quarantine ships

to reach the island. They are all part of the phase 2 initiatives where visitors will learn and live their experiences. Activities that will allow visitors to cast their own messages about family connections to the island as well as outdoor exhibits and gardens are also integral parts of the next development phase at Middle Island. We are very excited about the enhancements to our Captain's Galley Restaurant and linkage to our amphitheater so that guests will be able to enjoy their meal and the live entertainment that will be featured regularly.

Our plans were progressing well and we were given money to pursue the initial stages of phase 2 by the previous provincial government. Unfortunately, because efforts are being made to redirect this money to another municipal site, our progress has been delayed at this time. Despite this setback, we continue to seek assistance to move our goals forward.

We hope that someday in the future visitors will be able to feel the full Irish immigration experience of Middle Island. 

Irish Canadian Cultural Association Of New Brunswick



Website:

www.newirelandnb.ca

An Irish Stamp Album



By Michael O. Nowlan

After a great start to the first part of 2011, An Post took on special projects, some of which focused on the forests, national parks, and animals and marine life. This parade of several stamps illustrates the broad range of nature that exists on the emerald isle.

Each year, members of the European community are asked to develop stamps on a common theme. Since 2011 has been designated as the Year of the Forest by the United Nations, it was significant that it was also the Europa theme.

Ireland's forests have a somewhat chequered history. Over 6,000 years ago the whole island was awash with lush forests and wonderful wildlife, but, with

An Post pays tribute to Ireland's natural features

the development of industrialization in the 16th century, the plantations of Ireland, and a marked increase in population growth, the forests began to go into steep decline. By 1800, Ireland's forests had all but disappeared.

A revival in Irish forestation began in 1903 with the start of state forestry, when the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction Ireland (DATI) acquired Avondale House and Forest in County Wicklow and established a training centre for forestry there. The birthplace and home of Charles Stewart Parnell, one of Ireland's great politicians, is set in a magnificent forest park of over 500 acres. Today it is a place to be treasured and enjoyed by many.

Knockabbey Castle in County Louth is another fine example of horticulture in Ireland, that, with major restoration,

nificant specimen of trees including the beautiful tulip tree that ranks among the largest and finest in Ireland.

To celebrate the beauty of these two scenic treasures, Design Factory created two stamps that were released on May 5 - a 55-cent denomination depicting the famous Tulip tree in Knockabbey Gardens and an 82-cent denomination illustrating the picturesque River Walk at Avondale Forest Park.



Complementing the Europa theme stamps is a set of six magnificent depictions of Ireland's National Parks which were issued on June 7. Unrivalled in their beauty and home to a

range of exceptional wildlife and flora, the six National Parks of Ireland are: Glenveagh National Park in County Donegal was opened to the public in 1984. Established in 1998, Ballycroy National Park in Mayo is a vast unspoiled wilderness dominated by the Nephin Beg Mountains and the Owenduff bog. Connemara National Park in Galway, which was opened in 1980, features some of the Twelve Pins mountain range, and, when the heather is in bloom alongside the purple moor grass, a stunning purple blanket spreads across the landscape. The Burren National Park in County Clare is internationally famous for a diversity of plants living together in one ecosystem. Killarney National Park in the heart of County Kerry is home to Muckross House, a 19th century mansion. It also



An Irish Stamp Album

(Continued)

showcases glorious oak-woods and the red deer that are unique to Ireland. The last of the six is Wicklow Mountains National Park where visitors will find Glendalough Valley and the ancient monastic settlement of St. Kevin.

Readers will recall how I praised the An Post High Crosses stamp issue of 2010. That issue was voted Stamp Issue of the Year in Ireland in 2010. It would be very difficult to make a distinction between the Europa stamps and the national parks stamps for a 2011 winner, but I would give an edge to the parks. They are exquisite works of art.

Another series that may well be related to the forests and parks is the continuing definitive stamps Ireland issues annually. Definitive stamps are those issued for regular domestic mail and do not commemorate a specific event or subject.

An Post says "if we fail to protect this unique biodiversity, we risk upsetting our island's natural wealth." The biodiversity refers to the plants, animals, fungi, and micro-organisms, the subjects of eight new stamps issued on July 21. They include the sea creatures Beadlet

Anemone, Squat Lobster, Cuckoo Wrasse, and the common frog; and land creatures Greenhuntsman, Elephant Hawk-moth, Goldfinch, and Red Deer.

On September 1, An Post issued a beautiful four-stamp set celebrating the Irish horse. As many know, "From the sleek thoroughbred horse to the sturdy Connemara pony, the beautifully marked coloured horse to the strong and even-tempered beauty that is the Irish Draught horse, Ireland is a country world renowned for its horses." Each of the stamps depicts one of the four types just cited, all in 55-cent denominations. Those who are into horse collectibles will want these items. The stamp images were all

painted by distinguished artist Peter Curling.

On May 12, the Irish Post Office was again celebrating crafts in that country which is not uncommon as my previous columns will attest. Since this is the Year of Craft in Ireland, it is appropriate to celebrate, not only the craft, but also those who create it. The new stamps depict the work of ceramist Deirdre McLoughlin, glass artist Roisin de Buitlear, jewelry maker Inga Reed, Irish textile designer Helen McAllister, and wood turner Liam Flynn. Each of these craftspeople is well known and brings a large degree of self accomplishment to the industry.

2011 marks the

50th anniversary of Amnesty International. Commenced when two Portuguese students raised a toast to freedom, it is now an organization that boasts a membership of 2.8 million supporters and countless successful human rights campaigns. The two students were thrown in jail for daring to raise a glass to freedom, but their cause was heard around the world and included the Campaign against torture, the Stop Violence Against Women campaign, and the campaign for a permanent International Criminal Court. To mark the anniversary An Post released a special stamp on June 30 with the iconic Amnesty International symbol of hope - a lit candle wrapped with barbed wire - the wire symbolizing human oppression. It is a very plain but distinctive item.



August 5, saw the release of five new Irish

An Irish Stamp Album

(Cont'd)

stamps to celebrate Renewable Energy Technologies. Even though the country is "small in size, Ireland is a hotbed of renewable energy." The five main sources of energy that reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions and diversify its energy supply are

wind power, solar power, hydropower, ocean energy, and a range of biomass resources. Each of the five sources is nicely illustrated in this set of colourful stamps.

If you are a sports enthusiast, Ireland celebrated the centenary of the Irish Amateur Boxing

Association with a new issue on April 14, and marked the Solheim Cup, one of the most highly coveted trophies in women's professional golf at Killeen Castle in September.

That is a quick overview of action at An Post, but there will be

more before the year is out, including the always popular Christmas issue.

To learn more about Irish stamps visit the very user friendly website at <http://www.anpost.ie> or write An Post, General Post Office, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Ireland. 

A word of thanks for your support of our annual provincial bursary

By Patricia O'Leary Coughlan

For the past fourteen years, you, the members of our Association have generously donated to this fund along with attendees at the Miramichi Irish Festival. In fact, the draw takes place at this festival.

Until 2010, the former House of Tara, a high-end Irish shop in Saint John, NB, gifted us with the first prize to be drawn and the second prize was donated by Paddy and Agnes Addison, also of Saint John.

Once again, many, many thanks for your kindness throughout the years.

These past two years, thanks to Bruce and Marilyn Driscoll of the Fredericton Capital Region Chapter, who visit Ireland annually, our prizes have been purchased "on the spot".


The 2010 lucky winners were Evelyn O'Leary, St. Peter's, Cape Breton Island, NS and Thomas Ronan, Ottawa, Ontario. Evelyn won a very attractive Royal Tara

Fine China 2-place-setting tea set plus a matching teapot, creamer and sugar bowl. Thomas won a beautiful Celtic pewter bracelet adorned with a semi-precious stone.

This year, the first prize, Kiltrea Pottery, comprised of sugar storage jar, a tea storage jar and a tea bag caddy--all beautifully crafted-- was won by Bob Bourguignon of Miramichi, NB. The second prize, a splendid addition to any festive table arrangement, was a set

of Killarney Crystal candle holders. These went to Christine McGinnis of Renfrew, NB.

Once again, your support is much appreciated and always necessary to help us continue with this very worthwhile project. Thank you for your continued support.

Have a healthy, happy and safe winter and joyous holiday season. 



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Dubliners have their own nicknames for the city's iconic statues

Irish wit and humour has always been unequalled. World-renowned for having an uncanny ability to play with words and phrases, Dubliners have come up with some witty and delightful nicknames for many of the new statues and monuments that celebrate life on the streets of Dublin. Some may consider the nicknames disparaging or vulgar in some cases, but one cannot negate the fact that many of the 'street names' are clever indeed. They often rhyme and in many cases are now the unofficial names for many of the monuments and statues found throughout the centre city.

Anyone who has wandered down Lower Grafton Street in Dublin's city centre has passed by Molly Malone and her fishmonger's cart. The statue celebrates the fictional character memorialized in song which has become Dublin's unofficial anthem worldwide. Dressed in 17th century dress, Molly is quite a 'busty' lady and has been locally labeled many names. She is more commonly referred to as "the Tart with the Cart", but also "the Dish with the



Fish", the "Trollop with the Scallops" and the "Dolly with the Trolley".

Along Lower Liffey Street is found a statue simply entitled "The Meeting Place" – a stone monument of two middle-aged ladies resting on a bench with their shopping bags at their feet. Looking like they simply sat for a bit of a rest and a chat, the monument portrays the city centre as a place where everyone in Dublin meets for shopping, a bite to eat, and a bit of



gossip. Locals couldn't help it - they renamed the piece "The Hags with the Bags".

Anna Livia is a marvelous bronze statue that personifies the River Liffey which runs through the heart of Dublin. The name was taken from a character in James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake* and the statue is of a long, lean, young woman reclining on a slope with water washing over her. It was once located on O'Connell Street, but was moved to Croppy Acre memorial park next to the Liffey this year, after being in storage for several years. When she was put in place Dubliners immediately referred to her as the "Floozie in the Jacuzzi" or the "Whore in the Sewer". The nickname no longer applies as she is now elevated above the water and somehow seems out-of-place in her new location.

All of the above statues were commissioned and put in place during Dublin's millennium celebrations in 1988 to show the lighter side of Dublin life. In 2003, when Anna Livia was removed from O'Connell Street, the Monument of Light, or the Spire of Dublin as it

became known, was built to replace Nelson's Pillar which had been blown up by a dissident group in 1966. A tall stainless steel spire more than 120 meters tall, it wasn't long before Dubliners renamed it "The Spike", "The Stiletto in the Ghetto", "The Stiffy at the Liffey" or "The Rod to God".



Nor are the literary commemorative statues exempt from nicknames.

A wonderful light-hearted statue to the memory of James Joyce sits on North Earl Street just outside Café Kylemore. Sporting his wide brimmed hat and resting on his cane, Joyce appears to be surveying Dublin life with a jolly stance and it is delightful.

Dublin's Statues (cont'd)

However locals refer to it as "The Prick with the Stick". Unjustified it may be, but it was probably so



named by the many English lit students who have

unsuccessfully tried to wade through some of his literary tomes.

Oscar Wilde is memorialized in the north-west corner of St Stephen's Green, not far



from where he grew up at 1 Merrion Square. Known for his flamboyant and controversial lifestyle, Wilde is reclining on a boulder in various shades of coloured stone, and has a bit of a smirk on his face. He is known

locally as "The Queer with the Leer", "The Fag on the Crag", or "The Quare in the Square".

There are several other lighthearted monuments around Dublin's city centre including "Mr. Screen", the diminutive usher who directs patrons into the Screen Cinema on Hawkins Street which can only bring a smile to the face of anyone passing by.

A monument dedicated to Ireland's 20th century poet and writer Patrick Kavanagh, located on a stretch of the Canal between Eustace Street Bridge and Baggot Street Bridge, is also uplifting. It is an amusing

life-sized monument of 'Himself' sitting on a park bench with his shoes typically untied and a book and newspaper hanging out of his pocket. There is a place on the bench for anyone who would like to sit beside him and have a chat. Although it has no known nickname, it is so charming, it deserves one. Any ideas?



Middle Island

By Edna Daley Landry

When I visit Middle Island
I hear not a sound.
I speak not a word or whisper
As I look all around.

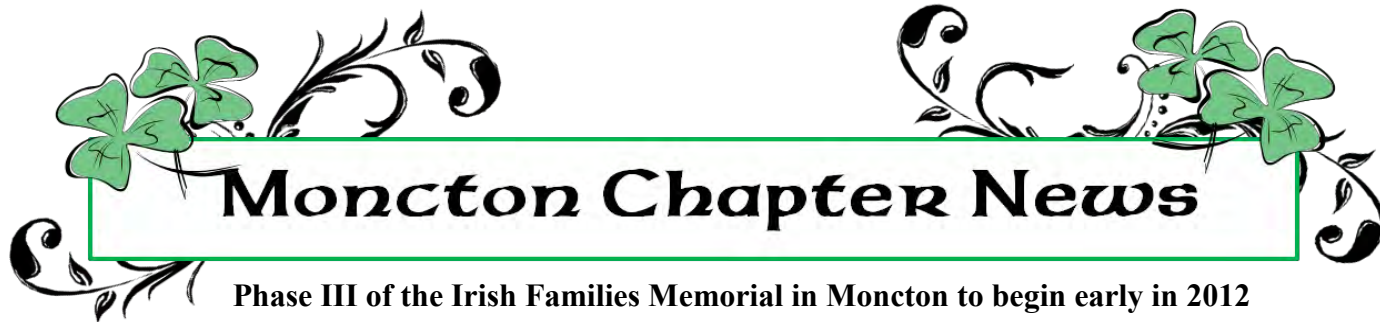
The sun is slowly setting
Upon the Celtic cross
My heart is very heavy
For this great Irish loss.

I stand here in silence
I believe He heard my prayer.
For I think I just heard angels
Flying through the air.

I kiss the cross and say good-bye
On my cheek I feel a tear.
Thank God for the Irish heritage
And bless the souls buried here.

The mighty Miramichi River
With its depths and swells –
If it could only speak
What a sad tale it would tell.





Moncton Chapter News

Phase III of the Irish Families Memorial in Moncton to begin early in 2012

By Paul McCloskey

The Irish Families Memorial on Moncton's riverfront has been repaired and should last many years without much upkeep. The project was taken on by long time member Don O'Connor who did a great job of seeing the work through to the end.

Because of numerous requests, a campaign to have new names added to the monument will be gathering steam early in 2012. We will be contacting local members but if anyone 'from away' is interested, please contact the Chapter for more information.

In an earlier issue of the SL, (Winter 2010/11), we talked about the "Famine Rose" that was brought to our chapter by Dr. John Meagher. Brought to New Brunswick from Ireland circa 1832, clippings of the rose have been transplanted, and it is doing extremely well. We're expecting it to flower next summer. We'll keep everyone up to date on its' progress.

Our chapter handed

out two scholarships again this year. The cheques were handed out to Meghan Trainor (The Reverend Peter McKee Memorial Scholarship) and Erika Murray (The Gerry McCarthy Memorial Scholarship) by founding member, and originator of the program, Frank Hughes.

Once again our chapter took part in the Mosaiq Cultural Festival on Main Street in Mon-



Meghan Trainor & Frank Hughes

ton in August 2011. Entertainment was provided by Bernard Houlihan, Erika Murray and I. The Irish music was well received and we have been asked to take part



Erika Murray & Frank Hughes

again next year.

Valerie and I attended the re-dedication of the Clark-Robinson Memorial Cairn at Osborne Corners on September 23, 2011. An update on the event, written by Dr. Eldon Hay, is found within this issue. Suffice it to say that it was a warm, sunny day and a poignant service by pastor,

William Drysdale. As is usual with these events there was a reception held at the church hall with plates of sandwiches and sweets as well as tea and coffee. I didn't have a chance to sample each of the treats, but I can assure you that those I did were just great.

The Chapter will be holding the election of officers at our next meeting in December.

Congratulations to Linda Evans for taking on the task of editor of the Shamrock Leaf. The Irish magazine is in good hands and will continue with its' high caliber in the future.



Edna Daley Landry of Moncton was surprised this summer to find her image on the bottom left hand corner of the new Miramichi Landings monument on Middle Island. Here she is, standing next to the monument, in her trademark 'green finery'.

Remains of a 19th century tragedy? Bones found at Cap-des-Rosiers, Que, stir up ghosts for the descendants of 1847 shipwreck victims

By Ingrid Peritz, Montreal

It began with a ghoulish discovery on Quebec's Gaspé coast. A construction entrepreneur carrying out survey work came across some scattered bones near the wind-battered shoreline.

Authorities were alerted, then the intrigue began. The bones set off on a course that took them from the police to a coroner then finally to their current resting spot, a Montreal forensics lab. And that is where scientists are to undertake the tantalizing probe that could answer an historical mystery: Are the bones linked to a 19th-century maritime tragedy?

The remains were found in May 2011 on Cap-des-Rosiers, site of an 1847 wreck that took the lives of a shipload of men, women and children fleeing famine and destitution in Ireland.

Accounts have recorded the fate of the doomed ship, *the Carricks*, and its victims' burial in a grave close by. But archeologists say the location has never been pinpointed precisely.

The prospect of unlocking the secret of

the bones' past has roiled emotions among descendants of the wreck's survivors, some of whom still live only a short drive from where their ancestors first came ashore.

The Carricks left Sligo, Ireland with almost 200 passengers and crew, completing the transatlantic voyage before floundering off Cap-des-Rosiers. Accounts vary, but most report the deaths of as many as 120 passengers. The dead – weakened by cold, hunger and exhaustion – were said to be strewn along the beach the following day, then buried,



Hull of the famine ship Carrick of Whitehaven

anonymously, in a common grave nearby.

“For a whole day, two oxcarts carried the dead to two trenches near

the scene of the disaster,” author Margaret Grant MacWhirter wrote in a book on the Gaspé published in 1919. “In fall, the heavy storms sweep within sound of the spot. Thus peacefully, with the requiem of the waves, and winds, they rest.”

A half-century after the disaster, the parish of St Patrick's in Montreal erected a stone marker at Cap-des-Rosiers to the victims whose bodies were recovered and interred. “Sacred to the memory of 187 Irish immigrants from Sligo...87 are buried here,” its inscription reads.

The bones that sur-

within Forillon National Park. The coastline has been affected by erosion and heavy tides, the forces that exposed the human remains.

However, a Parks Canada archeologist says the precise spot of the Carricks burial ground was never documented, and it's not known if it lies at the monument site. Some accounts say the bodies were interred further up the coast in a church cemetery.

Seeking answers, Parks Canada transferred the bones to the Sûreté du Québec, which concluded the discovery wasn't a criminal matter and the bones were likely from the common grave, according to a police spokesman. The case was referred to coroner Gabriel Jean, who found sufficient grounds to order an investigation and forwarded the bones for analysis to Québec's Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale in Montreal.

The coroner believes the bones, while not making up complete skeletons, are those of four or five people in all, including at least two adults and one child.

19th Century Tragedy? (cont'd)

“There is a strong probability the bones came from the communal grave,” said Geneviève Guilbault, a spokeswoman for the coroner’s office. “We want to be sure it’s the case.”

That possibility has stirred up the ghosts of history for those touched by the tragedy. Georges Kavanagh grew up within walking distance of the monument to the Carricks, and for him it has always been hallowed ground. His ancestors, Patrick Kavanagh and Sarah McDonald, came to the same shores aboard the Carricks (also referred to sometimes as the Carrick or Carricks of Whitehaven). They survived the harrowing transatlantic voyage with their 12-year-old son, but five daughters perished.

Georges Kavanagh, a unilingual francophone, feels a strong pull to the story of his Irish forebearers, and he travelled to Sligo last year to connect with his roots. He says local oral history

always placed the Carricks grave next to the monument, and if the bones prove to be those of the victims, they de-



serve a proper burial.

“I consider that to be something of a sacred site,” the 71-year-old said from his home in Gaspé, about 50 kilometres from the monument, which he visits regularly. “To think that so many perished in a shipwreck just a few steps from their promised land. I have great admiration for what they tried to do, leaving everything behind for the hope of better living conditions.”

The Carricks was one of hundreds of mi-

grant ships bound for the port of Québec City in 1847, the darkest year of the famine in Ireland. The voyage required a stop at the quarantine station of Grosse-Ile, where many refugees met their deaths from disease. Nearly 400 ships sailed that year toward Québec, the main immigration gateway into Canada, filled overwhelmingly with Irish passengers. One in five never made it.

The mystery at Cap-des-Rosiers seems to have the makings for an episode of the TV series *Bones*. And in fact the case could fall into the hands of Kathy Reichs, the author and real-life forensic anthropologist who inspired the Fox show. She works as a consultant at the Montreal forensics lab.

The lab declined a request for an interview about the Cap-des-Rosiers case. But Mark Skinner, a forensic archaeologist and forensic archaeologist at Simon Fraser University, said

scientists studying the remains could seek out their secrets through methods such as DNA testing or isotopic analysis that could yield clues about diet; that would help determine whether the dead were local residents or from another country such as Ireland.

“The bones should be allowed to speak, they should be allowed to tell us what they can,” Prof. Skinner said.

“These people won’t live again, but their story can be told. And this story is huge. It’s very touching and tragic. It would be nice to at least honour them this way, so their obscure lives are not so obscure, and their lives matter. These people mattered then,” he said, “and they have a story to tell now.”



Note: This article first appeared in the Globe and Mail on 20 Jul 2011. It is reprinted here with permission.



Irish Christmas Traditions

The placing of a ring of holly on doors originated in Ireland as holly was one of the main plants that flourished at Christmas time and which gave the poor ample means with which to decorate their dwellings.

All decorations are traditionally taken down on Little Christmas (January 6th) and it is considered bad luck to take them down beforehand.

Does Anyone Know...???

We regularly receive questions from readers of the SL or from visitors to our ICCANB website regarding historical or genealogical research. While we do not have the resources to assist with this type of research, we will provide limited space in each production run to post questions for others to respond to. Unfortunately we cannot post them all but will draw from those received.

To be included, requests **MUST** include a contact email address as the SL **will not** act as intermediary between parties. *Please respond directly to the person requesting the information.*



Roach family:

I saw your post about John Roach his wife Jane and 4 children. [*ed: on ICCANB website*] I have a Margaret Roach born 1770 married John Innis. They moved to Ontario in 1825. Since they were married at Sussex, Kings, NB and the eldest son of your John Roach married a "Ms. Innes," do you know if any other Roaches lived in Roachville, Sussex, Kings, NB?

- Tim Moore [timjes@gmail.com]

Dr. Freeland Kennedy :

Hi, I have Irish ancestors who lived in New Brunswick before relocating to Boston, MA, USA. In an old photo album from the above-mentioned family is a portrait photo from St. John, NB and written on it is "Freely Kennedy." I was wondering if any photos of Dr. Freeland Kennedy existed to your knowledge. I thought Dr. Kennedy and the Freely Kennedy in my family photo album might be one and the same. Thank you.

- Sandy [sandynewengland@gmail.com]

Edward McQuade:

I am searching for information on Edward McQuade. He was born in Ireland between 1821 and 1828. He arrived in New-Brunswick in 1844 (I don't know if he came alone or not and in which NB port he arrived) and got married to Elisabeth (Bessy) Bowmaster. They had 10 children between 1848 and 1881: Henry, Mary, Charles-A, Lydia, James Edmond, Charlotte-Jane, Lewis-Louis, Emily-Aidey, Elisabeth and Edward. According to the 1851 census, they lived in Perth and according to the 1856, 1861 and 1891 censuses, they lived in Drummond. Edward died in Drummond (Rangers) on May 29, 1896. I think Edward was either from Monaghan, Armagh, Fermanagh or Tyrone County. Any more information about him would be appreciated, so I can make the link with Ireland.

- Manuelle Légaré [manuelle.legare@radio-canada.ca]

Matchett family:

I have some info on my family (Matchett from Cavan county Ireland) and am searching for more. My great-great-grandfather was William Matchett who immigrated from Ireland about 1815 at the age of fifteen years. He settled in the Miramichi, married a Mary Fraser, settled on her father's land and became a ferry operator, a job he did until his death about 1875. So far I have been unable to go back any further in the Matchett line. Some info I have states he is the apparent ancestor of all the Matchetts to originate on the Miramichi. There may be some info on him with the NB census info. I have library film, 1375821, page 19, household #80, district 35, division 1, sub district C. I would appreciate any information that would help trace the family back to Ireland.

- Irene (Matchett) McRae [ijmccrea@hotmail.com]

John Donnelly

I am trying to trace my great-great-grandfather's history. He was born about 1814 in Ireland, was a resident of Bathurst, Gloucester, New Brunswick, and married Marie Degrace. Their daughter, Lucy McKendy, passed away 31 Oct 1934. Their son, John Donnelly, migrated to Australia. I am unable to trace his history back to Ireland. Could you please advise? Any help would be appreciated.

- William Hill [crab7@bigpond.net.au]

Does Anyone Know...??? (cont'd)

John and Mary Ann McCorkill:

Two relatives of mine, John McCorkill and Mary Ann McCorkill from Moville, Donegal, Ireland sailed on the Ann to St John, New Brunswick, Canada in 1853. I have been unable to find them in Canadian Census records afterwards. Does anyone have any suggestions as to where else I might look? I know of other relatives who settled in Victoria, BC in the 1860's/70's but can't find Mary Ann or John. Thank you.

- Joe McCorkell [jmcorkell@gmail.com]

Jeremiah Martin:

I have been searching for the parents and siblings of Jeremiah Martin who was born about 1813 at Garrettstown, Ballin-spittle, Cork, Ireland. He left Ireland and arrived in New Brunswick, date unknown. Jeremiah married Eleanor Maguire who was born about 1819 in either New Brunswick or Ireland. Eleanor was the daughter of Philip and Ann Maguire. Jeremiah and Eleanor had a daughter Mary Ann Martin born about 1841 in New Brunswick and a son James Martin also born about 1843 in New Brunswick. Jeremiah, Eleanor, Mary Ann and James arrived in Boston, Massachusetts on August 3, 1848. They settled in Brighton Massachusetts, a suburb of, and later incorporated into Boston. Jeremiah died 1877; Eleanor died 1880 both in Brighton. Mary Ann Martin never married, was a successful self employed dress maker who died 1929. James Martin was last found in 1860 in Brighton.

- James Martin [jimtrees@aol.com]

John Donallon Howe:

John Donallon Howe, my maternal grandfather, who lived out his life in Saint John--was a furniture cabinet maker. Much of his work is throughout N.B. viz. the secretary desk in the Provincial Legislature and work in Christ Church Cathedral. I know too little of his past but would like to contact someone who knows a bit about J.@ J.D. Howe who lived on Elliot Row, Saint John. Thank you.

- Geo. H. Evans [george_evans@rogers.com]

Jerry McCafferty:

Jerry McCafferty was my mother's father who lived on Mitchall Street Miramichi. He was said to have come from Ireland and settled first in Shinnickburn, Northumberland County of New Brunswick but I can't find any trace of land grants. He married Molly Mullin from Sillickers and worked at Andersons Mill, Newcastle. Can you give me any more info? - Douglas M. Wood [douglaswood_1@hotmail.com]

NOTE: *Inquiries for posting should be sent via the ICCANB email at: info@newirelandnb.ca Space is limited therefore we cannot guarantee that your query will be published. Responses to an inquiry MUST be sent directly to the person. We WILL NOT forward responses received through the ICCANB.*

Between the Leaving and Returning is the True Story

by Bruce Driscoll

It didn't matter
Whenever we were driven off our
lands

Because there was always some-
where
Else to go

Or...we were dying...or already
dead

So we made choices
Out of no choices at all
And scattered to places
Not worried we would have
Something they wanted

Or they had something
We wanted

We brought our hearts and minds
Our memories and dreams
But no expectations
Having nothing

It was easy to expect nothing
And every measure gained
Was a gift

And by the time there
Was a home
To come home to
We sent our descendants.

bd

April 2011

Baltimore, County Cork

Ireland



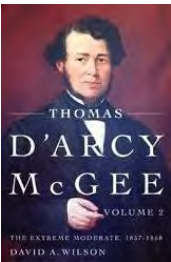
Book Reviews

by Marilyn Driscoll

To understand the heart and soul of a country you must know its history, language, folklore and culture. Now is the time to begin a small Irish library in your home. In doing so, you will pass on to your children the richness of the culture of their ancestors.

The book reviews included in this issue, with the exception of the Liffey Rivers books and the new release about Thomas D'Arcy McGee, are provided by Read Ireland, with permission. Current issues of Read Ireland's Irish Book Reviews can be found at: <http://www.readireland.ie/booknews.html>.

Non-Fiction:



Thomas D'Arcy McGee Volume 2: The Extreme Moderate 1857—1868

By David A. Wilson
512 pages
ISBN 978-0-77353-903-7

In the second volume of his biography (following 2008's *Thomas D'Arcy McGee: Passion, Reason, and Politics, 1825-1857*), Wilson shows how both McGee's words and actions played a key part in creating what we can recognize as our modern Canadian consciousness. Wilson links McGee's experiences with violence between Catholics and Protestants in the Old World to his goal of fostering an open and tolerant Canadian society. The skilful blend of McGee's own words and Wilson's analysis will surely make even the most disinterested student of history feel at least a tiny bit prouder to be Canadian. (Condensed from a review by Megan Moore Burns for *Quill & Quire*—Sep 2011)

A History of Ireland in 250 Episodes

By Jonathan Bardon
560 Pages
ISBN 978-0717146499

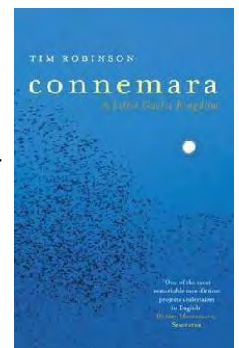


Jonathan Bardon covers all the obvious things: the invasions, battles, development of towns and cities, the Reformation, the Georgian era, the Famine, rebellions and resistance, the difference of Ulster, partition, and the twentieth century. What makes his book so valuable, however, are the quirky subjects he chooses to illustrate how history really works: the great winter freeze of 1740 and the famine that followed; crime and dueling; an emigrant voyage; and, evictions. These episodes get behind the historical headlines to give a glimpse of past realities that might otherwise be lost to view. The author has retained the original episodic structure of the radio programs. The result is a marvelous mosaic of the Irish past, delivered with clarity and narrative skill.

Connemara: A Little Gaelic Kingdom

by Tim Robinson
432 pages
ISBN 978-1844882373

Connemara: A Little Gaelic Kingdom is the triumphant conclusion to Tim Robinson's extraordinary Connemara trilogy, which Robert Macfarlane has called 'one of the most remarkable non-fiction projects undertaken in English'. Robinson writes about the people, places and history of south Connemara - one of Ireland's last Gaelic-speaking enclaves - with the encyclopaedic knowledge of a cartographer and the grace of a born writer. From the man who has been praised in the highest terms by Joseph O'Connor ('Robinson writes with passion, grace and scholarly scruple, but also with extraordinary beauty'), John Burnside ('one of the finest of contemporary prose stylists') and Giles Foden ('an indubitable classic'), among many others, this is one of the publishing events of 2011 and the conclusion of one of the great literary projects of our time.



Book Reviews (cont'd)



Romantic Irish Homes

by Robert O'Byrne with photographs by Simon Brown

176 pages

ISBN 978-1906525729

Irish houses have a character and personality quite different from that found anywhere else. Quixotic, often whimsical, and definitely quirky, they provide a sanctuary from the Irish climate, which is frequently grey, cold, and damp. Romantic Irish Homes presents 15 of the finest examples of these traits, each one of them distinctive and yet sharing the same native spirit. From vast ancient castles through sturdy Georgian manors to small farmhouses, the majority of them never previously photographed, the homes featured here offer a unique insight into the

Irish temperament and an exploration of a style of decoration that, while adapted to meet 21st-century demands, still retains an historic integrity.

Fiction:

On Canaan's Side

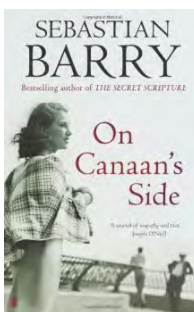
By Sebastian Barry

304 pages

ISBN 978-0670022922

Narrated by Lilly Bere, *On Canaan's Side* opens as she mourns the loss of her grandson, Bill. The story then goes back to the moment she was forced to flee Dublin, at the end of the First World War, and follows her life through into the new world of America, a world filled with both hope and danger.

At once epic and intimate, Lilly's narrative unfurls as she tries to make sense of the sorrows and troubles of her life and of the people whose lives she has touched. Spanning nearly seven decades, it is a novel of memory, war, family-ties and love, which once again displays Sebastian Barry's exquisite prose and gift for storytelling.



Hand in the Fire

By Hugo Hamilton

278 pages

ISBN 978-000-7324835

A Serbian immigrant's immediate friendship with a young Dublin lawyer, Kevin Concannon, is overshadowed by a violent incident in which a man is left for dead in the street one night.

The legal fallout forces them into an ever closer, uncertain partnership. Drawing on his own speckled, Irish-German background, Hugo Hamilton has given us a highly compelling and original view of contemporary Ireland, the nature of welcome and the uneasy trespassing into a new country.

"A fine and timely book from an exquisitely gifted writer, this is beautiful, subtle, unflashy, perfectly realised and quite extraordinarily powerful" - **Joseph O'Connor**

For our Young Readers—The Liffey Rivers Irish Dance Mysteries:

Author Brenna Briggs has created 13-year-old Irish Dancer-Girl Detective, Liffey Rivers, to subtly fuse the familiar backdrop of a feis with "disguised" Irish history and culture information for her readers.

Liffey Rivers' world changed forever when she turned thirteen, solved her first mystery, became a girl detective and discovered that eating spaghetti and meatballs the night before an Irish dance competition is as important as tying your ghillies before you do your first leapover.

"Author Brenna Briggs has created the perfect series of adventures for Irish dancers... Each one is a delightful read for dancers, lovers of Ireland and lovers of a good mystery, and a great way for kids to learn a bit more about their Irish and other cultures."

London: THE IRISH WORLD



Capital Area Chapter News

Well, despite the fact that Marilyn and I spent 3 months of the spring in Baltimore, Ireland, enjoying some great Irish music every week, and despite the wet weeks of July and August, it was a busy time for our Chapter, as I'm sure it was for all of you. The Chapter celebrated Bloomsday in June, along with a get-together at Phil Williams', participated in the Multi-Cultural weekend, took part in the Irish Festival, and the Highland Games, and sold tickets on a gift basket (the winner was Ron Green) for our scholar-

ship fund; just to mention a few activities. Sincere thanks go to all members who put time and effort into the events.

Our September Chapter meeting saw us establish plans for winter activities, and on into St. Patrick's Week in March. In October, the Malones hosted a fall get-together, with about 30 attendees, including the newest St. Thomas Irish language teacher, Críostóir Ó hUigín (Chris Higgins). We held our 6th annual Tellabration on November 19th with, appropriately enough, six story-



Gift Basket Winner: Ron Green, Fredericton with Bruce Driscoll, Capital Area Chapter



Storytellers and a couple of participants at our annual Tellabration! L-R: Ron Bagnell, Críostóir Ó hUigín, Stewart Donovan, Barb Heans, Larry Heans, Joan Meade, Maria Bourgeois, Beth McDermott (organizer), Helen Mórág McKinnon

tellers. There was a gathering of about 25, including some non-members, which was encouraging. This event, which is held world-wide, seems particularly fitting given our role as promoters of Irish history and culture. In late November we will have our Annual General Meeting with election of officers and Christmas in Killarney will be held in early December.

One issue we struggle with, and I'm sure it's not uncommon, is

interesting the larger Chapter membership in participating in the governance of the group. My experience in the past 8-10 years convinces me that we run the risk of burning out our dedicated members, and will not have an emerging group to pick up the work; having said that, they are a wonderful group to burn out with.

- Bruce d.,
Chapter President.



"Ireland is a peculiar society in the sense that it was a nineteenth century society up to about 1970 then it almost bypassed the twentieth century."

- Author John McGahern

Richard Hughes will be remembered as a man of integrity

One of the earliest members of the ICCA of NB, Richard Hughes, passed away in October in Fredericton. He will be remembered by many of us and left behind a wealth of writings for many generations to enjoy as well.

Hughes was a founding member of the Capital Region Chapter, as well as a member of the provincial executive over the years. He also contributed many articles to the Shamrock Leaf over the years including a wonderful piece on one of his ancestors, the Hon.

Justice Jeremiah Hayes Barry (Vol. 38).

Richard had a very keen interest in his Irish roots and spent his retirement years working on a very comprehensive and detailed genealogy of his family. This extensive work is available at the Provincial Archives in Fredericton.

Many of us in the association knew him simply as "Dick". He was just one of us and often the voice of reason during meetings. When the discussion got a little heated or a little off-topic, he could be relied on to bring us back to

ground-level and to the topic at hand.

However, many of us did not realize 'who he was' before retirement as he was never one to 'toot his own horn'. His professional career was remarkable indeed.

As a journalist, broadcaster, speechwriter and media relations specialist, Richard Hughes had an impressive past, not only in New Brunswick, but in Great Britain as well.


He began his career with the *Daily Gleaner* in Fredericton and he used to say, "It was my lucky day when I first stumbled into journalism". From there he moved on to editorial positions in radio, television and newspapers including Lord Beaverbrook's *Sunday Express* in London.

Returning to New Brunswick he was a founding member of the New Brunswick Information Service. While there he provided media advice and his able speech writing services to Premiers



Robichaud, Hatfield and McKenna.

The son of the late Hon. Charles Hughes and Edith Atwater, Richard Atwater Hughes was born in St. Stephen, NB in 1939. He is survived by his wife, Judy (Horvath), a daughter, and two step-daughters.

Richard Hughes had a remarkable life and he enjoyed every minute of it. Like his ancestor, Jeremiah Barry, an immigrant son who was a role model for many Irish Catholic families wishing professional careers for their sons and daughters, Richard Hughes was a role model for many of us. He will be missed. 

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"Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity."

- Sean O'Casey

Bits and Pieces

By Linda Evans

Michael D Higgins was elected President of Ireland in October. A lecturer and poet, he was a member of the Labour party, and represented Galway West. He was the Minister of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht from 1993 to 1997. The President is officially Ireland's head of state, but it is, for the most part, a ceremonial office. The position lasts for seven years. He replaces Mary McAleese who held the position for two terms. In his inaugural speech in November at Dublin Castle, Higgins stated, "My Presidency will be a Presidency of transformation, recognizing and building on the many positive initiatives already under way in communities, in the economy, and in individual and collective efforts throughout our land." ♣♣♣

The Ireland Canada University Foundation encourages and facilitates links between scholars in Ireland and Canada. It offers the Dobbin Scholarship Program which grants short term visiting scholarships to both Irish and Canadian scholars in support of their research which relates to both countries. The scholarships can cover travel costs and short-term visits –usually one month. For more information, check out their website at www.icuf.ie. ♣♣♣

The 2012 Canadian Association of Irish Studies Conference will be held in Ottawa from June 20-23 at the University of Ottawa. Cecil Houston, co-author of *Irish Emigration and Canadian Settlement Patterns, Links and Letters and The Sash Canada Wore: a Historical Geography of the Orange Order* will give the Marianna O'Gallagher lecture during the conference. ♣♣♣

An Irish history magazine called *Scolaire Staire* (History Scholar) is a new free on-line magazine for those interested in Irish history. The first issue came out in October and can be downloaded in PDF format for reading. It includes articles on how British artists portrayed Ireland through their art, Irish nationalism and the Boer War and North-South relations in the 1960's. It is published in Buncrana, County Donegal. To access this free magazine, go to www.scolairestaire.com. ♣♣♣

17 year-old Fredericton, NB native, Kathleen Gorey-McSorley is this year's recipient of the Royal Conservatory of Music Gold Medal for highest standing in the Atlantic Region for classical violin, class seven. The award was presented in Halifax Nov. 26. Unfortunately she was unable to attend the ceremony due to her commitment to the NB Youth Orchestra that weekend.

She will also be the feature interview in Irish Music Magazine in February 2012. IMM is "the definitive voice of Irish Music", published in Dublin with worldwide distribution. They will also do a review of her latest CD "Cheoil Binn" (Irish for Sweet Music). This is the CD that received an ECMA nomination as Roots/Traditional Solo Recording of the Year in April 2011.

Kathleen is pleased to announce that she has been approached for, and accepted the position of "celebrity" spokesperson for Easter Seals New Brunswick. She will also be involved with Easter Seals Canada's national "abilities" ad campaign. ♣♣♣

Erika Murray of Riverview, who is the current holder of the Inishowen Fiddle, was named Miss Talent New Brunswick this summer at the Miss New Brunswick Pageant held in Woodstock. She was Miss Albert County in 2010 ♣♣♣

Bits and Pieces (cont'd)

Am Amharclann, a theatre company in Saint John is still going strong. The director, Patrick Toner, is dedicated and devoted to producing works of Irish playwrights. ♣♣♣

Father Leon Creamer has just published a biography of Father Benedict Murdoch. Entitled *Shepherd of the Woods*, it tells the fascinating story of the priest and novelist who for nearly thirty years lived alone in a cabin in the Bartibog woods. Escaping war fatigue, better known today as shell shock, Murdoch went into seclusion in 1932 and wrote prolifically while there. The book is available at Books Inn, 144 Newcastle Blvd, Miramichi. ♣♣♣

Newfoundlander, Loyola Hearn was appointed the new Canadian Ambassador to Ireland last January. When he was presented to President Mary McAleese at Áras an Uachtaráin, the new ambassador commented on the good relations between Canada and Ireland and asked. "Why shouldn't they be good? Four million Canadians can brag about their Irish ancestry. Fifty percent of the residents of my own Province, Newfoundland/Labrador, have Irish roots and in my own area, almost 100% of the people have Irish ancestry. My own forefathers came from Carrick on Suir and Kilkenny." ♣♣♣

Derry, Northern Ireland has been selected as the first Capital of Culture in the UK in 2013. The first city to hold the new honour, Derry beat out Birmingham, Norwich and Sheffield who were also vying for the title. The new title was established by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and will build on the success of Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture in 2008, which had significant cultural and economic benefits for the area. ♣♣♣

The Irish Times website www.irishtimes.com is not only about news – although that is enough reason to visit it in itself! It also has a link to www.ireland.com, the tourism website which has loads of information for those considering a visit to Ireland. ♣♣♣

Preliminary results from the 2011 Irish census shows that

- the total population of the Republic of Ireland was 4.58M, representing an increase of 8% over the past five years since the last census in 2006. This indicates an overall population figure for Ireland as approx. 6.3M.
- the highest percentage population increase was in Co Laois. With an increase rate of 20%, this was more than twice the rate for the State as a whole. Other counties showing strong population growth were Cavan (13.9%), Fingal in Dublin (13.8%), Meath (13%) and Kildare (12.7%). Kerry had the lowest increase at 3%.
- There are now more females than males in the country, with 981 males for every 1000 females. This represents a reversal of the situation in the last census of 2006, where there were slightly more males than females.

Further information on Census 2011 is available on the website of the Central Statistics Office, www.cso.ie
♣♣♣

The travelling exhibition from the National Library of Ireland, *The Life and Work of William Butler Yeats*, was in Canada this past spring. The exhibition, which consists of a series of panels exploring WB Yeats' poetry and politics as well as his fascinating personal life, is based on a wonderful interactive multimedia exhibit which is currently on display at the National Library in Dublin. This is well worth visiting when you next find yourself in Ireland, but until then you can also check out an online version on their website: www.nli.ie/yeats/ . ♣♣♣



Membership Form

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