

the celtic connection

ISSUE 26 VOLUME 6

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE



AFTER nearly three decades, Galway are the 2017 All-Ireland hurling champions as they edged out a spirited Waterford side in a memorable final in Croke Park on Sunday, September 3.
[Read more on page 23]

**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE GRAND OPENING
OF DONNELLAN'S IRISH PUB IN VANCOUVER....
IT WAS A NIGHT OF MORE THAN ONE BEGINNING**
[Read more on page 12]



THOMAS [TOM] O'FLYNN [1934-2017] who passed away in Vancouver this summer will be remembered for his legendary hospitality by friends far and wide. He set off on his final journey on Wednesday, July 19. He has been described as a *Fíor Gael*, a genuine Irishman, and he will be greatly missed.
[Read more inside on pages 16 & 20]

WIN FREE TICKETS

Win a pair of tickets to see The Gloaming concert at the Chan Centre at UBC on October 15. (See page 5 for more details). Mark your entry 'Gloaming'. Entry by September 23.

You could win a \$100 gift certificate to Black Pudding Imports in Langley as they celebrate their 18th anniversary in business. Check out their weekly sales on Facebook. (See page 9 for more info). Mark your entry 'Black Pudding'. Entry by September 23.

Entries by E-mail only. Mark the name of the event on your entry, including your name and daytime telephone number. (Only one entry per person). Send to: cbutler@telus.net.



SAMHAIN BLESSINGS – 'Dreaming of Journeying Into Her Depth' – by Wendy Andrew.

[Read more about the artist on page 2]



PHOTO: Ann O'Reilly

AFTER just three years in existence, the Fraser Valley Gaels won the USGAA Intermediate Football Championship at GAA Treasure Island Field in San Francisco on September 3. Founding club member Eoin McCloskey, who was once Derry's number one goalkeeper, flew in from Ireland especially for the event. Under his guidance the team formed in 2014 has gone from strength-to-strength, winning awards and Western Canada championships along the way. As soon as McCloskey, who moved back home earlier this year, learned the team had made it to the finals weekend there wasn't a chance he was going to miss out on it. [See page 22 inside]

The Banshee: Ireland's messenger of death

THE MYSTERIOUS banshee or bean sidhe is a fascinating creature we encounter in Irish mythology.

Throughout history and across cultures there are stories and myths of beings that forewarn of human death. In Ireland these frightening beings were known as the banshees.

From Irish folklore we learn that whenever you heard the thin scream of the banshee, you knew death was around the corner. The sound of their voice was prophetic.

The Irish do not believe the banshee causes death, but merely warns of it.

The banshees were Celtic death messengers and although it is unknown precisely when stories of the banshee first were told, they can be traced back as far as the early Eighth Century.

The physical descriptions of the banshees vary somewhat. In most cases, it is said the banshee is a woman with long, red hair and very pale skin.

According to other accounts on the other hand, it is an older woman with stringy, gray hair, rotten teeth and fiery red eyes.

She is often depicted with a comb in her hair and this has led to an Irish superstition that finding a comb on the ground is considered bad luck.

Apparently the banshees were also shape-shifters that could take on any form, much like the goddesses of Celtic folklore and the Greek gods who were also shape-shifters.

Other forms of the banshee include the bean nighe and the washer woman, both more attributed to Scotland than Ireland.

According to legends, the bean nighe was a ghost woman who died during childbirth and would be seen wearing the clothes of the person about to die while the washer woman is dressed like a countrywoman and is cleaning bloody rags on a river shore.

Sometimes a banshee will perch on a windowsill like a bird, where she'll re-

main for several hours or even days – until death comes to call.

Often, as the banshee escapes into the darkness, witnesses have described a bird-like fluttering sound. Thus, many believe that the Banshee is a birdlike creature.

The banshee tradition is widespread throughout Ireland and nearby islands. The Gaelic terms used most frequently to describe the banshee are the "bean-si" (a female dweller of a sidhe, or fairy mound), the "bean chaointe" (a female keener, a term found in east Munster and Connaught) and the "badhb" (referring to a more dangerous, frightening bogey).

Although "bean-si" implies an Otherworld or fairy being, the banshee is a solitary creature without male counterpart who never partakes in communal human or fairie social enterprise.

In Christianity, the banshee was regarded as a devil who wails for the souls that are lost to her as they ascend to heaven, or that they are familial guardian angels or souls of unbaptized children or even the souls of women who committed the sin of pride in life.

Some researchers have suggested that the banshee could be linked to the mystical race Tuatha De Dannan.

The true origin of the Tuatha De Danaan is unknown. The name means literally "the folk of the god whose mother is Dana."

These fabled Irish gods appeared one day, on the first of May (Beltane) out of nowhere.

According to some of the earliest sources, the Tuatha de Danaan came from the skies. The Tuatha De Danaan landed in a dense cloud on the top of Sliev-an-lerin, the Iron Mountain in the County Leitrim.

Although the existence of the banshee is based on ancient myths and legends, there are still people who report seeing and hearing this mysterious creature lurking around before she disappears into a cloud of mist. When she vanishes, a fluttering sound like a bird flapping its wings is heard.

Mortal Call and Natural Disaster Foretell the Coming of Samhain

A

s I write this, hurricanes, nuclear armaments, earthquakes, terrorism, species extinction, and moral vacuity rock this small blue planet.

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

Suffering seeps from the pages of world mythology.

Suffering, in some philosophies, is seen as a path toward enlightenment or divinity.

But such beliefs are a ruse meant to placate when overwhelming sorrow, pain, and devastation suggest only two options meaning, or meaningless suffering.

One is a gift to the soul and the other is the consequence of donning human flesh.

The tricky part comes when people try to make one option, or the other, work entirely.

Human life is the third of them, the perspective that all life has meaning, even as it is extinguished, and that suffering without meaning is guaranteed at birth.

The third way brings about words like nobility, courage, stoicism, and especially, grace.

Mythology, like history, is written by the side that wins.

Yet it carries the inextinguishable anguish, symbolism, and footprint of those who lived through the times that became the tale.

Darkness on the land, kingdoms under pestilence, marginalized women or men who set out on a dim path, with no human company, seeking to find, or to lose.

Along the way, in mythology and folklore, the supernatural usually intercedes, help is offered, insight is provided, and the new wisdom leads to different outcomes that might otherwise have been had.

In life, sometimes wisdom does intercede and sometimes it does not.



It is the way of things in an existence where nothing is guaranteed, nor is anything necessarily as it seems.

Samhain, on October 31, is fast approaching.

Watchwords of the season include disintegration, instability, transformation, and chaos.

Marking the end of a year and a season, Samhain usually punctuates the year by disruption the type that sets the foot of myth or folk character to the path.

But in our season, we are already enveloped in life-threatening disturbance, from within and without.

The warning of the bean-sidhe, or woman of the sidhe, the banshee, competes with the howling wind and is unheard.

The bitter hammering of politics, pollution, and indecency no longer catch human attention in fact many, already overwhelmed, turn away.

Inured to horror, our attention and our times cannot really be punctuated by disruption, because it is already relentless and ongoing.

In a season heated with racial intolerance and creeping levels of greenhouse gases, what disruption could this season offer that could make a difference add, instead of distract, and move us toward mythic purpose, and away from human uselessness?

A single mammoth sunflower stands silently in a garden that probably has a few too many weeds.

The garden lacks not for fall flowers to feed remaining bees and other visitors, even as the days grow cooler.

A volunteer, the sunflower never gained a lot of height about human size. It picked its spot months ago.

The prickly thick stem is solid and carries drying green leaves tattered by wind and voracious insects.

Its brilliant yellow head, at least a foot across, glances toward its feet, weighed fully down by dark, plump, sunflower seeds packed tightly in every ridge, waiting harvest by the birds of winter.

The sunflower appeared unbidden, and stands patiently to offer food when it is needed most.

When freeze kills what is left of its tissue, it will still provide, in every seed as it passes, nutrients and a whiff of a summer breeze, sighing leaves, and clear moon-filled nights.

It is not words that will save us, it is wonder.

Find it somewhere, in the wild, or the wild at heart, during the day when a sunbeam illuminates just so, or at night when the moon does the same.

A smile, a silly moment amidst devastating conditions, wonder can be found sometimes where you least expect it.

Amid the disruption, nature quietly goes to ground at Samhain.

The Celtic winter begins on November 1. Gather in, sink down, hang on until the seed finds the right conditions to start anew.

ABOUT OUR COVER ARTIST

WENDY ANDREW LIVES, dreams and paints in the beautiful mystical countryside of Southern England. She has been a professional artist for over 20 years and her work has been published internationally.

Her paintings are inspired by the ancient mysteries that are wrapped in the turning of the seasons, and the voice of The Goddess whispering through the mythical realms.

To order images by Wendy and see more of her paintings please visit her website at: www.paintingdreams.co.uk. You can contact Wendy by e-mail at: info@paintingdreams.co.uk.

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

ISSUE 26 VOLUME 6 - Established in 1991

#452 - 4111 Hastings Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6T7

Tel: (604) 434-3747 • www.celtic-connection.com

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

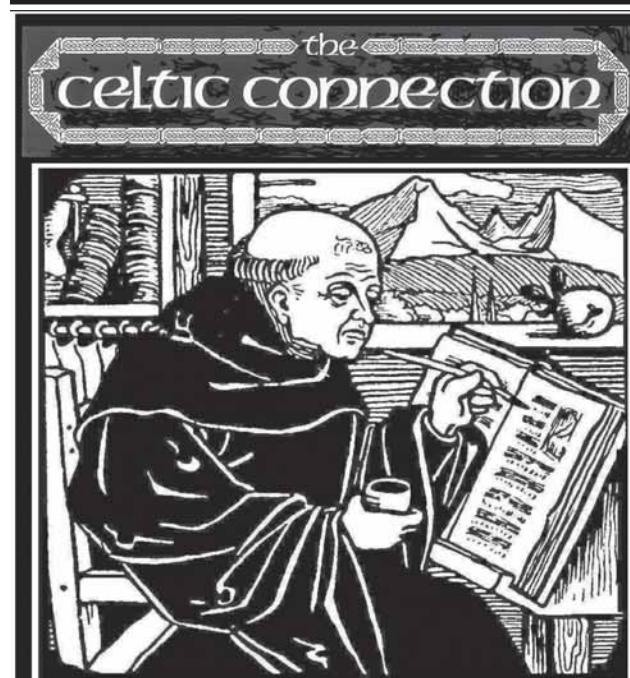
Catholine Butler - Advertising - • E-Mail: cbutler@telus.net

Colleen Carpenter - Copy Editor • Ainsley Baldwin - Ad Production

Distribution: Arlyn Lingat • Allison Moore • Linda Robb • Frank Dudfield in Surrey • Eifion Williams in Burnaby & Coquitlam • Laurie Lang in Coquitlam • Joanne Long in Mission • Bill Duncan in Maple Ridge • Deirdre O'Ruaric in White Rock • Nanci Spieker and Heather Murphy in Seattle • Oliver Grealish in Edmonton.

Published 7X per year. Unsolicited submissions welcome but will not be returned. Please retain a copy for your files. Contents copyright 2017 *The Celtic Connection*. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the publisher but rather a reflection of voices within the community. All correspondence must include a name, address and telephone number.

Canada Post Canadian Publications Agreement 40009398



STAY IN THE CELTIC CIRCLE
Read The Celtic Connection
www.celtic-connection.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Subscription Rates:
Canada.....\$35/year
U.S.....\$50/year
Overseas.....\$80/year

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Prov/State: _____

Postal/Zip: _____

Country: _____

PLEASE RETURN
COMPLETED FORM
with your cheque or M.O.
to: The Celtic Connection
#452 - 4111 Hastings Street,
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6T7 CANADA
To pay by VISA or Master Card,
call (604) 434-3747

Shock and heartbreak as monument to Rideau Canal workers smashed

"We don't mind people touching the monument; we think they can do that. But recognize that this is a marker, that this is for a thousand workers and their families who lost their lives."



THE STONE BASE is all that's left at the site of the Celtic Cross dedicated to the memory of the workers that died building the Rideau Canal.

OTTAWA – A Celtic Cross erected in remembrance of more than 1,000 predominantly Irish labourers who died during the building of the Rideau Canal has been broken into several pieces.

The monument, located between the Bytown Museum and the Château Laurier overlooking the canal in Ottawa, was knocked off its pedestal and smashed into four pieces on Monday, August 7.

"It just breaks my heart," said Sean McKenny, president of the Ottawa and District Labour Council (ODLC), which worked to raise the \$18,000 cross.

He said it appears the monument was damaged accidentally, as a result of carelessness rather than vandalism.

"We don't mind people touching the monument; we think they can do that. We certainly want them to come down and see it, that's why it's there," he said. "But recognize that this is a marker, that this is for a thousand workers and their families who lost their lives."



THE MONUMENT was first unveiled in 2004 in remembrance of more than 1,000 predominantly Irish labourers who died during the building of the Rideau Canal.

McKenny says the number of people who have come forward, offering to help pay for repairs, is heartwarming, but he said the cross is covered by a warranty.

"We do have a warranty on it," he said. "It won't be able to be put back together, but a monument company has told me that, in a couple of months, it will be recast and put up again."

All of the pieces, excluding the granite base, have been collected by Parks Canada.

McKenny said that at this stage, Campbell Monument – the company that erected the cross – has told him it believes the base of the cross could be used to rebuild a new monument but that the top would need to be rebuilt.

"The other three pieces can't be put back together," said McKenny.

The monument was first unveiled in 2004. The inscription at its base reads "In Memory of the 1000 workers & their families who died building this canal 1826-1832."

New sign at Duffy's Cut where 57 Irish railroad workers died in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA – History is being righted at Duffy's Cut ...185 years later.

A new sign with the true identity, cause of death, and date of the incident has now been put in place.

It reads: "At this site, known as Duffy's Cut, fifty-seven Irish immigrant railroad workers from the Counties of Donegal, Tyrone, Derry and Leitrim died of cholera and murder in the summer of 1832."

It was the summer of 1832, when Philip Duffy, a railroad contractor, hired 57 Irish immigrants on the docks of Philadelphia.

They were to fill in a ravine near present-day Malvern so rails for a new track could be laid. They began their task, but only six weeks later all 57 were dead.

History blames a cholera outbreak, but cholera generally only has a 50 percent death rate. Local legend claims that some, if not all, were murdered.

The locals at the time had a high prejudice of Catholicism and of immigrants.

Whatever happened to them, they were quickly buried in a shallow ditch with no ceremony.



DUFFY'S CUT is now marked with a new sign at site where 57 Irish railroad workers were buried without ceremony in 1832.

Railroad officials never notified the workers' relatives of their deaths, and they later burned the shantytown.

In the 1870s, a small fence was set up around what people thought was the mass grave site. It turned out to be the wrong spot.

By 1910, it was discovered that at least part of the grave was now under the tracks. Some time prior, the railroad had the track reset.

Papers reporting the deaths of the workers were found in the 1970s, hidden in a vault.

The events at Duffy's Cut were almost completely lost to history. The area didn't even get a historical marker until 2004.

A marker is at the intersection of King and Sugartown. A few blocks away is the mass grave, which is currently being examined by archaeologists.



IRISH NEWCOMERS' INFORMATION AND NETWORKING SEMINAR

When: Saturday, Sept 30, 2017, 2 – 5 pm
Where: UBC Robson Square, HSBC Hall (C680)
800 Robson St, Vancouver

Free networking seminar for all Irish newcomers; learn from an HR specialist about job hunting, changing your Irish CV into a Canadian resume, information interviews and tips for finding a job. Network with established members of the Irish community; make new friends and pick up other useful tips about settling in Vancouver. Social gathering afterwards (location TBA).

To register for this free seminar, go to www.surveymonkey.fr/SeminarSept30

More info: Go to entry on Sept 30 at www.irishinvanancouver.com/whats-on.html
Sponsored by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Program



PW Trenchless Construction Inc.

DON'T DIG IT !!!

LET
PW SPLIT IT!!!

11618-130th Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 2Y3
Ph. 604 580 0446 Fax 604 589 4698

e-mail: david@pwtrenchless.com



UPCOMING EVENTS:

ALL IRELAND FOOTBALL FINAL

**Sunday, September 17
DUBLIN VS MAYO
Throw up at 7:30 AM**



Donnellan's are the FIRST ever bar to show the GAA for FREE in Canada

1081 Granville Street
Vancouver
(604) 564-4277
www.donnellansirishpub.com
www.facebook.com/DonnellansIrishPub

'We Need Your Support More Than Ever This Year!'

VANCOUVER – It's been a long, hot, and smokey summer. We've taken in some amazing festivals, and we're now ready to move back indoors to the ever-improving confines of St. James Hall for the **Rogue Folk Club's** new concert series!

For the past two months **Rob Nelson**, **Peter Bennett**, and a few erstwhile volunteers have been working away on the interior of the hall, making improvements to the stage and storage facilities.

Meanwhile, City of Vancouver workers have replaced the aging roof tiles – and added eight centimetres of insulation (we wonder why nobody thought of doing this when the hall was built!).

They have also added three ventilation funnels to the roof. The fans and grills are on backorder, but we are assured that they will be installed and operational before the end of September.

The effect of the insulation is already apparent! There have been a few events in the hall in between work parties, and in previous years the temperature inside would have been unbearably hot.

Even without the ventilation fans, the room is appreciably cooler on a hot day.

By the end of the year the hall will have a new dance floor, and hopefully cushioned and secured pews on risers and on the balcony, new folding chairs, and definitely new and improved lights and sound equipment!

Concerts start **September 7** with a sold out concert featuring **Birds Of Chicago**, and Newfoundland's amazing trad singer **Matthew Byrne** the following night.

By the time this paper hits the streets legendary American blues singer **Maria Muldaur** will have made a long-awaited return to Vancouver for a show at The Rio Theatre (**September 13**) and the next Rogue event at St. James takes place on **Friday, September 15** with B.C.'s incredible stringband **The Bills** celebrating their 20th anniversary with a concert.

The following Monday, California fiddler/singer **Laurie Lewis** brings her fine band **The Right Hands** – now featuring **David Grisman's** son, **Sam**, on guitar.

Then Canadian folk icon **Garnet Rogers** comes to town for what he says will be his final concert in the west (**Saturday, September 23**).

Garnet will not fly, and for the past 40 years or so he has driven across this continent many times to play concert halls, coffee houses and festivals – at first with his late brother, Stan, and since 1983 as a solo performer.

As you can imagine, he has a few tales to tell from those road trips, and he has just published his memoir, *Night Drive - Travels With My Brother*.

We just received 100 copies to sell at the show – which we expect will be another sell-out, so don't miss this last chance to see the big man out west – and have him sign this book for you.



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB

We finish September with a concert by **Early Spirit**, a quartet led by **Spirit of the West** founding member Jay Knutson, joined by the brilliant B.C. fiddler **Gabriel Dubreuil**, bassist **Will Ross**, and drummer **Ben Kelly** (son of another SOTW founder, **Geoffrey Kelly** of **The Paperboys** and **Irish Rovers** fame). This show takes place at St. James on September 29.

The following week, Canadian guitar wizard **Don Ross** returns to The Rogue (October 5) bringing with him the amazing young Alberta guitarist/songwriter **Calum Graham** – who was in excellent form at last month's **Edmonton Folk Festival**. For Rogue concert info, please visit www.roguefolk.com.

Speaking of festivals, we managed to catch one day at the **Harrison Festival of the Arts** back in July, with an outdoor performance by First Nations cellist **Kris Derksen** and an indoor show by Cape Breton's wonderful Celtic band, **Coig**, who released their second CD, *Rove*, that same week.

There is some wonderful fiddling all over this album, as you might expect, with **Chrissy Crowley** and **Rachel Davis** in superb form.

Pianist **Jason Roach** and multi-instrumentalist **Darren McMullen** contribute some excellent playing and Darren adds a great arrangement of Peter Gabriel's *Solsbury Hill* to this fine CD.

The band were in stellar form that night. Too bad they couldn't stick around in B.C. for some more festivals. We'll just have to bring them back for a concert then.

The **Vancouver Folk Music Festival** celebrated its 40th anniversary in July.

Far and away the best performance I have EVER witnessed at the VFMF was given by **Rhiannon Giddens** and her excellent band on the Friday night.

She seemed to cover every possible genre of Americana – and do it better than any of her predecessors!

Channelling the spirits of Ella Fitzgerald, The Carter Family, The Balfa Brothers, Patsy Cline – and the much more alive Aretha Franklin – Rhiannon prowled the stage with banjo, fiddle, guitar and that oh so amazing voice and just nailed everything! What a performance.

Tough to follow that, but **Billy Bragg** did a fine job.

The rest of the weekend could not possibly live up to such high standards, for me, but I had a great time listening to the likes of French blues trio **Delgres**, Swedish trio **Ellika Solo Rafael** (albeit, much too briefly), Scottish pipe and fiddle band **Rura**, Basque combo **Korrontzi** (although I would have preferred just the accordion, mandolin and tambourine without the overbearing bass and drums), Boston singer **Aoife O'Donovan** with banjo whiz **Noam**

Pikelny, and the rousing finale with **Ferron** and **Roy Forbes** in inspired – and not just nostalgic – form.

We then spent two days at the **Mission Folk Festival's** 30th anniversary. I missed Mission last year, and was a bit shocked to see it so much smaller than in past years.

Having two stages side by side is a novel idea, but the lack of down-time between alternating acts makes it a little hard to relax and enjoy the amazing ambience of the site and the vendors.

It's also a bit hard on the MCs – well, on me, anyway – who have to extro one band and intro the next in the same breath.

Highlights included **T Nile**, **Valdy**, and American jug band **Crow Quill Night Owl**.

The best news is that they have pretty much retired the festival debt and I look forward to seeing a more expanded line up again next year (he says, hopefully.)

We also managed to take in one night at **Harmony Arts** in West Vancouver, with **Birds of Chicago** in brilliant form.

Nice venue at Ambleside Park, and some inspired programming. It seems like a relaxed and very enjoyable festival. Must take in some more next year!

Then we were off to Edmonton for another fantastic weekend at the Rolls Royce of Festivals – the **Edmonton Folk Festival**.

There was lots of Celtic music to be found there, including Ireland's inimitable **Four Men & A Dog**, and Cape Breton's **Finest** (**Ashley & Wendy MacIsaac**, young **James MacMaster** and co).

Wexford-born PEI-based singer **Irish Mythen** delivered the most incredibly impassioned rendition of *The Auld Triangle* I've ever heard! What a voice she has!

The new Celtic "supergroup" trio of **Michael McGoldrick**, **John McCusker**, and **John Doyle** was even more amazing!

Mancunian McGoldrick has recently bought a house in Galway and has added a recording studio wherein he has already produced two superb CDs this year – one by this new trio, and one by another "supergroup" – *Usher's Island* (McGoldrick, with Donal Lunny, Andy Irvine, John Doyle, and Paddy Glackin).

I'm still awaiting delivery of the trio CD, but *Usher's Island* is getting plenty of airplay on *The Edge On Folk*.

Rhiannon Giddens gave another superb set, Welsh singer **Martyn Joseph** was in great form, and former **Wolfstone** fiddler **Duncan Chisholm** – with piper **Jarlath Henderson** – and Geordie band **The Unthanks** were also amazing.

Scots singer **Paul McKenna** was in great form too. And that was just the trad. tip of the iceberg at this fabulous festival.

Huge thanks again to Dubliner **Terry Wickham** and his crew for making this the highlight of my summer every year without fail!

This summer has also seen the launch of a new volume of *Acoustic Classics* by English guitar luminary Richard Thompson, and another epic body of work from Irish-Norwegian-American songsmith Tom Russell (*Folk Hotel*).



B.C.'S INCREDIBLE stringband The Bills celebrate their 20th anniversary with a concert at St. James on September 15.



CALIFORNIA fiddler/singer Laurie Lewis brings her fine band The Right Hands to The Rogue Folk Club on Monday, September 18.



CANADIAN folk icon Garnet Rogers comes to town for what he says will be his final concert in the west on Saturday, September 23.



EARLY SPIRIT plays The Rogue at St. James on September 29. The quartet is led by Spirit of the West founding member Jay Knutson, who is joined by B.C. fiddler Gabriel Dubreuil, bassist Will Ross, and drummer Ben Kelly (son of another SOTW founder, Geoffrey Kelly of The Paperboys and Irish Rovers fame).

Newfoundland's **Matthew Byrne** launched his third CD, *Horizon Lines*, last month – as good a collection of songs from The Rock as you could wish to hear – and brilliantly sung, too!

American string quartet **Kronos Quartet** collaborated with Mali's **Trio Da Kali** (who play St. James Hall on **October 6**) to record the superb CD *Ladilikan* and they also teamed up with singers **Rhiannon Giddens**, **Olivia Chaney** and **Sam Amidon** to make an album of trad. music called *Folk Songs* – which is absolutely fantastic!

Ms. Chaney also fronts a band called **Offa Rex** (most of whom also play in **The Decembrists**) and made a stunning album called *Queen Of Hearts* – which pays homage to the likes of **Steeleye Span** in bringing *Child Ballads* right up to date here in the 21st century.

Pride of place amongst the new releases this summer though goes to Eng-

lish guitarist/singer **Martin Simpson**, whose new CD *Trails & Tribulations* is quite superb.

New songs like *Maps*, *Ridgeway*, and *Dancing Shoes* sit alongside impassioned renditions of trad classics *Reynardine*, and *Willy O'Winsbury*, and then there's **Emily Portman's** transformative *Bones & Feathers*, **'Uncle John' Cohen's** *Dillard Chandler*, and even **Presley's** *Heartbreak Hotel*!

Scintillating stuff – just make sure you get the deluxe version!

You can hear some of this music on my radio show *The Saturday Edge On Folk* every Saturday from 8 AM to noon on CiTR fm 101.9 and www.citr.ca.

See you at **The Rogue**! We need your continuing support more than ever this year.

Slainte
Steve

Famed Irish Supergroup Returns to the Chan Centre at UBC

VANCOUVER – The Gloaming made its Canadian debut in 2014 and was met with overwhelming praise.

This October will see the quintet's much-anticipated return to Vancouver as part of the 2017/18 Chan Centre Presents series at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC.

Formed in 2011, The Gloaming is an extraordinary collaboration of five musicians – each a distinguished soloist in their own right.

Leading the group is six-time All-Ireland Fiddle champion Martin Hayes. Musical innovator Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh plays the handanger fiddle.

On vocals is sean-nós singer Iarla Ó Lionáird who has mastered the 'old style' singing technique, used to tell stories of rebellion, emigration and loss.

Joining them are Chicago guitarist Dennis Cahill and New York pianist Thomas Bartlett (aka Doveman) who, together with their peerless technique bring The Gloaming's reels and jigs to new and exhilarating heights.

While most of the musicians are trained in traditional Irish music, what they create together goes far beyond the reaches of tradition and into other genres including jazz and contemporary classical.

The Gloaming immerses audiences in the pure beauty of Gaelic folk tunes transformed through their own distinct, modern interpretations.

"These artists combine their considerable talents to create some of the most haunting, lush, gorgeous music that never fails to touch me on a deep emotional level," says Joyce Hinton, Co-Managing Director of the Chan Centre.

"What an incredible first impression they made on us back in 2014; we can't wait to welcome them back. I can say that the combination of their music and the Chan Centre's incredible acoustics is truly a perfect match."

Since the beginning, The Gloaming received rave reviews for their international live performances as well as their 2014 debut album entitled simply *The Gloaming*.

The group is now celebrating their latest album, 2, described by *The Guard-*



THE GLOAMING immerses audiences in the pure beauty of Gaelic folk tunes transformed through their own distinct, modern interpretations. The band made its Canadian debut in 2014 and was met with overwhelming praise.

ian as "an exquisite album from a virtuosos band." It is considered a level above even their previous release, as "hours of playing together since then has honed the work" (*Independent.ie*).

When The Gloaming played at the Chan Centre last, they astonished and captivated local audiences.

The "dreamlike and haunting" performance which *The Ubyssy* described simply as "unlike anything you might have heard before," gathered widespread praise and won the group a brand-new city of fans.

This October's performance promises a similarly transformative display of unparalleled musicianship and desire to push boundaries.

In addition to the concert itself, Martin Hayes will conduct a fiddle masterclass

as part of the Chan Centre Connects programming.

This already sold-out workshop will explore bowing techniques, melody interpretation, variations, and improvisation in traditional Irish music with intermediate and advanced students – a memorable way to learn about the tradition of Irish music-making.

The Gloaming perform at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC (6265 Crescent Rd.) on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 7 PM. Tickets start at \$46 and are available at www.chancentre.com. There will be a pre-show talk with group leader and fiddle player Martin Hayes directly before the performance at 6:15 in the Chan Centre's Royal Bank Cinema. Entrance into the pre-show talk is free for The Gloaming ticket holders.



HÒ-RÒ at this year's Hebridean Celtic Festival.

Man in court after award-winning Scottish band's van set on fire

GLASGOW – Scots folk band Hò-rò are left shattered after a firebug torched their tour van with their instruments inside on September 6.

The award winning group say they are "heartbroken" after their gear was wrecked in the blaze on Copland Road in the Govan area of Glasgow.

A man has appeared in court charged with setting the fire. Stephen Campbell (47) is alleged to have wilfully set fire to two vehicles including the one belonging to the band.

It comes just days before they were due to perform, a series of high profile gigs.

In 2014, the trad-band won the Danny Kyle Award at Glasgow's Celtic Connections and the One Step Further Award at the Western Isles' Hebridean Celtic Festival.

Earlier this year, Hò-rò played at the Belladrum Tartan Heart Hebridean Celtic festivals.

They have vowed to play on after support from other performers who have offered the loan of instruments.

In a statement to fans they said, "We are absolutely heartbroken. Last night somebody broke into our van and set it on fire. We have worked very hard to get where we are at the moment. We saved up as much as we could to buy the van and good equipment so that we could get as good a sound as possible.

The group's fans were quick to lend their support as a fundraising page called 'Helping Hò-Rò' was quickly set up by gig promoter EPL Events. So far, it has raised over £7,300 of a £10,000 target.



Rogue Folk Club

Celebrating 30 Years of the best Celtic & Roots!

www.roguefolk.com

Friday, SEPTEMBER 15

BC string quintet celebrate their 20th anniversary with amazing songs and spirited medleys

The Bills

Monday, SEPTEMBER 18

Hot Bluegrass and Beyond from California fiddler / singer and her hot band (w. Dave Grisman's son!)

Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 23

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

Garnet Rogers

Friday, SEPTEMBER 29

Jay Knutson revives songs and tunes from the early days of Spirit of the West with a fine band led by fiddler Gabriel Dubreuil

Early Spirit

Thursday, OCTOBER 5

An evening with two brilliant Canadian guitar wizards: one making his 26th appearance at The Rogue, the other making his first

Don Ross & Calum Graham

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

St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Ave.)

Tickets & Info (604) 736-3022

Celt In A Twist

Canada's Contemporary Celtic Radio

download weekly at

www.worldbeatcanada.com

Sundays @ 4pm, AM 1470, CJVB Vancouver



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

1. *Welcome to Adamstown* by Flogging Molly - *Life is Good* on Vanguard Records.
2. *Rusheen Bay* by Sharon Shannon - *Sacred Earth* on Celtic Collections.
3. *Drums of Chelsea* by The Go Set - *One Fine Day* on ABC Music.
4. *Blackleg Miner* by Offa Rex - *Queen of Hearts* on Nonesuch.
5. *Isumgavappingga* by The Jerry Cans - *Inuusuqu* on Aakuluk Music.
6. *All the Bright Blossoms* by Merry Hell - *Bloodlines* on Merry Hell Music.
7. *Seileach* by Cassie & Maggie - *The Willow Collection* on Independent.
8. *Mise Fhuair* by Mary Ann Kennedy - *An Dán* on ARC Music.
9. *Le Ruban Bleu* by Melisande - *Les Millelimes* on Borealis.
10. *Sequences* by Runabay - *EP* on Independent.

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
The Go Set - One Fine Day (ABC Music)



"Magic... free, unforced and deeply moving in every sense" - *Irish Times*



SUN OCT 15 2017 / 7PM

The Gloaming

CHAN CENTRE AT UBC

Tickets and info at chancentre.com



Canada

THE GLOAMING

Varadkar joins Trudeau to march in Montreal pride parade

MONTREAL – Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar joined Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Montreal last month when the two leaders walked together in the city's annual pride parade.

Varadkar is Ireland's first openly gay leader and he became the first foreign head of government to march in a pride parade with a Canadian prime minister.

In a news release, the Prime Minister's Office said Justin Trudeau and Leo Varadkar would continue discussions from July, when the two leaders met for the first time in Dublin.

Those talks will focus on the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which comes into effect on September 21, and issues related to diversity and inclusion.

While Trudeau and Varadkar share similar political views – they both support international co-operation, free trade and diversity – their countries' laws take opposing positions on a controversial debate currently facing the Irish population: abortion.

Abortion is legal in Canada. In Ireland, it is only allowed if a woman's life is in danger. Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights called on Trudeau, who has publicly supported a woman's right to choose, to raise the abortion issue with Varadkar, who has described himself as "pro-life."

"With the Irish prime minister coming to Canada, there is a really great opportunity to talk about women's rights, reproductive rights and access to abortion," said Meghan Doherty, global



CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, with Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar at the Montreal Pride Parade on Sunday, August 20.

policy and advocacy officer at the pro-choice charity.

"The [Canadian] prime minister's stance... could be quite persuasive with the Irish Government to encourage them to be progressive, to respect women's rights and to be seen as the modern country that it is."

Varadkar has pledged to hold a referendum in spring 2018 on whether to repeal the eighth amendment of the Irish Constitution, which forbids abortion even in cases where the fetus was conceived through incest or rape.

Abortion carries a prison term of up to 14 years in Ireland, forcing many women to go to great lengths to access the service, including travelling to countries where it is legal.

On his visit to Canada, the taoiseach also attended a business breakfast in Toronto hosted by Enterprise Ireland and the Toronto Ireland-Canada Cham-

bers of Commerce.

He met with a number of companies including small and medium-sized businesses supported by Enterprise Ireland and CETA was a major topic of discussion during those meetings.

Vivian Doyle-Kelly, president of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce in Montreal, said both governments understand the importance of the trade deal.

"There are tremendous opportunities for increased business between Ireland and Canada. Both of the economies are dependent on international trade."

Canada and Ireland share strong economic ties. Bilateral trade was valued at \$2.4-billion in 2016, putting Ireland as Canada's 10th-largest trading partner in the European Union.

More than 4.5 million Canadians claimed Irish ancestry in 2011, making the Irish-Canadian community one of the largest ethnic groups in Canada.

Taoiseach plans to increase Irish diplomatic missions overseas

TORONTO – Taoiseach Leo Varadkar is exploring ways to boost links between Canada and Ireland and he announced plans during a three-day visit here in August.

Speaking at an Enterprise Ireland event in Toronto, Varadkar pledged to double Ireland's diplomatic and trade forces abroad by 2025.

He set out how the government will unveil a plan to "double Ireland's global footprint", as Ireland tries to overcome challenges faced by Brexit.

The plan, which is being put together by Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney, will see a doubling of agency strength in some diplomatic areas, he said.

This means new and augmented diplomatic missions and as well as significantly increased resources for investment, tourism, cultural and food agencies overseas.

Varadkar highlighted how Ireland was under-represented in major economies and regions globally. This included not having a full embassy in New Zealand and no permanent consulates in Los Angeles or Mumbai in India. There was also no IDA office in Canada, he said.

Varadkar said the move to ramp up Ireland's presence in new regions was partially a response to Brexit but also global demographic changes.

During his speech, he told business leaders in Canada, "Enterprise Ireland client exports reached EU21.6 billion in 2016, up more than six percent year on year.

The taoiseach spoke about the importance of CETA – the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement – which comes into effect this month.

This result is that more than 98 percent of the tariff barriers to trade between Canada and the EU, including Ireland, will be removed.

This will help unlock the enormous untapped potential for greater trade and investment between Ireland and Canada.

The taoiseach said, "Notwithstanding our strong competitiveness and vigorous economic growth, Ireland today faces undoubtedly the greatest set of political and economic challenges in a generation, as a result of Brexit. Now is the time to plan ahead with ambition."

At the end of 2016, IDA Ireland had 28 Canadian companies employing over 3,100 people. Canadian investment in Ireland is estimated today at C\$14 billion while one in seven Canadians claim Irish ancestry, a higher percentage than the United States.

Canadian residence in Dublin is haunted, ambassador says

"The ghosts of a nation sometimes ask very big things, and they must be appeased, whatever the cost."

OTTAWA – It's the perfect setting for a spooky story: Glanmire House, nestled in an old part of Dublin, and the former home of one of the leaders executed after the 1916 Easter Rising.

Now the official Canadian residence in Ireland, Ambassador Kevin Vickers says the elegant home is haunted.

The ambassador, whose relatives are descendants of Cork emigrants, was appointed to Ireland in January 2015 – believes his official residence is being haunted by the ghost of Pádraig Pearse.

Kevin Vickers, who made headlines when he rugby tackled a protestor to the ground during a 1916 centenary commemoration service, thinks the spirit of the 1916 leader lives on in the elegant setting of Glanmire House.

The ambassador describes hearing unusual bangs, laboured breathing and heavy footsteps in the residence's halls in a recent social media post.

"Ghosts. I never believed in ghosts. Until I arrived here," he said.



THE CANADIAN residence in Ranelagh, Dublin, where alleged paranormal activities are occurring.

Vickers is not easily spooked. The former sergeant-at-arms of the House of Commons, who spent 29 years in the RCMP, was hailed as a hero in 2014 when he shot dead a gunman who had opened fire on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

When he moved into the Ranelagh home, Vickers heard rumours Pearse had once lived there. After extensive research he discovered documents signed by Pearse to lease the grounds between 1908 and 1912.

"I wonder if it is he who walks the hallways," Vickers wrote on Facebook, where he has nearly 5,000 friends. "Some evenings he or she seems agi-

tated. Then days go by and all is quiet."

According to the BBC, Vicker's maid Anna is sometimes nervous to go upstairs. Vickers said that if anyone doubts "the validity of this story, you are welcome to come and stay a night or two here."

Interestingly, one of Pearse's last written works was an essay called "Ghosts."

In the preface, he wrote, "Ghosts are troublesome things in a house or in a family. There is only one way to appease a ghost. You must do the thing it asks you. The ghosts of a nation sometimes ask very big things, and they must be appeased, whatever the cost."



TD Securities chooses Dublin for EU trading hub post-Brexit

TORONTO – Toronto-Dominion Bank has picked Dublin for its expanded trading hub inside the European Union in preparation for Britain's departure from the economic bloc.

The bank's TD Securities unit plans to establish a bond-trading business there, subject to regulatory approval, according to a statement on the Irish development agency's website.

A unit of Canada's largest lender by assets already has a fully licensed operation in the Irish capital, where it has been operating for more than 20 years, and has an office in London.

Dublin is the second most popular destination – after Frankfurt – for financial-services companies seeking unin-

terrupted EU access post Brexit.

The city provides a low-tax English-speaking location and has similar laws and regulations to its UK neighbour. Barclays Plc and Bank of America Corp. have also settled on the city for their new EU hub.

"This is a great win for Ireland as we seek to deepen and expand the range of financial-services companies who are investing in Ireland," said Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in Toronto, where he was concluding a trade mission in late August.

"As we face into the challenges of Brexit, we are determined to pursue and seize new opportunities and investment projects from key companies worldwide."

Ireland submits bid to host Euro Banking Authority post Brexit

DUBLIN – The Irish Government has made formal bids to host two agencies that will be relocated from the UK after Brexit.

Ireland's Department of Health and Department of Finance are competing against other EU countries to offer a new home to the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), currently based in London's Canary Wharf.

The banking and medicines agencies employ just over 1,000 staff between them.

Bids from the two departments to host the agencies have been submitted to the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union.

"Ireland's offer to host the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has today been submitted to the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union," the Department of Health confirmed.

The department said that Dublin meets all of the criteria necessary to successfully host the EMA and presents an attractive option for the staff of the agency to relocate to.



THE EUROPEAN Banking Authority is now based at One Canada Square in Canary Wharf, London.

Minister of State for Financial Services and Insurance Michael D'Arcy said a relocation to Dublin would be the least disruptive move for the EBA and its staff.

Around 20 countries, including Dublin, Frankfurt, Luxembourg, Paris, and Prague, are among the cities that are understood to be keen to host the agencies.

They are all competing to attract the agencies' highly skilled employees, their families and the business that comes with them.

This includes 40,000 hotel stays for visitors each year.

The banking and medicines agencies are seen as the first spoils of Brexit by the 27 remaining members of the EU.

"The fact that the United Kingdom has decided to leave the European Union has resulted in significant disruption and uncertainty.

"For the EBA, its staff and their families, a move to Dublin is the least disruptive option," said D'Arcy.

He added, "Our transport links to Europe, our culture, language and skilled multilingual education workforce make Dublin an attractive destination ahead of other potential locations.

"Given the economic and strategic benefits for Ireland, we are making a strong proposal which includes incentives to support the relocation of the EBA and the establishment of a Relocation Group to aid the relocation of the Authority."

D'Arcy said the EBA's relocation to Dublin would further raise the country's profile as global leaders in the financial services sector.

The European Commission will assess the entries based on the quality of office space, job opportunities for spouses and transport links.

A final decision on the relocation is due to be made in November.

PLANNING A CELEBRATION OR GROUP EVENT?

MEMORIES
ARE MADE AT
MAHONY & SONS
It's all about the Craic!

*Craic (KRAK) is an Irish term for enjoyable time spent with great company.

At Mahony & Sons you will find hearty and healthy dishes using fresh local produce and with the finest selection of ales, beers, wines, whiskies and of course the best Guinness poured this side of the Atlantic.

IRISH
SUNDAYS
\$6 Irish Pints (20oz)

Our locations, environment, our people, entertainment, our food and drinks, all the perfect mix to make Mahony & Sons your first choice for your next event.

HAPPY
HOUR
Mon - Fri 3-6PM

Mahony & Sons™

BURRARD LANDING | STAMPS LANDING | UBC

Instagram Facebook Twitter @mahonyandsons

www.mahonyandsons.com

**DOOLIN'S
IRISH PUB**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
NIGHTLY**

**VISIT DOOLINS.CA FOR THE
FULL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE**

654 NELSON STREET, VANCOUVER | 604-605-4340 | @DOOLINS | MUST BE 19+

HEART & CROWN

IRISH PUBS

**SERVING OTTAWA'S IRISH
COMMUNITY FOR 25 YEARS!**

**Aulde Dubliner & Pour House
62 William St.**

**Heart & Crown ByWard Market
67 Clarence St.**

**Heart & Crown Barrhaven
3161 Strandherd Ave.**

**Heart & Crown Preston Street
353B Preston St.**

HEARTANDCROWN.PUB Facebook Twitter Instagram



The oil and gas industry still supports more than 300,000 jobs across the UK but that is 150,000 less than the peak in 2014, according to the Trade body Oil & Gas UK's annual report.

UK oil job losses 'worse than expected'

ABERDEEN – The number of job losses in the UK oil and gas sector was worse than expected last year, a major report has said.

Trade body Oil & Gas UK's annual report said 60,000 direct and indirect jobs were lost across the industry in 2016, more than the 40,000 it had predicted. The report said the sector could lose another 13,000 jobs in 2017.

However, it suggests that while some companies are still reducing headcount "the largest reductions may now be behind us."

The oil and gas industry still supports more than 300,000 jobs across the UK but that is 150,000 less than the peak in 2014, the report said.

According to the trade body report, "There are tentative signs that investor confidence is starting to return to the sector."

It highlights the fact that almost \$6 billion (£4.6 billion) was invested in UK continental shelf assets and acquisitions in the first half of 2017.

According to the report, the current low level of exploration activity "remains a serious concern" as it is vital to replenish production with new development opportunities.

Elsewhere in the report, Oil & Gas UK modelled scenarios for the impact of Brexit on tariffs for the oil and gas industry.

The report said Brexit could cost the industry £1.1 billion a year if the UK was unable to negotiate new trade deals and reverted to WTO rules. It said this would be an "unhelpful" additional cost.

Oil & Gas UK chief executive Deirdre Michie said, "There are still serious issues facing our industry which has suffered heavy job losses since the oil price slump. But we are hopeful that the tide is turning and expect employment levels to stabilise if activity picks up."

Michie said the sector was successfully re-positioning itself through efficiency and cost improvements.

"Although we are getting to a much better place, we still need further investment to generate new activity and sustain hundreds of thousands of UK jobs," she said.

A spokesman for the Scottish Government said oil prices had been "recovering from their previous low levels" and there had been "some improvement in investor sentiment," but acknowledged it was a "challenging time for the industry and the workforce."

He added. "We are focused on creating a competitive and supportive business environment and promoting innovation throughout the supply chain – however, it is the UK Government that retains control of the key taxation levers affecting the sector, and that must take the action needed to incentivise investment to protect jobs."

New Scottish Novel Anticipated the John A. Macdonald Debate

EDINBURGH – This year's all-too-brief sojourn to sunny Vancouver was bookended by the great naming debate.

Just before I turned for Scotland and its bleak September winds ensuing, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario passed a resolution urging school boards across the province to consider removing John A. Macdonald's name from public schools.

By the time I landed at Glasgow airport – a few miles from where Macdonald was born – the issue of un-naming or renaming had sparked a furious debate across Canada.

Coincidentally, I reviewed a book just before I left Scotland which anticipated the Macdonald furore.

The review was of a novel entitled *macCloud Falls* by Scottish author Robert Alan Jamieson who lives in Edinburgh but is originally from Shetland.

Jamieson's protagonist Gilbert Johnson is an antiquarian bookseller from Edinburgh who, like his creator, also has connections to Shetland.

Gil, as he is commonly known, travels to British Columbia to research a migrant Scot called James Lyle who he thinks he is related to.

To that end, he takes a Greyhound bus from Vancouver to the B.C. interior and hikes into a secret valley in the hope of discovering the cabin where Lyle lived with his first wife, a member of the Nlaka'pamux nation.

It's soon clear that Lyle is a version of John Teit (or Tate), a real-life migrant Scot who married a Nlaka'pamux woman and became fluent in several First Nations languages.

Teit was born on the Shetland Islands and migrated in 1884 to Spences Bridge in British Columbia's Fraser Canyon.

He initially helped manage a store on an estate owned by his uncle, John Murray, an enthusiastic renamer who called a local mountain after Edinburgh's Arthur's Seat (now Art's Ass to some irreverent Canadians).

Murray grew fruit and his orchard became famous for Grimes Golden apples when it was under the care of a Widow Smith.

Teit eventually worked with anthropologist Franz Boas and was an advocate for First Nations' rights in British Columbia, acting as a bridge to white officialdom.

When Canadian Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier visited Kamloops in 1910, he prepared the declaration that asserted land rights on behalf of the Secwepemc, Okanagan and Nlaka'pamux nations.

His Nlaka'pamux wife was Susanna Lucy Antko and they lived together for 12 years until her death in 1899.

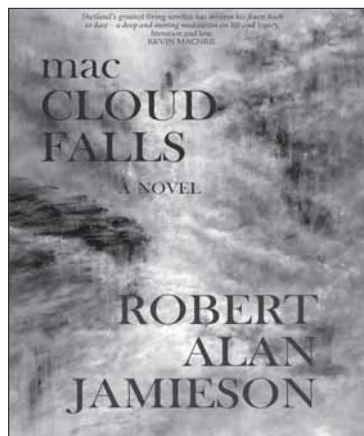
Gil is keenly aware of the naming issue and writes in his journal about the right to name, the language of power, the dominant narrative.

With the help of an elder and a young Nlaka'pamux woman, he comes to understand this and learns to read First Nation silences rather than depend on the voluminous written testimonies that Scots tended to leave behind.

It's here that the story, at least by implication, intersects with the Macdonald kerfuffle. Teit/Lyle is the kind of Scot



SIR JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONALD [January 11, 1815 – June 6, 1891] was the first prime minister of Canada [1867–1873, 1878–1891].



ABOVE (L) A NOVEL entitled *macCloud Falls* by Scottish author Robert Alan Jamieson. (R) THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND statue overlooking Golspie and Sutherland from top of Ben Bhraggie in the Scottish Highlands.

sometimes used to assuage colonial guilt.

The argument goes is that some Scots settlers were more sympathetic to the First Nations and more prone to intermarriage than others in the British colonial project and that this somehow atones for Scots like Macdonald who, whatever other qualities he had, was the architect of the assimilationist Indian Act and the residential school system.

It is very much to Jamieson's credit that he understood the naming issue so well on the back of a handful of Creative Scotland-funded research trips to B.C.

It's also – belatedly – to Canada's credit that something that has bubbled under the surface for so long is finally being publicly debated.

Some years ago I travelled across Canada on a Scottish Government project visiting towns named for places in Scotland such as Inverness, Banff, Calgary, etc.

It was only when I arrived in Mount Currie, B.C. that I fully realized the other side of the story.

Mount Currie is named for a Scot who intermarried and many of the people there are Wallaces because, as I was told, they were renamed by an Indian agent acting for the Canadian Government.

The removal of their real names begat the loss of everything else, including their culture and their children.

One of the things Jamieson's protagonist discovers on his quest is that Scotland's connections to Canada are not just historical, they affect the way Canada functions today.

This too has been raised in the Macdonald debate.

Now that it is out the bag the naming debate will continue, as it should.

And the Scots who, as the title of at least one book would have it, "built Canada" might be particularly exposed because as they built it they named it too.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of towns, municipalities, buildings, mountains, rivers and, as in Jamieson's book, waterfalls across the country that have names derived from Scotland.

Two weeks ago I was on Cortes Island which is part of the traditional territories of the We Wai Kai, Kwiakah, Homalco, Klahoose and Sliammon First Nations.

A friend who was raised there showed me middens formed since time immemorial.

Yet, the toponymy of the island is defined by the Spanish conquest of Mexico and by the first settler Michael Manson who, by another coincidence, was from Shetland.

It seems likely that Macdonald won't be the only individual Scot under scrutiny.

Already, there's talk of James McGill's connection to the slave trade and what the implications are for the university named for him.

The entire debate seems to have been ignited by the U.S. one around Confederate statues which has taken a more complex form in Canada.

Here in Scotland, there's many a Glasgow street named after tobacco lords with a connection to the slave trade and no shortage of monuments to dubious Empire figures, but the only sign of activity so far is a revived interest in pulling down the Duke of Sutherland's statue from the top of Ben Bhraggie.

He is the best known of the Highland clearers and his statue is a reminder of how some Scots got to Canada in the first place.

Welsh Society of Vancouver upcoming events Fall 2017

VANCOUVER – The Welsh Society of Vancouver has announced a number of upcoming events at the Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue in Vancouver.

Wednesday, September 13 – 3-5 PM – Welsh classes at the Vancouver Welsh Society are free and all are welcome.

Classes are designed for all levels of Welsh learners, and beginners are always welcome at any point in the term. Classes will be held every Wednesday for the term through to November 15.

Wednesday, September 20 – 10:30 AM – The Welsh Genealogy Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM in the Red Dragon.

Wednesday, October 18, at 10:30 AM – the Genealogy Group will host a special guest speaker, Diane Rogers, in the Red Dragon (entrance at the rear of the building via the lane).



CAMBRIAN HALL

She will give a talk on the subject of DNA. All are welcome.

Diane will be providing handouts, so organizers need to know the number of attendees (you are invited to bring a laptop if you wish).

If you plan to attend, please e-mail Carole Smythe at csmythe@telus.net.

‘Potential for chaos’: Welsh port fears post-Brexit customs delays

CARDIFF – The Welsh port of Holyhead faces “chaos” if a hard border is introduced between the UK and Ireland, with the shipping industry and local politicians warning of lorries carrying perishable goods queueing for miles while they wait for customs clearance.

Holyhead, on Anglesey, is the busiest roll-on-roll-off port in the UK after Dover, with 400,000 trucks a year passing through on the way to and from Dublin.

A report by the Welsh assembly on how Brexit could affect ports in Wales says customs delays could have an unwelcome impact, while the route’s two ferry operators, which have previously remained silent on Brexit, told an assembly committee of their concerns for Holyhead.

Irish Ferries said it feared a reintroduction of customs checks could lead “UK plc” to quickly grind to a halt, while Stena Line said any custom or border checks could disturb the whole business model for the “open port” of Holyhead.

The assembly’s external affairs and additional legislation committee called for transition arrangements to protect Welsh ports.

It said it was extremely concerned at the lack of talks between Britain and Ireland over the issues facing all Welsh ports – including Pembroke, Fishguard and Milford Haven.

The committee also expressed concerns



AROUND 400 trucks arrive off two ferries in a space of 15 minutes at Holyhead ferry terminal. If there were checks, congestion would be a daily occurrence.

that electronic checks, often touted by politicians as a means of enabling swift passage across EU borders after Brexit, would not provide a solution.

That is a fear shared by the UK Chamber of Shipping (UKCS), which represents 140 shipping companies.

“It doesn’t matter if it is a pole across the road or a cyber barrier, the point is that the passage of trucks out of the port is on someone’s say so,” said Tim Reardon, its director of policy.

Welsh assembly members heard that more than 70 percent of Irish cargo comes through Wales, including produce from Northern Ireland, because it offers the quickest route to the UK for exporters of perishable goods.

They fear that traffic to Wales from the

Republic of Ireland could “leak” to the Northern Ireland-Scotland route if the land border on the island of Ireland does not involve customs checks.

Reardon said the problems Holyhead faced post-Brexit were worse than those at Dover because of ferry schedules designed to get fresh produce to Dublin or Holyhead before dawn for onward distribution to supermarkets across Ireland and the UK.

Industry leaders have already warned that Brexit could choke roads around the Kent port, through which 2.5 million lorries pass each year. Holyhead’s traffic is smaller, but Brexit could overwhelm the town.

“When the ferries arrive the problem is more acute than Dover because the traffic arrives in pulses unlike Dover where it is a steady stream,” said Reardon.

“When the two ferries arrive together you have 400 trucks coming off in 15 minutes: There is simply not space in the terminal for all to park and wait for someone in a yellow jacket to say whether you can either proceed or not. It is particularly acute in Holyhead.”

The local Labour MP, Albert Owen, said the prospect of a hard border needed urgent government attention.

“Everyone is talking, quite rightly about the hard border between [Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland] and that is hugely important because of the Good Friday Agreement, but the Common Travel Area between Wales and Ireland is hugely important because of the scale of business,” he said.

Owen pointed out that there was already gridlock in Holyhead when weather did not permit sailings or when there was a problem on the bridge to mainland Wales.

“Traffic backs up very quickly. If there were checks, congestion would be a daily occurrence.

“If you have two ferries in at once, the queue could be seven kilometres,” he said. “There’s potential for chaos, and there’s potential for restrictions for companies that need to get to the market quickly.”

The UKCS believes the only way to avoid disruption is for the UK to stay in the EU customs union.

“This is not a port issue, this is a state issue. The government created the problem for the country, it is the state that is toying with the idea of interrupting the supply chain, it’s their problem, they have to solve it.”

Guardian Angels

Ascending from the spiritual realm, our Guardian Angels appear in many forms to guide and protect us. We are never alone.



Celtic Creations

Lonsdale Quay | North Vancouver
604 903-8704 www.CelticCreations.ca



Happy Halloween
from the

CELTIC TREASURE CHEST

U.K & Irish Food & Gift Imports

We have **Halloween** themed sweets and chocolates, from Cadbury, Candyland, Swizzels and more!

All October, **crisps sale**—mix and match any 10 small bags for an additional **20% off** (on top of existing in-store discounts).

5639 Dunbar St. Vancouver (604) 261-3688
celtictreasurechest.com

f t i

Are you .Scot yet?

.Scot is the domain name for the worldwide family of Scots

It’s now available for individuals, groups and businesses connected to Scotland



TO FIND OUT HOW TO BECOME A .SCOT VISIT
WWW.DOTSCOT.NET

IRISH & UK SWEETS
GROCERIES - GIFTS - SPORTS
All your favourites from back home...

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
#107 - 20353 64TH AVE
LANGLEY, B.C V2Y 1N5
604 532 1223

Visit us online at
BLACKPUDDINGIMPORTS.CA
Find us on Facebook!

Johnnie Fox's IRISH SNUG

1033 GRANVILLE
WWW.JOHNNIEFOX.CA

...time well spent.

Open Daily
at 11:30am

For More Information
www.johnniefox.ca • 604.685.4946

Brexit negotiations now underwayand not going terribly well

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH

By
ELFAN
JONES



Greetings from foggy Bournemouth. The weather had been glorious up until the day all the schools closed for the summer holidays.

Since then it has been miserable and I truly admire the determination, the sheer grit, of holidaymakers.

The kids who have been on the beach, in swimming costumes with buckets and spades, while their parents sit on canvas chairs, huddle in their Kagools, grimly watching on.

The occasional maniac has been seen running into the sea, but I think there is a special home for them.

Despite the weather all the carnivals, county shows, country shows, and festivals have carried on as usual, and this weekend saw the tenth annual Bournemouth Air Show with half a million spectators.

The weather was kind for three of the four days, and the wonderful Red Arrows, the Royal Airforce Flying display kicked off the proceedings with breathtaking manoeuvres.

Sadly all flights on the last day had to be cancelled because of strong winds, heavy rain and poor visibility, but there were still thousands of people on the beach and lining the cliff top, determined to have a good time, optimistically watching the clouds for some sign of improvement.

I suppose having now witnessed ten Bournemouth Air Festivals the thrill wanes a little and this year the event that impressed me most was the Great Dorset Steam Fair.

This is an annual show which has been running for 50 years and is reputed to contain the largest collection of steam powered vehicles and machinery in the world.

In 2013 the fair entered the Guinness Book of World Records with the largest parade of steam rollers, consisting of 103 working vehicles.

As we approached the venue which is just outside Tarrant Hinton, a village near the small picturesque town of Blandford Forum, we saw a city of caravans and campervans and a vast show ground which covers 700 acres.

Within the grounds is a funfair where several of the traditional rides were steam powered, and the fair contained the largest collection of fairground organs in the UK.

Displays included steam rollers and traction engines, old ploughing machines, and all types of heavy machinery performing the work for which they were designed.

There were several large marquees

containing bars and live music, a field of retail outlets selling food and everything from arts and crafts to industrial wear.

There were numerous exhibits of shire horses, classic cars, bicycles, motorbikes, but the highlight for me was the collection of shiny fairground caravans and the gleaming showman's engines that pulled them, especially beautiful at night when they were illuminated.

The whole place had a slightly scruffy feel to it as many of the exhibitors were working hard shovelling coal and their faces were grimy but it added to the charm.

Mercifully the political scene has been relatively quiet over the summer as the politicians have been on holiday enjoying the fruits of their expense accounts.

The Brexit talks are underway and I have been enjoying myself, as it is extremely interesting reading the comments of the diplomats and trying to decipher what they are actually saying.

My impression so far is that the negotiations are not going terribly well, because the state of play appears to be that the European commissioners think that the British Government negotiators are delusional and out of their tiny minds, whereas our honourable representatives hold the considered opinion that the European Commissioners can get stuffed.

Currently the debate centres on what

is referred to as the divorce payment; which is the sum of money that Britain will be expected to cough up for leaving the club.

The Europeans are suggesting a price tag of EU50 billion, which is approximately 50 billion more than the UK is offering, leaving plenty of room to haggle.

While this is all going on, our delusional prime minister has just announced she will lead her conservative party to victory at the next election scheduled for May 2022, although 25 members of her own party have already signed up to ousting her as leader.

With very little on television during the summer all this has been very entertaining.

Finally, Andrew Alsop a Welsh fisherman from Milford Haven, has landed a seven-foot seven-inches long, 500-pound tuna, 20 miles off the Pembrokeshire coast.

This is the biggest ever catch in Wales. Before World War II the Blue Fin tuna were commonplace but stocks dwindled when herring and mackerel were decimated by over fishing.

Recently returning stocks and warmer waters have seen tuna slowly return, so who knows one day tourists could be flocking to Wales to hire boats and catch these monsters of the sea.

Best wishes
Elfan



THE WONDERFUL Red Arrows, the Royal Airforce Flying display kicked off the proceedings with breathtaking manoeuvres at the 10th annual Bournemouth Air Show with half a million spectators.



THE GREAT DORSET Steam Fair is an annual show which has been running for 50 years and is reputed to contain the largest collection of steam powered vehicles and machinery in the world. In 2013 the fair entered the Guinness Book of World Records with the largest parade of steam rollers, consisting of 103 working vehicles.

Northern Lights linked to whales stranding

LONDON – The mystery of why there was a spate of sperm whale beachings around the North Sea last year may have been solved.

The great beasts weren't starving or diseased, but had all died in an area where they typically were not expected to be.

The solar storms that produce the Northern Lights may have been to blame for last year's stranding of 29 sperm whales on beaches in the UK and other countries around the North Sea.

The whales washed up on the Lincolnshire and Norfolk coasts in January and February 2016, and there were also beachings in the Netherlands, Germany and France.

Scientists believe that whales – as well as other animals such as birds – use the earth's magnetic fields to help them navigate when they migrate.

But – writing in the *International Journal of Astrobiology* – a team of researchers argues that disruption to these fields by solar storms can "lead to short-term magnetic latitude changes" that confuse the mammals.

The high-energy particles released towards the earth during a solar storm "deform the earth's magnetic field."

These particles also produce the famous Northern Lights – and can interfere with communications systems, satellites and cause power blackouts.

A few weeks before the whales washed up, a Norwegian measuring station near Shetland recorded changes in the magnetic field intensity and inclination in the

area. It is at this crucial point that the migrating animals may have first strayed off course, making a "fatal" error, the researchers suggest.

They believe the first solar storm caused a theoretical shift in the magnetic field by up to 460 kilometres north to south.

The second, which began on New Year's Eve 2015, caused fluctuations equivalent to a latitude deviation of 277 kilometres.

The 29 whales that washed up were all males, which grow up at lower latitudes with a "largely undisturbed geo-magnetic field."

The research team believes this means that younger males often "have no experience of random, abrupt geomagnetic storms" and therefore are not used to switching to a different way of navigating.

Instead of swimming north of Shetland to search for squid, the whales made a fatal navigation error and headed south into the much shallower North Sea.

Three whales ended up stranded at Old Hunstanton in Norfolk on January 22 – but two managed to make it back to open water.

On January 24, three beached near Skegness. A day later, another whale became stranded at Wainfleet, Lincolnshire.

The final UK beaching was on February 2 – again at Old Hunstanton.

The biggest stranding, however, was in Germany, when eight whales washed up near Kaiser-Wilhelm-Koog.

Duke and Duchess of Cambridge expecting their third child

LONDON – The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are expecting their third child, Kensington Palace has confirmed.

The announcement came as Kate, who is less than 12 weeks pregnant, was forced to cancel a planned engagement due to severe morning sickness, the same condition she had in her previous pregnancies.

In a statement, Kensington Palace said, "Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are very pleased to announce that the Duchess of Cambridge is expecting their third child."

The palace issued the statement as Kate was due to visit the Hornsey Road Children's Centre in London to hear about the mental health impact of becoming a mother.

However, she is suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum, which can result in nausea and vomiting so acute it can require hospitalisation. She is currently being cared for at the palace.

The announcement comes as William and Kate are preparing to send their eldest child to school.

Four-year-old George started at fee-paying independent school Thomas's Battersea in south London on Thursday, September, 7.

The past year has already been one of big changes for the Cambriges.



WILLIAM AND KATE, along with the couple's two children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte toured Poland and Germany earlier this year.

Their main home is now their Kensington Palace apartment rather than their Norfolk mansion Anmer Hall, and William quit his job as a pilot for the East Anglian Air Ambulance in July to become a full-time royal.

The couple's third child – who will be the Queen's sixth great-grandchild – will be fifth in line to the throne, behind Prince Charles, Prince William, Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

If a boy, it will be the first time new rules to remove male primogeniture will be invoked.

The change – which stops royal sons taking precedence over their female siblings in the line of succession – came into force in March 2015.

Mayor of London calls for social housing tsar in wake of Grenfell Tower tragedy

LONDON – The mayor of London has urged the government to appoint a social housing tsar to safeguard tenants' interests in the wake of the Grenfell Tower inferno.

Sadiq Khan said there is a deep sense of "frustration and anger" that residents of the council-owned block were "ignored."

In a letter to the prime minister, he proposed the introduction of a



MAYOR OF LONDON Sadiq Khan takes part in a release of doves as a show of respect for those who died in the Grenfell Tower fire, during the Notting Hill Carnival Family Day in west London.

commissioner for social housing residents, tasked with giving tenants a voice on "the national stage."

Khan said, "All of us who have spent time talking to Grenfell residents since the fire cannot help but have felt their frustration and anger that policy-makers have ignored them before and following the tragedy."

The June 14 disaster came against a backdrop of repeated fire safety concerns flagged by the tower's residents, which were allegedly ignored by both the council and the organisation managing the building.

Khan said the commissioner would operate independently of government and hold the legal powers to act as watch-

dog for social tenants, leaseholders and freeholders.

His intervention follows consternation expressed by both politicians and survivors of Grenfell Tower when the issue of social housing was excluded from a forthcoming public inquiry into the tragedy.

Prime Minister Theresa May said the government's housing minister, Alok Sharma, would instead carry out a separate review of the issue.

At least 80 died when flames engulfed the 24-storey block, while hundreds more were left homeless.

Both the council and the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation are being investigated by the Metropolitan Police on potential corporate manslaughter charges.



GRENFELL TOWER in west London where at least 80 died and hundreds more were left homeless after an inferno at the 24-storey, 220-foot high block of public housing flats in North Kensington, west London. The fire started on June 14 and burned for about 60 hours until finally extinguished.

Former Irish president McAleese says border controls 'inevitable'

DUBLIN – Former Irish president Mary McAleese has said she believes border controls and identity checks between Northern Ireland and the Republic are "inevitable" after the UK leaves the EU.

In an interview with RTÉ following an event at the Edinburgh Festival, she warned of the dangers of Brexit and described it as like "pulling a tooth with 10,000 roots."

Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK that will share a land border with an EU state post-Brexit.

In a recent paper, the British government stressed there should be no physical infrastructure, such as customs posts, at the border, which has almost 300 crossing points.

McAleese said while she was reassured that the UK does not want a so-called hard border, she was concerned the open border cannot be maintained if there is no customs union and strong immigration controls.

"So far I haven't heard anything apart from soothing words that it will be ok," she said. "Part of me says that has to be underpinned with something infinitely more concrete than the desire that everything will be alright."



TRAFFIC crosses from the Irish Republic into Northern Ireland near Dundalk. There are almost 300 border crossings along the 310-mile border, which often zigzags through largely rural areas, and would be impossible to police without a huge increase in resources. Trade and services between the two sides now flourishes. Between 23,000 and 30,000 people commute daily across the border – a figure that discounts "frontier workers" such as community nurses or farmers who go back and forth across the border several times a day.

"We need to start hearing how it will be alright."

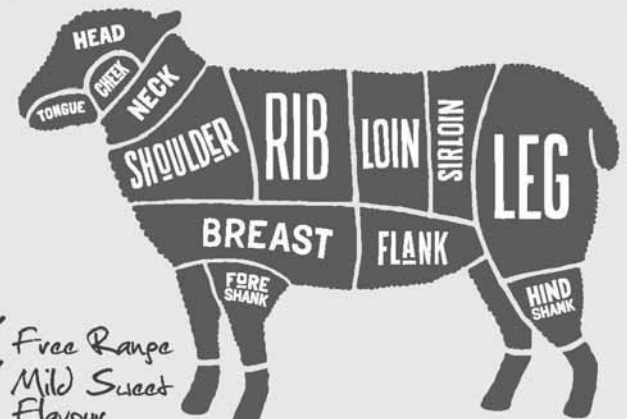
Describing the open border as a hard-fought "joy," she said some form of identification would be needed eventually and that would make her "deeply, deeply unhappy."

She added that the lack of a power-sharing executive in Northern Ireland could be "very costly" in the long run,

as Brexit was going to "reshape the future for generations to come" and the people and politicians needed to be "feeding the debate."

The prospect of a united Ireland, she said, had been brought to the fore by Brexit and there was a need for "new language, new ideas and new understandings" in order to accommodate unionists.

Grass fed lamb from Wales



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

Available in:

Meat the Butcher – Mt Seymour Road
Armando's – Granville Island

Coming soon to other premium retailers,
butchers and restaurants

Seahorse Grill – White Rock
Black and Blue – Alberni St

Ocean Park Fine Meats - White Rock
Waterfront Restaurant - Kelowna

Now available in Stongs – Dunbar



Stong's MARKET

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

Learn to play pipes and drums with the World Champions!

Interested?
The SFU Pipe Band's world-famous teaching program for children starts immediately.



Lots of fun • Great instruction

For information, call:
(604) 942-5118

Grand Opening of Donnellan's Irish Pub: A Joyous Night of Celebration



OPENING NIGHT GUESTS – (L-R) Charlie Donnellan, Martina Donnellan, Catholine Butler [*The Celtic Connection*], Jimmy Speiran, Marie Donnellan [William's mother], Father James Hughes, John Donnellan [William's father], Shaun Donnellan, and Rafael Salvino.



IT WAS a busy night at the bar for the bartenders. Pictured above (R) is bar manager Jordan Flynn.



MICHAEL VIENS and Elegwen Ó Maoileóin, two enormously talented local musicians provided excellent entertainment on the evening.



THE IRL CONSTRUCTION contingent at the grand opening of Donnellan's Irish Pub on Friday, August 4.

VANCOUVER – Situated in the heart of the busy downtown entertainment district, Donnellan's Irish Pub on Granville Street hosted a much anticipated official grand opening last month.

William and Laura Donnellan of Knockcroghery, Co. Galway – proud owners of the pub – also own IRL Construction, a very busy construction company in Vancouver.

Opening night on Friday, August 4 is one William and Laura will never forget! It was a tremendous night of beginnings.

This was the night they had dreamed of and worked so hard to accomplish – the opening of their first Irish pub.

It was also the occasion their first child decided to make his arrival into the world.

Iarla wasn't due until October, but he decided to join the celebrations early and arrived on the same night.

It was a joyous event, filled with congratulations for mother, father, and new baby boy... and the family are all doing just fine.

Luckily, William's mother and father were visiting from Ireland and available to do the honours of cutting the red ribbon to officially declare the pub open for business.

Father James Hughes of St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver, who is present at so many Irish gatherings, liberally sprinkled holy water blessing the new establishment.

Donnellan's Irish Pub is a long wide room, with a cosy fireplace area near the main door where there is also enough space for the musicians to set up their equipment.

The two main focal points include a massive crystal chandelier in the centre of the room, along with a huge gold signature letter 'D' for Donnellan's in the shape of a harp and illuminated on a green background behind the bar.

Throughout the pub there are high tables and chairs along with large round barrels with lots of space on top for drinks, allowing patrons to stand around and socialize like back home in Ireland.

It's the kind of space Celts love, where you can either sit or stand and socialize while munching on Tayto crisps – cheese and onion seem to be the favourite.



By
CATHOLINE
BUTLER

PHOTOS
by Patrick King

Along one wall there are two comfortable snug areas which could each seat about eight people, offering a lovely intimate space for groups or parties.

A floating gallery on the second floor overlooks the main room, giving guests a bird's eye view of the stage and main area.

Live music is featured seven nights a week at the pub, and on opening night Michael Viens and Elegwen Ó Maoileóin provided some excellent entertainment.

It's been awhile since I heard this duo and I was amazed at their full rich sound. They are both great local entertainers.

Later in the evening Irish dancers with the O'Connor School of Irish Dance joined the celebrations with some spectacular footwork.

Donnellan's is still a work in progress and they hope to have their kitchen up and running early this autumn.

Donnellan's feature live broadcasts of the hurling and Gaelic football games from Ireland, attracting many of the newly arrived Irish who are all very interested in the GAA games back in their home counties.

The All Ireland Hurling Final on Sunday, September 3, attracted record early morning crowds to Donnellan's to watch the live telecast of Galway defeat Waterford.

It was 29 years since Galway won the All Ireland Hurling title and the right to lift high the Liam MacCarthy Cup.

There was great celebration at Donnellan's and days of celebrations in Galway.

Donnellan's will also be showing live the All Ireland Football Final on Sunday, September 17 – Dublin vs Mayo. So, who will lift the Sam Maguire Cup? This early-morning nail biter starts at 7:30 AM.

Donnellan's Irish Pub is located at 1081 Granville Street in Vancouver. Call (604) 564-4277 or online at: www.donnellansirishpub.com.



FATHER James Hughes assisted by Rafael Salvino blessed the new business.



LOVELY dancers with the O'Connor School of Irish dance provided some spectacular footwork.



THE DONNELLAN sign is finally out on Granville Street.



THE TWO main focal points include a massive crystal chandelier in the centre of the room, along with a huge gold signature letter 'D' for Donnellan's in the shape of a harp and illuminated on a green background behind the bar.

PHOTO: Colleen Carpenter

IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

Looking forward to autumn after a great annual summer BBQ

By SHARON NI CHOILLE
President,

Irish Club of White Rock

The Irish Club of White Rock, along with the Fraser Valley Gaels, held their annual summer BBQ on August 13.

This year it was held in the gorgeous Redwood Park in Surrey.

It was a fantastic day with huge member attendance. Along with great food there was music, football, hurling and games.

It was really great to see so many new and returning members of both clubs come together to enjoy a day of Irish fun.

A warm welcome is extended to all our new recent members. Please see the Irish Club of White Rock Facebook page for upcoming events.

The Irish Club would like to extend a huge congratulations to the Fraser Valley Gaels on their win, in the North American Championships. Well done lads, well deserved.

For more club information, call Sharon Ni Choille at (604) 338-3553 or Deirdre O'Ruairc at (604) 803-0773.



KATHY KING with Mary McNulty and Bridie Eviston.



JAMES WOODS with Robbie Greville and Ricky.



MARK MOORE with Mairéad Colley/Nolan, Abby Moore, Christine Gannon, and Josh Nolan in front.



SHEA CREW wearing his wee peaked cap against the sun.



GER GANNON with the Irish tricolour.



LISA CORRIGAN with Noel and Maureen McDermott.



MARY HARRINGTON and friends.

ORCHARD
RECOVERY CENTER

Learn to live clean and sober with skill, freedom, and joy.

1-866-233-2299
orchardrecovery.com

Internationally CARF Accredited,
addiction recovery center
located on beautiful,
secluded Bowen Island, BC.

Are you of
Celtic or northern European
heritage?

If so, take a minute to assess your risk for
Hemochromatosis, a.k.a. **Iron Overload**,
an inherited condition which can lead to serious
health complications.

What is iron **OVERLOAD**?

Visit
www.TooMuchIron.ca/celtic
to take the self-assessment.

Canadian
HEMOCHROMATOSIS
SOCIETY
Société canadienne de l'hémochromatose

Help us promote awareness of Hemochromatosis and save lives.
Please send your donation today to:
Canadian Hemochromatosis Society
285 - 7000 Minoru Blvd., Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5

Celtic Highlights of Vancouver Fringe Fest

Scottish spoken word sensation in Vancouver

Creative Scotland supported show *Gigantic Lying Mouth* to debut at the fringe festival

Award winning writer and performer Kevin P. Gilday is bringing his new show *Gigantic Lying Mouth* to the Vancouver fringe with support from the Scottish Government.

The show will take place at the Revue Stage, Granville Island on September 14 at 6:45 PM, September 16 at 5:45 PM, and September 17 at 2:45 PM.

Kevin's tour of Canada and the U.S. has been supported by Creative Scotland, the country's arts council, in order to promote Scottish art and identity abroad.

Kevin P. Gilday is a writer, theatre-maker and one of the UK's foremost spoken word artists.

He has performed all over the world including the BBC 6 Music Festival, Edinburgh Fringe, Toronto Fringe, Wickerman, Belladrum, Lingo (Dublin) and Glastonbury Festivals (on two occasions).

He has supported artists such as Saul Williams, Sage Francis and George the Poet.

His writing has appeared in publications and websites around the world while his controversial series of videos created for the BBC have been viewed by over a quarter of a million people.

A reflexive solo performance combining contemporary spoken word with monologues, multimedia and comedy – *Gigantic Lying Mouth* follows the story of the eponymous author.

After perishing in a tragic yoga accident, Kevin finds himself trapped in the afterlife and in line for a celestial judgement – only to find things are a little different on the other side.

Guided through the afterlife by a Machiavellian guardian angel, the mischievous Lady Lazarus, Kevin must analyse the decisions and lies that characterised his existence if he ever hopes of justifying his life on earth.

Four Irish Tales of the Supernatural

'Tween Earth and Sky is a one-man play, dramatizing four Irish tales of the supernatural presented by Mark Lyon.

Journey back to a time, long ago; long before your great-great-grandfather's grandfather was born, when the world was filled with enchantment and bedevilment brought about by supernatural entities who dwell within the invisible world 'tween earth and sky.

A time when Ireland was so much a place of enchantment and bedevilment that a decent man could hardly poke his nose outside the door of his own cottage without chancing upon spirits and witches and all manner of fairy folk who have the ability to bring either good luck or bad luck to mere mortals such as you and I.

'Tween Earth and Sky weaves a magical spell through the dramatization of four traditional Irish tales of the supernatural ranging from the tale of a clever lad's attempt to outwit a leprechaun, to stones which weep tears of regret memorializing the tragic romance between the son and the daughter of two warring Irish clans, to a financially ruined



MARK LYON

aristocrat who sells his soul to the Devil and a young rogue's harrowing journey seeking redemption while a talking corpse clutches tightly to his back.

Actor and playwright, Mark Lyon, who will portray 16 different roles, has enchanted audiences from Orlando, Florida to Victoria, B.C. (where he was called "a master storyteller" by the *Victoria Times Colonist*) and across the Atlantic in Irish castles and at Ireland's most prestigious literary event of the year, the Listowel Writers' Week Festival, with his original one-man plays.

He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, holds a masters degree in Theatre, studied at length in a master class with Lynn Redgrave and was honored to have been chosen to perform with Redgrave in a presentation of great moments from Shakespeare at the Louis B. Mayer Theatre for the benefit of the Motion Picture and Television Fund.

Although the tales dramatized in *'Tween Earth and Sky* are based upon traditional Irish folklore, while searching out supernatural sites in Ireland, Lyon has met credible individuals who have told him of personal experiences involving the fairy folk and other legendary Irish supernatural entities.

These experiences resulted in his initiating a survey throughout Ireland in search of present-day, first-hand encounters with the fairy folk in all of their intriguing forms.

Mark Lyon will perform at the Vancouver Vancouver Fringe Festival, at Studio 16 - 1555, 7th Avenue West, V6J 1S1 on the following dates: Thursday September 14, 8:30 PM; Saturday, September 16, 8:15 PM.

A Comedic Jab at 'The One'

Draining the Swamp: A musical Tweet promises to "make theatre great again" with a comedic jab at The One and the 1%.

This is another original musical theatrical vortex from the same creative team as last year's hit *Waiting For Garbo*, which wowed audiences at both the Edinburgh Fringe and Vancouver Fringe Festival and features Jacques Lalonde (*Trump The Musical*) with music by Kevin Michael Cripps. (*TUTS: The Drowsy Chaparone*).

Comic mayhem ensues when The Boss fires his Apprentice, shoots his Driver, and gets arrested for murder. References to contemporary political figures are purely intentional, and most of the dialogue has been mashed from the twitter sphere.

The performances (70 minutes) are at the Havana Cafe Theatre, 1212 Commercial Drive. Check it out on September 14 at 9 PM, September 16 at 1:15 PM, and September 17 at 12:15 PM.

Vancouver Fringe Festival

Standing Room Only Theatre presents *Almost a Stepmom*, created and performed by Keara Barnes; directed by Michael David Stewart.

Based on a true story. Keara moved to Ireland. She fell in love. Then she became a stepmom...almost.

A darkly comic tale about the ups and downs of becoming a stepmother. Five Irish characters and a murder attempt round off this tumultuous and touching solo show.

The show runs until September 17 at the Vancouver Fringe Festival. Tickets: <http://tickets.vancouverfringe.com/shows/almost%20a%20stepmom/events>

September 24: Walk for Reconciliation

Join the Irish Women's Network of BC's Team for a Walk for Reconciliation on Sunday, September 24. Everyone is welcome.

IRISH WOMEN'S NETWORK OF BC Upcoming Events this Fall

The walk follows a two kilometre route from Cambie and Georgia Street to Strathcona Park. This event is organized by Reconciliation Canada.

To be part of the walk in Vancouver please register online at <http://reconciliationcanada.ca/walk-for-reconciliation-2017>.

Once registered select a team and choose 'The Irish Women's Network of BC'.

The Walk for Reconciliation is a positive movement to build better relationships among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

This bold vision calls on everyone of all ages, all backgrounds, all cultures and all faiths to come together as communities and as individuals.

The IWN team has opted not to raise funds/set a target as they want to encourage everyone to come and participate. It is up to each team member if they wish to raise funds individually.

All members of the Irish community are welcome to walk with the IWN – we

hope to see you on the 24th.

September 30: Irish Newcomers Info and Networking Seminar

Free networking seminar for all Irish newcomers; learn about job hunting, making your Irish CV into a Canadian resume, information interviews and tips for finding a job.

Network with established members of the Irish community; make new friends and pick up other useful tips about settling in Vancouver.

Resource people needed from different work areas to help give guidance to newcomers, all you need to commit to is a couple of hours and provide info based on your personal experience.

To register as a newcomer or a resource person, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SeminarSept30>.

Hope to see you at one of the upcoming events.

A century of protest: Hanna Sheehy Skeffington

VANCOUVER – A free public lecture by Micheline Sheehy Skeffington – granddaughter of Hanna Sheehy Skeffington – will be presented at Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre Campus on Wednesday, November 8.

Micheline is coming to Vancouver as part of her USA/Canada lecture tour recreating her grandmother's lecture tour in 1917, and which is being filmed for a documentary.

Hanna Sheehy Skeffington was Ireland's most famous suffragette but today her contribution to the struggle for Irish freedom through the courage and tenacity of her U.S. tour is largely forgotten.

When her husband Francis was shot by British firing squad during the 1916 Easter Rising, despite him being a pacifist, Hanna undertook an epic lecture tour of the U.S., publicising what had happened.

Following Frank's murder, Hanna successfully lobbied for an independent inquiry into his death.

While it established his innocence, she was dissatisfied that the officer who had ordered Frank's murder was ruled insane.

Hanna refused £10,000 hush money from British Prime Minister Asquith (U.S. \$1 million today), and instead sailed to the U.S. with her seven-year-old son Owen using false passports to ensure that the full truth behind Frank's murder and the reality of the British Empire's actions in Ireland would emerge.

Hanna toured the U.S. over 18 months, giving over 250 speeches and filling venues such as Carnegie Hall, and the even larger Dreamland Auditorium in San Francisco.

She was the only Irish representative to meet President Woodrow Wilson to put forward Ireland's case for independence.

During the tour the British did all they could to silence her, even trying to abduct her. On her return, Hanna was arrested and imprisoned.

John Devoy, head of Friends of Irish Freedom in the U.S. wrote "Mrs. Skeffington has done more real good to the cause of Ireland during her short stay in America than all the Irish orators and writers...[over] the past 25 years."

Micheline is well-known in Ireland for her own stand against authority, winning a significant gender equality case against her university NUI Galway in 2009 which she won in 2014 in a landmark decision by the Irish Equality Tribunal.

Her win was the first by any female academic in Ireland or the UK proving gender discrimination in academic promotion.

It resulted in extensive media coverage which was then doubled when she announced she was offering her EU70,000 award to the five other women who were shortlisted and not promoted in that round.

This enabled them to take High Court actions as they were by then out of time to go to the Irish Equality Tribunal.

Micheline regularly gives talks about her famous grandparents and spoke at both official state events in 2016 commemorating Francis Sheehy Skeffington's death.

Her visit to Vancouver is sponsored by the Irish Women's Network, Vancouver; Department of Sociology and Anthropology, SFU; Department of History, SFU; Academic Women, SFU.

The lecture is free and open to the public. It will be held at the SFU Harbour Centre Campus, room 7000, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver – 7-10 PM.

Follow the tour on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/hannas.U.S.tour.



HANNA Sheehy Skeffington with her son Owen (Micheline Sheehy Skeffington's father). Following the murder of her pacifist husband, Hanna courageously undertook an epic lecture tour of the United States in 1918.



ACADEMIC Micheline Sheehy Skeffington is the granddaughter of the famous Irish sufferagette, Hanna Sheehy Skeffington.

Two Edmonton Irish dancers earn a place as the top two Canadian females

EDMONTON – Two Edmonton sisters with the Mattierin School of Irish Dance – Olivia and Londyn Nachtigal – claimed first and second place in their respective competitions at the 2017 North American Irish Dance Championships in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Over 3,500 dancers from around the world competed at the championships and the two Mattierin dancers have earned a place as the top two Canadian females.

Olivia Nachtigal, who won first place, claiming the title North American National Champion 2017 in the Girls U16 category out of nearly 140 dancers was also the only female Canadian to win and one of only two Canadians to win the North American Championship title.

Londyn Nachtigal placed second in the Girls U18 category out of almost 120 dancers and was the top Canadian in her competition.

This is an incredible achievement for one dancer, let alone two dancers from the same family and school.

Peyton Schroter, also of the Mattierin School of Irish Dance, placed fourth in the Girls U13 out of over 110 dancers, being western Canada's youngest female podium placer at the 2017 North American Irish Dance Championships.

Both Londyn and Olivia attended the World Irish Dance Championships in Dublin, Ireland this past April where both girls brought home World Medals.

Londyn is currently ranked seventh in the World, top Canadian and now second in North America. Olivia is currently ranked 15th in the World and now first in North America.

Londyn and Olivia Nachtigal have just returned from a week in Boston at Riverdance School where they spent a week working with Riverdance professionals such as Ciara Sexton and Padraic Moyle.

They performed a final show on the last day in which Londyn earned herself a lead spot in part of the show.

The Mattierin School is very proud of these talented, hardworking and successful Edmontonians who are inspirations and role models within the Irish community.



(L-R) OLIVIA NACHTIGAL, Londyn Nachtigal and Peyton Schroter with the Mattierin School of Irish Dance in Edmonton at the 2017 North American Dance Championships in New Orleans.



OLIVIA NACHTIGAL wears a mask in New Orleans as she celebrates her first place win in the Girls U16 category at the N.A. National Championships.

Ireland's revolutionary years captured in comprehensive new book

CORK – The most comprehensive treatment of Ireland's revolutionary years has been published by Cork University Press.

Edited by John Crowley, Mike Murphy, Donal Ó Drisceoil with associate editor John Borgonovo, *The Atlas of the Irish Revolution* promises to be one of the Irish publishing events of the year.

Following the unprecedented critical and commercial success of the *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine* (2012), the *Atlas of the Irish Revolution* brings the same engaging and detailed treatment to the Irish revolutionary period.

With just under 1,000 pages – and featuring hundreds of maps, photographs, paintings and other illustrations – this

spectacular volume is the most comprehensive treatment of Ireland's revolutionary years ever produced.

The Atlas presents the history of the Irish Revolution in a vivid and exciting way, using many photos and archival documents that have rarely been seen by the Irish public.

It covers all the key events and episodes from 1912 to 1923 – the Home Rule Crisis, the First World War and Easter Rising, the First Dáil and the War of Independence, the Treaty and Civil War.

It also features sections on the roots of the revolution in the 19th century; the impacts, outcomes and legacies of these turbulent years; and how they have been remembered in literature, on film,

in art and through public memorials.

Over 140 separate contributions from the leading scholars of the era deal with the revolution in all its complexity, including a chapter by Montreal's Concordia School of Irish Studies History Professor Gavin Foster.

As well as detailed military and political accounts, the often neglected roles of women and workers are given their due, as are the experiences of Ulster Unionists, Southern Protestants and Irish people in British uniform.

The crucial role of the Irish diaspora is also featured in this exhaustive and stimulating volume that is a must-have for anyone with an interest in how modern Ireland came into being.



IRISH SPORTS and SOCIAL SOCIETY EDMONTON
12546-126 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5L 0X3 Tel: 780-453-2249 Fax: 780-451-5969

ENTERTAINMENT

September 23 – Seniors Dinner Dance – featuring Music by Jake Buckley

October 14 – An Irish Centre favourite: Jimmy Whiffen!

October 21 – A new musical act: Dangerous Guise

October 28 – Adults' Halloween Party

October 29 – Little Monsters' Halloween Spooktacular from 1-4 PM

November 18 – McDonnell Scholarship Presentation

www.edmontonirishclub.ca

SAVE THE DATE
I.S.S.C DINNER DANCE & FUNDRAISER
LOOK WHO'S VISITING!
DEC 2 2017

SPECIAL GUESTS
OLLIE CANNING • KIERAN MCGEENEY • JOE CANNING

	4-TIME CLUB ALL-IRELAND WINNER 4 ALL-STAR AWARDS	COUNTY ALL-IRELAND WINNING CAPTAIN 3 ALL-STAR AWARDS	4-TIME CLUB ALL-IRELAND WINNER 3 ALL-STAR AWARDS
--	--	--	--

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL info@isscvancouver.com



WILLIAM KELLY & SONS - Group of Companies

** Complete Mechanical Contracting **

Locations in: British Columbia * Alberta * Saskatchewan * California
Call us at: (604) 278-3553 or visit our website at: www.wkellyandsons.com

Death of well-known earthquake specialist Dr. Peter Byrne

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER – Dr. Peter Byrne, Professor Emeritus of UBC Engineering, who passed away on August 17, was an earthquake specialist and a highly regarded geotechnical consultant.

Dr. Byrne received numerous awards for his many achievements. In 2014, he was awarded the prestigious R.F. Legget Medal by the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

The medal is the society's highest award, presented to an individual for outstanding life-long contribution to 'geotechnique'.

His previous awards included the Geoffrey Mayerhoff Award from the Canadian Geotechnical Society, the Gzowski Medal from the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and the Julian C. Smith Medal by the Engineering Institute of Canada. The latter is presented for 'Achievement in the Development of Canada'.

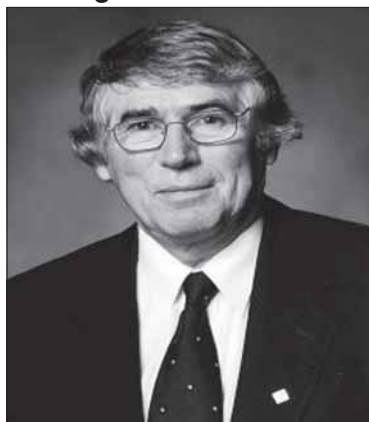
The Canadian Geotechnical Society noted that Dr. Byrne's achievements were demonstrated by a wide range of projects on which he had been consulted, including bridges, tunnels, dams, rapid transit projects, high-rise buildings, airports and a wide variety of other facilities in seismically active areas of Canada and around the world.

Dr. Byrne also had a reputation as a researcher, having written many papers in his area of expertise while pioneering many new procedures.

He was also much in demand at national and international conferences as a consultant.

As a teacher, he raised awareness of earthquake damage protection among students, members of the public and government bodies.

He also served as Chair of the Vancouver Geotechnical Society and served on several National Building Code committees.



PETER BYRNE

Peter Michael Byrne was born in 1936 in Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin, and gained his first engineering degree from University College, Dublin.

He completed post-graduate studies at the University of British Columbia where he was a Professor of Civil Engineering from 1967 until his retirement in 2001.

To the Vancouver sailing fraternity, Peter Byrne was well known as a competitive sailor, a passion he had followed since his early years in Ireland.

In 1967, he won a Bronze Medal in the Flying Dutchman class at the Pan American Games and was a member of Canada's Olympic sailing team at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.

In 1973, with his wife Jane as crew, he won the Enterprise Class World Championships, held that year in Vancouver.

Peter Byrne was a popular member of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club for over 50 years.

Family members and friends will always cherish the memories of summers sailing with Peter along the coast of British Columbia.

Peter Byrne is survived by his wife Jane of 57 years and sons Sean and Craig.

In memory of my father Thomas (Tom) O'Flynn

By JOHN O'FLYNN

VANCOUVER – On behalf of my sister Mary, brothers James and Thomas, I want to express gratitude to our immediate family here in Vancouver and to our extended family in Ireland, England and USA for their many kindnesses throughout these last few years.

We are very thankful to those who supported our efforts in the care of our dad – Thomas (Tom) O'Flynn.

The varied communities that sent on notes, Mass cards and donations to the Betty O'Flynn Memorial Bursary were all deeply appreciated. Special thanks to St. Patrick's Father James Hughes, Father David Hughes and Deacon Michael Boreham for their ministry.

On the day of the funeral, it was really amazing to see 13 priests in attendance on their traditional day off (and not out on the golf course)!

The generosity from the many visitors and the kind honors that were presented to Thomas were many.

The "Cross of Honour" medal from Pope Francis for dad's 'half a century of service' with the St. Vincent de Paul Society; Honorary Presidency of the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club; "Spirit" and "Celtic Connection" awards for his contributions to the Vancouver Irish Community were all kind testaments.

Whether at his home near 17th and Main over so many years or in the last year with his residencies at both South Granville Park Lodge and St. John's Hospice, dad made friends.

Charming nurses and staff with his delightful personality, he was always in readiness to uplift another's spirits and to make their day better.

One of the most inspiring things in his character was how he held his friends in such high esteem.

He didn't want anyone to know how hard it was for him to receive visitors and to be expected to participate in conversation when in his weakened state of endurance plus Alzheimer's disease.

It was encouraging to see how he stretched himself to greet every visitor with his best attention to their conversation and even an invitation for them to return soon.

My father was not a complainer. Even up to the end, he would not push the call button for assistance no matter how serious the issue, so as not to cause inconvenience.

Tom was born in the town land of Tulligmacthomas, Feohanagh, West Limerick in 1934 and shortly thereafter, his family moved to Pallas, Kilmeedy when he was 10 months old.

He left for Dublin in 1948 as a 14-year-old to work in an ice cream shop.

Sadly, his father died in July of that year due to the ravages of alcohol.

Dad could not afford the fare back to attend the funeral, as he made only a pound a week, so he decided to use his coins to put an ad in the paper announcing his father's death.



JOHN O'FLYNN with his dad at the 1916 Rising Commemoration banquet at the Hilton Hotel in Burnaby last year. Tom O'Flynn was a proud supporter of countless Irish events throughout the Vancouver Lower Mainland over the years.

Tom joined the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart on September 10, 1951 and remained a life-long member.

Dad's older brother John, a well-known B.C. west coast fisherman, left for Canada in 1948 and when dad turned 18, he came to Toronto in 1952.

He made his way across the country by train and worked as a faller in the forestry industry and a variety of other jobs, including the Arthur Murray School of Ballroom Dancing as an instructor.

My father and mother (Betty) saw to it that Gaelic Games and the best people in the world connected to the GAA would be an integral part of our upbringing.

The Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club (ISSC) formed in 1974 and my proudest memory as a child, of my father, was a day of Gaelic sports at John Hendry Park.

Dad was the oldest competitor in the 'Poc Fada' (long puck) and he won with his ancient 'Camán'.

I remember Dad around a simple speaker-phone listening intently to an All Ireland Hurling Final – and then, years later, watching his first All Ire-



TOM was honoured to be awarded a life presidency of the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club in 2015 along with his good friend Jim Speiran. They are pictured displaying their green ISSC neckties sporting the club logo.

land Football Final in Vancouver on a big screen (1990).

Dad would see to it that the ISSC would have a representative at the founding of the CGAA (1987) in Toronto.

He would attend games in Washington, Oregon, California, Alberta, and even attended 40th anniversaries of St. Mikes and St. Pats in Toronto.

When the ISSC celebrated 30 years in 2004, the first competitive hurling match in 28 years took place between American and Canadian Irish and his "West Limerick Holdings Ltd." company sponsored the trophy.

It gave him great pleasure to sit at Table 1 "Croke Park" when the ISSC celebrated 40 years in 2014.

To conclude with a granddaughter's social media post, "As Grandpa Tom once said, 'it takes all kinds of people to make up a world' and we are all so fortunate to have had a gracious man like him in ours."

"He was one of the most selfless and generous people I ever had the pleasure to meet, and will forever stay in my memory as a funny and light hearted character. Cheers to a long and happy life, he will be missed."

The Vancouver Welsh Society Remembers Tom O'Flynn

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER - Members of the Vancouver Welsh Society join the Irish community in expressing their condolences at the passing of Thomas O'Flynn, whose kind and benevolent spirit was admired by all who knew him.

Tom lived across the street from the society's Cambrian Hall and throughout the years proved to be a model neighbour.

As a strong supporter of the Celtic Heritage group, Tom firmly believed that the various Celtic groups should work together and promote each other's activities.

He also frequently attended Welsh Society events and encouraged his friends to do likewise.

Many of the contacts between the Welsh Society and other community Celtic groups were largely due to Tom.

He had a high regard for the Welsh Society, where he had many close friends. He was especially close to the late Neville Thomas, who shared Tom's views on wider Celtic cooperation.

Tom's support for the Welsh Society

was also expressed on a more active level.

For many years he would assist the member in charge of Cambrian Hall rentals by occasionally opening the hall to prospective renters and checking it after they left.

The society could also rely on Tom to deal in a neighbourly way with any late-night noise problems from renters at the hall.

Tom's charitable nature was also evident during the annual spring sale at the hall.

Whenever possible, he would personally take any unsold items following a sale and donate them to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, of which he was a valuable and active member.

Tom O'Flynn was a true friend of the Vancouver Welsh Society. He will be remembered by members as a model neighbour and as someone who demonstrated in practical ways the Christian values that guided his life.

President Lynn Owens-Whalen has extended sincere condolences to Tom's family on behalf of members of the Vancouver Welsh Society.



IN MEMORY OF LAURIE KELLY

OUR thoughts and prayers are with Pat Kelly and his family on the sudden passing of his wife Laurie Kelly (75) who died suddenly on holiday in Galway, Ireland.

Pat Kelly is the managing partner of Bradley Kelly Construction and a partner in the Heart & Crown Irish Pub in Ottawa, Ontario.

Laurie will be sorely missed and is survived by her devoted husband Patrick and her children Donna, Greg (Wendy), Julie (Allan) and Christine (Gordon) and step children Veronica (Frank) and Pdraig (Genevieve) and her loving sister Doreen (Moe) and brother Brian (Karen) along with her precious grandchildren Amanda, Scott,



Stephanie, Holly, Robert, Riley and Shaun and step-grandchildren Patrick, Martin, Frankie, Jarlath, Dara, Sarah and Amelie and many nieces and nephews.

Laurie remained a dear friend to her former husband John Sauve (Bernadette) who share the sadness in her passing.

Stark contrast between U.S. and Canada viewed through lens of working holiday visas



By
MARK
COSTELLO



BOTH America and Canada have long been destinations for Irish emigrants. However, with recent restrictions placed upon U.S. visa applications coupled with the current political turmoil in America there are many reasons why Canada is now the obvious choice when choosing between the two.

America is often the destination most associated with Irish emigration. This can be traced back to the 1840s when thousands of Irish immigrants crossed the Atlantic in coffin ships in an attempt to escape the potato famine that ravaged Ireland.

It is estimated that by 1850 nearly one million Irish emigrated to the United States, nearly half of all immigrants to the nation.*

However, today, America's image is changing. Where previously America was seen as an inclusive land of opportunity, it is slowly becoming viewed as hostile rather than hospitable for potential relocators.

This is largely due to President Trump's hard-line stance on immigration that corresponds with the "America first" theme of his administration.

This attitude led the then candidate to decry the popular J-1 working holiday program as a jobs program for "foreign youths."

The J-1 summer work and travel program is a staple in the lives of young Irish around the country therefore Trump's comments had many worried that his election would spell the end of the entire program.

Today it fortunately remains intact however it is uncertain for how long and under what further constraints.

Already new restrictions have been put

in place making it necessary now to attain a job in the U.S. before an Irish student is granted a 90 day J-1 visa.

Such strict procedures and restrictions add new difficulties to the whole experience of moving to America making Canada seem all the more attractive.

In contrast, Canada's IEC visa inclusively offers young people from around the world the opportunity to work in Canada for up to two years in any Canadian province and for any Canadian employer.

Young Irish people from between the ages of 18 to 30 can apply and crucially the visa does not require a job offer in order to be awarded.

Overall, it is relatively easy to acquire as long as an applicant meets the minimum age requirement, provides proof of citizenship and residence in their country of origin and has a clean criminal record.

Furthermore, the Canada visa is considerably cheaper and lasts for double the duration than its American counterpart which only accepts graduates and undergraduates as possible candidates for a 12-month period.

Also, the job one takes in the U.S. must be directly related to one's field of study.

Where a 12-month visa for America starts from EU2,730 (if you were to apply with USIT), a two-year working

visa for Canada costs you only \$226 CAD on the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website.

Such immigration policies are suggestive of the multicultural inclusivity that Canada and its leader reveres.

In January, in reaction to Trump's travel ban, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted: "To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength."

The contrast between the leader's and their country's policies and attitudes are stark.

At this moment in time the J-1 and Graduate programs to America remain surprisingly intact.

However, do not be surprised if there is an increasing number of Irish students and graduates looking to Canada in search of jobs, homes and craic.

At the time of the U.S. election an *Irish Times* poll found that only six percent of Irish voters would like to see Donald Trump elected president.

Despite numbers of people travelling to the States on summer J-1 visas remaining high, the statistics imply that any Irish delusion that America is the dreamland of old is very much dead.

Should Trump remain unimpeached and Canada's inclusive and unrestrictive work visa program remain in place, then it is likely that the number of Irish relocating to the land of the maple leaf is only going to increase.

Source: * <http://www.emmigration.info/irish-immigration-to-america.htm>

Mark Costello recently moved to Vancouver, B.C. from Dublin on a two-year work permit. He graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a B.A. in English Literature & Philosophy.

Mother Teresa: 'I will always have a special place in my heart for Ireland'

MOTHER TERESA who was canonized a saint on Sunday, September 2, 2016 began her life as a nun in Dublin.

Known in the Catholic Church as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, she was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun and missionary, born in Skopje, then part of the Kosovo Vilayet of the Ottoman Empire.

Mother Teresa was one of those very few people to be canonised by popular acclaim, even before her death.

Amid the dirt and the dying in Calcutta's slums, in the depths of the most appalling poverty for many people she revealed the face of God.

Pope St. John Paul II personally fast-tracked her beatification because "she

**QUOTE
OF THE MONTH**
"If you want peace in
the world....go home
and love your family"

— St. Teresa of Calcutta
[1910-1997]

made those who had been defeated by life feel the tenderness of God."

She held a deep affinity for Ireland. The order she chose to join was an Irish one, the Loreto Sisters, and she began her time as a nun by serving two months as a novice in Rathfarnham in 1928 to learn English.

Her ties with Ireland remained strong.

She returned many times and was given the Freedom of Dublin in 1993.

At the height of the 'Troubles' in 1971 she sent a group of her sisters armed just with bedrolls and a violin to Belfast to help "in whatever little way" they could.

Even after her death her Irish connections remain as her sisters continue work in each of the four provinces: in Dublin, Blarney, Sligo and Armagh.

As a citizen of the world, Mother Teresa often said, "By blood and origin I am all Albanian. My citizenship is Indian. I am a Catholic nun.

"As to my calling, I belong to the whole world – and to Jesus. The people of the world are my people but I will always have a special place in my heart for Ireland."

SANDBLASTING OF STEEL AND ALL ALLOY METALS

EST. 1990

APPLICATION OF INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL PROTECTIVE COATINGS
& ROLLING FLEET PAINTING

FREE ESTIMATES

(WORK PERFORMED ON INDUSTRIAL AND CIVIL PROJECTS)
FULL YARD & MOBILE EQUIPPED FACILITIES

PAT MCCAY - OWNER

6632 - 90th Avenue S.E. • Calgary, Alberta T2C 2T3
Tel: (403) 236-0988 • Fax: (403) 236-0993
procoatc@telus.net

The Legal Alternative

(L.A.C. Courier Div. of 387164 B.C. Ltd.)

Guaranteed Economical Overnight
Delivery Service For Barristers and
Solicitors Throughout the Lower Mainland
* Delivery within 2 days to Victoria.

Call (604) 873-3738

We're Here to Help.

Timor, Tom, Michael, Ryan, Jo-Ann and Christie (Kearney) Crean

Our family serving your family with compassion for over one hundred years.

- We provide a full range of funeral & cremation services
- Fair and affordable prices
- No commissioned sales people
- We welcome inquiries about pre-planning & pre-paid funeral trusts
- Our offices are open six days a week, available by phone 24/7

Vancouver	New Westminster	Cloverdale & South Surrey
604-736-0268	604-521-4881	604-574-2603
450 West 2nd Avenue	219-6th Street	17667 57th Avenue
Vancouver V5Y 1E2	New Westminster V3L 3A3	Cloverdale V3S 1H1

Singer Daniel O'Donnell leads the fundraising charge to help devastated Donegal flood victims



DANIEL O'DONNELL, Nathan Carter and Declan Nearney were among the Irish country music stars who teamed up for a benefit concert in Donegal in aid of victims of the flooding on the Inishowen peninsula.

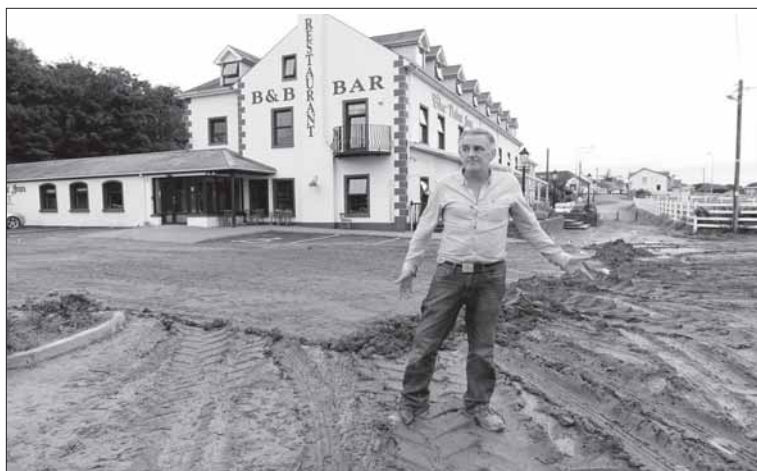


PHOTO: Caroline Quinn

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, owner of the Point Inn Bar and B&B at Quigleys Point, Carrowkeel in Co. Donegal, is among those devastated by the flood water and sewage damage to his business.

DONEGAL – Donegal native Daniel O'Donnell joined forces with other Irish country stars on September 3 to help raise funds for people affected by the recent floods in the north-west of Ireland.

Torrential weather on August 23 affected tens of families when a month's rain fell in just a few hours.

People were displaced from their homes and farms, while roads and bridges were badly damaged.

Despite the fact he was in the middle of a sold-out Irish tour, O'Donnell responded to a call from an Inishowen Peninsula woman, Deirdre Grant, for help.

She wanted to put together a fundraising event and with the help of O'Donnell and some of his peers, Flood Aid for Inishowen was put together.

The event held at the Aura Centre in Letterkenny featuring Declan Nerney, Johnny Brady, Dominic and Barry Kirwan, and Nathan Carter with the house band, along with Daniel O'Donnell.

Well-known Donegal personality Noel Cunningham hosted the show, assisted by Phil Mack – who has family in Inishowen – from the *Keep It Country* Music Channel.

In a video message posted to social media, O'Donnell said he hoped fans

would organise coaches to bring as many people to the show as possible.

"I'm sure, like myself, you are all shocked and horrified but, thank God, nobody lost their lives," he said of the flood damage. "But nevertheless, lots of people have suffered."

He also said, "And I know that as well as the money raised, the very fact that there's a large number of people who are turning out and gathering together, it'll give the people in Inishowen and further afield great hope that things are being done, and to make their plight heard."

Proceeds after costs will go to the Irish Red Cross, with all artists donating their time free of charge.

Following the flooding, Irish Defence Forces worked to help build bridges, erect safety fences and clear out homes.

Donegal Fine Gael TD Joe McHugh said, "All branches of government responded speedily to the crisis which unfolded."

"A number of government ministers were at the scene within hours of the flood and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar was also in Inishowen that week along with five other government ministers."

In addition, McHugh also acknowledged the input from musicians, GAA clubs, the Red Cross, the Donegal Diaspora and the neighbours who went out of their way to help.

He said, "Any time there is a crisis in Donegal, Daniel O'Donnell is always at the forefront."



IRISH music superstar Daniel O'Donnell was at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver on Friday, September 8 on his Canada/USA Tour. He is pictured above with Deirdre Keohane who said afterwards, "Incredible show, Daniel O'Donnell is some showman! What Daniel O'Donnell gave the Irish-Canadians tonight was a huge gift of love, way beyond any other artist that I have ever seen. He came out after this amazing show and gave individual hugs and recognition to his fans."

Sinéad O'Connor gives heart-breaking interview about her troubled life to Dr. Phil

NEW YORK – In an emotional chat with television psychologist 'Dr. Phil' McGrath, Sinéad O'Connor has opened up about her troubled life.

"I'm so grateful and very happy, very excited to be getting some proper help," O'Connor tells Dr. Phil in the interview, which kicks off the daytime talk show's 16th season.

Sinéad's mother died in a car crash when she was 19, and now the 50-year-old has opened up about the continuing problems those terrible memories have on her.

In a preview clip of her interview, Sinéad says, "I am fed up of being defined as the crazy person; the childhood abuse survivor."

Explaining what she went through as a child, she adds, "She [her mother] ran a torture chamber. She was a person who took delight in hurting you."

She accused her mother of physically and sexually abusing her.

When Dr. Phil asked what she loved most about her mum, the singer replied, "What I love about my mother is that she's dead."



SINÉAD O'CONNOR will appear on Dr. Phil for the show's return on Tuesday, September 12.

Sinéad – who has battled with her mental health for a number of years – reportedly asked Dr. Phil to be interviewed just a month after she shared a harrowing video where she spoke about having suicidal thoughts.

The Grammy winner posted the tearful 12-minute footage on Facebook in early August, revealing she was all alone and struggling to live every day.

She also discusses mental health on the show, saying, "The fact that there's such stigma about mental illness means that the illness doesn't get talked about."

"For you to have the courage to candidly and openly talk about this gives others the courage to come forward and seek the help they need," Dr. Phil tells her.

On *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, McGraw told the late-night show host that it was O'Connor who reached out to him for help.

"She called and she said, 'I want to destigmatize mental illness,'" he said. "She said, 'I clearly have a problem, too many musicians are dying. I want to use my life, be a teaching tool. I'm willing to sit down and talk'."



CLEAN UP OPERATIONS underway at Cockhill Bridge in Buncrana, Co. Donegal, after heavy rain left a trail of destruction on August 23.



A VAN TEETERS on the edge of a huge hole in the road at Quigley's Point in Co. Donegal.

Have unstable politics become the new reality?



AFTER 10 years of power-sharing at Stormont, Northern Ireland has been without a functioning government for most of the year. The Northern Ireland executive collapsed in January 2017, and the last round of power-sharing talks ended in stalemate in June.

THE ongoing suspension of the Stormont Assembly in Northern Ireland has happened in the context of: ‘immovable’ deadlines being discreetly moved; a British Government reluctant to formally suspend the Assembly and rule from London; a deeply uncertain future for Britain as it negotiates terms for its exit passage from the European Union; the DUP riding high as kingmakers in Westminster Parliament while being uncooperative as only they can be; Sinn Féin delivering nothing to its electorate either in Belfast or in London but frantically trying to pretend otherwise.

Such a dismal situation cannot continue long, not even in Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, the gratuitous dismissal of partnership, of bi-partisan policies and of mutual gain through co-operation that the DUP-Sinn Féin impasse represents exemplifies the political landscape in many other countries in the western world just now.

In Turkey, for example, the constitutional referendum held on April 16, 2017 copper fastened Recep Erdogan’s absolute power and ended Turkey’s democracy.

What has ensued hardly bears thinking about: Thousands of arrests of civil servants, teachers, newspaper editors, writers and students who dare to utter critical comments about Erdogan’s administration.

A similar mode of government, if a less drastic form of it, prevails in Hungary and right-wing movements in other countries are strengthened by it all.

Still, there are also grounds for optimism.

For example, shifts towards autocratic governments threatened throughout the spring of this year in several European countries; and yet they were repulsed.

In April, France could have swapped a visionless leader for one who has a clear vision although an awful one of pulling France out of the European Union and probably bringing the European Union down in its train.

Instead, they voted in another visionless leader in the form of Emmanuel Macron.

A stable France took the wind out of the sails of reactionary movements elsewhere.

This year the Italian electorate could

With centrist politics prevailing in France and Holland, Merkel will almost certainly triumph later this year.

But what do these challenges to centrist government have in common? And why have right-wing movements surged just now?

To understand political instability today, it is necessary to understand the brand of stability that is being sold as a replacement for democratic processes and genuinely democratic institutions.

Adam Curtis in his epic BBC documentary, released late last year, *Hypernormalisation*, gives us a clue: “In a world where the overriding aim was now stability, politics became just part of a wider system of managing the world.

“The old idea of democratic politics – that it gave a voice to the weak against the powerful – was eroded. And a resentment began to quietly grow out on the edges of society.”

Curtis is right. When real participation in the democratic process is swapped for the concept of management trust in society suddenly diminishes. Managers of systems rather than leaders of people have, and will continue to, run afoul of popular opinion.

Consider the American election last year. Hillary Clinton later expressed ‘regret’ that at the hustings last September she said, “You can put half of Trump supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables unfortunately, there are people like that and he has lifted them up.”

Turns out that a vote from one of the deplorables went as far as a vote from anyone else. Hillary Clinton may well have felt regret, but her remorse was surely all the more profound on the morning of November 9, 2016.

Brexit and the election of Trump in 2016 made clear that in the political world as it is presently constituted people can be persuaded to vote against their own interests in dramatic ways.

What is required is clear enough: an entirely new vision in politics and an admission that the economic system that has dominated the western world for the past two centuries is ending.

Trump may criticise the flight of jobs to Asia and Mexico but he is afraid to mention that far more jobs are lost to automation (circa 7:1 of losses in manufacturing).

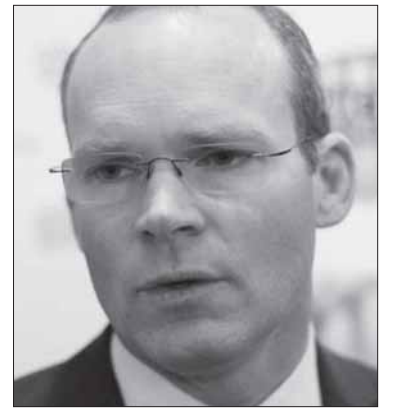
The reason that politicians avoid saying that is because they cannot fully grasp the impact of the changes in our time, still less articulate a clear alternative to the outmoded systems that have hardened into our political structures.

Consequently, they try to reboot the old system even though it is unsustainable. In short, they are not up to the job (not that that will stop them from applying).

The word leadership has been thoroughly cheapened to mean something between a conformist and a trimmer, that when a leader actually emerges he/she is often misunderstood.

People like Edward Snowden in the U.S. and Mikhail Zygar in Russia are identified solely for their stances against the U.S. and Russian Governments.

But what is intriguing about their activities is the way in which they might be lighting up a new way to do politics.



NI SECRETARY OF STATE James Brokenshire (L) may be forced to call a fresh election if no agreement is reached. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney (R) is to join talks aimed at getting the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive back up and running.

Stormont deadlock: Irish Foreign Minister to meet NI parties

BELFAST – Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney is expected to meet the Stormont parties as talks to resolve an eight-month political impasse continue.

On Monday, September 4, Northern Ireland Secretary James Brokenshire warned that the window of opportunity to restore devolution was rapidly closing.

He met all five main parties and urged them to act to get the Assembly and Executive back up and running. If not, then the government would have to legislate for an NI budget, he said.

islate for an NI budget, he said.

The two largest parties, the unionist DUP and republican Sinn Féin, blame each other for the lack of progress.

Their government broke down over a number of issues with the final straw for Sinn Féin being the DUP’s handling of a botched green energy scheme.

If agreement cannot be reached, Brokenshire is under a legal duty to call a fresh election, but he is understood to be reluctant to do that.

U.S. to abolish special envoy to N. Ireland

BELFAST – U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has proposed abolishing more than half of envoys. The last envoy to Northern Ireland was former Democrat Senator Gary Hart.

His appointment lapsed when the Obama administration left power, and the position has not been filled by President Trump’s team.

The decision comes amid a substantial reduction in American involvement in the peace process in recent years.

The U.S. has sent a special envoy to Northern Ireland for more than two decades.

Bill Clinton floated the idea in the early 1990s amid growing transatlantic interest in Northern Ireland’s affairs. But it was not until 1995 that a decision to appoint a special envoy was finally made.

The first envoy was former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, who played a key

role in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Slashing some of the special envoy positions has been on the cards for several years, amid criticism their role and impact was reduced by the sheer number of posts.

Tillerson proposed the cuts in envoy posts in a letter to Senator Bob Corker, chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

The Trump administration has vowed to slash the funding of the state department, which manages U.S. relations with foreign countries and governments.

Tillerson has suggested that the special envoys for climate change and the Iran deal, Afghanistan-Pakistan, disability rights, international labour affairs and for closing the Guantanamo Bay detention centre, as well as the Northern Ireland role, will be eliminated.

Gerry Adams to spell out future plans

DUBLIN – Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams said he will set out his “future intentions” if he is re-elected party leader at its conference in November.

Adams was speaking in County Meath before a party meeting. He said he would detail the party’s “planned process of generational change” if he is re-elected.

He added that the party had a 10-year plan for “orderly leadership change” that had been outlined by the late Martin McGuinness and he said Sinn Féin’s 10-year plan was being finalised and had “been the focus of much internal discussion.”

“It is about preparing the party for the next 10 years and to ensure that we are better able to achieve our strategic objectives. Martin McGuinness made it clear that we had a plan for orderly leadership change.”

He added, “It is our intention to unveil at the Ard Fheis in November the plan that he helped to formulate. I will be allowing my name to go forward for the position of Uachtarán Shinn Féin and if elected I will be setting out our priorities and in particular our planned process of generational change.”

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By MAURICE FITZPATRICK

well be brought back to vote for a second year running, in a general election this time, after they gave Prime Minister Renzi the bum’s rush last December.

Such an election may possibly return Beppe Grillo’s anti-Euro Five Star Movement.

But it is much less likely now that France has fended off the surge to the right proposing an end to Europe: Italy does not want to do to itself what Britain, which slouches towards its fate to be outside the European Union, has done.

Finally, Europe’s last man standing as a viable economy, Germany, which has been helmed by the redoubtable Angela Merkel since 2005, will hold elections this autumn.

Merkel, like her counterparts elsewhere in Western Europe, has had cause to fear the growth of the right-wing in her country, Alternative für Deutschland, this year.

But one of Germany’s closest economic partners, Holland, held a general election in March which dealt with the Dutch right-wing party, The Party for Freedom, at its ease.



BEFORE marching over to Safeco Field to perform in centerfield before Irish Night at the Mariners on July 25 were the Tara Academy Irish Dancers, the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums, and author Tim Egan (center, white shirt) who threw out the ceremonial First Pitch.



(L-R) BRENDAN SHRIANE, Micheál Keane, Melissa Ryan and Gordon Jacobsen down on the field for batting practice before the Seattle Mariners played the Boston Red Sox on Irish Night on July 25.



THE HIGH-FLYING men's sack race at the Irish Community Picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park on July 16.



(L-R) KAILEEN SHRIANE, Frank Shriane, Caron McMahon and others try to catch water balloons at the Irish Community Picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park on July 16.



CHILDREN enjoy searching for coins in the straw at the Irish Community Picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park on July 16.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

- JOAN MORIARTY SLY (103), a native of Ireland, died in Seattle July 14.
- FRANKIE MCILHENNEY, the father of Emmet McIlhenney of Olympia, died in Co. Tyrone July 20.
- GIL MARTIN (84), a former president of the Friends of St. Patrick, died in Bellevue on July 4

- PETER CONWAY, the father of Seattle's Dessie Conway, died in Co. Tyrone in June.

*Ar dheis Dé, go raibh
a n-anamacha dílse*

— May their faithful souls rest
at God's right hand.

CONDOLENCES — Sincere condolences to the family of Limerick man Tom O'Flynn who died July 19 in Vancouver.

Tom's thoughtfulness and hospitality over the years was legendary and members of the Seattle Gaels and numerous other Seattleites with whom he was friends were very sorry to hear of his passing.

He was a *Fíor Gael*, a genuine Irishman, and will be missed.

NEW CONSUL-GENERAL — Dubliner Robert O'Driscoll assumed duty as Consul General of Ireland in San Francisco on July 3, and he will visit Seattle for the first time the week-end of September 29-30.

While here he will attend the Irish Seniors Luncheon, the Irish Network Party and the Irish Reels Film Festival.

Robert has been a diplomat with the Irish Foreign Ministry since 2007 and has previously served as Private Secretary to the Tánaiste (Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister) and to Ireland's Foreign Minister.

He has also served in Brussels, in the United Arab Emirates, and in Saudi Arabia. We offer him a hearty *Céad Míle Fáilte* to Seattle!

WHELAN & RUSS — The Seattle Folklore Society presents the stellar Irish button accordion and fiddle duo John Whelan and Dale Russ in concert at 7:30 PM on Saturday, September 23 at the Phinney Ridge Community Hall, 6532 Phinney Avenue N, Seattle.

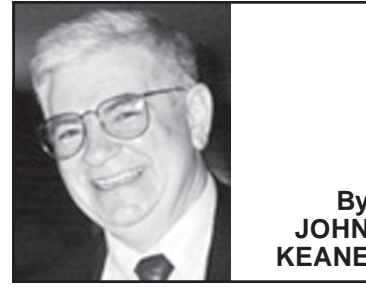
Seven-time all-Ireland champion John Whelan is one of the world's best Irish button accordion players and has been inspiring Celtic musicians and fans since he moved to the USA in 1980.

Seattleite Dale Russ has enjoyed a long career of performing on the fiddle and in fiddle instruction, and has been featured as one of the finest Irish fiddle players living in the States. Tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3052094>.

SENIORS LUNCH — The Irish Immigrant Support Group has scheduled another Irish Seniors' Luncheon at the Wilde Rover Irish Restaurant in Kirkland at Noon on Saturday, September 30.

This luncheon will have as a special guest the new Consul General of Ireland in San Francisco, Robert O'Driscoll.

Over 500 different Irish seniors have attended these luncheons over the



By
JOHN
KEANE

past 10 years, and all have been wonderful, fun occasions.

The cost for the buffet lunch is \$10 for seniors and \$15 for non-seniors and all are welcome, but advance reservations are required to (425) 582-2688.

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL — The 20th annual Irish reels Film Festival returns to the SIFF Film Center (at the Seattle Center) on Saturday, September 30, and Sunday, October 1, both days from 12 Noon to 10 PM.

The festival will kick off with a special 20th anniversary gala celebration co-hosted by Irish Network Seattle at The Ruins, 570 Roy St, Seattle, on Friday evening, September 29 starting at 6 PM.

Join Irish Consul General Robert O'Driscoll to celebrate 20 years of Irish cinema in the Northwest, and mingle with VIP guests from the world of Irish Film.

Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/2wONdbI>. For the complete film program, visit irishreels.org.

BELLINGHAM IRISH FESTIVAL — Bellingham's Irish Festival runs Friday-Sunday, October 6-8, with musical performances, workshops, sessions, and more!

Events take place at a variety of venues and businesses in downtown Bellingham and all locations are within walking distance of each other.

Many events and performances are free! For the full schedule and details visit bellinghamirishfestival.com.

BELLINGHAM IRISH FILM — As part of the Bellingham Irish Festival, an Irish Film School Life, directed by Neasa Ní Chianáin, will be screened at the Pickford Film Center in Bellingham on October 8 at 12 noon.

School Life is an observational documentary about a year in the lives of two inspirational teachers at Headfort, the only primary-age boarding school in Ireland.

Housed in an 18th Century estate, school life embraces tradition and modernity. More details at <https://www.schoollifeilm.com/>.

HARP CLASSES — The School of Magical Strings' five week Fall term in beginning and intermediate Celtic Harp starts Monday, October 16 in Seattle at 8551 Greenwood Avenue N, Suite 4, and Tuesday, October 17 in Olalla at the Magic Hill Studio near the Southworth ferry dock.

Even students with no prior musical training will find this a refreshing and enjoyable experience as they learn captivating melodies from the Celtic tradition.

For details, contact info@magicalstrings.com or visit www.magicalstrings.com.

GAELIC MASS — Seattle's annual Mass of Remembrance in the Irish

(Gaelic) language will be Friday, October 27, at 7:30 PM, at St. Patrick's Church, 2702 Broadway Avenue E (just off I-5 at Roanoke Street).

This Mass commemorates the deceased members of Seattle's Irish Community, especially those who have passed away in the past 12 months who will be remembered by name during the Mass.

To submit names to be remembered or for more information, call (425) 582-2688 or e-mail GaelicMass@irishclub.org.

ACIS CONFERENCE — The Western Regional American Conference for Irish Studies will be hosted in Spokane from October 19 - 22.

Organized by Professor Donna Potts from Washington State University in Pullman, the theme of the conference is 'Ireland, Irish America, and Work'.

The conference features an excellent lineup of panels, plenaries, including the Irish poet Moya Cannon, in addition to awards to recognize exceptional work by emerging scholars in Irish Studies. Visit <https://aciswest.wordpress.com/> for details.

SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON — Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, granddaughter of Irish suffragist Hanna Sheehy Skeffington and pacifist Francis Sheehy Skeffington, will speak in Seattle on Thursday, November 2 with location and time TBA.

Micheline is also known for her fight for gender equality and justice, and is repeating Hanna's 1917 tour of the U.S., all of which will be filmed for a documentary to be shown on Irish TV. More details at Skeffington [@irishclub.org](http://irishclub.org).

TANNAHILL WEAVERS — The Ballard Homestead, 6541 Jones Ave NW, Seattle, presents the internationally known Scottish traditional band, the Tannahill Weavers, Friday, October 20, 7:30 PM.

The Tannahills are inductees of the Scottish Trad Music Hall of Fame and their consummate musicianship and vibrant arrangements are not be missed.

Ticket, etc., at ballardhomestead.org.

IRISH SOUNDERS — Lamar Neagle, who is back again with the Seattle Sounders, is an Irish citizen through his Irish-born grandmother.

He joins Sounders midfielder Aaron Kovar who also is an Irish citizen through his Dublin-born mother. Both players have indicated an interest in someday playing for Ireland.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Contact Seattle's Irish Book Club at hudit@comcast.net.

- The *Irish Times* recently had an article about the headstone with an Irish language inscription that was erected on Whidbey Island in 1863.

Read the article at <http://bit.ly/2f8udew> and see more of the story at irishclub.org.

- Best wishes to The Hot Club of Troy (thehotcluboftroy.com) from Langley on Whidbey Island who will be participating at the Django Sur Lennon, the Gypsy Jazz Festival in Ramelton, Co. Donegal from October 27-30.

For more details, visit djanglesurlennon.com.

Taoiseach wants President Trump to appoint U.S. Ambassador ASAP

DUBLIN – Irish leader Leo Varadkar has stated he is “very keen” for a new U.S. Ambassador to Ireland to be appointed, given there has been no diplomat in place since Obama ambassador Kevin O’Malley departed in January 2017.

In an interview with *IrishCentral* founder Niall O’Dowd, Leo Varadkar said he regrets that “as it stands there is no envoy or ambassador to Ireland.”

He said it has a higher priority than re-establishing a special envoy from

America to the Northern Ireland peace talks. The Trump administration’s first choice for ambassador, philanthropist Brian Burns, had to withdraw due to a health issue.

The statement by Varadkar is an indication of concern that there is no move yet to replace O’Malley, a process that might take as long as nine months given the backlog of appointments.

Earlier this year, Varadkar appointed a special Irish envoy to the U.S. to deal with the Irish undocumented issue.

Waterford TD John Deasy who has extensive experience in the U.S. Congress, including working on immigration reform legislation, was appointed to work with the Irish embassy in Washington DC and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin.

He said people are “very concerned” with the hardline immigration policies now being pursued and will look after the interests of the undocumented Irish and lobby for immigration reform for Irish citizens in the United States.

U.S. police launch search for missing Irish hiker



DAVID O’SULLIVAN from Midleton, Co. Cork travelled to the United States in March and intended to hike from the Mexican border to Canada along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Police are searching for David O’Sullivan from Midleton, County Cork. He travelled to the United States in March and intended to hike from the Mexican border to Canada along the Pacific Crest Trail. However, his family have not heard from him since he e-mailed them in April from Idyllwild, California.

He had been scheduled to meet a friend in Santa Barbara in early May but he did not show up. The 25-year-old had been hiking alone according to a missing person poster from Murrieta police.

A Facebook page appealing for information has been set up by family members appealing for information.

One post reads, “By April 5, he had arrived in Idyllwild, CA. On April 7 my parents received an e-mail from him, detailing his hike since Mt. Laguna. This was our last contact with him. We knew that weeks might pass without contact but no more than 2/3.”

O’Sullivan, who is described as having dark hair, blue eyes and speaking with a thick Irish accent, has been reported as missing with the Irish police, U.S. and Irish embassies, Interpol and police and search and rescue organisations in California, according to the post. Anyone with any information is asked to call Murrieta Police at (951) 696-3615, or Detective Lawlor at (951) 545-0030.

A TIME TO REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES

All Souls’ Day, also known as the Feast of All Souls, follows All Saints’ Day (November 1). Both days mark a period for some churches, including the Catholic Church, to remember the saints in Christian history and to pray for people.

All Souls’ Day is traditionally a time for the Christian community to remember deceased family members and friends.

Some churches have special services on or around All Souls Day. These services feature hymns, music and prayers that center on the day’s theme.

Some churches invite the congregation to write the names of deceased friends or family members in a special book that would be placed on the altar at each mass or service during November.

Prayer of remembrance: Eternal Rest grant unto them (him/her), O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them (him/her). May they (he/she) rest in peace.

Seattle Irish Immigrant Support Group



FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE

to Irish people in need, regardless of the person's religious, social or economic background.

Consultation and referrals, networking opportunities, limited immigrant legal assistance, advocacy and support in handling drug, alcohol, child or spousal abuse, family crises, senior issues, poverty, etc.



Call toll-free **877-517-3559** or email info@irishseattle.com
P.O. Box 75123, Seattle, WA 98175 www.irishseattle.com

Helping bereaved families to bring loved ones home to Ireland

DUBLIN – The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust aims to alleviate the financial hardship of bereaved families repatriating the body (bodies) of loved one(s) who have died abroad in sudden or tragic circumstances back to Ireland.

Set up by Colin and Eithne Bell following the tragic death of their son Kevin in 2013, the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust (KBRT) helps bereaved families to bring home the remains of loved ones who have died in sudden or tragic circumstances abroad.

From Argentina to Vietnam, the Bell family has helped repatriate 355 loved ones to the island of Ireland in just four years.

Colin Bell recently deailed the history of the trust in an account published by the Crosscare Migrant Project.

Kevin Bell was born on July 12, 1986, ten minutes before his twin Brendan. They were our second set of twins, born 13 months after Sean and Ciara.

They were quickly followed by Eamon, Conor and Maeve, making seven children under the age of six.

He grew into a kind, thoughtful, caring, funny, very popular young man with a great love of travel and a great zest for life.

He, and a group of his great friends, spent a year in Australia but it was when he visited New York he fell in love with it and decided he wanted to spend his life there.

He had been 10 months in New York when he was tragically killed when arriving home to his apartment in the early hours of Sunday, June 16, 2013 after a night out.

When alighting from a taxi outside his apartment he was struck by a speeding white van which knocked him into the middle of the road where he was struck again by a car – both vehicles drove on without stopping. He was 26.

When news of Kevin’s death broke in his home town of Newry (Co. Down), the place went into a frenzy of fund raising to bring his body home.

A table quiz in the Canal Court Hotel on the Tuesday night following Kevin’s death raised EU42,000. A fun run/walk on the Thursday night made EU20,000.

In the space of a week fundraisers in Newry, New York, Australia (where he was so well remembered) amassed a total of over EU150,000 to bring Kevin home.

Amazingly, thanks to Neasa Nic Dhomhnaill (Eithne’s cousin in Manhattan) and the Armagh Gaelic Club in New York, Kevin was home on the Wednesday, three days after his tragic death.

A couple of weeks after Kevin’s funeral we heard of the death of a young man in Thailand.

We contacted his parents to say that we had this money and we would bring his body home.

That was the beginning of the Trust. When we would hear of another death abroad we would reach out to the family and offer our help.

We then applied for Charity status with the Northern Ireland Charity Commission and achieved this after about a year. We are in the process of getting charity status with the Charity Regulators in the Republic at the moment.

We do not receive any funding from government, North or South, and nobody receives a wage apart from our part-time office administrator.

As a result of a meeting with the then Minister for the Diaspora Jimmy Deenihan in 2015, all Irish Embassies and Consulates throughout the world now have our contact details and can put families in distress in touch with us.

We are now a well-established, well-known and well supported charity working throughout the 32 counties of Ireland.

To find out more about the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust and how we may be able to help you, see online: kevinbellrepatriationtrust.com.



Documentation for LEED certification available!

Whether you call it Drywall, Gypsum Wallboard or Sheetrock, its all 100% recyclable to us!

*A product designed for your safety and made to be infinitely recycled into new gypsum wallboard!
A true closed-loop product*

Now accepting New and used gypsum @Kent, WA

604-534-9925 www.nwgypsum.com



**Vancouver to Seattle & SeaTac Airport,
There and back! Quick and Easy!**

For Reservations call:
604-940-4428

FAIRFIELD INN BY MARRIOTT

19631 International Blvd.
SeaTac WA 98188
1-206-824-9909
Includes Continental Breakfast

**FOR HOTEL & BUS PACKAGES IN
VANCOUVER OR SEATTLE
CALL: 604-940-4428**

2017 USGAA FINALS

Over 100 teams gathered for an exciting weekend of Gaelic football, hurling and camogie

By BRIAN WHITE

SAN FRANCISCO – The 2017 USGAA Finals took place over Labour Day weekend on Treasure Island near San Francisco.

Over 100 teams and thousands of athletes from across the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean competed for championships in Gaelic football, hurling and camogie.

The USGAA Northwest Division was represented by the Seattle Gaels, with men's and ladies football teams, camogie and hurling.

The Tacoma Rangers sent men's football and hurling squads, Columbia Red Branch hurling and Portland Eireannach Football also had teams travel.

The Thomas Meagher Hurling club of Montana was represented by a handful of players who joined the Seattle Gaels panel.

Also competing were teams from British Columbia, with ISSC Vancouver sending men's and ladies football, hurling and camogie teams, and the Fraser Valley Gaels representing in men's football at the Intermediate level.

Because the Gaels hurling and camogie teams won the Junior C and Junior championships at the 2016 finals in Seattle, both teams competed at higher grades this year – the hurlers at Junior B and the camogie team at the Intermediate level.

It made for a very competitive weekend, but both teams came up short in the early rounds, with Gaels hurling losing a tough game to a talented Twin Cities club, and camogie falling to the Cú Chulainns of San Francisco.

Seattle ladies football won their first game vs the OC Wild Geese from the Los Angeles area, but were knocked out in the second round by San Francisco Clan na Gael.

The Seattle and Portland Eireannach men's football teams also fell in the first round, with Seattle losing to Austin and Portland dropping a tough game to Denver.

After losing their hurling game to the Pittsburgh Pucas, the Tacoma Rangers also lost a close and hard played game, falling to the Culver City Cougars in the Jr. D football final. Tacoma has a lot to be proud of, and showed what a solid program they are building.

Despite the losses, there were some big highlights over the weekend for Northwest teams.

Columbia Red Branch Hurling played with great heart all weekend, and won the Jr. C Hurling Final over Philadelphia, becoming the 2017 USGAA



THE SEATTLE GAELS men's football team which competed at the USGAA Finals in San Francisco on the Labor Day weekend.



THE TACOMA RANGERS HURLING team which competed at the USGAA Finals in San Francisco on the Labour Day weekend.



JP RYANS Camogie team from Vancouver, B.C. at the USGAA in San Francisco.



PHOTO: Gregg Murphy
VANCOUVER Irish Sporting and Social Club (ISSC) Ladies Football at the USGAA Championships.

champions. They keep the cup in the NW Division for the second straight year.

It was a great win and capped a terrific season for the Branch.

The Fraser Valley Gaels also put in solid performances throughout the weekend, going on to take the Men's Intermedi-

ate Football championship with an exciting win in extra time over a tough Chicago Padraig Pearse club, 0-14 to 0-11. A strong showing for a very good football club.

All in all, it was a great weekend for Gaelic football, hurling and camogie enthusiasts.

Fraser Valley Gaels: 2017 USGAA Intermediate Gaelic Football Champions

VANCOUVER – Congratulations to the Fraser Valley Gaels – USGAA Intermediate Football Champions! Well done!

After extra time the final score was Fraser Valley Gaels 0-14 - Padraig Pearses Chicago 0-11 at the North American Finals in San Francisco on Sunday, September 3.

Eoin McCloskey, who was once Derry's number one goalkeeper, helped establish a new Gaelic football club in the Fraser Valley in 2014, and he soon became responsible for team development.

Under his guidance the team has gone from strength-to-strength, winning awards and championships along the way.

Earlier this year the Derry man moved back home, but as soon as he learned the Fraser Valley Gaels had made it to the finals weekend there wasn't a chance he was going to miss out on it.

McCloskey flew in from Ireland especially for the USGAA weekend and could not have been more delighted reporting from the event.

There were scenes of pure and utter jubilation amongst the Valley players upon reaching the promised land, but nobody appeared to have enjoyed it more than Eoin himself.

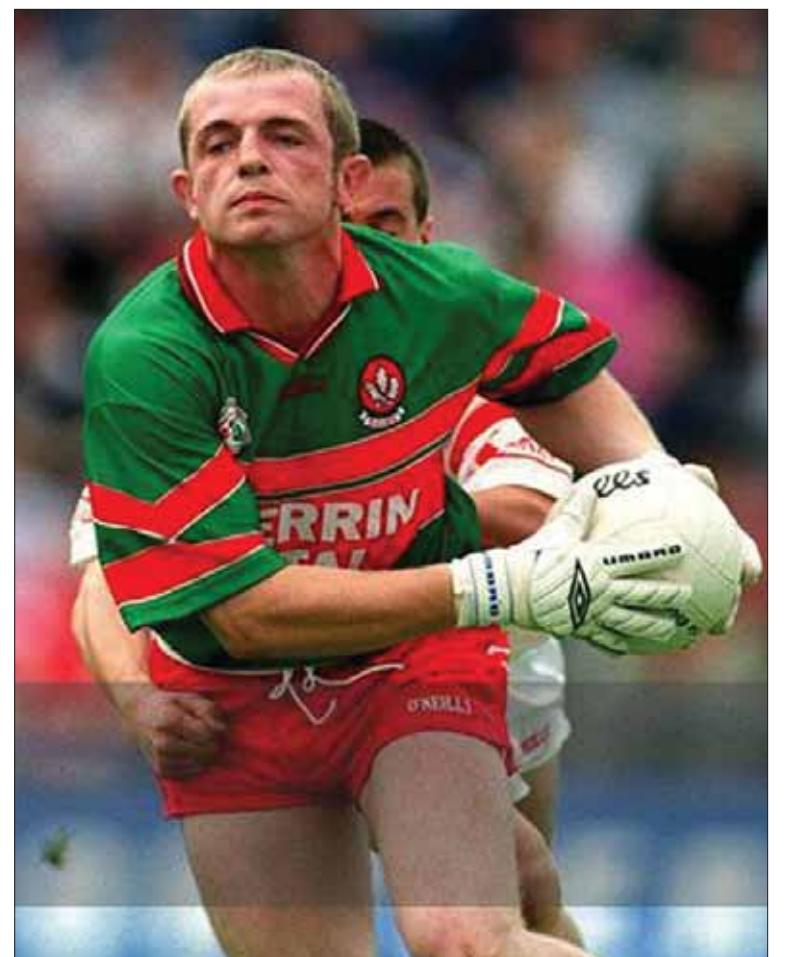
"Fraser Valley won their first North American title today after a titanic struggle against Na Piarasigh from Chicago," he posted on social media.

"It took extra time to get over the line. These players today emptied everything on the field in extreme heat to get this victory on a score line of 0.14 to 0.11.

"I couldn't be more proud to help this team and club and after only three years in existence we have achieved a lot.

"The players and management deserve the highest respect for this achievement. Well done to all and massive congratulations."

We couldn't have said it better.



EOIN MCCLOSKEY helped establish the new Gaelic football club in the Fraser Valley in 2014. In the mid-1990s Eoin was Derry's number one goalkeeper and he was selected to represent his home county a number of times at the All Ireland Final in Croke Park.



HUGE crowds gathered to welcome home the conquering heroes to Galway.

Joyous Scenes as Galway Win First All-Ireland Hurling after nearly 30 years

DUBLIN – After nearly three decades, Galway are All-Ireland hurling champions as they edged out a spirited Waterford side in a memorable final in Croke Park on Sunday, September 3.

It was tense, it was nervy and, at times, not the prettiest game, but take nothing away from the Tribesmen – who will be bringing Liam MacCarthy west of the Shannon for the first time since 1988.

After Galway flew out of the blocks with the first four points, Waterford's Kevin Moran got the final's first goal.

After a super run into the danger zone, Moran supplied the cool finish to get the Déise on the board.

However, the Tribesmen responded well, hitting the next two points.

Galway had nine points before hitting a wide but, because of Moran's goal,

Waterford didn't fall too far behind.

In fact, when Michael 'Brick' Walsh scored a super point from under the Cusack Stand, the deficit was just two points – despite Galway playing all the hurling.

The Déise soon leveled the game, when Kieran Bennett's long clearance went all the way into the net after a mix-up between the Galway goalkeeper and the defenders.

The Tribesmen led at the break 0-14 to 2-07 at the interval after Joe Canning scored a free with the last puck of the period to edge them in front.

After the sides traded frees at the start

of the second half, Pauric Mahony got a fine point after a great run from Jamie Barron to level matters again.

Mahony got his sixth point, this time from a free, to give the men from the south-east their first lead of the final.

Waterford were gaining in confidence but with just over 20 minutes to play, Niall Burke brought the sides level again – 0-18 to 2-12.

Seconds later Burke popped up again to give the men from the west the lead – before a Joe Canning free doubled their lead.

Just as looked like Micheal Donoghue's men were getting on top, up stepped substitute Tommy Ryan to put the minimum between them once again.

However, Galway then put the foot down, hitting the next three points – 0-25 to 2-15 – with time running out for the Déise.

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, MJ, ED, CB

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

NOVENAS

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 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 West's Awake as homecoming party kicks off in Galway

GALWAY – *The West's Awake* rang out once again as the triumphant Galway hurlers – minor and senior – received a heroes welcome in Ballinasloe, their first stop after crossing the Shannon.

Gardai estimate that some 15,000 people gathered at the Fairgreen in the town to catch their first glimpse of Galway's new superstars following their stunning win at Croke Park on Sunday, September 3.

The excitement was enormous. People started to arrive at about 1:30 PM ahead of the scheduled arrival at 3 PM. They were late – the senior panel taking the stage shortly after 4:30 PM.

They patiently waited for the Minor team to have their moment in the sun, standing on the steps as they signed hurls and posing for pictures with the

Liam MacCarthy Cup until the speeches ended.

And then it was their turn, the crowd going wild as each player was named out individually – with a particularly massive roar for Portumna man Joe Canning who scored nine points in the Final and captain David Burke.

Player Paul Flaherty was called forward and launched into *The West's Awake* – famously sung by Joe McDonagh after Galway won the hurling final in 1980.

Manager Micheal Donoghue urged the crowd to focus on the development of hurling in clubs saying “we can't wait another 29 years and hopefully we will have the Liam MacCarthy back here again soon.”

After that, it was back on the bus as the team headed for Pearse Stadium in Salthill.

Hemochromatosis aka The Celtic Curse: More awareness needed

By JEANIE LAMB

I used to be really active. I participated in lots of sports, things like tennis, skiing, running, going to the gym. I loved swimming.

When I was 55, my joints were hurting quite badly and I went to my GP.

She sent me to a rheumatologist, a very good one, who sat me down and talked to me about my family and looked at my body.

He looked at my hands and my skin, and asked me about both of my parents.

And he said, “I think I know what this is. I'm going to send you for a simple blood test, and then you come back and see me.”

Which I did – and he had nailed it. The tests showed I had hemochromatosis, and my full diagnosis included severe and prolonged osteoarthritis.

It was devastating. I had a business of my own. I produced photos. I managed photo shoots, usually for international photographers.

So I was really independent and I was making a good living doing it, but all of the sudden I was told that I have five joints that needed to be replaced.

I couldn't work anymore. I couldn't stand for any period of time and my joints just got worse and worse.

My first surgery was a knee replacement, then a shoulder, then a hip at which time my left pelvis crumbled.

I had an excellent surgeon who had the knowledge to rebuild my left pelvis. I spent five weeks in hospital for that one.

Currently I am waiting for the other knee to be replaced, the other shoulder to be replaced and for a surgeon consultation for one of my ankles.

Treatment started out with me going for phlebotomies very regularly, about once a week.

That brought my iron down, but in the meantime I was still waiting for my joint replacements.

Now, at this point in time, I still go for phlebotomies but less frequently. I get my blood checked every three months.

Looking back at our family history, my mother and father and an older brother are all deceased so I don't know if they had the disorder, but I'm fairly certain my mother did.

Before I was diagnosed, I had body aches and pains for some time. I had numerous blood tests taken over the years, and not once did any of my doctors check my ferritin levels.

I think there needs to be more awareness for doctors to test for hemochromatosis.

As soon as they know that their patient is of a Northern European bloodline, they should just test for this disorder. It's a very simple remedy to something that is very simple to diagnose.

Despite how hard it has been, I still feel very fortunate that I've gotten through and managed my condition thus far.

I have a very strong inner strength, and a lot of will, which is what it takes to get through something like this. In the end, I may well qualify as a Bionic Woman!

One in 300 Canadians, mainly of northern European descent, are at risk for hemochromatosis. Most are unaware of the condition.

The Canadian Hemochromatosis Society's mission is to promote the early diagnosis, screening and testing of hereditary hemochromatosis through its awareness-raising programs in medical communities and with those at risk, to see an end to suffering and premature death related to the disorder.

Please support this mission with a donation to the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society, 285 – 7000 Minoru Blvd., Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5. More information can be found at www.toomuchiron.ca/celtic.

Dips in the road in Killarney caused by fairy forts, according to the TD



THE BEARA PENINSULA fairy fort in south-west Ireland.

DUBLIN – Bad luck caused by disturbed fairy forts is causing dips in a major road between County Kerry and County Cork, an Irish member of parliament has said.

Danny Healy-Rae told the *Irish Times* in August that issues with the N22 were caused by “numerous fairy forts in the area.”

The N22 is the main road between Killarney in County Kerry and Cork. The road had previously been repaired but problems had reappeared.

Healy-Rae said he shared local belief that “there was something in these places you shouldn’t touch.”

He added that the road passed through an area that was rich in fairy folklore and magic. “There are numerous fairy forts in that area,” Healy-Rae said. “I know that they are linked. Anyone that tampered with them back over the years paid a high price and had bad luck.”

In Irish folklore, it is believed that disturbing areas, said to have strong connections to fairies, could bring bad luck or a curse.



DANNY Healy-Rae is an Irish Independent politician and a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Kerry constituency, upon being elected at the 2016 general election.

These areas include fairy forts, also known as raths or lios, which are the remains of hillforts or ancient circular dwellings, and fairy trees or thorn bushes.

Some people believe that destroying or tampering with these forts, trees or

bushes, could lead to them dying young or becoming seriously ill.

Healy-Rae, an independent TD (Irish member of parliament) for County Kerry, said, “I have a machine standing in the yard right now. And if someone told me to go out and knock a fairy fort or touch it, I would starve first.”

The issue was raised at Kerry County Council, where Healy-Rae’s daughter, Maura, is a councillor. She told a council meeting that her father was convinced fairies were in the area of the road problems.

When she was asked if he’d seen the fairies, she replied, “I don’t know, but he’s convinced they’re there.”

Maura Healy-Rae took over the council seat vacated by her father when he was elected to the Dáil in the last general election.

Healy-Rae also raised the issue at Kerry County Council in 2007 when he was a councillor, asking if a dip in the N22 near Curraglass was caused by “fairies at work.”

The *Irish Times* reports that the council’s road department replied that it was due to a “deeper underlying subsoil/geotechnical problem.”

It’s not the first time that the Kerry TD has made some claims deemed questionable by the public. Just recently he claimed that eating a big meal before driving is as dangerous as drink driving.

“Can I just say to you, and many people will agree with me, if you actually eat too much and get in behind the wheel of a car, you are a danger on the road because you are liable to fall asleep after eating a big meal,” Healy-Rae said in a Oireachtas Transport Committee debate.

He previously said in an interview with *Hot Press* magazine, that Noah’s Ark is proof that climate change does not exist and reiterated his belief that God is in charge of the weather and we can’t change that.



THE SCOTTISH island of Iona where St. Columba established a monastic settlement in 563 remains an important place of pilgrimage, with tens of thousands of people visiting its abbey every year.

Scientists uncover St. Columba’s cell

GLASGOW – Archaeologists say they have identified the remains of the cell of St. Columba on the Scottish island of Iona. The cell, or scriptorium, is where he worked, prayed and spent his last day.

They have used radiocarbon dating to place samples of burned wood in the middle of Columba’s time there almost 1,500 years ago.

The charred remains of a hut were excavated in 1957, but it has taken until now for science to accurately date them.

Who was St. Columba?

St. Columba arrived on Iona from Ireland in the year 563. His Gaelic name is *Colum Cille* – “the dove of the Church.”

He is widely credited as one of the key figures who brought Christianity to Scotland. From his vision sprang Iona Abbey, which became a centre of literacy, learning and worship.

After his death Iona became a place of pilgrimage for both kings and commoners. Now, 60,000 of the latter still visit the rebuilt abbey every year.

But did Columba leave any physical trace?

His successor Adomnán, writing 100 years after the saint’s death, described him working in his cell on a rocky hill-ock. That knoll is called Tòrr an Aba – “the mound of the abbot.”

Centre of worship

Sixty years ago the site was excavated by a team led by the Cornish historian and archaeologist Charles Thomas.

Early in his career, Thomas became the leading archaeologist of early Christianity in Britain and Ireland, with posts at Edinburgh and Leicester universities.

He eventually became the first professor of Cornish studies at Exeter University and a Bard of the Cornish Gorsyth.

His dig in 1957 made an intriguing discovery. On Tòrr an Aba the diggers found hazel charcoal, apparently the remains of a wattle hut.

The site had been deliberately covered with beach pebbles and there was a hole where a post – possibly a cross – had been placed.

Were these the remains of Columba’s cell? Charles Thomas thought so.

Radiocarbon dating

If only they could be accurately dated. But in 1957 that was impossible.

The technique of radiocarbon dating was in its infancy then. It measures the level of carbon 14, a radioactive isotope, to assess the age of a sample of organic material.

But 60 years ago the process was expensive, required the destruction of a relatively large sample, and the dates it produced had a wide margin of error.

So Charles Thomas did not write up his findings in an academic paper. Instead, he carefully preserved the samples from the dig along with his notes.

He took the remains with him from university to university. After he retired he stored them in his garage in Truro.

Which is where they sat until five years ago when a project led by University of Glasgow archaeologists Dr. Ewan Campbell and Dr. Adrián Maldonado heard of them.

Professor Thomas was happy to hand them over for testing using radiocarbon techniques of an accuracy unimaginable six decades ago.

The project, funded by Historic Environment Scotland and supported by the National Trust for Scotland, had the samples tested by the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre.

The result? The remains of the hazel stakes date the hut between the years 540 and 650. Columba died in 597.

Adrián Maldonado says it is “within a standard deviation of the lifetime of St. Columba,” which he says is “about the closest you can get to being certain that it is something that was standing when Columba was on Iona.”

Historic Environment Scotland’s Senior Archaeologist Richard Strachan is similarly enthusiastic.

He said, “It’s fantastic, it absolutely nails it. There’s no debate. We can actually prove this scientifically. This is real. This actually happened here.”

Historic Environment Scotland is funding the project as part of Scotland’s Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017.

Sadly Charles Thomas did not live to see his work vindicated. He died last year before the definitive date of his samples could be established.

But Dr. Maldonado is in no doubt about the significance of his legacy. “What Charles Thomas and his team found – and couldn’t prove until now – was that we’ve been walking on the early monastery this whole time.”

A-maze-ing Castlewellaan picture creates Instagram buzz

BELFAST – Northern Ireland photographer Gavin McKay is basking in the glow of worldwide exposure after one of his photographs was chosen to form part of a worldwide showcase on world social media channel Instagram.

The superb picture taken at Castlewellaan maze has already been seen over 600,000 times, with thousands of positive comments posted online about the image.

Freelance photographer Gavin (45) – who has 53,000 followers on Instagram, said it was the first time a Northern Ireland image had appeared on Instagram’s main image showcase.

“I’ve had lots of comments from people asking where the picture was taken – so it’s great exposure,” said McKay. “It’s as big as it gets. It’s what everyone aims for.”

The Castlewellaan Forest Park and Peace Maze is located in Castlewellaan in County Down, Northern Ireland.



CASTLEWELLAN FOREST park’s ‘Peace Maze’ was commissioned in 1998 and in 2000 and 2001 over 4,000 school children and 1,000 people attended community planting days to plant the maze’s 6,000 yew trees. The design for the maze was conceived by Beverley Lear of Lear Associates who used the best idea’s from thousands of children’s designs that were submitted at the time. The maze is one of Northern Ireland’s fastest growing tourist attractions, with over 240,000 visits between the opening date in September 2001 and June 2004.