

the celtic connection

ISSUE 26 VOLUME 5

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JULY/AUGUST 2017



THE BROMANCE IN DUBLIN – Canadian PM Justin Trudeau took time out during his official visit to Ireland for a short run through Phoenix Park with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. [Read more about Trudeau in Europe on pages 6 & 12]



HUNDREDS attend a candlelit vigil in London for victims of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster which has claimed at least 87 deaths and over 70 injuries. A definitive death toll is not expected until at least 2018. [Read more on page 8]



INSIDE THE EYE OF THE STORM – Clint Macnab, the son of Scottish homesteaders, tells his incredible story of survival as a tornado ripped through his family farm in rural Saskatchewan. [Read more on pages 20 & 21]



PHOTO: Adrian Finan, Principal, St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny

IN THIS ISSUE, Irish sports writer and theologian John Scally reflects on the influence of the Gaelic Athletic Association on individuals and communities. We welcome his contribution during the All-Ireland semi-finals month. A collection of huris outside St. Patrick's Church, Kilkenny epitomizes the power of the Gaelic Games to reach something profound within us and evoke a community spirit.

[Special thanks to *The Sacred Heart Messenger*, Dublin, the publishing organization of the Jesuits in Ireland. www.messenger.ie] [Read more about the Sunday Games on page 3]



DAVID GAVIN (26) a member of the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club who recently moved to Vancouver from Ireland on a two-year work visa, drowned in Kinbasket Lake near Golden, B.C. on Friday, June 30, 2017. The official search has now been called off but an online fundraising campaign is ongoing to assist with recovery efforts. [Read more on page 19]

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The thrill of watching Man U win the Europa League just two days after devastation of the Manchester bombing attack

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Sunshine and big crowds for 2017 BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival

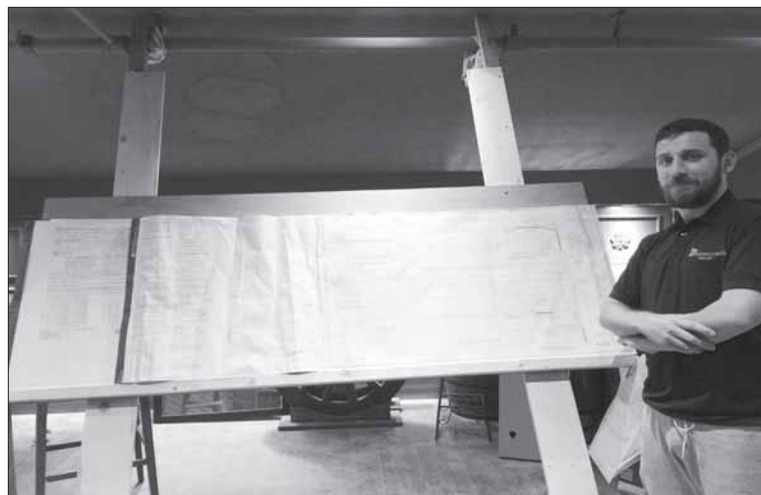
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WIN FREE TICKETS

Win a pair of free tickets to see **Daniel O'Donnell** at either the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre in **Victoria** on September 7; the Orpheum Theatre in **Vancouver** on September 8; Prospera Place in **Kelowna** on September 9; Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, in **Edmonton** on September 11; or Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in **Calgary** on September 12. (See pages 5 & 7 for more details). Entry by August 18. Mark your entry Daniel O'Donnell and the city where you would like to win tickets to the concert. 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 city). Send to: cbutler@telus.net.



THE DOORS are finally open to the public at Donnellan's Irish Pub and the wait is over. Last month *The Celtic Connection* had a sneak peek inside while it was still under construction and it is fabulous! Here's a quick preview while it was still a work-in-progress.....magnificent contemporary room with old-world charm, split-level with high ceilings, yet a warm intimate atmosphere. Lots of memories and tales will be spun inside these walls and the craic will be mighty. The new pub is located at 1082 Granville Street in Vancouver.



JORDAN FLYNN manager of the new Donnellan's Irish Pub is pictured last month beside floor plans for the new premises. Congratulations to the team for all your hard work and wishing you every success in the days ahead.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Deep in Canadian woods we've met / From one bright island flown;
Great is the land we tread but yet / Our hearts are with our own.
And were we leave this shanty small / While fades the autumn day,
We'll toast Old Ireland! / Dear Old Ireland! / Ireland, boys, hurrah!

— Timothy Daniel Sullivan [1827-1914]

New mini-van donated to Douglas Park Community Center by Tony and Betty O'Duffy Brennan and family

VANCOUVER – The name Tony and Betty O'Duffy Brennan will be remembered with great fondness by many senior members of the local Irish community. There was a time when they were a fixture at every Irish party and event.

Tony and Betty loved to perform cabaret style and their door was always open with a warm welcome for everyone.

Tony would wear his black fedora and play the trumpet, while Betty played the castanets. With her skirt swishing and with great gusto she would flamenco dance, giving Michael Flatley a run for his money.

The O'Duffy family – Tony, Betty and son Anthony (another son Paul passed away at a young age in the early 1980s) – emigrated from Dublin to Vancouver in the late Sixties. Tony and Betty were professional entertainers in Ireland and on Jersey Island where they lived for nine years.

Sadly, Betty passed away on July 27, 2003, after a courageous battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease).

She is remembered for giving unselfishly of her time to those in need, particularly the children, disabled and seniors.

One of her greatest joys was working at the Douglas Park Community Centre in Vancouver where she was deeply appreciated for her bubbling energy, enthusiasm and passion.

Last month, the name Tony and Betty O'Duffy Brennan was once again at the forefront at Douglas Park Community Centre when the family donated a mini-van for those in need.

It can be said that we are remembered



MARGARET LARKIN with Tony O'Duffy, Doctor Heather Fay, and Harry Cussin at a dedication ceremony for the new mini-van donated to the Douglas Park Community Centre.



ANTHONY O'Duffy beside the Douglas Park Community Centre minivan donated in the name of his mother and father Betty and Tony O'Duffy Brennan.

for what we did...not for what we could have done, should have done or wished we had done.

Thank you to both Tony and Betty O'Duffy Brennan for all that you have done for so many. The memory of your kindness and generosity will live on.

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The empowering nature of the Gaelic Games reaches something profound within us

DUBLIN – For many fans, the Gaelic games are the Holy Grail. They are one of the few places left where the Corinthian spirit survives and where the stars are playing for the love of the game.

By JOHN SCALLY

No sociologist can ignore the power of Gaelic games in Ireland to harness the communal values of loyalty, self-discipline and sacrifice and all for the glory of the parish. They epitomise the importance of respect for place that is at the heart of the GAA.

As a boy growing up in Roscommon, Gaelic football was the battery that drove my imaginative life and dared me to see the county in a very different light.

Football provides an escape for people from their problems and anxieties. It allows them to dream of better days to come.

Success, even at a very modest level, increases our self-esteem.

In my own case, we walked that little bit taller, we talked just a little more boldly, and we wore our blue and gold caps with pride.

When the county team was doing well, it did not seem to hurt as much if the price of cattle was abysmal or if the summer was wet and it was virtually impossible to save the hay or the turf.

The noted Clare community activist Father Harry Bohan stated, "All through its existence, the GAA has been bound up with a sense of place, belonging and a sense of community."

"This has bonded people together and given people stability."

"Today we live in a cloud of instability and confusion. We have witnessed a loss of trust in institutions, spiralling unemployment and the continuing collapse



of culture shaped by consumerism and borrowing.

"If we are to bring stability and security to our own lives, we will need to rediscover a sense of place and take pride in who we are and the culture that shapes us. Without a vision, people die."

Love them, hate them, or try to be indifferent to them, Gaelic games subtly shape Irish social history and everyday life.

They permeate the media, set the mood of Monday's post-match workplace and dominate pub-talk.

Almost every young boy dreams of playing in Croke Park, alongside an ever-increasing number of girls wishing to do likewise.

Gaelic games offer men and women, young and old, a group identity, a spiritual home to belong, a sacred space where we can be among our people and therefore be ourselves.

There is something innocent, something mysterious about the hold of Gaelic games on our identity, which is completely removed from analysis. This is its power.

To shamelessly borrow from Don McLean, something touches us deep inside.

We all crave it, the sense of connection, the thought we can be better than

we are, even if better only through someone else – our 15 representatives.

The surging runs of Joe Canning or the intricate footwork of Colm Cooper take us to a higher power, altered for a moment, alive in another's body and mind. That's the reason we need our own heroes, so that we too can be elevated.

For generations, the GAA has been one fixed point in a fast-changing age.

Those years have not been without their troubles but, even when the storm clouds gathered, the people's organisation has not withered before their blast and a greener, better, stronger movement lay in the sunshine when the tempest was past.

Our economic system values measurable outcomes, but what is deepest about us as people transcends what can be measured and outstrips what can be analysed.

It is not given to us to peer into the mysteries of the future but we can safely predict that, in the coming years, Gaelic games will continue to reach something profound within us and, in moments of crystal clarity, reveal all that is best about us.

Reprinted with kind permission of *The Sacred Heart Messenger*, Dublin, [www.messenger.ie].

Easier and faster for Canadian immigrants to become citizens

OTTAWA – Bill C-6 is now officially law in Canada, making the process simpler and quicker for permanent residents to become citizens.

Under the new law, immigrants only need to have lived in Canada for 1,095 days, within a five-year period, to be eligible for citizenship.

Previously, the Conservative Government required immigrants to be in Canada for 1,460 days within a six-year time period before they could apply to be citizens.

"We want all permanent residents, if possible, to become Canadians," said Canada's Immigration Minister, Ahmed Hussen, in a statement.

Bill C-6 also makes several other amendments to the Canadian Citizenship Act.

One of those changes now allows permanent residents to count up to 365 days of their previous temporary status towards the residency requirement for citizenship.

The changes introduced by Bill C-6 also eliminate the government's ability to revoke citizenship on national security grounds from citizens who hold dual citizenship.

Individuals who lost their citizenship because it was allegedly obtained fraudulently will also be given the right to appeal the decision in federal court.

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Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summerfilled with festivals and lots of music!

Ah, it's summer! Festival time again! Whoopie!! Lots of great music events and a lot of it features Celtic music.

Kicking off with the **Harrison Festival of the Arts** in Harrison Hot Springs (July 6 - 16) with BBC Folk Award Traditional Singer Of The Year 2017 – **Daíori Farrell** (July 11th, 7pm).

His latest CD, *True Born Irishman*, won Album Of The Year, as well. Great singer!

The following night, Cape Breton's **Coig** – one of my favourite Canadian bands – play the Harrison Hall. I'll be there for sure!

They have just released their second CD, *Rove*. Wonderful fiddle tunes and songs.

On the 13th Dublin-raised **Stephen Fearing** joins **Pharis & Jason Romero** for a concert, and Scotland's **Paul McKenna** and **Rura** play at 3 PM on Friday, July 14.

Quebec trad. duo **Yann Falquet & Pascal Gemme** play a 1 PM show on the 15th, and there's a Trad Irish Session at 1 PM on the 16th to wrap things up at Harrison. www.harrisonfestival.com.

A little closer to home for many of us, the 40th annual **Vancouver Folk Music Festival** celebrates Canada 150 with a free concert in Jericho Park on Thursday, July 13.

Dozens of performers – and the audience – will sing a whole bunch of classic Canadian folk songs.

I think it's fair to say that Canada can boast as fine a collection of contemporary folk songs as any place on earth, so head down to Jericho to join the fun.

The festival proper kicks off the following day with a line-up which includes **Rhiannon Giddens** (ex Carolina Chocolate Drops) and **Billy Bragg & Joe Henry** in the evening concert.

Day Stages start at 2 PM on the Friday, so get there early to make sure you don't miss anything crucial (especially Stage 2 at 2 PM with Rhiannon and Billy joined by Egyptian songsmith **Ramy Essam**, England's punk-folk rebel **Grace Petrie**, and American activist **Si Kahn**, and Stage 3 at 3:45 PM, with Basque combo **Korrontzi**, Quebec's amazing **Melisande Electro-Trad**, and Swedish fiddler **Ellika Frisell** with **Solo Cissoko** and **Rafael Sida**.)

I'll be broadcasting *The Saturday Edge On Folk* on the Saturday from 8 AM to 12 noon, live from the park.

CiTR's broadcast booth is located near Stage 3, and I hope to have a few guest performers on the show.

Day Stages start at 10 AM Saturday and Sunday and there is some really fabulous music this year.

Amongst my strongest recommendations are Boston singer **Aoife O'Donovan**, Australia's delightful **Mae Trio**, Scotland's **Paul McKenna**, and the excellent Celtic band **Rura**, and a remarkable Afro-Colombian combo



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB



DANIEL LAPP joins Steve Dawson and others on Thursday, August 10 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Rogue at their old stomping grounds the WISE Hall on Adanac Street in Vancouver.



STEVE DAWSON brings his quartet to the WISE Hall to celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Rogue on August 10.

Sidestepper, who blend modern beats with ancient songs.

Come visit the Rogue Folk booth during the festival for a sneak preview of our fall and winter seasons. www.thefestival.bc.ca.

Occasionally a quirk of the July calendar sees Courtenay's **Island Musicfest** clash with the **Vancouver Folk Fest** and 2017 is just such a year, so we all have to choose one or the other. I'm tied to CiTR, so I'll miss Musicfest this year.

Highlights of the event include **3Tir** (Ontario fiddler **Pierre Schryer**, Irish piper **Martin Nolan**, and B.C. guitarist **Adam Dobres**), B.C.'s **Tillers Folly**, legendary singers **Emmylou Harris** and **Rita Coolidge**, plus **Daíori Farrell**, **Martyn Joseph**, and **Bruce Cockburn** – and lots more! www.islandmusicfest.com.

The CBC presents its annual **Nooner Concerts** throughout July and August. These are free concerts on the grassy

forecourt of their 700 Hamilton Street location, and there is a very eclectic range of mostly Canadian performers.

Here are a few highlights: **Buckman Coe** (July 11), **Melisande Electro-Trad** (July 14), **Quinn Bachand's Brishen** (July 20), **Locarno** (July 21), **Steph Cameron** (August 1), and **Roy Forbes** (August 24). Just Google CBC Nooners for information on the full schedule.

For the past eight years **Rogue Folk** teamed up with Shore FM and later LG104 FM to bring you **Shorefest**, a free series of performances on fireworks nights at the Celebration of Light.

Sadly, the Canada broadcast regulators (CRTC) have withdrawn the requirement for the radio station to continue to support community non-profits (mostly Rogue Folk, but also Vancouver Adaptive Music Society) so LG has pulled the plug on Shorefest.

If there is any live music at this year's fireworks nights it definitely won't be very folksy. Sad news.

It does mean no direct conflict with the **Mission Folk Festival** and Duncan's **Island's Musicfest** (July 21 - 23) though!

Mission performers include **Jim Byrnes**, **Valdy**, **3Tir**, **Locarno**, **Pacifica**, **Tim Readman**, **Filippo Gambetta & Emily Stam**, **Andy Hillhouse**, and the re-formed **Cleia** (**Karla Mundy**, **Andy Hillhouse**, and **Keona** and **Neil Hammond**). www.missionfolkmusicfestival.ca.

Islands Folk Festival features **The Bills**, **Eileen McGann**, **Lydia Hol**, **Ivonne Hernandez**, **Locarno**, **Linda McRae**, **The Ecclestons** and many more. www.islandsfolkfestival.ca. Tough choices to be made that weekend, too.

Attention switches to Alberta after that, with the 40th annual **Canmore Folk Festival** (August 5 - 7) with artists like **Blackie & The Rodeo Kings**, **Bruce Cockburn**, **Irish Mythen**, **Ten Strings & A Goatskin** and plenty more. What a great site they have, too, nestled amongst the Rocky Mountains. www.canmorefolkfestival.com.

The **Edmonton Folk Music Festival** (August 10 - 13) is one of my favourite events of the year, and this year's line-up includes the return of **Four Men & A Dog**, who released a great new CD at the end of last year.

A healthy dose of Celtic music comes from **Ashley MacIsaac**, **The Unthanks**, **McGoldrick-McCusker-Doyle**, **The Paul McKenna Band**, **Ten Strings & A Goatskin**, and **Solo** – a joint effort of Quebec powerhouse combos **Le Vent Du Nord** and **De Temps Antan**. There's loads more besides, too. www.edmontonfolkfest.org.

Back in B.C., **Salmon Arm Roots & Blues** (August 18 - 20) www.rootsandblues.ca features some great blues and R&B artists.

Celtic music comes from **McGoldrick-McCusker-Doyle**, **April Verch**, PEI's **Vishten**, **Maria Dunn**, and **Andy Hillhouse**.

That same weekend the **Princeton Traditional Music Festival** takes place. It's a free festival with some



The **Edmonton Folk Music Festival** (August 10 - 13) is one of my favourite events of the year, and this year's line-up includes the return of **Four Men & A Dog**, who released a great new CD at the end of last year.



BIRDS OF CHICAGO will play the Rogue Folk concert series at the newly renovated St. James Hall on September 7.

“The City of Vancouver has a work crew replacing the roof tiles – and installing insulation between the new roof and the wooden beams inside. I reckon this will make a huge difference to the temperature in the [St. James]hall”

excellent bands, lots of workshops, dances, and jamming. www.princetontraditional.org.

Meanwhile, back in Vancouver, **St. James Hall** is being renovated over the next few weeks.

The City of Vancouver has a work crew replacing the roof tiles – and installing insulation between the new roof and the wooden beams inside. I reckon this will make a huge difference to the temperature in the hall.

They are also adding some ventilation and fans on the west side of the hall. There are new lights and some of the sound system will be “plumbed in” and the stage upgraded too.

These renos will be completed by mid-August – just in time for the resumption of the **Rogue Folk** concert series with **Birds of Chicago** (September 7) and Newfoundland's fabulous trad. singer **Matthew Byrne** (September 8).

That excellent string band and harmony quintet **The Bills** return on September 15, **Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands** will have the rafters ringing with Bluegrass and more on September 18, and **Garnet Rogers** makes what could be his last road trip out west on September 23.

There are plenty more concerts to come, of course, before the City replaces the dance floor in mid-December.

Anyone want to buy a pew? St. James is selling off some of the pews, so if you'd like one, please let them know on info@sjcommunitysquare.org or call (604) 732-1305. The remaining pews will have cushions!

With all this construction going on we thought we should present a concert at our former home venue, the WISE Hall – this being The Rogue's 30th anniversary and all.

So on Thursday, August 10 **Steve Dawson** will bring his quartet – including the amazing **Daniel Lapp** on fiddle, trumpet, piano etc. Details of this – and future Rogue shows – can be found on www.roguefolk.com.

I'll be spinning tunes by most of these artists – and a whole lot more besides – on *The Saturday Edge On Folk*, every Saturday from 8 AM to noon on CiTR FM 101.9 in Vancouver and all over the web on www.citr.ca (where you can also find podcasts of each and every one of my radio shows since 2005!).

*Enjoy this balmy summer! Slainte.
Steve*

Chart topping Irish superstar Daniel O'Donnell on tour across Canada this September

VANCOUVER – International star, Daniel O'Donnell, has announced that he will be returning to tour across Canada in September this year.

The tour will see the record breaking Irish singer from Co. Donegal blaze a trail from Victoria and Vancouver in B.C., right across all the provinces to Halifax, Nova Scotia and St. John's, Newfoundland in the Maritimes (an impressive run of tour dates that takes in 10 out of 10 of the Canadian Provinces).

In Vancouver, the 'Back Home Again Tour: An Evening With Daniel O'Donnell' is Friday, September 8, at the Orpheum Theatre.

Daniel made record-breaking chart history earlier this year by becoming the first recording artist in the history of the UK Artist Album Chart to have charted at least one new album every year since 1988, an unprecedented and unbroken 30 year span, surpassing everyone from Michael Jackson, the Rolling Stones, Madonna and Irish strongholds U2.

Commenting on the tour announcement, Daniel said "I'm really excited about this tour, it will take us to quite a few cities in Canada which we have not performed in before, as well as to some of our old favourites, offering us an opportunity to meet both new and familiar faces."



DONEGAL singer Daniel O'Donnell will be on tour this autumn across Canada blazing a trail from Victoria to Newfoundland. He has amassed 31 Top 30 albums over the course of his career surpassing everyone from Michael Jackson, the Rolling Stones, Madonna and Irish strongholds U2.

"We will be interested to hear what Canadian audiences think of the new line up and show. We hope they love it as much as audiences elsewhere have proved to."

Daniel burst into superstardom in the U.S. and Canada back in 2002 with his first ever PBS special *The Daniel O'Donnell Show*.

That began a special relationship between Daniel and PBS and since then, he has recorded a further 13 specials, with *Back Home Again* being his latest.

Daniel's previous PBS release was *Stand Beside Me* which is a concert celebration of Irish, country, gospel, rock, movie and long-time Daniel O'Donnell favourites.

The title *Stand Beside Me* is not only a popular song among concert goers, but also reflects Daniel's belief that fans throughout his more than 15 years on PBS have brought him to where he is today, standing beside him making his career a success and he will be forever grateful to them.

Over his long and continuingly successful career Daniel has received many accolades including an honorary MBE from Queen Elizabeth, an appearance on *Top of the Pops*, his life celebrated on *This Is Your Life* and multiple Entertainer of the Year/Person of the Year Awards in Ireland and the UK to add to his record breaking chart appearances.

Tickets are now on sale and available at www.livenation.com or charge by phone at 1-855-985-5000.

Paul McCartney Finally Regains Beatles Rights After Near 50-Year-Long Battle

LONDON – This year has been a big one for Sir Paul McCartney.

On June 18, the former member of The Beatles turned 75. A few days prior to his birthday, McCartney's rank for knighthood was elevated after 20 years to Companion of Honour for his services to music.

Over the July 1 weekend, McCartney had yet another success to celebrate – after a long battle dating back decades, the prolific songwriter finally regained the copyright to the Beatles catalog in a private settlement with Sony ATV.

In 1969, McCartney and Lennon attempted to buy Northern Songs, which was the original publisher of the Beatles catalog, though the duo lost out to ATV Music.

Some decade-and-a-half later, ATV Music went up for sale, offering McCartney yet another chance to rescure the rights to the Beatles' Lennon-McCartney songs.

In an unfortunate twist, McCartney was outbid by friend and fellow musical legend Michael Jackson, who bought the company for \$47.5 million in 1985.

Jackson bought ATV Music following McCartney's advice noting the value of music publishing, and their friendship



PAUL MCCARTNEY

never recovered from what McCartney considered a betrayal.

In early 2016, Sony announced that it would buy out Jackson's 50 percent stake of ATV Music from the late musician's estate for \$750 million, creating yet another chance for McCartney to negotiate the rights to his songwriting work with The Beatles.

The U.S. Copyright Act of 1967 was passed as a means to let songwriters regain the rights to their songs – the law states that for songs published before 1978, rights can be reverted back to the original author after 56 years (or for songs published in or after 1978, the song's rights can be recaptured after 35 years).

In 2015, McCartney began the process of reclaiming the rights to some of his music under the act.

He filed to reclaim the rights to 32 songs, as a number of titles from the highly coveted Lennon-McCartney catalog are on the eve of hitting the 56-year mark, with the first Beatles single, *Love Me Do*, coming up on its 56th anniversary after being released in 1962.

While this process was underway, a British court ruled that the U.S. Copyright Act did not apply in Great Britain, making it significantly harder for McCartney to legally secure the rights to his music globally.

After it refused to grant rights to 1980s pop sensations Duran Duran – known for hits such as *Rio* and the James Bond theme *A View to a Kill*, McCartney's lawyer said a Sony ATV executive approached him at a concert as the Duran Duran case went forward and warned the publisher would fight harder for the Beatles catalogue.

Thus, the news that Paul McCartney secured the rights to his music in a private settlement was a big win for the former Beatle, who has been on this journey to secure the rights to his own music for nearly 50 years.

While few details about the settlement have been disclosed, McCartney's lawyer, Michael Jacobs, announced, that Sony and McCartney have resolved this matter and that McCartney's lawsuit over the catalog had been dismissed and a confidentiality agreement signed.



Rogue Folk Club

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www.roguefolk.com

Thursday, AUGUST 10

Rogue Roots Music at WISE Hall!

Steve Dawson band w. Dan Lapp

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 7

Powerhouse Folk band

Birds of Chicago

Friday, SEPTEMBER 8

Newfoundland's finest trad singer

Matthew Byrne

Friday, SEPTEMBER 15

BC string quintet with amazing songs and spirited medleys

The Bills

Monday, SEPTEMBER 18

Hot Bluegrass and Beyond

Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 23

Canadian songwriter returns with new music - and a great book!

Garnet Rogers

Thursday, OCTOBER 5

brilliant Canadian guitar wizards

Don Ross & Calum Graham

and many more to be announced at the newly renovated hall!!

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Tickets & Info (604) 736-3022



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ENTERTAINMENT

August 12 - **Four Men & A Dog** are back by popular demand. Tickets are only \$30. Be sure to get yours before they sell out!

August 27 - **Family Picnic in Coronation Park** (by the Telus World of Science). Join us for food and family fun in the afternoon!

September 17 - **Annual Pig Roast** at the Irish Centre

September 23 - **Seniors Dinner Dance**

Throughout the summer, we will also be showing GAA games live via satellite. Please check our Facebook Page for each weekend's schedule.

www.edmontonirishclub.ca

Guardian Angels

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DONALD TRUMP CONGRATULATES LEO VARADKAR

DUBLIN – Donald Trump and Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar say they are both looking forward to meeting in person next March in Washington.

In their first telephone call since Varadkar was appointed taoiseach in June, the pair did not discuss a visit to Ireland by the U.S. president. Varadkar's predecessor Enda Kenny invited Trump to Ireland last March.

The planned trip, scheduled to take place during his presidency, sparked much criticism from opposition parties in Dublin.

Trump did however extend to the taoiseach the traditional invite to the White House for the annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Both leaders "looked forward to meeting in person then," they said in the conversation, according to a spokesman for Varadkar.

The pair also discussed migration, Brexit and the movement of goods and citizens across the border, climate change, free trade, Irish inward investment in the U.S. and the undocumented Irish, or illegal Irish immigrants, in the U.S.

They also discussed the Northern Ireland peace process.

According to a note of the conversation, they agreed to continue strong co-operation between Ireland and the U.S. on economic issues as well as shared cultural and family ties.

Trump also congratulated Varadkar on his recent election as leader of the minority ruling Fine Gael party and his appointment as taoiseach.

Varadkar also held a telephone call with British Prime Minister Theresa May in which they discussed the ongoing efforts to restore the power sharing executive in Northern Ireland ahead of the talk deadline.

They discussed the supply and confidence agreement between the Conservatives and the DUP as well.



TAOISEACH Leo Varadkar rocks iconic red Canadian socks with images of mounties and maple leaves at meeting with PM Justin Trudeau at Farmleigh in Dublin on July 4.

Canadian PM Trudeau meets Irish PM ahead of G20 summit

DUBLIN – Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accompanied by his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau and their young son Hadrien, arrived in Ireland on the morning of Monday, July 3.

They were greeted by Kevin Vickers, Canada's ambassador to Ireland, Jim Kelly, Ireland's ambassador to Canada, and other officials upon arrival in Dublin.

This was the first official visit to Ireland by a foreign leader since Leo Varadkar was elected taoiseach and he was keen to make a good impression.

Every detail was looked after to ensure that the meeting went well, even the benches in the Phoenix Park were given a lick of paint.

But An Taoiseach went one step further than rolling out the red carpet...taking a leaf from Trudeau's penchant for statement socks, Varadkar wore red socks (Canada's colour of course) featuring images of mounties and maple leaves.

The PM's visit had been arranged two months after Varadkar's predecessor Enda Kenny met Trudeau in Montreal and was among a number of scheduled friendly courtesy calls ahead of what was expected to be a raucous G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany.

Trudeau had several other engagements in Dublin, including a business lunch and



Alongside Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Justin Trudeau tried his hand at hurling at Farmleigh House on his visit to Ireland....and apparently he was pretty good. He showed off his skills with the hurley under the watchful eye of Dublin footballer, Ciaran Kilkenney and members of Castleknock GAA Club.

a visit to see the Famine memorial statues in the city centre.

Among the issues for discussion on the visit trade was a key focus, including the CETA treaty between Canada and the EU.

The free trade agreement has yet to be ratified by national parliaments and has been criticised by trade unions, farmers' groups and NGOs.

In an announcement from his office about the visit, Trudeau said Canada and Ireland have a strong relationship "based on shared cultural heritage and strong family ties."

But the official visit comes at a crucial time for Ireland, which continues to grapple with Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

The main event though was the G20 summit, where German Chancellor Angela Merkel set an ambitious agenda for her colleagues.

Climate change, refugees and free trade were among the most prickly topics for the leaders, but preparing for future pandemics, gender parity and development aid for Africa were also up for discussion.



RAY BASSETT, the former Irish ambassador to Canada, speaking on BBC *Daily Politics*.

Ray Bassett, the former Irish ambassador to Canada says Ireland should exit EU

DUBLIN – The former Irish ambassador to Canada, Jamaica and the Bahamas has caused a stir at home after claiming that Ireland would be better off following Britain out of the European Union.

Ray Bassett was speaking after the Policy Exchange published his new report on the case for 'Irexit'. He says Dublin's partnership with London is more important than its relationship with EU member states.

Speaking on BBC *Daily Politics*, Bassett said, "Ireland wanted the UK to stay inside the EU, but now that it's changed and the UK is certainly leaving the EU, and it looks like they're leaving the single market and the customs union.

"We have to take stock of our position, and decide whether our best course is to stick with the remaining 26 or look at the issue of maintaining our customs and free trade with the UK.

"Ireland could go to a position like Ireland or Norway where it stayed in the European economic area and at the same time had a customs union with the United Kingdom."

Bassett added that Ireland should prioritise ties with Britain because there are "much greater connections" between the two countries than with the EU.

"Ireland and Britain have so many connections together that is by far our most important bilateral relationship," he said.

"We've got to look if we break that relationship, as part of the EU – what do we get on the other side? The EU is moving in a direction we don't particularly like."

The consensus in Ireland favours remaining in the European Union. A recent poll found that a huge 88 percent of Irish people think Ireland should remain in the EU, after the UK voted to leave in June 2016.

But Bassett concluded: "We've shared a common jurisdiction for hundreds of years, almost every organisation in Ireland is linked into a UK organisation, and we don't know what the final format of Brexit is.

"There is a danger that the EU will prioritise itself over the unique and special relationship between Ireland and Britain."

Who is Leo Varadkar: Ireland's New Taoiseach?

DUBLIN – Ireland's new taoiseach is politician Leo Varadkar. Following the retirement of Enda Kenny, he was elected as leader of the Fine Gael Party on June 2, 2017.

On 14 June, he was nominated as taoiseach by Dáil Éireann and this nomination was approved by the president of Ireland. He has been a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Dublin West constituency since 2007.

He held the ministries of Transport, Tourism and Sport (2011 to 2014), Health (2014 to 2016), and Social Protection (2016 to 2017). During the 2015 same-sex marriage referendum he became the first openly gay Irish government minister and is the first minister of Indian heritage.

Upon his election as taoiseach, Varadkar, aged 38, became the youngest person to hold the office, as well as the first person from a minority ethnic background to do so. He is also Ireland's first and the world's fourth openly gay head of government in modern times.



LEO VARADKAR

Recovery Day: A Free Event to Celebrate Overcoming Addiction

NEW WESTMINSTER – Whether you are in recovery from a drug or alcohol addiction, an ally to someone who is in recovery, looking for addiction recovery resources, or you just think that sobriety is awesome – come on out! Everyone is welcome to celebrate recovery.

Now in its sixth year, Recovery Day BC is shutting down the streets of New West on September 9 for this substance-free, wicked-awesome and family-friendly event.

Part music festival, part carnival, and part educational event: Recovery Day BC is a celebration, a rally, a remembrance for those lost, and a tool to raise awareness for recovery while reducing the stigma of addiction.

The Entertainment

This year's festival boasts an impressive lineup no matter what your tastes are.

The Vancouver Circus School presents "Emporium Spectacular!" – a journey of curiosity and magic through aerial silks, juggling, handstand balancing, aerial hoop and much more.

Performing live are The Timebenders

WHERE: 6th Street and 6th Avenue, New Westminster BC

WHEN: September 9, 2017 - 1-5 PM

Please join us as we hold a province-wide moment of silence at 3 PM to remember those lost to addiction.

– with 50 years of hits, their "Rock Down Memory Lane" is an explosive, interactive, high-energy show that has everyone on the dance floor!

The Adam Woodall Band also performs live – and this Vancouver favourite is sure to delight your ears and make some memories.

If it is an educational afternoon that you are looking for, come for the Wellness Centre featuring TEDx style talks with expert speakers discussing the many pathways to recovery.

Spending an afternoon with the family? There will be a Kids Zone with face-painting, a bouncy castle, and more!

The Goal

Recovery Day aims to celebrate recovery while remembering those lost due to overdoses.

With over 10,000 people expected to attend the 2017 event, the goal is to organize Canadians in recovery from alcohol and drug addictions – alongside families, friends, and allies, to speak with one voice, with a message "we do recover!"

This gathering will help change public perception of what recovery looks like, and promote public policy change across the country.

Recovery Day in Canada started in British Columbia! From humble roots in Vancouver, Recovery Day has grown into a national phenomena with events taking place all across the country. For more information, head to RecoveryDayBC.ca.

As one of the founding organizations of this amazing event, the Orchard Recovery Center proudly supports Recovery Day BC. The Orchard is an internationally accredited, addiction recovery center located on Bowen Island – just a 20 minute ferry ride from West Vancouver. We believe that addiction is treatable, and recovery is possible. If you or someone you know is struggling with substance use, reach out to us now at 1-866-233-2299 or drop by our booth this September at Recovery Day. Visit us online at OrchardRecovery.com.

Sheep farming in Wales renowned worldwide for highest quality lamb



WELSH mountain sheep are kept on the hills or open mountain all year round. Most flocks are descended from sheep that have grazed the same mountains for generations.

VANCOUVER – In Wales ideal grass growth and sustainable farming practices go hand-in-hand to produce lamb of the highest quality.

Now local consumers can enjoy Welsh lamb imported by Fresh Concept Canada at many premium retailers, restaurants and butchers.

In Vancouver it is available at Stong's Market in Dunbar, Armando's on Granville Island, and Black and Blue with the Glowbal Restaurant Group on Alberni Street.

In North Vancouver at Meat the Butcher in Parkgate Village on Mount Seymour Road.

Sheep farming has been practised in Wales since Medieval times.

The mild climate, abundant rainfall and soil conditions are perfect for a long season of continuous grass growth.

Sustainable farming practices and a history of breeding sheep particularly for their meat (not wool) means lamb from Wales is amongst the tastiest and most succulent meat in the world.

Welsh Hill lamb is much esteemed and featured in many of the top European restaurants.

It is also growing in favour with leading Canadian chefs due to the mild sweet taste and tender texture.

North Americans under-consume lamb compared with many other regions. In particular, the Mediterranean diet – believed to be the world's healthiest diet – features lamb as a prominent source of protein.

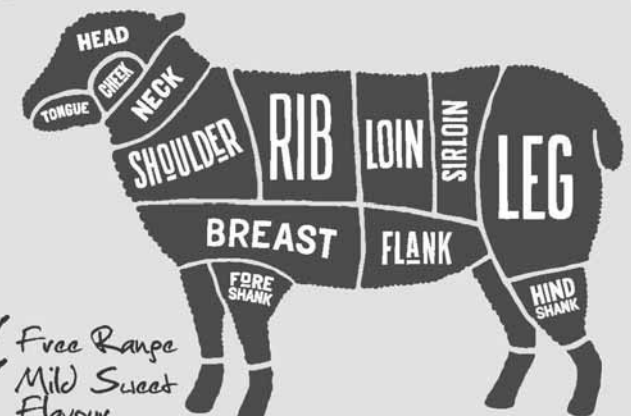
Free range, pasture raised lamb is high in omega-3 fats whose adequacy in the diet is associated with decreased risk of inflammation and heart disease.

Fresh Concept Canada Ltd. is focussed on importing and exporting premium quality produce and protein.

A specialist in direct sourcing, integrating international food quality and safety standards with efficient logistics it is a leading and specialist wholesale, retail and food service customers.

Fresh, perishable, seasonal and high value foods to and from international markets require them to pay attention to the details in delivering premium, high quality foods to consumers worldwide.

Grass fed lamb from Wales



- ✓ Free Range
- ✓ Mild Sweet Flavour
- ✓ Hormone and antibiotic free
- ✓ Fresh - direct from Wales

Available in:

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Armando's – Granville Island

Seahorse Grill – White Rock
Black and Blue – Alberni St

Coming soon to other premium retailers, butchers and restaurants



Now available in Stongs – Dunbar

Stong's MARKET

Imported by Fresh Concept Canada Ltd – info@freshconcept.ca



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR JULY

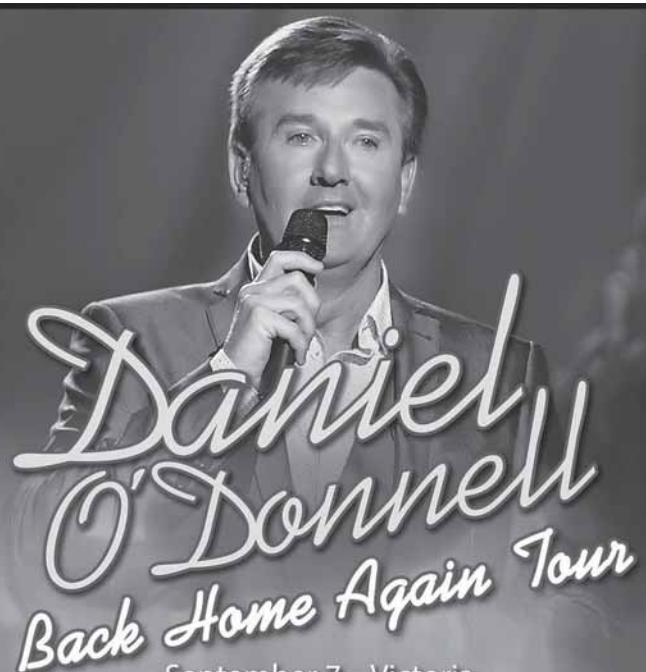
Celt In A Twist is local contemporary Celtic radio heard weekly on AM 1470, CJBV in Vancouver.

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Welcome to Adamstown</i> by Flogging Molly - <i>Life is Good</i> on Borealis. | Independent. |
| 2. <i>Rusheen Bay</i> by Sharon Shannon - <i>Sacred Earth</i> on Celtic Collections. | 6. <i>All the Bright Blossoms</i> by Merry Hell - <i>Bloodlines</i> on Merry Hell Music. |
| 3. <i>Isumgavappinnga</i> by The Jerry Cans - <i>Inuusi</i> on Aakuluk Music. | 7. <i>Itchy Fingers</i> by Celtica - <i>Rising</i> on Independent. |
| 4. <i>Blackleg Miner</i> by Offa Rex - <i>Queen of Hearts</i> on Nonesuch. | 8. <i>Amber Eyes</i> by Kierah - <i>Strong Bow</i> on Irish Madness. |
| 5. <i>Seileach</i> by Cassie & Maggie - <i>The Willow Collection</i> on | 9. <i>Le Ruban Bleu</i> by Melisande - <i>Les Millelimes</i> on Borealis. |
| | 10. <i>Sequences</i> by Runabay - <i>EP</i> on Independent. |

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
Flogging Molly - Life is Good (Borealis Records)



September 7 – Victoria
SAVE-ON-FOODS MEMORIAL CENTRE

September 8 – Vancouver
ORPHEUM THEATRE

September 9 – Kelowna
PROSPERA PLACE

September 11 – Edmonton
NORTHERN ALBERTA JUBILEE AUDITORIUM

September 12 – Calgary
SOUTHERN ALBERTA JUBILEE AUDITORIUM

September 15 – Regina
CONEXUS ARTS CENTRE

September 17 – Winnipeg
CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL



Buy Tickets at LiveNation.com or at the Venue Box Office

Grief and anger following massive fire at west London block of flats

THERE WERE TWO WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF PARENTS DROPPING THEIR CHILDREN DOWN TO PEOPLE BELOW INCLUDING A BABY WHO WAS CAUGHT AFTER BEING THROWN FROM THE NINTH OR TENTH FLOOR

LONDON – Police investigating the Grenfell Tower disaster say they have made “87 recoveries” but stressed “the catastrophic damage” inside means “that is not 87 people.”

The fire started on June 14 at the 24-storey, 220-foot high, Grenfell Tower block of public housing flats in North Kensington, west London and burned for about 60 hours until finally extinguished.

It caused at least 87 deaths and over 70 injuries. Authorities have been unable to trace any surviving occupants of 23 of the flats. A definitive death toll is not expected until at least 2018.

Initially hundreds of firefighters and 45 fire engines were involved in efforts to control the fire, with many firefighters continuing to attempt to control pockets of fire on the higher floors after most of the rest of the building had been gutted.

Witnesses reported seeing people trapped inside the burning building, switching the lights in their flats on and off or waving from windows to attract help, some holding children.

There were two witness accounts of parents dropping their children down to people below, including a baby who was caught after being thrown from the ninth or tenth floor, and a small boy thrown from the fifth or sixth floor.

There were also eyewitness reports that some people were jumping out.

The fire started in a faulty fridge-freezer in a fourth-floor flat.

The speed at which the fire spread is believed to have been increased by the building’s exterior cladding.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, criticised the safety guidelines, in particular, those telling people to stay in their flats until rescued by fire services.

This advice assumed that the building’s structure would contain a fire to a single flat, but in this case the fire was spreading rapidly via the building’s exterior cladding.

The UK Government is accused of having ignored warnings about fire safety in tower blocks and following the fire Prime Minister Theresa May faced strong criticism for failing to meet Grenfell Tower residents.

Since 2013, the residents’ organisation, Grenfell Action Group, had repeatedly expressed concern about fire safety, saying in November 2016 that only a catastrophic fire would finally force the block’s management adequately to address fire precautions and maintenance

of fire-related systems.

The 24-storey building, completed in 1974, contained 129 apartments housing up to 600 people, and it underwent a major renovation in 2016 when the non-fire resistant cladding was added.

As part of the £8.7 million refurbishment, the concrete structure received new windows and new aluminium composite exterior rainscreen cladding but neglected to install a fire sprinkler system which might have greatly reduced the loss of life.

Also, like many other high-rise buildings in the UK, the tower had only a single central staircase (unlike many other countries, UK regulations do not require a second staircase).

A special £5 million fund for victims of the fire has been announced; all those made homeless were to receive an initial down payment of £5,500, with each household to be given at least £500 in cash and £5,000 paid into an account.

Weeks after the fire, most survivors displaced from Grenfell Tower and Walk are still living in hotels as the government attempts to find them suitable accommodation.

Fourteen households hoping to be moved out of emergency accommodation have accepted offers for more permanent living arrangements, Grenfell Response Team (GRT) said.

It also emerged that a specialist task force will be sent in to Kensington and Chelsea Council to take over the running of key services, following heavy criticism of its response to the disaster.

The incident ranks as the deadliest structural fire in the United Kingdom since the start of the 20th Century, when detailed records began.



A BURNT OUT shell is all that remains of the 24-storey Grenfell Tower in the north Kensington area of London as emergency services personnel continue the grim task of locating victims of the fire.

Six men face charges over Hillsborough Disaster almost 30 years later

LIVERPOOL – Criminal charges have been brought against six individuals, including former senior police officers, over the Hillsborough disaster.

On April 15, 1989, 96 Liverpool fans died and hundreds more injured in a crush at the Leppings Lane end of Hillsborough at the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

The disaster remains the deadliest stadium-related tragedy in British history and one of the worst in international football.

A 1990 inquiry into the disaster, the Taylor Report, named the cause as failure of police control, and resulted in the conversion of many football stadiums in the United Kingdom to all-seater and the removal of barriers at the front of stands.

The Hillsborough Independent Panel’s report published in 2012 revealed some fans could have survived if emergency

services had responded sooner, and blamed police for an official cover-up designed to smear innocent supporters.

Former South Yorkshire Police Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield and five others are facing criminal charges.

Duckenfield has been charged with the manslaughter by gross negligence of 95 of the 96 Liverpool FC fans who died at the FA Cup semi-final.

“Following our careful review of the evidence, in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors, I have decided that there is sufficient evidence to charge six individuals with criminal offences,” said Sue Hemming, the CPS Head of Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division.

“Criminal proceedings have now commenced and the defendants have a right to a fair trial.”



HILLSBOROUGH DISASTER 96 Liverpool fans died and hundreds more injured in a crush at the Leppings Lane end of Hillsborough at the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest on April 15, 1989. It remains the deadliest stadium-related tragedy in British history and one of the worst in international football.

Charges have been authorised against:

- David Duckenfield: Match Commander for South Yorkshire Police on the day of the disaster;

- Graham Henry Mackrell: Sheffield Wednesday Football Club’s company secretary and safety officer at the time of the disaster in 1989;

- Peter Metcalf: Solicitor acting for the South Yorkshire Police during the Taylor Inquiry and the first inquests Former Chief Superintendent;

- Donald Denton: Former chief superintendent of South Yorkshire Police;

- Alan Foster: Former detective chief inspector of South Yorkshire Police;

- Norman Bettison: Former officer with South Yorkshire Police and subsequently Chief Constable of Merseyside and West Yorkshire Police;

Bettison is accused of four counts of misconduct in public office.

Denton, Foster and Metcalf are all charged with doing acts with intent to pervert the course of justice.

Mackrell is charged with three offences relating to health and safety and safety at sports grounds.

Barry Devonside, whose son Christopher (18) was killed in the disaster, pumped his fist as he emerged from the meeting with the lawyers and

other relatives of the 96 victims.

He said, “Everybody applauded when it was announced that the most senior police officer on that particular day will have charges presented to him.”

Sky’s Mike McCarthy was at Hillsborough during the 1989 disaster and was with victims’ families when they were told the news that charges would be brought.

He said, “This is without doubt a critical decision, a crucial decision in their long campaign.

“It isn’t, of course, the end of the road. Prosecutions are one thing, what the families will be looking for are successful prosecutions.”



PHOTO: Ron Tucker

THE VANCOUVER Welsh Men's Choir sang the Welsh Anthem at the First World War Welsh National Memorial Park near Langemark-Poelkapelle in Belgium while on the Western Front European Tour in April 2017.

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir on tour of historic European wartime sites

VANCOUVER Acclaimed Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir returned recently from a two week tour of Europe focussed on the wartime historical sites in France, Belgium and Netherlands.

The choir performed six formal concerts, and at least as many "impromptu" sessions as they bused and walked through history.

They were excellent ambassadors of Canada and the Welsh singing heritage

as they provided a great counterpoint to the more classic repertoires of their host choirs.

Spokesman Ron Tucker said, "participating in several remembrance services brought home the reality of how Europeans suffered the great wars, and Canadian participation in those.

"We saw first-hand the culture of appreciation of Canadian and Allied efforts. At one concert engagement, we

were greeted with spontaneous applause, even as our buses rolled into the parking lot simply, I think, because we are Canadian."

For the 59 singers, two professionals – director Jonathan Quick and piano accompanist Karen Lee Morlang – and about 40 significant others, the tour fulfilled a desire to understand and memorialize some important historical challenges.

A chilling warning to Wales from Brexit negotiator for the EU

BRUSSELS – The man negotiating Brexit for the EU has warned that British politicians still don't seem to understand what is possible in future.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said that leading politicians calling for "frictionless trade" after the UK leave the single market were deluded.

And he singled out major Welsh employer Airbus, which employs more than 5,000 people, as an organisation that will be one of the biggest victims.

In a speech in Brussels, he spelled out the frictionless trade was only made possible by the single market and the customs union.

He said, "Only the combination of the internal market and the customs union guarantees the free movement of goods."

If Britain leaves these arrangements, as Prime Minister Theresa May has set out, he said there will have to be borders to protect the EU.

"A trading relationship with a country that does not belong to the European Union," he warned, "obviously involves friction."

Barnier, a longstanding European Commission civil servant, said the Airbus's operation in Wales – which depends on shipping huge parts like aircraft wings directly to other Airbus operations in Europe – would be particularly hard hit.

He said, "The success of the Airbus factory in Broughton, in North Wales, is largely owing to its ability to attract qualified engineers and technicians from all over Europe – and to the ease of the procedures for certification and for delivery to assembly sites in Hamburg or Toulouse."

Airbus is one of Wales' largest single employers with more than 5,000 staff assembling parts made elsewhere into wings for nearly all Airbus craft. They are then transported by air or sea to Toulouse.

But it is not just Airbus that would be affected.

Stats Wales figures show that machinery and transport equipment including car and aeroplane parts are Wales' biggest export category.

Last year, this accounted for £4.7 billion of Wales' total £11.6 billion of exported goods in 2015/16, or around 40 percent.

Barnier also had a warning for Welsh farmers.

Barnier said lamb exports could face customs duties of 12 percent if no deal is struck.

He said, "no deal" would mean that EU trade relations with the United Kingdom would be based on World Trade Organisation rules.

"There would be customs duties of almost 10 percent on vehicle imports, an average of 19 percent for alcoholic beverages, and an average of 12 percent

on lamb and also fish, for which the vast majority of British exports go to the EU.

"While leaving the customs union would in any case involve border formalities, 'no deal' would mean very cumbersome procedures and controls, without facilitation, which would be particularly damaging for companies that operate on a 'just in time' basis."

Earlier this year Theresa May expressed hopes that "elements of current single market arrangements" could continue for specific sectors of the economy.

But Barnier said, "You cannot leave the single market and then opt-in to those sectors you like most – say the automobile industry and financial services. You cannot be half-in and half-out of the single market."

He told his Brussels audience he was "not sure" whether these points "have been fully understood across the Channel."

Barnier left his audience in no doubt that his top priority is defending the interests of the remaining 27 member states.

He said his "task is to limit the cost of Brexit for the 27 as much as possible."

Insisting that Brexit came with a "cost," he said, "Let me be clear: these consequences are the direct result of the choices made by the UK, not by the EU. There is no punishment for Brexit. And of course no spirit of revenge."

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BRITAIN: A COUNTRY IN TURMOIL

JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO LABOUR LEADER JEREMY CORBYN WAS A FIGURE OF RIDICULENOW HE'S PRACTISING WALKING ON WATER



BRITAIN'S Conservative party leader and Prime Minister Theresa May, right, next to DUP leader Arlene Foster, behind DUP MP Jeffrey Donaldson and Britain's Parliamentary Secretary Gavin Williamson as the so-called confidence and supply deal is signed.

GREETINGS from a country in turmoil. The last time I wrote to you the sun was shining, the future looked bright, politicians of all creeds were promising us a land of milk and honey (if we voted for them).

Our trusty government led by Theresa Boudicca May was going to sally forth as head of a strong government with a large majority and give Johnny European foreigner "what for" in the Brexit negotiations.

Now look at her. In rags, limping, cap in hand with a sign saying "Monsieur, can you spare us a euro."

Poor old Theresa Granny May has aged about 20 years in a week and she is giddy from all the U turns she is making.

You can almost hear the grinder turning as her political friends sharpen their stabbing knives.

The Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland have secured £1 billion extra funding as a bribe to shore up Granny's government!

So Belfast is the place to be now, unless of course you are an atheist, or a lesbian with an unwanted pregnancy and want to marry your partner.

Granny tells us that apparently the period of austerity is over, although all over the country a record number of people have resorted to using food banks due to all the cuts in social welfare, and all over the country people are canvassing to stop their hospitals from closing.

But...woosh...suddenly there is an extra £1 billion available for Northern Ireland just because we love their accent.

During the run up to election, I did my best to escape the canvassing. After a short stay in Spain and Gibraltar, I returned for a few days before heading off again this time to Krakow in Poland.

If you are planning a summer vacation in Europe, then, once you have delivered your food parcels to your impoverished Scottish or Welsh relatives (no need for any in Northern Ireland as they will be dining on caviar, and, of course, the Republic of Ireland is in the EU so they are fine), head for Krakow.

Poland's second largest city is beauti-

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH

By
ELFAN
JONES



2,000 people at a time were murdered.

I don't believe there can be anywhere on earth where man's inhumanity to man is so vividly exemplified, and think that all world leaders should pay a visit to witness what can happen when a maniac is allowed to take total control of a country.

I was encouraged by friends to also visit the salt mines, and again was not too sure if I wanted to do this thinking it would be about slave labour and more misery, but I could not have been more wrong.

The Wieliczka Salt Mine is fabulous, a wonder of the world!

They opened in the Thirteenth Century. In those days there were no refrigerators to keep food fresh, so salt was used, making it a more valuable commodity than gold.

Working in the mine was a sought after job because the workers were paid in salt. The word salary is derived from the Latin "salarium" which referred to a Roman soldier's allowance to buy salt.

Over the centuries, workers in the mine created statues out of salt and today contemporary artists contribute new carvings to the collection.

The mine is over 287 kilometres (178 miles) long and reaches a depth of 327 meters (over 1,000 feet), although on the tour you descend to about 100 feet and walk just over two miles.

There are caverns and underground lakes, and the paths are well illuminated,



THE WIELICZKA SALT MINE is one of the largest tourist attractions in Poland, visited by over a million tourists every year. Located just southeast of Krakow, it is famous for many things – most notably its underground chapels, made entirely out of rock salt.



KRAKOW is Poland's second largest city and it is beautiful, safe and walkable. It is a café society, so as you stroll around its magnificent medieval main square or meander through the labyrinth of little streets in the old town and Jewish quarter, there are literally hundreds of inexpensive restaurants, cafes, and little bars to stop in and refresh yourself.

so the entire area is easy and safe to walk around.

The highlight is the underground salt cathedral. Carved out of the grey rock salt, the walls resemble granite, and salt crystal chandeliers hang from the roof.

All the seating, the altar, the cross, everything is carved from salt, and it is quite

simply breathtakingly beautiful.

So, it is time for me to switch on the television and watch prime minister's question time.

Life is strange, because just a few short weeks ago the labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was a figure of ridicule....now he's practising walking on water.

Happy days, Elfan.

SCOTTISH AND WELSH LEADERS FURIOUS OVER DUP-TORY PACT

LONDON – A deal struck between the UK Government and the DUP has been described as "the worst kind of pork-barrel politics" and "a straight bung," by the first ministers of Scotland and Wales.

Nicola Sturgeon and Carwyn Jones reacted furiously to news the agreement – which includes £1 billion in new funding for Northern Ireland – would not result in a knock-on funding boost for other parts of the UK.

Downing Street has said that as the allocation is being made as part of the block grant to Northern Ireland, there will be no consequential through the Barnett formula, the mechanism used to distribute Treasury funds to the devolved nations.

Sturgeon said that by "ignoring" the Barnett formula, Scotland would lose out on around £2.9 billion for public serv-



CARWYN JONES First Minister of Wales (L) and Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister Scotland (R)



ices while the Welsh Government estimates put its loss at £1.67 billion.

Jones said, "Today's deal represents a straight bung to keep a weak prime minister and a faltering government in office.

"Only last week we were told that the priority was to build a more united country, strengthening the social, economic and cultural bonds between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

"This deal flies in the face of that com-

mitment and further weakens the UK, and as currently drafted all but kills the idea of fair funding for the nations and regions."

Sturgeon said, "In concluding this grubby, shameless deal, the Tories have shown that they will stop at nothing to hold on to power, even sacrificing the very basic principles of devolution.

"The Tories' excuses are simply empty spin and expose that they once again plan on short-changing Scotland.

"This is not a city deal – it is simply an attempt to pull the wool over people's eyes. This is the worst kind of pork-barrel politics, which has shredded the last vestiges of credibility of this weakened prime minister."

The agreement was attacked as "unfair" by the Taxpayers Alliance.

Research director Alex Wild said, "The unfair way in which money is allocated between the home nations has been clear for decades, best illustrated by the significantly higher levels of public spending in Scotland than in considerably poorer parts of England.

"But until there is a major decentralisation of tax raising powers, Westminster politicians will always have ultimate control of the purse strings and be able to dish out taxpayers' cash in a way that benefits them more than the general public."

Proud Scottish/Canadian moments while on our tour of Czech Republic

By CHERYL JORGENSEN
WHITE ROCK, BC – The Tam O'Shanter Scottish Country Dancers and the Crescent Beach Pipe Band travelled to the Czech Republic on June 8 to 18 where they performed at two four-day folk festivals.

This is a country frozen in time, a fairytale land steeped in history and a rich culture unchanged through the centuries.

Bohemia was an important part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, and by 965 AD Prague was an established and the richest trading city in Europe with its original roots dating back to Roman times.

In 1357 King Charles IV built the historic Gothic Charles Bridge in Prague, the most important connection between Prague Castle and the city's Old Town and adjacent areas.

During the two world wars the country was not damaged so all the cathedrals, chateaus and castles date back to the 11th and 12th Centuries, while the Baroque architecture of the 17th Century still stands in its glory.

The Russian occupation, 1947-1989, actually helped to preserve the Bohemian charm and innocence in this timeless land where the cities and countryside are so clean, one could eat off the streets.

The food, beer (pivo) and wine (pino)

are all very good and quite inexpensive and the travelling troupe made the delicious ice cream a daily staple.

Every weekend from May to September, there are numerous choices of folk festivals to attend.

The Tam O'Shanter Scottish Country Dancers and the Crescent Beach Pipe Band participated in two festivals.

The first was in Melnik, a city of 20,000, known as the Queen's city, an hour's drive north-west of Prague.

The second in Lazne Belohrad, a resort spa city of 4,000 in the mountains along the Polish border, two hours north-west of Prague.

Also participating in these festivals were groups from Korea, India, Puerto Rico, Hungary, Georgia Russia, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovakia and many local folk groups from within the Czech Republic.

The participation of children in their folk dancing is an integral part of the performance.

Every school has an extensive music program with a qualified music teacher who must be proficient at conducting choirs, orchestras and ensembles, choreographing dances, composing music and songs.

This program greatly enhances and promotes Czech culture which is so rich in music and dance.

And music is everywhere, violinists

playing on street corners, jazz groups on the Charles Bridge, concerts in cathedrals featuring music of Dvorak and many of the world's great composers, the Marionette Theatre, operas, and much more.

When the Tam O'Shanter Dancers performed *Mairi's Wedding* accompanied by the Crescent Beach Pipe Band, audiences were so appreciative.

It was a very proud Canadian moment. Our goal for performing at international folk festivals is to bring Scottish/Canadian culture to people who have never seen this before.

We felt that we had accomplished our mission in the Czech Republic as we have previously done in our performances in Hawaii, Cuba & Mexico.

On our last day in Lazne Belohrad, we were asked to sing a short song at mass in one of the cathedrals.

The Tam O'Shanter Dancers sang the first verse and chorus of *Amazing Grace* accompanied by a lone piper and then the rest of the CBPB joined in. Again, another very proud Canadian moment.



THE TAM O'SHANTER Scottish Country Dancers from White Rock, B.C. on tour of the Czech Republic on June 8 to 18.



PHOTO: Wikipedia

THE CHARLES BRIDGE from Malá Strana, Prague, Czech Rep. Its construction started in 1357 under the auspices of King Charles IV, and finished in the beginning of the 15th century.



THE CRESCENT BEACH Pipe Band flying the Canadian flag on their tour of the Czech Republic.



THE TAM O'SHANTER Dancers sang the first verse and chorus of *Amazing Grace* accompanied by a lone piper on the last day of their tour.

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The Orange Order in Scotland: A depressing contrast to the many joyous Canada Day gatherings around the world



JUSTIN TRUDEAU along with his wife Sophie and their son Hadrien received a warm welcome upon arrival in Edinburgh. While in Scotland, the Canadian PM collected an honorary doctorate and met with Queen Elizabeth II. The 91-year-old queen is Canada's head of state. Trudeau, whose maternal grandfather was Scottish, said "15 percent of Canadians have Scottish roots, so Canadians, including me, have a strong link and affinity with Scots."



JUSTIN Trudeau and his wife Sophie took time out from their busy schedule for some playtime with their son Hadrien. They were pictured playing on the swings at a local Edinburgh park while in Scotland.



A POLICE investigation has been launched into sectarian singing of the *Famine Song* during an Orange Order parade in Glasgow. The song contains the line "The famine is over, why don't you go home?"

EDINBURGH – Canada Day in Scotland started a month early this year. On June 1, Tim Horton's opened its first British and European restaurant on Argyle Street in Glasgow.

Why Glasgow was chosen for this high honour is a matter of some speculation. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that Tim's parent company is run by a native of Clydebank.

Or it could be that market research has discovered Glasgow's sugar intake levels and concluded that it was the perfect place to dispense Timbits.

Either way, a wave of nostalgia overcame me when I first saw pictures of Tim Horton signs being raised on a Glasgow street.

It recalled, in particular, a driving trip across Canada during which I took refuge in a series of Tim's outlets and was supplied with doughnuts to be enjoyed and coffee to be endured.

In my experience Scots do not immediately take to Tim Horton's coffee but, so far, that hasn't prevented them from visiting the "iconic Canadian coffee chain" in vast numbers.

On opening day, the queue snaked out of the door and along Argyle Street until it disappeared under what is known locally as the Hielanman's umbrella.

This is the glass-walled railway bridge which bears the weight of Glasgow Central station platforms as they cross Argyle Street.

It is known for its ability to trap polluted air generated by traffic idling below it but, previous to that, it was a place where Glasgow's Highland diaspora could meet without getting soaked.

For some of these Highlanders their next port of call after Glasgow would have been somewhere in Canada. Now Canada has come here bearing sugar and caffeine.

I visited the new Tim's three days after it opened and the line-up had abated somewhat. However, it was still long enough to persuade me to defer my Timbit lust until I next visit Vancouver where it is more easily sated.

Still, it was a bit surreal watching happy, flour-faced Glaswegians carrying their wee doughnut boxes along Glasgow's main shopping thoroughfares even though this may soon be a common sight across the city.

According to reports, Tim Horton's is opening in Glasgow's giant Silverburn shopping mall and has submitted plans to the council for two more stores in the city centre. Roll up the Rim to win could yet introduce some much needed sunshine to the next dreich Scottish winter.

When the real Canada Day arrived, then, Scots were a bit better acquainted with Canadian lore than in previous years.

Some of the Scottish papers even took



By
HARRY
McGRATH

the opportunity to explain who Tim Horton was and what a Toronto Maple Leaf is.

However, I was unable to find any kind of communal celebration within Scotland and had to restrict myself to a private ceremony involving pancakes, maple syrup and a long-saved, much-cherished bottle of Okanagan wine.

Down south it was a different matter. Hundreds gathered in Trafalgar Square in London to eat poutine and listen to Canadian musicians and comedians.

Photographs showed a sea of red against a backdrop of the maple leaf flags that hang from Canada House, the home of the High Commission of Canada to the UK.

If you listened carefully from Tim Horton's in Glasgow on the same day, you could just about hear the beginnings of a very different gathering.

The Orange Order was mustering in George Square before making its annual march to Glasgow Green.

A subsequent newspaper headline – "Bloodshed, Drunkenness and Triumphalism" – told its own story.

At the time of writing, Police Scotland are investigating after a video emerged showing spectators chanting the banned *Famine Song* which contains the line "The famine is over, why don't you go home?"

Canada, of course, has its own history here – see for example the various mayors of Toronto prior to Nathan Phillips who were members of the Orange Order – but it's hard to imagine a more depressing contrast to the many joyous Canada Day gatherings that took place around the globe.

As usual there was some comfort to be derived from Scottish black humour. Glaswegians were reminded to set their clocks back 300 years.

Ach weel, there's always the ubiquitous Justin Trudeau for the modern look.

Inspired by what I read about him kayaking over to people in the middle of nowhere or running past them on the Stanley Park seawall, I recently watched for him from the front window of my house in Edinburgh.

The house sits between Edinburgh University where he was receiving an honorary degree and Holyrood Palace where he was due to meet the queen.

I had no sooner given up the quest than somebody tweeted a picture of him and his family playing on the swings at a local park. I was that close.

Whiskey-Fueled Car Takes First Test Drive

EDINBURGH – The world's first whiskey-powered car just completed its first test drive in Scotland earlier this month.

The car runs on a biofuel called biobutanol and is made of whiskey residue, including kernels of barley and pot ale, which is a yeasty liquid left after fermentations, according to the BBC.

The biofuel is meant to be a replacement for traditional gas and diesel fuels. While there is a push for major car manufacturers to commit to electric vehicles, biobutanol is seen as an alternative which can power the vehicle without the need to modify its engine.

It was created by Celtic Renewables Ltd., a spinout company from Edinburgh Napier University, which worked with Perthshire's Tullibardine Distillery on the project.



MARTIN TANGNEY and chief executive Mark Simmers prepared the car for its first journey using the fuel.

Almost 750,000 tonnes of draff and two billion litres of pot ale are produced by the malt whiskey industry in Scotland every year and the whiskey industry does not have any use for the leftovers.

Celtic Renewables founder and president Martin Tangney notes that the biofuel is "a direct replacement, here and now, for petrol."

"What we developed was a process to combine the liquid with the solid, and used an entirely different traditional fermentation process called ABE, and it makes the chemical called biobutanol."

He added, "It is fitting to do this historic drive in Scotland, which is famous not just for its world-renowned whiskey but also for being a powerhouse for renewable energy."

Sunshine and big crowds at this year's B.C. Highland Games



COQUITLAM – The clouds parted, the sun shone and the 2017 BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival experienced one of its best years in recent memory at Percy Perry Stadium in Coquitlam on June 16.

"People came to the games at the end of the train in huge numbers," says Mike Chisholm, chair of the Games.

"The rain dissipated by week's end, and we were left with a great day on Saturday. From the early morning piping competitions to the evening ceilidh in the new beer garden, everything went great."

The new Skytrain Evergreen extension was a key component to the day's success. The new line ends at Lafarge Lake station, only minutes from the main gate to Percy Perry Stadium.

It made accessing the stadium much easier and it was clear from surveys taken during the Games that the Skytrain was an important element of the day's success.

"I recognized that many people were not attending the games in past years because of the difficulty in getting to the stadium and finding parking," says Chisholm. "The Evergreen extension eliminated that hassle."

Highlights of the day included pipe band competitions, a record number of people participating in cultural activities in the Highland Village, including "waulking the cloth" and Gaelic singing and stories.

The Whisky School classes sold out quickly, and the new beer garden situated on the east side of the field provided an ideal location to sit down and watch the Scottish heavy event athletes perform or enjoy a drink from Port Moody's Brewery Row while listening to entertainers.

"An excellent day," says one respondent on the Games-Day survey. "We will try to gather more family and friends to attend this event again. Thanks for a great day."

Other attendees commented "Awesome day" or "Loved it. Will come next year."

One of the highlights of the day was a unique rendition of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, performed by the SFU Pipe Band, a grand finale featuring a number of acts and collaboration between the Shot of Scotch Highland Dancers and the Royal Academy of Bhangra on the main track.

"I knew this collaboration would be a hit," says Chisholm. "The BC Arts Council helped to fund this fusion of two great cultures, and it was a resounding success."

The Games committee of 35 members had been meeting for months leading up to the games, preparing for a full day of activities that actually began the evening before with the Open (pro) piobaireachd competition and a Highland reception with guests, politicians and other dignitaries.

Saturday featured the 90th reunion of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band, performances by a number of pipe bands including the duty band, Delta Police Pipe Band, main stage entertainers who

also performed in the new beer garden stage, Quidditch demonstration matches, an expanded children's area and of course the regular events such as British cars, Highland and Scottish country dancing and Clan gatherings.

"The success of this day is due to a lot of factors," says Chisholm. "The most important factor is a great committee of 35 people, dedicated to the culture who work all year long to plan and stage their event during the Games."

"Add in sunshine and great sponsors like RE/MAX who help to make this family event even better, and you have the recipe for a great day."

Planning for the 2018 Games has already started with some changes in the works.

"We will take the summer off to let the dust settle on 2017 and then we will start the ball rolling for 2018," says Chisholm.

"The key to the success of the Games is good planning, lots of advertising, different activities and events to change things up, a good beer garden with entertainment and of course, plenty of culture."

The 2017 Games featured a beautiful 48-page full-size colour program guide that is also available throughout the year as a souvenir for offices, coffee tables and elsewhere.

Additional copies are available free of charge by contacting mikechisholm@bchighlandgames.com.

As one survey respondent wrote, "Great event. Loved every second. Have not experienced this since I left Scotland in 1979. Thank you."



THE BEST of Canada's mosaic, a stunning cross-cultural performance from Shot of Scotch Highland Dancers Vancouver and the Royal Academy Of Bhangra at this year's BC Highland Games and Festival.



PHOTO: Noah Photography

WINNERS in the Highland Dance competition at the 2017 BC Highland Games.



PHOTO: Noah Photography

DELTA POLICE Pipe Band at the 2017 BC Highland Games.

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From Catholic church to Irish cultural centre St. Brigid's has a long history in Ottawa

OTTAWA – The story of St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts in Canada's national capital is a remarkable one.

Formerly a parish church, St. Brigid's was constructed in Ottawa's historic Lowertown area in 1890.

The building was largely constructed by the hands of Irish immigrants who came to Ottawa to assist in the building of the Rideau Canal.

The Lowertown area, where the church is located, consisted mostly of Irish and French immigrants, whose greatest commonality was their Catholic faith.

Saint Brigid's provided a home to these parishioners until 2007 when the church was deconsecrated and made available for private purchase.

In a recently published article in the *Irish Times*, manager Patrick McDonald tells how the building came to be acquired as an Irish cultural centre, and his role in purchasing the property.

He said, "I was born in Portarlinton, Co. Laois, and my wife Brigid is from Mountbellew in Co. Galway. Times were difficult in the 1980s and there were no jobs available, so we decided to seek opportunity abroad and went to Canada in 1989.

"Brigid was offered a teaching position in Maniwaki in Quebec, on the Kitigan Zibi Indigenous Reserve, about two hours north of Ottawa.

"There were many familiar names of Irish who had come to those parts 100 years earlier: Kellys, O'Briens, Murphys and McConnells, and townlands like Brennan Hill, Gracefield, Farrelton and Knock.

"For our first St. Patrick's Day in Canada, we attended a party at St. Brigid's Church in Lowertown, built by the Irish in 1890.

"It had an active parish of 450 mostly Irish families at the time, with clubs, choirs, and athletic teams. It was a central place for the Irish community in the

early 20th Century. Little did we know this space would play an important role in our own lives some 20 years later."

There were many Catholic churches in this area, but by the 21st Century, very few parishioners remained.

The archdiocese of Ottawa deconsecrated the building in 2007 and offered it for sale, and this is when a group of Irish people along with Patrick McDonald stepped in and bought it.

He said, "It was almost Valentine's Day. I arrived home with no flowers or chocolates, but said to my wife, 'I have bought a church and put your name on it.'"

The church was converted into Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts, home of the National Irish Canadian Cultural Centre and the space is now used for various social and cultural events, including a variety of Irish cultural programming, musical concerts, art exhibitions, fundraisers, conferences and private functions.

St. Brigid's is also a heritage building, as designated by the province of Ontario in 1982. The building holds all the original religious artworks and architectural elements. It features limestone walls on the exterior, and interior in the basement.

The main church space is constructed completely of wood with high vaulted ceilings, creating some of the best acoustics in the city.

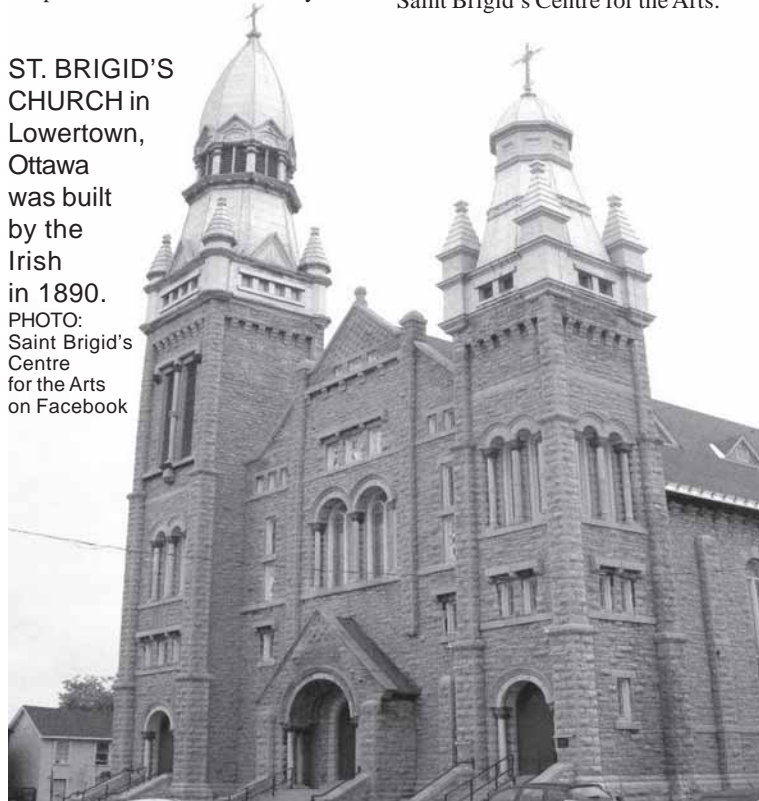
Saint Brigid's recently expanded by opening The Rectory Art House – a small house of eight artist studios, as well as the offices for Saint Brigid's Centre and the Ottawa Storytellers.

As a matter of interest, Canada's current prime minister Justin Trudeau as a boy attended church at St. Brigid's parish with his dad, the then prime minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, and he was confirmed there.

Since becoming PM, Justin Trudeau has attended St. Patrick's Day festivities at Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH in Lowertown, Ottawa was built by the Irish in 1890.

PHOTO: Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts on Facebook



Bradley Kelly Construction: Success for two Irish immigrants

CATHOLINE BUTLER

OTTAWA – Bradley Kelly Construction, founded by co-owners Larry Bradley and Pat Kelly in 1982, has become one of the leading underground utility companies in Ottawa, Ontario.

The duo also own the Heart and Crown, a conglomerate of Irish pubs in the nation's capital. Larry Bradley looks after the pubs, while Pat Kelly runs the construction business.

Originally from Ballygar, Co. Galway, Pat was also a founding member of the Ottawa Gaels and in 2012 was presented with the inaugural Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad in the category of arts, culture and sport by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

Pat recently spoke with *The Celtic Connection* about Bradley Kelly Construction and the type of work they perform.

"We're one of the main contractors for Hydro Ottawa, Bell Canada, the City of Ottawa and also several other major companies," he explained. "We're also working for the light rail transit construction

"Our company does civil, electrical, install hydro and Bell manholes, precast and cast in place, hydro duct banks work including the instillation of the cables and cable pulling and anything underground.

"We're general contractors, excavation contractors for commercial and residential, demolition, site services, sewer, water storm and sanitary, and environmental remediation for ground water contamination."

So far this year the weather in Ottawa has been terrible with rain almost every day throughout the spring and summer, and Pat said as a result work has fallen behind.

"Even with the good weather we would be up to our ears," he said, "but the wet weather has just compounded the situation."

Speaking about workers with the construction company, Kelly said, "we have a few Irish-born workers but most of them now are better educated than we were. They don't have to work in the dirt and mud like we do.

"We have received some Irish workers indirectly from Fort McMurray and Saskatchewan but we don't get that many directly from Ireland, and certainly not too many in our line of work....mostly they're into the high tech industries."

Kelly was also a Gaelic football player and he played for Ballygar and St. Mary's. In 1969 they went to the football final in Croke Park, but unfortunately they lost the game.

Pat first emigrated to Chicago where he lived and played Gaelic football for about a year. Later he moved to Toronto for a year and a half and played Gaelic football there. When he moved to Ottawa he also played for the Ottawa Gaels.

Speaking about Gaelic football sponsorship, Pat said, "The Heart & Crown Irish Pub sponsors the Ottawa Gaels women's team while Bradley Kelly Construction sponsors the young adults team with over 100 kids.

"We have over 50 kids going to Buffalo this year for the Continental Youth Championships (CYC) at the end of July.



OTTAWA MAYOR Jim Watson (L) and Ireland's Ambassador to Canada, Jim Kelly (R) presenting Heart & Crown co-owners Pat Kelly and Larry Bradley with a City of Ottawa proclamation declaring June 6 'Heart & Crown Day'.



LARRY BRADLEY from Omagh, Co. Tyrone celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Heart & Crown in Ottawa with a huge bash that 450 invited guests won't soon forget.



HEART & CROWN co-owner Pat Kelly from Ballygar, Co. Galway established Bradley Kelly Construction along with Larry Bradley in 1982. Pat was honoured for his dedicated work for the Irish community in Canada in 2012 when he was presented with the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.



A GROUP of the original co-owners of the Molly McGuire's Pub were at the 25th anniversary party for the Heart & Crown. (L-R) [Front] Kay Cavanagh and Claudette O'Brien. [Back] Tom Cavanagh and Eddie O'Brien.

"I definitely like to take in as many GAA games as I can and have travelled to Chicago, Boston and San Francisco to see the games."

For more information about Bradley Kelly construction, visit their website at: www.bradleykellyconstructionltd.com.

Larry Bradley, co-owner of Ottawa's Irish Village reflects on 25 years at the Heart & Crown Irish Pub

ON my recent visit to Ottawa it was hard to hear above the noise and din in the downtown business area....and it wasn't all coming from the politicians on Parliament Hill.

There are street closures at every turn with work in progress for a much needed light rail transit system with a final completion date scheduled for 2023.

Construction cranes dot the skyline adding to the already chaotic rush hour traffic, but restaurants and pubs are busy doing a brisk business reaping the benefits of a bustling economy in Canada's capital city.

Tourists flock to Parliament Hill to view and take photos of the iconic Parliament Buildings, and perhaps catch a glimpse of Justin Trudeau our young photogenic prime minister.

Two Irish-born businessmen, Larry Bradley of Omagh, Co. Tyrone and Pat Kelly of Ballygar, Co. Galway are themselves both big noises in the city.

Between them they pretty well have the construction and Irish pub business all wrapped up in Ottawa.

Theirs is a classic one of a rags-to-riches story...the Irish emigrant who perseveres against all odds and becomes a huge success in their new homeland through ingenuity and hard work.

Bradley Kelly Construction Ltd, is one of the leading underground utility companies in Ottawa....it's hard to miss their trucks about town with the initials BKC and a shamrock logo on the doors.

The Heart & Crown Irish Pub is their flagship business located in the historic Byward Market area of Ottawa and, to date, they also own an amazing 11 Irish pubs in five locations throughout the city....but always with a keen eye on another prime location.

Last month the Heart & Crown celebrated their 25th anniversary with a huge Irish party that some 450 guests won't soon forget....and I was lucky enough to have been there.

It was wall-to-wall people and the drinks flowed at the bar like buttermilk and, of course, there was Irish entertainment. The appetizers were exceptional and even included a little pot of their signature fish and chips.

Larry said he wanted the 25th anniversary to be a real great Irish party and it was just the kind of Irish party that the Irish love – lots of Irish music and you needed to fight your way through the crowd to get to the bar. If there were any more people they would have had to tear the paper off the walls to get them in ... it was a great Irish hooley.

Honoured guests included Jim Watson, the Mayor of Ottawa, and Jim Kelly, the Irish Ambassador to Canada.

Although the Bradley Kelly business empire is now very successful, this wasn't always the case.

The downturn in the economy in the 1980s presented some very difficult days in the construction industry.

That was when these two enterprising



By
**CATHOLINE
BUTLER**

*"I told you
I was looking
for work, and you
gave me my first job
in Canada, working
as a host at the
door of the Molly
McGuire's Pub."*



IT was a great hooley for the 25th anniversary for the Heart & Crown Irish Pub in Ottawa.



RICHARD Carey and Marilyn Reddigan who first met at Molly McGuire's Pub were among the guests at the party.

Irishmen decided to get into the Irish pub business to prop up their construction business.

Larry could be described as a bit of a character, with a wry sense of humour...all qualities well-suited to be a publican.

Larry and I also have a long history going back to the early days when he first arrived in Ottawa in the 1970s as a young man looking for work.

"I went to the Molly McGuire's Pub on Rideau Street," he said, "and that's where I first met you, working as the hostess at the door of the pub."

"I told you I was looking for work, and you gave me my first job in Canada, working as a host at the door of the Molly McGuire's Pub."

"From there, I got a job with Skyline Cable Company, and later I met Pat Kelly at Molly McGuire's. That's how we met up with one another."

Larry was hired to work with the same construction company where Pat was working and together they were sent out to a big job the company was doing in Saskatchewan.

"Pat was the foreman on his part of the job," explained Larry, "and I was the foreman on another part of the job."

"We started talking and saying that if we can run a million dollar job like this, then surely we could run our own company."

So, to cut a long story short, the two came back to Ottawa, and got into the construction business together.

Larry said, "that went really great for the first 10 years."

Then, in 1982, new house construction came to a halt. Ottawa went into a big slump and the bottom fell out of construction.

"We had to start laying off our top guys because of the economy... it was really bad."

"I started thinking that since I had worked in the bar business and also in construction, maybe this would be a good time to get into the bar business and try to keep our construction business afloat."

That's when they started the first Heart & Crown Irish pub. It was only a small pub with 50 seats inside and 30 outside.

Today, the premises have expanded to 1,200 seats, now it's actually five pubs under one roof – with six patios – in what is known locally as Ottawa's Irish Village.

"When the construction business started slowly coming back, I was very glad we had the bar business," said Larry, "because that was the only place where we were making any money. That's what kept the construction company going."

"Even after construction did pick up, it took a good few years to really get things moving again but it's all going gang busters now."

These past few years, Larry and his lovely wife, Michelle are finally able to enjoy some travel and he told me about one of their recent holidays to Greece.

He laughed and said, "all one day I had been taking photos of Greek ruins, and then, just out of the side of my lens, I spied a James Joyce Irish pub."

"I said come on Michelle, that's enough of this 2,000-year-old rubble, we're going to the pub."

"Wouldn't you know, it was a man from Mayo that owned the pub who had married a Greek woman. Seems like there's Irish pubs all over the world."

The Heart & Crown Irish pub, located at 67 Clarence Street in the Byward Market area of Ottawa, is an upscale establishment with full service bar of domestic and international wines and beers and, of course, all the Irish favourites. The menu for lunch and dinner is delicious and extensive with an Irish inspired breakfast on week-ends. Live entertainment is featured seven days a week. For more information, call (613) 562-0674, or visit: heartandcrownpub.com.

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IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

Successful fundraiser held to support an orphanage in Cambodia

MEETINGS from the Irish Club of White Rock. We extend an invite to all who are living out in the White Rock/Surrey/Langley area to contact us and come out to one of our events.

By DEIRDRE O'RUAIRC

The Irish Club of White Rock has been a part of the White Rock community for over 20 years and it is very unique as the only municipality in the Lower Mainland with its very own Irish club.

The club is a social and support group for the Irish community and open to all Irish and those of Irish descent, or anyone who just enjoys Irish culture. A warm welcome is extended to all.

Recently, the club hosted the Pat Chessell Band at a sold out benefit at the Elks Hall in White Rock which raised over \$3,000.

The funds will provide aid to an orphanage in Battambang, Cambodia as part of an international project undertaken by the South Surrey Rotary Club.

Brian O'Ruairc, a member of the Irish Club of White Rock and the South Surrey Rotary Club, has been working on this project for several years with fellow Rotarians.

He will return to Cambodia in January and plans to stay several months to work with local contractors to secure continuous clean water for the orphanage, and upgrade the electrical system to a safe standard along with the sewer system.

The group plans to complete all renovations to the orphanage and other necessary upgrades at that time and their goal is to raise \$10,000.

It is anticipated that with various Rotary grants, along with a Canadian foreign aid grant, this \$10,000 will become \$65,000.

The money will make an incredible difference to the lives of the children at the orphanage as there are about 50 children living there at the moment in unimaginable conditions.

The Irish Club of White Rock extends a big thank you to Tom Corless and the Elks for their support along with the Pat Chessell Band who donated their time for the evening.

It was a great night – and a Tuesday night at that – so thank you to all who came out and supported the event and to all who donated.

There are more plans underway, check out the Facebook page Irish Club of White Rock. Put a 'like' on the page and share it with your friends.

Those interested in learning more or attending an event hosted by the Irish Club of White Rock, call president Sharon at (604) 338-3553 or Deirdre O'Ruairc (604) 803-0773.



AI SLING TOWSON and Deirdre O'Ruairc at the fundraising event hosted by the Irish Club of White Rock and the Elks Club in White Rock, B.C.



KATHLEEN PEDERSEN and Rosella Moloughney worked on the door as volunteers at the benefit for the orphanage in Battambang, Cambodia.



PAT FAGAN and Annie at the fundraising event hosted by the Irish Club of White Rock.



SISTERS Colleen and Cathy O'Keefe enjoying the fundraiser held by the Irish Club of White Rock.



ROTARY PRESIDENT Pat Hahn and wife Karilin and friends were guests at the fundraiser.



LAURIE MORTON and a friend attending the benefit held at the Elks Club in White Rock, B.C.



PHOTO: Al Harvey
AERIAL PHOTO of Wainborn Park in Vancouver where the proposed Ireland Canada Monument will be located.

Ireland Canada Monument Society celebrates project approval

VANCOUVER – Since the decision by Vancouver Park Board on June 5 to approve the Ireland Canada Monument at George Wainborn Park, Society directors have been preparing for the monument's fundraising campaign launch.

Immediately following the approval, the society's first decision was to issue letters of thanks to the leaders of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to allow the monument to stand on unceded territory – a significant and momentous step in the project proceeding.

The monument will recognise the immense contribution of Irish Canadians and Canadians of Irish descent to Canada and features a sidewalk imitating the outline of the island of Ireland at the park – with the actual monument located at Clare, Galway and Mayo.

It is the intention of society directors to include stones from the north and south of Ireland and Canada on the monument, reflecting the people of Ireland dispersed throughout Canada today.

In its report published following the approval process, the Vancouver Parks Board said, "It has been a long journey for the Irish heritage community and their supporters."

"Community led projects rely on the energy, enthusiasm, and available time of the proponents which can fluctuate over time."

"The Park Board has stringent consultation processes for monuments and memorials, including: aesthetic review; technical, risk management and park planning and operations reviews; community consultation; and First Nations cultural and archeological sensitivity engagement."

"The Ireland Canada Monument Society has worked with staff through to the successful completion of all of these standard review processes."

Further details, including donation options will be included on the monument website at www.irelandcanadamonument.com and the Ireland Canada Monument Facebook page.

High spirits and great sports at the Fraser Valley Gaels Tournament

BURNABY – The inaugural presentation of The Celtic Connection Cup was made at the Fraser Valley Gaels Annual Gaelic Tournament on Saturday, June 17.

It was a great day of sport at the Burnaby Lake Rugby Grounds with challenges in men and women's Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, and kids football and hurling.

The day seemed perfect for the Games with a gentle wind blowing away the clouds of a day earlier.

This year it was the Vancouver Harps men's team with the Irish Sporting and Social Club of Vancouver who proudly lifted The Celtic Connection Cup.

Russy Cleere accepted the award on behalf of the team following the competition.

Congratulations to everyone who came out on the day and a big thank you to the Fraser Valley Gaels for their warm hospitality.

[In Western Canada find your local Gaelic Athletic Association club by checking online: www.westerncanadagaa.co.nr.]



ORGANIZERS of the Fraser Valley Gaels annual Gaelic tournament with Catholine Butler of *The Celtic Connection* prior to the presentation of the cup at the Burnaby Lake Rugby Clubhouse. (L-R) Ian Corrigan, James Woods, Eoin McCloskey, Catholine Butler, Chris O'Connor, and Denis Ryan.



THE Vancouver Harps team - winners of the men's Gaelic football at this year's Fraser Valley Gaels tournament - pictured in front of The Celtic Connection Cup.



THE Fraser Valley Gaels women won this year's tournament and they are pictured above following the final in a combined group photograph with the ISSC women.



THE CELTIC CONNECTION Cup along with trophies for the Most Valuable Player Men and Women.



FINAL between the Fraser Valley Gaels and the Vancouver Harps.



PHOTO: Sharon Woods
THE FUTURE of hurling in Canada. To sign up your youngster for the summer youth Gaelic games or learn more, e-mail Ronan Deane at: ronandeane@hotmail.com.



JAMES AND SHARON WOODS at the Fraser Valley Gaels tournament. James plays with the Fraser Valley Gaels and Sharon is president of the Irish Club of White Rock.




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EITHNE AND COLIN Bell, two charity workers from Newry, Co. Down have become Northern Ireland's latest lottery winners after scooping £1,000,000 in the EuroMillions UK Millionaire Maker on Tuesday, June 10.

Repatriation Charity couple scoop Euromillions win

BELFAST – A £1 million lottery prize has been won by a County Down couple whose charity helps people repatriate family members who have died abroad.

Colin (64) and Eithne (61) Bell, who set up the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust after their son's death, won the cash in the Euromillions draw.

Bell, from Newry, said there was no panic when he checked the ticket.

He simply turned to his wife and said, "Eithne, I think we've won a million pounds."

Eithne added, "We were in total disbelief, it doesn't happen to people like us."

The couple's son, Kevin (26) was killed in a suspected hit-and-run in New York City in 2013.

Friends and supporters in Newry raised about £150,000 towards the cost of his repatriation from the United States.

Since then, retired teacher Colin has made it his life's mission to help other

families whose loved ones die in sudden or tragic circumstances abroad.

The couple have six other children, including Kevin's twin brother.

Celebrating after the presentation of their lottery cheque, Colin said the main beneficiaries would be their children, aged between 26 and 32.

The GAA fan added that Eithne would get a new sunroom and car, the garden will be landscaped and that he would buy "two, or maybe three 10-year premium level tickets for Croke Park."

Their son, Kevin, was also a popular member of the local GAA club.

"He was a great young fella, full of craic," his father said.

In just a few short years the trust has become a vital service and is known to consuls across the world, who now call on Colin for help when someone from Ireland dies overseas.

Their charity set up in his memory, the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust, has helped bring back the remains of more than 300 people who have died while abroad.

Bodies of two men recovered after boating accident

DONEGAL – The bodies of two men believed to have drowned in a boating accident off the coast of Co. Donegal have been recovered.

The men are understood to have departed in a small boat from Teelin pier after lunchtime on Saturday, July 8.

The body of one man, in his fifties, was found on the shore at Malinbeg, near Carrick, at around 10:30 AM on Sunday. He was discovered by a farmer whose land runs down to the coast.

Local gardai contacted the coastguard to help recover the body.

Around the same time a member of the public in Teelin reported that a car understood to belong to the two men was still parked at the pier side.

This prompted a search for the second man.

It involved coastguard helicopter 118 from Sligo, Arranmore and Bundoran



LOCAL gardai contacted the coastguard to help recover the body.

lifeboats and Killybegs and Bunbeg coastguard teams.

After a short search, the body of the second man, believed to have been in his forties, was found in the water by coastguard officers close to Malinbeg.

A boat was recovered washed up on a rocky stretch of coastline.

The bodies of the men have been taken to Letterkenny University Hospital where a post-mortem examination will be carried out.

HEMOCHROMATOSIS: 'If your doctor can't figure out your health issue.... get your Ferritin levels tested'

By CHRISTOPHER FIRSTNER

In early 2013, I started having brain fog and total exhaustion. I would wake up and be so exhausted I couldn't really function. Doctors said it was depression, but I was really starting to worry.

My doctor sent me to the psychiatrist, who I was already seeing for depression. The funny thing is that he had just happened to read a book by Marie Warder, the founder of the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society, about her husband's experience with the disorder.

He sent me out for a battery of tests, and he included a Ferritin test.

When it came back, my Ferritin level was off the charts. It was up over 1,300 ng/mL when you should normally have about 200.

At that time, he was pretty sure I had hemochromatosis and so he sent me for the DNA test, and sure enough it came back with a double match.

After diagnosis, the problem was I didn't know what to do next. The doctors were pretty uneducated about the condition, and they just said "go get your blood checked" and donate blood.

My doctor referred me to a blood specialist but the appointment was more than 11 months away.

In the meantime I did as they said and went to donate blood at Canadian Blood Services, but they allow people to give blood only once every two months.



CHRISTOPHER Firstner tells his story of coming to understand how to deal with his diagnosis of Hemochromatosis - otherwise known as the Celtic Curse.

In hindsight, the donations weren't frequent enough to do me any good because I had so much iron in my system that it was starting to really cause major health problems for me.

I ended up suffering through most of the summer before I discovered the book my psychiatrist had talked about, *The Bronze Killer*.

Once I read it I realized, "Wow, I have to do something. This is pretty bad." I had to take the next steps into my own hands.

I called the Canadian Hemochromatosis

Society, and they were phenomenal. I was pretty nervous about the disorder but they put all my fears to rest.

They told me what I had to do next. They said, "You need to get in to see a specialist and you need to get de-ironed."

I had to go back to my doctor and insist on a referral to a particular specialist at VGH. When I went to see him, he scared the pants off me at first because he told me I had five years to live.

I'm a young man, being 50 at the time, and all I could think of was "Oh, no." But I believe he scared me intentionally so that I would take my health into my own personal care and make sure I got through this.

The de-ironing process is very difficult because you have to remove blood every week.

I was already exhausted, and these bloodlettings made me feel worse. But I persevered because I had no choice.

Now I am de-ironed, and have been maintaining my proper iron levels for two years. I've made some other tremendous health changes so that I don't have to give blood as often anymore.

My message to you is that if your doctor is stumped and they can't figure out what your health issue is, get a Ferritin test. It's such a simple check.

The Canadian Hemochromatosis Society was my biggest champion. I want people who think they may have this disorder - or who have just been diagnosed - to know that they're there for you. They'll answer your questions and provide support.

NOVENA TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary (never known to fail). O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein you are my Mother, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You gave me the Divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me. This prayer must be said for three days, even after the request is granted and the favour received, it must be published. – PMK, MJD, CC, CB, APW, L,K,L, K, S, MF, DC

NOVENA TO ST. CLARE

God of mercy you inspired Saint Clara with the love of poverty. By the help of her prayers may we follow Christ in poverty of spirit and come to the joyful vision of your glory in the Kingdom of Heaven. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. – SVS

NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever

NOVENAS

full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.

– SVS

NOVENA TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary (never known to fail). O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein you are my Mother, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can

attain my goal. You gave me the Divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me. This prayer must be said for three days, even after the request is granted and the favour received, it must be published. – SVS

NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh glorious St. Joseph, thou hast power to render possible even things which are considered impossible, come to our aid in our present trouble and distress. Take this important and difficult affair under thy particular protection, that it may end happily. (Name your request). O dear St. Joseph, all our confidence is in thee, let it not be said that we would invoke thee in vain and since thou art so powerful with Jesus and Mary, show that thy goodness equals thy power. Amen. St. Joseph, friend of the sacred heart, pray for us. (For favour received) – CB

Publication of a novena is \$25 monthly



THE MOTORIST PRAYER St. Christopher is the Patron Saint of Travellers

Grant me, O Lord, a steady hand and a watchful eye, that no one shall be hurt as I pass by. Thou gavest life, I pray no act of mine may take away or mar that gift of Thine. Shelter those, dear Lord, who bear me company, from the evils of fire and all calamity. Teach me to use my car for other's needs; nor miss through speed the beauty of the world; that thus I may with joy and courtesy go on my way. St. Christopher, holy patron of travellers, protect me and lead me safely to my destiny.

David Gavin who drowned in B.C. remembered as a top sportsman

Praying for a Funeral as the Search Continues



KINBASKET LAKE is located in British Columbia between Kamloops and Golden on the Trans Canada Highway.

By PATRICK JOHNSTON

VANCOUVER – What was supposed to be a fun jaunt through the Rockies for a group of new Irish immigrants to Canada has been halted by tragedy.

David Gavin (26) of Castlebar, County Mayo, drowned Friday [June 30] after jumping off a bridge over Beaver Creek, which flows into Kinbasket Lake near Golden. After four days, the official search has now been called off.

Gavin had moved to Vancouver from Ireland earlier this year with his girlfriend, Ciara, on a two-year work visa.

He had started working for Telus in April and as an avid Gaelic football player in his homeland, had joined the Irish Sporting and Social Club of Vancouver.

He was on his way to Calgary with some teammates for the Western Canada GAA Championships when they stopped for a Friday afternoon dip in the water near the Kinbasket Lake Resort.

The president of the club, Tadhg Egan, said it was “a very sad, very sad situation.”

“Gavin was an unbelievably nice guy,” he said. “Such a friendly, positive guy. He’s a credit to his family.”

He’d encouraged Gavin and the other new recruits to do the drive to Calgary because he knew how beautiful they would find it.

“This was supposed to be his big Canadian adventure,” he said.

According to Egan, Gavin was “top sportsman” back home and a strong swimmer.

Just north of the resort is a high bridge that runs the mouth of fast-flowing Beaver Creek. There are no signs around telling people not to jump.

According to Egan, Gavin jumped from the bridge into the icy-cold glacial water, not thinking there would be any danger.

“He did surface, indicated he was OK, took a couple strokes, but then went under.”

His friends quickly scrambled to try to help, but couldn’t spot him. The water there is “very grimy,” Egan said.

Golden RCMP were called for help. An initial search involved two boats and a dog.

The RCMP were eventually joined by Golden Search and Rescue, and the search of the shoreline, the creek and

nearby Kinbasket Lake continued on into Saturday.

According to a media release from the Mounties, the B.C. RCMP’s underwater recovery team arrived Saturday and began “a variety of underwater and surface scans.” Flyovers of the lake were also conducted. The RCMP has now called off the search for Gavin.

“Unfortunately at this stage police are presuming that the missing man has drowned,” Staff Sgt. Annie Linteau, spokeswoman for the RCMP in B.C., said in an email.

“We have requested that our Air Services unit conduct periodic flyovers of the area throughout the summer, in the hopes that he will be located soon.”

Egan said that it was a reminder that “water’s very dangerous, there can be strong currents just beneath, be careful.”

“Know the dangers of water, learn from this. We don’t want this to happen to other people,” he added. “They probably didn’t fully understand the conditions under him.”

The club has set up a GoFundMe page to help support Gavin’s family and also to pay for a private search of the area in the hopes of quickly finding his body.

Gavin’s family arrived from Ireland on Sunday, along with Ciara and her family.

“The idea was to find him and bring him home with that money,” Egan said. “There’s six family members who have come over. We’d like to send him home with them, cover whatever costs they’ve incurred for flights, cars, food.”

The family is now staying at the resort.

“The people at the resort have been very good.”

On top of his hope that people will take a lesson about water safety from the tragedy, Egan also hoped local boaters and fishermen will keep their eyes out for Gavin in the coming days.

“It’s such a huge area, we need people to keep their eyes open,” he said. “The only way to search is from above. The terrain is very difficult. It’s too dangerous to walk the foreshore.”

Reprinted kind permission of the Vancouver Sun.

By EDWIN MCGREAL
CASTLEBAR, Co. Mayo – It has been a tough week in Breaffy, in Castlebar and for everyone who knew and loved David Gavin.

And still we wait, hoping for news that we could never have imagined we would wish for.

We’re praying for David’s funeral, praying his body is found.

Those are words none of us in Breaffy ever thought we’d utter but all that changed when the devastating news broke last Saturday morning that David was missing, feared drowned, after getting into difficulty in a lake in British Columbia, Canada.

It has been a traumatic few days since for everyone in Breaffy but, much more so, for David’s family, his girlfriend Ciara, and his many, many friends.

David was an outstanding footballer who played county minor and Under 21 and was a bedrock of Breaffy’s defence in recent years but his ability as a footballer is beside the point.

David was one of the nicest guys you could meet. You would do well to find anyone with a bad word to say about him. He was pleasant, a gentleman to his fingertips.

One of life’s good guys that you consider yourself lucky to know. It is why we were all just stopped in our tracks last Saturday morning [July 1]. Life suddenly felt so cruel, so unfair.

And what started as news that was difficult to comprehend, news that David had lost his life, has become harder still as the search for his body continues.

There have been some particularly tough times in recent days.

When news emerged on Tuesday that the official underwater search at Kinbasket Lake was being stood down, that was devastating news for David’s family and friends at the scene and everyone at home.

But that same Tuesday evening, everyone’s hearts were lifted by the incredible response to a fundraising campaign set up by David’s friends in the ISSC club in Vancouver.

We could scarcely believe it as money poured in from all over the world. The response was phenomenal.

Now it stands at over \$255,000 (with a goal of \$350,000) and counting.

Along with being a spectacular show of support to the Gavin family, it also now becomes a vital help in enabling the search to continue.

Later today, the underwater research will resume.

It has to be sourced privately and will not be cheap. Neither will the helicopter searches that will be needed.

The search will continue, hopefully, until David is found.

However, it is possible that more fund-



DAVID GAVIN pictured in his Breaffy GAA jersey prior to coming out to Vancouver.

ing will be needed to continue the search and every single contribution makes it more and more likely that David will be found and can come home.

To those who have already contributed, everyone in Breaffy is extremely grateful.

To those who might be able to contribute and would like to, any contribution would be hugely welcome. The fundraising link is: www.gofundme.com/emergency-supporting-david-gavin.

David’s parents Michael and Angela, his sister Aoife and girlfriend Ciara are in our thoughts all the time.

How we as Breaffy GAA clubmates of David are feeling is nothing in comparison to their suffering.

We think too of David’s friends out in Canada, among them Paul Sweeney, another clubmate of ours in Breaffy who was with him at the time of the tragedy. Paul has done more than could be asked of anyone in the days since.

David’s friends from home, Mark Towe and Emmet Gill, were at the scene since Friday too, going there as soon as they heard.

And all of those who are out there, family and friends, from home, and who David met in Vancouver, are in all of our thoughts.

Enduring the long, indefinite search cannot be easy. We will forever be in their debt.

All associated with ISSC in Vancouver have been amazing.

The spirit of the gael carries far and wide and never has that been more apparent than in recent days.

Last night (Wednesday) in Breaffy, the GAA club held a support Mass in the clubhouse.

Hundreds filed through the doors to stand with David’s family, friends, teammates and clubmates.

People who had felt helpless had an outlet to show their support and they came in their droves to stand with the family.

On-field rivalries were left to one side as clubmen and players from neighbouring clubs came too.

Great gaelers like Kiltane’s Richie Cosgrove and Lacken’s Charlie Collins travelled a long way to be there too.

It is at times like this that we see the best of people in this country.

The Mass was surreal in a way, like a wake without a body.

But it was an opportunity for solidarity, for people to stand together, that nobody was alone in their suffering. It was cathartic.

We all left at the end of the night, with some saying ‘I’m sure I’ll see you again in the next few days’.

We knew what that meant. We hope and pray it comes to pass.

Edwin McGreal is a clubmate of David Gavin’s at Breaffy GAA and a journalist with *The Mayo News*.

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Clint Macnab: The son of Scottish immigrants lived to tell an incredible story of survival

THIS is the story of one family who settled in Saskatchewan during the early 1900s and helped establish the little community of Mervin, population 230. Clint Macnab, a descendant of those early homesteaders, tells an incredible story of survival in the face of a deadly tornado.

Interview by Maura De Freitas

The Celtic Connection: Clint, I understand you are a descendant of Scottish homesteaders in Saskatchewan and you were raised in the same district where they settled. When did your ancestors first arrive in Canada?

Clint Macnab: I have a number of ancestors from Scotland but my great-grandfather Jack Stewart came out in 1906 and my great-grandfather Gordon Macnab also came out in 1906, and that's who I'm named after....[Clint] Stewart Macnab.

CC: So your family settled far from their homeland on the Canadian prairies. Can you tell me a bit about your hometown?

CM: Well the closest village is Mervin, Saskatchewan but that's quite a distance from our farm which is another six miles away.

Initially, they travelled by foot and later by oxen or horses to get their provisions.

CC: This must have presented some pretty unique challenges in the early 1900s.

CM: Yes, particularly since at that time any provisions they couldn't get in Mervin they would have to travel to North Battleford, which was a two-day journey by oxen and that was just to get their basics like flour and sugar.

CC: Does your family still identify with their Scottish heritage?

CM: Definitely. We had a reunion last summer and it was all Scottish music and tartans. It was the Macnab family reunion and we certainly consider ourselves a clan.

CC: What would entice your ancestors to settle in this area so far from their homeland?

CM: Land. They were advertising that if you improved your land you got it for free basically. They had to pay \$10 and had three years to improve it, that included building a structure and clearing so many acres.

CC: What were some of the immediate challenges?

CM: Well, as soon as they got there they didn't have food or water....or a home. So, they had to dig a well and build a house and plant a garden.

This would be a very basic house with a sod roof and dirt floor and that would get them through the first winter with as much food as they could grow.

CC: There must have been a lot of hardship.

CM: There was. And then the First World War came along and my great-grandpa Stewart went overseas for that. He was at Vimy Ridge and other battlefields.



CLINT MACNAB



JACK STEWART in 1917 while he was overseas during the First World War. He was part of the Scottish Regiment and pictured dressed in his army uniform.

CC: So your grandmother was left alone on the farm during this time?

CM: Yes. They didn't have any children yet but she had her brothers nearby. After my great-grandpa arrived in eastern Canada he worked his way further west over two years. He worked mostly building railroads where he met the Quint brothers and they travelled the rest of the way together.

The Quints had already homesteaded in Saskatchewan and it was there that he met their sister, my great-grandmother Mary Quint. They were married in 1912.

CC: It must have taken great fortitude to survive those early years, to say nothing about the weather.

CM: Yes, especially when the Great Depression hit in the 1930s. For them it was drought, frost, and worst of all grasshoppers.

CC: And, of course, survival depended on the crops.

CM: That's right. In the early years they just lived to sustain themselves, they



THE MENACING twister on the horizon was clearly visible to neighbours but in the heart of the storm it was a much different picture.

lived off the land, and eventually they had enough surplus they could sell.

CC: So, they were very connected to the land and were really at the mercy of nature and the environment....and that connection remains today. I understand you had your own dramatic experience with the elements, and you were lucky to even survive to tell the tale.

CM: Yes, it was July 19, 1999.

CC: I guess it's embedded in your memory.

CM: 6:52 PM.

CC: It's that clear.

CM: The reason I know the precise time is because there was a family in Mervin having a birthday party out on the deck and they were videotaping the birthday and they saw the tornado coming.

CC: Was there any forewarning?

CM: Nothing, except we could sense something different was happening.

CC: In what way?

CM: Well, it started when my friend Robin Brown and I were teaching swimming lessons at Brightsand Lake.

On our way home we hit such a bad hail storm we thought it was going to damage her car so we pulled over. In front of us my Uncle Bob was also parked on the side of the highway.

When that subsided we carried on and stopped at Robin's farm which is just a few miles west of our farm. Before we left we were laughing and joking with them about all the strange clouds in the sky.

CC: So would you describe these clouds as ominous?

CM: Eerie. But not quite yet. We were still laughing and joking at that point and we carried on to our farm. I remember at one point we slowed down along the side of the road to watch this one cloud.

There was like a matte of clouds up higher in the sky but there was just one little cloud down low and it was kind of turning but it didn't look like a funnel.

We made a joke about it being a tornado but we still weren't concerned as we were hungry and wanted our supper.

So we carried on, pulled up into our yard and opened the car door. Right off the bat I knew something was wrong

because we had two dogs and they didn't come running to greet us.

One didn't even show up, and the other was standing at the door of the house wanting to get inside, which was really strange since they were both outside dogs. Usually they weren't even interested in being in the house.

When I opened the door, my mother had a stack of photos in the kitchen, they went spinning around the kitchen in a spiral and then floated down to the floor...I thought that's really weird.

Then, we were unloading the car back and forth to the house when we could hear this incredible roar. You could almost feel it, and that was a bit weird....it still makes me shake just to think about it.

Our house sits on top of a coulee hill (a kind of valley or drainage zone), and we were watching across the coulee what looked like little twigs flying through the air from side to side. We were kind of confused asking each other "what is that?"

As it got closer we started to realize it was trees flying through the air. Great

[Continued next page....]

“As it got closer we started to realize it was trees flying through the air. Great big huge 80-foot trees, just uprooted and flying through the air. And, then we realized this is bad, this is really bad....”

big huge 80-foot trees, just uprooted and flying through the air.

And, then we realized this is bad, this is really bad.

So I started hollering for the old dog that didn't come out to greet us, but she's deaf so I was calling and calling with no response.

We realized we needed to take cover but at the same time we were almost mesmerized, like you just can't believe your eyes.

The crazy thing is we did not see any tornado, there was no funnel cloud, just very strange stuff happening all around us.

That was across the coulee, and as it approached it moved down the coulee hill to the bottom.

All of a sudden, all we could see was this huge wall, as high and as wide as you could see.

Robin said, "what is that?"

And, I said, "that's the creek!"

A massive wall of water in front of us, rising straight up, and coming our way.

At that point we knew we were in for it, but the strange thing is it was suddenly so calm there wasn't a breath of wind on us.

It was complete silence, there was no noise. It was perfectly calm. Literally the calm before the storm.

But, we knew it was going to be bad, so I said, "we've got to get to the basement!"

CC: Was there anyone else in your family at home?

CM: This was in July and earlier that year in May my dad had passed away. My mom and my brother were at a ball tournament quite a few hours south of us, so it was just the two of us and the animals.

CC: You had farm animals as well?

CM: Yes...cattle, horses, chickens, a cat.

CC: So, the storm is approaching.

CM: That's right. I grabbed the portable phone, we ran down to the basement and to the bathroom in the basement. Kelly, our dog, was right there with us running alongside us.

We got to the bathroom and the water in the toilet was sputtering...kind of making a strange sound and spitting up. I mean, it was totally unnatural, we just didn't know what was going on with the world.

Then I said, "I've got to go back for Lady (our old deaf dog), this is bad."

I ran back upstairs and I ran outside and around the corner of the house. Instinctively, I just knew where Lady was.

As I ran around the front of the house I looked down our laneway and I saw one of those big round bales of hay, about five feet high, just suddenly completely shredded into a million pieces.

Then, I saw Lady, and she saw me. She came running for me and I just scooped her up and ran.

As I looked back, I saw another big round bale and it went up in the air, back down it hit the ground and disintegrated.

Then, we had a big crop sprayer parked there as well, about 50 feet long...it lifted up in the air and was just spinning mid-air.

After that, I didn't look back, I just ran.

As I ran back into the house, Robin had come back upstairs and she was just standing looking out the window in complete shock.

I grabbed her and said, "come on, we've got to get downstairs."

Somehow, I remembered hearing that you've got to move the air through your house, otherwise the tornado could take your whole house, so I opened the windows in the kitchen.

I was thinking I should also throw a chair through the picture window in the living room to get the air moving, but I thought "mom would kill me for that."

At that, we turned and ran for the basement and shut the door behind us.

At the very moment, as we turned, I heard the windows that I had opened in the kitchen smash and shatter.

So, it was Robin, myself, and the two dogs running back down the stairs and I remember it was like a buoyancy feeling or a feeling of being sucked back out again and tremendous pressure on our ears and on our head.

There was a couch at the bottom and Robin was just holding her head there saying, "my ears, my ears."

I just kept saying, "keep going, keep going, we've got to get to the bathroom."

When we got to the bathroom, and this time when we opened the door the shower was on full blast, the sink was on full blast, and all the water from the toilet was blasting straight up to the ceiling.

So we all crammed into the toilet and Lady, our old dog, squeezed herself in behind the toilet and she was just shaking. Kelly just sat right beside me just as stoic as could be.

Robin and I hit the floor and I just said, "say a prayer, say a prayer." We held hands and we just prayed.

We couldn't hear anything except for ourselves, which was also weird, but we knew something bad was going on around with all the water spraying out of the taps and toilet.

I turned on the portable phone to call for help or let someone know where we were but I couldn't call out.

And then, everything stopped. Complete peace and silence. The water, everything stopped.

Our dog Kelly was right at the door, she wanted out, and I wanted out. Robin was screaming at me, "don't open the door, don't go."

I opened the bathroom door and all our kitchen stuff was strewn all over the basement. So I jumped up on some old wash tubs and looked out the window, and I didn't recognize the yard.

We had an enormous spruce tree that

you could walk under the boughs...gone!

The bush behind the house....gone!

The playhouse, gone! Greenhouse, gone! Everything was gone!

It was just bald, and bright and sunny.

I wanted to get upstairs because I wanted to warn our neighbours.

I knew which way this thing was heading and our neighbours are only about a mile and a half away, our cousins, so I started to make my way past all the debris on the stairs.

I remember looking up at the basement door and I could see bright sunlight beaming around the door frame.

You couldn't see that before because it was surrounded by the house.

I opened the door and looked up and all I could see was this bright, bright, blue sky, sunshine, not a cloud in the sky, and pouring rain.

I was in total shock at this point....the whole roof, ceiling, everything was gone.

And the taps were still on. I could hear the kitchen tap running, the upstairs bathroom tap running. Not that high pressure like before, just normal tap pressure but just running.

The fridge had the door ripped off and was thrown across the room. There was no glass left in any of the windows and I wanted to get to the phone to call our neighbours.

CC: When you spoke to the neighbours, were they aware of the tornado?

CM: A neighbour a few miles south of us were calling to say they could see this enormous funnel cloud with stuff flying around in the air. So, they're all seeing the actual tornado. They could see the actual twister.

CC: You were so close you couldn't see the tornado?

CM: That's right. The only way I can describe it is if you put your nose up against the wall, you can't see the wall because you're too close. We were right there.

EPILOGUE: Somehow, Clint and Robin along with Kelly and Lady survived the tornado.

The farm animals also weathered the storm. The horses broke through the fence and escaped....in fact all the animals managed to escape the devastation.

Clint said afterwards it was a blur. Within minutes his Uncle Bob arrived on the scene, Robin's family arrived, and neighbours and family started coming from every direction.

His grandfather Charlie Macnab who built the house and raised his family there arrivedthis was the house where Clint's dad grew up.

Within five minutes 50 people were on the scene.....within an hour there were hundreds.

Television crews started arriving, news stations, and people wanting to help, others to take a look, or just know what happened.

CANADA: A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

This year we celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary and we remain a nation of immigrants. In this issue, we look at some of those immigrants who helped build the country that we know today.

From 1867 to 1914, the Canadian West opened for mass settlement, and became home to millions of immigrant settlers seeking a new life.

This immigration boom created key industries still important to Canada's international role – like agriculture, mining, and oil.

The Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta grew rapidly in these years as settlers began to transform the barren prairie flatland and establish unique cultural settlements.

Many motivations brought immigrants to Canada: greater economic opportunity and improved quality of life, an escape from oppression and persecution, and opportunities and adventures.

The immigration boom leading up to 1914 was one of the most important periods of Canadian population growth.

Significant changes occurred in Canada after 1867 that made the Prairie immigration boom possible: the construction of a transcontinental railroad made transportation and travel accessible; the Dominion Lands Act of 1872 created free and fertile homesteads for settlers; the establishment of the North-West Mounted Police in 1873 guaranteed the safety of Prairie residents; and the creation of the Department of the Interior in 1873 attracted hard-working immigrants to the region.

Often, these immigrants encountered harsh weather conditions in a difficult and challenging landscape where their very survival depended on a favourable climate.



THE FAMILY home following the tornado was knocked off its foundation and the roof was missing. Inside it was destroyed with every window smashed.



HEAVY farm machinery was picked up and flung through the air as the twister approached.

Clint laughed and said initially when they called his mother to tell her what had happened, she wouldn't believe it.

He explained they were always playing pranks and calling her up telling her all kinds of things, so when they told her about the tornado she thought it was another joke.

She said, "Clint, tell me honestly, how bad is it?"

He finally replied, "Mom, there's fu****ng birds in your kitchen!"

In the aftermath, they realized the entire house had been knocked off its foundation.

A skidoo went through the living room wall, huge shards of glass from the picture window had blasted through three

rooms. Entire structures had disappeared leaving massive damage everywhere.

For months afterwards people they didn't even know came to clean up and help salvage whatever could be saved. Clint said they couldn't have done it without them.

Immediately, that very night, people started to pack up whatever possessions weren't smashed in the tornado. Trucks and volunteers were organized and help came from far and wide.

Clint said of everything that happened that day – the shock, the long-term impact on his life – the biggest and most unforgettable aspect was the community support. He said, "I will never ever forget that!"



THOUSANDS of people marched for equality in the streets of Northern Ireland on July 1, the only part of the UK and Ireland where same-sex marriage is banned.

Thousands march for marriage equality in Northern Ireland

BELFAST – Thousands of people marched for equality in the streets of Northern Ireland on July 1, the only part of the UK and Ireland where same-sex marriage is banned.

Gay rights activists, trade unionists, civil servants, firefighters, drag queens and same-sex couples turned up at Belfast city centre, waving rainbow flags and banners.

Campaigners called for any new government to support marriage equality in a march that was led by the Lord Mayor of Belfast Nuala McAllister, Northern Ireland-born *The Fall* actor Bronagh Waugh and Rainbow Project director John O'Doherty.

O'Doherty told political leaders nice words at election time were not enough, saying, "We need action."

"Action to make communities safe, action to make schools safe, an over-arching commitment from all the public institutions to addressing the historical and current inequalities which prevent Northern Ireland from being the society that we all want it to be," he said.

"Together we are the future of Northern Ireland. We are the progressive majority and those who oppose us will lose, just like they did every time before."

"When we win this battle do not think that we are done. This campaign is not just about changing the law, we are about changing the world."

Earlier Scotland's political leaders issued a joint call for the introduction of same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland.

First Minister and Scottish Nationalist Party leader Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson, Labour's Kezia Dugdale, Patrick Harvie from the Green Party and Liberal Democrat Willie Rennie all voiced support for a law change across the Irish Sea.

Amnesty International, which is one of the leading members of the Love Equality coalition organising the march, released the statements from Scotland's political leaders.

The DUP has used the petition of concern to prevent a law change, despite a majority of MLAs supporting the move at the last vote.

Following March's snap Assembly election, the DUP no longer has the electoral strength to deploy a petition of concern in its own right, though it could still potentially combine with other socially conservative MLAs to do so, if a devolved Assembly can be re-established.

Controversial NI bonfire site burns for almost 12 hours

BELFAST – Huge bonfires are lit each year in loyalist communities across Northern Ireland ahead of the main date in the loyal order parading season – the Twelfth of July.

Recently, a controversial bonfire site – which Belfast City Council stored pallets for – was set on fire tying up life-saving Fire Service resources for almost 12 hours.

Firefighters attended the blaze in the Holywood Arches area overnight on July 4. They worked for several hours to tackle the blaze which was still smouldering the following Wednesday morning.

The site sparked controversy when it was revealed the council took 3,000 pallets for "safe storage" until the Eleventh night.

Council officials took the decision to move the pallets when they were dumped in a public car park blocking spaces.



THE PALLETs stolen from the city council depot were destined for two Belfast bonfires including Chobham Street (above).

The pallets were subsequently stolen from the ratepayer owned storage facility.

An investigation into why Belfast City Council agreed to store the wooden pallets is underway by city hall officials.

It has been suggested that an Ulster Defence Association (UDA) gang led by notorious paramilitary Dee Stitt was behind the theft.

When the Kingmakers are Jesters

THE DEMISE OF STORMONT IS THEREFORE A VERY DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT. WHEN NORTHERN IRELAND TAKES A TURN LIKE THIS, IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO TURN BACK.

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By
MAURICE
FITZPATRICK

GENERAL elections seldom fully clarify the mandate politicians receive, leaving everyone concerned to surmise from the results what motivated the electorate to vote as it did.

The general election in Britain on June 8 was no different.

It is still debatable whether the collapse of Conservative Party support was a protest vote against Brexit now that the realities of Brexit are more clearly seen; or against British Prime Minister Theresa May; or at the flailing attempts on the part of the British Government to engage with the EU.

Whatever the cause of the electoral tumble for the Conservatives, the result is unambiguous.

May's comfortable majority is gone and she is now reliant on a party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), whose input is very damaging from any perspective.

In January, this column suggested that when the attempts to re-establish the power-sharing Assembly in Belfast would fail (as they did in March) then hardline unionism would play its age-old favourite card: Its alliance with the Conservative Party in British Parliament.

"It is easy to imagine circumstances in which British Prime Minister Theresa May could badly need DUP support during this crucial year.

"If so, it would be quite wrong to assume that the current DUP leadership will bargain hard to defend the Belfast Assembly.

"Direct rule of Northern Ireland from London could appeal just enough to the DUP and to the British Conservative Party to prompt them to prorogue the Stormont Assembly on a semi-permanent basis."

All of this is now happening, given that the DUP secured 10 seats in British Parliament on June 8 which the Conservatives need to sustain a government.

No DUP strategist could have planned better circumstances in which their role as kingmaker would come into play.

Having been dealt a straight flush, it is not enormously to the DUP's credit that they are playing a good hand.

The responsibility for this disturbing development (and much else besides) lies with Theresa May.



BRITISH PRIME MINISTER Theresa May greets Arlene Foster, the leader of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, at 10 Downing Street in London on June 26.



STORMONT – Seat of the Northern Ireland Executive.

It is almost as though May called this unnecessary election to benefit the DUP at the expense of her own party.

After the March election in Northern Ireland, the DUP leader, Arlene Foster, was a beaten docket; now she is revived as a significant power-broker in British politics.

The DUP-Tory confidence and supply agreement, which is not technically a coalition, is retrograde for Northern Ireland in every way, and it threatens to wipe away a great deal of the 20 years of hard won political progress.

The best hope one can have for it is that it will not last. Indeed, Theresa May's incompetence shortens the odds of an imminent collapse of the Tory government.

In the run up to the June 8 UK election, there were developments to prompt legitimate fear in Unionists that some form of Dublin-London joint authority over Northern Ireland may have come into play.

Moreover, Europe had indicated that special status for Northern Ireland was possible post-Brexit; that would have pushed Northern Ireland further into the authority of Dublin (since Southern Ireland will remain in the European Union post-Brexit).

The June 8 election therefore became dominated from the Northern Irish parties' point of view by the constitutional question.

The prospects of a constitutional change bolstered the DUP, which most vociferously stands for the Union and covertly stands for a reversion to London rule; and it bolstered Sinn Féin which advocates a removal of the border as soon as possible.

With consolidated majorities Sinn Féin and the DUP have solid grounds to refuse to budge from their positions.

Hence the stalemate that pertains today. We have been here before but seldom have the prospects of reconfiguring

the situation been quite as bleak because, quite literally, the survival of the British Government depends upon the co-operation of the DUP.

The DUP's pressure will be exerted in back room negotiations rather than on the floor of the parliament, but make no mistake: On questions of how to administer Northern Ireland Arlene Foster will now brook no dissent.

May has other concerns, particularly her own survival as a politician, and she will be loath to defy Foster on a Northern Irish issue.

As veteran political analyst Alastair Campbell put it, "The [British] Government is the mediator between the DUP and Sinn Féin. How can our government be the mediator when the DUP is going to be part of our government?"

It cannot be. That is the kernel of the problem with the DUP-Tory pact from the point of view of honouring the Good Friday Agreement's provisions.

The newly-minted Irish Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, and his Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, will exercise all the soft power possible, but it is very unlikely to work in the face of DUP intransigence.

Despite Sinn Féin's noises to the contrary, it has as much interest as the DUP in re-establishing Stormont: All but none.

The DUP and Sinn Féin's combined vote share on June 8 was 67 percent.

That the centrist parties, the UUP and the SDLP, did not secure a single seat between them in Westminster does not remove the need for centrist politics; it makes those centrist politics all the more necessary.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland James Brokenshire has imposed a "final and immovable" deadline of June 29 for a return to an agreed power-sharing arrangement in Stormont.

London is preparing itself to rule Northern Ireland directly from that date onwards.

That will be an indictment on the very concept of politics in Northern Ireland. It is only through politics and negotiation that a shared stability can occur.

The institutions of Stormont, however flawed, enabled that to happen.

The demise of Stormont is therefore a very disturbing development. When Northern Ireland takes a turn like this, it takes a long time to turn back.

Scotland confirms NI women abortion move

EDINBURGH – The Scottish Government has confirmed the country's National Health Service (NHS) will offer free abortions to women from Northern Ireland while Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones has also announced the same.

Powers over abortion were devolved to Holyrood as part of the 2016 Scotland Act and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon previously said she would look into giving Northern Ireland women access to NHS abortions in Scotland without prohibitive costs.

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said, "The Scottish Government's view is that abortion should be part of standard healthcare for all women, and available free from stigma."

Abortion is banned in Northern Ireland unless a woman's life is at risk or her mental or physical health face permanent and serious risk.

Last month the British Government was forced to commit to covering the cost of abortions for women travelling to England from Northern Ireland to avoid an embarrassing defeat in Parliament and to ensure parliamentary support for its Queen's Speech.

More than 50 MPs from the major parties had backed a Labour-led call for the women to have access to NHS abortions in England – leading the UK Government to make a concession on the issue rather than risk a possible defeat.

The move was outlined on June 29 by chancellor Philip Hammond hours before a House of Commons vote, which

Prime Minister Theresa May's minority government had been at risk of losing.

The decision highlights fallout from the Conservatives' pact with the Democratic Unionist party at Westminster.

It is the DUP that has blocked legal abortions from being performed in Northern Ireland, as matters of health are devolved to Stormont. That has led to women travelling to England where they have to pay for terminations.

The UK Department of Health had previously defended its policy not to fund abortions for Northern Irish women in England, arguing in court that to do so would undermine Stormont.

A Downing Street spokeswoman said the change would cost an estimated £1 million a year, based on numbers of women travelling for abortions in previous years. The government was committed to funding the excess if demand increased, a spokesman said.

Anti-abortion group Precious Life has previously claimed that allowing NI women to access NHS terminations would "run roughshod over the law and the democratic process."

It said abortion was a criminal offence in Northern Ireland which "exists to protect both mothers and their unborn children," and predicted offering abortions in Scotland would spark a "public outcry."

Abortions are only allowed in Northern Ireland if a woman's life is at risk or there is a permanent or serious risk to her physical or mental health. Rape, incest and fatal foetal abnormalities are not circumstances in which they can be performed legally.

Stand Strong and Stand Together in the Darkness of Coming Seasons

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

IT IS high season. Midsummer has passed, as it does, and the growing season is moving toward completion.

While the slow decline of the bright season is natural, the environment is experiencing a far greater decline that has its root in ungrounded madness.

As do all indigenous tribes, the Celts lived in alignment with the rhythms of the land, the weather, the seasons, and life.

To do otherwise is to swim against the tide, an exhausting and self-defeating exercise chock full of hubris.

As long as humans have been sentient, there have been those who seek to bend, turn, and use the tide to their own best interests and profit, regardless of the impact on the needs of the community and the greater world.

It is a shallow course, taken up by limited personalities, and supported by the grasping groundswell of the weak-minded of any epoch, who seek to grab what they can get at the expense of what is right.

I speak, of course, of the American president, whose ignorant, unmannered, and inappropriate governance keeps the world glued to their social media accounts, every vapid syllable representing a country that remains great, despite his woebegotten election to a post that formerly represented dignity, authenticity, and leadership.

But, like any cosmic magic trick, the sleight of hand is in the background, tantalizingly apparent, but ignored in the mash-up of daily stupidity.

The condition of the American presidency is of enormous concern, its literal witlessness puts the United States, and citizens of other regions, at peril on many levels.

Yet, if the geopolitical structure can hold, it bides the fading of the country, as European and Asian interests take opportunities not before considered, or available. No country can hold sway forever.

My world is not of politics, but of energies, and the patterns of things seen and unseen. I claim no expertise in world affairs.

While it remains insulting to seek meaning in, or from, the catastrophe that is the American president, there could well be other things afoot.

Just a few of them include the surfacing of issues long simmering in the American psyche, but poorly or just not addressed.

Those worst tendencies marvelously emerge in the tissue and electricity of he who commands the White House. Racism, misogyny, xenophobia, intolerance, hatred, greed, ignorance, sloth, conceit just to name a few.

All leaders carry the projections of those who elect them.

This leader does not carry the image of the American majority, but the minority the grasping groundswell frightened of the global future into which we all must move, and personifying the very worst



of what small-mindedness has to offer.

During the toxic and contentious campaign season, I marveled at the anger and vitriol that emerged from that groundswell, unified in their fear, and terrified of moving forward.

I hoped a good airing of the darkness underneath would nurture needed maturity and higher mindedness and like the majority, I was disappointed.

Today, there is Resistance, grassroots organization around multiple issues, young people far more informed than their Elders of the rights and protections of the Constitution of the United States, people redefining how progress can be made as the American president, already a hungry ghost, fiddles away on his social media account seeking sustenance.

Large companies, state leaders, and agencies form coalitions to address climate change and environmental issues.

Sheer hatred and mistreatment of women, so native to the American psyche, is being called more frequently into the open not in the form of feminism, but in the name of decency.

The crotch-grabbing president is a model of all that is wrong with America, and if there is meaning to his ascendancy to such an undeserved position perhaps that is it.

A leader who personifies ugliness holds up a mirror for the world to see what is rancid in that region, and provides a

cautionary tale, like any good piece of folklore, about lands laid to waste, and the ills wrought on a country that has no rightful governance.

Despite rising consciousness, retrograde fear holds fast, "us not them," "me not we," and "not in my backyard."

With expertise only in derision, the leader of the United States illuminates and defines the broken and jagged pieces that may, or may not, be picked up by real leaders, reshaped, and reconfigured into positive hope for the future.

There is no excuse for what has happened here, and there may yet be no hope, but that is all the more reason to hold the line on the grasping groundswell, whose projected and perverse worldview is not one of inclusion.

Midsummer has passed, seasons are again changing, the harvest at Lughnasadh is rapidly approaching, and quietly, the days shorten again.

The imperative to join with others of common interest to protect the environment, our world, and each other presses.

Choose presence and responsibility, authenticity and right action, and look to the creativity of darkness not its fear.

Cynthia Wallentine is based in the United States. She has been writing a mythology and social commentary column for *The Celtic Connection* since 1993.

Pregnant Irish teenager institutionalized because she wanted an abortion

DUBLIN – A disturbing report out of Ireland suggests that a pregnant teenager seeking an abortion was instead placed into psychiatric care against both her and her mother's wishes for an unknown number of days.

The unnamed teen and her mother had been seeking an abortion in Dublin, sometime in late 2016. Before she made the trip, the pregnant teen had undergone a psychiatric evaluation in their home county.

Unbeknownst to her and her mother, the psychiatrist had sent them to Dublin not for an abortion procedure but instead to be sectioned under the nation's Mental Health Act.

The distressed 16-year-old was put in a psychiatric hospital before being discharged as it was determined she had no mental health disorder – just three days after being legally granted a termination on "suicide" grounds.

The case came to attention recently when details emerged about her committal, prompting debate about the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution.

However, the case also highlights issues about the existing abortion legislation

and the resourcing of mental health services for children in Ireland.

A panel of experts, convened under the abortion legislation, concluded the teenager should have a termination as she was suicidal. At that point, she was almost 25 weeks pregnant, beyond the time limit for abortions.

Within days, two other psychiatrists who assessed the girl's detention in psychiatric hospital concluded she was not suicidal. She was assessed by at least five psychiatrists over 12 days.

The baby was born seven months into the pregnancy and is now living with the girl and her mother.

The obstetrician who delivered the baby and handled the termination order has been praised for handling the case sensibly and compassionately.

Ireland's abortion laws are extremely limited, with exceptions not even made in cases of rape or incest. The country's eighth amendment even weights the mother's life the same as her pregnancy's.

Instead, the only time an abortion would be allowed is if the mother's life was in immediate danger, thanks to the extremely recent (2014) Protection of Life Under Pregnancy Law.

Ireland appoints special envoy to U.S.

DUBLIN – Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has appointed Waterford TD John Deasy as a special envoy to the United States Congress to work on the issue of undocumented Irish.

The *Irish Times* reports that Deasy will report to the taoiseach and will work with the Irish embassy in Washington DC and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin.

Deasy, who has said people are "very concerned" with the hardline immigration policies being pursued by President Trump, will look after the interests of the undocumented Irish and lobby for immigration reform for Irish citizens in the United States.

"This is a role I wanted. There are serious issues here that need addressing and it makes sense to have someone who knows Washington," Deasy told the *Irish Examiner*.

"He will not receive any additional remuneration for this role, although his official expenses will be met by the

Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade," an official statement said.

Deasy will not be given an additional salary, other than official expenses incurred on the job. He has previously worked as a staffer for Republican members of the House of Representatives and the Senate and was also involved in drafting the original VISA waiver program during his time working in Congress during the 1990s.

In a statement, Taoiseach Varadkar said, "As well as his significant experience of 15 years service in Dáil Éireann, John Deasy also has extensive experience in the U.S. Congress, including working on immigration reform legislation.

"He will bring that experience and his network of contacts to augment the extensive efforts already undertaken by the government and embassy to bring about reforms to assist the undocumented Irish. I am delighted that he has agreed to take on this role and I am sure he will make an important contribution to our national efforts on this issue."



MICK MCHUGH, Honorary Race Steward for the Irish Day Stakes at Emerald Downs on Irish Day, is interviewed by Joe Withee, the director of publicity and broadcasting at Emerald Downs.



LED BY A BAGPIPER and a Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, a wreath was laid on Memorial Day at the grave of a veteran following the celebration of Mass at St. Patrick Irish Pioneer Cemetery.



DANCERS Aislin Travis, Morgan Cradduck and Bella Perritt from the Grafton Street Academy of Irish Dance perform for the crowds and marchers also carried the flags of Ireland's 32 counties at a 4th of July Parade in Edmonds.



FRANK SHRIANE, Kathleen 'Mud' McHugh and Brendan Shriane drowning their sorrows at McRory's on the last day at its current location.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

- Sally McGlynn (84) the widow of the late Charlie McGlynn from Donegal, died in Seattle July 1.
- Gerry McAuliffe (90) a native of Cork, died June 21 in Issaquah.
- Ann Louise Gilligan, the wife of Seattle-born Irish Government minister Katherine Zappone, died June 15 in Dublin.
- Tina McCarroll (82) a native of Galway, died June 14 in Tumwater.
- Janet Price (69) of Seattle, died in a bike accident while on holiday in Killarney.
- Annie White (52) a Seattle native who lived in Dublin since 2007, died May 2 in California.
- Rose Rimkus (84) a native of Dublin, died May 5 in Seattle.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse

May their faithful souls rest at God's right hand

IRISH FILM – The Irish film *The Journey* has opened in several theaters in Seattle.

The subject of *The Journey* is the relationship between Northern Ireland's pro-British firebrand Protestant Ian Paisley and Catholic nationalist Martin McGuinness who served together as first minister and deputy first minister in Northern Ireland's Government Executive.

The unlikely duo went from being sworn enemies during 30 years of the Troubles to becoming partners in government.

They got along so well that they were nicknamed "the Chuckle Brothers" – a reference to characters from a British children's television program, and their partnership surprised even the men themselves.

The film is driven by two virtuoso central performances by Timothy Spall as Paisley and Colm Meaney as McGuinness.

IRISH COMMUNITY PICNIC – Seattle's Irish Community Picnic is Sunday, July 16, from 2-5 PM (note later start time) at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah (exit # 15 off I-90).

Games and fun for the entire family, and all are welcome.

Free hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided but bring your own beverages and a dessert to be shared.

There's a covered picnic area and several BBQ grills if you bring charcoal.

The games start at 3 PM – tug-of-war, sack-races, water balloon toss, etc. More details at irishclub.org.

CLARE BOUND MUSICIANS – Ceol Cascadia Irish Music Association will host a great evening of Irish traditional music, dancing and singing on Saturday, July 22, 7-10:30 PM at Wedgwood Presbyterian Church, 8008 35th Avenue NE, Seattle.

The benefit will help raise funds to assist two young teenage Irish musicians – Willie and Owen Bays – travel to Ireland to compete in the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil, the World Series of Irish traditional music.

Admission is \$15 at the door, under



By
**JOHN
KEANE**



THE NEW Consul General of Ireland in San Francisco is Dubliner Robert O'Driscoll.



IRISH SUFFRAGETTE Hanna Sheehy Skeffington in 1916. Her granddaughter will speak in Seattle later this year.

18 free. More details at ann@cascadiairish.org.

IRISH BASEBALL – Irish Night at the Seattle Mariners is Tuesday, July 25, 7:10 pm vs. the Boston Red Sox at Seattle's Safeco Field.

Get there early to watch the Tara Academy Irish Dancers and the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums perform in center field about 30 minutes before the game.

The ceremonial first pitch will be thrown out by Pulitzer-prize winning author Tim Egan.

Reduced price tickets and a free Irish Heritage Night Mariners Cap available at mariners.com/Irish. For more details, call (425) 582-2688.

NEW CONSUL GENERAL – Best wishes to Philip Grant who has been reassigned to Dublin at the completion of his term as Consul General of Ireland in San Francisco.

A frequent visitor to Seattle since he was assigned to the west coast in

2013, Philip has been a fantastic supporter of the Irish community in the Pacific Northwest and in many ways seemed to have a second home here in Seattle.

We wish him well in his new role at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs Headquarters in Dublin.

His replacement as Consul General in San Francisco is Robert O'Driscoll who arrived in San Francisco on July 3.

A Dublin native, Robert previously served at the EU in Brussels, in the United Arab Emirates, and in Ireland's Embassy to Saudi Arabia.

Slán abhaile to Philip and céad míle fáilte to Robert whom we hope to see in Seattle later this summer.

SEATTLE-DUBLIN FLIGHTS – Dublin is Sea-Tac's fifth most popular destination for passengers going to Europe, the Middle East, or Africa.

In 2016, a total of 35,189 passengers went through Sea-Tac Airport with tickets saying they were traveling to or from Dublin, approximately 23,460 outbound to Dublin and 11,730 inbound to Seattle.

As there are no direct flights from Seattle to Dublin, all of those passengers were required to stop at an intermediate airport on their trip.

Now a local group, spearheaded by Irish Network Seattle, has been investigating the possibility of convincing an airline to initiate direct flights between Seattle and Dublin.

Norwegian Air International, an Irish low-cost airline headquartered at Dublin Airport, this September starts a new Seattle-London flight.

McRORY'S CLOSED – F X McRory's, Seattle's popular Pioneer Square Irish pub and restaurant, has closed at its current location and will reopen in the near future at a nearby location.

The establishment closed its doors on June 11 after 40 years at the same corner across from the old Kingdome, now Seahawks Stadium, but the 1,600 bottles of whiskey and the 96 feet of marble bar will still be featured at the new location, and it'll still be a gathering place for Irish and wanna-be Irish.

Owner Mick McHugh has always been active in the Irish community, serving as president of the Seattle Galway Sister City Association for over 30 years, and we wish him well in his new location.

SHEEHY-SKEFFINGTON TALK IN SEATTLE – Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington, the granddaughter of the prominent Irish suffragette, will speak in Seattle later this year, likely in early November.

Her grandmother, Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, was a prominent Irish suffragette, co-founding the Irish Women's Franchise League in 1908 and twice serving time in prison for suffragette activities.

Although her husband, Francis Sheehy-Skeffington, was a well-known pacifist, he was arrested and shot while in British custody during Easter Week 1916.

Afterwards, Hanna came on a tour

[Continued next page....]



THE SEATTLE GAELS Ladies Gaelic Football team which competed in the Emerald City GAA Tournament at Seattle's Magnuson Park on June 10

[...Continued from page 24]

of the U.S. speaking at more than 250 venues including in Seattle.

The primary aim of her tour was to publicize the murder of her husband by the British, but also to discuss the wider ideals of the 1916 Rising including the vote for women.

She spoke to a large crowd in Seattle on May 27, 1917 at the Moore Thea-

tre and now Hanna's granddaughter will later this year be in Seattle as she recreates part of her grandmother's 1916-1917 trip around the U.S.

Micheline is retracing her grandmother's steps to gather support for a project to honor both grandparents, and also as part of a documentary about her grandmother that is planned for broadcast in 2018.

The centenary of Women's suffrage in the UK when the Act of 1918 gave

some women the vote for the first time.

Micheline's Seattle talk is still being organized but to volunteer to help, or for more information, please contact Skeffington@irishclub.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

• Denis Kautsman (deniskkof@outlook.com) is offering Irish language lessons for free and would love to hear from others interested in learning to speak Irish.

Fear among undocumented Irish in U.S. as prominent figure deported

BOSTON – A prominent figure in Boston's Irish community was deported early this month, triggering fears among thousands of other illegal immigrants in the city.

John Cunningham (38), the former Chairman of Northeast Boston GAA, was arrested by agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at his home on June 16.

A Donegal native, Cunningham entered the country in 1999 under the Visa Waiver Program but overstayed his visa and now faces deportation from the United States.

Under the program, recipients waive their rights to a hearing before an immigration judge prior to deportation, and are subject to mandatory detention.

Cunningham is widely known and respected in Boston's Irish ex-pat community where he owns an electrical contracting business.

He was also a fixture at the Gaelic Athletic Association fields at the Irish Cultural Centre and was especially proud of getting more kids from all backgrounds playing the traditional Irish games of hurling and Gaelic football.

Speaking to RTÉ, Boston-based immigration lawyer and personal friend of John Cunningham, John Foley said, "There's a great deal of fear in the Irish American community and the Irish community.

"I went to see [Cunningham] on Sunday and, basically, his world has been turned upside down, he's been hit with an immigration tsunami. Life as he knew it, is over."

John Cunningham spoke in an RTÉ



JOHN CUNNINGHAM has an electrical contracting business in Boston and was chairman of the Gaelic Athletic Association

documentary about undocumented Irish living in the U.S. in March earlier this year. Speaking at the time he said, "When you're young it's all great but the years go fast and then all of a sudden you end up with commitments here.

"You're married, and have a home, and a job and it becomes your home. All of a sudden, so much time has gone by and you start to realise what is going to be in store for yourself in the future."

Kieran O'Sullivan, an immigration counselor at the Irish Pastoral Center, said Cunningham was among several Irish people detained this month.

His organization has been inundated with frantic, worried calls, especially as word of Cunningham's arrest spread.

He spoke with a couple that is making contingency plans for what to do with their children if they're arrested.

"People are nervous about going to work," O'Sullivan said.

"What to do if both parents are picked

up. This is driving people further underground.

"It's a very difficult time. We need to move away from viewing immigrants as a threat to this country."

O'Sullivan likes to remind people that 60,000 immigrants are serving in the American military.

Members of his family from Kerry have been part of immigration waves going back to the 1950s, serving in every major U.S. war since Korea.

John Cunningham was just out of his teens when he came to Boston from Donegal.

Like a lot of young Irish, he quickly found work, a Gaelic football team, and a supportive ex-pat community in and around Boston.

He never went back to Ireland, not just because Boston was his new home but because he knew if the immigration authorities realized he had overstayed his 90-day visa, he'd be barred from the United States for at least 10 years.

He would have done anything, paid anything to obtain legal status, but he couldn't.

The same government that gladly gave him a tax ID number wouldn't give him a way to get legal.

Cunningham worked for years lobbying for immigration reform, trying to create a system that would allow millions of immigrants to legalize their status.

Some worry that Cunningham's willingness to speak publicly about the need to reform the immigration system made him an easy target for that same flawed system.

It is estimated there are at least 50,000 Irish citizens illegally residing in the U.S.

Call to help returning Irish emigrants facing obstacles

DUBLIN – One in four rural Irish households have been directly affected by emigration since 2006 as over 300,000 people emigrated after the economic crash, an Oireachtas committee has heard.

Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform Chairman Ciarán Staunton said that those returning home now find themselves "penalised" by a number of obstacles.

At the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Committee, he said some are obstacles that affect everyone but others particularly affect those returning to rural areas.

He said: "We need to simplify the process of getting car insurance, buying [a] house, getting education for our children, returning to family farms, getting electricity, getting health insurance."

He cited difficulties in getting car insurance, as after between two and five years motorists lose their no claims bonus.

There are also difficulties with obtaining a driving licence. He pointed out that if somebody is coming back after being away for 10 years they have to "start from scratch" and get L plates and do their driving test again.

A Californian driving licence is not recognised in Ireland while a Canadian licence can be exchanged for an Irish one, he said.

Staunton said returning emigrants have difficulty opening bank accounts, as you have to have utility bills in your name.

"It is easier for an illegal to open a bank account in America than it is if they return home," he said.

Staunton added, "You cannot get a credit rating as your U.S. credit rating is not recognised in Ireland."

Citing issues with people wanting to



IRISH LOBBY for Immigration Reform Chairman Ciarán Staunton said that those returning home now find themselves "penalized."

return to farming, he said, "Michael Davitt, the founder of the Land League, would not be considered eligible to go farming at the minute."

He asked, "Who is looking after the 300,000 people who were on the Census in 2006 and disappeared?"

The Mayo native said the people who went away in the 1980s and came back in the 1990s and were credited for helping to start the Celtic Tiger did not go through these issues.

He said, "There is a complete lack of empathy from government agencies as to the plight of returning citizens.

"Showing compassion would help, so would setting up a one-stop shop and letting people know about it – where one department could help our returning citizens would be more than helpful.

"Staffing that department with people who are returning citizens would be more than helpful, after all isn't that what we deserve?," he added.

Meanwhile CEO of Safe Home Ireland said some elderly Irish emigrants who want to return home to spend their final years in Ireland do not get that opportunity.

Karen McHugh told the committee that "unfortunately for our cohort of over sixties, they want to come back to die and that's quite sad because some don't get back to die. They get back unfortunately to be buried."

Based in Mulranney, Co. Mayo, Safe Home Ireland was set up in 2000 to help older Irish emigrants to return to their own counties.

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The thrill of watching Man U win the Europa League just two days after devastation of Manchester bombing



ONE of the highlights of the year for our music columnist Steve Edge was the thrill of being in the stands in Stockholm, Sweden in May to see Manchester United win the Europa League – two days after the Manchester bombing. He says, “It was an incredible experience!”

By STEVE EDGE

The Europa League (and its predecessors, the Inter Cities Fairs Cup and the UEFA Cup) was the only trophy Manchester United had never won.

I’ve been a United fan since the 1963 FA Cup Final when Scotsman Denis Law scored a fine goal and I was hooked!

Fast forward to 2017, a raft of trophies won under Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Matt Busby (two more Scots) and I’m in Vancouver watching the quarter final first leg in Anderlecht. 1-1. Decent result. Away goal.

I receive an e-mail from UEFA, inviting me to enter the lottery for tickets for the Final.

My mate Steve Fisher (ex-pat Mancunian living in Victoria) suggests we both apply.

He’s never known anyone “winning” the lottery, but what the heck?

A few days later UEFA e-mails me again. They have charged by credit card for two tickets!

Really good seats, too. United win the second leg 2-1 after extra time.

The tension mounts. Semi final away to Celta Vigo in Spain.

United dominant but only win 1-0. Second leg at Old Trafford, we go 1-0 up but it’s very nervy.

They equalize five minutes from the



end. If they score again we’re out.

Last kick of the game their centre forward misses a sitter five metres out.

Crikey! Talk about nerves! Now I have to buy a plane ticket.

I arrived in Stockholm two days before the final.

The day after the Manchester bomb. Such a horrible tragedy, that.

Manage to find a place to stay after my travel agent had accidentally booked me a room in May 2018 instead of 2017! I feel very lucky.

Next night I meet up with Steve and a pub full of singing United fans in the old town.

The Liffey, one of several Irish pubs in the city. It’s raucous, loud, and amazing!

Mancs defiant and refusing to bow to terrorists.

Outside the police are out in force. Some on horseback. All armed. They are laughing and joking with the United fans.

Their demeanour changes to ultra-serious when faced with a mean looking “firm” of Ajax Amsterdam fans, looking for trouble. They coral them away

from the pubs.

We carry on singing and celebrating. And the game is still 24 hours away! What a great night.

Another sunny day greets me as I board the train from Alvsjo in the south to Solna, north of the city.

Some of my mates are staying at the Winery Hotel close to the stadium.

Sweden’s only boutique winery. They grow their grapes in Tuscany and make their excellent wine – and superb pizza – on the premises.

I head up to the roof bar to await Steve and the rest.

The terrace starts to fill up with Ajax fans. I’m wearing United gear, but I’m not giving up my table!

Eventually the Victoria Reds arrive and we enjoy some more sunshine and drinks before meeting up with Barry and Birgitte – good (United) friends from Denmark.

We walk to the stadium, expecting massive security. There are plenty of police on hand, but they are quietly efficient as they search everyone heading inside.

What a great stadium! 50,000 capacity. With a retractable centre section in the roof.

Our seats are on the 18 yard line at the United end. The Ajax fans are in early and in great voice.

United banners are all over the place, but our end is relatively empty.

Some were saying United couldn’t give away tickets after the bombing.

I had my doubts. United is the best supported club in the world.

Sure enough, as kick off approached, the United end was full. And loud!

What a great atmosphere! We scored after 18 minutes, a deflected shot by Paul Pogba, the most expensive footballer on the planet.

It was a tense game, because United are famed for doing things the hard way. 1-0 at half time. We scored right after the interval.

Going to be tough for this young Ajax side to recover now, but United went on the defensive and it was tense.

We always looked like scoring on the break, though.

The United fans were getting louder, then the final whistle sounded.

Cue total bedlam! Such celebrations I have never witnessed before. What an adventure!

Even better than scoring a ticket just before last year’s FA Cup Final and seeing United win that trophy. (Mind you, I was in amongst the Crystal Palace fans that time, and couldn’t celebrate too openly!).

We stayed in Stockholm for the next few days, proudly wearing my United cap and being congratulated everywhere I went!

A fabulous trip to a fantastic city and a treasure trove of great memories!

Terrorism cannot win. United can, though!

Onward and upward to Champions League and – I hope – more trophies! Maybe another exotic adventure or two awaits.



STEVE EDGE selfie atop The Winery Hotel in Solna, Sweden’s only boutique winery. Match Day - Friends Arena is on the right.



AN INCREDIBLE scene at the United end at Friends Arena in Stockholm. The tension and the excitement is wild.



THOUSANDS of Manchester United fans crowd the Friends Arena in Stockholm prior to match.

2017 Irish Open held in Northern Ireland

Former Minister for Communities Paul Givan says that getting the Irish Open to come back north of the border is an excellent boost for tourism in Northern Ireland.

Portstewart has just finished hosting another successful tournament, following in the footsteps of Royal Portrush in 2012 and Royal County Down in 2015, as 92,534 spectators descended upon the links course.

And Givan, who attended the event says it’s great to see it doing so well when it does make the journey across the border. “Getting it back initially was a big thing, firstly to Portrush in 2012 and then Newcastle and now Portstewart,” he said.

“Maintaining that cycle of Northern Ireland getting its fair share of the Irish Open is something that’s very important and something that the Executive were very keen to secure.

“It’s a fantastic experience, Portstewart is one of the jewels in the crown of Northern Ireland golf.

“The fans came, the atmosphere was good and we’ve been treated to a fantastic spectacle with some of the scores shot by the players.”

This is the final time Northern Ireland will host a tournament of this magnitude before the big one – the 2019 Open Championship, which will be held at the Dunluce Links at Royal Portrush.



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The major Lions talking points as a Welsh hero is voted Player of the Series by team-mates

NOBODY was happy with the outcome, but Warren Gatland and his players with the British and Irish Lions rugby team deserve massive credit for holding the world champions.

Warren Gatland and his 2017 Lions will leave New Zealand with the tourists' reputation firmly restored following a drawn series against the world champions.

It finished in contentious fashion in what was one of many talking points from a gripping contest that was locked at 15-15 at the close.

Scarlets centre Jonathan Davies couldn't have imagined things could have gone better than they did in Australia four years ago, but the Bancyfelin favourite, the man popularly known as Jon 'Fox', has been arguably the Lions player of the series on this trip.

He has made the No. 13 jersey his own since the win over the Maori, giving the tourists an attacking threat in the outside channel and also shutting down the doors on the All Blacks' three-quarter line.

At the start of the season, Davies, following his arrival home from Clermont Auvergne, was struggling to command a starting spot at the Scarlets, but was sensational in the Guinness PRO12 title run-in and raised the bar again on tour.

If ever a player has embraced the power of the Lions shirt it has been Davies and he will return to West Wales having established himself as one of the best outside centres in the game. He has been named Players' Player of the Series and is surely the front runner to take the official Player of the Series award.

They were on the cusp of history, so close to joining the legends of 1971 as All Black conquerors, yet even though Warren Gatland's class of 2017 failed to join those icons on the Lions roll of honour, they deserve huge credit for what they have achieved on this trip.

They were up against a New Zealand side who have been in imperious form since being crowned world champions in 2015, a side stacked with audacious attacking talent and hailed as one of the best the game has seen.

Add in the crazy build-up which saw a number of players involved in domestic finals just a week before the opening tour match as well as a brutal schedule featuring all the Super Rugby franchises and you get an idea of the mountain Sam Warburton and Co have climbed in the land of the long white cloud.

BRITISH & IRISH LIONS

Afterwards, emotions were difficult to gauge, but when the dust settles on this epic trip, you can guarantee the Lions will be feeling a lot happier about the result than the All Blacks.

The future of the Lions has been questioned in the global calendar, but there has been an energy and vibrancy that has built over the last six weeks, with the travelling fans adding a splurge of colour wherever they have gone.

Try telling those 30,000 that turned Auckland and Wellington into a sea of red, that the Lions shouldn't have a prime slot in rugby's new world.

The headlines will be dominated by that final decision by referee Romain Poite, when he decided on 'accidental offside' and a scrum as opposed to a full penalty against replacement Ken Owens.

The Frenchman originally awarded the penalty, but after being urged by captain Sam Warburton to check with the TMO for Liam Williams being taken out in the air by Kieran Read, Poite downgraded to a scrum, much to the amazement of the Kiwi skipper.

It is a decision that will be dissected to the last detail over the coming days,



PHOTO: David Davies/PA Wire

BRITISH AND IRISH LIONS' Sam Warburton and New Zealand's Kieran Read lift the Series Trophy after the series is drawn during the third test of the 2017 British and Irish Lions rugby tour at Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand.

particularly in the New Zealand media.

There were other big calls made by Poite that were open to debate.

Warburton was unfortunate to be penalised for an early turnover; Kyle Sinckler will argue against the penalty given against him at scrum in front of his own posts in the second half - there were a couple of scrum decisions in key positions on the field that could have gone a different way; Owen Farrell nailed a penalty after a borderline high

challenge by Brodie Retallick, while a number of Kiwi fans were also unhappy with Jerome Kaino's yellow card for his hit on Alun Wyn Jones.

But all those were eclipsed by the one in the 79th minute.

In matches of such tight margins, it was always going to come down to a big call by the referee and so it proved.

The Legend of Cú Chulainn One of the most famous Irish mythological heroes

Cú Chulainn is one of the most famous Irish mythological heroes. He appears in the stories of the Ulster Cycle, and Scottish and Manx folklore.

He was said to be the son of Deichtine and the god Lugh, and the nephew of Conchobar mac Nessa, the King of Ulster.

His given name at birth was Setanta but he gained the name Cú Chulainn, meaning 'Culann's Hound' after he killed a ferocious guard dog belonging to a smith named Culann.

In atonement Cú Chulainn offered to take the place of the guard dog until a replacement could be reared.

The stories of Cú Chulainn's childhood, which date back to the Ninth Century, are many.

It is said that as a small child, he had asked incessantly to be allowed to join the boy-troop at Emain Macha (today known as Navan Fort in County Armagh, Northern Ireland).

According to the legend, he sets out on his own, and eventually runs onto the playing field at Emain, unaware of the custom of asking for protection.

The other boys see this as a challenge, and attack Setanta, but he beats them all single-handedly as he carries the trait of 'ríastrad', in which he undergoes a sort of distortion, becoming an unrecognizable monster who knows neither friend nor foe.

King Conchobar put a stop to the fight. In the next part of the story, Culann the smith invites Conchobar to his home for a feast.

At this point, Conchobar is so impressed by Setanta that he asks him to join the dinner. Setanta is unable to attend right away, but promises to join them at Culann's house later.

However, Conchobar forgets, and Culann lets loose his ferocious hound to protect his house.

On arrival at their house, Setanta is forced to kill the guard dog in self-defense. Culann is devastated at the loss of his guard dog and Setanta feels so bad that he offers to rear a new one, and to guard Culann's house until the new dog is ready to do so.

When Cú Chulainn is seven-years-old, he overhears a druid named Cathbad teaching pupils at Emain Macha.

Cathbad states that any pupil who takes arms that day would have everlasting fame. Desiring everlasting fame, Cú Chulainn goes to King Conchobar to ask for arms.

Conchobar gives Cú Chulainn many arms to try, but none can withstand Cú Chulainn's strength until finally Conchobar gives him his own arms.

Unfortunately, Cú Chulainn did not listen to Cathbad's full prophecy, and he was unaware that a pupil who took arms that day would have everlasting fame, but a short life.

As Cú Chulainn gets older, he decides he would like to take Emer, daughter of Forgall Monach as a wife.

However, Forgall is opposed to this, and tells Cú Chulainn that he should train with Scottish warrior-woman, Scáthach.

Forgall's true intent is that Cú Chulainn

will be killed.

While Cú Chulainn is gone, Forgall offers Emer to Lugaid mac Nóis, a king of Munster, but when the king learns that she loves Cú Chulainn, he refuses to take her hand.

Scáthach teaches Cú Chulainn all the arts of war. His fellow trainees include Ferdiad, who becomes Cú Chulainn's best friend and foster-brother.

During his training with Scáthach, Cú Chulainn comes to face Aife, Scáthach's rival.

Although the two are evenly matched, Cú Chulainn eventually seizes Aife, and demands that she bear him a son.

While Aife is pregnant, Cú Chulainn leaves Scotland, and returns to his love Emer, but Forgall still refuses to allow the marriage.

Enraged, Cú Chulainn storms Forgall's fortress, kills 24 of his men, abducts Emer, and steals Forgall's treasure. Forgall falls to his death.

King Conchobar fears the marriage of Cú Chulainn and Emer, because Conchobar has the "right of the first night" over all marriages and is afraid of Cú Chulainn's reaction if he sleeps with Emer.

On the other hand, Conchobar will lose all his power and authority over his subjects if he doesn't. The druid Cathbad suggests that Conchobar sleep with Emer, but Cathbad sleep between them.

After eight years pass by, Cú Chulainn's son by Aife, Connla, comes to find him. When Connla refuses to identify himself, Cú Chulainn kills him.



STATUE of Cú Chulainn carrying his friend Ferdiad after the battle in Ardee, Co. Louth, Ireland. Ferdiad was Cú Chulainn's best friend and foster brother. They fought in a grueling three day battle with Cú Chulainn finally overpowering and killing Ferdiad.

As Connla dies, his final words are that he and Cú Chulainn could have "carried the flag of Ulster to the gates of Rome and beyond," leaving Cú Chulainn grief-stricken.

Several years pass, and Cú Chulainn rides out to face a group of men who have conspired to kill him. They are all sons of men he had killed.

On his way, he encounters three one-eyed hags eating a feast of roast dog. They invite him to join them.

Cú Chulainn had several gessa, which are self-declared taboos which, if broken, would lead to his inevitable downfall.

Two of his gessa were to never eat dog meat, and to never refuse hospitality. At this junction, he has no choice but to break one of his gessa.

He takes one bite and places the bone under his thigh. The hand he used and his thigh are immediately weakened.

Cú Chulainn continues on his journey, and is eventually killed while fighting his conspirators.

When he received his fatal wound, he tied himself to a pillar so he would die standing and facing his enemies.

As the prophecy foretold, Cú Chulainn had reached fame but died at a young age.

The Celtic Harvest: Journey from Summer into Autumn

LUGHNASADH (pronounced loo' na sadh) is the feast which marks the journey from summer into autumn. Historically, it was widely observed throughout Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. Originally it was held on the first of August, or about halfway between the summer solstice and autumn equinox.

From now, the days will begin to shorten more rapidly and it's time to get the crops harvested and brought in safely – into the cool, dark storehouse of our inner selves.

For rural Celts, harvest was the most critical time of the year, and there were many superstitions and protective practices.

It is also a traditional time of weddings, but there is a sadness held in these days of harvest and sunshine.

Perhaps it is a shared sadness with the cutting down of the grain, which has grown all summer.

Special ceremonies accompanied the cutting of the first and the last sheaf, a number of ways being employed to select the person to do it.

In many western European communities there was a tradition of helping one's neighbour with farming tasks like harvesting.

Farmers in an area would co-ordinate their schedules so that a combined labour force was available to all, such as the wheat-reaping party.

Collaborating families exchanged gifts, and harvest suppers might include beef, mutton, potatoes, and mashed turnips.

In Irish tradition, Lughnasadh was a celebration in honour of the Celtic sun god, Lugh.

The autumn harvest festival is a time of celebration when farmers bring their bounty to market.

It is a time of dancing, singing, music, and storytelling.

This period is also called Lammas in

England, and heralds the coming autumn. It is during this time between Lammas and the autumn equinox that we see the theme of the god's sacrifice coming into being.

The god must die and merge with the earth in order for the harvest to be plentiful. In the Celtic tradition, Lugh's decline toward his sacrifice is celebrated; his death is not celebrated until the autumn equinox.

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. [Genesis 8:22]

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot and hoar frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, mouths fed.

And, as your good earth rests through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by spring's first touch.



PHOTO: Alamy

AERIAL VIEW of a Bronze and Iron Age hillfort in the civil parish of South Cadbury in the English county of Somerset. Cadbury Castle is a scheduled monument and has been associated with King Arthur's legendary court at "Camelot".

Every ancient hill fort in the UK and Ireland in new online database

EDINBURGH – Locations and details of all the thousands of ancient hill forts found across the landscapes of the UK and Ireland have been mapped in an online database for the first time.

Hill forts were mostly built during the Iron Age, with the oldest dating to around 1,000 BC.

A team of researchers, with the help of citizen scientists, has spent five years sifting and recording information on all the hill forts across England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and the Isle of Man.

They have discovered there are 4,147 such ancient sites, ranging from well-preserved forts to places where only crop marks and remnants show where they once stood.

Information on all the hill forts has been collated onto a website that will be freely accessible to the public, including on their smartphones, so they can discover details of the ancient sites they see in the countryside, the team said.

Professor Ian Ralston from the University of Edinburgh, who co-led the project, said, "Standing on a windswept hill fort with dramatic views across the countryside, you really feel like you're fully immersed in history."

"This research project is all about sharing the stories of the thousands of hill forts across Britain and Ireland in one

place that is accessible to the public and researchers."

Professor Gary Lock from the University of Oxford said it was important the online database was freely available to researchers and others, such as heritage managers, and would provide the baseline for future research on hill forts.

He added, "We hope it will encourage people to visit some incredible hill forts that they may never have known were right under their feet."

The research reveals that nearly 40 percent of all the hill forts across the UK and Ireland are found in Scotland, with 408 hill forts located in the Scottish Borders alone.

In England, Northumberland leads the way with 271 hill forts, while in the Republic of Ireland, Mayo and Cork each have more than 70 sites.

Powys is the county with the most hill forts in Wales, with 147, and in Northern Ireland, Antrim leads the way, with 15.

Hill forts were mostly built during the Iron Age, with the oldest dating to around 1,000 BC and the most recent to 700 AD, and had numerous functions, some of which have not been fully discovered.

To access the website, visit: <https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk>.



HARVEST TIME, Lambourne Berks by Henry Hillier Parker [1858 1930, UK]

'Tonight I fear not the Vikings', An Early Irish Poem

*'Bitter is the wind tonight
It tosses the ocean's white hair
Tonight I fear not the fierce
warriors of Norway
Coursing on the Irish sea'*

[A translation by Kuno Meyer]

This anonymous poem is written in the margins of an Early Irish manuscript that now resides in the monastery of St. Gall in Switzerland.

Most likely dating from around 850 AD, the text may have been compiled in a northern Irish monastery such as Nendrum or Bangor (both in Co. Down).

In a just a few, short words it conveys the sense of dread that was permeating through Irish monastic communities in the 9th Century AD.

During this period Viking raids were an ever present danger and the Irish Annals record numerous attacks on monasteries.



In such a climate of fear and uncertainty, it is not difficult to understand why a monk would wish for stormy seas and a respite from ship borne assaults.

*'Is acher ingáith innocht.
fufuasna faircggae findfolt
ní ágor réimm mora minn
dondláechraid lainn oua lothlind'*
[The original Irish text of the poem]



THE IRISH PRISCIAN manuscript of St. Gallen written in Irish scriptorium around 845.

About the Artist - Henry Hillier Parker

Henry Hillier Parker was born in London, England in 1858 and was based there for most of his life. He specialised in picturesque pastoral landscapes in oils often featuring farming subjects – such as harvesting and haymaking – river and coastal landscapes, and traditional rural buildings. Much of his painting was done in the counties of southern England.

He studied art at St. Martins School of Art and later at one of the Royal Academy schools. He worked for a time as an illustrator for the *Illustrated London News*.

Though a popular and successful artist, he never featured in any major national exhibitions during his lifetime, and not much is known about his life. Parker also painted under the names H.D. Hillier or H. D. Hillyer.