

the celtic connection

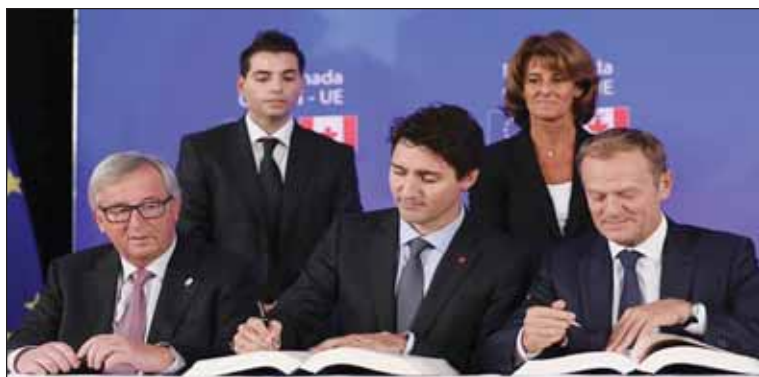
ISSUE 25 VOLUME 6

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NOVEMBER 2016



Photo credit: Paisley Art Institute Collection, held by Paisley Museum and Art Galleries. HALLOWEEN FROLICS by James Elder Christie (Scottish, 1847–1914). [MORE on page 28]



CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and European Council President Donald Tusk signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) during the European Union-Canada Leaders' Summit in Brussels, Belgium last month after seven years of negotiation. [Read more on page 9]



THE ROAD TO HELL: An entry into the 'Jungle' that was a temporary migrant camp outside Calais in France. Known for its dire living conditions, the camp became home to thousands of refugees before being cleared earlier this month. Most of the refugees in Calais were seeking a way into the UK. [Read more on page 22]

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



BREXIT court ruling exposes bitter divide in the UK with MP resignation, tabloid anger, and angry hashtags, a day after judges rule Brexit needs parliamentary approval. [Read more on page 8]

IRISH CULTURAL GROUP NEWS

- Edmonton Irish Club
- Okanagan Irish
- Irish Club of White Rock
- Irish Heritage Society of Canada
- Irish Women's Network
- Ireland Canada Monument
- CelticFest Vancouver
- Irish Heritage Club of Seattle

[Pages 16 - 27]



JIM KELLY the new Ambassador of Ireland to Canada was an honored guest at the commemoration ceremony at Martindale Pioneer Cemetery in Quebec. In his short address, Ambassador Kelly noted that while he has been privileged to visit many Irish famine memorial sites in Ireland, in the United States and elsewhere, Martindale Pioneer Cemetery was one of the most impressive. [Read more on pages 14-15]



IRELAND ended a 111-year wait for their first win over New Zealand with a momentous performance against the back-to-back world championships in Chicago. [Pictured above] Conor Murray of Ireland celebrates after scoring his side's third try against the All Blacks during the International rugby match between Ireland and New Zealand at Soldier Field in Chicago, USA. [Read more on page 26]

WIN FREE TICKETS

Win free tickets to the 'Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy – A Celtic Family Christmas' concert in one of the following three cities: **Calgary** – Jack Singer concert hall on November 24; **Vancouver** – Centre in Vancouver on November 26; and **Edmonton** – Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium on December 3 (See page 7 for details). Entry by November 18. Mark your entry: MacMaster/Leahy with the city of your choice.

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 per event). Send to: cbutler@telus.net.

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Early back issues now archived online through SFU library

Dear Friends:

Recently, I was delighted when a young woman contacted me from Toronto to locate some very early back issues of *The Celtic Connection*.

Her late father was one of our first contributors 25 years ago. As you can imagine, it would take a lot of digging to find those articles written by her dad so long ago.

Fortunately, I was able to direct her to our new joint project with Simon Fraser University where back issues of *The Celtic Connection* are being digitized to be made available online through the library.

Researchers, academics, anyone, can now search 12 years of back issues of *The Celtic Connection* – from 1991 up to 2004.

We are deeply grateful to Willeen Keough, Professor of History, who has championed this project and everyone at SFU who has helped bring it to fruition.

While we have advanced, it is still far from complete as we must wait for 2017 to apply for additional grant funding to update the metadata search functions....in the meantime, the good news is that it's up and finally available.

At the moment it is only possible to do a basic keyword search, and the database will only take you to each relevant issue (starting at the first page) rather than the actual page(s) on which the term appears.

This is still a work-in-progress and librarian staff are checking to see if they can fine-tune this function but hopefully as work continues, searches will become much more refined.

A graduate student has already analyzed 25 years of back issues for in depth metadata search....we just need additional funding to complete the project.



By
**MAURA
DE FREITAS**



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

SFU is confident this will become available with the next grant application in 2017....otherwise we shall seek additional funding elsewhere to complete the task and bring all the back issues up to date.

You will note the resolution on these early editions is not the greatest. This is because technology of the day required each hard copy issue to be scanned individually.

When we first started out in 1991, every issue had to be cut and manually pasted together – like a giant jigsaw puzzle each month – and we did not have digitized versions available.

Over the years, printing technology has improved enormously and so has the quality of the back issues. Now we upload complete PDF issues directly to our printer (no more all night paste-up assembly thankfully!).

It's really thrilling to know that our work will be preserved as an historic archive and anyone wishing access will be able to find the information they want through an online search.

I'll keep you posted on developments. In the meantime, check it out at: <http://newspapers.lib.sfu.ca/celticconnection-collection>.

Until next month,
Maura.



LARRY BRADLEY (centre) proprietor of the Heart & Crown Irish Pub in Ottawa is holding a copy of *The Celtic Connection* with his old friend Catholine Butler. Larry who hails from Omagh in Co. Tyrone is pictured along with now adult children (L-R) Michael, Kristen and Shauna Bradley.

JOHN ALEXANDER MCCRAE: Author of *In Flanders Fields*



REMEMBRANCE DAY – also known as Poppy Day, Armistice Day (the event it commemorates) or Veterans Day – is a day to commemorate the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and of civilians in times of war, specifically since the First World War.

It is observed on November 11 to recall the end of the First World War on that date in 1918.

Major hostilities of the First World War were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.

The day was specifically dedicated by King George V, on November 7, 1919, to the observance of members of the armed forces who were killed during war.

The most famous war memorial poem *In Flanders Fields* was written by a Canadian from Guelph, Ontario, who was the grandson of Scottish immigrants.

Lieutenant Colonel John Alexander McCrae (1872-1918) was a poet, physician, author, artist, and a soldier during the First World War. He served as a

surgeon during the battle of Ypres.

In Flanders Fields is now recited at most Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11.

It was written on May 3, 1915, after McCrae witnessed the death of his friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer who was only 22-years-old during the second battle of Ypres.

By most accounts, it was written in his notebook and later discarded by McCrae. It was rescued by a fellow officer and sent in to the London-based magazine *Punch* which published it later that year.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below...
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields...
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



JOHN MCCRAE in uniform, circa 1914.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Patriotism
is the last refuge
of the scoundrel."*

– [Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), the celebrated British man of letters, wrote dozens of essays that defined his views on the politics of his time and he is one of the most quoted men of the 18th century. In 1774, he printed *The Patriot*, a critique of what he viewed as false patriotism. On the evening of 7 April 1775, he made the famous statement, "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel."]

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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Maura De Freitas - Publisher • E-Mail: maura@telus.net

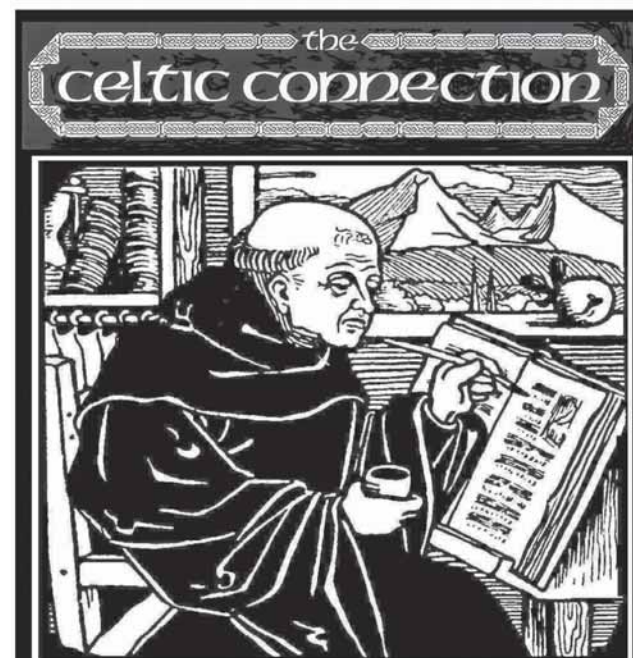
Catholine Butler - Advertising • E-Mail: cbutler@telus.net

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 • Joanne Long in Mission • Bill Duncan in Maple Ridge • Deirdre O'Ruaric in White Rock • Nanci Spieker and Heather Murphy in Seattle • Oliver Grealish in Edmonton.

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<p>Sunday, NOVEMBER 6 <i>It's a Wendy MacIsaac, Mac Morin & Mairi Rankin & kitchen party!</i> Cape Breton Night</p>	<p>Thurs., NOVEMBER 17 <i>5 Songwriters - one guitar</i> Acoustic Guitar Project</p>
<p>Thurs., NOVEMBER 10 <i>Sublime voices from Wpg and TO</i> Sweet Alibi Jadea Kelly</p>	<p>Friday, NOVEMBER 18 <i>Chuck Berry / Chess Records tribute / Fundraiser</i> Jim Byrnes & co</p>
<p>Friday, NOVEMBER 11 <i>Exhilarating Celtic trad. from PEI</i> Ten Strings & A Goat Skin</p>	<p>Friday, NOVEMBER 25 <i>Quebecois fiddle & song</i> Falquet / Gemme</p>
<p>Thurs., DECEMBER 1 The Revelers <i>and many more to come!</i></p>	

St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Ave.)
Tickets & Info (604) 736-3022

Historic St. James Hall – Home of The Rogue needs upgrades



ANCOUVER – There have been a lot of trips to festivals this year.

I believe it's a vital part of my job to find new music and artists on the cutting edge of the roots music scene – as well as to witness collaborations which we could later bring to The Rogue.

It's also important to meet other presenters, agents and artists to explore cooperative opportunities and to cement working relationships.

So, barely a month after returning from our trip to the Edmonton and Tonder Festivals at either end of August, Margaret and I set off to Cape Breton for the 20th annual Celtic Colours Festival.

We flew into Sydney on Sunday and drove to the charming Acadian fishing village Cheticamp on the Cabot Trail to see Coig, who ended the show playing with Pepeto Pinto, a Jamaican-born steel drummer on a bunch of reels!

Then we zoomed off to Port Hawkesbury in the SE corner of the island and on to a remote village called Lower River Inhabitants to see Tony McManus and Daniel Lapp – a definite "prospective" double-act for 2017 at The Rogue.

J.P. Cormier, Barrule, and young siblings The Broussards from Cape Breton, another remarkable show!

Monday was a very wet and wild, windy day and we had a lunchtime showcase to attend at the Gaelic College in St. Ann's near Baddeck.

Three local duos – the pick of them being local fiddler Rosie MacKenzie (ex-Cottars) with Irish guitarist Matt Griffin.

Fiddler Colin Grant was then joined by guitarist Scott MacMillan for some wonderfully jazzy trad. tunes, and Decota McNamara showcased his new duo with NB fiddler Jeremy Finney.

The rain was really hammering down by this time and we drove back to our motel through floods and waves off Bras d'Or lake washing over the road!

We had tickets to see Dougie MacLean and Tony McManus in Membertou, near Sydney that night.

I didn't fancy tackling Kelly's Mountain in the storm – which was the resurgent Hurricane Matthew reeking havoc across Cape Breton and into Newfoundland.

So we stayed home and tuned in to the live stream on the festival website www.celtic-colours.com. Dougie and Tony were given just three songs while the venue tried to sort out water problems.

Turned out to be a broken water main and the washrooms and sprinkler system were out of service. So the fire department rightly ordered the show be stopped.

So a good decision to stay at our motel was further vindicated when the festival rebroadcast The Unusual Suspects of Celtic Colours – 27 musicians from Scotland and Canada on one stage.



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB

Absolutely wonderful stuff with fiddles, pipes, drums, singers, and a horn section.

Tuesday was a lovely sunny day. Still windy though. We had another showcase to attend and also met up with delegates from Europe and Canada and the USA to share experiences and recommendations from the wide and wonderful world of Celtic music.

I also met up with my cousin Elaine and her husband Greg from Digby. This is becoming an annual family tradition for us!

We then drove east beyond Sydney and Glace Bay to Port Morien (home of the first commercial coal mine in North America) to see English guitar/melodeon wizard Tim Edey and Kiwi harmonica ace Brendan Power, Rosie MacKenzie and Mec Lir – a quartet from the Isle of Man with two members of Barrule augmented by a drummer and a keyboard player.

This was in the local Legion with its "secret" downstairs bar and flea market. Another fabulous show and another long drive home to Baddeck.

The next day we caught a lovely set by Newfoundland's The Once, taped live in a Baddeck church for CBC Nova Scotia, before heading north to Bay St. Lawrence for a seafood supper and my first experience of Chase The Ace.

I bought the winning ticket and received the princely sum of \$59 but then had a chance to win a whole lot more if I could find the Ace of Spades in a deck of cards arranged face down on a table. I got one chance.

Everyone was transfixed, willing me to guess incorrectly so they might have a chance at winning a larger jackpot next time! I guessed wrong. Too bad.

Then we drove back down the Cabot Trail to Aspy Bay for our final concert: Irish guitarist John Doyle with Cape Breton fiddlers Kimberley Fraser, Brenda Stubbart and the amazing dancer Nic Gareiss. Plus Mec Lir again. With their fabulous Manx dancer Alannah.

This was if anything even more incredible than the other shows and a fitting finale to our trip.

I recommend Celtic Colours to all fans of Celtic music. It takes place every October just as the leaves are turning and the music, scenery and hospitality are unparalleled. Only 11 months to go, then, until our next visit!!

There are two upcoming fundraisers for the St. James Hall Renovation Fund.

The Acoustic Guitar Project features five local songwriters, each given a signed Martin guitar on which to compose a song before passing it on to the next artist.

They then showcase the new songs, the guitar, and a couple of other songs each,

in the round. This is an annual event, and last year's show was incredible!

This year the event has been curated by Michael Averill, who will be joined by the duo Chicken-Like Birds, and songwriters Joline Bayliss, Kristina Lao, and Sadie Campbell on Thursday, November 17 at St. James.

The following night, Jim Byrnes, Paul Pigat and Friends will pay tribute to Chuck Berry, who turned 90 the other day, and to Phil Chess, co-founder of Chess Records (home of Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, Howlin Wolf and more) – who passed away in October – in another very special fundraiser for the hall.

As you may know, the City of Vancouver purchased St. James Community Square (3214 West 10th Avenue) – which houses The Rogue's venue in the Hall – back in February to save it from being sold to developers for demolition to make way for condos.

This generous act saved the building's 500,000 annual visitors from having to find a new space for the myriad activities that take place there throughout the year.

However, the Hall is in desperate need of renovation and improvement.

The floor is breaking up and can't be sanded down any further; the venue is largely unusable for three to four months over the summer as it has little or no ventilation – it heats up by day and doesn't cool down until the wee hours.

Also, the stage floor is threadbare and needs a lot of TLC. These and other enhancements are desperately needed to keep the hall thriving as a hotbed of great music in a city with ever-diminishing entertainment outlets.

The city has awarded a grant to fund these improvements, but this MUST be matched by funds raised by the society that manages the building and coordinates all the activities within.

The Rogue has added a \$2 fee to all tickets as a temporary fund to help raise this money. Please support these concerts and keep coming to Rogue events to help us keep the venue alive and thriving.

Your support is vital, and you – as audience members – will be the prime beneficiaries of the improvements to the venue.

Donations can be made online at www.sjcommunitysquare.org (scroll down to the donate button) and all donor contributions \$5 and up will receive a tax receipt.

The musical merriment at The Rogue continues apace, with Quebec's fiddle / guitar duo Pascal Gemme & Yann Falquet (of Genticorum fame) heading home from Australia via B.C. on Friday, November 25.

They have a great new CD of trad. tunes and songs – *Princes et Habitants* – and there will be a set by North Vancouver's Gabriel Dubreuil Trio to open the evening.

Gabriel is an alumnus of the North Shore Celtic Ensemble and Boston's famed Berklee School of Music.

He released his debut album, *Back To Back Bay*, in October, showcasing his brilliant fiddle playing on Celtic trad and originals, and covers of tunes by the

[Continued next page]



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THE FINAL concert at the 20th annual Celtic Colours Festival: Irish guitarist John Doyle with Cape Breton fiddlers Kimberley Fraser, Brenda Stubbett and the amazing dancer Nic Gareiss. Plus Mec Lir with their fabulous Manx dancer Alannah.

[Continued from page 4]

likes of David Grisman and Darrol Anger.

His trio includes Spirit of the West founder, J. Knutson and bassist William Ross. This is a hot example of Celtic music and jazz fused together by superb musicians.

In December there are shows by Louisiana Zydeco / Cajun Swamp Pop sextet The Revelers (1st), Portland / Quebec quartet The Foghorn Stringband (2nd), superb songwriter Danny Michel from Ontario (8th), and Van Django's Gypsy Jazz Christmas Special - Cool Yule, with guests LJ Mounteney (vocals) and Keith Bennett (harmonica) - on the 18th. Full details of all Rogue shows can be found on www.roguefolk.bc.ca.

I'll miss the Foghorn Stringband show, unfortunately. I'll be attending the Canadian Folk Music Awards in Toronto that weekend, where I have the amazing honour of being presented with this year's Slight Music Unsung Hero Award!

To be chosen from all of this nation's tireless musical champions is a most thrilling and humbling tribute, and I must



VAN DJANGO'S Gypsy Jazz Christmas Special - Cool Yule, with guests LJ Mounteney (vocals) and Keith Bennett (harmonica) - on the 18th.

convey my most sincere thanks to my partner, Margaret Whale, and to all the volunteers, board members, audience members, musicians, sound engineers, and venue managers for affording me 30 years of self-indulgence to share my love of the great wealth of folk and roots music which surrounds us all - even when so little of it is to be found in mainstream media.

Luckily there is plenty of "alternative" media, and you can hear this music - and so much more - every Saturday from 8 AM to noon on my show, *The Saturday Edge On Folk* on CiTR fm 101.9.

It's streamed live - and podcasts are available of all shows dating back to 2005! on www.citr.ca.

Another award for Steve Edge: Slight Music Unsung Hero Award

CONGRATULATIONS to Steve Edge, a founder of Vancouver's Rogue Folk Club, who is the recipient of this year's Slight Music Unsung Hero Award.

This is the second major accolade for Steve this year as he was inducted into the B.C. Entertainment Hall of Fame in September to honour his significant contributions to the province's entertainment industry and cultural landscape.

This award will recognize his work as artistic/executive director of The Rogue Folk Club, which he co-founded in the spring of 1987. His achievements and contributions are vast and varied, including his weekly radio show on CiTR, the UBC campus station.

Steve arrived in Canada from England in 1981 and since The Rogue was launched almost 30 years ago, the club has presented almost 2,000 live music concerts to metro Vancouver audiences.



Thousands of B.C. Canadian and international performers have graced The Rogue stage, affording local audiences a wonderful and often eclectic variety of acoustic folk, Celtic, roots and blues music.

Steve has, in effect, consistently produced a high quality year-round folk festival in the city. He has also participated in numerous joint productions and provided guidance and support for many other local organizations and music festivals.

Along the way, Steve and the Rogue Folk Club were founding members of

Folk Alliance International in 1989 (the destination North American conference for folk music) as well as being a founding member of the Vancouver Alliance for Arts & Culture.

Steve is also a regular MC at the Island MusicFest in Courtenay, BC, as well as Mission Folk Festival and occasionally the Vancouver Folk Festival and Edmonton Folk Festival.

He co-produces the Shorefest stage with LG104.3 FM.

Among his many accomplishments, Steve has also been a regular contributor to *The Celtic Connection* newspaper with a lively commentary on news and events across the folk music spectrum and beyond.

The Slight Music Unsung Hero Award will be presented to Steve at the Canadian Folk Music Awards Gala in Toronto this December.

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Folk World Mourns Angus R. Grant the Shooglenifty Fiddle Player

By ERIN MULLAN

THE FOLK world lost a pivotal artist on October 9 with the death of the charismatic fiddle player and front man of the Scottish band Shooglenifty.

The irrepressible, irreplaceable Angus R. Grant was a man who came into the world on St. Valentine's Day and whose life was defined by love: of people, music, adventure, the natural world, and always, a good party.

Angus was born to play the fiddle. He was the son of well-known left-handed fiddle player Aonghas Grant; his uncle gave Angus a quarter-size fiddle at the age of five.

The Scotsman newspaper described him as: "A player steeped in the music of his native west Highlands – not least through family – he infused it with contemporary influences to help create the folk-fusion genre that became known as 'acid croft'."

Shooglenifty arose from the vibrant Edinburgh music scene of the late eighties and early nineties.

Band manager Jane-Ann Purdy wrote in a tribute to Angus on the group's website, "With *Venus in Tweeds*, Shooglenifty's first album, the band took the folk world by the scruff of the neck and they've kept on shaking ever since.

"Through seven studio albums, gigs to a few hundred in small Highland village halls, playing to tens of thousands in festival fields across the globe, and a couple of line-up changes, Angus was there, centre stage.

He had never missed a gig until this July when illness forced his hand, but he returned to the stage to complete Shooglenifty's run of August festival appearances."

She also described how Angus was "a flighty and mercurial figure: he lived on the breeze, loving to disappear on walkabout (or, more often, hitch-about) in the Highlands, to pop up in far flung bars, and drop by for random visits with a legion of much loved friends."

In its obituary, the *Telegraph* newspaper said of Angus, "Having been brought up in the Scottish Highlands, as the band absorbed new global influences, it was he who kept it rooted to the traditional tunes of Scotland."

He loved to play in sessions in pubs and at festivals until the wee hours, and through his on-stage persona was one of the artists who made fiddle playing cool.

He also wrote many gorgeous tunes, including the iconic *Two Fifty to Vigo*, which came from a hair-raising lift on a motorcycle when travelling around Spain.

Shooglenifty's drummer James Macintosh gave a eulogy at Angus' funeral in Fort William.

He described his life-long friend as "an entertainer, undertaking the very important role: spreading joy and happiness.

"Amidst all of those myriad nights of

music and dancing, he gave people the rare opportunity to break the ice, shed their worries, inhibitions and tensions, and often reach a state of pure and unadulterated mutual joy. He believed this condition is when we are at our very best, and surely as mother nature intended."

James said of Angus, "He never took our adventures for granted, and was always grateful for the opportunities to travel to new lands, and to meet and make new friends.

"Throughout our travels, he saw beauty in diversity and was always excited by new experiences, always willing to be surprised and learn. I believe he had a true appreciation of the nature of the world."

Angus was a man who eschewed material goods but had a wealth of friends, and he possessed tremendous compassion and a rich sense of humour.

He also had no time for the technology upon which most of us rely. Angus told James a few weeks before his death, "Can I state quite categorically, I do not, and never have, nor will I ever, own a mobile phone!"

Angus was only 49 but he managed to pack a great deal of living into those too few years. He died at home surrounded by family and friends.

Glasgow's Celtic Connections Festival described the impact of his death on the festival website, "We've lost too many great musicians this past year, but few have prompted such a profuse, profound and heartfelt outpouring of tributes, from all corners of the folk world, as the late Highland fiddle wizard, composer extraordinaire, Shooglenifty frontman and all-round beautiful soul, Angus R. Grant.

"There are few, too, whose legacy will so surely live and thrive. At the Shoogles' helm, Angus offered revelatory inspiration to myriad younger musicians, while carrying his native tunes to countless converts far beyond Scottish folk music."

The Shoogles will mark Angus' birthday in February with an event in the Genuig Hall, the scene of many a legendary Shooglenifty gig over the years.

There will also be "A Night for Angus" on January 21 as part of the next Celtic Connections Festival. The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall will see Shooglenifty and "a veritable army of guests."

Featured artists include Aonghas Grant Sr., DJ Dolphin Boy, members of Capercaillie, Galicia's A Banda das Crechas and Rajasthani troupe Dhun Dhora, plus dozens more from the extended Shoogles family. There will be dancing.

NEW MUSIC RELEASES

On Easter Monday 1916, the Proclamation of the Irish Republic was read from the steps of the General Post Office in Dublin by the president of the newly proclaimed Irish Republic, Patrick Pearse.

This signalled the beginning of a modest scaled revolution which would have monumental effect; not in terms of its immediate military objectives, but because of its symbolic potency.

The rebellion was put down within a week and its leaders were executed; including the seven signatories of the Proclamation.

It may have seemed a failure in its immediate aftermath but history would prove otherwise, because it was the spark which created the movement which eventually led to the establishment of an independent Irish Republic, free from English rule.

In the centenary year of the Rising, Ireland has celebrated it as a pivotal moment in the formation of the modern state, with a year-long calendar of commemoration and celebration. Celebration of what is past, and of the potential of Ireland today.

This year the historical review of the Rising focused on the contemporary interpretation of the actions and words of the leaders of the revolution. The expert view, that is, on what we think this all meant.

But one project which avoided that interpretative naval-gazing approach and commemorates the power of the vision of Pearse, Ceannt, Connolly, Plunkett, the other leaders of the Rising was *1916: Visionaries and Their Words* – a composition project using the writings of these four proclamation signatories which has now been released on a CD

called *Visionaries 1916*.

Lorcán Mac Mathúna, Irish composer and creator of this album, says, "The Easter Rising was much more than a military independence movement; it was a grand gesture in a cultural revival led by artists and the most visionary cultural activists Ireland has ever known.

"It is these cultural pillars of fire which I sought to represent in this homage to the poets of the Rising.

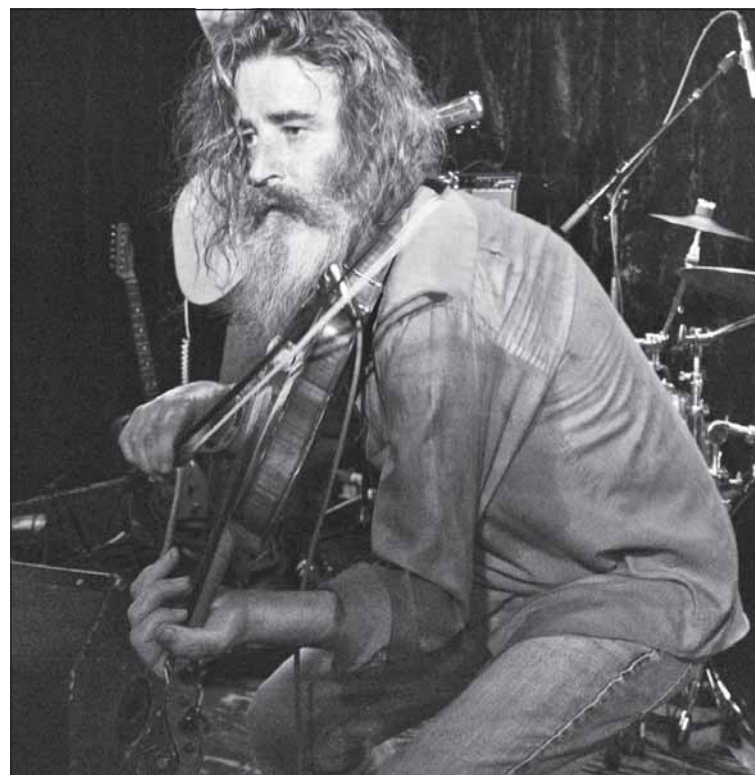
"By using their words in the creation of a collection of original songs, I hoped to present the personal side of the people who inspired a nation to achieve its freedom. To pose the question; what inspired the minds who inspired our country

"The 1916 Easter Rising was first of all a struggle for cultural expression.

"Its success was that the vision and objectives of its leaders were articulated so vividly by its main orators that the republic it proclaimed would seize the imagination of a nation and become the mission of a generation."

There were three things which made the Easter Rising possible. The Great Hunger (1845-1847); The Great War (1914-1918); and most importantly of all; the artists who renewed hope and enabled the cultural revival of Ireland.

The first two, because they gave the Rising an international dimension, and the latter because it gave the Irish people the confidence to believe in themselves.



A MERCURIAL FIGURE, Angus R. Grant was a fiddle wizard and composer extraordinaire. He was steeped in the music of his native west Highlands and he infused it with contemporary influences to help create the folk-fusion genre that became known as 'acid croft'.



Chief amongst the writers of the Rising were Patrick Pearse; the iconic cultural orator and visionary poet "with the gift of fiery speech" who articulated the soul of the nation, and James Connolly; the champion of the labouring poor who

raged against poverty and corruption with unrepentant clarity.

In *Visionaries 1916* Lorcán Mac Mathúna continues the tradition of artistic expression, using their inspirational words to inspire new music with a clear connection to Irish cultural identity.

Lorcán Mac Mathúna is a sean-nós singer and composer who wrote and produced the music theatre production, *1916 Visionaries and Their Words*, for the millennial celebrations of the 1916 Rising Visionaries.

His newly released album, *Visionaries 1916: Songs and music from the pens of Connolly, Pearse, Ceannt, and Plunkett*, was released on October 15 and is available to download and direct from the artist at www.visionaries1916.ie.



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR NOVEMBER

Celt In A Twist is local contemporary Celtic radio heard weekly on AM 1470, CJVB in Vancouver.

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

The following is the *Celt In A Twist* Contemporary Celtic Top 10:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>William of Barary</i> by Jim Moray - Upcetera on NIAG. | 6. <i>Anian</i> by 9Bach - <i>Anian</i> on Real World. |
| 2. <i>Antwerp</i> by The Breath - Carry Your Kin on Real World. | 7. <i>After the Rain</i> by The Dhol Foundation - <i>Drum-believale</i> on Real World. |
| 3. <i>Wind Her Up</i> by Doolin' - Doolin' on Compass. | 8. <i>England</i> by The Young Folk - Tyf Hoo Eul Nk G on Independent. |
| 4. <i>An Danna Elegua</i> by Salsa Celtica - <i>The Tall Islands</i> on Discos Leon. | 9. <i>After The Storm</i> by Sketch - <i>Highland Times</i> on Skye Music. |
| 5. <i>Aupres Du Poele</i> by Ten Strings And A Goat Skin - <i>Aupres Du Poele</i> on TSAAGS. | 10. <i>Shannon</i> by The Narrowback - TBA on Independent. |

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
Jim Moray - Upcetera (NIAG)

The Barra MacNeils Christmas show coming to White Rock this month

WHITE ROCK – As a group, the six MacNeil siblings are widely regarded as one of the greatest live acts in the Celtic world.

Hailing from Sydney Mines, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, the family group is deeply rooted in Celtic music, culture and history.

Their numerous critically acclaimed recordings have included their own original songs as well as tried and true standards, both instrumental and vocal, some of which have reached gold record status in Canada.

They were recently nominated for PEI's Fan's Choice Award for Entertainers of the Year.

They continue to perform to sold out audiences throughout Canada, the U.S., the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.

The Barra MacNeils one hour Christmas television special filmed a number of years ago, continues to be broadcast on Country Music Television and on PBS in the United States.

Now, local audiences can enjoy Barra



THE SIX MacNeil siblings are widely regarded as one of the greatest live acts in the Celtic world.

MacNeils Celtic East Coast Christmas Show on Saturday, November 19 when they perform at the Coast Capital Playhouse, 1532 Johnston Road in White Rock.

The concert experience brings so much more to the stage than most live acts ever can. Multiple lead vocalists, beautiful sibling harmonies, top drawer instrumental prowess in a wide variety

of acoustic, string, percussion, and wind instruments, dancing, storytelling, Gaelic songs and a journey through an ancient culture.

Presented by Rock It Boy Entertainment and Gee Dan presents, tickets are \$52.50 (plus facility fee and service charges). Charge by phone at (604) 536-7535, or online at www.whiterockplayers.ca.

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A Celtic Family Christmas with Natalie and Donnell

THIS holiday season join Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, the award-winning fiddle virtuosos, in an intimate and unique Christmas concert series you will never forget.

The duo is accompanied by an incredible array of talented session musicians and their entire family.

A Celtic Family Christmas will guide you into the wonderful world of a true Cape Breton Christmas celebration.

"This tour is going to have an energy that goes beyond the duration of the show," says Natalie MacMaster. "I want it to stay with our fans throughout the holidays, and beyond."

To fans of fiddle music, Natalie MacMaster needs no introduction.

Over a recording career now spanning 25 years, this Order of Canada recipient has released 11 albums that have notched sales of over 200,000 copies.

She has won two Junos and eleven East Coast Music Awards and been nominated for a Grammy, and has collaborated with artists as diverse as Yo-Yo Ma (on the Grammy-winning album *Songs of Joy & Peace*), Alison Krauss, Jesse Cook, and Bela Fleck.

Though acknowledging that she can be "a musical chameleon," Natalie stresses that, above all else, "I play Cape Breton fiddle."

Donnell Leahy is no stranger to the awards podium himself. He is the oldest brother of the internationally acclaimed family musical group Leahy, winners of three Juno Awards.

Widely recognized as one of the best Celtic fiddlers in the world, his high-



AWARD winning fiddlers Natalie MacMaster and her husband Donnell Leahy are on tour with an incredible array of talented musicians and this year they're bringing along the whole family.

energy playing style also makes him a highly popular performer.

The fiddling duo have toured extensively over the years both together and separately, selling out venues across the continent.

Each show is an unforgettable experience for all those in attendance, and word of their musical feats has travelled.

The last Christmas concert series sold out in a matter of days, leading to additional shows added due to high demand.

"If you really love fiddle music, there are performances here that are nothing short of jaw dropping ... performances that will raise you up and performances that will leave you misty eyed," *The Guardian*.

This year, A Celtic Family Christmas exceeds all expectations with riveting performances by Natalie, Donnell, and their children, bringing the Cape Breton Christmas to you.

Through a mix of both song and dance, they will take you on a journey of virtuoso performances, telling the story of

the night before Christmas in the Leahy/MacMaster household.

"Christmas is where this whole concept started and we are excited to be travelling as a family," says Donnell.

"It's a perfect time to travel across Canada and bring light and happiness to families and fans across the country."

With a lineup of familiar Christmas songs intermingled with classic Celtic songs sure to warm your heart, A Celtic Family Christmas brings you in the door, and welcomes you in as part of the family.

Tickets are on sale now at LiveNation.com or through the venue box office:

November 24 – Calgary – Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Common

November 26 – Vancouver – The Centre in Vancouver

December 3 – Edmonton – Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

December 4 – Saskatoon – TCU Place

December 6 – Winnipeg – Centennial Concert Hall

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NOVEMBER 26 – THE CENTRE IN VANCOUVER, VANCOUVER
DECEMBER 3 – NORTHERN ALBERTA JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, EDMONTON
DECEMBER 4 – TCU PLACE, SASKATOON
DECEMBER 6 – CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL, WINNIPEG

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SCOTLAND: TO BREXIT OR NOT TO BREXIT? ECHOES OF A SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA

EDINBURGH – As far as anyone can ascertain, William Shakespeare never visited Scotland.

However in *Macbeth*, or ‘The Scottish Play’ for superstitious types (I am writing this on Halloween), he makes Macduff utter a question that has echoed down through the ages: “Stand Scotland where it did?”

Just over four months ago, Britain voted to leave the European Union and Macduff’s question is once again on everyone’s lips.

It would be too much to say, as Ross did in reply, that sighs, groans and shrieks are rending the air, but it is hard not to worry what the consequences of a so called “Hard Brexit” will be for Scotland.

The Scots voted 62 percent to 38 percent to stay in the EU and, since then, the Scottish Government has made it clear that it wants to retain access to the single market and sees the free movement of people as beneficial to Scotland.

At the end of August, it appointed veteran politician (and erstwhile visitor to Canada) Michael Russell as Minister of UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe.

Russell has been extremely vocal on the need to protect Scotland’s interests in



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

Europe and respect the democratic will of the Scottish people who voted overwhelmingly to remain.

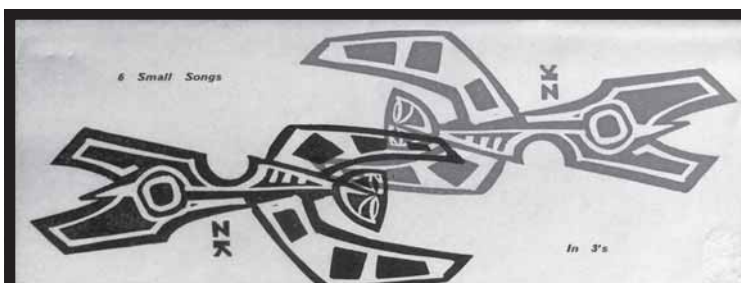
And he’s not alone. Scottish universities believe that Brexit could scare off EU students, cause a massive shortfall in fees and impact their ability to attract researchers and research money.

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations fears that lost EU funding will threaten the survival of some Scots charities and impact their most vulnerable clients.

And EU immigrants in Scotland, as elsewhere in Britain, wonder if they will be allowed to stay even after building a new life here.

The noises coming from furth of Scotland aren’t particularly encouraging.

In early October, Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced a plan to force companies to draw up lists of foreign-born workers in their employ; a policy that Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon decried as an “appalling, regressive and hugely troubling development.”



SCOTTISH poet and artist Ian Hamilton Finlay’s pamphlet cover was decorated with Haida art.



SCOTTISH First Minister Nicola Sturgeon (L) has appointed Michael Russell as Minister of UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe.

The UK Government then announced that the lists would be kept secret which wasn’t much comfort.

Later, the post-Brexit narrative plumbed new depths when a Conservative MP suggested that Syrian refugees arriving in Britain from Calais should have their teeth checked to ascertain their age.

In the middle of all this gloom, I ran across an article on Canada in *The Economist*.

Headlined ‘Liberty moves north’, it praises Canada for upholding the torch of openness and contrasts its attitude with that of the “depressing company of wall-builders, door-slammers and drawbridge-raisers” in other parts of the West.

Prior to the Scottish independence referendum in 2014, I made a case for Canada’s European-style social democracy as a model for an independent Scotland.

At the time, the argument was partially undermined by the fact that then-PM Stephen Harper seemed intent on chipping away at the foundations of a system that had won Canada so many admirers.

But, as *The Economist* piece attests, Canada’s social democratic credentials are now in the process of being restored.

From a Scottish perspective, however, the article is tinged with sadness.

It speaks of Canada’s lonely defense of liberal values and finishes by praising

ing it for reminding the world of what many are in danger of forgetting: “that tolerance and openness are wellsprings of security and prosperity, not threats to them.”

But Canada is not alone in defending liberal values or promoting the connection between tolerance and prosperity.

These things formed part of the Scottish Government’s narrative before the Brexit vote and have been emphasised even more strongly since then.

So what can Scotland do to avoid being lumped in with the “door-slammers” when it favours the opposite approach?

Nicola Sturgeon has said that she wants to explore all the options available to preserve Scotland’s relationship with Europe but retains the right to call a second referendum on Scottish independence if nothing else proves efficacious.

When a second referendum might happen is a question to rival Macduff’s.

In the meantime, we wait and look for signs. Last weekend I visited an exhibition on the work of Scottish poet and artist Ian Hamilton Finlay, best known for his poetic and sculptural garden Little Sparta.

I was amazed to see that the cover of his pamphlet “6 small songs in 3’s” was decorated with Haida art.

Upon investigation, it transpired that the cover design was by Croatian-Canadian artist Zeljko Kujundzic who, among other things, founded the Kootenay School of Art in Nelson and created the Thunderbird sculptures at the University of British Columbia’s Thunderbird Stadium. Kujundzic is buried in Osoyoos.

This story may be apropos of nothing, but I like to think of it as a symbol of all that is good in Canadian and Scottish attitudes to internationalism and diversity.

There’s a magic thread in it that starts in Scotland and Croatia, passes through British Columbia and Haida Gwaii and connects to the “planet earth inside a raven” tattoo on Justin Trudeau’s arm.

This kind of interconnectedness is exactly what Scotland recognizes and hard Brexiteers seem determined to deny.

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Theresa May Must Ask Parliament Before Triggering Brexit Article 50

LONDON – British Prime Minister Theresa May does not have the authority to trigger Article 50 and take the United Kingdom out of the European Union without the prior agreement of parliament, the High Court has ruled.

The decision means MPs will be granted a vote in the Commons on leaving the EU.

May argued she had the authority to use the royal prerogative to trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty to start the two-year process of negotiating Brexit without the prior authority of Parliament.

Government lawyers said prerogative powers are a legitimate way to give effect “to the will of the people” who voted by a clear majority to opt for Brexit in the June EU referendum.

However the High Court disagreed and



THERESA MAY

said May unlawfully intended to by-pass parliamentary scrutiny while taking irreversible steps to remove statutory rights granted to UK citizens under the European Communities Act 1972, which made EU law part of UK law.

Within minutes of the ruling by Lord Chief Justice Lord Thomas, International Development Secretary Liam Fox told the House of Commons that the government will appeal to the Supreme Court.

And a government spokesman said, “The government is disappointed by the court’s judgment. The country voted to leave the European Union in a referendum approved by Act of Parliament. And the government is determined to respect the result of the referendum. We will appeal this judgment.”

Unless overturned on appeal at the Supreme Court – or at a potential further appeal to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg – the ruling threatens to plunge the government’s plans for Brexit into disarray as the process will have to be subject to full parliamentary control.

Trudeau and European leaders sign CETA free trade agreement

BRUSSELS – The European Union and Canada finally signed the free trade agreement known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on Sunday, October 30 after seven years of negotiation.

It was in peril two days earlier because of opposition from the Belgian region of Wallonia but following an eleventh hour breakthrough, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and European leaders signed the deal.

“We are setting standards which will determine globalization in the coming years,” European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told a news conference alongside Trudeau. “Nothing in other trade agreements will be able to remain below the level of what we have reached today with Canada.”

While this hurdle has been overcome, the agreement must still be ratified in both the Canadian House of Commons and the European Parliament.

Assuming the European Parliament gives its assent, CETA could come into force partially early next year.

However, full implementation, which would include a contentious investment protection system, will ensue only after clearance by more 40 national and regional parliaments in Europe.

Supporters say CETA will increase

Canadian-EU trade by 20 percent and boost the EU economy by 12 billion euros (\$13 billion) a year and Canada's by C\$12 billion.

The deal will eliminate tariffs on almost 99 percent of goods. The beneficiaries would include, for example, carmakers or the EU textile sector, for which Canadian duties of up to 18 percent can be imposed at present.

Service companies could also benefit and EU companies would be able to tender for public contracts at Canadian provincial and municipal level, the first time Canada has offered this.

Canada would be able to send larger quotas of pork, beef and wheat to the EU market, and EU dairy producers would be able to export more than double the current amount of “high quality” cheeses to Canada.

For Canada the deal is important to reduce its reliance on the neighboring United States as an export market.

For the EU, it is a first trade pact with a G7 country and a success plucked from the jaws of defeat at a time when the bloc's credibility has taken a beating from Britain's vote in June to leave after 43 years of membership.

The Canada agreement is seen as a springboard to a larger EU deal with the United States, known as the Transat-

lantic Trade and Investment Treaty (TTIP), which has been the target of labor unions and environmental and other protest groups.

Around 100 anti-globalization protesters clashed with police outside the venue in Brussels, trying to break down barriers in front of the main entrance and hurling red paint. A Reuters photographer saw police detain some people.

The main focus of protests against CETA and TTIP remains the system to protect foreign company's investments. Critics say its provision for arbitration panels to rule on disputes with states can be abused by multinational companies to dictate public policy, such as on environmental standards.

The EU and Canada say their investment protection system guarantees the right of governments to regulate, make use of independent judges and be more transparent.

Trudeau acknowledged the discontent but said political leaders had to work to overcome it.

He said, “That leadership that we were able to show between Canada and Europe is not just something that will reassure our own citizens but should be an example to the world of how we can move forward on trade deals that do genuinely benefit everyone.”

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Chilcot: Tony Blair's actions over Iraq caused long-term damage to politics

LONDON – Tony Blair did long-term damage to trust in politics when he put forward a case for war that went beyond the “facts of the case,” the author of the scathing official report into the Iraq War has said.

Sir John Chilcot, who has remained silent on the report since its publication in July, told a panel of senior British MPs he believed it would take many years to repair the harm the former prime minister's actions had caused.

After an inquiry lasting seven years, the Chilcot Report found that former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein posed “no imminent threat” at the time of the invasion of his country in 2003, and the war was unleashed on the basis of “flawed” intelligence.

Its publication led to calls for the prosecution of Blair, but the former PM insisted that, while he felt sorrow for those whose loved ones died, he stood by his decision to commit Britain to the U.S.-led military action.

Asked if trust in politics had been corroded because MPs were told things that could not reasonably be supported by the evidence, Chilcot told the House of Commons Liaison Committee, “I think when a government or the leader of a government presents a case with all the powers of advocacy that he or she can command, and in doing so goes beyond what the facts of the case and the basic analysis of that can support, then it does damage politics, yes.”

He told MPs he “can only imagine” it would take a long time to repair the trust.

Chilcot said Blair's decision to describe the threat the Hussein regime posed as imminent had been the “best possible inflection” of the evidence he had.

“A speech was made in advocate's terms and putting the best possible inflection on the description that he used,” he said.

Sir John said the prime minister had “psychological dominance” over his cabinet ministers because of his success, which meant they did not challenge him as much as they could have.

Chilcot sidestepped questions over whether the war was legal, telling MPs the inquiry had not been “in a position” to offer that opinion.

He said, “The process by which the view was reached by the British Government and its principle legal adviser, the attorney general, we thought was unsatisfactory and deficient in more than a few respects.

“That did not enable us to come to the conclusion the war was not lawful but neither did we say that we endorse that advice or the way in which it was evolved and shared with government and that's as far as I can take it.”

Asked if a reasonable person would have come to the conclusion that it was an illegal war, he replied: “I think that a reasonable person would have to be brave as well as reasonable.”

Sir John said Blair's 2002 note to George W. Bush, in which he stated “I'll be with you whatever,” would have been taken by the U.S. president as an “unconditional commitment” to war.



DEMONSTRATORS protesting in central London when Tony Blair was called to appear before the inquiry led by Sir John Chilcot into the invasion of Iraq.



FORMER British PM Tony Blair as he is grilled by the Iraq inquiry headed by Sir John Chilcot on January 29, 2010.



SIR JOHN CHILCOT who led the official seven year UK inquiry into the 2003 Iraq War where 179 British soldiers were killed in conflict.

Taking on one of the fiercest criticisms of Blair, Sir John said the former PM did not deliberately lie to Parliament or the public about the case for war.

But instead of exercising his judgment, he instead used his “very considerable” powers of persuasion to convince people of the need for an invasion.

Sir John said, “I absolve him from a personal and demonstrable decision to deceive Parliament or the public, to state falsehoods knowing them to be false, that I think he should be absolved from.

“However, he also exercised his very considerable powers of advocacy and persuasion, rather than laying the real issues and the information to back the analysis of them fairly and squarely in

“I think when a government or the leader of a government presents a case with all the powers of advocacy that he or she can command, and in doing so goes beyond what the facts of the case...then it does damage politics...”

front of either Parliament or indeed the public.

“It was an exercise in advocacy, not an exercise in sharing crucial judgement.”

Sir John also criticised the cabinet at the time, singling out former foreign secretary Jack Straw, then-defence secretary Geoff Hoon and to a lesser extent ex-international development secretary Clare Short for taking a “passive” approach to the legality of the invasion.

Commenting after the session, Tory MP Andrew Tyrie, who chaired the hearing, said, “Sir John's evidence confirmed what many of us have long suspected – in making his case for war, Mr. Blair went beyond the facts. In doing so Mr. Blair, eroded the trust of the electorate in its leaders, a shocking legacy.”



KATHY THOMAS, Tora Anderson and Neville Thomas pictured at the Welsh Society of Vancouver anniversary dinner. The annual dinner commemorates the 1929 opening of the Cambrian Hall, the only dedicated Welsh Hall in North America.

Christmas event highlights of the Welsh Society

VANCOUVER – The main Welsh Society event last month was the anniversary dinner on October 15.

The soloist was Sharon McInty-Burrell, who also led the audience in communal singing.

The annual anniversary dinner commemorates the 1929 opening of the Cambrian Hall, the only dedicated Welsh Hall in North America.

This year's Welsh Weekend was held on November 4 to 6.

The monthly bilingual religious service on Sunday, November 6, was followed in the afternoon by the annual Gymanfa Ganu (hymn-singing festival), conducted by Jonathan Quick, musical director of the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir.

The accompanist was Ray Batten and the guest soloist was Sarah Henderson.

Welsh Society members are now busy preparing for the annual Christmas events.

November 28 is work-party day, when volunteers are invited to help decorate the Red Dragon in preparation for the festive activities. A delicious lunch is provided for the volunteers.

The annual Mulled Wine Night will be held on December 3.

On December 9 and 10 the society will host the Cambrian Hall presentation of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. This is always a popular and well-attended event.

Once again, actor Russell Roberts will be the main presenter, assisted by his wife, actress Colleen Winton and their son Gower. The accompanist will be talented musician Brian Tate.

Tickets for each night cost \$20 and can be obtained by phoning (604) 294-4332 or (604) 271-3134.

This event usually sells out and anyone planning to attend is urged to book early.

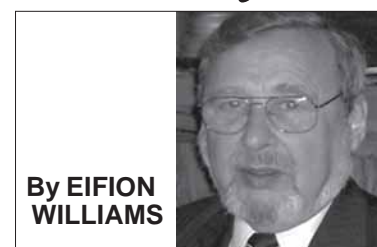
On December 11, a morning carol service will be followed in the afternoon by the annual children's Christmas party.

The society's Christmas activities will culminate in the annual Christmas dinner on December 17.

Information on the children's party and the Christmas dinner can be obtained from Gaynor Evans by e-mail at: fgevals@telus.net.

In addition to these main events, the Vancouver Welsh Society offers a variety of activities of general interest.

Welsh Language lessons conducted by



By EIFION WILLIAMS



RUSSELL ROBERTS will present the always popular *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. This prose work by the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas originally emerged from a piece he wrote for radio. Recorded by Thomas in 1952, the story is an anecdotal retelling of a Christmas from the view of a young child. It is one of Thomas's most popular works.

Dr. Antone Minard are popular with a growing number of participants.

There is also a Welsh-speaking session held on the third Monday of the month for those who wish to brush up on their Welsh conversation skills.

Once a month, the Cambrian Bookworms invite booklovers to discuss a selected publication. There is also a genealogy group for those interested in this increasingly popular pursuit.

Information on all the above activities is available on the society's website www.welshsociety.com.



MOST of the victims were interred at the Bryntaf Cemetery in Aberfan in a joint funeral held on October 27, 1966, attended by more than 2,000 people.

Aberfan disaster: 50th anniversary marked with silence across the UK

By EIFION WILLIAMS

"The Aberfan disaster was an event that shocked not just Wales but the whole of the UK and the wider world," said Welsh Minister Alan Cairns in the British House of Commons on Tuesday, October 18.

On the same day, Carwyn Jones, the First Minister for Wales, said in the Welsh Assembly: "At 9:15 AM on October 21, 1966, Wales changed forever."

This year, on Friday, October 21, at 9:15 AM, exactly 50 years since the disaster, a minute's silence was observed throughout Wales, across the UK, and in pockets around the world.

At the same time, a commemoration service was held at Aberfan Cemetery.

Prince Charles, representing the Queen, visited the Aberfan Memorial Garden and unveiled a plaque in memory of the victims.

He also signed a book of remembrance and visited a reception for the families of those who died.

The anniversary has also been commemorated in new poetry and musical works, church services and services of remembrance throughout the UK.

Across the UK, all government offices observed the one minute's silence in memory of those who died.

On a foggy October morning in 1966, a huge coal tip slid down a hillside overlooking the small village of Aberfan, burying in its path several houses and most of Pantglas Junior School.

The thousands of tons of moving coal waste killed 144 people, 116 of them children.

People living in the South Wales mining valleys had long become accustomed to the ravages of the coal mining industry.

Over the years, they had witnessed many lives lost due to tragic accidents deep underground, as well as the thousands of miners condemned to a slow death from inhaling coal dust.

The Aberfan tragedy was different. This time it killed their children.

It took many days to clear the waste and recover all the bodies.



THE MEMORIAL graves of the children and adults lost in the Aberfan disaster on October 21, 1966.

Grief and sympathy gradually turned to anger as people looked for someone or something to blame for the disaster.

Some openly renounced their faith in a God who had seemingly failed to prevent such a terrible fate befalling innocent children.

But most of the anger was directed at the National Coal Board, which had been warned for many years that water penetration could cause the tip to slide.

An official inquiry later found that the NCB was wholly to blame and was ordered to pay compensation for loss and personal injuries.

The disaster did eventually speed up the clearance of coal tips and mining infrastructure from the South Wales mining valleys, turning villages like Aberfan back into pleasant neighbourhoods in green valleys.

But for the parents, nothing could ever compensate for the loss of their children. Today, the Memorial Garden sits on the site where Pantglas School once stood.



THE FRANTIC rescue operations following the Aberfan mining disaster where 144 people were killed, 116 of them children.



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TARTANTOWN: A LITTLE HOTBED OF SCOTTISH CULTURE IN COQUITLAM



COQUITLAM – Nestled in a small strip mall in Coquitlam is a little haven of Scotland ...a virtual hotbed of Scottish culture called Tartantown.

Anyone unfamiliar with Tartantown could be forgiven for not recognizing that the person attending you in the shop could be a champion bagpiper, or a Highland dancing champion, or a member of the world famous Simon Fraser University Pipe Band.

That is, of course, until you need advice on bagpiping, pipe bands or Highland dancing... then you would realize you're talking to an expert on the subject.

Tartantown is owned by Heather Jolley of the Heather Jolley Highland Dance School and Terry Lee is the former Pipe Major with the SFU Pipe Band.

Terry has been the general manager at Tartantown for the past 37 years.

The shop features endless row bolts of tartan material just begging to be made-up into a kilt, along with ready-made kilts, bagpipes, Highland dance shoes, pottery, or the crystal and other souvenirs.

Terry recently stepped-down from his position as Pipe Major but not before he led the SFU Pipe Band to six World Pipe Band Championships in Scotland - first in 1995 and last in 2009.

The Lee family are all high achievers and in fact, the Lee name is synonymous with piping and the SFU Pipe Band.

Brother Jack, is the Pipe Sergeant and a world champion solo piper. He has two sons, John and Andrew in the SFU Pipe Band.

Terry's son Alastair is also a member of the SFU Pipe Band and a world champion solo piper. Terry's daughter Fiona, is a champion Highland dancer and dance teacher.

The Lee sons also all help out in the shop at Tartantown.

I recently stopped in to visit at Tartantown and to catch up with Terry Lee since he stepped down as Pipe Major.

It seems inconceivable after all these years that he wouldn't be involved in some way with pipe bands given the years of dedication and work with the SFU Pipe Band.

Terry is looking very relaxed these days, possibly less stress in his life now, but his decision must have been a difficult one and it took a lot of people by surprise when he announced that he was stepping down.

He acknowledged that it was difficult, but the timing just felt right, and funny enough...it was the weather in Scotland that helped made his decision.

"I finished the World's in 2013," he said, "and one of the factors in my decision was how bad the weather was that day in August in Scotland.

"It was just a terrible day, wind and rain and the band just had no luck with it.



By
CATHOLINE BUTLER



"I reached the resolution that you go through all this work and it's a lottery as to what happens on the day, and I just felt the timing was right.

"I also had a successor who was in place and fully equipped to take over and do the job."

But Terry is not entirely finished working with pipe bands. He still has connections with the (RMM), Robert Malcolm Memorial Pipe Band and he's also available to SFU for opinions.

"I still attend practices, but I'm only sort of mildly connected now," he said.

"I do have family in the band, my son Alastair and my brother Jack, and two of Jack's boys are also with the SFU.

"So, there are lots of Lee family members in there. I'm kind of involved in that sense."

Terry is also very excited about a new role he has found in the piping world as an adjudicator.

He said, "I'm enjoying learning about this and I'm now on the Royal Scottish Association Judging Panel."

This is his first year as an adjudicator and he said it's a novel experience.

"I think there are only four of us in North America that are certified to judge in Scotland and I've already judged a major championship there - a Grade 1 Pipe Band.

"This is very unique as very few people get that kind of opportunity to start with and I really had a great time doing it."

So, I asked Terry how he would respond if he was in a position to judge the SFU Pipe Band in Scotland?

"That's a great question," he said.

"They've just only changed that since last year, you can adjudicate your own band but if you're connected through family then you cannot judge. And, I am very happy about that, nor would I want to judge the SFU."

Terry is very proud of his son Alastair who has picked up the mantle and done extremely well at competitions in Scotland.

He said, "He is a young professional solo piper and doing well in Scotland and at some of the premier competitions. He has been right in the money



TERRY LEE, former Pipe Major with the SFU Pipe Band, has just embarked on a whole new avenue in the piping world but for the past 37 years home base has always been Tartantown.



TARTANTOWN is fully stocked with all your Highland dancing or piping needs.



THE SHOP also carries a wide range of high quality china, pottery and giftware.

type of thing.

"He won an award at Argyllshire Gathering at Oban Highland Gathering, it's one of the two biggest solo piping competitions in Scotland, and also at the Northern Meeting in Inverness.

"He has won both of the A' Grade Light Music Events, which is a very tough class. You might say it includes the top 40 players and he has won both of the major events there.

"He is now playing what's called the former winners class, and he's in competition against his uncle Jack ...imagine competing against your uncle!

"My brother Jack, has won just about every competition in solo that you can win.

"He's still going strong, well into his fifties, in what is sometimes called a young man's game.

"My daughter Fiona won the Junior World Championship in Scotland a few years ago.

"She is still dancing but has moved into full time Highland dance teaching now and has also got her judges' certificate. So, she is ready to start in adjudication."

So I wondered if Terry has any time on his visits to Scotland to check out new product lines for Tartantown as well.

He said, "It's always a kind of business hat that's worn.

"When I go to Scotland I try to have a bit of holiday as well. It's my annual holiday that I've had for the past 35 years in a row.

"It's a working holiday, so I'm always looking out to see what we could use for the shop.

"We're getting ready for Christmas with some new stock coming in this month.

"We have a very busy rental business for kilts and complete outfits for weddings, Hogmanay, Robbie Burns and just many other special occasions. Weddings tend to be our busiest rental times."

Calling all Scots to the annual SFU Pipe Band Burns Dinner

COQUITLAM – The pipes are calling all Scots once again this January and one of the local highlights is the annual Robbie Burns dinner hosted by six-time world champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band.

This fun-filled evening celebrating the life of the Scottish bard is a fundraiser with proceeds in support of the Robert Malcolm Memorial (RMM) Pipe Band youth organization.

The Simon Fraser University Pipe Band Society is proud to have one of the largest and most extensive youth programs for piping and drumming in the world.

The event will feature performances by the SFU Pipe Band, the Heather Jolly Highland Dancers and other members of the pipe band organizations.

There will also be an incredible silent auction showcasing local community



PIPING in the haggis at a past Robbie Burns dinner hosted by the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band.

businesses along with crafts, products, and other services.

Organizers hope you can join them for

the dinner and help promote piping, drumming, and Scottish heritage while enjoying a night of good music, entertainment, and fun.

The Robbie Burns Dinner and Silent Auction will be held at the Executive Plaza Hotel, 405 North Road, Coquitlam, on Saturday, January 21, 2017.

Tickets \$80 each and doors open at 6 PM. Visit www.sfu.pb.com for more information and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

You can also purchase tickets on Eventbrite - search SFU Pipe Band - Robbie Burns Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction.

For questions, please e-mail: rmmrobbieburns@gmail.com, or call Joanne Snow at (778) 552-6618.

Tickets can also be purchased at Tartantown, 555 Clarke Road, Coquitlam. www.tartantown.com.

Town of Port Talbot in South Wales Threatened by Steelworks Closure

By EIFION WILLIAMS

Anyone travelling along the M4 through the town of Port Talbot in recent years could not fail to notice the huge steelworks complex stretching several miles along the motorway.

Port Talbot in South Wales has been an important steelmaking centre since the early 1900s and for the past 50 years boasted the largest steelworks in the UK and one of the largest in Europe.

At its peak in the 1960s the huge complex employed over 18,000 workers and was a major economic boon to Port Talbot, a town of 37,000 inhabitants, as well as to surrounding communities. Today, it employs approximately 4,000 workers.

The plant was originally called the Abbey works, after the nearby 12th Century Margam Abbey.

It then became part of the Steel Company of Wales and was later sold to the Corus Group. In 2007 it was sold to Tata Steel of India, which also owns several other steelworks in the UK.

Tata Steel has been steadily losing money in its UK steel business and in March this year announced that it planned to pull out of its UK operations, including Port Talbot.

Closure of its steelworks would be a devastating blow to Port Talbot and to the Welsh economy.

Tata gave as its reasons for pulling out of its UK operations the dumping into Europe of cheap subsidized Chinese steel, high energy costs and weak demand.

Over the past few months, Tata has made several unsuccessful efforts to sell the Port Talbot works.

A major stumbling block is the £700 million British Steel pension liability that a buyer would have to assume, £485 million of it in Port Talbot alone.



BRITISH STEEL CRISIS: British steelworkers rally to protest industry wide cuts.

It has also failed to induce the government to step in and save the British steel industry.

The European Union's rules on state aid forbids government intervention such as subsidies to national industries.

The Brexit vote has complicated the situation, causing years of future uncertainty for British businesses.

Stephen Kinnock, MP for Port Talbot, said Brexit could cause the steel industry "irreparable damage," even though his constituents voted 57 percent in favour of leaving.

"The vote has taken place, the people have spoken, but I am deeply, deeply concerned about the future of our steelworks in the light of this vote," Kinnock told BBC Radio Wales.

Kinnock also fumed over the past few weeks at the news that the British Government has purchased French steel to build Britain's new Trident nuclear submarines.

The UK *Daily Mirror* called this "an ultimate betrayal of British workers."

In recent weeks, Tata has been negotiating for a possible merger of British Steel with the German steel group

Thyssenkrupp.

However, even if the merger succeeds, there is no guarantee that the company would continue to sustain unprofitable UK plants.

The rapid fall in value of the British pound in recent weeks has given grounds for optimism, making British steel exports cheaper for buyers and more expensive for cheaper producers like China to export to Britain.

Meanwhile, the people of Port Talbot grimly await the fate of their major employer.

Many small businesses have already shut down and some already laid-off workers have moved away to seek work elsewhere.

Karel Williams, professor of political economy at Manchester University, says that the future does not look good for Port Talbot.

Williams told *The Guardian* newspaper, "From history, the experience is that good jobs are lost and not found again, and the result is a dis-employed population on benefits."

"As a society, we are kidding ourselves about what happens when you put communities out of work."

Royal British Legion writes open letter to FIFA over Poppy ban

LONDON – The Royal British Legion has written an open letter to FIFA urging it to lift its ban on the England and Scotland national football teams wearing the poppy.

The football associations of both nations have vowed to defy the ban by world football's governing body, saying players will wear poppies on black armbands during their Armistice Day World Cup qualifier at Wembley.

FIFA has insisted that the laws of the game, which prohibit political messages from players' kit, mean poppies cannot be worn at the November 11 fixture.

But in an open letter to FIFA, RBL director general Charles Byrne said the poppy was a symbol or remembrance.

"Since 1921 the Legion has protected the red poppy from political or partisan misuse and ensured it remains a symbol that can be worn with pride by those of all ages, backgrounds, and political and religious beliefs."

"We ask you, FIFA, in the strongest terms, that you rethink your approach to remembrance and the use of the poppy, and permit players to honour the

commitment and sacrifices of the Armed Forces."

FIFA said it was opening disciplinary proceedings against the Football Asso-

ciation of Ireland (FAI) after the team's shirts in a friendly against Switzerland in March bore a symbol representing the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Grand re-opening under new owners for Celtic Treasure Chest on Dunbar

VANCOUVER – Fifteen years ago Steve and Lil McVittie decided to open a little shop called The Celtic Treasure Chest to bring in products such as groceries, teas, gifts and souvenirs from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales for those who missed their favourites from home.

Then, they added lines of custom-made deli products like meat pies, sausages, bacon, black pudding, white pudding and other products for a good Irish, Scottish, Welsh or British fry-up.

The stores grew with one in Dunbar, another in White Rock and another in Delta.

During this period, Steve and Lil were active in the annual Vancouver St. Patrick's Parade, the B.C. Highland Games and countless other Celtic events.

Due to age and health, they eventually closed the White Rock and Delta locations and listed for sale the Dunbar store.

Recently, they were pleased to announce the Dunbar store has been purchased by Stephen Coulson and Christina Ciccone.

The new owners look forward to great plans for the future of the store and announced the grand re-opening of The Celtic Treasure Chest at 5639 Dunbar Street in Vancouver, B.C. on November 2.



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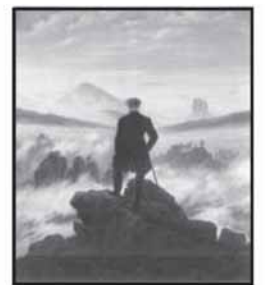
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MARTINDALE PIONEER CEMETERY: *'We are at one with past, present and future'*

NESTLED in the rolling hills of the Gatineau Valley in western Quebec, the little township of Low remains an enclave of Irish history entwined with French culture – forming a unique bond.

It was here where my mother Catholine Butler [nee Elaine Gannon] returned this past September, along with many friends and family members, for a deeply meaningful journey.

She was one of the main people who worked to put up a memorial in Martindale Pioneer Cemetery and the task was to put a plaque outlining the names of those individuals.

Martindale Pioneer Cemetery is the final resting place of many survivors of Ireland's Great Hunger who settled in that area.

A very unfortunate incident took place there many years ago when the headstones marking the graves were destroyed by an errant priest.

Many of our readers will be familiar with this story from previous issues, but this trip was not one of recrimination but rather celebration.

It was an opportunity to remember the ancestors while acknowledging the people who came together to put a magnificent memorial in place to mark this burial site.

Two plaques were unveiled at the site on September 19, 2016 – almost 30 years to the day when a 12-foot Celtic cross with messages in Irish, English, and French was commemorated in 1982.

The bilingual plaques list the names of those responsible for the research, fund-raising, and design of both the triple cenotaph – engraved with names of all those buried in the cemetery – and the remarkable Celtic cross.

It was a day of heartfelt messages, of singing and laughter, of dancing and rain, and of solemn celebration. A truly Irish inspired event.

It was also a day to give thanks for this beautiful new homeland that gave sustenance and hope to a ravaged people.

Many came from far and wide to be present for the ceremony and Jim Kelly, the new Irish Ambassador of Canada, along with wife Anne and their two daughters Orla and Ciara, were among the honoured guests.

In his short address, Ambassador Kelly noted that while he has been privileged to visit many Irish famine memorial sites in Ireland, in the United States and elsewhere, Martindale Pioneer Cemetery was one of the most impressive.

He remarked, "when we were coming out of the church above, my wife Anne said to me 'Doesn't this remind you of the church in Granagh?' Which is Anne's local church in Co. Limerick."

He continued, "And indeed it does. When you look around at the beautiful Gatineau countryside here, that too reminds me of the hills in Limerick."

"It occurred to me that for those who survived the horrors of the Great Famine, there must perhaps have been some small comfort in the familiarity of this beautiful countryside in what many of

them would have known before in their life in Ireland."

Ambassador Kelly spoke about the threads of history and the importance of that connection, noting that there were names that were very familiar to him listed on the memorial, including some that correspond to his own family.

Earlier about 100 guests gathered for mass at St. Martin's de Tours church, just up the hill from the old graveyard.

Somehow, after a morning of unrelenting downpours, the skies suddenly cleared and sunshine poured in through the stained glass windows.

There was a palpable sense of relief

mixed with peace and serenity during the Mass.

Father Larry McCormick from St. Patrick's Basilica in Ottawa was the celebrant and choir music was provided by Janet Egan accompanied by Howard Hayes. The reading was by Liette Hickey who works with her husband Merrill as caretakers of the church.

Many people had tears in their eyes as the sweet sound of *The Fields of Athenry* filled the small country church. Closing hymn was *Faith of Our Fathers* which once again seemed so appropriate.

Father Larry graciously stepped in after Father Lomer Rooney, who had deep roots in Martindale, was unable to attend due to ill health [sadly Fr. Lomer passed away on November 4].

There were so many people who contributed to make this day such a wonderful success but special mention must go out to those who sponsored and assisted with organizing the event.

First of all, I must mention Liette and Merrill Hickey who worked directly with Catholine as liason preparing the cemetery in advance of the ceremony and assisted with so many details.

Another key sponsor was Pat McCay of ProCoat Coatings who arranged for fabrication of the custom made steel poles to hold the plaques, along with shipping them from Calgary to Ottawa.

Pat Kelly of Bradley Kelly Construction who received the material at their yard in Ottawa, and Lisa and Stephen Kelly of Venosta, Quebec, who arranged for pick-up and delivery to Martindale [Lisa also helped in so many ways with co-ordinating the event].

Larry Bradley of the Heart & Crown Irish Pubs in Ottawa, Ontario generously sponsored the buffet at the reception following the ceremony at the Brennan's Hill Inn.

Also, thank you to Billy Monette who provided hospitality for everyone who attended the gathering afterwards in Brennan's Hill.

Pat Kelly of Bradley Kelly Construction provided sponsorship for entertainment by Howard Hayes and the Country Drifters at Brennan's Hill.

Special mention must go out as well to Janet Egan and her lovely dancers who provided a wonderful display of Gatineau Valley stepdancing. Thank you one and all.

Another key individual who stepped in to help out was Peter Mulrooney of Venosta, Quebec.

Peter helped to save the day when it looked like the site of the ceremony might be covered in mud. He provided a special tarp for walking around the area, along with a canopy to protect against the elements.

Any event such as this can never be accomplished without the support of innumerable volunteers who work quietly in the background to make it a success. We are deeply grateful to you each and every one.

The opening at the ceremony at the cemetery was prefaced by a beautiful rendition of *Amhrán na bhFiann* (the Irish national anthem) and *O Canada*, the Canadian national anthem.

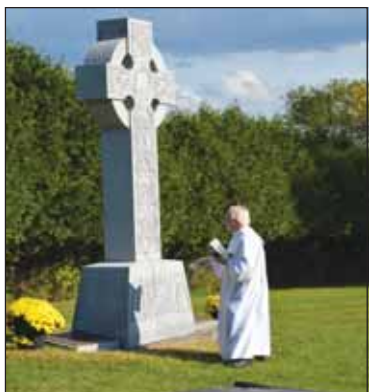
A very special thank you to Mary Comerton for offering to sing these anthems. [Mary's husband Austin recently launched Irish Radio Canada which will

By MAURA DE FREITAS

"...there must perhaps have been some small comfort in the familiarity of this beautiful countryside in what many of them would have known before in their life in Ireland."



ST. PATRICK and the shamrock were prominently displayed at the memorial.



FR. MCCORMICK blessed the Celtic cross along with the triple cenotaph during the ceremony.



MARY Comerton sang both the *Amhrán na bhFiann* (the Irish national anthem) and *O Canada*, the Canadian national anthem.



FATHER Larry McCormick with Catholine Butler [Elaine Gannon], and Jim Kelly the new Irish Ambassador to Canada.



MAURA De Freitas in her address during the ceremony.



THE IRISH AMBASSADOR Jim Kelly (top far right) along with his daughters Orla and Ciara and his wife Anne were honored guests.



EVEN the weather co-operated on the day as the rain stopped and the sun came out for the afternoon.



PETER Mulrooney of Venosta, Quebec brought along two mickeys of uisce beatha (the water of life) and following the blessing shared a drop with the ancestors and Catholine Butler [Elaine Gannon].

provide a cross-country check up of Irish communities across Canada.]

The day was particularly meaningful for my mother as she is the last survivor of the original four who worked together through some very difficult years to put the memorial in place.

During her emotional address, she said, "As the last surviving member of the four of us – Eddie McLaughlin, Martin Brown and Bernice McSheffrey – who originally started the research and restoration work here back in the early Seventies. I am overjoyed to see the blessing of plaques with the names of all those involved and the work they did finally etched in bronze and....most important to finally see the record set straight for posterity.

"Today marks the culmination for me of what had become a lifetime of knowing the work at the Martindale Pioneer Cemetery was not complete.

"With this now completed, I feel that at my stage in life it's time to pass the torch on to the next generation....and I feel very confident that it is in capable hands.

"If I have any regrets, it's that Martin, Eddie and Bernice are not here with me today, but I know they are here in spirit."

It was a very poignant moment when Eddie McLaughlin's son Mac spoke about his memories of his father's participation in the monument project after he unveiled one of the plaques with his father's name on it.

Kevin Morris spoke on behalf of the family of Martin Brown. He conveyed heartfelt thanks for the ceremony saying how meaningful this day was for the whole family.

Mary Morris also spoke on behalf of Martin Brown's family.

During her talk, Mary noted the role of the French people and thanked the people of Quebec for allowing Irish orphans arriving in Quebec during the years of the Famine to keep their own names.

To finally see those plaques in place recognizing the people who worked on this memorial is a long cherished dream in my family and it is also a story that we have carried inside our heart and souls for a very long time.

Speaking on behalf of our family at the ceremony, I said, "This is a day to rejoice. Although there is great sorrow, hardship and loss in this narrative, it is also one of rebirth, of wisdom and strength gathered through fire.

"More than anything, I want to share this story as one of triumph over adversity, as one of rising from the ashes of destruction to one of joy and liberation."

I felt it appropriate to close with a quote from the *Anam Cara* by the beloved Irish philosopher John O'Donoghue. It seemed fitting to reflect on soul and



IN recognition of those who worked to make this project possible. Commemoration of the Celtic Cross was held on September 19, 1982. RESEARCH FOR THE TRIPLE CENATAPH – Elaine Gannon [Catholine Butler] & Bernice McSheffrey; FUNDRAISING – Martin Brown, Eddie McLaughlin & Elaine Gannon [Catholine Butler]; CELTIC DESIGN – Ethna O'Kane [Belfast, Ireland]; INSCRIPTION – Gordon McLellan [Prof. of Celtic Studies at University of Ottawa, Donegal, Ireland]; MASS AND DEDICATION OF CELTIC CROSS – P.P. Fr. Leo Le Blanc & Fr. Tom O'Malley [Connemara, Ireland].

friendship from the chapter, "The Dead Bless Us," which reads:

"In the eternal world, all is one. In spiritual space there is no distance. In eternal time there is no segmentation into today, yesterday, or tomorrow. In eternal time, all is now; time is presence.

"I believe that this is what eternal life means: it is a life where all that we seek – goodness, unity, beauty, trust and love – are no longer distant from us but are now completely present with us."

In my closing, I said, "Here today, at Martindale Pioneer Cemetery, we are at one with past, present and future. Thank you all for being here."

Finally, a special message from Belfast was shared with those assembled from Ethna (Eithne) O'Kane, the artist who designed the magnificent Celtic cross that stands over the graveyard.

Along with the Celtic artwork, the images on the cross represent the coffin ships that carried the famine survivors across the Atlantic and the numerous women and children who died on the voyage.

Ethna spoke with great fondness of the original commemoration which took place with Father O'Malley in 1982. She shared photographs of that day which can be viewed online along with background information on the Facebook page: Martindale Pioneer Cemetery.

She wrote, "It was a great honour to design the Cross, particularly as I was an Irish immigrant myself, and therefore understood its significance to the people of Martindale parish.

"And so this weekend I will be thinking of you all. I would like to extend my warmest wishes to those who attend on Sunday, and to all the people of the Gatineau Hills. *Beannacht libh, Ethna.*"

[We would like to acknowledge media support for this project from the following people and organizations: Howard Hayes on Valley Radio; Ray O'Hanlon with the *Irish Echo* and *IrishCentral* in New York City; Nicole McCormick and Nikki Mantell of the *Low Down to Hull* in Wakefield, Quebec; and Austin Comerton of *Irish Radio Canada* in Ottawa, Ontario. And finally, of course, we are privileged to spread the word through this newspaper, *The Celtic Connection*.]

[POSTSCRIPT: Significant funding to put the triple cenataph, Celtic cross, and memorial plaques in place was made on an anonymous basis. Now, additional funding is necessary to maintain the site. Donations are gratefully accepted for ongoing work at Martindale Pioneer Cemetery including repairs to the walkway leading up to the cenotaph, a disabled ramp, a wrought iron fence, landscaping, grass cutting and general maintenance. Our ancestors deserve the best. Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Martindale Pioneer Cemetery, c/o Liette Hickey, 322 Martindale Road, Low, Quebec J0X 2C0].



LISA KELLY of Venosta, Quebec with Catholine Butler [Elaine Gannon]. Lisa was one of the main volunteers who helped make the event such a great success.



JANET Egan gave a wonderful display of Gatineau Valley stepdancing at the Brennan's Hill Inn.



TWO little stepdancers with the Janet Egan School delighted the crowd with their footwork.



AUSTIN COMERTON, former host of the Gaelic Hour, has launched the new Irish Radio Canada online streaming 24/7.

Irish Radio Canada now streaming online

OTTAWA – The Gaelic Hour with popular host Austin Comerton had its final "over the air" broadcast on August 28.

The show is now completely online and streaming 24/7 and operating as Irish Radio Canada.

The new format allows greater flexibility and opportunity to offer an expanded range of programming featuring a mix of music and talk along with Irish language and local content.

In his news release, Austin says, "As the schedule is built out we hope to be able to provide a cross country update weekly from the various parts of Canada. This is very much a work in progress at the moment."

The new magazine show will be aired each Sunday at 8 AM EST and will then be repeated at 1 PM and 8 AM each

day for a week. After that it will be available in the archives.

Notice of upcoming topics will also be posted on the show's webpage at: www.irishradio.ca.

The selection of music has been greatly expanded and a number of styles have been scheduled.

Irish language lessons are featured daily at 6 PM followed by songs in the Irish language. On Saturday evening there is a 30 minute comedy show.

There is a 'What's On' section on the revamped website that allows events, meetings, classes and so on to be posted. It lists in chronological order, upcoming items. Online submissions for this listing are welcome.

Check out Irish Radio Canada at: www.irishradio.ca.

A Warm Welcome for Jim Kelly, the new Irish Ambassador to Canada

OTTAWA – Jim Kelly, the new Irish Ambassador to Canada arrived recently in Ottawa with his wife Anne and their two daughters Orla and Ciara.

Jim Kelly initially joined the Irish civil service in 1984, working first with the Department of Energy, and subsequently from 1985 with the Revenue Commissioners.

In 1986, he commenced part-time study for a business degree at University College Dublin. He left the Revenue Commissioners in 1989 to complete his studies on a full-time basis, and graduated with honours in 1990.

He joined the diplomatic service of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dub-

lin in November 1993 after working in private industry for a number of years.

Most recently, he served as director of the newly established Policy Planning function at DFA HQ, reporting directly to the Secretary-General of the Ministry.

In January 2016, he was nominated by Government to serve as Ireland's next Ambassador to Canada, a position which he formally took up on September 6, 2016. He will also be accredited on a secondary basis to Jamaica and the Bahamas.

The ambassador has committed to reaching out to Irish communities across Canada at his earliest opportunity and plans to visit western Canada early in 2017. Watch for more updates soon.

Irish Minister announces next Global Irish Civic Forum

DUBLIN – Joe McHugh, Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development has announced the second Global Irish Civic Forum which will take place in Dublin on February 2-3, 2017.

Following on from the first Forum which took place in June 2015, this event seeks to bring together representatives of the multitude of organisations working with the Irish diaspora around the world to share ideas and to discuss issues of common concern.

In his announcement, the minister said, "For many of you working with the Irish community abroad you are often facing similar challenges, be that in Boston or in Melbourne, London or Dubai.

"However the collective knowledge is immense and the purpose of this event is to learn from one another, share experiences and build new networks."

Over the course of two days in Dublin Castle participants will examine some of the key issues facing the Irish diaspora today.

The minister is working to implement the Global Irish: Ireland's Diaspora Policy by early 2017.

The Edmonton Irish Club is the first stop for new arrivals in Alberta's 'Gateway to the North'

WALKING into the Edmonton Irish Club last month I felt like I'd never left....the same warm hospitality greeted me and I knew most of the people.

Whether you know someone or not, visitors will always find a friendly welcome at the club, and they will be sure to have new friends before they leave.

The Edmonton Irish Club is often the first stop for new Irish arriving in Alberta's capital city, otherwise known as the "Gateway to the North."

Newcomers have found help in sourcing both work and living accommodations through the club. Many have now become members of the Edmonton Wolfe Tones Gaelic Football team.

Renovations are always ongoing at the Irish Club and more Celtic designs have been added to the outside of the building, along with other improvements inside since I last visited.

The new chef in the kitchen had a delicious plate of cabbage, ham, potatoes, carrots and turnip, all waiting to warm this weary traveller.

While I was there, I had an opportunity to speak with a few members and catch up with all the news.

MARTIN DOYLE

Martin Doyle is president of the Irish Sports and Social Club and he spoke to me about the renovations at the club.

"Our renovations are coming to a close this year," he said, "We did a lot of landscaping outside this summer but we always have improvements inside to be done."

He said the club will soon be upgrading their technical equipment, especially for bringing in all the GAA games from Ireland.

"We need to do this to be more compatible with all the new technology. We have two big wide screen televisions and seven other televisions now. Much more than we had before."

The next project will be adding another small bar to accommodate the many functions hosted at the club.

The biggest, obviously, is always St. Patrick's Day. Martin said, "Our backyard is licensed and last year we had a tent out there, but this year we're going to get a bigger tent and have two bands playing."

Another major event is the annual New Year's Eve dinner, and Martin said, "Last year we had a big sellout, and we're expecting an ever bigger crowd this year."

He explained that while there was a huge upsurge with new Irish arrivals in recent years, some have gone back home now, but many have also stayed.

"Actually, we have a new couple in here tonight," he said. "They just arrived last week and I can tell you there are hands out right now trying to help them."

I can believe it when Martin says, "Our Irish Club is probably one of the best Irish cultural clubs in North America."

"We're lucky that a lot of our old and new executive continue to support the club in every way and ensure it all keeps going."

Sadly, one very well-known and re-

By **CATHOLINE BUTLER**



MARTIN DOYLE, president of the Irish Sports and Social Society Edmonton, with Catholine Butler of *The Celtic Connection* at the Edmonton Irish Club.



MARILYN AND OLIVER Grealish at the Edmonton Irish Club (Oliver delivers *The Celtic Connection* in Edmonton).

spected member died suddenly just a few days before I arrived at the Edmonton Irish Club.

"We're really going to miss Moira Quirke," said Martin. "She passed away so quickly and unexpectedly just recently."

"She was a big part of the Rose of Tralee contest and that was just starting to really click here."

"We're hoping someone else will step forward and keep all the groundwork that she started still going."

Personally, I knew Moira Quirke through her work with the Western Canada Rose competition and thought very highly of her. We spoke many times over the year as we covered the event in *The Celtic Connection*.

Martin is truly a wonderful host and he really goes out of his way to extend a warm welcome to visitors.

In closing, he said, "I must say that we are very happy to have you here tonight. When I told people that you would be visiting, they all wanted to meet you."

"I really don't think we would be where we are today if we didn't have *The Celtic Connection* to get the word out so effectively to all the communities."

DOODIE CAHILL

Doodie Cahill is the Honorary Consul of Ireland for Alberta and a very busy woman.



FRIENDS gathered at the Irish Club of Edmonton – (L-R) [Back] Ken MacQueen, Murray Connors, Kimberly Budd, Martin Doyle (president of the Irish Sports and Social Society Edmonton) and Bill McKnight. [Front] Siobhan MacQueen (trustee with the Irish Sports and Social Society), Gertie McCarten, Bonnie McGuire and Marilee McKnight.



SOME of the mainstays of the Irish Club (L-R) Christy Whelehan (founder of the Wolfe Tones Gaelic Football Team); Doodie Cahill, (Hon. Consul of Ireland for Alberta); Dr. Gabriel Cahill; and Tom Morris (past president of the Irish Sports and Social Society).

She is dedicated to her work helping the new Irish immigrants with their passports, signing photographs and forms, and taking many inquiry phone calls from across Canada.

The phone calls are non-stop says Doodie, but she added, "luckily I don't have to handle visas since Cathy Murphy [with the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre] does that in Toronto and she does a great job."

The situation is made more difficult with the time difference between Ottawa and Edmonton.

"Unfortunately, the Irish embassy is only open for two hours each working day, which really makes it very difficult. Also, it's almost impossible to get through in that short time," says Doodie.

"What happens is when anyone trying to reach the embassy can't get through, they call me."

"I was speaking with the new ambassador Jim Kelly yesterday and he told me he would be out in Edmonton soon."

"I did relay to him the importance of opening up the phone lines for more than two hours a day and he said he would look into that."

According to Doodie, this limited time frame has become a problem not only for Irish in western Canada, but also for others in eastern Canada as well.

"Recently, I had a call from someone in Ottawa who was trying to contact the Irish embassy. They couldn't get through, so they called me here in Edmonton."

"That really tells you something," she said. "Not only this, but I get a lot of calls from British Columbia as well."

Doodie is emphatic that given the vast



PAT LARKIN and Tommy Reagan are two well-known long-time members of the club.

size of this country, with such a wide time difference, two hours each day is just not enough time for the telephone lines at the Irish embassy.

Also, when people call they're often facing emergency situations and looking for immediate answers.

"I try to accommodate the inquiries as much as I can because my office is in my home. So if the phone rings, I answer it."

Having said this, Doodie cannot say enough good things about the local support with the Irish Club in Edmonton.

"I must say that when the terrible fires were happening in Fort McMurray earlier this year, the Irish Club here were fantastic."

"When people came into the club they were fed and accommodations were found for them."

"Not one person was turned away or sent to Northlands [the centre set-up for the Fort McMurray people coming into Edmonton for help]."

"I'm very proud of the work the centre did to help them."

She added, "The Irish Club also makes my life easier. When I get calls from some new Irish arrival looking for work and accommodations, I can send them to the Irish Club and generally there is someone to help them."

KIM BUDD

Kim Budd wears several hats and with all her commitments she never needs to look for something to do.

She is secretary of the Irish Sports and Social Society, she sits on the committee for the Edmonton Wolfe Tones Gaelic Athletic Association, and serves as treasurer for the Western Canada Division Gaelic Athletic Association.

This past year the Western Canada Championship was held in Regina and in 2017 it will be held in Calgary to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Calgary Chieftains.

Edmonton had its own hurling team this year and the Edmonton Wolfe Tones had about 20 to 25 women play this season which was a great turn out for the team.

"We had a regular coach who was really the backbone of all that and a committed manager, so that was what we needed," said Kim.

"David Finnegan, who is the sports director here at the Irish Centre, was the coach, while Shauna Doyle was the one who made sure we had the right numbers turning out for training."

Next year the club is hoping for a better turnout but, as Kim said, "any year that the game is played is a good year. Ultimately, what we are looking for is for people to play the games and enjoy themselves."

Speaking about this year's youth Gaelic football season, Kim said the numbers were a little disappointing but they did have one really good event.

"We had the youth Gaelic football team out once in Red Deer with about 10 young people and that was excellent."

Next year the Edmonton Irish Club will be showing as many of the GAA games as possible.

"There is always a great atmosphere and it's great to just get people together," said Kim.

"This year we generally had about 80 to 100 people for all the All Ireland GAA games shown here at the club."

She added with a smile, "we also served breakfast and with our new cook we had a whole bunch of things you would never expect to see at an All Ireland breakfast."

Throughout the year there are numerous events and activities planned at the club and these are always well attended.

Next year a big Grey Cup party is planned as it coincides with the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Irish Club. Kim said, "It's a big milestone for the centre."

Another very popular gathering is Christmas eve. "Every year members are invited in for a drink on Christmas eve," Kim said, "It's always a very social evening."

The Edmonton Irish Club is located at 12546 126 Street in Edmonton, Alberta. For more information, call (780) 453-2249 or visit them online on their Facebook page at: Irish Sports & Social Society.



MEMBERS of the Irish Women's Network (L-R) Leanne Ardley, Eilis Courtney, Geraldine Megannety, and Ita Kane-Wilson with special guest Dara Culhane (centre).

A life filled with politics, drama and spirit: Margaret Sheehy Culhane

By MAURA DE FREITAS

VANCOUVER – Storytelling has the power to inspire the fabric of our minds and this was indeed the case at a recent gathering of the Irish Women's Network of B.C.

Dara Culhane, Professor of Anthropology with Simon Fraser University, was the guest of honour at the luncheon.

Her reading of letters written by her grandmother living in Montreal to her sister back home in Ireland between the years 1922 to 1939, brought to life some of the most prominent names in Irish history of that era.

The letters from Margaret Sheehy Culhane Casey to Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington were accompanied by photographs, diaries, and family history, along with news clippings to help round out the story.

In her correspondence, Margaret tells her sisters about her marriage and her children, and her experiences of what she describes as "a life in exile" in Montreal.

Often poignant and political, the letters are filled with Margaret's yearning and longing for her children and family across the ocean. Her story reads on an epic scale with wild swings in circumstances but always full of spirit.

The untimely death of her husband left Margaret a widow with four small children and dependent on the Culhane family for financial support.

Then, at the age of 42, she fell in love with Michael Thomas Casey – a poet 20 years younger....and her godson.

In late 1921 she became pregnant with his child and was cut off financially by her scandalized in-laws.

The disgrace resulted in the loss of three of her Culhane children, and her departure from Ireland to Canada.

The four Sheehy sisters – Hanna, Margaret, Mary, and Kathleen – were at the forefront of a changing Irish society and despite revolution, uprising and scandal, they were inextricably bound together by their shared vision of a new Ireland.

Dara Culhane is author of two books, *An Error in Judgment: The Politics of Medical Care in an Indian/White*



THE SHEEHY SISTERS, Dublin, 1905 – (L-R) Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, Mary Sheehy Kettle, Kathleen Sheehy Cruise O'Brien and Margaret Sheehy Culhane Casey.

Community (1987), and *The Pleasure of the Crown: Anthropology, Law and First Nations* (1998); and, co-editor with Leslie Robertson of *In Plain Sight: Reflections on Life in Downtown Eastside Vancouver* (2005), winner of the George Ryga Award for Social Issues in Literature.

She is currently working on two

projects: *Encore! Travels With The Ghost of Margaret Sheehy* and *Hear Me Looking At You*.

It was a warm and sociable afternoon with the Irish Women's Network at Langara Golf Course in Vancouver. Special thanks to Eilis, Geraldine, Ita and Leanne for their work co-ordinating and organizing a wonderful event.



'Waking the Feminists: 2016's Irish Theatre Revolution'

VANCOUVER – The second in a series of free public lectures by Irish scholars will be presented by the History Department at Simon Fraser University on Thursday, December 1.

Dr. Emer O'Toole from Concordia University in Montreal will present *Waking the Feminists: 2016's Irish Theatre Revolution* at the 1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre, Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street in Vancouver from 7:30 PM to 10 PM.

In October 2015, Ireland's national theatre, The Abbey, announced its 2016 centenary programme, entitled 'Waking the Nation'.

2016 is the year that commemorates the centenary of the Easter Rising and the proclamation of the Irish Republic, and this year in Ireland has been characterized by reflections on the history and current state of the Republic.

This moment provoked Irish feminists to ask two significant questions:

- How did we get to a point where almost exclusively male voices tell the story of Ireland?
- And how can we work towards a politic in which women's art, women's stories, women's voices are considered to be of national importance too?

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A deeply moving concert from the heart of Irish music

By **BRENDAN FLYNN**

VANCOUVER – It was April 2016 when Anne McConnell, president of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Canada, and I first met at the Irish ambassador's residence in Ottawa as guests for the 1916-2016 commemoration ceremonies.

It wasn't long before our conversation turned to the prospect of bringing Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann to Vancouver.

A concert date was soon set for September and Anne and I remained in constant communication via phone and e-mail during the lead up to bring about a successful event.

Throughout this time, of course, Anne was also in communication with contacts in other cities where similar concerts for the 2016 Canadian tour were planned.

It was 20 years earlier when Bill Forbes, who had formed a Vancouver branch of Comhaltas, had co-ordinated the previous Comhaltas concert along with *The Celtic Connection* newspaper.

This was held at Sir Charles Tupper school in Vancouver and the evening was a tremendous success for everyone who attended.

It was my personal hope that the 2016 concert would have a similar outcome.

Around the world Comhaltas holds the heart and history of Ireland's music and the 17 members of the 2016 tour of Canada came from all parts of Ireland, some from England and one musician who came from South America.

Each one is a master of various Irish traditional instruments such as the uilleann pipes, flute, tin whistle, harp, fiddle and bodhrán.

They were accompanied by dancers whose feet scarcely touched the floor at Notre Dame Secondary School in east Vancouver on September 20.

It was a concert performed for all ages by all ages, and the music of Comhaltas takes an audience back to Ireland's cultural roots.

As the performance date approached, Anne and I realized that getting a Vancouver audience out to Notre Dame's Auditorium on a Tuesday night would be a real challenge – even with a \$25 admission.

Despite justifiable advice to cancel, both Anne and I forged ahead – not least for the young Comhaltas musicians who we both felt would treasure the thought of playing in Vancouver.

The concert was never planned as a fundraiser for the Ireland Canada Monument project or as an event to raise any money but simply to celebrate the monument's impending successful public consultation, and the music of Comhaltas was the perfect solution.

The night of the concert finally arrived and I was delighted that those who had helped the monument project were able to attend and enjoy an evening of Irish traditional music.

Firstly and foremost, I thank Alec Dan of Vancouver's Musqueam First Nations for attending. Alec's performance of an opening welcome and blessing for all in attendance was very warmly received.

The history of Canada's First Nations resonates with many Irish-Canadians and, whilst few of us would have understood the traditional language, there

COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

was a deep heart-felt knowing beyond words from Alec's presentation.

I was also delighted to welcome Vancouver Commissioner and Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung and former Chair and Commissioner John Couper along with their spouses.

The day will soon arrive when the monument can be unveiled that will pay true homage to what the Irish in Canada have contributed over the years.

Without the help of Vancouver Parks Board and the City of Vancouver together with the First Nations of Vancouver, namely the Musqueam, Tsleil Wautath and Squamish Nations – there would be no monument.

Late into the night, as the concert came to a close and calls for 'one more encore' gave way, I was delighted to be invited to the stage to be presented with the Comhaltas medal.

The evening was a real success and I hope all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the music of Comhaltas.

Much thanks are due to those who helped in many ways, including Maura De Freitas of *The Celtic Connection* for the wonderful concert promotion in the paper; Denise Dalton of Vancouver CO-OP radio; George and Teresa McDonnell of the Irish Heritage Society; Claire Fox, The Irish Women's Network of Vancouver; William and Laura Donnellan of IRL Construction, Vancouver; Roger Buston; Sarah Ann Chisholm; Esther North; Pat Chessell; Bernard Ward; John Coughlan; the principal and staff at Notre Dame Regional Secondary School, Vancouver.

Also, John Lee, John Reynolds and Vince Jordan of Comhaltas Dublin and of course all of the musicians of the 2016 Tour of Canada.

Thank you all for the wonderful music that is synonymous with Ireland.

Less than two weeks later, we were shocked to learn the tragic news that Anne McConnell had died following a



ALEC DAN of the Musqueam First Nations performing a ceremony prior to the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann concert at Notre Dame Secondary School in Vancouver.

freak accident in Toronto.

On the final night of the final concert of the tour, she fell as she left the stage after receiving an award. She succumbed to her injuries a few days later.

I am at a loss for words to explain the loss or pay tribute to Anne McConnell-Strong for all she did for traditional Irish music in Canada and indeed North America.

Here on the west coast we would like to convey our sincere sympathies to Anne's husband Elmer, her family

throughout Ontario and back in Galway, Ireland.

Anne's passing has left us all with something to think about – how she gave so much of herself to help others without looking for any return or recognition.

By doing so, Anne epitomizes those whose names will become part of the Ireland Canada Monument.

They are deserving of recognition for building a better Canada – not just for the Irish in Canada – but for all Canadians. *Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a hanam usail.*

A fond farewell to Monsignor Charles Patrick

By **ETHNA TUTT**

KELOWNA, BC – Monsignor Charles Patrick Mulvihill, known to all as Father Charlie Mulvihill, was born on July 21, 1932 in Co. Galway, Ireland.

He died peacefully on Tuesday, August 16, 2016, at the age of 84 years, in Kelowna General Hospital, Kelowna, British Columbia.

Fr. Charlie was a brother, a brother-in-law, an uncle, a priest, a mentor, a spiritual advisor, and a pastor. He was gentle and kind, a fun-loving man, a poet, a friend, Irish to his bones, and a very proud Canadian.

He also had a dream...a dream where any Irish people who came to the Okanagan could meet their fellow Irishman.

Somewhere to meet others who could understand their underlying loneliness, their longing to speak of Ireland and home, without feeling they were being disloyal to Canada, their new chosen country.

He said the Irish needed that understanding, that contact, to form a bond of a Canadian family of Irish people. He felt this was important to help us get on with our lives here in a new country.

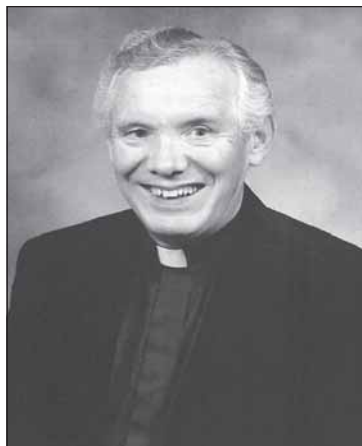
Fr. Charlie understood the contentment and peace of being around others who understood our ways, our music and dance, our poetry and generally our way of living without fear of being seen as "different." He was so right.

A gathering of all the Irish people we knew took place on March 15, 1985 in Immaculate Conception Centre, Kelowna.

That night was the beginning of many friendships which continue to this very day.

Two months later the Okanagan Irish Society was founded May 7, 1985. It was registered in Victoria as a non-profit organization, with a mandate to "foster our Irish culture within the Canadian mosaic and to look after our own."

THE OKANAGAN IRISH SOCIETY



MONSIGNOR Mulvihill was popularly known as Father Charlie Mulvihill.

It began with a simple philosophy, bringing us to a home away from home.

Over the years, Fr. Charlie continued to foster Irishness in a very positive manner, with encouragement and passion for all things Irish and an appreciation for our Canadian home and way of life.

The Okanagan Irish Society is deeply indebted to Fr. Charlie and his legacy will continue as we celebrate Christmas, St. Patrick's, and other functions.

Fr. Charlie studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Co. Carlow and was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest at Carlow Cathedral in 1959.

He then immigrated to Canada, spending his first year in Canada on loan to St. Anthony's Parish in Edmonton.

In September 1960 he was moved to Kelowna to serve as an assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish.

For the next 42 years Fr. Charlie served the Nelson Diocese wherever called, including parishes in Creston, Nakusp, Warfield, Trail and Summerland.

But he had a special love for Kelowna where he spent over 25 years as pastor

at St. Pius X Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish.

Father Charlie "retired" from active priesthood in 2002 but continued to help out the Nelson Diocese, often substituting for priests who were away from their parish.

Blessed with a deep love of the Lord, a healthy dollop of Irish charm, quiet wisdom and resolve, Fr. Charlie went about ministering to many individuals and families in the course of his service to the Nelson Diocese.

He was an active part of the community wherever he served and he created lasting friendships and became an extended part of many families who knew him as a pastor, a friend.

He was the priest who presided over most of their family's weddings, funerals, baptisms and first communions.

Along the way he was honored with the role of Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson, a Prelate of Honor and finally as a Monsignor. Even with all of that, he remained 'Fr. Charlie' to the many people who knew and loved him.

As his health declined and without family in Canada, many of the people he ministered to over the years took turns helping him out in a variety of ways and he was very grateful for this.

He was predeceased by his parents, sister and brothers. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Bridie, his nieces Marie, Breda, Mary and by his nephews JJ, Charlie, Patrick, Brian and cousins all of Ireland.

Fr. Charlie loved Irish verse and poetry and so it seems appropriate to conclude with this old Irish funeral poem:

Remembered Joy

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free!
I follow the plan God laid for me.
I saw His face, I heard His call,
I took His hand and left it all
I could not stay another day,
To love, to laugh, to work or play;
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
And if my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah yes, these things I, too, shall miss.
My life's been full, I've savoured much:
Good times, good friends, a loved-one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't shorten yours with undue grief.
Be not burdened with tears of sorrow,
Enjoy the sunshine of the morrow.

For information on the Okanagan Irish Society, please call Bob Hillis at (604) 506-3208 or e-mail: bobhillis8@gmail.com.

IRISH SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

BURNABY – This year's Irish seniors Christmas luncheon is presented by the Irish Heritage Society of Canada and supported by the Emigrant Support Programme with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

The event will be held at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown located at 6083 McKay Avenue in Burnaby. Doors open at 11:30 AM, lunch is served at 12 noon. Seating is limited.

Complimentary parking for the first three hours is available in the underground parkade in the red, brown and green zones on P1, P2, P3 and P4. The parkade is accessible off Kingsborough Street.

There is a blue zone located on each level and parking in this zone is reserved for overnight/valet service hotel guests only at \$12 plus tax per day. Passes for this zone are available at the front desk only.

Access to the hotel lobby via stairs or elevator is located in the "blue" zone. Daytime valet parking is available at a charge of \$13 plus tax and overnight valet parking is available at a charge of \$16 plus tax.

For more information, call George McDonnell at (604) 948-2885.

'I'm more of a hands-on-worker kind of guy': Pat McCay, owner of ProCoat Coatings in Calgary

ALBERTA has a long reputation as either a boom or bust province and this was clearly evident on my recent whirlwind trip through Calgary and Edmonton.

The main topic on everyone's lips was the economy – the recession – and what needs to be done to get it going again.

It's been an extremely tough year for many businesses and adjustments have been necessary leading to cutting corners wherever possible. And, there is no indication when there will be another upturn in the oil and gas industry.

One Calgary business holding its own in the midst of this downturn is ProCoat Coatings and I stopped by to view their brand new facilities.

Pat McCay is the company owner and he spoke to me about how his impressive new facility will benefit his business.

Meanwhile, he continues to be vigilant and aware of the adjustments he must continue to make to ride out the current economic collapse in Alberta.

ProCoat Coatings is an industrial abrasive blasting and coatings company, specializing in internal coatings, primarily serving the oil and gas industry.

Speaking about the benefits of the new facility, McCay said, "I'm hoping it will benefit first of all with the retention of our workers, since environmentally it's a better facility for the workers, and the building also has a better drive by curb appeal."

Prior to opening this new building, most of the work was performed outside in the elements, so this has been a big benefit to the environment since it's now all controlled indoors.

Pat said, "Now we're not using diesel powered compressors anymore, we use electric."

"The work is now all indoors and climate controlled – air conditioned in the summer and heated in the winter."

"This will reduce our operating costs

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

and because it's all recyclable abrasives now instead of single use of abrasive, we don't have the disposal costs.

"You can use these abrasives hundreds of times, whereas before we could only use the abrasives once and then dispose of it."

"There are so many benefits to the new facility that we're not able to name them all until we can use it longer than six months."

"That's how long the facility has been in operation and we've already noticed big cost savings just in abrasives and fuel savings costs alone."

With the economy a main topic of conversation among business owners, Pat said, "definitely, the economy is a big concern. There is still work out there, but you have to be very, very sharp with your pen."

Also, he said, "customer service has to be beyond reproach to ensure you retain the customers that you have."

"And, you have to be very aggressive in going to look for new clientele. But, having said all that, there is still a significant downturn in our revenues."

While touring the facility, I noticed a big vessel in the shop that one of the workmen was working on.

McCay said that particular vessel weighs 60,000 pounds and is being worked on for Enbridge, the oil pipeline company.

"Enbridge and Trans Canada are two of the companies that are still active in getting work done here in Alberta," he said. "We have worked on 200,000 pound vessels."

He continued, "So, as I was mentioning



PAT McCAY of ProCoat Coatings has just opened an impressive new facility in Calgary to benefit his business, but he is mindful of the adjustments he will have to make as a result of the economic situation in Alberta.



PICTURED above (L-R): Lorne Koshuk is the estimator and public relations representative and Tammy Brundin is office manager with ProCoat Coatings.



RALPH WEEKS is the project co-ordinator with ProCoat Coatings. Pictured on the right is a vessel under production which weighs 60,000 pounds.

earlier about the retention of customers. We always make a point of treating every customer as if they are the number one customer.

"Generally, if you don't have that attitude, even in the busy times, you're not going to retain them."

"This is especially true now...your paper work, your safety policy, your documentation, your procedures are all so important to again be beyond reproach, to keep that retention of customers."

Speaking about the impact of the downturn, Pat said, "because of the economy and like a lot of other businesses, we have also had to let go close to 50 percent of our workforce....less volume of work now, so less demand for workers."

"The economy in Alberta has a direct link to the price of oil. There are other things of course, agriculture, forestry and tourism, but oil and gas is still king here."

I asked McCay if he considers himself a hands-on-owner.

He laughed and said, "Yeah, I guess you could call me a hands-on-owner."

"I'm here every day, but as I'm getting older it's less hands-on. I believe that in the business world they would probably classify me as a hands-on business owner."

"But, I wouldn't say I'm the best PR person for ProCoat Coatings, that's why I have a sales staff....they're much better at that than me. I'm more of a hands-on-worker kind of guy."

ProCoat Coatings is located at 6632 - 90th Avenue S.E. in Calgary, Alberta. For more information, call (403) 236-0988, or e-mail: procoat@telus.net.

[N.B: Watch our next issue for feature interviews with Laureen Regan the Honorary Vice Consul for Ireland, Trade and Investment and owner of Boom Group Inc. in Calgary; and Deirdre Halferty, Honorary Consul Ireland, real estate agent with Calgary West Realty, and past president Irish Cultural Society Calgary.]

An active club and a great Irish welcome for newcomers

By DEIRDRE O'RUAIRC

WHITE ROCK – Greetings to all. Thank you to everyone who came out in September to support the White Rock Irish Club at Crescent Beach Legion for the Blackthorn concert.

It was a sell out and brilliant night with very talented musicians. There were many new faces – you are very welcome and we hope you will come out again to another event.

Thank you to all who came out to support Derek Warfield and the Young Wolf Tones (direct from Ireland) who played at the Blue Frog Studio on October 28 and 29 to a sold-out audience.

Plans are now underway for the winter/ Christmas schedule.

The next Irish event coming up in White Rock is the Barra MacNeils Christmas concert at the Coast Capital Playhouse on November 19 at 7:30 PM.

IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

Tickets are available through Coast Capital Playhouse.

The White Rock Irish Club will be attending and afterwards members plan to drop in to Bin 101 for a drink. It is just a few doors down from the playhouse at 1436 Johnston.

The Barra MacNeils are from Cape Breton and they are another very talented group of musicians. Book your ticket soon as tickets for this event are selling very fast.

December we know everyone is busy with work parties, families, clubs etc.

The Irish Club of White Rock Christmas celebration this year will be on January 7, 2017 when we celebrate Irish little Christmas.

This is the last day of the 12 days of Christmas – also known as Irish Wom-

en's Little Christmas. This will feature a buffet-style dinner at the Elks Hall followed by entertainment and dancing with music by Brian Nicholls and an open mike.

Tickets need to be purchased in advance, no tickets at the door. More details to follow.

Next year the AGM will be the end of January – no date set yet.


This year St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday. The Irish Club of White Rock will celebrate March 17 this year on the day with a St. Patrick's Day dinner dance at the Hazelmere Golf and Tennis Club.

Reserve tickets early as many are already spoken for.

For more information, visit www.irishclubofwhiterock.com and or the Irish Club of White Rock Facebook page. If you have any questions, please call president Sharon Woods at (604) 338-3553.




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Jim Prentice will be remembered as a proud Irish-Canadian

VANCOUVER – While condolences poured in from politicians of all stripes on Friday, October 14, following the tragic death of former Alberta premier and federal MP Jim Prentice, he will be remembered by Irish-Canadians for his work to preserve the historical significance of Grosse Île in Quebec.

Prentice (60), was killed in a plane crash just outside Kelowna, B.C. He was one of four people in the plane destined for Calgary/Springbank Airport when it crashed northeast of Winfield, just north of Kelowna.

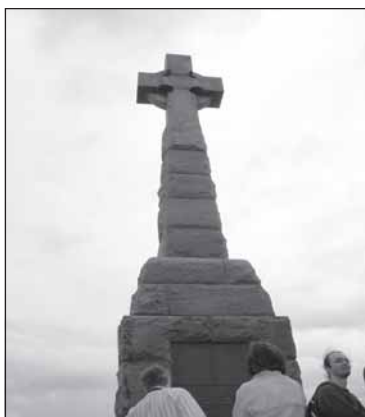
Following news of the accident, former Irish Ambassador to Canada Ray Bassett tweeted that Prentice had told him at one point as he retired from the federal government that “his proudest political achievement was his contribution to saving Grosse Île.”

As part of Ireland’s National Famine Memorial Commemoration and the 100th anniversary of the Celtic Cross celebrations on Grosse Île, Parks Canada, under the guidance of Prentice, contributed to the restoration of the Lazaretto – the oldest and most historically significant building on the former quarantine station.

Prentice, who was then Canada’s Environment Minister and minister responsible for Parks Canada, accompanied then Ambassador of Ireland Declan Kelly and Eamon Ó Cuív, the Irish Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, to a ceremony at the site in Quebec on May 10, 2009.

During the visit, the group unveiled a sketch of a new exhibition at the Lazaretto. The Government of Ireland contributed \$65,000 toward the project, while Parks Canada added \$10,000 to

By MAURA DE FREITAS



GROSSE ÎLE saw scenes of unspeakable suffering and exceptional dedication. More than 7,000 people are buried there, most of them victims of the typhus epidemic of 1847.

the exhibition which details the Irish presence at Grosse Île.

The tragic events at Grosse Île in 1847 stemmed from the Great Irish Famine, one of the pivotal events in the history of Ireland. During that agonizing upheaval, which lasted less than a decade, Ireland’s population declined by over two million.

Grosse Île saw scenes of unspeakable suffering and exceptional dedication. More than 7,000 people are buried there, most of them victims of the typhus epidemic of 1847.

At the ceremony, Minister Prentice said, “My great-great grandfather, Michael Prentice appears to have been born sometime between 1817 and 1821. According to the obituary published at the time of his death on August 4, 1897, he was born in County Wexford.

“Like most Canadians of Irish descent, I take pride in having roots in the Emerald Isle. I am very honoured to be here today, accepting a great contribution from the Irish Government, a contribution that will help Canadians understand the ties that unite our two countries.”

Thanks to the collaboration between the Irish and Canadian Government, the Lazaretto has been restored to its 1847 appearance. It is the only remaining evidence of Grosse Île’s role as a hospital unit – a major role of the quarantine station.

Following news of the death of Jim Prentice, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he will remember him as a man of deep convictions.

“Jim Prentice was broadly respected in the House of Commons – across all party lines – for his intelligence, commitment, and honest straightforward approach on tough issues.

“I greatly enjoyed the time I spent working closely beside Jim in the House, and know that he will be missed by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.”

In closing, he said, “On behalf of all Canadians, Sophie and I offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends and to the loved ones of all those who perished in this tragic accident.”



JIM PRENTICE and Eamon Ó Cuív unveil part of a permanent exhibit of Irish artefacts from the period of the Great Famine when Grosse Île served as a quarantine station for Irish immigrants. It is now on display in the refurbished Lazaretto building which was opened in late summer 2009 to mark the centenary of the Celtic cross on the island which was raised by the Ancient Order of Hibernians.



OUTSIDE the Lazaretto on Grosse Île – Ireland’s Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Eamon Ó Cuív (left), with Jim Prentice and Declan Kelly, the Irish Ambassador to Canada.

A PILLAR OF IRISH CULTURE IN CANADA: Margaret (Peggy) Kendellan March 8, 1923 – November 3, 2016

VANCOUVER – Everyone knew her as Peggy and she was a champion of Irish culture who put Irish dancing on the map in Ottawa, Ontario.

Margaret (Peggy) Kendellan was an early member of the Irish Society of Ottawa and she was my first Irish dance teacher when I was just five years old.

I will always remember her patience with all her dancers and the fun we all had learning those step-one-two-threes. In those days the Irish community in Ottawa was very small and everyone knew everyone else and we were all interconnected.

For over 30 years, Peggy’s name was synonymous with Irish dancing in Ottawa.

Her maiden name was Geraghty and she was born and raised in a small cottage in Creggs, Co. Galway.

Visitors can tour the cottage where she grew up as it is now a museum dedicated to the memory of the illustrious Irish politician Charles Stewart Parnell.

Her village still has only a population of 100 people.

Peggy excelled in the Irish language and won a scholarship in the language as a teenager.

The west coast of Ireland is the heart of Irish culture and Peggy was influenced by this as there was no outside interference such as television.

Her passion was Irish dancing and she went on to win many medals and was the county champion for three years in a row.

I recall her telling me as a child why she was called Peggy rather than Margaret. She said in the west of Ireland everything ended with “y.” And if it wasn’t there, they would add it! For example, “Peggy, fetch me a wee stick.”

How that translates Margaret to Peggy...I’m not sure.

After a failed romance, Peggy headed up to the big city to start a new life in

By MAURA DE FREITAS



PEGGY KENDELLAN

Dublin and it was there she met her husband-to-be, Joe Kendellan.

The couple arrived in Ottawa in 1957 and soon settled down to life in a new country.

Peggy started working for the federal government as a secretary by day but at night that Irish dancing thing was calling her.

Her two daughters – Joan and Sue –

along with the neighborhood girls in Sandy Hill were her first students.

Peggy’s Irish dancing classes started small but they grew as word began to spread. Over the next 30 years she taught many young dancers who were later followed by their parents.

Her daughter Joan Babb recalls, “My parents’ social life revolved around Irish dancing, music and anything Irish and my mother was at the center of this.

“During those years no one had heard of Irish dancing with the exception of those immigrants and descendants who yearned for all things Irish.

“We were new on the scene and even booed at our first performance as the citizens of Ottawa at that time was still very British (Canada sure has evolved).

“My mother has outlived all those friends and I think Irish dancing, no smoking, no drinking and no suntanning contributed to her longevity.

“My father Joseph Kendellan predeceased her in August 1996 after 47 years of marriage.

“With her busy life she still provided a healthy dinner every night, always meat

and two vegetables. There was no time for baking and cookies, however, that’s probably a good thing. She did find the time to teach me to sew and knit.”

Peggy’s contributions to her community and her legacy lives on through her former student Síle Scott who continues to be involved in dance, teaching set dances, céilí dances and sean nós steps on Monday evenings for the local Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann branch in Ottawa.

Peggy was very proud that her name is among those listed to be part of the proposed Ireland Canada Monument Project in Vancouver.

In a note to *The Celtic Connection*, her daughter Sue Doucette wrote, “it is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Peggy is in Palliative Care at Peace Arch Hospital and doesn’t have much time left. She loved *The Celtic Connection* and anything else Celtic, as you well know.”

Peggy passed peacefully at the age of 93 on Friday, November 3, 2016. Deepest condolences to both Joan and Sue and all her friends and loved ones. She will be remembered as a pillar of Irish culture in Canada.

Anne McConnell-Strong dies from a tragic fall moments after receiving award

TORONTO – A champion of Irish traditional music in Canada has died following a fall just moments after she accepted an award for her contribution to Irish culture.

Anne McConnell-Strong was a beloved wife, sister, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a loving light to her family, friends, and community, and a source of infinite grace and comfort.

For 37 years she worked tirelessly for Comhaltas North America, a worldwide group dedicated to the safeguarding and promotion of traditional Irish dance, music and language.

Prior to her retirement this year she had organized one final 10-city cross-country tour, Echoes of Erin 1916.

The tour wrapped up on Sunday night October 2 at Toronto's Gerry Gallagher Hall. At the end of the show, she was invited on stage. Seconds later, while descending a set of backstage stairs alone, she tumbled.

Her son, Finn McConnell, leader of the Irish punk band the Mahones, was on hand for the concert finale and raced to his mother's side.

"She was a very giving woman and an incredible mother," said a still-shaken



FINN McConnell with his mother Anne McConnell-Strong.

McConnell, youngest of her three children.

"She wasn't supposed to [arrange] the tour, but she was pulled out of retirement and of course said yes," he noted.

"An 82-year-old woman setting up a national tour, finding promoters, venues, booking flights, promoting the show in each city: Why her?" he said, his voice trailing off.

Surrounded by family and loved ones in hospital, Anne McConnell succumbed to her injuries in the early hours of Monday, October 3.

Writing on his Facebook page, McConnell said, "I am devastated to report that my beloved mother, Anne McConnell, passed away today."

Anne Kearney was one of five girls born and raised in a typical thatched-roof cottage in Oranmore, Co. Galway, a quaint village in the west of Ireland. Her sister Mary still lives in the old family home.

She studied nursing in England and later, along with first husband Brendan McConnell and the couple's two eldest children, daughters Ita and Dymrna, emigrated to Canada in the 1960s, eventually settling in Kingston, Ontario.

The McConnells owned and operated the old Frontenac Hotel and the Irish pubs Finnegan's and Muldoon's, bringing in top-name Irish acts such as the Clancy Brothers and the Irish Rovers.

In 1978, Anne founded the local chapter of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and was elected chairperson of the Eastern Comhaltas Regional Board in 1988.

In the early 1980s, the McConnells sold their Kingston watering holes and divorced. Anne later married Elmer Strong and returned to the field of medicine, working as surgical nurse at Kingston General Hospital.

Anne is survived by her beloved husband Elmer, with whom she travelled the world and shared a beautiful home in Glenburnie, Ontario.

She is survived by her children, Ita (Pat), Dymrna and Fintan (Katie), eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORY OF MOIRA QUIRKE

The team at *The Celtic Connection* were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of (Eileen) Moira Quirke in Edmonton, Alberta on Sunday, October 16.



MOIRA QUIRKE

Moira was an active member of the Edmonton Irish Sports and Social Society and Chairwoman of the Western Canada Wild Irish Rose competition.

Moira was born in Streetsville, Ontario, and she was a beloved daughter, sister, aunt, mother, and grandmother.

She is survived by her three loving children and one grandchild: Kieran (Erin), Katherine (Mike and baby

Reese), and Christina, and the father of her children, Michael. She is predeceased by her father, Daniel Jones Sr.

The evolution of children's nicknames

Rhyming nicknames were big in the 12th and 13th Centuries, which is how Bill became a nickname for William.

Now nicknames have become so popular, there's actually a trend where moms and dads choose nicknames as first names. That's right – no more Jonathon or Evangeline; they just skip right to Jon and Eva.

So how did the trend of nicknames get started? It all began when names were passed down from generation to generation.

As a result, BBC reports that over 50 percent of boys who were baptized in Britain in the 18th Century were given one of three names: William, John or Thomas. For girls, over half were baptized with the names Elizabeth, Mary or Anne.

Since these three monikers for boys and girls were so popular, nicknames became incredibly important to differentiate.

Laura Wattenberg, author of *The Baby Name Wizard*, reiterated this point saying, "Back when names were more concentrated, having a nickname was very important. At one time in history 25 percent of all English babies were named John or Mary."

Interestingly, nicknames back in the day were actually pretty creative.

Take Peggy, for instance, which is a short form for Margaret. This originated in the 12th and 13th Centuries when rhyming nicknames were popular. That's why Peggy became known as a nickname for Meggy.

Another example is the common nickname Harry for Henry. This dates back to medieval times when British monarchs who were named Henry would prefer their subjects to call them Harry. Today, we see this with Prince Harry, whose actual title is Prince Henry of Wales.

CelticFest Vancouver teams up with the ISSC in March 2017

VANCOUVER – CelticFest Vancouver is teaming up with the Irish Sporting and Social Club to host a dinner dance on March 10, 2017 featuring two of Ireland's greatest sports legends who also are noted raconteurs

Pat Spillane is considered one of the greatest football players ever, he captained Kerry and won eight All-Irelands.

Mick Galwey captained Kerry before he switched to rugby. He is the only player to have won a double All-Ireland in football (with Kerry) and in rugby (with Shannon).

He proceeded to be a stalwart part of Irish Rugby for 16 years, captaining Munster and Ireland and touring with the Lions.

Ticket details will be available on Facebook pages of CelticFest Vancouver and ISSC in the first week of December. These tickets would make a very desirable Christmas gift.

At the last annual general meeting of the Vancouver Celtic Festival Society a new board of directors was elected for 2016/17.

This year Alan Cosgrave steps into the role of president. For the past three years, he served in the capacity of treasurer for CelticFest Vancouver.



MICK GALWEY



PAT SPILLANE



ALAN COSGRAVE who is originally from Co. Wexford is the new chairman and president of CelticFest Vancouver.

A chartered professional accountant by profession, Alan is originally from Co. Wexford and has lived in Canada for the past four years. Prior to living in Vancouver he lived and worked in Bermuda.

The complete roster of the new executive is as follows:

Alan Cosgrave
– Chairman – President
Harry Cussen
– Executive Officer – Vice President
Marina Lewis
– Executive Officer – Treasurer
Sarah Barrett
– Executive Officer – Secretary
Will Cashman – Director
Tadhg O'Leary – Director
Emma Nee – Director

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British filmmaker Ken Loach accuses Tories of 'conscious cruelty'

LONDON – Ken Loach has launched a tirade against the British Government over what he claimed was its willingness to support big businesses rather than the poor.

In a stinging attack last month during the BBC's *Question Time*, the veteran filmmaker accused the Conservatives of "conscious cruelty" because it left thousands with no other choice but to use food banks, saying "hunger is used as a weapon" against the least wealthy.

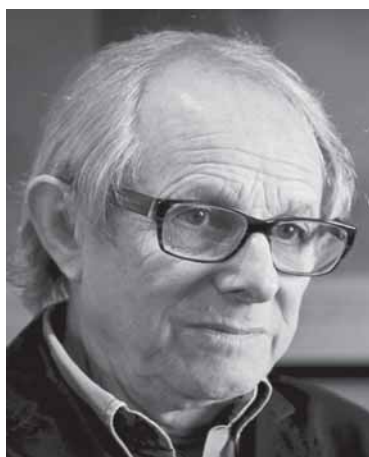
Loach, whose most recent film *I, Daniel Blake*, is known for exposing social issues such as poverty, homelessness.

He was greeted with multiple rounds of applause from the audience as he asserted the government had probably given Nissan a subsidy to persuade it to remain in the UK.

He went on to list areas of public spending that had seen their budgets shrink under Conservative leadership.

Ministers have been evasive about what post-Brexit financial help was offered to Nissan to persuade it to build its new cars in Sunderland.

"How strange then that we have no money to rescue social care for people



KEN LOACH

who need help," said Loach.

"We have no money for the cash-strapped NHS so that doctors have to work even harder for the same amount of money. Plainly that won't happen, plainly the NHS is being driven towards privatisation.

"How about if we look at the economy from the other end up? How about the economy for people who are on zero-hours contracts?"

In March, over 800,000 people were

employed on such contracts, which have been criticised for allowing big businesses to exploit workers.

In response to an audience member's question about whether the country had become less compassionate, Loach referred to the increasing number of people who are driven to rely on food banks.

Some 1,109,300 emergency food packages were distributed by the Trussell Trust in 2015-16, demonstrating that food bank usage is at a record high.

An Oxford University study published earlier in October found that the government's benefits sanctions policy was directly linked to the growing number of people who are reliant on food donations.

The filmmaker said, "There's a conscious cruelty in the way the system is being imposed. Because the state knows what it is doing. The Tory Government knows exactly what it's doing."

He added, "How can we live in a society in which hunger is used as a weapon?"

Loach's new film ends in defiance. "When you lose your self-respect you're done for," says Daniel Blake.

Kenny to host all-Ireland talks on Brexit this month

DUBLIN – Enda Kenny will host all-Ireland talks on the impact of Brexit within weeks.

The taoiseach said the "all-island, all-Ireland conversation" in November will involve business people, members of civic society and political parties.

He warned the process of Britain leaving the European Union could take a lot longer than some expect.

"I fear that this will run for quite some time," he said. "It might not be as straightforward or as short term as many people think."

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Northern Ireland's largest political party, has signalled it will not take part in any all-island forum.

A party spokesman told the Press Association there was no need for new structures and that cross-border talks about Brexit could be carried out within existing arrangements.

Northern Ireland First Minister and DUP leader Arlene Foster rejected suggestions of an all-island Brexit forum at the last North South Ministerial Council meeting at Dublin Castle in July.

But under questioning from Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams in the Dail, Kenny confirmed he was pressing ahead with the talks.

"It is my intention to convene an all-island, all-Ireland conversation about this, obviously to which business people, members of civic society and political parties will be invited," he said.

Kenny said the outcome of June's referendum result had sparked a great deal of confusion and uncertainty and was a matter of the utmost seriousness and concern to Ireland's interests.

Adams said the entire post-Good Friday Agreement architecture is under threat because of the "British Government's insistence on dragging the people of the North out of the EU against their wishes."

A majority of voters in Northern Ireland backed remaining within the bloc.

"It is very important that we send a very clear message that the vote of the peo-



ENDA KENNY

ple of the North must be respected," he said.

He added, "For decades we have been lectured about respecting the majority vote in the North.

"Well here is a majority vote which says it wants to remain within the European Union and you as taoiseach, in my opinion, have a duty and a responsibility to advocate this."

Separately, Stormont Finance Minister Mairtin O Muilleoir told a parliamentary watchdog that forcing Northern Ireland out of the EU would "breach the spirit and letter of the Good Friday Agreement."

"Dragging the North from Europe would pose a threat to the entire island," he said.

"We are all Europeans. It is our fervent wish to remain at the heart of Europe. That is how the people voted in the referendum."

O Muilleoir said he was hoping to work in collaboration with the Irish Government to ensure the "democratic will of the people of the North is respected."

Before the Dublin parliament's Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement committee, he also warned 120 million euro in funding for cross-border projects was currently "stuck in the system."

British Chancellor Philip Hammond has agreed to underwrite any EU projects granted permission up to November 23, he said.

O Muilleoir said Stormont officials were working hard to push through existing applications before then but needed Dublin and Brussels to do the same.

Calais camp charities attack both UK and France over plight of unaccompanied children

CALAIS – The last residents of a sprawling migrant camp on the French side of the English Channel have been evacuated.

Earlier this month some 291 women and children transferred to family centres around France so the government can close the camp for good.

The departure of the women and their children, who had been housed in a centre at the edge of the camp near the port city of Calais, completed a mass, state-run relocation of nearly 7,000 people in 11 days.

The camp, known as the Jungle because of its dire living conditions has now been demolished.

The women and children were bused to processing centres where they will be able to seek asylum in France or Britain, regional administration spokesman Steve Barbet said.

The camp's other residents, most of them men, were sent to similar centres a week earlier – while 1,616 unaccompanied children who had been housed in heated containers were moved to special reception centres.

Following closure of the camp, charity organizations accused both French and British authorities are leaving it to them to fill a void created by the lack of state support to assist the unaccompanied minors.

Calais Action said, "For a sovereign state to leave their responsibilities to groups of volunteers is not acceptable.

"Practically speaking, this state of affairs is also not sustainable long-term – infrastructure has been destroyed by the state, and volunteers are literally oper-

ating from the pavement. Legally, minors in the camp are the responsibility of the French government."

There was also anger that the police moved so swiftly to demolish the makeshift school where 60 unaccompanied minors were forced to sleep rough after the authorities had failed to provide shelter, claiming the site had been cleared of migrants.

Most of the refugees in Calais were seeking a way into the UK.

In September of 2015, David Cameron announced that Britain would aim to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020. So far, only 2,800 have been taken in, and MPs are concerned the UK will never meet this target.

"I never stop being shocked," says Clare Moseley, the founder of Care 4 Calais, a charity she and several UK volunteers set up in the summer of 2015.



A CHILD refugee stands amid the squalor of the migrant camp in Calais which was known as the 'Jungle'.

"I'm not a lawyer, but I think the UK is sharking its responsibility to refugees dreadfully. The Calais camp represents a complete failure by the UK to help people who are silently begging for help. We have failed."

A UK resettlement programme was started last month under the landmark Dubs amendment.

The British Government committed to relocate vulnerable lone-child refugees in France, Italy and Greece "as soon as possible" with charities led to believe the figure could reach 3,000.

Volunteers estimate there could be up to 500 child refugees currently eligible from Calais.

Lord Dubs, the Labour peer and former child refugee who brought about a political coup by forcing the government to promise to grant sanctuary to vulnerable unaccompanied children, heralded the move as "a start."

French police to probe alleged UKIP 'handbags at dawn' scuffle

LONDON – French police will now investigate an alleged scuffle between two members of the UK Independence Party in the European Parliament building in Strasbourg.

Steven Woolfe was hospitalised on October 5 with a head injury. He was rushed to hospital after collapsing on a walkway at the European parliament in Strasbourg following a scuffle with his colleague Mike Hookem.

Woolfe claimed that Hookem "came at him" during an argument. He spent three nights in hospital after the fracas.

Hookem denied punching Woolfe and posted a photograph of his hands on Twitter in a bid to prove he had not landed a blow on his colleague. The MEP for Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire dismissed the altercation as "handbags at dawn."

The row, which started at an internal party meeting and spilled into a corridor, was triggered by revelations that Woolfe had considered joining the Conservatives.

EU Parliament President Martin Schulz says an internal inquiry he commissioned has been unable to reconcile the accounts of the two UKIP members.

The case has been referred to the general prosecutor's office, which will lead a police investigation, a parliament source said.

Steven Woolfe has now pulled out of the race to succeed fellow MEP Nigel Farage as leader and quit the party. He said UKIP had become "ungovernable" since securing the 'Brexit' referendum result.

Great Irish Reportage: 'Two bald men fighting over a comb'

Ireland has a greater than average proportion of newspaper readers, ranking in the top 30 countries in the world. Walking down the street or sidling up to a bar with a newspaper under one's elbow is a mark of culture and discernment.

Yet there is an Irish penchant to dismiss newspapers with the same avidity with which they are read: "there is never anything in this," "I don't know why I bother with this rag."

Then there is the endearing newspaper reader who since the particular paper published such and such a story "would never read that again," or the contemptuous public affairs commentator who "only reads it because I am professionally obliged."

The same people will be found outside a newsagent shuffling to keep warm on a winter's morning in advance of the delivery of the dailies and will deeply envy the late night television presenters who get to hold the following day's newspapers on the eve of their publication.

Whether the pose against it is dignified or feigned, there is no denying the hunger in Ireland for solid reportage, and John Horgan has done us all a favour by compiling a volume, *Great Irish Reportage*, to attempt to satiate the insatiable.

There are many surprises in this book. Former editor of *The Irish Times*, R.M. Smyllie, in an extended travel piece in 1936 on Hitler's country getaway in Bavaria, writes lovingly of 'The Fuehrer's Unpretentious Villa'.

While he voices misgivings about Hitler's politics, they do not obfuscate a thorough appreciation of the landscape, the customs and manner of the people of Obersalzberg, and of Hitler's taste in locations.

Smyllie cut an unusual figure at *The Times*: having dictated the day's editorial in Gregorian chant, Smyllie would repair to the pub where he was easily spotted for one distinctive feature of apparel.

On her deathbed Smyllie's mother made him vow never to touch another glass of whiskey. He agreed and spent the rest of his life drinking his balls of malt while wearing a white glove.

Smyllie was the editor who first gave

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By
**MAURICE
FITZPATRICK**



Myles na gCopaleen a slot as a columnist.

For all the pathos associated with the way na gCopaleen's life developed, still a dimple buttons the cheek to remember that Ireland's greatest journalist opened his publishing career for *The Bell* with the sentence: "In the last 10 years there has been a marked change in the decor of boozing in Dublin." No better man to have observed it.

An encounter between the UK's diplomatic representative to Ireland during the Second World War and then taoiseach, Éamon De Valera, provides a surprising source of comedy in this book.

John Maffey, who had the unenviable task of trying to persuade De Valera of something, relates the substance of the exchange almost as a dramatic dialogue.

The conversation, conducted in classical diplomatic fashion, centres on the use of language: whether "representative" can be admissible to refer to a British emissary.

On his way out, to ensure that the road

would rise to meet Maffey, De Valera points at the Northern part of Ireland on the map and states "that is the real source of all our trouble."

Louis MacNeice covers the President JFK 1963 visit to his ancestral sod with characteristic irreverence.

MacNeice's inability to keep up with the White House entourage may have been attributable to his choice of Brendan Behan's brother as his running mate.

Yet MacNeice manages to capture something of the awe that the first visit of a sitting U.S. president on Irish soil inspired.

MacNeice also registers the wonder of JFK being choppered around at a time when helicopters to most Irish people were more commonly associated with Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks.

A famous article by Conor Cruise O'Brien on 'GUBU', a disparaging acronym for the first government led by Haughey, has not aged well: too much of the Cruiser's sneer and, beneath it, the sour grapes of a politician ousted by Haughey.

In a book such as this, Haughey's legacy deserved a broader focus.

By contrast, Con Houlihan is timeless in his creating a verbal opera from Croke Park, describing how Kerry football greats (Eoin 'The Bomber' Liston, Jack O'Shea) repulse Dublin's onslaught.

Olivia O'Leary, who also contributes a Foreword to this volume, gleans an Argentinian point of view on the Falklands invasion.

O'Leary wrote for *The Irish Times* while Haughey was taoiseach – he had made a spectacular stir by backing the Argentinian invasion, embarrassing his diplomats in the year in which Ireland held a seat on the UN Security Council.

O'Leary brings a very Irish view on the conflict just as some on Buenos Aires streets challenge her to defend the Irish for their timidity in dealing with Britain.

Cocking her ear as she meanders through the streets of Buenos Aires, O'Leary bears witness to the machismo that animates the war with Britain, and to the rapidly shifting sands of the Galtieri Government's policy.

The British, not blameless for the contested ownership of the windswept irrelevancies, inflated news sheets so full of patriotic rhetoric that they might have burst open.

Witness, for instance, the British ambassador to Argentina whose parting shot as he withdrew from the embassy in Buenos Aires under the cover of the Swiss guard: "They've got to learn that they can't treat a major power like this."

What bearing that comment had on Britain is not elaborated.

The final word on the British-Argentinian face-off over the Falklands should rest with the Argentinian visionary, Jorge Luis Borges: "Two bald men fighting over a comb."

By the late 1970s and early 1980s Irish journalism underwent an enormous change and began to relentlessly challenge orthodoxies of reportage, finding new fora in which to do so. I will return to great Irish reportage in my next column.

Great Irish Reportage edited by John Horgan is published by Penguin Ireland.

UK Still in a State of Post Brexit Shock

GREETINGS from Bournemouth. The sun is shining and although leaves are tumbling, temperatures are only just beginning to fall.

If this climate is due to global warming, then I realise that we should all be deeply concerned but, at the age of 72, I confess to be, selfishly, quite enjoying it.

The country is still in a state of post Brexit shock and there are people who are in complete denial of the vote, believing that we will not be leaving the European Union. They are called Scottish.

All the gloom and doom merchants are still around; Britain is still on the path to eternal damnation, and apparently, within two years, the City of London will be a ghost town.

All foreign investment will have ceased and we will all be starving to death, seeking aid from Biafra, wringing our hands and begging that nice German lady Mrs. Merkel, to let us back in again.

In the meantime unemployment is down, productivity is up, exports are up, tourism is up, and the Japanese car company Nissan have recently announced that they will continue to invest in their plant in Sunderland.

Away from politics: The Lonely Planet travel guide has placed North Wales fourth in the top 10 places in the world to visit in 2017.

It is the only UK destination to be featured. The area has won its position because it is a playground for hikers, mountain bikers and rock climbers.

New attractions such as Surf Snowdonia, an inland surfing lake in the Conway valley and Zip World, the longest zip line in Europe, have added to the appeal.

The Bodnant Welsh food centre has apparently led to a surge of quality restaurants and the creation of gourmet food festivals.

Blaenau Festiniog which was once world famous for slate – mining and depression, now offers the opportunity to enjoy bouncing about on a network of giant trampolines strung in caverns beneath the town.

Snowdonia National Park was praised for the quality of its starry nights, designated a dark-sky reserve thanks to the lack of light pollution: this surprises me as for many years I travelled around North Wales and never saw a starry night. It is the only part of Britain where ducks carry umbrellas

As a Welshman I should feel very proud that part of my country has achieved this honour, but I don't.

For silly parochial and historical reasons, there has never been any love lost between the people of North and South Wales.

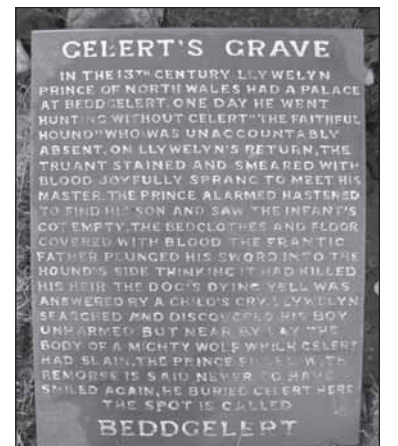
My memory as a tourist in North Wales is of standing in the pouring rain in Beddgelert, staring at the grave of a dog called Gelert, wondering why the hell was I encouraging pneumonia by getting soaking wet looking at a pile of stones.

This dog is alleged to have been a gift from King John of England to his son-

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH



By
**ELFAN
JONES**



in-law Prince Llewelyn the Great of Gwynedd [1172-1240].

The prince had gone hunting and left his faithful hound Gelert to guard his baby son.

When he returned he found the baby's cradle overturned, the baby missing and the dog with its mouth smeared with blood.

Believing that the dog had savaged the baby Llewelyn drew his sword and killed Gelert.

As the dog yelped its last yelp, the prince heard a baby's cry and saw his son unhurt lying behind the cradle alongside a dead wolf.

The prince was overcome with grief and remorse.

Gelert was buried with great ceremony and Llewelyn named the place Beddgelert (Gelert's grave) several hundred years later people with more time on their hands than sense get off coaches and trudge along a muddy path to look at the grave.

For all we really know, there could be a cat under the stones.

In other categories, Canada is listed as top country and Bordeaux as top city to visit.

Canada, I can understand, but perhaps I missed something when I visited Bordeaux.

I am now off to Cardiff to the magnificent Millennium Stadium, currently known for sponsorship purposes as the Principality stadium.

Originally the ground was called Cardiff Arms Park, but a new stadium was built on the same site, although to a different layout.

A revered Welsh rugby player, Gareth Edwards, told a reporter that if the spot where he scored the famous try for the British Lions against New Zealand was placed in the new layout, he would have been diving into the gent's toilet!

Anyway, this weekend Wales take on Australia in rugby. Like most sporting events one gets a better view on television, but the atmosphere in the ground (or the hwy! as we say in Welsh) is just magical. COME ON WALES.

Irish Entry to EU Film Fest is 'My Name is Emily'

VANCOUVER – The European Union Film Festival and the Embassy of Ireland present *My Name is Emily* at the 19th annual European Union Film Festival in Vancouver on Sunday, November 27 at 7:45 PM, at the Cinematheque, 1131 Howe Street.

After the death of his wife, Robert, a best-selling author, suffers a mental breakdown and is institutionalized, leaving his daughter Emily in foster care.

On her side, Emily begins to suspect that something is really wrong when she doesn't receive her father's annual birthday card.

Accompanied by her shy classmate Arden, Emily embarks on a road trip to free her father from his psychiatric hospital in the north of Ireland. The journey will take both Emily and Arden to unexpected places.

This annual showcase of acclaimed new and recent films from across greater Europe includes award winners, domestic blockbusters, festival circuit faves, and official Oscar submissions.

The festival is comprised of entries from 23 European Union member states and this year's festival promises a dynamic and entertaining celebration of the diversity, creativity, and accomplishments of contemporary European filmmaking.

For full details and tickets see: www.thecinematheque.ca/eufilmfestival/ireland-my-name-is-emily.



THE TRADITION of burning celebrity effigies has been ongoing in Edenbridge for more than 20 years.

British town burns massive effigy of Donald Trump on bonfire night

LONDON – A small town in Kent burned a 36-foot tall effigy of Donald Trump on Bonfire Night to Guy Fawkes on Saturday, November 5.

Organisers in Edenbridge said the U.S. Republican presidential candidate was the overwhelming choice for their celebrity effigy this year, which comes just days before the election.

The towering steel-framed set piece was stuffed with oil-soaked newspapers and fireworks before residents torched it. Pictures depicted his effigy wearing boxer shorts with Mexicans' faces on them.

Edenbridge Bonfire Society spokesman Jeni Fox said ahead of the event, "We were spoilt for choice in terms of potential contenders with a shortlist of around 10 potential runners but the people's choice stole the vote.

"We are literally helping Trump to live out his own catchphrase 'burn it down' by exploding the 11-metre effigy as the opening act for our fireworks display.

"It only seemed fair that Hillary Clinton took some of the limelight, and we are sure the presidential candidates will be pleased to see they are both featured."

The brazen billionaire beat contenders that included disgraced England manager Sam Allardyce and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson for the privilege.

Torching celebrity effigies is a 20-year



A DONALD TRUMP effigy holding Hillary Clinton's head was burnt as the celebrity Guy on the Edenbridge bonfire.

strong tradition in the Sevenoaks town in Kent – a custom for which the town is famed.

Last year Sepp Blatter was the effigy chosen to burn, following the FIFA corruption scandal.

Despite the decision of Edenbridge residents to burn an effigy of Trump, it isn't yet clear if he will crash and burn in the polls on Tuesday, November 8....one can only hope.

[POSTSCRIPT: Press time, November 8. First it was predicted Brexit would never happen....then they said Trump presidency would never happen...now, anything can happen.]



AFTER a torch-lit procession through the town, there was a big fireworks display and the famous bonfire, where both Trump and Guy Fawkes were set alight on Bonfire Night, November 5.

SEATTLE NEWS



THE SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL Gaelic Footballers with the trophy after defeating Eastlake High School on October 7 in the inaugural Irish Presidential GAA Competition. Second from right (in the referee's jersey) is Terry Lynch, the North American GAA's Youth Coach Leader.



(L-R) DERMOT RANGLES, Miriam Doyle, Noreen McCormack and Frank Shriane at the social hour following Seattle's annual Mass in Gaelic on October 14.



SEATTLE artist Helen O'Toole, a native of Co. Mayo and an art professor at the University of Washington, is the recipient of a 2016 Contemporary Northwest Art Award.



(L-R) JANE SEPEDE and Lorraine Cunningham serving tea and coffee during the social hour following Seattle's annual Mass in Gaelic on October 14.



(L-R) CÁIT CALLEN, Nancy Ingle, Fr. John Madigan, Gary Ingle Rita Brennan, and John Tobin at the social hour following Seattle's annual Mass in Gaelic on October 14.



ALY GARDNER-SHELBY, the new president of Irish Network Seattle.

SEATTLE NEWS

PASSINGS

• Kathleen Fitzgerald, 78, a native of Co. Kerry, died in Prosser October 23.

• Hugh Doherty, 91, a native of Co. Donegal, died in Brier October 15.

• Margaret Owens, the mother of Seattle's Dermot Owens, died in Belfast October 13.

• Rosie Stapleton, wife of Brian, both of whom have been very involved in the Irish community for over 20 years, died in Seattle September 8.

• Margaret Tormey, 87, an aunt of Seattle's Mark Tormey and whose late husband was from Co. Galway, died September 2 in Spokane.

• Catherine Hughes, 79, a native of Ireland, died in Seattle August 22.

Ar dheis D, go raibh a nanamacha dílse

May their faithful souls rest at the right hand of God.

PANEL DISCUSSION – Irish Network Seattle hosts a Create Your Future! Workshop: Learn powerful career tools event on Thursday, November 10, 6-9 PM, SIFF Film Center, 305 Harrison Street, Seattle.

Learn about emotional intelligence (EQ) (yours and others) in an interactive workshop led by Paul O'Beirne, using Fortune 500, world-class assessment tools from TTI Success Insights.

Paul is passionate about helping people realize their potential and coaching them towards that goal.

Paul, a native of Ireland, is excited to bring his skills and this workshop to members and friends of Irish Network Seattle. For more details, visit Irish Network Seattle on Facebook.

BOOK CLUB – The next Irish Book Club meeting is Tuesday, November 15 to discuss Irish author Colum McCann's newest book, *Thirteen Ways of Looking*. E-mail: hudit@comcast.net, or call (206) 361-1713 for details on the location in West Seattle.

CELTIC YULETIDE – Magical Strings' 38th Annual Celtic Yuletide Concert series starts November 27 in Kingston and Seattle's concert will be December 10 with Tacoma's on December 9. Concerts will also be held in Kent, Mount Vernon, Bellevue, Portland and Leavenworth.

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. For the details, visit magicalstrings.com.

SENIORS' LUNCHEON – The Irish seniors' Christmas luncheon, a sit-down lunch with choice of ham or turkey at \$10 per person (\$20 non-seniors), will be at noon on Saturday, December 3, at F X McRory's, 419 Occidental Avenue S, 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 different Irish seniors, the majority of them Irish-born, have attended these luncheons over the



By
JOHN
KEANE



NOREEN MCCORMACK, the new president of the Seattle Galway Sister City Association.

past six years. For reservations, call (206) 915-1878 and include names of any guests and their lunch choices.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – You're invited to attend the annual Irish Network Seattle Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10 from 6:30-8:30 PM at the RView, 515 Madison Street 28th floor, Seattle.

The RView is on the 28th floor of the Renaissance Seattle Hotel, with great views of the Space Needle and downtown Seattle. Appetizers and a free drink will be served to all attendees. For more details, visit Irish Network Seattle on Facebook.

IRISH TENORS – Irish Tenors Holiday Concert is Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30 PM in Seattle's Benaroya Hall.

Ronan Tynan, Anthony Kearns, and Finbar Wright sing beautiful holiday favorites performed with a full concert orchestra, the perfect start for the holiday season.

The concert benefits the programs and services of Ballard NW Senior Center and tickets are already on sale at 1-866-833-4747.

CELTIC CHRISTMAS – Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas on Saturday, December 17, is a wonderful new Northwest holiday tradition, a high energy stage show that brings the joy and magic of the holidays to the Northshore Performing Arts Center, 18125 92nd Avenue NE, Bothell. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$25. Call (425) 984-2471.

CASCADE YOUTH GAA – Over 7,000 teens have played Gaelic football and hurling in Seattle-area PE classes over the past eight years through an innovative high school Gaelic-games-in-PE-Class program that has been an internationally recognized success.

The program has now grown into its own organization within the Irish Heritage Club, dedicated exclusively to advancing Gaelic games for youth under the name Cascade Youth Gaelic Games.

Instructional events will be held throughout the school year using volunteer instructors who are mostly former Seattle Gaels Gaelic games players.

The program is headed by Seattle's Terry Lynch, who is also the Youth Coach Leader for the North American County Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association. For more details, call (206) 527-3200.

HS GAA GAME – Skyline High School and Eastlake High School competed in six abbreviated Gaelic football games on Friday, October 7, at Eastlake High School in Sammamish in the inaugural Irish Presidential GAA Competition.

With Skyline taking four matches to Eastlake's two, the Irish Presidential Trophy was presented afterwards to Skyline HS.

The Irish Presidential Trophy was donated for the competition by Irish President Michael D. Higgins when he visited Skyline High School in October 2015.

SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION – After 30 years, the Seattle Galway Sister City Association has a new president.

Mick McHugh, who has been president since the sister city agreement was signed in 1986, has assumed the role of president emeritus while Noreen McCormack was elected the new president.

Noreen is a former secretary of the Irish Heritage Club and until recently was president of Irish Network Seattle.

A native of Missoula, Montana, with her parents from Co. Mayo, Noreen has been to Galway several times, most recently this past April.

She has served for the past three years on the Seattle Sister Cities Coordinating Council to which she was appointed by Seattle's mayor.

Noreen is really hoping to get more people involved in the Seattle Galway Association and would like to hear from anyone interested in joining. For more information, e-mail her at: SeattleGalway@IrishClub.org.

IRISH NETWORK SEATTLE – Dubliner Aly Gardner-Shelby is the new president of Irish Network Seattle, taking over from Noreen McCormack who was president for the past two years.

A program manager with Microsoft, Aly has lived in Seattle since 1993.

She is passionate about helping people in the Irish community support each other in their professional lives, while strengthening the economic, social and cultural ties between American and Irish businesses in Washington State and Ireland – and at the same time having some fun!

For more information, visit irishnetworkseattle.org.

CONGRATULATIONS – Helen O'Toole, a Seattle artist who is a native of Co. Mayo, is the recipient of a 2016 Contemporary Northwest Art Award, a Pollock Krasner Award, the Jack and Grace Pruzan Endowed Faculty Fellowship, and numerous other awards and research grants.

Her work is currently featured in the 'Contemporary Northwest Art Awards' exhibition at the Portland Art Museum.

She is also Professor of Art and Chair of the Painting and Drawing Program at the University of Washington in Seattle.



FOLLOWING a Ceol Cascadia Irish Music Concert in Seattle on October 29 – fiddle player Ciarán Ó Maonaigh, concertina player and sean-nós dancer Caitlín Nic Gabhann, and Danny Quinn (R).



(L-R) KIM BURKHART, Aidan Maher, Geraldine Scanlan and Mary Kelly at the social hour following Seattle's annual Mass in Gaelic on October 14.

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Ireland gripped by emotion as rugby legend Anthony Foley laid to rest

DUBLIN – Just after 12 noon radio stations across Ireland simultaneously played *The Fields of Athenry* to remember rugby legend Anthony Foley (42) as thousands lined up to attend the funeral mass in his hometown in Co. Clare on Friday, October 21.

The Irish rugby coach sadly passed away just hours before his Munster team were due to play Racing 92 in the European Champions Cup in Paris.

The day before the funeral, two hour-long queues formed at St. Flannan's Church in Killaloe as people waited patiently to pay their respects to the Munster and Ireland great.

His widow Olive and two young sons Tony and Dan, both wearing Munster jerseys, were supported by his father Brendan, himself a former Ireland international, and other relatives in emotional scenes outside the church.

Foley's coffin, draped in a Munster flag, arrived to lie in repose throughout the afternoon and early evening prior to spending a final night in the family home ahead of Friday's funeral.

Current Ireland coach Joe Schmidt and captain Rory Best joined the throngs that descended on the small town on the River Shannon to say farewell.



THE FUNERAL of Anthony Foley at St. Flannan's Church, Killaloe, Co. Clare was marked throughout Ireland as radio stations across the country simultaneously played *The Fields of Athenry* to remember the Irish rugby legend.

Leinster, Ireland and Lions talisman Johnny Sexton also paid tribute along with a number of his provincial teammates. Connacht coach Pat Lam also travelled.

Former Munster, Ireland and Lions star Keith Wood, a close friend of Foley, was among the first to queue outside the church on Thursday morning.

Social media was alight with tributes for the fallen hero. One commentator said, "I cannot remember anyone ever getting such a national tribute. RIP Anthony Foley, *Fields of Athenry*."



ANTHONY FOLEY

The Siege of Jadotville: A true story of incredible bravery against impossible odds

The Siege of Jadotville tells a gripping true story of incredible bravery against impossible odds when a small group of Irish soldiers went on a routine mission but soon found themselves under attack by a much more powerful force.

Now streaming on Netflix, the film depicts the 1961 siege of a Irish UN battalion under Commander Patrick Quinlan (Jamie Dornan) who were deployed to Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to stop the country descending into chaos.

Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba has been assassinated, and civil war in the African state of Katanga is all but assured.

A UN task force overseen by Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld (Mikael Persbrandt) and his lackey Conor Cruise O'Brien (Mark Strong) prepare to launch an offensive code-named Operation Morthar.

What unfolded over five days in Jadotville is a little-known but astonishing story of heroism and against-all-odds soldiering, a feat of indefatigable courage.

The film tells the true story of how these 157 lightly-armed Irishmen, led by a tactically astute commander, routed a force of 3,000 attackers, killing 300 of them — while suffering no fatalities.

The Siege of Jadotville has echoes of 1879 battle of Rorke's Drift in Natal province, South Africa, when 150 British soldiers repelled attacks by up to



PHOTO: Karen Ballard/Netflix

A SCENE from the film *The Siege of Jadotville*, now streaming on Netflix. Patrick Quinlan (Jamie Dornan) the commander of company of 157-Irish soldiers held off over 3,000 militia and mercenaries for over five days in 1961.

3,000 Zulu warriors. The battle was immortalized in the film *Zulu*.

What seemed like a simple mission, ended up in a desperate life or death fight, pitting the Irish against a well-armed enemy, which consisted of Katangan troops supported by European mercenaries and settlers who outnumbered them 20 to one.

The Irish company was eventually forced to surrender after ammunition and supplies were exhausted, but not before inflicting heavy casualties on the Katangese and their mercenaries.

The company was down to their last biscuit when they finally surrendered after four days without sleep and two days without water.

They were held as prisoners of war for approximately one month, with no loss of life.

But there was to be no hero's welcome. The surrender of A Company was seen by some as a national embarrassment which overshadowed the men's courage and competence.

The treatment of the Jadotville troops infuriated the soldiers and their families and led to a decades-long fight to recognize the importance of the battle.

In 2004 the Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea agreed to hold a full review of the battle.

In 2016, the Irish Government awarded a Presidential Unit Citation to A Company, the first in the State's history.



THE IRELAND TEAM stand for the National Anthem ahead of the International rugby match between Ireland and New Zealand at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Incredible Ireland performance ends 111-year wait for win over All Blacks

Ireland 40 - New Zealand 29

CHICAGO – Ireland ended a 111-year wait for their first win over New Zealand with a momentous performance against the back-to-back world champions in Chicago.

During the week, the Chicago Cubs ended a 108-year wait for the World Series and perhaps inspired by that feat the Irish rugby team ended their own hoodoo by condemning the All Blacks to defeat for the first time.

Before the game, the players formed a figure of eight to meet the Haka in memory of Anthony Foley and their display would have had the sadly-departed back-row smiling warmly.

Three years ago, Ireland let their advantage slip and it looked like history might repeat itself as the world champions fought back from 30-8 down to make it a one-score game and outside of the 15 men on the pitch doubt crept into Irish minds.

Instead, it was Ireland who finished strong and Robbie Henshaw sealed history with Ireland's fifth try with three minutes remaining to seal the victory.

On his international debut, Joey Carbery cemented the result with the conversion. On his eleventh professional appearance, he can claim to have done something that 1,080 players before him couldn't.

In Memory of a young Irish UN peacekeeper - Michael McCarthy

It was 25 years ago on November 19, 1991, when a young Irish Army Corporal was shot and killed in Lebanon on a UN peacekeeping mission.

Michael McCarthy (33) of Buttevant, Co. Cork died when a five-man patrol under his command came under fire from the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army.

The patrol had been sent out from the UN position at At Tiri to monitor the activities of the De Facto Forces who were observed moving westward along a track north of the village. As the UN patrol moved west down the main street it came under fire at the western end of the village.

Corporal McCarthy was killed and Private Richard McGrath was injured. The other three members of the patrol were unhurt. No rounds were fired by the Irish patrol.

In memory of her brother, his sister Joan McCarthy who now lives in Calgary, Alberta, wrote the following poem:

Michael Mac

Forty-eight Blue Berets left our native shore.
Forty-eight loved ones who will walk our land no more.
You went on a mission where you tried to bring some ease,
Now your spirit is in a land never known for day of peace.

Little did we think as you walked out our door,
This would be the last, we would see your smiles no more.
We'll always remember Michael Mac your parting words,
Don't worry lads, I promise I'll be back.

You did our Michael Mac, you promised you'd come back,
For we loved you Michael Mac.
But the bullets have no shame as they play their deadly game,
To a gun you are no one, in an instant you were gone.

Now all we're left with is your name Michael Mac.
It was near the hill you fell,
That's the way we heard it tell.
We didn't get a chance to say farewell.

As you headed toward the light, on your final flight,
It broke the hearts of all who knew you well.
On a cold November Eve, a plane left for Tel Aviv.
On board a lonely body bag, and as sad as it may seem,
We took it to mean, you tried to keep your promise Michael Mac.



ALL SOULS' DAY – A time of remembrance for the dead for religious people around the world.

November: The Month to Pray for All Souls

Once the Halloween candy has been counted and the costumes stored away, many religious people around the world enter into a time of remembrance for the dead.

In the Christian calendar, this tradition is upheld throughout November which is considered the month of All Souls.

All Souls' Day falls yearly on November 2 and it follows All Saints' Day, which is observed on November 1.

While All Saints' Day is a day that Catholics remember those who have already entered heaven, All Souls' Day is a day to pray for all loved ones who have died.

In particular, Catholics remember the souls of those who are caught in purgatory, undergoing a process of purification before entering heaven.

All Souls' Day is not a holy day of obligation, so Catholics aren't expected to attend church.

However, if it falls on a Sunday, Catholics mark the day by attending a special Mass. Catholics also visit the graves of their loved ones, where they light candles, leave flowers and sprinkle holy water.

One of the most famous prayers for those in purgatory is the prayer of St.

Gertrude the Great, a 13th Century German Benedictine nun.

According to tradition, God revealed to the nun that the following prayer would release 1,000 souls from purgatory every time it is said:

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

Although All Souls' Day is primarily a Catholic holy day, it is also observed by the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Anglican church and a few other Protestant denominations.

All Souls' falls during a time of year when many religions are thinking about death.

It is a period when ancient agricultural societies were preparing for the change of the seasons from summer to winter.

Pagans believe this is a time when there's a thinning of the veil between the land of the living and the dead. Witches, Wiccans and other pagans observe Samhain during this time to celebrate the autumn harvest and the coming of winter.

Ballymurphy: Inquest into deaths of 10 people to begin this month

BELFAST – An inquest into the deaths of 10 people shot dead by soldiers in west Belfast 45 years ago will get under way later this month.

The killings by members of the Parachute Regiment took place in Ballymurphy over a three-day period in August 1971.

A preliminary inquest hearing has been scheduled for November 30 but it will not be completed unless the Coroner's Courts service is given additional funding.

The decision to prioritise the Ballymurphy deaths follows a review of more than 50 so-called legacy inquests, involving more than 90 deaths in some of the most controversial incidents of the Troubles. They include killings by police officers and soldiers, and others where there are allegations of collusion.

The Lord Chief Justice, Sir Declan Morgan, has written to the families of the Ballymurphy victims informing them that their inquest is deemed to be at an advanced stage of readiness.



TEN PEOPLE were shot dead in west Belfast in 1971, in what the bereaved families refer to as the Ballymurphy Massacre.

Those killed included a mother-of-eight and a priest.

A solicitor representing the families has welcomed the scheduling of a hearing date, but stressed that this does not mean the inquest will be completed at this time.

"The families have received notification that the inquest has been prioritised by the Lord Chief Justice," said Pádraig Ó Muirigh.

"However, he was very clear that this doesn't mean that the inquest can be completed at this time.

"He warned earlier this year that legacy inquests can't be completed unless extra funding is made available and that

position hasn't changed."

The decision means the Ballymurphy inquest will be among the first to be heard if the Stormont Executive or Westminster government agree to a request from Sir Declan Morgan for additional funding for the coroner's court service.

The Lord Chief Justice has drawn up a five-year plan to hear all outstanding legacy inquests.

It has been estimated that the cost would be at least £10 million.

His request for additional funding has been blocked by First Minister Arlene Foster.

Lawyers acting for families of more than 30 people killed in some of the most controversial incidents of the Troubles have launched legal action in an attempt to have the funding released.

They are seeking a court order instructing the Stormont Executive, Department of Justice and Westminster government to give the Lord Chief Justice the resources he has requested.

A hearing for a judicial review application has been listed for December 14

NEW TRAINSPOTTING SEQUEL TRAILER RELEASED

Trainspotting 2 reunites the surviving four characters from Danny Boyle's smash 1996 film and looks at what has happened to them 20 years on.

The film is loosely based on Irvine Welsh's book *Porno*, set 10 years after the events of *Trainspotting*. *T2*, however, will be set 20 years after the first film.

It will star four of the five main stars of the 1996 film: Ewan McGregor as Renton, Robert Carlyle as Begbie, Jonny Lee Miller as Sick Boy and Ewen Bremner as Spud. Kevin McKidd's character, Tommy, died in the original film.

The original, which was nominated for an Academy Award and won a BAFTA, follows Renton, who is deeply immersed in the Edinburgh drug scene, as he tries to clean up and get out, despite the allure of the drugs and influence of friends.

Irvine Welsh said *T2* is "very much telling a story about Edinburgh as it currently is. The main element to the story is basically Renton, Begbie, Sick Boy and Spud getting back together again, and it tells the story of them getting involved in the vice industry in a very innovative way."

Trainspotting focused on Renton and his desperate attempt to kick his heroin habit despite the temptations around him, illustrating how the narcotic has affected his relationships with everyone around him.

Although, if the preview is anything to go by, substances are still going to play a key part in the plot of *T2*, despite Renton claiming that he's off the heroin.

The trailer plays on Renton's iconic "choose life" speech from the first movie – a quote which donned so many bedroom walls around the film's release



TWENTY YEARS after the original *Trainspotting* premiered, director Danny Boyle has reassembled the original cast for a sequel, *T2: Trainspotting*.

in 1996 – but this time, it's been given a 21st Century twist.

"Choose life. Choose Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and hope that someone, somewhere, cares," McGregor's protagonist can be heard saying over the top of all of the action.

"Choose looking up old flames, wishing you'd done it all differently. And choose watching history repeat itself. Choose your future. Choose reality TV; slut shaming; revenge porn.

"Choose a zero-hour contract; a two-hour journey to work and choose the same for your kids, only worse, and smother the pain with an unknown dose of an unknown drug made in somebody's kitchen.

"And then, take a deep breath. You're an addict, so be addicted, just be addicted to something else. Choose the ones you love. Choose your future. Choose life."

Until now, the only sight of *T2* had come from a teaser trailer, released in July. It depicted the characters standing on a train platform, soundtrack by Iggy Pop's *Lust for Life*. *T2: Trainspotting* is scheduled for release early 2017.

Tom O'Flynn awarded highest honour from Pope Francis

VANCOUVER – Tom O'Flynn, who is well-known in the Vancouver Irish community, has been selected among five local recipients to receive the highest medal that can be awarded by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

He has been chosen to recognize over half a century of service with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For Church and Pope) also known as the "Cross of Honour"

is awarded to lay people and clergy who have given remarkable service to the Church.

It will be presented by Archbishop Miller at Holy Rosary Cathedral on November 13 at 2:30 PM.

Tom was honoured in 2014 with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council.

He was instrumental in launching the Main Street St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store and was the first president of the Central Council.

A native of Kilmeedy, Co. Limerick,



TOM O'FLYNN

Tom is renowned locally for his generous support of so many community projects, including the GAA clubs.

He served as vice-president of the Irish Sporting and Social Club (ISSC) when it was first formed in 1974.

In September 2013, the ISSC presented Tom with the 'Lifetime Spirit Award,' for his continued support and promotion of the club and the Irish community over the years.

He continues in that role as honorary president of the Irish Sporting and Social Club.

National Welsh-American Foundation Honours Grenville Thomas

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER – Well-known West Vancouver mining engineer and entrepreneur Grenville Thomas has been presented with the Heritage Medallion Award by the National Welsh American Foundation.

The award was presented to Grenville at the grand banquet held during the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) in Calgary in September.

A native of Morriston, South Wales, Grenville was recognized by Swansea University in 2014 as an Honorary Doctorate Fellow.

He was Prospector of the Year in 1999, an honour given by the Prospectors and

Developers Association of Canada. In 2009 he was inducted into the Canadian Miners Hall of Fame.

At NAFOW 2016 in Calgary, Grenville also presented a well-received seminar titled "From Coal to Diamonds" in which he related the highlights of his prospecting and business career.

He is known worldwide as a successful prospector and developer of the diamond mining industry in Canada.

Grenville owns the Red Lion pub in West Vancouver, a popular watering hole that he built as a replica of his local pub in Morriston.

He is a Life Member of the Vancouver Welsh Society.

Walk Without Fear in the Season of the Witch



HE richness of the season of Samhain is not without its shadows, or its witch.

A great deal of autumnal, and other, folklore clings to the skirts and cloak of the witch. Found the world over, practitioners of nature magic are women and men who follow the Old Ways.

Harming none, they seek wisdom, balance, and alignment for themselves and their communities. They worship at the altar of Nature, and none other.

The Samhain season begins on October 31 and lightens considerably by the Winter Solstice on about December 21. But the witch is always present.

Because the Samhain season is deliciously dark and windy, we shall speak of witches.

What of witches? Black cauldrons, wands, and mysterious workings?

There are those whose writing on these subjects is more compelling than mine.

For now, I will just introduce one witch who very likely, is recognized as an original witch, and whose present need in this world could not be greater.

Hecate (or Hekate), like many archaic deities, has pre-historic origins.

Filtered through the lens of Greek mythology, she is the daughter of the starry night, and has many associations that correlate with the nighttime world.

Primary among her special features include a strong correlation with divination, dreams, the craft of the Wise, the flitting of ghosts, and the crossroads a place that represents none and all directions.

Her people were the Titans, who came before the Greek gods and their civilization.

Hecate was ancient even when described in writing by Hesiod in the Theogony.

Appropriately, her name means "from a distance," or "far off," or "work from afar."

Historically, Hecate is likely an indigenous goddess who pre-dated Greek civilization.

In myth she was not subjugated by Zeus when the patriarchal gods swept the land. Instead Zeus ensured she retained her birthright share of land, sea, and sky.

This triple influence repeats in her personification as maid, mother, and crone, her association with the phases of the moon, and her affinity for dogs especially the three-headed hound of Hades, Cerberus.

While to some, these qualities alone could qualify Hecate for her title as "Queen of the Witches," her ability, like all witches, to mediate energy from one to another, is the greatest gift Hecate continues to offer.

Ancient Hecate, and those who follow her, use their gifts for good for moving prayer on, drawing energy down where it can be used, and releasing helpful energy into a revitalized world through empowered objects or personal attendance.

By CYNTHIA
WALLENTINE

Mythology holds that Great Demeter, when her daughter Persephone was abducted by Dark Hades, was beside herself not knowing where her daughter had gone although the mother had heard the cries of her daughter as she disappeared into the Underworld.

It was Hecate, with her torch, who stood to help Demeter find her daughter.

Hecate did not swish a magic wand and make things better.

Instead, Hecate personally attended the deep grief of a mother, and in the process, the natural order of seasons was established.

In our world run amok, balance and a quiet voice willing to attend darker times and emotions is in short supply.

While it is fun to don a peaked cap and tromp about with a broom remember the deeper gift of all witches, or anyone whose practice includes deep compassion.

Lend a hand to those who are lost, lend an ear to those trying to survive confusion or chaos.

Life can be difficult. In the coming season, try to be there for someone. You might find it works like magic.

By WILLIAM BRINNEN

I was 41-years-old and I was starting to feel like I was 70. I was tired all the time, my joints were stiff, my stomach felt bloated, my eyes tired easily and I was having erectile dysfunction.

I went to a doctor in Terrace, B.C., regarding my eyesight and erectile dysfunction. He referred me to specialists: one prescribed glasses, the other testosterone shots.

My condition did not get better, it worsened. Finally, I went to my GP. He wanted to know every little problem that I had. At the end of that session, he sent me to the lab for a ferritin test.

The very next day I was on a plane to Vancouver for a liver biopsy where it was confirmed that I had a very advanced stage of hemochromatosis and that my ferritin count was up in the thousands.

Back in Vancouver, a liver specialist put me through a regime of twice weekly phlebotomies. If I thought I was tired before, think again.

At this time I was told that because of the effects of hemochromatosis, one testicle had atrophied and I would need testosterone injections for the rest of my life; that I needed to be treated for arthritis; that iron deposits had lodged in the muscles of my eye so I would need glasses; and that my liver was badly compromised.

As my ferritin levels dropped over the next couple of years, the frequency of



the phlebotomies gradually reduced to weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, and finally a maintenance frequency of every three months.

Years went by with me continually having phlebotomies and blood tests with periodic visits to a specialist for ultrasounds and blood work to keep check on the condition of my liver.

I then suffered a major gastric bleed and nearly died on the way to the hospital with dangerously low blood pressure due to loss of blood.

While undergoing CT scans and MRIs to determine the cause of the bleed, several small cancerous tumors in my liver were discovered.

A PET scan reported that the cancer in my liver had metastasized to my lung, negating conventional treatment.

I was put on an experimental chemo drug that caused me to be weak, tired, not wanting to eat, and nauseous.

Further tests showed the cancer was still growing and the experimental chemo drug was not working. There was nothing more to be done except enjoy what life I had left.

It has been made clear by the doctors that the root cause of my problems is hemochromatosis.

Hemochromatosis has affected me profoundly, emotionally, financially, physically and sexually.

My life was controlled by this disease with hospital/doctor visits, phlebotomy schedules, lab work, and physical restrictions.

It has been a financial drain for years with the cost of pharmaceutical treatments for the side effects of the disease, plus the cost and time of travel for phlebotomies and tests, ambulance charges, work time loss, hospital stays and walkers etc.

Hemochromatosis has been attributed as the root cause of my impending demise from cancer, so to anyone who may suspect they have the disease, I urge you to get tested.

If you have it, get your family tested. If a family member had it, get yourself tested. If detected early, treated and maintained with phlebotomies, one can live a long and healthy life.

[NOTE: William Brinnen died shortly after writing his story. He wanted to ensure that as many people as possible would hear his story and become aware of the devastating and life limiting effects of hemochromatosis. More information can be found at www.toomuchiron.ca/celtic.]



THE MAGIC CIRCLE is an oil painting in the Pre-Raphaelite style, created in 1886 by John William Waterhouse. The painting depicts a witch or sorceress drawing a fiery magic circle on the earth to create a ritual space.

DO YOU HAVE THE Celtic Curse?

Are you of Celtic or northern
European heritage?

If so, you may be at risk for a genetic disorder that could lead to serious health complications.

Most Canadians have never heard of it, but **Hereditary Hemochromatosis (HHC)** is the most common genetic disorder in Canada.

Also known as the Celtic Curse, HHC causes the body to retain too much iron – and if undiagnosed and untreated – can potentially lead to heart disease, liver disease, diabetes, arthritis, and some forms of cancer.

If you are of Celtic or northern European heritage (the group at highest risk) please take a moment to answer a few simple questions on our quick self-assessment and determine if you may be at risk.

www.toomuchiron.ca/celtic
You could save your life.

Canadian
HEMOCHROMATOSIS
SOCIETY
Société canadienne de l'hémochromatose

Toll Free: 1-877-BAD-IRON
(1-877-223-4766)
office@toomuchiron.ca
www.toomuchiron.ca