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the celtic connection

ISSUE 24 VOLUME 9

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NOVEMBER 2015



PHOTO: Melissa Knight

MICHAEL D. HIGGINS the President of Ireland and his wife Sabina were warmly welcomed by about 400 guests at McCaw Hall in Seattle on Thursday, October 22. The couple were escorted into the reception by the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums. Pictured above with the president and his wife (L-R) Michael Shiosaki, Ed Murray, the Mayor of Seattle, President Higgins and Sabina, Kathleen O'Toole, the Seattle Chief of Police, and (far right) Dan O'Toole. [Read more on pages 12, 13, 22]

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WIN FREE TICKETS

Win a pair (2) of tickets to Winter Harp concert at St. Andrew's Wesley United Church, Vancouver on December 19th. (See page 5 for details). Entry by November 28. Mark your entry: Winter Harp. Entries by e-mail only. Mark the name of the event on your entry, including your name and daytime telephone number. (Only one entry per person.) Send to: cbutler@telus.net



PHOTO: Chad Hipolito

TRAGEDY IN TOFINO, B.C. – PREMIER Christy Clark greets British consul general Rupert Potter following the sinking of a whale-watching cruise that claimed the lives of five Britons and one Australian who remains missing. [More on page 2]



JUSTIN TRUDEAU sworn into office as Canada's new Liberal prime minister. He is pictured here along with his wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau and their children Xavier, Ella-Grace and Hadrien and Trudeau's mother Margaret Trudeau as they walk to Rideau Hall with his future cabinet to take part in a swearing-in ceremony in Ottawa on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. The 43-year-old son of late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, became the second-youngest prime minister in Canadian history and he has Scottish roots on both sides of his family tree. [Read more inside on page 10]

Five Britons dead after whale-watching boat sinks

TOFINO, BC – Five Britons were killed when a whale-watching boat sank off the coast of British Columbia on Sunday, October 25.

The boat carrying 27 people sank near Tofino, a popular tourist area on Vancouver Island, killing one woman and four men. Officials said 21 people had been rescued and one was still missing.

The shocked survivors told rescuers they could not believe how fast their boat turned over and plunged them into the frigid waters. So quickly, in fact, that the stunned owner of the Leviathan II said the skipper did not even get off a distress call.

But someone did manage to fire a flare, setting in motion a remarkable rescue effort by fishermen and pleasure boats that prevented an even greater tragedy.

The B.C. Coroners Service said that three victims were UK tourists, while two others were Canadian residents who retained British citizenship.

They included David Thomas (50), and his son, Stephen (18), from Swindon.

Stephen had Down's syndrome.

Jack Slater (76) lived in Toronto, Ontario, and Katie Taylor (29) lived in Whistler, B.C.

The fifth victim was Nigel Francis Hooker (63) from Southampton. RCMP dive teams continued to search for a 27-year-old Australian man.

The Canadian Transport Safety Board began an investigation into what sank the 20-metre vessel but the full investigation is expected to take months.

Leviathan II's owner, Jamie Bray, said he could not believe the boat capsized. "Traumatised would be an appropriate word. Disbelief," he said. "I think the whole community has experienced the same emotions."

Bray said the vessel had made the same trip every day for 20 years without incident and that the skipper had 18 years of experience.

"We just don't understand, and we

won't know the answers until the Transportation Safety Board finishes their investigation," he said.

Fishermen said the area is known for occasional freak waves. Most of the tourists who were watching the sea lions did not have time to put on life jackets, although plenty were available. Some survivors grabbed them floating in the sea.

The rescuers said one of the crew fired a flare she found in the water. It was spotted by fishermen from the indigenous Ahousaht First Nation a few miles to the north, who set the radio waves alight with a call for support. Boats immediately joined the rescue.

The radio call was also picked up in Tofino, and boats already at sea headed for the rescue area. Those at the dock soon followed.

B.C. Premier Christy Clark said she was horrified and heartbroken when she heard about the capsized boat but she's proud of the way British Columbians came together to help.

"The Ahousaht First Nation, the people of Tofino, the people who know this coast so well, when there was a crisis, when there were lives at risk, people



RCMP officers on the dock at Tofino as they prepare to continue searching for the remaining victim of the sinking of the Leviathan II.

stepped up and stepped in and saved lives," Clark said, as she thanked the community.

The British consul general in Vancouver, Rupert Potter, was in Tofino to assist survivors who lost relatives.

He shook hands with Clark and expressed his thanks for the support he and the victims' families have been receiving.

"What always strikes me in these situations is the bravery that people show, and that's definitely been the case here, how they manage to continue coping when they've had such loss," he said.

Potter, who also visited survivors in hospital, said that several families of the victims were travelling to the town from the UK. He described the response of the community in Tofino as "really remarkable."



PHOTO: Ken Brown

SURVIVORS were in shock after being pulled from the water by members of the Ahousaht First Nation and other boaters in the area. A total of 21 people were saved, but five died when the whale-watching boat sank. One person remains missing.



FRANK AND BRENDA Dudfield hold a copy of *The Celtic Connection* on a tower of an unrestored area of the Great Wall, in Gubeikou, near Beijing, China. During their three week visit to China in September, they took walks in Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an visiting the Terracotta Warriors; a morning cruise on the River Li from Guilin; a four-day cruise on the Yangtze River and ending in Chengdu home of the Panda Research Centre, where there was a large International Volkssport Olympiad. They said China is an amazing country with some great scenery, but very crowded in the cities where no one has any regard to traffic regulations.

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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Maura De Freitas - Publisher • E-Mail: maura@telus.net
Catholine Butler - Advertising • E-Mail: cbutler@telus.net
Colleen Carpenter - Copy Editor • Ainsley Baldwin - Ad Production

Distribution: Arlyn Lingat • Allison Moore • Linda Robb • Frank Dudfield in Surrey • Neville Thomas in Burnaby & Coquitlam • Eifion Williams in Burnaby & Coquitlam • Laurie Lang in Coquitlam & Port Moody • Joanne Long in Mission • Bill Duncan in Maple Ridge • Nanci Spieker and Heather Murphy in Seattle • Oliver Grealish in Edmonton.

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Beautiful Yuletide concerts feature Celtic and Medieval music

VANCOUVER – This Christmas season form a new holiday tradition and join Caelestra for an evening of beautiful Yuletide music both old and new.

Featuring the heavenly voice of lyric soprano Lambroula Maria Pappas, the Celtic flute of Michelle Carlisle, and the songs of fantasy-folk songwriter Britta Curkovic, Caelestra will take you on a journey back in time and around the globe.

With the five talented musicians performing in full medieval costume, rich vocal harmonies, and music played on flute, harp, guitars, hand drums and cello, this concert will keep you captivated from beginning to end.

Caelestra is a Canadian Medieval-Celtic folk band, founded by well known Celtic flautist and singer Michelle Carlisle; Vancouver songwriter, Celtic harpist, songwriter and composer Britta Curkovic; and classically trained soprano Lambroula Pappas.

Joining them are the passionate rhythms of percussionist Sacha Levin, and the gorgeous cello lines of Spanish inspired cellist, Cyrena Huang.

Caelestra will entertain you with jigs and reels, heart-wrenching airs and ballads,



CAELESTRA features the heavenly voice of lyric soprano Lambroula Maria Pappas, the Celtic flute of Michelle Carlisle, and the songs of fantasy-folk songwriter Britta Curkovic. Joining them are the passionate rhythms of percussionist Sacha Levin, and the gorgeous cello lines of Spanish inspired cellist, Cyrena Huang.

sprightly renaissance tunes, and traditional Celtic and Christmas music.

With three concert dates to choose from – Friday, November 27 in Port Moody, Saturday, November 28 in Langley, and Sunday, December 13 in New Westminster – and 50 percent of ticket sales going to charity, you'll want to make sure not to miss this musical holiday experience.

Get full concert details, and purchase your tickets online now, at www.Caelestra.com.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

GUILT of course is not an emotion in the Celtic countries, it is simply a way of life—a kind of gleefully painful social anesthetic.

— A.L. Kennedy [1965-]

Alison Louise "A. L." Kennedy is a Scottish writer and stand-up comedian. She is known for her characteristically dark tone, a blending of realism and fantasy.

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WHERE: Hilton Hotel Metrotown ~ Crystal Ballroom, Burnaby, B.C.

COST: Cost is \$15 per person

Skytrain Station is nearby with easy access via the pedestrian walkway. Plenty of free underground parking also available. Doors open at 11 AM with entertainment by popular local musicians Blackthorn.

Reservations required. Space is limited so book early!

- George McDonnell at (604) 948-2885 e-mail: crumlin@eastlink.ca
- Tony McCamley (604) 765-1595 e-mail: mccamley@nwgypsum.com

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A wild month on the road and some breathtakingly brilliant music

LAST month Margaret and I flew east to Halifax and drove up to Cape Breton for the 19th annual **Celtic Colours Festival**.

This is an amazing event, staged in dozens of venues all around Nova Scotia's famed island. Celtic musicians and fans from all around the world gather at the Gaelic College in St. Anne's every night for the Festival Club.

Concerts take place each evening in a variety of community halls and theatres – and there are plenty of events during the day as well, including workshops on everything from beginning fiddle to quilting, ceilidh dancing to photography, and Gaelic lessons to tree planting!

Throw in some community meals, museum visits, sailing excursions, trips down a mine, live CBC broadcasts, and open mic jam sessions and you have a stunning diversity of events.

We were only there for 7 days out of the 10, but even then it was very hard to choose which concerts to see.

Given that most of the venues are at least an hour's drive from St. Anne's (near Baddeck) and there are so many tourist sites to visit (Cabot Trail, Louisbourg Fortress, Rita MacNeil's Tea House, Alexander Graham Bell Museum, Iona Highland Village, and the Acadian fishing village of Cheticamp, for example) this festival requires a lot of driving!

We met up with my cousin Elaine and her husband Greg in Port Hastings for a fish cake supper in the firehall before heading over to Port Hawkesbury for the opening night concert. What an extravaganza that was!

Loreena McKennitt started things off, playing harp, accordion and piano and accompanied by **Caroline Lavelle** on cello and **Brian Hughes** on guitar.

She usually has a bigger band, but this was just right. Spellbinding vocals and gorgeous arrangements; what a treat to hear her again.

Bonny Swans, The Lady Of Shallot, Yeats' Stolen Child, Bonny Portmore, Annachie Gordon... all very beautiful and atmospheric.

The second half featured the **String Sisters** (Sweden's **Emma Hardelin**, Scotland's **Catriona MacDonald**, Norway's **Annbjorg Lien**, Donegal's **Liz Doherty**, Chicago's **Liz Carroll**, and Kentucky's **Liz Knowles**, backed by *Shooglenifty's* **James MacIntosh** on drums and **Conrad Ivitzky** on bass, plus piano and guitar).

They were joined by **Lucy MacNeil** – a seventh fiddler! – and dancer **Sabra MacGillivray**. What a show they put on!!

The next morning we had a meet and greet breakfast at our motel in Baddeck, for a chance to chat with other media and presenters from Germany, Denmark, USA, and across Canada.

Then, we took the ferry over to Christmas Island to hear some fine Gaelic singing from Cape Breton's **Joanne MacIntyre** and her four teenage sons,



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

and Scotland's **Rachel Newton Trio**, plus Cape Breton fiddle / piano from **Kinnon & Betty Lou Beaton**.

We stopped at the pub next to Iona Village, and heard some wonderful fiddling from **Kenneth MacKenzie**.

At the end of his set he picked up the Highland bagpipes and proceeded to demonstrate that this is his preferred instrument. What a player!

We enjoyed a fine bowl of chowder there too, and then set off to Wagmatcook for **Duelling Banjos** featuring **Old Man Luedecke** and Ireland's **We Banjo 3**.

Sunday began with a **Pipers Ceilidh**, starring **Paddy Keenan** on uilleann pipes and Scotland's **Fred Morrison** on Highland and Lowland pipes as well as uilleann pipes. This man is a legend!

Such a great piper and a marvellous entertainer too. Turns out he is a frequent visitor to Mount Vernon, so we really must bring him to Vancouver one of these days.

Young Cape Bretonners **Troy MacMaster** (Natalie's nephew) and **Kenneth MacKenzie** (again) were also in stellar form.

After that we drove out to the far east: Louisbourg, to be precise, for a candlelit concert in the fortress chapel, preceded by a sumptuous salmon supper in the Hotel de la Marine, down by the fortress gate.

It's an incredible national monument, and it's great to see it growing every year. They now produce their own special brand of rum in the fortress – really enjoyed the rum cake dessert!!

Just before the concert we gathered outside and were treated to an unexpected and deafening firing of the fortress cannon.

Inside, and away from the cordite, the music was sublime – a little hard to hear at times. No electricity and no amplification, but lovely music from Newfoundland's **Matthew Byrne**, Cheticamp trio **Les Zorvenants**, and **Rachel Newton Trio** – so songs in English, French and Gaelic. And then a long drive home.

On Monday we attended a showcase of Cape Breton performers over lunch in the Great Hall of The Clans at the Gaelic College. Singer songwriter **Buddy MacDonald**, lowland piper **Ben Miller** and fiddler **Anita MacDonald**, and **Nuallan** – a trio of pipers, including that man Kenneth MacKenzie again!

We took some time off to explore Baddeck on the sunny afternoon before zooming off to Sydney suburb **Membertou** for **Craic'n'Cabaret** with **Paddy Keenan**, PEI trio **The East Pointers**, **Annbjorg Lien** with **Vasen's** guitarist **Roger Tallroth**, and Halifax-based Irish duo **Evans & Doherty**.

It's an enormous venue inside a First Nations community centre. I wish we'd



WAKE THE DEAD played an amazing concert of the Day of the Dead at Berkeley's Freight & Salvage venue in San Francisco, CA.



JOCELYN PETTIT celebrates the release her latest CD *Caravan* with her extended band at the Rogue Folk Club on Saturday, November 14. They also play Brackendale Art Gallery on Friday, November 13.

known about the restaurant on site beforehand...then we had another long drive home in the dark.

There was one final lunch and showcase for the media and presenters the next morning – with Cape Breton guitarist/songwriter **Decota MacNamara** in particularly impressive form.

Then, we set off to circumnavigate Bras d'Or Lake in a clockwise direction, destination Lower River Inhabitants, way down in the SE corner of the island.

We had to wait for the square dance to finish aboard the Christmas Island ferry before crossing the water, and then drove into the heaviest rain storm I've ever seen.

It was like driving inside a car wash for 80 kilometres! There was no shoulder on the road, and few places to pull over; they were past before I could see them.

Anyhow, we made it all the way to Big Pond and had a welcome cup of tea at **Rita MacNeil's** before continuing our journey.

Another glorious seafood meal in St. Peter's was followed by **A Touch Of Irish**, with **Gino Lupari**, **Liz Doherty** and **Fintan Vallely** joined by Irish harpist **Laiose Kelly**, Cape Breton guitar wizard **J.P. Cormier**, **Liz Knowles'** fine trio **Open The Door For Three**, and **Evans & Doherty**.

Plus three excellent young fiddlers from Ireland who have been studying with Liz Doherty. All the musicians got together on the small stage for a rousing



SCOTS PIPER Fred Morrison is a legend. At this year's Celtic Colours Festival he played on Highland and Lowland pipes as well as uilleann pipes. Rogue Folk Club hopes to bring him to Vancouver soon.

finale, and then we drove back home along the main highway. Thankfully, the rain had stopped by then!

The next day – our last one at the festival – dawned bright and sunny, so we hit the Cabot Trail. The fall colours were only just starting to reach their peak, but it was a glorious drive.

We stopped for a picnic on the beach near Cheticamp (very windy, but sunny) and took heaps of photos along the trail. It's a long road.

We managed to find a restaurant at the end of the park and wolfed down some more chowder before roaring off to Sydney for our last concert. And what a finale for us!

Open The Door For Three, **Kimberley Fraser**, **April Verch**, **Annbjorg Lien** and **Roger Tallroth**, Denmark's **Harald Haugaard & Helene Blum**, and American dancer **Nic Gareiss**.

They were all breathtakingly brilliant, and at the end all 14 musicians got together for a few tunes. After another long drive home we grabbed a few hours sleep, and drove back to Halifax in time for our flight home.

Celtic Colours broadcasts one show per day on video simulcast but we missed Thursday's as we were in transit, and on Friday we were hosting the **Beatles Night** concert at The Rogue (another incredible concert, I hasten to add) but we did manage to catch the festival finale with **The Barra MacNeils**, **J.P. Cormier**, and **Ricky**

Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder on Saturday.

It was all a bit of a blur, but what a week! Filled with amazing scenery, stunning music, great food, and good company.

Many thanks to the organizers for inviting us; we'd love to come back for the 20th next October.

I've put 100 or so photos up on the Rogue website photo gallery and I'll be spinning lots of tunes from the newly-acquired CDs on *The Edge On Folk* over the next few weeks.

I'm writing this in our hotel room at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

We flew down to catch **Wake The Dead's** Day of the Dead concert at Berkeley's Freight & Salvage venue.

It's an amazing place, in the theatre district, built and financed by community donations (\$13 million!!) and a lot of love and care.

They have concerts every night, plus workshops and music classes and jam nights featuring a wide range of roots music styles

WTD is a seven-piece Celtic jam band focusing on the songs of the Grateful Dead and other 60s rockers combined with trad. tunes from Ireland, Scotland, Quebec, and Galicia!

It was a lot of fun, and I doubt anyone has ever heard The Dead's *Dark Star* segueing into The Beatles' *And Your Bird Can Sing*, or heard uilleann pipes and mandolin and Celtic harp scorching through such classics as *White Room*, *China Cat Sunflower*, *White Rabbit*, and the psychedelic romp of *The Other One*.

Yes, it certainly has been a long and strange trip this last few days / weeks!

Tomorrow we sail beneath the Golden Gate Bridge and then fly home in time to prepare for Friday's concert with Newfoundland singer **Sean McCann** (of Great Big Sea) at St. James Hall.

The following weekend we celebrate the release of **Jocelyn Pettit's** second CD, *Caravan*, when she brings her extended band to The Rogue House on Saturday, November 14. (They are also playing Brackendale Art Gallery on Friday, November 13, by the way).

Jocelyn is a wonderful fiddler and composer who has come up through the ranks of the **North Shore Celtic Ensemble**, and who was a big hit at **The Chieftains'** concert in Richmond a couple of years ago.

It's so good to see her blossoming into one of the country's finest fiddlers and she always plays with an infectious smile on her face.

We hope you'll all come along and join the fun – and buy the CD!

Later in the month we present **Gary Comeau**, **Tim Harsey** and **Chris Nordquist**, aka **Cannery Row**, with their powerful blend of Cajun and Blues-infused Roots Music (Friday, November 20) and former **Spirit of the West** singer / bassist / accordionist **Linda McRae** on November 27.

Linda now lives in Nashville, and her new CD, *Shadow Trails*, was produced

[Continued next page]



LOREENA MCKENNITT was a highlight of the annual Celtic Colours Festival with spellbinding vocals and gorgeous arrangements.

[Continued from page 4]

by Vancouver guitarist **Steve Dawson** (another Nashville resident these days). It's a great collection of songs celebrating her roots and her compelling songwriting.

Opening for Linda is **Tom Russell's** guitarist, Portland's **Thad Beckman**, whose Blues-infused songwriting and

hot picking is showcased on his new CD, *Streets Of Disaster*.

Thad will also host an advanced guitar workshop on November 26 for anyone wanting to learn some tips and tricks of the trade from one of the best in the business. Space is limited, so call (604) 732-1305 if you wish to register.

For all Rogue concert details, tickets

etc., visit www.roguefolk.bc.ca. While you're there, check out **Steve's Photo Gallery** to see some of my photos from the past few weeks / months, including a whack of shots from Celtic Colours.

To hear music by these and other wonderful Celtic / Folk and Roots performers, tune in to *The Edge On Folk* every Saturday from 8 AM to noon on CiTR fm 101.9 and www.citr.ca.

Macbeth makes an appearance at the Cambrian Hall this November

VANCOUVER – In November, the Cambrian Hall in Vancouver will play host to William Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Macbeth*.

Standing Room Only Theatre, a local non-profit theatre society, presents the Scottish play in all its glory, complete with choreographed fights, special effects and some very explicit bewitchery from November 6 to 15.

The play, considered by many to be one of the Bard's darkest and most powerful works, is now over 400 years old, yet director Joe Hinks maintains it remains eerily relevant.

"For all intents and purposes, Macbeth becomes a dictator. Whatever vestiges of duty and honour he has from being a soldier are quashed by his own ambition until all that remains is a spiral of murder and madness.

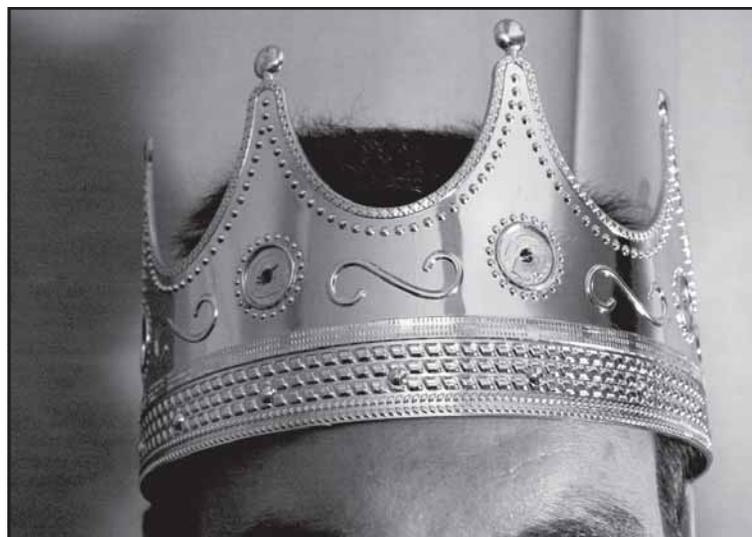
"This is something we have seen time and time again recently in countries all over the world."

However the play also offers a commentary on issues much closer to home through its most supernatural characters – the witches.

"Not many people realize this," says Hinks, "But witches had huge political connotations in the middle ages.

"If they could influence someone through their thoughts and actions, then potentially they could lead a whole country astray through the right person. That's why politicians and the monarchy saw them as such a threat."

Through shows such as 'Scandal' and 'House of Cards', society as a whole



MACBETH in all its glory, complete with choreographed fights, special effects and some very explicit bewitchery runs from November 6 to 15.

"...witches had huge political connotations in the middle ages."

is beginning to realise that the people around a leader can have just as much influence over a country's outcome, and with the recent Canadian election and upcoming U.S. election, the decision to hail in new leadership becomes increasingly important.

Christine Reinfort (Witch I), notes that in this adaptation of *Macbeth* the witches are much more implicit in *Macbeth's*, and indeed a nation's des-

tiny, pulling the strings from behind the scenes.

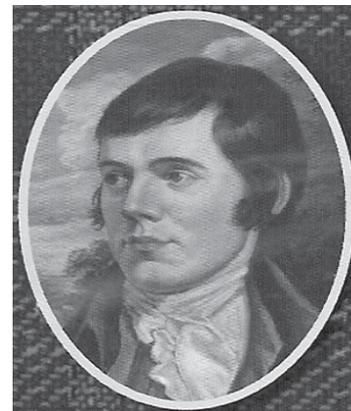
"It has been twistedly fun being so overtly manipulative over *Macbeth* and having so much sway over the country's misfortunes. These witches are acutely aware of the effect their actions will have."

Producer Tracy-Lynn sums up the companies own dark ambitions by noting that the show is going to be "a passionately performed production both moving and memorable; an intimate but intense *Macbeth* that really pulls the audience in from the start."

The show runs November 6,7,8 and 13,14,15 at 8 PM at the Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue in Vancouver. For tickets or more information see: www.standingroomonlytheatre.org.

'Robert Burns Around the World'

The Tam O'Shanter Dancers' 22nd annual Burns Dinner 'Robert Burns Around The World' will be held on Saturday, January 23 at 6:30 PM at the Star of the Sea Hall, 15263 Pacific Avenue in White Rock. For tickets and more information, call (604) 535-8949 or (604) 385-0392.



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Friday, NOVEMBER 6
Solo CD Launch for Great Big Sea's SEAN McCANN

Friday, NOVEMBER 20
Cajun / Blues / Roots trio CANNERY ROW



Saturday, NOVEMBER 14
CD Launch for Squamish fiddler

JOCELYN PETTIT



Friday, NOVEMBER 27
CD Launch for Nashville-based LINDA McRAE

and lots more to come!

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Dec. 16 & 17, Capilano University
Dec. 19, St. Andrew's-Wesley, Vancouver
Dec. 20, The ACT, Maple Ridge

Ticket info at www.winterharp.com



The Celtic Treasure Chest: A time of change while business continues to flourish



By
**CATHOLINE
BUTLER**

VANCOUVER – After 15 years in business, Steve and Lil McVittie, owners of The Celtic Treasure Chest, have made the decision to finally sell their business and retire.

They're looking forward to retirement, doing some travelling and finally taking the time to take care of their own health.

The McVitties often discussed retirement but it was always something down the road and in the future.

Last year, while on a cruise, Steve suffered what was first suspected to be a heart attack, but luckily turned out to be a stress attack.

It was this frightening scare with Steve's health that was the final straw in helping the couple make the decision to sell their business and retire.

The Delta store will be closed on Janu-

ary 1 and the property sold. At the moment, the Delta store remains open on weekends and customers are advised to call ahead for opening times.

The Dunbar store will have an option of selling the store only or selling the store with the property or selling the property only and moving the store. Either way, it will also be closed come January 1, 2016.

I recently dropped in to the Dunbar store to talk to Steve about their upcoming plans and, of course, their Christmas stock in for the holidays.

Speaking about their plans to sell, Steve said, "Ideally, I would like someone to make an offer on the store.

"Barring that, I'm willing to look at a young family who would like to run their own business and who like Celtic products.

"They must be willing to work hard to succeed and we will move the store to a new location with better traffic. Basically, I will set-them-up and over 10 years they can pay me off."

He said, "The store has been like a baby to us. Lil does 95 percent and I do five percent. But, if it wasn't for me doing five percent, she would have to do 100 percent.

"I do all the buying and pricing for the stores. We have both worked hard to keep the store going and Andrea, who has been with us for many years, at the Dunbar store has just been a gem. We

never need to worry if we have to go away."

In preparation for the Christmas holidays, Steve said they are stocked with many new Irish product lines at the Dunbar store which he's really excited about.

"We have a lot of new Irish lines such as the sauces, the dairy milk bars, and some of the marmalades that have been winning awards in Ireland.

"We're also getting a lot more product from Scotland. We have a lot more Marks and Spencer products coming in and a wider selection of Christmas products from Marks and Spencer."

Regarding Christmas cakes and puddings Steve said not only do they have the traditional Marks and Spencer but some Irish Cakes and puddings.

"We also brought in an Irish shortbread that was 37 percent butter and we sold out four cases in three days...phenomenal! And the same with an Irish Barm Brack, it sold out in about four days."

They also have tea, Irish whiskey cake and porter cakes for Christmas which are also selling very well for them.

Many new customers coming in to The Celtic Treasure Chest are new arrivals in Canada hungry for the familiar products of home according to Steve.

"We have a lot of the new Irish customers, and they're delighted to find all



OVER the past 15 years Steve and Lil McVittie have worked hard to build the business, now they're looking forward to some time to slow down and relax.

the Irish products they're looking for such as Club Orange, Barry's Tea, and the Odlum's soda bread mix and oatmeal, to name a few.

"On a weekend, I'm willing to bet that 60 percent of our customers are the new Irish kids just into Canada, and they want all the products from home.

"We're also getting a lot more Scottish customers because we're now able to get some Scottish products that we were unable to access before."

When Steve talks about the products at

The Celtic Treasure Chest and all the new stock coming in for the Christmas market, you can see the excitement it brings to him.

I think it will be difficult for him to leave it all behind but, like the concerned wife that she is, Lil says they must both move forward because they need to take care of their health and just spend some time together relaxing and enjoying life.

We will miss The Celtic Treasure Chest and our contact with Steve and Lil, but we wish them all the best for 2016 – onward in their new and bright future.

'There are no strangers at Johnnie Fox's, only friends that you haven't met'

VANCOUVER – The iconic red door at Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug on Granville Street in Vancouver...is no more.

By **CATHOLINE BUTLER**

This was the door so many recently arrived Irish lads and lassies were told to look for upon landing in this city. Now, they look for the new glass door with the big Irish flag in the window.

But it's not doors that make the pub at Johnnie Fox's. It's the atmosphere and the warm Irish welcome as soon as you set foot over the threshold that brings them in.

You know you're in the right place when you hear accents from every county in Ireland.

It's a lot like a pub at home in Ireland, where you can sit at the bar and talk to the bartender or join in the conversation. The whole bar is in on the conversation...very Irish.

Dublin-born Jordan Flynn is the general manager at Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug.

Flynn arrived in Vancouver a year and a half ago along with some of his

friends. He worked in marketing in Ireland and helped out in the family-owned and operated pub in Dublin.

While looking for work in Vancouver, Jordan decided to just do a pick-up a job in a bar and he got a job at Johnnie Fox's.

He wasn't working at Fox's very long before he was asked to take on the role of general manager.

Now he's working at putting his own stamp on the bar and he's done that in spades with sales increased by 60 percent.

The Celtic Connection recently dropped in to talk with Jordan about what makes Johnnie Fox's so unique.

"The owners of Johnnie Fox's are great to work for and the customers are fantastic.

"Johnnie Fox's is in the main entertainment centre on Granville Street and there are two hostels right beside us, so we get all these travellers coming in and, of course, we get lots of Irish coming in.

"For the past two weeks, almost every day, there are at least 10 new Irish coming into the pub.

"A lot of them have heard that their first stop should be Johnnie Fox's because it's the best place to meet other Irish, and maybe even meet someone who can help them get a job.

"I've seen loads of them get a job here and even myself I've had a hand in giving them contact names and phone num-

bers of people to call for a job.

"Especially a lot of the trades, such as carpenters, electricians, and plumbers. They get talking to someone here and they can let them know what companies are hiring.

"Irish people are notoriously great workers and the Canadian companies can never get enough Irish workers."

Johnnie Fox's recently introduced a new menu featuring many Irish speciality items supplied by The Celtic Treasure Chest, the British/Irish supplier.

"Owner Steve McVittie is supplying us with all the items we need for our full Irish breakfast and 'A Taste of Home' is a new feature listed on our menu," said Jordan.

"We're serving a full Irish breakfast with black and white pudding, Irish sausage, Heinz baked beans, Irish bacon and eggs.

"We're going to feature a whole 'A Taste of Home' section with Irish breakfast rolls, cabbage and bacon, with all the sauces such as HP, curry cheese chips, homemade pot pies, chicken curry.

"All the stuff that Irish people love at home, and we want to bring it over here and introduce it to Canadian people."

He said the food at Johnnie Fox's is fantastic and they're hoping with their new menu more people will try it.

"We have a wide selection such as fish and chips and The Celtic Treasure Chest supply us with a gorgeous steak and



DUBLIN-BORN Jordan Flynn is the general manager at Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug.

Guinness pot pie which is one of our biggest sellers."

All the traditional beverages are available at the bar such as Magner's Irish Cider, Guinness, Kilkenny, Smithwick's.

Jordan said, "we have six taps and five of them are all Irish. Actually, we sell the most Guinness in Vancouver, and we only have 54 seats. Every Irish person has told us that Johnnie Fox's serves the best Guinness."

Speaking about the entertainment at Fox's, Flynn said, "We have increased our entertainment with music four nights a week.

"On Monday we have a sing-song with Ari, he's a Canadian musician.

"On Wednesday and Sunday, we have our house band Sloe Gin.

"On Thursday, we have another band called Two Fine Irishmen. It's a guy from Dublin and a guy from Donegal, they sing together and they're just fantastic."

In closing, Jordan said, "There was a saying on that red door that I think describes Johnnie Fox's perfectly – 'There are no strangers at Johnnie Fox's, only friends that you haven't met'.

Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug is located at: 1033 Granville Street, Vancouver. For more information, call (604) 685-4946, or visit: www.johnniefox.ca.

Is the UK and Ireland heading for the longest winter in 50 years?

THE arrival of winter, traditionally heralded by the migration of Siberian swans, has come early as 300 birds flock to Britain.

The Bewick swans migrate 2,500 miles from Arctic Russia to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire and their arrival is used as a sign to say that winter has arrived.

This year is the earliest arrival of the birds since 1963 and their presence has led many to believe that western Europe is in store for a long, harsh winter.

The premature arrival of winter in many



THE Bewick swans migrate 2,500 miles from Arctic Russia to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve in Gloucestershire, UK.

European countries has encouraged Bewick's swans to flock westwards earlier than usual. The first of the birds began arriving on October 11, a full 25 days ahead of this time last year.

Slimbridge swan expert Julia Newth said, "Apparently there's a Russian saying that 'the swan brings snow on its bill', because they tend to move just ahead of the cold weather."

Bewick swans are red-listed in Ireland due to a severe decline in the number of the birds wintering in Ireland.

El Niño is also underway in the tropical Pacific, which has further fuelled speculation that Europe is in for a longer and colder winter than usual.

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TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR NOVEMBER

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www.worldbeatcanada.com.

The following is the *Celt In A Twist* Contemporary Celtic Top Ten:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>The Irish Brigade</i> by The Mahones - <i>The Hunger & The Fight Pt. 2</i> on Whiskey Devil Records. | Battlefield Band - <i>Beg & Borrow</i> on Temple Records. |
| 2. <i>Kometens Hales</i> by Jansberg - <i>Terra Nova</i> on GO' Danish. | 7. <i>What You Do With What You've Got</i> by Kristina & Quinn Bachand - <i>Little Hinges</i> on Independent. |
| 3. <i>The Vapourer</i> by Spiro - <i>Welcome Joy and Welcome Sorrow</i> on Real World Records. | 8. <i>Au revoir Grand Mamou</i> by Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys - <i>Voyageurs</i> on Mamou Playboy. |
| 4. <i>The King's Shilling</i> by Cassie & Maggie - <i>Sterling Road</i> on Independent. | 9. <i>Catch Me</i> by The Real McKenzies - <i>Rats in the Burlap</i> on Fat Wreckchords. |
| 5. <i>Queen of Argyle</i> by Blackthorn - <i>Open Skies</i> on Independent. | 10. <i>Leaving of Liverpool</i> by Homeland - <i>That Show</i> on Independent. |
| 6. <i>The Five Mile Chase</i> by | |

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
Various Artists - *The Ultimate Guide to Scottish Folk* (ARC Records)

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A Weekend to remember in Clonakilty, Co. Cork

*I remember my friends and my enemies too.
We all did our duty for our countries.
We all obeyed our orders.
Then we murdered each other.
Isn't war stupid?*

WOULD like to know why Guinness tastes so much better in Ireland than anywhere else in the world. Please send your answers in a bottle.

Last week my friend Neil O'Donovan invited me over to the Emerald Isle to attend the Cork Music Festival.

I knew it was just a ruse to fill me full of Guinness and then take me to the cleaners on the golf course, but being weak willed I happily agreed.

Predictably, the only part of Cork I saw was the airport and the road leading out to Clonakilty.

This was my fourth visit to this small corner of heaven, but it was the first time that by the end of it I actually remember being there. Is this a sign of ageing?

As a Welshman, I have the permanent feeling of guilt for having enjoyed myself, perhaps historically a result of the strict Welsh chapel influence.

But the Irish are not cursed with this, and I quote a text sent by an Irishman to his wife: "Mary, I'm in the pub having a pint with the lads. If I'm not home in 20 minutes read this message again."

If you ever go across the sea to Clonakilty then, apart from admiring the sheer beauty of the coastline, discovering the history and the tragedies of the birth of the nation, enjoying smoked

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH



By
**ELFAN
JONES**

salmon, perfectly cooked steaks and Clonakilty black and white pudding, and revelling in the humour and hospitality of the people, you would realise that there is no need to pay a large sum of money to attend a music festival.

A festival may be packed with fine artists, but they would struggle to beat the quality of the music played in Shanley's, a wonderful Clonakilty pub owned and run by the elegant Mrs. Shanley. For the price of a pint you can enjoy an evening of sheer musical genius.

First up last week was Dan Mahar who hails from Chicago, but now lives in

South Dakota. I am not sure why that matters, but Dan informed me that he was lead guitarist with a country band called Billy Dean from Nashville.

Between 1990 and 1995 they had five Number One hits and 11 records in the Top 10 country charts.

A wonderful guitarist with a great rich voice, he first came to visit Ireland in 2004 to see his great-grandfather's home, discovered Clonakilty, and has been a frequent visitor ever since.

He was joined by Mattie Gordon, an amazing fiddler from New York State who plays all over the world.

Next to accompany them was Stephen Housden who is well-known for his association with the Little River Band and has recorded with Glen Frey (The Eagles), John Entwistle (The Who), and many more.

Mix in Margaret Deegan, flautist, Derek Noonan on drums, Derek Draper on keyboard and, the final ingredient was Mrs. Shanley's son Bill.

He is an internationally renowned guitarist who works and tours with Ray Davies of the Kinks, Mary Black, Sinead O Connor, Paul Brady and Gilbert O Sullivan, and you have the recipe for a night of very special entertainment.

I may sound like an employee of the Clonakilty Tourist Board but I just love the place.

Back in presently alcohol-free Bournemouth, the weather is unpredictable. Rain one day, sunny the next, but mercifully very mild for the time of year – 14 to 16 centigrade.

There is a mild political storm at the moment because the decadent House of Lords temporarily blocked a government bill which would reduce the amount of benefits given to our most vulnerable citizens.

This surprised me as I assumed that so long as they were picking up their £300 per day attendance fee, most of them would not give a damn.

As Remembrance Day approaches, 92-year-old George Evans has been in the news.

Evans served with the Warwickshire regiment during the Normandy campaign in the Second World War.

For 25 years he has recited poetry at the annual ceremony service in the village of Wellington near Telford in Shropshire.

Apparently he has been sacked because last year instead of reading from the usual script he recited his own work entitled *Lessons*.

*I remember my friends
and my enemies too.
We all did our duty
for our countries.
We all obeyed our orders.
Then we murdered each other.
Isn't war stupid?*

Evans said that the pivotal moment for shaping his views was a battle in Caen in 1944 which resulted in 70 percent casualties "That was the point that I realised that war was just so stupid and I wished I had no more to do with it."

According to Catherine Wyld of the local Royal British Legion, Evans's poetry offended many people and that most people were horrified.

Obviously, we have not learnt the lesson.



BRITAIN'S unelected House of Lords dealt a strong defeat to Prime Minister David Cameron's government – and provoked a constitutional squabble – by voting to delay a cut in tax credits. It is estimated that three million low-income people will be affected by the cuts, with many losing up to £1,300 a year.

Peers in British House of Lords block £4.4 billion cuts to UK tax credits

LONDON – Prime Minister David Cameron has announced a constitutional review of the House of Lords following the humiliating defeat of his government's controversial cuts to tax credits last month.

Conservatives were furious after Labour and Liberal Democrat peers voted on October 26 to halt Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne's proposed tax changes.

The vote will delay £4.4 billion in cuts to working tax credits and child tax credits. It was the first time the Lords has voted down a financial bill in 100 years.

Opponents say the cuts will hurt the poorest and will see 3.3 million families lose an average of £1,300 next year. A report by the BBC suggested most of the pain will be felt by working mothers.

Cameron announced a "rapid review" to ensure in future MPs are given the "decisive role" over key financial decisions. The prime minister and his allies have accused peers of prompting a "constitutional crisis" by voting down the legislation.

Lord Strathclyde, who led a review into the Conservatives' devolution plans before the Scottish independence referendum, will chair the "rapid review."

Just 24 hours later, the UK Government narrowly avoided yet another damaging defeat as the House of Lords attempted to torpedo legal changes to the system of voter registration that would have damaged Cameron's upcoming review of constituency boundaries.

Labour and the Lib Dems saw the move as an attempt to knock out many voters, with the Electoral Commission warning 1.9 million less people would be registered to vote. The Tories said many of those people are duplicates or incorrectly listed.

Although the government won the vote with a majority, Downing Street made clear that the "rapid review" will still take place to ensure peers are in future not allowed to veto government finance packages.

Emboldened by the tax credits vote the House of Lords has now set sights on the government's draft online surveillance bill.



AS OF November 4, a new UK Investigatory Powers Parliamentary Bill was being drafted providing new surveillance powers, requiring records to be kept by internet service providers tracking use of the internet from Britain, accessible by the police and security services without judicial oversight.

Peers could derail plans to give police powers to potentially access the internet browsing history of any computer user in Britain in the latest show of defiance by the House of Lords.

The draft Investigatory Powers Bill is expected to give police the authority to access the browsing history of any computer user in Britain and require telecommunications companies to retain information about customers' website visits.

The government is also understood to have rejected calls for final responsibility for signing warrants to be shifted from the Home Secretary and the Foreign Secretary to senior judges.

The provisions contained would be similar to the shelved communications data bill – dubbed a "snooper's charter" by critics – that would have required companies to retain phone and e-mail data as well as use of social media.

That bill was blocked by the Liberal Democrats because of privacy concerns when the party was part of the coalition government.

Lib Dems could use their 112-strong peers in the Lords to block the proposed changes. Conservative peers account for only about a third of the total.

One peer said many lords from across the political spectrum felt strongly about civil liberties issues, resulting in unusual alliances.



IT would be hard to find better hospitality or music anywhere other than Shanley's Bar in Clonakilty, Co. Cork.



SOME of the best known musicians in Ireland and abroad make a point of dropping in to Shanley's.

British PM says bomb likely caused Russian airliner crash

LONDON – British Prime Minister David Cameron has said it was increasingly likely that a bomb brought down a Russian airliner over Egypt with the loss of 224 lives, setting him at odds with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Britain, Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands have suspended flights to and from Sharm al-Sheikh, leaving thousands of European tourists stranded in the Red Sea resort where the plane took off from on October 31.

Egypt, which depends on tourism as a crucial source of revenue, said the decision to suspend flights was unjustified and should be reversed at once. It said there was no evidence a bomb was to blame.

A Sinai-based group affiliated to Islamic State, the militant group that has seized swathes of Iraq and Syria, has claimed responsibility for the crash, which if confirmed would make it the first attack on civil aviation by the world's most violent jihadist organisation.

Moscow, which launched air strikes against Islamist fighters including Islamic State in Syria more than a month ago, says it is premature to reach conclusions that the flight was attacked.

In a telephone call, Putin told Cameron it was important that assessments of the cause of the crash be based on information from the official investigation, Interfax news agency reported.



METROJET Flight 7K9268 crashed in the Sinai peninsula over Egypt in the early hours of October 31, killing all 224 people on board.

Cameron, who hosted Egyptian President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi the same week for a previously scheduled visit, said, "We cannot be certain that the Russian airliner was brought down by a terrorist bomb, but it looks increasingly likely that that was the case."

His foreign secretary, Philip Hammond, said it was "a significant possibility" Islamic State was responsible, given a range of information, including the claim of responsibility.

Britain said it was working with airlines and Egyptian authorities to put in place additional security and screening measures at the airport to allow Britons to get home. It hoped flights bound for Britain could leave on November 6.

A senior Russian lawmaker said Britain's decision to stop flights from Sharm was motivated by London's opposition to Russia's actions in Syria.

"There is geopolitical opposition to the actions of Russia in Syria," said Konstantin Kosachev, a senior member of Russia's upper house of parliament, when asked about Britain's decision, in comments reported by RIA news agency.

At Sharm airport, security appeared to have been tightened with security forces patrolling the terminals and not allowing drivers, tour agents or others to loiter while awaiting tourist arrivals, a witness said.

Tony Blair apologises for Iraq War mistakes

LONDON – Tony Blair has apologised for aspects of the Iraq War, sparking claims of attempted "spin" ahead of the Chilcot Inquiry findings.

The former British prime minister used a U.S. television interview to express regret over the failure to plan properly for the aftermath of the 2003 toppling of Saddam Hussein and the false intelligence used to justify it.

"I apologise for the fact that the intelligence we received was wrong," he told CNN.

"I also apologise for some of the mistakes in planning and, certainly, our mistake in our understanding of what would happen once you removed the regime."

Asked by host Fareed Zakaria if the Iraq War was "the principal cause" of the rise of Islamic State, he was reported to have conceded: "I think there are elements of truth in that."

He added, "Of course you can't say those of us who removed Saddam in 2003 bear no responsibility for the situation in 2015."

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon accused the ex-prime minister of starting to prepare the ground for expected criticisms when the long-delayed report of the Chilcot Inquiry is finally published.

"The Blair spin operation begins but the country still awaits the truth," the Scottish National Party leader posted on

Twitter. "The delay to Chilcot report is a scandal."

No date has yet been given for the release of the final conclusions – more than six years after the inquiry was set up by then prime minister Gordon Brown with an assurance it would take a year.

The process was severely delayed by a process known as "Maxwellisation," under which those who may face criticism – believed to include Blair – are given the opportunity to respond before publication.

Relatives of soldiers killed in the conflict have threatened legal action if a date is not fixed soon.

It was also recently revealed that Blair committed the UK to the Iraq war about a year before the British Parliament approved such action.

This information was contained in a memo written by then U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. The once-classified document was released by the U.S. State Department after a 2012 Freedom of Information request.

A spokeswoman for the former PM said, "Tony Blair has always apologised for the intelligence being wrong and for mistakes in planning.

"He has always also said, and says again here, that he does not however think it was wrong to remove Saddam."

Lord Blunkett – who was home secretary at the time of the decision to join the military action – said he had sought

assurances in vain from Blair over the planning for the aftermath.

"Tony was not able to say what was going to happen when combat operations were over. He just decided to trust Cheney and Rumsfeld," he told the *Mail on Sunday* – referring to the then U.S. vice president and defence secretary.

"With the benefit of hindsight, we now know that they had decided to embark on the complete de-Ba'athification of Saddam's Iraq by dismantling the entire government infrastructure.

"This led to the disintegration of any form of functioning government, creating a complete power vacuum. Terrorists infiltrated Iraq and stirred discontent.

"I am not seeking to scapegoat Tony Blair; we were all collectively to blame for deluding ourselves into believing that we had much greater sway over Washington," he said.

Former Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell – due shortly to take up a seat in the House of Lords – said, "No matter what Tony Blair says or any criticisms there will be of him in the Chilcot Inquiry report, people have long since made up their minds.

"His partial acknowledgment that the military action against Saddam Hussein has made some contribution to instability in the Middle East will do nothing to change public opinion that his was a major error of judgment.

"The inevitable truth is that Iraq is his legacy and it will be his epitaph."



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Canadian Election Gets Scant Attention in Scotland

EDINBURGH – The Scottish media's almost complete lack of interest in Canada has long been a mystery to me.



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

onstrates that Trudeau's Canada has come to pass.

During the Scottish referendum, I argued that Trudeau's vision of a multicultural, immigrant-friendly, nuclear free, peace-keeping Canada was one that Scotland should adopt.

These were the broad principles of the 'Yes' side's vision of Scotland's future before thorny practical issues like currency and pensions sucked all the oxygen out of the debate.

Canadian and Scottish politics have at least one other thing in common. Unlike the United States, neither has any tradition of political dynasties.

Some Canadians will have reservations about building their first political dynasty around the name Trudeau, but perhaps Justin can channel the spirit of Pierre who had an international profile that subsequent Canadian prime ministers were unable to match.

If so, his son's first order of business will be to restore Canada's international reputation. It has taken a bit of a battering in the last 10 years.

The other Scottish connection to Canada's new prime minister is a family one.

The Canadian census allows you to pick up to four ethnic origins. Assuming he completed the ethnicity section, that makes Justin Trudeau one of the aforementioned five million self-identified Scots in Canada.

Pierre Trudeau's mother was an Elliott as evidenced by fact that the name is buried deep in Joseph Philipp Pierre Yves Elliott Trudeau.

Scotland's self-described "favourite" newspaper ran a piece headlined "Is Justin Trudeau the sexiest politician in the world?"

Not to be outdone, the BBC conducted its own investigation into whether Canada's new PM was the only world leader with a tattoo.

To be fair, there were layers of symbolic interest in the tattoo which shows planet earth inside a Haida raven.

The Trudeau family were made honorary members of the Haida in 1976 when Justin Trudeau was just six years old.

It came as a something of a relief to see the Trudeau family link referenced here even if it took the media's obsession with sexiness and tattoos to do it.

Pierre Trudeau was prime minister when I made my first sojourn to Canada and, again, when I emigrated from Scotland in the early 1980s.

Trudeau senior was a politician who elicited strong emotion from all sides, but his vision of Canada was one that I was strongly attracted to.

Today a casual stroll down any major thoroughfare in any Canadian city dem-

The Canadian census lists over five million self-identified Scots in Canada and yet Canadian news in Scotland is scarcer than hen's teeth.

The mystery deepens when it comes to politics. Scots have a long history of involvement in Canadian politics.

Canada's first prime minister was born in Glasgow but for 200 years there was precious little recognition of that in his home city.

It is hard to imagine that a Glaswegian George Washington would have suffered similar neglect.

I can't say it came as much of a surprise, then, that the most interesting Canadian election in the last 20 years got the rubber ear, as they say over here.

One Scottish newspaper ran a general background piece before October 19, but otherwise there was virtual media silence.

That changed the day after the election when the media discovered an angle.



LIBERAL LEADER Justin Trudeau kicks up his heels for a Highland dance in the Scottish Pavilion while attending the Saskatoon Folkfest, August 14, 2014.

Elliott (or Eliot) derives from the town of Eliot in the Angus area of Scotland and is one of the most common names in the Scottish Borders.

I still remember being vaguely irritated when Trudeau Sr. was accused of having split loyalties over Quebec because he had an "English" name.

On Justin Trudeau's mother's side, the Scottish connection is even closer.

His grandfather James Sinclair, who represented the ridings of North Vancouver and Coast-Capilano for the federal Liberals, was born in Banffshire, Scotland.

Trudeau the Younger has repeatedly referenced Sinclair's personal and political influence and reportedly wore a Sinclair tartan tie in his honour during his first question time as Liberal leader.

A final thing that might have raised an eyebrow over here, if anyone had been paying attention, is that Justin Trudeau was formerly a teacher.

Some in the Canadian media seemed to consider that an unusual background for a politician.

In fact, teaching into politics is an extremely common career trajectory in Scotland as evidenced by the disproportionate number of former teachers who served in the Scottish Parliament when it reconvened in 2009.

Usually it's considered good training for handling the rowdy, the immature and the oppositional.

In short, Canada's new prime minister could be approached from a number of angles beyond tattoos or ranking him on a largely uncontested politicians' attract-o-meter.

Now that the Scottish media has discovered Justin Trudeau's existence in trivia, it might pay closer attention to serious political developments in Canada in the same way as it does for, say, Australia.

Sadly, I have ma doots.

Justin Trudeau's Scottish connections on both sides of his family tree

VANCOUVER – New Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – son of Pierre and Margaret Trudeau – has Scottish connections on both sides of his family tree.

His maternal grandfather James (Jimmy) Sinclair, a former Liberal cabinet minister from North Vancouver, was a huge influence on his grandson.

The western home for Justin and his brothers was the Rockridge Road house in West Vancouver that belonged to Jimmy and Kathleen Sinclair.

Jimmy was born in 1908 in The Grange, Banffshire, Scotland, immigrated to Canada as a boy from Scotland.

He studied engineering at the University of British Columbia and was awarded a Rhodes scholarship in 1928 to study mathematics at the University of Oxford.

Sinclair also studied mathematical physics at Princeton University. During the Second World War, he served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in North Africa, Malta, and Sicily.

He was part of Canadian politics from 1940 to 1957 and served as Canadian

Minister of Fisheries in the cabinet of Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent.

Justin paid tribute to his grandfather Jimmy in his first question period as Liberal leader when he wore his Sinclair tartan tie.

On his father's side, his grandfather Montreal businessman Charles-Émile Trudeau married Grace Elliott, the daughter of a United Empire Loyalist of Scottish extraction.

This marriage changed the family's cultural makeup with Grace having studied at Dunham Ladies' College, an Anglican women's finishing school in the Eastern Townships.

Although she spoke and wrote French, she preferred English, which would be the language of the Trudeau home.

The 43-year-old Justin Trudeau – a fully bilingual former school teacher and member of Parliament since 2008 – became the second youngest prime min-



JUSTIN TRUDEAU is Canada's 23rd prime minister and second youngest.

ister in Canadian history after a landslide victory in October 2015.

Following a campaign built on optimism and "sunny ways," Trudeau has pledged a more inclusive and open government.

He was sworn into office at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Wednesday, November 4 in a very carefully choreographed ceremony.

In a tip to his Scottish roots, the photogenic Trudeau ambled down the long driveway accompanied by his young family and new cabinet members to the sound of bagpipers playing *The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond*.



JAMES SINCLAIR, a former Liberal cabinet minister from North Vancouver, was a huge influence on his grandson. He is pictured here with his children and Justin's mother Margaret is on the lower left.



PIERRE TRUDEAU with his parents Charles-Émile Trudeau and Grace Elliott, his two siblings and their grandfather Joseph on their way to Europe in June 1933.

Great old-world atmosphere filled with UK Christmas favourites

By CATHOLINE BUTLER
RICHMOND, B.C. – It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Mary's British Home in Steveston. Shelves are being stocked with delicious specialty Christmas goodies from crates arriving weekly from overseas.

The Celtic Connection recently dropped in to check-out some of the new arrivals and help get into the holiday spirit... and I didn't come out of the shop empty-handed either!

Birmingham-born Mary Carter, owner of Mary's British Home, is a legend in the historic village of Steveston.

For the past 33 years, Mary has been serving the community and beyond with hard-to-find UK specialty products. Her store specializes in delicious delicacies such as bacons, haggis, biscuits and marmalades...and more.

Prior to moving to Steveston, Mary and her late husband Ray ran the British Home Store in Richmond for three and a half years.

All-in-all, Mary has been in business for a total of 36 and a half years, and she's still going strong and enjoying her customers.

After all these years, Carter knows just about all her customers on a first-name basis. Many come in to buy their favourite items but end up sharing family news such as holidays and other occasions.

Mary's British Home has a friendly old-world atmosphere with big jars of British candy and newspapers, even an old-



MARY CARTER has been an integral part of the seaside community of Steveston, B.C. for over 33 years with her British import store.

fashioned cash register – no computer version here.

Speaking about some of the Christmas stock, Mary said, "As usual, we have Cadbury's selection boxes; Marks & Spencer Christmas cakes, iced and plain; Christmas puddings; Mr. Kipling Battenburg cakes; apple pies and Bakewell tarts; Walker's shortbread; McVittie's and Crawford's tinned biscuits; and lots of chocolates and specialty cheeses from England.

"We'll be getting a lot more jams and mincemeat and, of course, haggis which is also used for stuffing the poultry at Christmas and New Year, along with Robbie Burns celebrations."

Mary's British Home always has specialty bacons, gammon ham, black

and white pudding, free run eggs, and Heinz baked beans for your special British breakfasts over the holidays.

Throughout the year there is always a good selection of British groceries including jams, marmalade, HP and other sauces, Bewley's and Yorkshire teas. These are only some of the items available with lots more expected weekly.

Mary has a reminder for holiday shoppers, "please bear in mind that we only get in a limited quantity of specialty holiday products and once they're gone, that's it until we order again next year...so shop early!"

Mary's British is located at Unit #4, 3740 Chatham Street (in Chatham Place Mall), Steveston, B.C. For more information, call (604) 274-2261.



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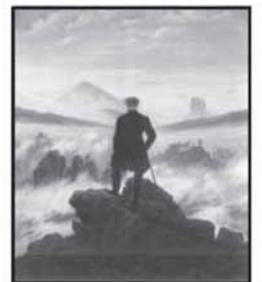
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St. Andrew's Day: Patron Saint of Scotland



SAINT Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland and St. Andrew's Day

is celebrated by Scots around the world on November 30. The flag of Scotland is the Cross of St. Andrew which is widely displayed as a symbol of national identity.

In 2006, the Scottish Parliament passed the St. Andrew's Day Bank Holiday Act, which designated the Day as an official bank holiday. If November 30 falls on a weekend, the next Monday is a bank holiday instead.

Although it is a bank holiday, banks are not required to close and employers are not required to give their employees the day off as a holiday.

In Scotland, and many countries with Scottish connections, St. Andrew's Day is marked with a celebration of Scottish culture with traditional Scottish food, music and dance.

Schools across Scotland hold special St. Andrew's Day events and activities including art shows, Scottish country dancing, lunchtime ceilidhs, dance festivals, storytelling, reciting and writing poems, writing tall tales, cooking traditional Scottish meals, and bagpipe-playing.

In Scotland the day is also seen as the start of a season of Scottish winter festivals encompassing St. Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns Night.

In Edinburgh, there is a week of celebrations, concentrating on musical entertainment and traditional ceilidh dancing. A ceilidh is a social event with couples dancing in circles or sets.

In Glasgow city center, a large shindig, or party, with traditional music and a ceilidh are held. In Dumfries, songs are performed in the Burn's night tradition.

The flag of Scotland is the Cross of St. Andrew which is widely displayed as a symbol of national identity.

The Order of Saint Andrew, or the Most Ancient Order of the Thistle, is an order of knighthood restricted to the king or queen and a select few. It was established by James VII of Scotland in 1687.

Very little is really known about St. Andrew himself. He is thought to have been a fisherman in Galilee, now part of Israel, along with his brother Simon Peter (Saint Peter). Both became followers (apostles) of Jesus Christ, founder of the Christian religion.

St. Andrew is said to have been responsible for spreading the tenets of the Christian religion throughout Asia Minor and Greece. Tradition suggests that St. Andrew was put to death by the Romans in Patras, Southern Greece, by being pinned to a cross.



A MAGNIFICENT stained glass window depicting the crucifixion of St. Andrew.

The diagonal shape of this cross is said to be the basis for the Cross of St. Andrew which appears on the Scottish flag.

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A Warm Welcome in Seattle for Irish President



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

PRESIDENT HIGGINS and his wife Sabina Higgins with some of the students who exhibited their Gaelic football skills at Skyline High School.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

SEATTLE GAELS officers Paul McGarry (left) and Brian White (right) present Sabina and President Higgins with a Seattle Gaels scarf and jersey.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

PRESIDENT HIGGINS meeting with Irish employees at Microsoft. (L-R) Eoghan McHugh, Kathryn O'Hora, Julie Ginesi and Dan Corry. [Rear Left] Matthew O'Toole.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

SEATTLE GAELS Youth Coordinator Terry Lynch is interviewed by Irish broadcaster RTE and other local media at Skyline High School.

By JOHN KEANE

SEATTLE – Irish President Michael D. Higgins visited Seattle in late October on an eight day whirlwind visit to the U.S. west coast.

He spent four days in Seattle arriving directly from Ireland late on Tuesday, October 20, and leaving for San Francisco on Saturday afternoon, October 24.

The president's first full day in Seattle on Wednesday was relatively quiet, providing the 74-year-old president and his wife Sabina an opportunity to recover from a commercial airline flight from Ireland which took over 16 hours with delays.

He did pay a courtesy visit to Seattle City Hall to meet with Mayor Ed Murray followed by a press conference with local and Irish media. This was followed by a casual private visit to Seattle's iconic Pike Place Market.

The main purpose of the president's visit to Seattle was to connect with the local Irish community and his first official activity in that regard was on Thursday morning when he visited Skyline High School in Sammamish, about 30 minutes west of Seattle.

President Higgins watched about 30 young people playing Gaelic football at the school as part of their physical education program.

The school is one of seven high schools in the Seattle area where GAA sports have been taught as part of the PE curriculum for the past five years supported by members of the Seattle Gaels.

At Skyline the president also visited music and jazz classes and spoke to about 300 students in the auditorium before exiting through the school's cafeteria to the cheers and claps of about 1,000 kids.

Next, the president visited Microsoft where he was given a tour of the 'Home of the Future' before meeting with about 150 Irish-born employees.

He told them that because of modern communications they should expect that current Irish migration will be an increasingly circular migration to and from Ireland.

That evening he was honored at an Irish community reception at McCaw Hall attended by about 400 members of Seattle's Irish community. The event also included some who had traveled from Spokane, Portland, Kennewick, and Vancouver, B.C.

On Friday, the president gave a keynote address in a packed auditorium at the University of Washington (UW) on the topic of climate change and sustainable development challenges.

The talk was hosted by, among others, the Jackson School of International Studies, the Center for West European Studies and the UW Law School. Before the talk, he met with 15 UW faculty members who were born in Ireland.

Afterwards the president was guest of honor at an Irish seniors reception attended by about 120 people.

There he spoke about feeling more at



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

SABINA HIGGINS, Dale Chihuly, President Higgins, Washington State's First Lady Trudy Inslee (wife of Governor Inslee), Seattle's First Gentleman Michael Shiosaki, and Seattle Mayor Ed Murray before dinner at the Chihuly Boathouse.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

DALE CHIHULY, President Higgins and Sabina, Maureen and John Keane before dinner at the Chihuly Boathouse.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

DALE CHIHULY, President Higgins and Sabina, Aly and Bill Shelby-Gardner before dinner at the Chihuly Boathouse.



More Seattle Irish News on pages 22 & 23
With a photo round-up of the president's visit to the Irish seniors reception.

home with the seniors because he was finally meeting with people his own age!

The president's last official function in Seattle was as guest of honor at a formal dinner organized by Irish Network Seattle at the Chihuly Boathouse.

The dinner was hosted by the mayor of Seattle and glass artist Dale Chihuly.

Chihuly is an American glass sculptor and entrepreneur whose works are con-

sidered unique to the field of blown glass.

His works have been exhibited numerous times in Ireland and his art appears in permanent collections all over the world.

Links to photos and videos from the president's Seattle visit can be found on the Irish Heritage Club's website at www.irishclub.org.

Michael D. Higgins



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

PRESIDENT HIGGINS speaks during dinner at the Chihuly Boathouse. (L-R) John Keane, Sabina Higgins, President Higgins, Dale Chihuly, Paula Stokes, John Sullivan, Mike and Barbara Malone.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

PRESIDENT HIGGINS and Anne Anderson the Irish Ambassador to the United States at the University of Washington with Adrian Raftery, a Dublin-born Professor of Statistics and Sociology at the UW.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography

PRESIDENT HIGGINS and Sabina with Irish musicians of the Ceol Cascadia Irish Session group at the McCaw Hall Irish community reception.



PHOTO: Melissa Knight

JOHN KEANE the Honorary Irish Consul in Seattle with Maura De Freitas and Catholine Butler of *The Celtic Connection*.

‘One of the great advantages of the Irish spirit and character is the ability to re-invent itself’

By MAURA DE FREITAS



SEATTLE – The President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and his

wife Sabina were enthusiastically welcomed by the Irish community in Seattle on the first stop of their first official visit to the west coast.

Over 400 guests attended a reception hosted by the Consulate General in San Francisco at the magnificent McCaw Hall on Thursday, October 22.

In his opening address, Irish Consul General Philip Grant gave warm praise to Seattle Honorary Consul John Keane, recognizing his tireless work throughout the Pacific Northwest and his immense consular support.

His comments were met with cheers of approval from the audience when he said, “no other Irish consul serves his community so well or is held in such high esteem.”

He introduced Michel D. Higgins as a public figure, an author, a poet and an academic, who has twice served as mayor of Galway – Seattle’s sister city.

The President of Ireland is also a chronicler of an ever-changing, ever-challenged society, especially now as an international statesman whose work on issues such as sustainable development, human rights, the environment, disarmament, global peace is helping to draw the attention and spur the action of global decision makers.

Higgins touched many hearts that evening with a passionate speech which touched on many topics, including the Irish Diaspora, the Irish language, the Gaelic Athletic Association, ethics, and the displacement of humanity.

The president also paid tribute to the numerous Irish organizations who keep the culture alive in the United States and who help maintain their connections with Ireland.

He opened in Irish which he said was the language spoken by so many of the early Irish who came to the west coast.

In preparation for his visit, Higgins said he looked at some of the early correspondence which people on the west coast sent to people back home.

He was struck by the great movement taking place in this part of the world at the end of the Nineteenth Century and the early Twentieth Century. These new immigrants were trying to re-establish their Irish identity and many of the letters were in the Irish language.

But, as the president explained, the Irish did not voluntarily give up their language, it was partly removed from the people when another language was imposed in its place.

He said, “One of the great advantages of the Irish spirit and character is the ability to re-invent itself.

“And, having in fact taken the English language and used it, we changed it suc-



PHOTO: Maura De Freitas

MICHAEL D. HIGGINS the President of Ireland at the podium at McCaw Hall in Seattle on his recent visit to the U.S. west coast.



PHOTO: Maura De Freitas

JOHN KEANE the Honorary Irish Consul in Seattle pictured with Michael Shiosaki, Ed Murray, and Maureen Keane.

cessfully so that within 50 years four Irish people have won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Actually, you could almost make it five if you wanted to name Eugene O’Neill.”

His comments were met with laughter and cheers of approval from the audience.

President Higgins went on to speak about the great influence of Irish-Americans at home in Ireland and the invaluable support they have provided both financially and politically.

It is emigrants who are anxious to stay in touch, who come home and transform Ireland with their experiences he said. They have helped to build the kind of republic that they want.

Unfortunately, at times, this has not always been fully appreciated in Ireland.

Higgins shared the story of a letter received by a father from his son in America.

“He opens the letter and takes the money out and says ‘there’s the price of a horse in that’. But he doesn’t go on to read the letter from his son.

He spoke about the deep sacrifices made by parents and the great efforts made by people who have travelled thousands of miles to a new country. And then, instead of taking from it, they have gone on to serve in all of the great offices.

The inter-connection between Ireland and the United States has now become a two-way street with American companies in Ireland employing 100,000 people.

But Irish companies in the U.S. are now employing 82,000 people, so the traffic is moving in both directions.

“We’re also at a time when 60 million people are moving around our planet as displaced people,” he said, “and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank those who welcomed the Irish in every generation.”

He said, “I want to particularly pay tribute to the Irish-American community who have been custodians of our culture. Indeed in the period immediately after the Famine – the period between 1845 and 1900 – the fact that we know so much about it is due to American historians.”

The message from President Higgins resonated deeply with many guests at McCaw Hall that evening. So many in the room were either Irish-born or descendants of earlier Irish immigrants.

Both Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and Seattle Chief of Police Kathleen O’Toole are proud of their Irish connections and they each maintain strong cultural ties with Ireland.

Closing remarks for the evening were by Ed Murray who travelled to Ireland along with a delegation of almost 80 people from the Seattle area in September 2014.

During that visit he met with President Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin, the president’s official residence in Phoenix Park.

Murray was delighted to reciprocate with the warmest of hospitality in his city for President Higgins and his wife Sabina.



DENNIS O'SULLIVAN with Christy Whelan and Aogán Ó Fearghail.



GROUP photo of guests and members of the Edmonton Wolfe Tones GAA club.

Edmonton Wolfe Tones celebrate 40th anniversary

EDMONTON – On September 26 the Edmonton Wolfe Tones GAA club celebrated their 40th anniversary at the Coast Hotel in downtown Edmonton.

The Wolfe Tones were delighted to welcome GAA president Aogán Ó Fearghail along with other dignitaries such as president of the Canadian county board Brian Farmer.

Commemorative booklets were prepared and distributed at the event detailing the history of the club from its formative years through to the modern era.

Many of the founding members were present on the night, some of which had travelled from outside Canada, and suffice to say a great time was had reminiscing over old times.

Some special awards were presented on the night to Danny McCarthy and Rachel Flynn for their contribution to the establishment of hurling and Cúl Camps within the western provinces and to Gerry Muldoon, Mick McKenna and Christy Whelan all of whom featured prominently in the club's founding years.

The GAA president offered a few kind and encouraging words to close out the formalities of the evening before the music took over and the dancing continued long into the early hours of the morning.

The Wolfe Tones would like to once again thank all those who attended on the night and, of course, a special thanks to all those who volunteered their time in helping to prepare for such a memorable and notable occasion in the club's history.



LINDSAY BAUGH, Adrienne McCormack, Shara Smith, Steve Fitzgerald



STEVE and Sarah Hanney with Aogán Ó Fearghail.



MICHAEL HERLAGHY, Aogán Ó Fearghail, Tom Morris.



JEFF MORRIS, Sean Smith, Liam Kelly, Breena Smith, Steve Fitzgerald.



GUESTS enjoying the evening at the Coast Hotel in downtown Edmonton.



PAUL DOONAN, Brian Farmer, Joe Kennedy, Aogán Ó Fearghail.



The band: Jukebox Leigh.



Gavin Kerr, Paddy Fitzhenry and Woodie [last name unknown].



GUESTS (L-R) [name unknown], Madison Chies, Niamh O'Carroll, Dawn Kunz and Kimberly Budd



DANCERS were out on the floor until the early hours.

EDMONTON WOLFE TONES - 40TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS



AMONG the honoured guests at the banquet were Michael Hurley, deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa, Brian Farmer, president of the Canadian county board, and Irish Consul-General in Edmonton, Doodie Cahill.



GUESTS enjoying the evening.



CHRISTY WHELAN, Sean Smith, Brian Farmer, Aogán Ó Fearghail and Martin Doyle.



JOHANNA and Pat Pearse.



CELEBRATING the Edmonton Wolfe Tones anniversary – Steven Hanney, Steve Fitzgerald, Aogán Ó Fearghail, Emmett McCormack, Neil O'Connor, Paul Kennedy, Liam Kelly, Eoin O'Connor, Patrick Kiernan, Robbie Murphy, Colin Baugh.



TOM FLANAGAN and friend.



EMMA HARNETT, Sheila Smith, Shara Smith, Rachel Flynn, Sarah Hanney, Anna Mullan.



MARTIN DOYLE and his dance partner on the dance floor.

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 Dec 12 – Vibram Souls (Rock & Roll & Blues)
 Dec 13 – Children’s Christmas Party – Entertainment: Mugs Mullen - clown/juggler/musician
 Dec 18 – Christmas Hamper – 25\$
 Dec 19 – DJ – Tom Lyons
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New Irish consular team in Calgary, Alberta

CALGARY – The Irish Ambassador to Canada, Ray Bassett, presented the new Irish Consular team in Calgary with their seals of office on October 27.

The new team is Deirdre Halferty, Honorary Consul (Community, Cultural and Consular) and Laureen Regan, Vice Consul (Trade and Investment).

Deirdre is originally from Maghera, County Derry and is a prominent member of the Irish community in the city.

She is the former chair of the Irish Cultural Society in Calgary. Deirdre is a successful business woman and her business is part of the Royal LePage Foothills in Calgary.

Laureen was born in county Waterford and moved to Canada as a child.

She is also a successful business woman with her companies, Regan Productions Ltd. and Boom Group Inc.

Laureen is a member of the Global Irish Network and she is a founding member and current president of the Ireland Canada Centre for Commerce, Calgary.

Speaking at the handover, the ambassador said, “I am very excited about these appointments. Calgary is of growing importance to the Irish Government.

“With increased migration from Ireland to Alberta, the city has seen its Irish-born population rise significantly.

“The government, through the embassy and the Enterprise Ireland Office in



DEIRDRE HALFERTY (L) has been appointed new Irish Honorary Consul (Community, Cultural and Consular) and Laureen Regan (R) has been appointed Irish Vice Consul (Trade and Investment).

Toronto, have also designated the Province of Alberta as a priority area for the development of Irish business and trade links.

“The appointment of a two person team is a reflection of the importance that the government and the embassy places on relations with Alberta.

“The new consular officers join our distinguished Consul-General in Edmonton, Doodie Cahill in what I regard as a very strong Irish representation in Alberta.”

The ambassador also paid tribute to the former Irish Consul in Calgary, Cameron Milliken, who passed away in 2013. Cameron was the first Irish consul in the city.

The Irish honorary consulates outside Alberta are located in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto (vacant), Montreal, Halifax, and St. John’s.

The ambassador also indicated that the network was under review with an objective of strengthening the Irish Government presence in a number of other cities.

Contact Deirdre Halferty, Honorary Consul (Community, Cultural and Consular), at (403) 813-5337, or e-mail: dhalferty@shaw.ca.

Contact Laureen Regan, Vice Consul (Trade and Investment) at (403) 615-7464, or e-mail: laureenr@boomgroup.com.



Long delays at Canada Immigration frustrating many Irish workers

TORONTO – A report published in the *Globe and Mail* outlines the frustration with Canada’s immigration system experienced by some of the most highly skilled and educated applicants seeking permanent residence in Canada.

Long delays to immigration processing times are leading many of them to question the fairness of the country’s immigration system.

The delays are affecting those who applied to the Canadian Experience Class (CEC) last year.

When it began in 2008, the government presented the CEC stream as a way to compete for the world’s “best and brightest” by providing a smooth and fast immigration pathway to those with Canadian work experience and post-secondary education.

Former international students make up about 40 percent of those who have applied to stay in Canada through CEC.

Recently, however, frustration has been growing, with some applicants saying they have been waiting longer than they ever expected for their application to move forward.

“We want to have kids soon, we really want to buy a house here.

“But you go to the bank and they say we don’t have status in Canada – so everything’s just been on hold for the last two years,” said Karen Johnson, a 29-year-old from Ireland who works in marketing.

“We have a wedding at Christmas in Adare. We can’t leave, or we lose our work permits.”

Johnson and her partner came to Canada five years ago on a working holiday visa and applied for permanent residency in the summer of 2014. They have yet to receive a decision.

On its website, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) states that CEC applications are being processed in 14 months.

For young Irish people here, the delays feel like a particularly sharp reversal from the way Canada was courting them only a few years ago.

Indeed, in the fall of 2012, Jason Kenney, who was citizenship and immigration minister at the time, appeared on a popular television show in Ireland.

Canadian employers felt Irish workers were “culturally compatible,” he said, and the government was making it easier for Irish immigrants to make Canada their permanent home.

“Just like the people who made a commitment to Canada, Canada made a commitment to these people,” said Cathy Murphy, executive director of the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre.

Murphy said she is receiving many calls from anxious young workers and families whose CEC applications are taking a long time.

What is particularly unfair, she said, is that people who submitted an application through Express Entry, the new immigration system that began in January, 2015, are receiving decisions in six months or less.

“It seems to me that it’s obvious they are prioritizing Express Entry. It’s a two-tiered system created by Citizenship and Immigration.”

Express Entry, touted as a way to respond quickly to labour-market needs, awards applicants points based on their demographic and professional qualities. But it is operating alongside the processing of applications submitted before it was introduced.

“The new system is operating very well,” said Brendan Madden, a 29-year-old from Ireland who works in civil engineering in Toronto. “But they didn’t incorporate a transition at all between the new and old system.”

Madden decided to come to Canada after he attended a recruitment fair put on by Canadian employers in Dublin a few years ago.

Even though most companies there were looking for skilled tradesmen, he wanted to have a Canadian adventure and applied for a working holiday visa.

“When I left Ireland, I said if I come back after a year, that’s great. But halfway through, I knew I wanted to stay.

“You start to settle into a country and get used to its ways. There was no delay in my application for permanent residence, I applied as soon as I could,” he said.

Fourteen months after sending in his paperwork, he’s received no updates. Murphy, of the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre, plans to lobby the incoming Liberal MPs and is advising those who call the centre to do the same.

“We tell people to hold their government to their promises,” she said. “Dealing with processing times was one of those promises.”

Irish Ambassador Ray Bassett: ‘Alberta is our number one priority in Canada’

CALGARY – Ireland’s Ambassador to Canada was in Calgary last month, where he told a luncheon meeting of the Ireland-Canada Centre for Commerce (ICCC) that his country’s economy is on the comeback after several difficult years.

“Part of the recovery strategy is increasing trade and tourism between Ireland and Canada”, said Ray Bassett, at the October 26 gathering at the Westin Hotel.

“Alberta is our number one priority in Canada,” said Bassett. He noted Canada helped young people from Ireland weather the gloomy economy by opening up opportunities for employment here.

Over 500,000 Albertans claim they have Irish heritage. “I think those young people who came to Canada revolutionized the Irish-Canadian relationship,” said Bassett.

As part of his trip to Calgary, Bassett and Laureen Regan of the ICCC met with Westjet officials, to discuss the need for more direct flights to Ireland from Alberta.



RAY BASSETT the Irish Ambassador to Canada addressed a business luncheon in Calgary on October 26.

The ICCC luncheon was sponsored by Vermilion Energy, which expects production to begin soon on a deep-water natural gas operation off the coast of Ireland providing up to 60 percent of Ireland’s gas needs and lessening Ireland’s dependence on English and Russian gas.

Almost 300 Irish companies do business in Canada, of which over 50 have a local presence of some kind.

There are approximately 25 Canadian companies in Ireland and about 7,000 Canadians are employed by Irish companies.

With Ireland’s economic ties to Calgary strong and growing, Bassett, announced he is looking to Regan to help maintain momentum.

Regan, the head of the Boom Group which administers programs for corporations to optimize employee engagement, was appointed Ireland’s Vice-Consul Trade and Investment in Alberta.

Regan, who is Irish born, also founded the Calgary chapter of the Ireland-Canada Centre for Commerce (ICCC).

Bassett said Regan was an obvious choice. “She has a proven track record here,” said Bassett. “She’s a tremendous networker, she’s a great human being and she’s very popular within the community. So it was a no-brainer.”

Regan will work with Deirdre Halferty, Ireland’s Honorary Consul responsible for boosting Irish community and cultural links.

Kathleen Lynch: Working to bring healing and open discussion about mental health to Ireland

KATHLEEN Lynch, an Irish Labour Party politician, is the Teachta Dala (TD) for the Cork North-Central constituency. She is also the Minister of State for Primary Care, Mental Health and Disability.

Minister Lynch was in Vancouver recently to attend a conference on mental health and disability and she spoke to *The Celtic Connection* about the changing views and policies in Ireland regarding mental health and suicide.

The stigma associated with mental illness is still a challenge and the minister said this is something she is working very hard to overcome.

In a recent survey 40 percent of Irish people said they did not want to live next door to someone who has a mental health problem.

Minister Lynch, who took office in 2011, said, "I have news for you...you may just not know it."

The issue is one that affects families and individuals at all levels of society.

Overcoming fear and bringing the issues into the open is an important step according to Lynch.

"When we used to talk about cancer, we would put our hands over our mouth and say 'the other thing' or 'the big C', we said everything but the word cancer."

This attitude has shifted now she said and people are more willing to openly discuss the disease. "We now understand what it is," she said, "and we know if it's diagnosed early enough there can be very good outcomes. That's where we are trying to get to with mental health."

Ireland has exceptionally high rates of

By CATHOLINE BUTLER



IRISH Minister of State for Primary Care, Mental Health and Disability Kathleen Lynch was in Vancouver recently to attend a conference on mental health and disability.

suicide among young males and females and according to statistics has the fourth highest rate of youth suicide in Europe.

"Our last suicide strategy ran out of time," said Minister Lynch. "Our new mental health strategy in relation to suicide is called Connecting Lives and Connecting for Life."

She said attitudes are shifting. "Basically what we are finding is that people who die by suicide are no longer talked about in hushed tones. We now talk about the possible reasons behind it."

"I think there has been a misconception



OVERCOMING the fear and stigma associated with mental illness in Ireland has been one of the biggest hurdles. In a recent survey 40 percent of Irish people said they did not want to live next door to someone who has a mental health problem.

tion that the age from 15-25 was the key age when people commit suicide, but in fact we are finding that it's anything up to 45.

Lynch spoke about the importance of putting into place the structures to support those struggling and provide connections to help prevent suicide.

"Sometimes, I'm not sure if young people understand that suicide is irreversible.

"It is about stopping the cause, putting into place nurses who can often see the first visible signs of someone who is contemplating taking their own life.

"The first sign is usually self-harm, whether it's abusing alcohol, taking drugs, or cutting themselves, any kind of risky behaviour.

"We now have nurses who are trained to watch for this kind of behaviour and make sure the patient is stabilized and put in touch with the right services and followed up."

In 2006 a new mental health policy document 'A Vision for Change' was launched.

"This policy replaced the 1984 Irish mental health policy document 'Plan-

ning for the Future' and was to have a lifespan of some seven to 10 years.

"The plan was to basically ensure the delivery of a different form of mental health services," said Lynch. "We had a system which had enormous institutions all over the country. We were very good at locking people up with 22,500 people in institutions.

"To put that into context, at the same time we had 10,000 people in jail. So it was quite phenomenal.

"We decided to close down the big institutions and on average there were approximately 1,000 people living in each institution. Once this program was underway, it required a different form of service."

She said, "In other words the service has to be in the community. You still have an acute unit but with much smaller numbers.

"The average length of stay now in terms of the acute unit is approximately 11 days.

"So we started to change the entire service and in order to do that when I came into office I knew that we needed money separate from the mental health service.

"The mental health budget was to run the service but we still needed people to deliver the service. We needed to create and develop a different service.

"Within primary care we now have a counselling service which was set-up last year. Up to that point, when you went to a GP and said that you were depressed with either mild or moderate symptoms, really all the doctor could do was write you a prescription or send you to the acute care unit."

The minister said, "Now, they can refer you without going through the psychiatric services to counselling – directly to counselling – and that's working extraordinarily well.

"This year, we intend to actually extend that funding to treat people under 18, not just adults.

"Really, it's about prevention. Getting in there early to ensure that when people need it, they can get the type of treatment that they require."

Lynch said often the biggest obstacle is usually attitude but there is a growing understanding about the complexity of mental health issues. For example, some people need to be accompanied by their animal companion.

"That is changing because people now recognize the benefit and value of such support," she continued. "A dog may be a key element to autism, or someone who is visually impaired or perhaps someone just needs a dog as a companion."

Speaking about the conference in Vancouver, the minister said, "It is so very nice to be in the company of people who believe the same as yourself.

"I suppose most of my work is about overcoming barriers. It is about trying to convince others that we are doing the right thing, and here at the conference everyone is either ahead of us or behind us, but we are all convinced that we are on the one road and we can help one another."

Disappointment as Web Summit moving from Dublin to Lisbon

DUBLIN – The decision to move the world's largest gathering of startups to Lisbon next year is a blow to Dublin's efforts to portray itself as Europe's Silicon Valley and cast a pall over the event's kickoff on November 3.

Both the Web Summit and Irish Government defended their positions and the back-and-forth escalated with event founder Paddy Cosgrave releasing a cache of e-mail correspondence.

The government's "uncoordinated and disorganized approach" hampered the summit, which draws about 30,000 attendees, event founder Cosgrave wrote in e-mails to the taoiseach's office. In turn, the government pointed to financial support given to the summit.

Twitter posts showed public sympathy for Cosgrave ebbing after he released

the event's wish-list, which included police escorts for VIPs, free rental of iconic venues and the closure of some city center streets for a "night summit."

Cosgrave renewed his attack on the government saying Kenny's administration was using the controversy as a "helpful distraction" from other problems.

"Publicly, we always lavished praise on the government," Cosgrave said in an interview with state-broadcaster RTE.

"Privately, we were constantly trying to get politicians to do what other governments were doing at the summit, focusing not on photo opportunities but opportunities to do business."

The idea that the government hadn't done enough to meet executives at the summit is "simply not the case," Enterprise Minister Richard Bruton told RTE after Cosgrave.

The summit, which started five years ago with 400 technology entrepreneurs, will draw more than 2,000 startups,

1,000 investors and 650 speakers to the three-day conference this year, organizers say.

The sprawling event now encompasses pub crawls and food and sports summits and represents an estimated US\$120 million in revenue for Dublin. Last year, U2's Bono and supermodel Lily Cole were among the star turns.

Portugal's capital, which will host the summit for at least three years, is providing 1.3 million euros (\$1.4 million) of support a year to the event. Ireland has provided just under 1 million euros over the lifetime of the event.

The trouble may have started a year ago after the 2014 event was mired in logistical difficulties such as Wi-Fi outages and a lack of public transport or taxis around the event, prompting Cosgrave to send the government a series of e-mails requesting extra support.

"Leaving international attendees stranded with no hope of public transport or taxis caused incredible frustra-



WEB SUMMIT founder Paddy Cosgrave. The company, which employs 130 people at its headquarters in Dublin, will continue to be based in Ireland.

tion," Cosgrave said in a September e-mail. The entrepreneur didn't "want a penny," he said.

"We just want a plan for public transport, traffic flow management, Wi-Fi and hotels. Without even a basic plan, Web Summit will be too big, too unmanageable, too risky for Dublin."

On September 23, a frustrated Cosgrave told the world that the event was leaving Dublin next year for Lisbon.

As for this year, one person who won't attend is Kenny although he was a speaker last year.

His office claimed the invitation to attend had been received at the last minute and due to the hectic nature of his schedule he was unable to reorganize.

Cosgrave replied the taoiseach was invited in May. The government declined to comment.

Enda Kenny says Ireland will back 'reasonable' EU reform

LONDON – Ireland is prepared to support some of Britain's demands for reform of the European Union, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said.

He was speaking following a meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron in London on November 9 as negotiations to save power-sharing in Northern Ireland enter their final phase.

In an address to business leaders in London, Kenny catalogued a list of economic and political reasons the UK should stay in Europe and offered to look carefully and constructively at David Cameron's proposals.

"I have always been clear that Ireland will be open and pragmatic when it comes to sensible proposals to improve the EU," the taoiseach said.

"In general, where the UK seeks reasonable and achievable adjustments, we will be sympathetic and supportive."

Kenny's speech follows a report from an influential think-tank in Ireland which warned British withdrawal from the EU would see Irish exports fall by three billion euro a year.

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), which informs policy-making in Dublin, warned energy costs would spike and business in Northern Ireland and along the border would be worst hit by a so-called Brexit.

The taoiseach's invitation to the CBI also comes on the eve of the British prime minister setting out his case for EU reform.

On the close ties between Britain and Ireland, Kenny pointed to the one billion euro of trade between the two countries every week, with the UK exporting more to Ireland than it does to China, India and Brazil combined.

Ireland is the UK's fifth largest market with an estimated 200,000 jobs linked to the exports.

The British market is now the biggest for Irish tourism accounting for almost 50 percent of all overseas visitors and around one-third of all overseas tourism revenue in the Republic.

Offering a qualified support for the UK position on Europe, Kenny said, "Given the breadth and depth of these overlapping interests, it is perhaps not surprising that Ireland regards the prospect of the UK leaving the EU as a major strategic risk."

He said Brexit is not something the Irish Government wants to "see materialise at all."

"The Irish Government's strong view, backed up by independent economic research published last week, is that a Brexit is not in Ireland's economic interest.

"The research showed adverse impacts across a range of headings including Trade, Energy and the Labour Market.

"It also debunked the myth that there would be some FDI bonanza for Ireland if Britain left the Union."

On Northern Ireland issues the taoiseach said it was extremely worrying that it could be worst hit by Brexit.

"I believe that Northern Ireland can leave the past behind and become a dy-



TAOISEACH Enda Kenny met with UK Prime Minister David Cameron at Downing Street on November 9 to discuss the state of the political process in Belfast.



AT a meeting with business leaders in London, Enda Kenny catalogued a list of economic and political reasons for the UK to stay in Europe.

"We are the only English-speaking country in the eurozone and an important link for Britain with Europe"

namic economy that will benefit not only the UK but the island of Ireland," he said.

"There must also be cooperation to build the island economy through overseas investment, trade, tourism, and utilising a competitive, common corporation tax rate.

"Now is not the time to weaken the cohesive, stabilising influence and outward focus that shared EU membership brings to Northern Ireland."

Kenny noted 2.4 billion euro of funding from the EU in the six years to 2013 to help the region as it recovered from conflict.

And on the prospect of a deal being reached to revive power-sharing in the Stormont Assembly, the taoiseach said he was optimistic.

During a question and answer session after his speech, Kenny declined to say which countries would be most likely to object to any reforms being sought by Cameron.

But he maintained that most European countries would support a reform agenda which led to the EU working more effectively.

Everyone supported the elimination of red tape, a single market and moves to boost jobs, growth and prosperity said Kenny, but there were other issues such as closer union, welfare reform and migrants, which he assumed Cameron

will cover in his letter on November 10.

Kenny also spoke out in support of the trade deal being negotiated between the EU and the United States, saying it could create new jobs and boost business.

Paul Drechsler, CBI president, said, "The links that bind Ireland and the United Kingdom are stronger than ever before. The booming trade partnership that our two islands enjoy drives growth, creates jobs and increases prosperity and competitiveness across our countries.

"To further our global ambitions, we need to be signing more trade deals like TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), boosting investment in innovation and turbo-charging the EU's Single Market in services and digital.

"The taoiseach's willingness to consider open and pragmatic EU reform proposals from the UK is welcome. When the prime minister comes back with his EU reform package, the CBI will consult its members again.

"We agree with the taoiseach that the voice of business needs to be heard."

Speaking outside Number 10 after the talks with Cameron, the taoiseach said Ireland "cannot support everything" but would play a "constructive and supportive role."

"I said that in respect of this matter that Ireland would be as constructive and supportive as we can, and I think the Prime Minister appreciates that very much," he said.

"We will participate constructively and appropriately in the discussion of the issues that he will set out in his letter tomorrow which are based on the manifesto he set out some time ago."

Asked if his warnings that Brexit posed a serious strategic risk meant that his only course could be to back Cameron's negotiating stance 100 percent, he told reporters, "Every country has got its national interests, of course. I laid out the overlapping interests that we have between ourselves and Britain.

"Obviously, this relationship has changed radically since the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the reciprocal visit by our president here to Great Britain.

"So, in terms of employment, trade, energy, hospitality, all of these areas we have a great deal in common.

"I would remind you that the Irish people voted in the midst of a recession for the fiscal stability treaty – 60/40 in favour, linking our future to the euro and the eurozone.

"But we are the only English-speaking country in the eurozone and therefore an important link for Britain with Europe.

"So, we cannot support everything but, in so far as we can, we will be constructive and supportive in respect of what the prime minister has been asking for.

"What has he been asking for? The single market, the single digital market, greater efficiency, elimination of red tape and useless administration. Everybody can support this.

"What is the European Union about? It's big countries helping small countries have continued peace, continued prosperity, opportunities for the 500 million people are the inhabitants of the EU.

"That's where we need to be."

Sinn Féin TD criticises Traveller criminality

DUBLIN – Sinn Féin TD Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, who is half-Traveller, has said some Travellers involved in criminality are a disgrace who have shamed their own community and shown disrespect to settled people.

Some of the "mistrust" felt by the settled community has been justified by "very poor behaviour and worse" by some Travellers, said the Donegal TD, who has urged the State to recognise Travellers as an ethnic group.

The first TD from a Traveller background, Mac Lochlainn was born in Leeds in 1973 and brought up in Birmingham by "two strong Traveller women," his grandmother Lizzy Gavin and mother Mary Mac Lochlainn.

His father, Réamonn Mac Lochlainn, was in the Provisional IRA and was jailed in England for nine years. The family moved back to Donegal in 1983. His father died in a swimming accident two years later.

Mac Lochlainn has spearheaded the campaign for the State to recognise Traveller ethnicity, with the debate he initiated in the Dáil provoking a passionate speech from Minister of State for Equality Aodhán Ó Ríordáin.

Ó Ríordáin did not read his official script but suggested the government was slow to grant ethnicity because of the response from focus groups.

"Aodhán's speech was very courageous because he set aside the civil service script and spoke from his heart, and it was a great speech.

"And he meant it, I know he means it. On this issue we're colleagues and we're allies and we're friends," Mac Lochlainn said in an interview with *The Irish Times*.

The Sinn Féin TD said he had been terrified by some "vile commentary" voiced on social media about the trag-



PÁDRAIG Mac Lochlainn, who is half-Traveller, has spearheaded a campaign for the State to recognise Traveller ethnicity.

edy of the 10 people who died in the fire at the halting site in Carrickmines, Dublin, last month.

The next step for society should be to have an honest conversation to address the "quiet prejudice" against Travellers that had grown up among some otherwise tolerant settled people. "That is the slippery slope to bigotry and to racism."

He stressed those who advocated for Travellers' rights had no difficulty in saying antisocial behaviour and criminality must be tackled head-on. "It is not Travelling culture to be involved in criminality," he said.

Mac Lochlainn said all citizens had responsibilities as well as rights. "It's not a right-wing thing to say . . . People think it's Thatcherite to say that. It's not. It's Republican to say that," he said.

"This is one of the last great civil rights challenges in Ireland, the Travellers' issue. We've buried it under the carpet, we've papered over the cracks for too long. And we need to now have an honest conversation, warts and all.

"And everybody needs to accept their responsibility on both sides of the debate for what needs to be done."



Irish general election to be held next spring, says Kenny

DUBLIN – Taoiseach Enda Kenny caused surprise among his colleagues after stating it is his intention to hold an election in spring 2016.

After significant pressure to clarify his position, Kenny told broadcaster RTE his opinion on the timing of the election had not changed.

"I have been consistently very clear on this. It is my intention to hold the election in the spring of 2016."

The leader of Fine Gael, the largest party in a coalition government which has lasted since a landslide victory in 2011, has been under mounting pressure to set a date amid speculation a poll could have been ordered as early as November.

Kenny leads the government with the support of minority partner Labour.

He said it was important for Fine Gael and Labour to go into the election on a joint electoral platform.

The taoiseach said, "I see no reason to change my mind (about the date). The important thing is both parties - Fine Gael and Labour - go into this electoral on a joint electoral pact platform. Yes we will have different programmes.

"This is not about me as taoiseach or me as a public representative. This is about the future and people have to have the choice of continued stability and investment."

Single biggest loss of life in a fire in almost 35 years

DUBLIN – Ten people, including five children and a pregnant woman, died on the night of October 10 after fire tore through a Traveller site in Carrickmines, south of Dublin.

Thomas Connors (27) and his wife Sylvia (25), died alongside three of their young children – Jim (5), Christy (2), and six-month-old Mary.

Sylvia's brother Willy Lynch (25), his pregnant partner Tara Gilbert (27), and their children Jodie (8), and Kelsey (4) also died in the fire. Willy's brother Jimmy (39) was also killed.

The tragedy was the single biggest loss of life in a fire in Ireland in almost 35 years.

But it did not take long for it to become apparent that the wellspring of grief and sympathy for the dead would not be extended to the survivors.

The victims are from a community known as Travellers which a report in the *New York Times* calls "the most stigmatized group in Irish society."

Even in the midst of such catastrophe, there would be no softening of long-held prejudices.

When the authorities attempted to set up emergency accommodations for survivors of the disaster, local residents blocked access to the proposed site, saying it was "unsuitable" and they did not believe the Travellers' presence would be temporary.

The survivors eventually moved to an isolated parking lot next to a decommissioned dump, a site that had no one living close enough to object.

Aodhan O'Riordain, the government minister with responsibility for equality, described the objections of the local residents as "indicative of a wider view throughout Irish society."

"There are few groups within Irish society about whom people can say pretty much what they want, and often people in public life say whatever they want about Travellers and pretty much get away with it," he said on national radio.

Travellers make up about 0.6 percent of Ireland's population, with about 30,000 living in the country, according to the 2011 census.

Their origins are disputed. Some say they were people displaced centuries ago by invasion and famine, but there is DNA evidence that their origins in Ireland go back at least 1,000 years. Many speak a distinct language and intermarriage is a norm.

Many retain a nomadic lifestyle, but others are known as "settled Travellers" because they have chosen to stay put. Their social exclusion makes them vulnerable to drug abuse, suicide and crime.

The *New York Times* article goes on to say, "It would appear that most people in Ireland form an image of Travellers from depictions of them as tight-knit gangsters, housebreakers and feuding thugs.

"They are frequently refused service in pubs, shops and hotels, though few prosecutions on charges of discrimina-



A LOCAL priest and mourners at a memorial for the victims of the Carrickmines fire which took the lives of 10 people, including five children and a pregnant woman.



SYLVIA AND THOMAS Connors [above left] died in the fire along with their three children Jim (5), Christy (2), and six-month-old Mary. Tara Gilbert and Willy Lynch [above right] in happier times with daughters Jodie (8) and Kelsey (4).



tion have been successful."

At the funeral of Thomas and Sylvia Connors a message from Pope Francis was read out. Bishop Denis Brennan delivered the pontiff's message and paid tribute to the strong family bonds he has encountered in the travelling community.

"Having worked with the Travelling People over the years I have come to know and admire your lively sense of the sacred, and your strong family bonds.

"I pray that these two traits, which are a hallmark of your community, will help you through this time of tears," he said.

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre commended firefighters for putting their lives on the line to rescue people.

Martin Collins, co-director of Pavee Point, a Travellers' rights group, said, "Our community has been sickened to the pit of its stomach by the callous way the survivors have been treated over the past two weeks.

"There is undoubtedly deep-seated racism in Irish society to the point where it has been normalized in the Irish psyche."

Co-director Ronnie Fay said, "Pavee Point is concerned that many Traveller families throughout Ireland are being forced to live in overcrowded and dangerous situations due to the impact of the housing crisis. Travellers are often the hidden victims of the housing crisis.



FIVE hearses carry the bodies of the Connors family for burial.

"The difficulties in accessing the private rented sector are exacerbated for many Travellers who continue to experience widespread discrimination and find it nigh on impossible to rent from private landlords.

"This is in addition to the cuts made by the government to Traveller accommodation under the guise of austerity measures with the budget reduced from 40 million euro in 2008 to 4 million euro in 2013.

"We call on the government to reinvest in Travellers and ameliorate the savage cuts that were imposed during austerity."



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Brian Friel's Final Act: A simple burial in Co. Donegal

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By
**MAURICE
FITZPATRICK**

SEEING pallbearers convey playwright Brian Friel's coffin of wicker to his grave in Glenties, his mother's village, on Sunday, October 4 against the backdrop of bevel hills, heather and Montbretia wildflowers, brought many preoccupations of the man and his work into one frame: gaiety and tragedy, celebration and loss, home place and exile were in gentle contrast.

Brian Friel's life as a dramatist began after a series of false starts, writing in other media.

A newspaper columnist as a young man, he seemed comfortable in gossipy and self-revelatory idiom before he became a regular short story writer for *The New Yorker* in the days when to do so almost provided a living.

He also wrote some radio plays. Friel, like his father, was an active member of the Nationalist Party in Derry City in the 1960s and he seemed destined for a life of teaching, writing and making a contribution to local politics.

Instead, local politics were unrecognisably recast by the 1960s generation in the North and so, too, was the young Brian Friel to change enormously.

Tyrone Guthrie, the visionary theatre director who believed in establishing theatres away from the metropolis, saw Friel's potential and invited him to the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis for four months as an observer in 1963.

This period provoked in Friel "some kind of explosion in the head."

Friel had brought his family to America and witnessed the workings of a professional theatre, thought about exile and emigration, Ireland and modernity.

Out of all this, he turned out a play, *Philadelphia, Here I Come!*, the following year, which bore out Tyrone Guthrie's intuition that Friel was a playwright of world stature.

Friel's dramatic ingenuity was apparent from the first. In *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* Friel splits his protagonist, Gar O'Donnell, down the middle, into two characters.

One is a sulky and lonely man, facing the prospect of leaving his father behind to die when he departs from Donegal for a new life in Philadelphia. The other, an exuberant inner version of the self, a mouth in a world of inarticulacy, a mixture of pathos and exaltation.

Here are two selves torn: old Ireland and the new United States, the past and the future. It was a mould-breaking play



FAMILY AND FRIENDS of the late Brian Friel bade farewell to the world-renown dramatist in a simple ceremony in Co. Donegal on October 4.



THE late Brian Friel was one of Ireland's best known playwrights.

in Irish dramatic tradition and a rave on New York's Broadway.

Much as international success lifted Friel, it also helped to ground him. A few years after *Philadelphia* opened, he moved from Derry City to a house in Donegal where he would write about his ongoing concern with what has been called the "glocal": the worldly import of local matters.

Friel found in Ballybeg (literally, small town) a metaphor that formed much of the dramatic context for his work. Occasionally in Friel's work, Ballybeg can be anywhere in rural Donegal.

At other times, it clearly mutates from one part of the county to another.

In *Dancing at Lughnasa*, dedicated to the memory of "those five brave Glenties women," Friel clearly writes about his mother's home place.

In *Translations*, as Friel's diary on May 14, 1979, states: "Went to Urris today, the setting of the hedge-school in the play-in-the-head...no response to this remote, bleak, desolate strip of land attenuated between mountain and sea."

Take a trip to Urris, almost the northernmost tip of Ireland, and see the landscape that inspired Friel. Not only is it majestic; its sense of enclosure, of being beyond the mountain and nearly swallowed up by the sea remains.

But Urris/Ballybeg, the fact that it was Irish-speaking when *Translations* was set (1833) and English-speaking in the 20th Century was to provide Friel with one of his greatest inspirations about Irish identity and the division within our society.

In a television interview to promote *Translations*, the woman who later became the first Irish president from the North of Ireland asked Friel to explain the implications of language in a divided Northern Ireland as he understood them.

Friel replied: "Loyalty, treason, patriotism, republicanism and homeland [are] words which we think we share and which are, in fact, barriers to communication."

Out of *Translations* came one of Friel's most lasting contributions to Irish theatre, the company he founded with Stephen Rea to create a way for art to address the Northern Irish crisis: Field Day.

Friel was quite explicit about the need for artists to help to create "a cultural state, not a political state. And I think out of that cultural state, a possibility of a political state follows. That is always the sequence."

Field Day expanded to become a literary publishing enterprise and spawned many other plays. Its archive in the National Library of Ireland is by turns deeply serious and hilarious, as Friel himself was in person and as his plays often are as well.

After he left Field Day in 1990, Friel became difficult to access. Interviews dried up completely; it was clear that he had no wish to be interviewed and had no time for the limelight.

Yet Friel's modesty and shyness did not preclude many a tussle with theatre directors.

He formed the view early in his career that the role of a director in the production of a play was overblown; by the height of his career, he wished he could almost dispense with them. When they tampered with his text he was apt to make them pay for their interference.

This was something that the Artistic Director at Florida's Sarasota's Asolo Repertory Theatre discovered last January.

A production of *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* there, which cut three characters and eliminated two intermissions and generally interfered with the play, was summarily pulled by Friel.

In the end was his beginning. Donegal, where Brian Friel holidayed as a boy and lived for most of his life, and also had a holiday home, is his natural resting place.

Of his four grandparents who hailed from Donegal, two were illiterate and two could speak Irish only.

Like the title of a volume of oral history Friel edited, *The Last of the Name*, he embodied both the end of an Irish-speaking oral tradition and the reinvigoration of that into a new tradition of world class drama.

For that, for the 30 plays he has left us with and for many other achievements, Brian Friel was a remarkable figure.

Fascinating characters abound in one of Dublin's oldest pubs

MULLIGAN'S
Grand Old Pub of Poolbeg Street
By Declan Dunne
Mercer Press
ISBN: 978 78117 348 0

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

Not many Dublin pubs have had entire books written about them, but author Declan Dunne would argue that few drinking establishments can compare with Mulligan's. It was established as a spirit grocer in 1782 and still attracts an enthusiastic clientele.

The pub has inspired artists, poets, musicians, writers, dancers and journalists, many of whom conducted their interviews in the pub. Several ghosts are even reputed to have appeared on the premises.

It's also a barometer used by the media to gauge public opinion in Ireland on sport, politics and economic strategies – I think that must be very difficult since very few Irish agree with the other's opinion.

The characters that Dunne writes about in the book are not only real but some of the most interesting and hilarious characters you could ever meet. You would need your notebook handy to take down all the one-liners.

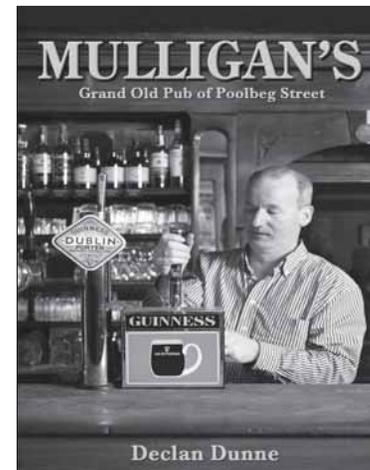
There are some absolutely funny things that took place at the bar with many a practical joke played.

The famous and infamous all frequented Mulligan's – Seamus Heaney, Judy Garland and James Joyce drank in it.

A kidnapper was arrested in it, a man kicked his wife to death after leaving it, and Brendan Behan was barred from it for using f...ng and blinding language.

It seems that f...ng was acceptable but Brendan used blinding, and that was just too much.

A man from Houston, Texas, in the U.S.A. was a frequent visitor to Mulligan's and in his final request asked that his ashes be placed in the bottom of the grandfather clock in the pub when he passed away. His family and friends still visit Mulligan's today to pay



homage to his ashes.

Jack Grealish, news editor for the *Irish Press*, was a frequent visitor to Mulligan's. He introduced then Senator John F. Kennedy to Mulligan's.

Chapter five speaks about that time before Camelot.

Oliver Grealish, Jack's son, now makes Edmonton his home and he spoke about his father saying, "Kennedy told my father that he wanted to see a pub that James Joyce may have visited and my father took him to Mulligan's.

"My father told my mother Nora that he didn't have any money so he borrowed a fiver for the drink from the girl on the desk at the *Irish Press*. And that's what he bought John F. Kennedy a drink with."

This meeting took place a full 14 years before Kennedy entered the White House and Oliver said his father was very impressed by the senator.

"He also told my mother that he found Kennedy very charming and ambitious and that in his opinion, this man would become president of the United States."

The stories about the visitors to Mulligan's will keep you in stitches laughing and the most amazing part is...they're all true.

Mulligan's Grand Old Pub of Poolbeg Street, is a hilarious read and would make a great Christmas gift.

Gone Again Unto a Beginning at the End

Quiet, watching, underground. The season is as the dead.

Too late to change what was, too early to say what will be.

A reasonable drive toward madness, or something else.

Inalterable change, greater than the days of the calendar, is underway.

On foot to a new land, or just surviving until tomorrow, the present is breaking its bargain with the future. Can you feel it?

Melting ice a world away creates rivers to the sea. Movement, ceaseless movement, away from stability, toward fluid, restless change. Electric impulse, blinking eye, tipping point. Here.

Ripping panic, any country, the crowd turns.

Some trampled, some survive. Machines rain from the sky.

Brutality, frail flesh falls, bones bleach.

Raise your hand. Strike, defend, or answer.

Spin the protest, business as usual.

The sun pales to the onslaught, a spider navigates a windowpane. Look away. Evade the futility of Now.

November butterfly flits toward twilight.

Or something else.

– By Cynthia Wallentine



Aer Lingus to create 200 jobs with launch of new U.S. routes

DUBLIN – More than 200 jobs are to be created with the launch of three new Aer Lingus routes to the U.S., the carrier has announced.

Direct transatlantic flights will operate from Ireland to Los Angeles, Newark and Hartford in Connecticut from next year.

Five flights a week will run between Dublin and L.A., with daily flights on the other two routes.

The expansion is the first major announcement from the former Irish flag carrier since it was taken over by British Airways owner International Airlines Group (IAG).

Willie Walsh, IAG chief executive, said Ireland's geographic location and U.S. immigration pre-clearance provides a "natural gateway" to build business between Europe and North America.

"This is the first step in our plans to add North American destinations, bring new aircraft into the fleet, increase passenger numbers and create new jobs," he said. "This shows also our keenness to develop Dublin as another key hub within the group."

The routes will connect to a range of UK and European cities, including London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Paris, Amsterdam and Rome.

They bring to nine the number of transatlantic services operating out of Ireland by Aer Lingus. Other destinations include Boston, Chicago, New York, Orlando, San Francisco, Washington and Toronto.

The airline described the move as the single largest expansion of its transatlantic network since it started flying to the U.S. in 1958.

The promised 200 jobs will include pilots, cabin crew and ground services staff.

Maureen O'Hara Actress of Hollywood's Golden Age, Dies at 95



MAUREEN O'HARA was born in Dublin and moved to Hollywood in 1939 where she became a U.S. citizen.

IRISH-BORN actress and one of Hollywood's biggest stars in the 1940s and '50s, Maureen O'Hara passed away on October 24 at the age of 95, according to a statement from her family.

"Maureen was our loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend," the statement read.

"She passed peacefully surrounded by her loving family as they celebrated her life listening to music from her favorite movie, 'The Quiet Man'."

The family said, "Her characters were feisty and fearless, just as she was in real life.

"She was also proudly Irish and spent her entire lifetime sharing her heritage and the wonderful culture of the Emerald Isle with the world."

O'Hara was born in Dublin and moved to Hollywood in 1939 where she later became a U.S. citizen.

She first broke into motion pictures in 1939, with roles in Alfred Hitchcock's *Jamaica Inn* and as Esmerelda, opposite Charles Laughton's Quasimodo, in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Over her celebrated career, O'Hara worked with the greats of her time, including John Ford (most notably on the 1941 Best Picture winner *How Green Was My Valley*) and John Wayne, with whom she made five films, including *The Quiet Man* in 1952.

She is perhaps most widely remembered for her roles in two family films, *The Parent Trap* and *Miracle on 34th Street*.

Ireland's president Michael D. Higgins said "she will be remembered as an outstanding and versatile actress, whose work especially in film, will endure for many years to come."

A memorable encounter with Maureen O'Hara

MUCH has been written these past few weeks about the passing of Hollywood screen legend Maureen O'Hara.

She was an extraordinarily beautiful woman who earned great acclaim and always brought Ireland onto a global stage alongside herself.

One of the most striking qualities for which she is remembered is her feisty personality.

I encountered this wonderful woman over 20 years ago at the Plaza Hotel in New York City when I attended an awards ceremony for the top Irish Americans of 1993 hosted by Irish-America Magazine.

The reception was held in the massive and ornate Grand Ballroom which was filled to capacity with around 600 people.

By MAURA DE FREITAS

There was an enormous buzz in the room with celebrities from Ireland and United States and further afar mingling with unknowns....and everyone was talking at once.

When the event got underway on stage, organizers struggled to bring the room to order as everyone continued to talk and talk....as only the Irish can talk.

Numerous pleas for *ciúnas* (calm) went unheeded until finally, a red-haired woman impatiently stepped up to the microphone.

With a thunderous voice she roared out over the crowd *Dúin do bheal!* (roughly

translates into English as 'shut your mouth').

You could have heard a pin drop. The entire room recoiled and there was complete silence. She had everyone's attention.

Then, with the sweetest smile, she said 'thank you' and graciously stepped back to allow the introductions to begin.

This was, of course, Maureen O'Hara.

Following the glitzy gala, everyone was invited to meet up at a local pub for a more informal gathering.

Maureen O'Hara was right there – charming, witty and down-to-earth – happily chatting with anyone and everyone, sharing fascinating stories of her amazing life.

There can be no doubt that while Maureen O'Hara loved Ireland, she was equally cherished by the Irish in return.



A beautiful and spirited woman, Maureen O'Hara is remembered for her personality along with her great beauty.

Married priests would help priest shortages

DUBLIN – A lay Catholic group has lent its support to the Bishop of Kilmore's request for Irish bishops to examine the possibility of ordaining married men to the priesthood and appointing female deacons.

The Association of Catholics in Ireland (ACI) says the high percentage of priests over 65 years of age in Ireland and the low intake of seminarians suggest that in 10 years time many parishes will be without a resident priest.

"Already the clustering of parishes has resulted in some parishes being without a daily Mass and on selected week days only having prayer services without distribution of Holy Communion," the association said in a statement.

In a statement, the ACI says Bishop

O'Reilly's proposals reflect elements of its own recent submission to Pope Francis for consideration at the Synod on the Family to be held in Rome.

"Married clergy would bring the warmth and richness of their lived experience to their pastoral ministry and be well placed to offer support to married couples and families in difficulties," the group said in its submission to Rome for the Synod on the Family.

The ACI is of the view that ordained priests who left active ministry to marry and who could be invited back into ministry right now.

They would bring their experience of marriage to pastoral work while providing extra resources to meet the challenge of the shortage of priests, the organisation believes.

Northern Ireland Newlywed Couple Tragically Drown During Honeymoon

BELFAST – Newlyweds who tragically drowned on their South African honeymoon had described their wedding six days before as the 'best day ever.'

John Rodgers, 28, and his wife Lynette, 26, died on October 23 after getting caught in a rip tide at Plettenberg Bay – less than a week after they walked down the aisle.

She wrote on Facebook: "John and myself would like to thank everyone that joined us on Saturday and for all the well wishes! We greatly appreciate it and had the best day ever. Heading off today so will speak to everyone when we return."

In a joint statement their families said they had been left devastated. "It has

come as a great shock to both the Reilly and Rodgers families to learn of the sudden and tragic events in South Africa, which has taken the lives of Lynette and John.

"Our happiness in sharing their recent wedding has been thoroughly devastated. Both were very dearly loved and brought us great joy."

Lynette, a physiotherapist from Hollywood, Co. Down, and John, an office worker from Ballygowan, also in Co. Down, tied the knot in front of family and friends at the First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood on October 17.

The body of Rodgers was discovered in shallow surf on Robberg Beach by a local man at South Africa's National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said.



JOHN AND LYNETTE Rodgers on their wedding day.

His wife's body was found around 200 metres away along the same beach, the institute said.

Doctors performed CPR on the couple but they were pronounced dead.

President Michael D. Higgins visits California to honour balcony victims

SAN FRANCISCO – The President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins travelled to California last month to honour the victims of a balcony collapse that killed six college students and injured several others.

He met Berkeley's mayor, public safety workers, healthcare providers and area residents to thank them for helping when the balcony snapped off an apartment building.

Higgins called the balcony collapse that happened during a birthday party on June 16 "a tragedy that has affected our people very deeply."

Five of the young people who died were from Ireland and working in the San Francisco Bay area for the summer.

"We were told and witnessed from afar your quick and unwavering support for our students and their families," he told a group of emergency service responders at a hotel close to where the balcony gave way.

Higgins and Berkeley mayor Tom Bates shovelled dirt around a pair of strawberry tree saplings planted in honour of the victims in the corner of a city park near the Library Gardens complex, the site of the accident.



MICHAEL D. HIGGINS participates in a tree-planting ceremony in Berkeley, California. The trees were planted near the accident site where six college students were killed and seven others seriously injured when a balcony collapsed in June.

Bates said the city council has given final approval to more stringent construction and inspection rules for balconies and decks that were a response to the tragedy.

"This event is not going to go unnoticed. It's not going to go down as a footnote in history," he said. "We are going to change the way we do business in Berkeley so it never happens again."

Five Irish students, all aged 21, and the 22-year-old Irish-American cousin of one of them died after the balcony gave way, tossing them and another seven

young people celebrating at the party 50 feet down to the street below.

A city investigation revealed that the wooden beams supporting the structure had rotted through from water damage.

The Alameda County district attorney has been conducting an investigation to decide if criminal charges are warranted.

Higgins was on an eight-day west coast visit that included a stop in Seattle, a visit to Google's headquarters, and a speech on world hunger at the University of California, Berkeley.

IRISH SENIORS LUNCHEON - SEATTLE



PHOTO: Fennel Photography
KATHLEEN HERBER, Rose Boyle, President Higgins and Bernadette Noonan at the Irish seniors reception.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography
LEO COSTELLO, President Higgins, Paul Heneghan and Kay Quinlan at the Irish seniors reception.

Average Irish wages rebound to 2007 levels

DUBLIN – The economic outlook in Ireland has improved significantly this year according to a leading think-tank.

The Economic Social and Research Institute (ESRI) said average wages are back to what they were in 2007 and living standards have returned to pre-crash levels for the first time.

The economy is now growing twice as fast as Spain, the nearest European rival, and unemployment should plunge to eight percent by the end of next year.

Kieran McQuinn, associate research professor at the ESRI, said people are also spending cash again as homes start to feel the effects of the recovery.

"It has taken us eight years to get there – but we are back at 2007 levels, in terms of income per capita and living standards," he said.

And although the bounce-back is most obvious in Dublin, the economist said it should trickle down into other cities and rural areas over the next year.

In its latest forecast, the think-tank which advises the government on policy-making said the value of the Irish economy will grow by a substantial six percent this year, and four and a half percent next year.

Joblessness will continue to fall over the coming year, dropping to around 180,000 by the end of 2016, it predicts. There are currently 205,300 people out of work.

Although unemployment is coming down, there is still some way to go to reach boom-time levels, when just over 110,000 people were on the dole.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography
BRIGID MORKEL, President Higgins, Julie Kinahin, John Doonan and Danny Quinn at the Irish seniors reception.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography
MIRIAM DOYLE, President Higgins, and Michael Spillane at the University of Washington. Doyle is from Co. Galway and Spillane from Co. Cork and both are Marine Research Scientists at the UW Joint Institute for the study of the Atmosphere and Ocean.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography
MIKE BOYLAN (L) meets President Higgins at the Irish seniors reception. The president knows Mike's brother Tom, a university professor at University College Galway.



PHOTO: Fennel Photography
PRESIDENT HIGGINS meets 96-year-old Father Bill Treacy at the Irish seniors reception. Treacy, a native of Co. Laois, left Ireland in 1944.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

- Mary Byrne Hjorth, a native of Co. Wicklow, died in Seattle October 22
- Austin Rynne, a brother-in-law of Danny Quinn of Edmonds, died in New York October 15
- Ted O'Donovan, 87, a native of Cork, died in Seattle October 13
- Mavis Hartman, 88, a native of Co. Down, died in Tumwater October 3
- Rose Caldwell, 96, a native of Derry, died in Port Townsend October 2

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh
a nanamacha dílse
May their faithful souls rest
at the right hand of God.*

PANEL DISCUSSION – Irish Network Seattle hosts a social media and digital content marketing event on Thursday, November 12 at T.S. McHugh's, 21 Mercer Street, on lower Queen Anne.

Gather and mingle from 6-6:45 PM and then from 6:45-8 PM local experts will participate in a panel discussion on how to use social media and other digital media to engage your audience and tell your story.

The panelists include Kristen Gill, owner of Kristen Gill Travel Writing & Photography, and Kate O'Neill and Chuck Leach, co-owners at Social Sky Marketing.

The discussion will be moderated by Fiona Remley, VP and Director of Program Management at Wunderman Seattle. For more information, visit Irish Network Seattle on Facebook.

FÉILE PORTLAND – The Irish Cultural Society of the Pacific Northwest hosts Féile Portland on Saturday and



By
**JOHN
KEANE**

Sunday, November 14-15, at Renaissance School of Arts and Sciences in southwest Portland.

The Féile is a celebration featuring workshops in Irish Gaelic, sean-nós singing and sean-nós dancing, with guest instructors including native Irish speaker and singer Máirín Uí Chéide and Seattle-based dancer Alicia Guinn.

For details, contact Kimberly Goetz seannosnw@gmail.com or visit <http://www.seannos.org>.

IRISH FILM – A new Irish movie *Brooklyn* hits Seattle theaters on November 20. Starring Saoirse Ronan, the film tells the profoundly moving story of a young Irish immigrant navigating her way through 1950s Brooklyn.

The initial shackles of homesickness diminish with a romance, but soon her past forces her to choose between Ireland and the U.S.

The film is based on the book by the same title by Colm Toibin and *USA Today* says of the movie, "If you want to join the awards conversation, you'd better learn how to say Saoirse Ronan."

CELTIC YULETIDE – Magical Strings' 37th Annual Celtic Yuletide Concert series starts November 28 in Kingston and Seattle's concert will be De-

ember 12 with Tacoma's on December 11.

Featuring the lyrical and joyful sounds of Celtic harps, hammered dulcimers, violins, cello, whistles, concertina, percussion and more, this grand gala of Celtic-inspired holiday music is filled with Irish singing, dancing, juggling, caroling and storytelling.

Concerts will also be held in Kent, Mount Vernon, Bellevue, Portland and Leavenworth. For the details, visit magicalstrings.com.

SENIORS' LUNCHEON – The Irish Seniors' Christmas luncheon will be at noon on Saturday, December 5, at F X McRory's, 419 Occidental Avenue South, Seattle.

All seniors of Irish birth, descent or interest are welcome along with their spouses and friends.

Our special guest on the day is *Daidí na Nollag* (Father Christmas). Over 400 Irish seniors, the majority of them Irish-born, have attended these luncheons over the past six years.

Sit-down lunch with choice of ham or turkey at \$10 per person (\$20 non-seniors). Please call for reservations to (206) 915-1878 (include names of any guests and their lunch choices).

IRISH SOUNDERS – Two different soccer players with the Seattle Sounders have declared that they would like to play for Ireland.

Lamar Neagle already has an Irish passport through his Irish-born grandmother, and MLSsoccer.com says the Irish Football Association (IFA) is seriously interested in Neagle.

Another Sounders player, Aaron Kovar whose mother is from Dublin,



THE GAELIC language choir at the annual Mass of Commemoration in Gaelic. (L-R) [Front Row] Cáit Callen, Nancy Ingle, Gary Ingle, Christina Bonfield, and Miriam Doyle. [Middle Row] Olivia Bermingham-McDonogh, Mary Kelly, Barbara Gordon, and Eileen Kilgren. [Back Row] Geraldine Scanlon and Linda Noe.

told RTE-TV that he would like to play for Ireland.

He was interviewed while attending the reception in Seattle for Irish President Michael D. Higgins.

The FAI has been scouting North America for awhile, and current Ireland captain and LA Galaxy forward Robbie Keane has been helping to recruit players from Major League Soccer.

COMHALTAS SETS – Seattle's local Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE) branch organizes dance sets on Sunday nights from 7 to 9 PM at St. Elizabeth's Anglican Church, 1005

SW 152nd Street, Burien. For details call Jim Belcher at (425) 402-8363 or check www.hoilands.com for photos and videos.

MISCELLANEOUS

• The next Irish Book Club meeting is Sunday afternoon, November 15 with the location to be determined. Contact hudit@comcast.net for meeting details.

• Paddy Noonan has a cruise to Alaska departing Seattle on May 28 featuring Irish musicians Jimmy Walsh, Tommy Mulvihill and PJ Cardinal. Contact seanachietravel@aol.com for details.

Ex-Anglo Irish Bank boss David Drumm arrested in the U.S.

DUBLIN – The former head of rogue lender Anglo Irish Bank, who authorities in Ireland want to question over the collapse of the bank, has been arrested in the United States.

David Drumm, 48, was detained by U.S. Marshals on October 11 in Massachusetts and was being held in custody ahead of an extradition hearing.

Ireland has long-sought the extradition of Drumm after he failed to be declared bankrupt in the U.S.

He moved to Massachusetts in 2009, six months after resigning as chief executive of the now defunct bank, which was central to Dublin's recent boom-to-bust saga.

Along with two others, he stood down after hundreds of millions in directors' loans were uncovered.

He refused to return to Ireland to be questioned about the events leading to the collapse of the bank, which was later nationalized before being wound up.

Drumm fought a four-year legal battle in Boston to write off his own debts of 10.5 million euros but a U.S. bankruptcy court rejected his claims in January,



DAVID DRUMM, the former chief executive of Anglo Irish Bank, has been arrested in the U.S. on an extradition warrant.

ruling the ex-banker was "not remotely credible."

During the proceedings, the Irish Bank Resolution Corporation – formerly Anglo Irish Bank – fought his claims for bankruptcy, as he owed it nine million euros.

Dublin's Director of Public Prosecutions also recommended a number of charges be brought against Drumm after a years-long probe into Anglo Irish Bank by the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation and the Director of Corporate Enforcement.

If the authorities succeed in extraditing him, Drumm could face 33 criminal charges in Ireland. The majority relate to his alleged role in the so-called Ma-

ple 10 transactions.

The plot involved the bank lending around 450 million euro to a secret circle of clients in July 2008 in order for them to buy shares in the bank to stop its price tumbling.

It was the outworking of a bid to save the institution from a doomed 2.4 billion euro gamble on its shares – 28 percent of its total stock – by former billionaire industrialist Sean Quinn.

In relation to the events around the Maple 10, Drumm is accused of disclosing false or misleading financial information; giving unlawful financial assistance related to the purchase of shares.

He is also wanted for forgery; and being privy to document falsification.

He faces two further counts – of false accounting and conspiracy to defraud – in relation to so-called "back to back" transactions.

These charges relate to claims Drumm was involved in giving billions of euros to Irish Life and Permanent only for it to return the money to Anglo through its corporate subsidiary Irish Life Assurance.

Anglo then presented this money as a corporate deposit, in an effort to bolster its faltering books.

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Tryweryn – A Shameful Episode in Welsh History



PAINTED in large letters on a wall at Llanrhystud, near Aberystwyth, Wales, is a Welsh slogan, *Cofiwch Dryweryn*. In English the words simply mean ‘Remember Tryweryn’.

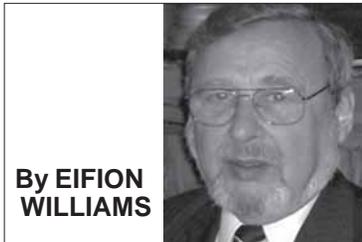
The word ‘Tryweryn’ reminds the Welsh of one of the most significant historical events of the past hundred years in Wales.

In 1965 the small Merionethshire village of Capel Celyn disappeared under the rising waters of a reservoir that would provide drinking water for the growing population of Liverpool.

The valley was dammed at one end, creating the Llyn Celyn reservoir.

The official opening of the Tryweryn project took place 50 years ago, on October 21, 1965, following years of protest and demonstrations by various Welsh groups during construction of the dam.

The 70 inhabitants of Capel Celyn were



By EIFION WILLIAMS

all Welsh-speaking and the village boasted a chapel and a school.

Media reports on the last service held in the chapel and the last classes held at the school, together with families leaving their stone cottages for the last time, angered the great majority of Welsh people.

In the previous century there had been several floodings of Welsh valleys and the displacement of Welsh-speaking communities in order to supply water to English cities like Birmingham and Liverpool.

None aroused the intense emotional response that Tryweryn did.

Opposition to the project included some minor acts of sabotage by militant young Welshmen.

However, most of the protests were peaceful, conducted mainly by the Tryweryn Defence Committee, which carried the protests to the city of Liverpool itself, where the protesters were largely ignored or dismissed.

What riled the protesters more than anything else was the fact that the Liverpool City Council and the UK Parliament made no effort to seek the consent of Welsh authorities to the drowning of the valley.

The Tryweryn Reservoir Bill sponsored by the Liverpool City Council was passed at Westminster without the support of a single Welsh member of parliament.

The most significant result of Tryweryn was that it gave a huge boost to Welsh nationalism and demands for devolution, much of which has come to pass, including the establishing of a Welsh Assembly.

The year following the official opening of the Tryweryn dam, Gwynfor Evans, president of *Plaid Cymru*, the Welsh Nationalist Party, was elected member of parliament for Carmarthen.

On October 19, 2005, 40 years after the valley was flooded, the Liverpool City Council officially apologized for its actions over the Tryweryn episode.

The council issued the following statement: “We realize the hurt of 40 years



TRYWERYN VALLEY before and after the drowning. It was flooded in 1965 to create the Llyn Celyn reservoir.

ago when the Tryweryn Valley was transformed into a reservoir to help meet the water needs of Liverpool.

“For any insensitivity by our predecessor council at that time, we apologise and hope that the historic and sound relationship between Liverpool and Wales can be completely restored.”

Not to be outdone, the current Under-Secretary of State for Wales, Alan Cairns, declared on October 14 in a House of Commons debate on the

Tryweryn episode, “Let me say from the outset that the whole question was a shameful episode in Welsh history and should not be forgotten.

“In fact the words *Cofiwch Dryweryn* painted on the wall in Llanrhystud are instantly recognisable by people across Wales as they travel from north to south.

“But those words remind us all of the darkest and some of the most regrettable days in modern Welsh history.”



THE famous ‘Cofiwch Dryweryn’ graffiti on a roadside wall at Llanrhystud, near Aberystwyth, Wales.

The heartbreaking reality for so many elderly on Christmas Day

CARDIFF – Over 11,000 elderly people in Wales say that they are forced to spend their Christmas day alone.

The lonely reality for the elderly on Christmas Day has been exposed in new figures.

On what is traditionally seen as a day for spending time with family and loved ones, more than 11,000 elderly people in Wales have no one to keep them company on December 25.

And, according to the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) statistics, more than 16,000 people aged over 75 feel lonelier on Christmas Day than at any other time of the year.

More than 40 percent of older people across the UK wish they had someone to spend the day with, while 44 percent say they expect the day to go by without seeing anyone at all.

Speaking from her own experience, Charlotte, a 70-year-old widow from Cardiff, said she dreads Christmas every year.

“For years, we had five Christmas trees and trimmings all around the house and people staying with us,” she said.

“My house was Christmas and my late



MANY elderly people will find themselves alone this Christmas. On what is traditionally seen as a day for spending time with family and loved ones, more than 11,000 elderly people in Wales have no one to keep them company on December 25.

husband was ‘Mr. Christmas’. But you wouldn’t know it was Christmas if you came to my house now.

“There’s no Christmas cards being put up and I don’t send any either and I don’t have any special food because being by yourself it’s just not the same.

“I never realised what isolation and loneliness were until I was left on my own.”

Since losing her husband Charlotte said that her life is now often confined to the house, as she feels unable to reach

out to anyone around her.

“People who know me would be surprised to learn that I’ve felt like ending it many times,” she said.

“The fact is that there are thousands of people like me.

“Older people are crying out for help and we need to be prepared for isolation and loneliness because it can happen overnight.

“People don’t understand what isolation and loneliness are about until it happens to them.”

Sarah Rochira, Older People’s Commissioner for Wales, said, “It is essential that loneliness is recognised as a key public health issue as it can have a significant impact on older people’s health and well being – the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.”

Sam Ward, director of RVS Wales, said, “We urge everyone to spare a little time and thought this Christmas for older people in their community who may be spending the festive period alone. Inviting them to pop over to celebrate the festive period could make all the difference to their Christmas.”

Elderly peoples’ charity Age Cymru is currently running a ‘Spread the Warmth campaign’ – aimed at resolving issues including loneliness during the holidays.

NOVENAS

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary (never known to fail). O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein you are my Mother, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You gave me the Divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me. This prayer must be said for three days, even after the request is granted and the favour received, it must be published.

– KLSMC, PMKMC, MJF, DF, ADB, GSKB, CC, CKB, LC, SLMKR, CTK, CC.

Novena to St. Anthony

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. – SVS

Novena to St. Clare

God of mercy you inspired Saint Clara with the love of poverty. By the help of her prayers may we follow Christ in pov-

erty of spirit and come to the joyful vision of your glory in the Kingdom of Heaven. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. – SVS

Novena to St. Jude

O Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman to Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor for all who invoke you, special patron in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great power, to come to my assistance; help me now in my urgent need and grant my earnest petition. I will never forget thy graces and favours you obtain for me and I will do my utmost to spread devotion to you. Amen. – CB, LMC

Novena of Childlike Confidence

O Jesus, Who has said, ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you, through the intercession of Mary, the Most Holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted. [Request] O Jesus, who has said, all that you ask of the Father in my name, He will grant you through the intercession of Mary, the most Holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask Thy Father in Thy Name that my prayer be granted. [Request] O Jesus, who has said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away but My word shall not pass,” through the intercession of Mary, Thy Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted. [Request] – SVS