

# the celtic connection

ISSUE 26 VOLUME 7

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

NOVEMBER 2017



## The Season of Samhain: Making Personal Sense in the Darkness



OVEMBER, with its chill and colour, has arrived once more.

What does it mean to you, your family your future?

In the Celtic calendar, November 1 is the beginning of the New Year. The sphere of the Samhain season is the darkest of the year, and marks the beginning of winter.

It is a time for tales told above gusts of wind and beyond empty fields.

Not brightening until the winter solstice, this season is clear only in its ambiguity and moody atmosphere.

No better time to take a look into a dark crystal, to find your edges, see the past, and guess at the future.

November, and the season of Samhain, is the traditional time of divination and storytelling in Ireland.

While a good tale is welcome any time of year, the end of the growing season means all things go to ground, and that includes to the root and soil of human experience.

While the tales of Fionn mac Cumhail and CúChulainn are unmatched, the myth of individual life is as deep as Connla's Well, but rarely considered that way.

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

Think of your favorite movie, book, or story what attracts you to the narrative? Yearning, recognition, tension?

What about the characters? Do you faithfully see each movie role played by a particular actor, do you like movies about underdogs, or villains, or world-ending aliens? What's in it for you?

You are the main character in the story that will someday be your obituary.

How you navigate your time, with whom you share that time, your words, and your actions create the narrative of your existence.

When you look outward at the stories and actors that attract you what about them is similar to your own life?

The cycle of Harry Potter stories appeal to many people for the universal theme of the orphan hero.

The downtrodden boy who grows to be very special, and saves his world not only by his actions, but literally via the violence installed within him when he was made an orphan.

We all carry wounds, some are ultimately mortal. Often they form scar tissue, and impede our movement and capabilities.

Other times they burn white hot until age or addiction slows mind and gait, and the soul turns bitter and hopeless.

Our wounds and original conditions shape the tale that will be our life.

Tis' the season. Find your own myth in the chapters of your life so far.

Do the same things happen over and over? Or do some things never happen at all?

What is the circuitous route that has led you to the crossroads in which you now stand? While we are alive, every day begets new breath and new choices.

The residue of the growing season lies in the ashes of the great Samhain fire.

Sift, remember, ask – what fuels your life? What drives you on?

Have you seen it someplace before? The ash of the old will fertilize new come spring.

Take what is given, but watch your storyline.

If it is repetitive, hurtful, or stalled think about how you might write the next chapter as we embark on a new year.

Darkness is forgiving, smudges and mistakes, big and small, no longer matter.

Acknowledge the damage, and if you can, let it go, and try and live more fully in the present with hope for the future.

The most important story you can tell this season is yours.

[For more on the ancient Irish art of storytelling told around the fireside, see page 16.]

THE ANCIENT ART OF IRISH STORYTELLING: "Poets and storytellers, homespun, humble carriers of an ancient culture, preserved until a century ago an oral tradition (seanchas) and an oral literature unrivalled in western Europe. Kuno Meyer (a German scholar, distinguished in the field of Celtic philology and literature), in a memorable phrase called the written literature of medieval Ireland 'the earliest voice from the dawn of West European civilization'."

– J.H. Delargy *The Gaelic Storyteller*, Sir John Rhys Lecture, 1945

## HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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IRISH PRIME MINISTER LEO VARADKAR HEADS TRADE DELEGATION TO SEATTLE, WA

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PHOTO: William Donnellan  
TADHG EGAN, outgoing 2017 chairman of the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club, is presented with a tribute for his work throughout the GAA season by honorary lifetime president Jimmy Speiran.

[Read more on page 13]



A REMARKABLE new documentary by Oscar-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney has brought renewed attention to an unsolved sectarian-gangland slaying in Northern Ireland. *No Stone Unturned* examines events which took place on June 18, 1994 in the small village of Loughinisland, Co. Down. The six men killed in the attack are (L-R) [Top] Dan McCreanor, Adrian Rogan, Patrick O'Hare. [Bottom] Barney Greene, Malcolm Jenkinson, and Eamon Byrne. [Read more on page 19]



# Minister Coveney Announces Five New Irish Diplomatic Missions



**SIMON COVENEY** Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, has announced the opening of a new Irish consulate in Vancouver by the end of 2019.

**DUBLIN** – Speaking from Leinster House on October 10, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney announced the opening of a new Irish consulate in Vancouver by the end of 2019.

The Vancouver Consulate will be part of five new resident diplomatic missions based in Chile, Colombia, Jordan and Mumbai as part of the Irish Government's overall Budget 2018 package.

Additional funding will be directed towards augmenting Brexit resources, following recent steps to increase staff numbers working on Brexit at Headquarters in Dublin and in major European capitals like Brussels, Berlin, Paris and London.

"The announcement of these new Irish embassies and consulates are important first steps in expanding our global footprint and diversifying our trade portfolio as we prepare for Brexit," said the minister.

"The opening of a Consulate in Vancouver in western Canada reflects the strength of the Ireland-Canada relationship, the growing economic importance of that region and also the fact that there is a large Irish community now living there.

"This will strengthen our hand when helping Irish business to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, with the Consulate serving as a gateway for Irish business to western Canada."

The newly-announced Irish diplomatic missions in Chile, Colombia, Jordan, Vancouver and Mumbai will open on a phased basis throughout 2018 and 2019.



## Canada has released 10,000 extra working visas for young Irish

**OTTAWA** – In good news for young Irish migrants hoping to move to Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada has announced an increase in working visas from 300,000 this year to 310,000 in 2018, 330,000 in 2019, and 340,000 in 2020.

The visas are available to anyone aged between 18 and 35 and include Young Professional and Working Holiday visas.

The Canadian work permits were released on November 6 and allow people to live and work in Canada for up to two years, while the International Co-Op visas are valid for up to a year.

Canada is a popular choice for Irish emigrants, with thousands of young people arriving here each year.

A statement on the Canadian Government website explains they are expanding their immigration program as factors such as an ageing population and a falling birth rate could pose a threat to the Canadian economy and workforce needs.

The website also noted how immigration has enhanced Canadian society.

The statement reads, "The Government of Canada is committed to an immigration system that strengthens the Canadian middle class through economic growth, supports diversity and helps build dynamic and inclusive communities, while maintaining border security, and to preserving the health, safety and security of Canadians.

"Our immigration system has made Canada the nation it is today – one that is diverse, prosperous and welcoming to those in need.

"Demographics and diverse labour market needs drive Canada's demand for immigration, but it is our commitment to integration and to helping those in need that sets us apart.

"Immigration will continue to play a crucial role in keeping our country at the forefront of the global economy.

"Thanks to immigration, Canada is in a better position than other countries, like our G7 counterparts, to face future labour force challenges arising from our ageing population."

For more information about applying for a Canadian work visa, check online: [www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec).

## Ireland's entry to the 2017 EU Film Festival: 'In The Name of Peace – John Hume in America'



THE film will screen at Cinematheque in Vancouver on Sunday, December 3 at 2 PM.

**VANCOUVER** – *In The Name of Peace – John Hume in America*, a movie by acclaimed Irish documentary filmmaker Maurice Fitzpatrick will screen at Cinematheque in Vancouver as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual EU Film Festival on Sunday, December 3 at 2 PM.

Maurice Fitzpatrick writes a regular column 'The View from Ireland' in *The Celtic Connection*.

He visited Vancouver in 2013 for the screening of his film *The Boys of St. Columb* which details the story of the boys who attended St. Columb's College, a Catholic boy's grammar school in Derry, Northern Ireland, in the 1950s.

St. Columb's College helped shape the lives of several great Irish figures and

is the only school to boast two Nobel Prize Laureates – John Hume and Seamus Heaney.

John Hume is a legendary Irish politician and founding father of civil rights in the North.

He is also the only person to have received the world's three major peace accolades, Nobel Peace Prize, Gandhi Peace Prize and the Martin Luther King Award.

In 2010, John Hume was honoured as the public's choice in a poll to find 'Ireland's Greatest', ahead of Michael Collins, Mary Robinson, James Connolly and Bono.

Cinematheque is located at 1131 Howe Street (located between Helmcken & Davie Streets).

Tickets available now at: <http://thecinematheque.ca/eufilmfestival>.

## Calling all Irish seniors for a Christmas luncheon

**VANCOUVER** – This year's Irish seniors Christmas luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, located at 6083 McKay Avenue in Burnaby. Doors open at 11:30 AM and lunch is served at 12 noon. Seating is limited.

The luncheon is hosted by the Irish Heritage Society of Canada and supported by the Emigrant Support Programme with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

Seating is limited so book today! For more information, call George McDonnell at (604) 948-2885.

## THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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# **Congratulations to Jack Lee: 2017 Glenfiddich Champion**

VANCOUVER – Congratulations to Jack Lee winner of this year’s Glenfiddich Championship, placing first in Piobaireachd and second in the MSR competitions in Scotland. Congratulations also to Craig Sutherland for finishing fourth in the MSR.

Jack Lee, pipe sergeant of the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band since its inception in 1981, was awarded the biggest prize in Highland piping – the 2017 Glenfiddich Solo Piping Championship – on October 28.

The prestigious competition was held again in the Great Hall of Blair Castle, situated in the beautiful Perthshire countryside.

It was Jack’s second overall Glenfiddich title, and first since winning it in 2003. His entry this year was *Lament for the Earl of Antrim*. He was the only one of 10 competitors to feature in both prize lists.

It was the forty-fourth running of the event, started in 1974, which showcases the 10 pipers who qualified by merit of results in designated top-tier contests over the previous 12 months, including the 2016 Glenfiddich.

By winning, Jack gains an invitation to the 2018 competition.

PHOTO: Wikipedia  
JACK LEE of the SFU Pipe Band is this year’s Glenfiddich Champion placing first in Piobaireachd and second in the MSR competitions in Scotland.

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# Celtic Colours Festival: 'Your heart will never leave'

I WAS thrilled to be invited to attend this year's **Celtic Colours Festival**, the 21st annual celebration of the musical roots and spectacular scenery of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton island.

Margaret and I took the red-eye flight on Saturday, October 7, arriving in Sydney at noon on Sunday.

We were offered a free upgrade of the rental car from a Kia Rio to a Mustang Convertible. No contest! What an amazing vehicle.

Even using premium gas (at \$1.15 per litre) it was well worth it. I wished I'd brought driving gloves, though. Had the top down most of the time (well, you would, wouldn't you?) and my hands were freezing!

The Sunday concert we had chosen was just down the road from our motel in Baddeck, but we had some trouble finding the place. Well, you try asking Siri to direct you to Whycocomagh!

The feature artists were the brilliant new trio of **Michael McGoldrick**, **John McCusker** and **John Doyle**, Cape Breton's **Coig** (my favourite Canadian Celtic band), and **Garnet Rogers** – making his Celtic Colours debut.

When we returned to the Mustang we were amazed to see the silver horse projected onto the road when we opened the door!

The next day was another sunny one, and we set off for St. Anne's Gaelic College at the entrance to the Cabot Trail for a Brunch and Showcase, headlined by **Heather Rankin**. Great set. What a fine voice she has, and great fun too.

We later made our way to the enormous Membertou Trade and Convention Centre for Thanksgiving dinner and then the Celtic Cabaret, with **The Alt** (Irish flautist/singer **Nuala Kennedy**, with **John Doyle** and **Eamon O'Leary**), Cape Breton fiddler **Jennifer Roland**, **Jordan Muscysyn**, and, topping the bill, a great set by PEI's **Ten Strings & A Goatskin**.

The stage is big and the show was very flashy, including funky LED lights and a smoke machine – which set off the fire alarm at the break!

They managed to convince everyone to stay in the room, and **Rowan Gallant** started the Goats' set by mimicking the fire alarm on his fiddle.

On Tuesday we took the Mustang back over Kelly's Mountain to Sydney for lobster chowder at the yacht club and then off to Sydney River's Our Lady of Fatima – a huge new church – for Songs From Scratch.

Canadian songwriters **Lynn Miles**, **Bruce Guthro**, **Cathleen MacLellan**, **James Keelaghan**, **Cara Luft** and **J.D. Edwards** had been holed up in a resort for a week to write new songs together.

They presented all these songs over the two sets. All new, the final one only written that day, so they all needed song sheets to get through it, but it was an amazing experience. They are such great songwriters!

Wednesday was a glorious day, so we



By  
STEVE  
EDGE

## THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB



**STEPHEN FEARING**, a founding member of The Rogue Folk Club, will headline The Rogue fundraiser and silent auction on Saturday, November 25 at St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue).

took the ferry across Bras d'Or Lake and drove to Iona Highland Village, which recreates living spaces from 250 years of Scottish settlement in Cape Breton.

Local actors in character and period costume are primed with enthralling personal tales of life during the Highland clearances and the struggles to establish themselves in the new world.

I even got to participate in a Milling Frolic, where local singers chant the rhythmic songs as the workers pound the wool onto a wooden table to soften it for local looms. It's a wonderful living museum!

We then drove to the east side of the island to Louisbourg Playhouse – erected by Disney as a replica of Shakespeare's Globe, and given to the town as a legacy gift.

Here we saw another fabulous concert, with local songwriter **Roger Stone** followed by New England fiddler **Hanneke Cassel** and the new supergroup **Imar** (E-mah, not eye-mah): **Tomas Callister** (supreme fiddler with **Barrule**, from Isle Of Man), **Adam Rhodes** (also from Barrule, on bouzouki), uilleann piper **Ryan Murphy**, Scots concertina wizard **Mohsen Amini** (Talisk) and England's **Adam Brown (Rura)** on bodhran and guitar. Virtuosi one and all!

It was quite the finale, I tell you, and then a long drive back to Baddeck in the dark (with the top up!)

Thursday took us to another fine museum, The Bell Museum in Baddeck, for a concert with **The Small Glories**.

Scots-born Alexander Graham Bell made his home just across the lake from Baddeck and his incredible feats of engineering and design are celebrated in the museum (including Canada's first powered aircraft, The Silver Dart).

The evening concert was probably the best of the lot! **Deep Roots**, **Many Branches** started with **Mairi Rankin** (fiddle) and **Ailie Robertson** (harp) from the band **The Outside Track**, followed by Irish fiddler **Fergal Scahill** (**We Banjo 3**) and pianist **Ryan Molloy**.

I don't think I've ever heard so many notes in such a short space of time!

After the break, Mairi was joined by **Wendy MacIsaac** (fiddle) and **Mac Morin** (piano) and then came **Rhiannon Giddens** and **Dirk Powell**!

Michelle and I had met these two at the Festival Club the previous night (morning!) and I asked Rhiannon to sing her Gaelic *puirt a beul*.

When she sang this the room went mad! Here was a young African-American woman singing in Gaelic a song she'd learned in a North Carolina village where they still speak Gaelic! She also danced, fiddled, banjo-ed and generally brought the house down. What a show!

We spent our last full day driving the Cabot Trail to Margaree Harbour, the wonderful Glenora Distillery and The Rankin Sisters' famous Red Shoe in Mabou.

The Big Ceilidh At The Big Fiddle with **J.P. Cormier**, **Dwayne Cote**, **Imar**, **Alison Brown Quartet**, and **Cherish The Ladies** (with Irish fiddler **Nollaig Casey** in the band!) was another incredible concert! A fitting end to our visit.

The next morning we drove over Kelly's Mountain one last time before bidding a fond farewell to "Mustang Sally" and Celtic Colours and Cape Breton.

The television ads for Cape Breton say "your heart will never leave." I think they may be right.

You can see over 100 photographic memories of our trip on my FlickrR page <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm6qTtxtq>

We had a little reprise of Celtic Colours on November 3 at **The Rogue** with Cape Breton's **Bealach** filling St. James Hall to the rafters, with fiddles and bagpipes and step-dancing that was a constant delight.

Next up at The Rogue is a **Fundraiser and Silent Auction** on Saturday, November 25 at St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue).

This 30th year of Rogue Folk has been amazing – ranging from sold-out shows to less-popular ones, amidst extensive renovations and fundraising for the Hall.

With staff changes as well, we found ourselves in a bit of a cash flow crisis. Consequently we have scheduled what will only be the second-ever fundraiser for The Rogue (the previous one was in 2001)!

The response from donors has been stupendous, and there is a silent auction with items ranging from weekend retreats in Whistler and Mayne Island to superbly-crafted guitars, fiddle lessons, and great CD bundles – many of them limited edition, signed copies.

The music will be great, too, with young North Van fiddle genius **Gabriel Dubreuil** kicking things off with a new trio, followed by founding Rogue **Stephen Fearing**, and then lovely chanteuse **Marin Patenaude** teaming up with **Ben Rogalsky** for a set, and we finish up with a lively dance from the **Honky Tonk Dilettantes**.



STEVE EDGE behind the wheel of 'Mustang Sally' with the top down and ready to take on the Celtic Colours Festival and the spectacular scenery of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton island.



THE BRILLIANT NEW TRIO of Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle, one of the featured artists at Celtic Colours.



**IMAR** with **Tomas Callister** (supreme fiddler with **Barrule**, from Isle of Man), **Adam Rhodes** (also from **Barrule**, on bouzouki), uilleann piper **Ryan Murphy**, Scots concertina wizard **Mohsen Amini** (Talisk) and England's **Adam Brown (Rura)** on bodhran and guitar.

Our last concert of 2017 is the annual **Gypsy Jazz Christmas Special – Cool Yule: Van Django** with **LJ Mounteney** and **Keith Bennett** on Saturday December 9.

Looking ahead to 2018, we have a great line-up including **Ten Strings & A Goatskin** (February 4), **Altan** (February 25), and **Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas** (March 11).

We're very excited to announce the first **B.C. Fiddle Festival** – tentatively titled **The Driven Bow** – on the long weekend February 9-11, 2018.

Six B.C. bands will appear at three evening concerts, and the six featured fiddlers will each teach a workshop over the weekend.

They are: Latin American fiddler **Kalissa Landa** (Locarno), **Jocelyn Pettit** (Celtic fiddle), Metis fiddler **Kathleen Nisbet**, **Daniel Lapp** (Blues and B.C. Country Dance), **Cam Wilson** (gypsy jazz / etc) with **Mad Pudding**, and **Gabriel Dubreuil** (jazz fiddle) with **Early Spirit**.

Full details of all shows can be found on the Rogue website [www.roguefolk.com](http://www.roguefolk.com).

I must admit to being slightly disappointed with **The Gloaming's** concert at The Chan Centre the other week.

There seemed to be less emotional intensity this time, and **Martin Hayes** kept returning to the same tune throughout the show (well, maybe it's just me, but I thought it was the same tune! I sort of expected someone to repeat "Number 9, Number 9" or something!).

I spoke to him after the show, and he would absolutely love to come back to The Rogue with **Dennis Cahill** for a duo gig any time.

He's also just launched a fascinating new quartet where he and Dennis are joined by American fiddler **Liz Knowles** and bass clarinetist **Doug Wieselmann** (Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed etc.)

The top new releases for me of late come from PEI's **The East Pointers** (*What We Leave Behind*) and **McGoldrick, McCusker & Doyle** (*The Wishing Tree*). Great ideas for stocking-stuffers next month!

Hope to see you at **The Rogue Fundraiser** on November 25!

*Slainte, Steve*

P.S. don't forget to tune in to *The Saturday Edge On Folk* every Saturday from 8 AM to noon on [www.citr.ca](http://www.citr.ca) when I strive to bring you the very best I can dig up in the wide worlds of Celtic, Folk and Roots music.



# Montreal has redesigned its flag to reflect the role of Indigenous peoples

MONTREAL – Montreal has undertaken two gestures in a bid to reconcile with Indigenous peoples.

The city has added a symbol representing First Nations – a white pine – to its flag and coat of arms. The old flag and coat of arms show a fleur-de-lis, a thistle, a rose and a shamrock, which represent the peoples who founded and developed Montreal.

The symbol was chosen by a committee designated by the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

Another change is a plan to rename a street that commemorates an 18<sup>th</sup> Century British general who advocated the use of small-pox-infected blankets as a weapon during an indigenous rebellion in 1763.

The announcements were made on September 13, on the 10th anniversary



of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Montreal will rename Amherst Street, located just south of Lafontaine Park and stretching over 1.5 kilometres between Sherbrooke and Notre-Dame Streets.

For more than 200 years, the street has commemorated General Jeffrey Amherst, the British conqueror of Montreal in 1760.

In a 1763 letter, he urged the use of biological warfare saying, “You will do well to inoculate the Indians by means of (smallpox-infected) blankets.”

Montreal’s flag and coat of arms now include a white pine (representing the original Indigenous presence in Montreal), along with symbols representing the French (the fleur-de-lis), the English (the rose), the Scottish (the thistle) and the Irish (the shamrock).

# Proposed massive condo to rise above famous Irish pub in Toronto



[PHOTO: Ciara Gibbons Coyle]  
JIMMY McVEIGH behind the bar at the oldest Irish pub in Toronto, opened almost 55 years ago.

TORONTO – A Toronto landmark could soon be swallowed up by a towering condo at Richmond and Church streets, but the good news for preservationists is that it doesn’t look like the city will lose another historic building.

The proposed new development, located at 114 and 120 Church Street as well as 59 Richmond Street, is set to rise to 45 storeys or 149.5 metres right above the famous McVeigh’s Irish Pub, whose owners have staunchly refused to sell their property to developers.

The legendary Belfast-born owner Jimmy McVeigh was profiled in the May 2017 issue of *The Celtic Connection*. He declared that at the age of 86 he has no intention of retiring.

McVeigh immigrated to Canada in 1956 and opened Toronto’s first Irish pub at 124 Church Street in 1962.

Now, 55 years later, he still goes in to work every morning. He also goes in to the pub during the evening three or four times a week to chat with his customers.

He says it’s part of his life and reckons he must be the oldest working, hands-on Irish pub owner in Canada. His family have now joined him in the business with his two sons Jimmy Jr. and Paul, along with his grandson Brendan also working at the pub.

Jimmy recently spoke to *The Celtic Connection* about the changes in his neighbourhood and the new developments planned around the business he established so many years ago.

At the moment he said the situation is in limbo. “Sometime ago the developers made an offer but my sons turned it down actually, it’s in limbo now.

“My sons said if we have to get lawyers it would cost \$50,000 to \$60,000 to contest it you know. Lawyers don’t come cheap and we don’t have that kind of money.”

Then, he laughed and said, “if the pub is sold, I may have to go out and look for a job.”



ARTIST sketch of the proposed condo development that dwarfs McVeigh’s, Toronto’s oldest Irish pub.



## TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR NOVEMBER

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

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

1. *Drums of Chelsea* by The Go Set - *One Fine Day* on ABC Music.
2. *Welcome to Adamstown* by Flogging Molly - *Life is Good* on Vanguard Records.
3. *Blackleg Miner* by Offa Rex - *Queen of Hearts* on Nonesuch.
4. *Rusheen Bay* by Sharon Shannon - *Sacred Earth* on Celtic Collections.
5. *Isumagivappinnga* by The Jerry Cans - *Inuusiqu* on Aakuluk Music.
6. *Wickwire* by Mile Twelve - *Onwards* on The Taurus Records.
7. *Seileach* by Cassie & Maggie - *The Willow Collection* on Independent.
8. *Mise Fhuair* by Mary Ann Kennedy - *An Dán* on ARC Music.
9. *All the Bright Blossoms* by Merry Hell - *Bloodlines* on Merry Hell Music.
10. *Don't Let It Bring You Down* by Bela Fleck & Abigail Washburn - *Echo in the Valley* on Rounder/Concord.

**Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:**

**OFFA Rex - The Queen of Hearts (Nonesuch Records)**



## Rogue Folk Club

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# Doolin's Irish Pub: A warm and friendly welcome with great service and a hearty traditional menu

**V**ANCOUVER – Doolin's Irish Pub has been a landmark at the corner of Nelson and Granville Street in Vancouver for the past 15 years and this past June

Doolin's, the Comfort Inn, and the Belmont were sold – basically the whole building – to new owners.

It was a seamless exchange and the loyal regular customers at Doolin's would scarcely have noticed any change in the hospitality and service they have come to expect over the years.

On a recent visit, I met Barry Walsh, the Dublin-born general manager at Doolin's.

Barry extends a very warm welcome and makes you feel right at home the minute you come through the door at Doolin's.

He comes by this trait naturally since he started working in the hospitality industry in Dublin at age 18, and he has been at Doolin's for the past three years.

Barry said, "the new owners love

**By CATHOLINE BUTLER**

*"We have the same staff and the patrons love Doolin's as it is, so no radical changes are planned."*

Doolin's and they want to keep it exactly as it is. They may just freshen it up a bit such as new speakers, some new wallpaper and furniture, but really there will be no change at all.

"We have the same staff and the patrons love Doolin's as it is, so no radical changes are planned."

Then, he laughed and said, "the only real change is that the money goes to a different bank account."



BARRY WALSH is the Dublin-born general manager of Doolin's Irish Pub in Vancouver.



DOOLIN'S has been a Vancouver landmark at the corner of Granville and Nelson Street for the past 15 years.

Doolin's is always a great place to stop by for a delicious meal. They always have a traditional menu with hearty favourites such as the steak and Guinness pie, chicken pot pie and Irish stew.

"We always change our menu around a bit with the seasons," said Barry. "We're hoping to add a full Irish breakfast if we can source it properly, because if you can't do it properly and the Irish taste isn't there...then it's best not to do it at all."

The bar offers a stock of all the regular Irish beverages such as the various Irish whiskeys along with Guinness and Murphy's.

Doolin's is one of the few pubs that offer Murphy's Irish Stout but Guinness, of course, is the big seller.

The pub offers entertainment five nights a week, and sometimes on a Saturday they will have a DJ.

Christmas season is a busy time and Barry says, "we've been booked out for the Christmas party season since last February. There would still be room for small parties but not for any larger groups."

Doolin's is located at 654 Nelson Street at the corner of Granville Street. For menus and more information, visit: [www.doolins.ca](http://www.doolins.ca).

## No Uber for Vancouver this winter but plenty of alternatives available

**By MARK COSTELLO**

VANCOUVER – To the dismay of commuters and businesses in British Columbia the seasonal wet and cold seem to have emphatically arrived.

The impending downpours however are not bad news for all as there are various industries in Vancouver looking to take advantage of the sudden weather changes.

The car-sharing industry is one such example that offers an easy service helping to overcome the effects of the winter elements.

Admittedly, it would be unfair to brand the sector as completely seasonal.

Car-sharing vehicles are common features on Vancouver's roads throughout the year. However, the rainy winter season undoubtedly lends a helping hand to an already thriving and growing industry.

In early October, Turo – labelled the airbnb for cars – joined the fleet of competing car-sharing companies in Vancouver.

There, the car-sharing market already containing Evo, Modo, Car2Go and Zipcar, now has five different companies vying for the business of the city's shivering commuters.

One major catalyst for this success is the absence of rival ride-hailing or ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft in the region – services that dominate the transport industries in other North American cities.

Ride-hailing services allow users to order a ride from their exact location using an app on a smartphone. Currently,



ADVANCED ride-sharing technology is currently illegal under B.C. law, one of the last places in North America to adopt such platforms.

if in need of a ride in Vancouver, most people resort to hailing a taxi on the street or by phone.

The more technologically advanced ride-sharing apps are currently illegal under British Columbia provincial law and the region remains one of the last places in North America to adopt such platforms. If you are to believe Uber however, this is all about to change.

Susie Heath, head of Uber Canada, stated back in September that each of the three political parties in British Columbia had all pledged to bring ride sharing to the province by the end of 2017.

That same month Uber began a mapping project of Metro Vancouver. It certainly seems that Uber is anticipating some degree of deregulation but to what extent and under what timeline remains to be seen.

In opposition to Uber's plans, *The Globe and Mail* reported that the NDP

Government was detouring from election pledges promising to bring ride-sharing to Vancouver by the end of 2017.

This was concluded after the government issued a statement seemingly citing passenger safety issues as the primary delay in developing new ride-hailing legislation.

Many speculate that these delays are mere attempts to appease the taxi industry whose votes proved valuable to the NDP's success in the last election.

Premier John Horgan has recently had to deny such accusations that his party's policy shift serve merely to cater to the taxi industry. While such political manipulation takes place, the fate of ride-sharing in Vancouver remains in limbo.

It seems that the taxi industry's foothold in provincial politics is contributing to keeping services such as Uber and Lyft on the outside looking in.

This in turn has contributed to a booming car-sharing industry whose apps and technology greatly exceed that of the taxi industry.

It does seem inevitable that ride-hailing apps will one day operate in Vancouver, however with the recent statements from the NDP Government, any itinerary for this remains a mystery.

For the time being it looks like taxis and car-sharing will have Uber-free roads for at least one more blustery Vancouver winter.

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



PHOTO: Recovery Day BC 2017

THOUSANDS ATTEND Recovery Day 2017 in the rain to show support for the #Evidence campaign with the slogan: "We are the evidence that Recovery does work...today we shared our experience, strength and hope."

## Recovery Day BC 2017: a street festival celebration

VANCOUVER – For the past six years, thousands of local people have gathered to celebrate recovery from drug and alcohol addiction in the month of September.

Now, more than ever in the midst of the fentanyl opioid overdose crisis, there is an urgent need to show proof that recovery from addiction is possible.

It was demonstrated this year with the online #Evidence campaign and the massive turnout at the free Recovery Day BC street festival in New Westminster, B.C. on September 9.

With over 1,100 illicit drug overdoses in B.C. to date this year and 935 overdose deaths reported in 2016, the numbers projected to be even more in 2017, this gathering to spread the message of hope is a life-saving endeavour.

If you missed this year's celebration, follow Recovery Day BC on Facebook for information on the September 2018 event at [www.facebook.com/RecoveryDay](http://www.facebook.com/RecoveryDay).

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, reach out for help. The Orchard Recovery Center is an internationally accredited treatment centre located on Bowen Island, just outside Vancouver, which provides a full complement of treatment options to meet your personal needs.

For more information, call (604) 947-0420 or visit online at [www.orchardrecovery.com](http://www.orchardrecovery.com).



# Highly-respected newspaper editor dies suddenly aged just 36

WESTPORT, Co. Mayo – Tributes poured in following news that 36-year-old Neill O'Neill, the highly-respected editor of *The Mayo News*, died suddenly on Tuesday, October 10.

He was responsible for the management of the west of Ireland newspaper, which is published weekly from its base in Westport. During his tenure, the paper won several international awards for design, layout and content.

As news of Neill's sudden passing spread throughout the county, there was genuine shock and sorrow that someone so young and so full of life could be taken at such a young age.

O'Neill was known in the business community throughout the county through his role as the president of the Chamber of Commerce in Westport and his voluntary role in a whole host of other community and sporting organisations.

He fell ill in the early morning hours at his home in Rosbeg in Westport, Co. Mayo and died a short time later. A post-mortem at Mayo General Hospital revealed that O'Neill had suffered a brain hemorrhage.

O'Neill is survived by his partner Emma Joyce, parents Colm and Mary, brothers Conor and Finbarr and sisters Aoife and Orla.



PHOTO: The Mayo News

Neill O'Neill (36) was managing editor of *The Mayo News* since 2011. He died suddenly at home on Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

Colleagues at *The Mayo News* are reported to be devastated with the news. In a statement, owners Dermot and Natalie Berry along with other members of staff expressed their sincere condolences to the O'Neill family.

"There is just a complete sense of disbelief that our colleague and dear friend Neill has passed away," said colleague Michael Duffy. "Neill has been the heart and soul of *The Mayo News* since he took over as managing editor in 2011, having previously worked as a journalist with the paper from 2007 to 2009."

The entire town came to an absolute standstill on October 17 for one of the

biggest funerals Westport has ever seen. Thousands of people turned up at the home Neill shared with Emma before his removal to St. Mary's Church in Westport for the funeral mass.

Staff of *The Mayo News* along with members of Westport Utd FC, Mayo County Council and the Westport Chamber of Commerce formed a guard of honour to escort the cortege.

All of the businesses on the two streets closed up and staff stood outside each premises to pay their respects as the procession passed. O'Neill was buried in Aughavale Cemetery.

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# Scottish MP Mhari Black says 'It is time for 'Global Britain' to give all its pensioners a fair deal



**DINBURGH** – Scottish politician Mhari Black is the youngest MP elected to the UK House of Commons. She is the Member of Parliament for Paisley and Renfrewshire South and was just 20-years-old when first elected in 2015.

Black has a reputation as a strong advocate for social justice and recently she raised the issue of “frozen” British state pensions paid to citizens now living abroad in Commonwealth countries.

The campaign for equality has long been at the forefront of the work by the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners (CABP), a non-profit organization based near Toronto, Ontario.

Over half a million people who have contributed to their British state pension (equivalent to the CPP), and this includes Canadian nationals who have lived and worked in the UK, have their British state pensions frozen because they choose to live in Canada.

It is particularly interesting to note that for those living just across the border in the United States, the British State pension is fully indexed every year.

The “frozen” pensions are a fact of life in most Commonwealth countries with the majority of the pensioners living in Australia or Canada.

In a challenge to this policy, Black recently said that half a million British pensioners are suffering due to this illogical and antiquated policy.

She said given that qualification for a state pension is based on National Insurance contributions made, you would be forgiven for assuming that all British pensioners who have made the required contributions can access their full British pension equally, regardless of where they live.

“Bizarrely, this is not the case,” she said. “Currently, 1.2 million people receive a UK state pension overseas – but without any particular logic – 540,000 of them are unable to access fully the pensions that they paid in for.

For instance, a 90-year-old, whose pension has been frozen throughout their retirement, will still be receiving a state pension of just £52 a week compared to the £122 their counterparts living in countries such as the USA or the EU are being paid.

“Every year, people whose pensions are frozen in this way are forced to return to the UK just to secure a basic income,” said Black. “Unfortunately, this means that families are often ripped apart.”

She continued, “This week, I met a delegation from the International Consortium of British Pensioners, which is campaigning for the pension rights of all overseas state pensioners.

“They told me the distressing story of Sandra Macleod (86), who was born in Glasgow and has lived and worked in Scotland, paying into the UK pension system for most of her life.

“She has lived alone since her husband died in 1984 and lives off her UK state pension. Sadly, Sandra has dementia, so she now needs to be around her family more than ever. However, because her four children live overseas (two in Canada), she cannot join them as she could not survive on a frozen pension.”



**MHARI BLACK** is the youngest MP elected to the UK House of Commons. She has said the situation with ‘frozen pensions’ is absurd.

Despite the fact that contribution to the British state pension is compulsory for those working in the UK, many are shocked to discover that not everyone is paid equally upon retirement.

“The most absurd thing is that people with frozen pensions often did not know that their pension would be frozen if they retired in some countries abroad,” said Black.

“Today, the information available is confusing and largely available online, making it difficult for many older people to access and highlighting how bonkers the whole situation is.”

The British Government recently announced a plan to continue uprating the pensions of all expats living in the EU after Brexit.

Black said, “It makes no sense that the government can recognise the undesirability of frozen pensions within Europe, while continuing to justify it for others elsewhere.

“It is absurd that ‘Global Britain’ should discriminate against its pensioners in this way. With British pensioners suffering across the world, it is high time the government acted.”

For more information in Canada, call CABP toll free: 1-888-591-3964, or online at [www.britishpensions.com](http://www.britishpensions.com).



## Welsh Labour politician found dead after being suspended over sex allegations



**CARL SARGEANT** (49) was found dead at his home on the morning of November 7.

**CARDIFF** – Senior Welsh Labour politician Carl Sargeant (49) was found dead at his home on the morning of November 7.

Sargeant, who was removed from office just days earlier after being accused of sexual harassment in the recent scandal sweeping British politics.

Sargeant, who was married and had two children, was found dead at his home in Connah's Quay, Flintshire.

He was dismissed from his Welsh Government job after allegations about his behaviour were passed to First Minister Carwyn Jones' office.

Jones had said he felt he had no choice

but to refer the matter to the party. Sargeant had vowed to clear his name.

Paying tribute, the first minister said, “Carl was a friend as well as a colleague and I am shocked and deeply saddened by his death.

“He made a big contribution to Welsh public life and fought tirelessly for those he represented both as a minister and as a local assembly member.”

The Welsh Assembly's business was cancelled as a mark of respect following his death, and meetings the following days were cancelled.

In a recent statement on Twitter, Sargeant said, “I met with the First Minister today and he informed me allegations had been made about my personal conduct, which was shocking and

distressing to me.

“The details of the allegations have yet to be disclosed to me.”

In a statement, Sargeant's family said they were “devastated beyond words” at the loss of “the glue that bound us together.”

“Carl was a much loved husband, father and friend. He wasn't simply a part of our family. He was the glue that bound us together. He was the heart of our family. We loved him so very much.

“He was the most kind and caring husband, father, son and friend. We are devastated beyond words, and we know our grief will be shared by all those who knew and loved him.

“We are in shock and grief. We ask that our privacy is respected at this time.”

## Woman told to stop speaking 'foreign muck' but was actually speaking Welsh... in Wales

**CARDIFF** – A woman in the small village of Lampeter in Wales was shocked as she was confronted when speaking to her daughter in her native language.

A 32-year-old mother of three and a Plaid Cymru town councillor, Elin Jones was shopping when she was told to stop speaking “foreign muck.”

A resident of Lampeter, Jones was explaining to her daughter Elena about the food that was on the shelves when a customer at the local store in Ceredigion confronted her.

Following the encounter, Elin tweeted: “Just got asked by a lady in a shop why I don't speak English and not foreign

muck to my baby. I was speaking Welsh. In Wales. #givemestrength.”

Since her post, Elin's comment has had almost 2,000 retweets and over 3,500 likes.

“It's gone a bit ridiculous to be honest,” said Elin after the incident. “I put it on Twitter last night and I checked my account this morning and was a bit shocked! It's in a good way though, we should be promoting tolerance towards all.”

Speaking to local media, Elin explained how she corrected the woman. “I think I was pretty calm about the situation to be honest.

“I said to her ‘I think you are misunderstood – I am speaking Welsh to my children’.

“But she turned on her heels and walked away. She didn't even try and justify what she had said.

“Wales and the UK is a multicultural country and I love that about it in general and we should be far more accepting.”

Elin who also works in a local pub, added, “Most people usually recognise that it's Welsh, particularly when I'm in Wales. But maybe because I don't sound Welsh when I am speaking it.



**ELIN**, pictured with daughter Elena, was confronted when speaking Welsh in Lampeter.

“I have had comments from people saying ‘go back to your own country’, which is very funny because I am from Aberystwyth.”



# Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug: A taste of home in Vancouver



By  
**CATHOLINE  
BUTLER**

VANCOUVER – For many years, new Irish arrivals in Vancouver were advised to look for the red door on Granville Street for a taste of home.

Behind that door was the familiarity of friends, the perfectly poured pint of Guinness, hearty and delicious pub grub and live entertainment every other Friday and every Sunday.

The destination was Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug – a tiny pub with seating for just over 50 – which has been in operation since 2004.

After a renovation to the facade, the iconic red door was replaced with a new jazzy modern glass one, but little has changed inside since the pub first opened – most of all it's the same friendly hospitality that keeps the loyal customers coming back.

For most businesses getting a new front door wouldn't be a big deal but at Johnnie Fox's it was iconic....so instead of completely ditching the door, they just moved it!

It now hangs on the wall inside as a decoration and it seems that at closing time some customers still try to leave through the red door.

The *craic* at Johnnie Fox's is pretty much non-stop and that's on a daily basis.

It's the kind of place where a woman can feel comfortable to drop in after work or from shopping and sit at the bar.

You could strike up a conversation with bartender Diarmuid Lynch from Galway and, before you know it, the whole bar wants in on the conversation with opinions not necessarily based in fact. It's all part of the fun and laughter.

What's really unique about Fox's though is that without encouragement numerous romances have blossomed into marriages.

Kind of like a local Lisdoonvarna – the famed County Clare matchmaking festival – but at Johnnie Fox's there are no matchmakers....just friendly faces.

Sean Flynn is the Athlone-born general manager and he spoke to me recently about the number of customers who found love at Johnnie Fox's.

He said, "actually there's a Canadian couple from Vancouver island who come back here every year at the same time because this is where they first met. They come every July and spend a couple of nights here because they met here on a weekend in July.

"And there are plenty of other Irish people that I know who have met here. I think it's the home environment where you can come in and you don't feel out of place."

But, he said it's the genuine interest in people and familiar warm Irish atmosphere that keeps people coming back.

"Often, whoever is working the bar will



SEAN FLYNN (back) is the Athlone-born general manager at Johnnie Fox's. He is pictured above with bartender Diarmuid Lynch (front) holding a glass a Guinness.



THE FACADE outside Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug has changed over the years but inside its the same warmth and hospitality customers have come to expect.



THAT iconic red door is now a wall decoration inside the pub but the brass sign plate on top remains. It reads: "There are no strangers here, only friends who have never met."

have a chat with whoever comes in," he said. "They'll be asking them what their story is, where they're coming from and where they're going – the same kinds of questions people would ask you in Ireland."

Speaking about his own background, Sean said, "when I first moved to Vancouver, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do.

"In Ireland I worked in corporate finance and just felt I wanted to take a little break from that.

"After a few weeks in Vancouver I just felt like I didn't fit in and realized what was missing was the lack of banter and laughter from back home.

"I came into Johnnie Fox's one Friday night and was back again Saturday and Sunday, and on Monday morning I came in and asked for a job....that was four years ago."

Since then he's moved up to general manager and he said, "now I'm the man giving the job. I've never been homesick a day in my life and I know it's because I work here."

Johnnie Fox's is also a place where lots of newly arrived Irish in Vancouver have found a start with work.

Many contractors have also come in looking for experienced tradespeople like plumbers or carpenters.

Sean said, "we don't have any official capacity helping people to get jobs, but I know a lot of people have been able to get work because they met someone at Johnnie Fox's who was able to direct them to someone who could help.

"It seems to be all word-of-mouth and it all comes back to friendly Irish people hearing someone's story and just wanting to help them get work or accommodation."

Speaking about the food menu at Johnnie Fox's, Sean said, "I would say that we probably have the best taste-of-home food, and of course ourselves working here want a taste of home as well.

"We have the all-day Irish breakfast, also a breakfast roll, bangers and mash, shepherd's pie, Irish stew, and roast beef dinner seven days a week. This is just to name a few of our Irish comfort foods."

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

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GREG BOWLES the owner of Black Pudding Imports in Langley, B.C. displays some of their new Christmas stock.

## Black Pudding Imports: Great gift ideas for all your holiday list

**By CATHOLINE BUTLER**  
LANGLEY, B.C. – 'Tis the season when Celtic retail outlets are busy receiving delicious overseas goodies for Christmas...exciting times.

Greg Bowles and Linda Hazelton, owners of Black Pudding Imports have been in business in Langley for the past 18 years. Two-and-a-half years ago they moved to their current larger premises and expanded their extensive overseas merchandise line.

This location is nicely merchandised with wider aisles to view shelves now stocked with specialty items such as biscuits, shortbread and teas from Ireland and England, jams and marmalades from the UK, Tayto crisps and Irn Bru...to name just a few.

Greg and Linda recently become proud and doting grandparents to their first born grandson and the day I stopped by for a visit Linda was away babysitting, so I spoke to Greg about the merchandise.

Black Pudding always carry a wide range of Christmas and Robbie Burns goods with more still to come.

Also, Greg said "after each Premier League match we get a real spike in people looking for hats, scarves, banners, balls, mugs and souvenirs of their favourite teams. We have all this merchandise."

For the Christmas season this year, they have their largest stock yet of Marks & Spencer merchandise with truffles, cakes, sweets, puddings, cakes and – new this year – chocolate brussel sprouts in a netting bag.

Some of the other sweet and delicious offerings include Dundee cakes with marzipan icing, Genoa cherry cakes, Marks & Spencer marzipan chocolates, and golden and white marzipan for baking.

Other nice gift ideas include the Harris Tweed purses, shopping bags and travel bags, and of course, the Brown Betty

teapots are always popular. These are now available in colour, but the traditional brown teapots are still the most popular.

Other items include Union Jack products such as oven mitts, tea cosies and tea towels which make great stocking stuffers.

For your Robbie Burns celebration there are napkins and table runners in various tartans, along with haggis pies and tinned haggis.

Black Pudding Imports also keep a great stock of haggis on hand year 'round since many customers like to stuff their poultry with haggis.

Greg said, "We will have lots of haggis on hand for Robbie Burns celebrations, but for larger celebrations it would be advisable to order your haggis early."

Mouth-watering deli delights include a large selection of meat pies such as steak and kidney, steak and Guinness, steak and mushroom, chicken curry, chicken vegetable and chicken mushroom.

Specialty bacons include, Wiltshire, Irish and Ayrshire, and they have just added a Gammon steak. Black and white puddings are never around long enough to freeze...they just fly out the door.

Greg is always adding new pie items and he spoke about his latest creation.

"On Saturday mornings, we started adding a breakfast that you can eat on the go...it's a ham, egg and cheese sandwich. We also have baked beans, sausage and cheese in a shell, along with Scotch eggs on the weekends."

When visiting Black Pudding Imports give yourself some time to browse, there are some great gift ideas available for everyone on your holiday list.

Black Pudding Imports is located at 107 - 20353 - 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Langley, B.C. Call (604) 532-1223 or visit online at: [blackpuddingimports.ca](http://blackpuddingimports.ca).

## SFU Pipe Band's annual celebration of Robert Burns – Scotland's bard

**COQUITLAM** – The pipes are calling you to join the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Pipe Band's annual Robbie Burns fundraising dinner and silent auction to celebrate the life and work of Robert Burns – Scotland's iconic cultural voice.

Taste the haggis, watch the Highland dancers, hear the words of Robert Burns, and listen to the pipes and drums on this five-star evening.

What better opportunity to don your kilt and finest Highland attire than a celebration of Scotland and its most famous poet?

If your kilt happens to be at the drycleaners that evening, business formal attire will do. You won't want to miss their incredible silent auction featuring the works of local artisans and small businesses.

Having won no less than six world championships and recorded albums in some of the world's most prestigious concert halls, the SFU Pipe Band has garnered a reputation as one of the world's most accomplished pipe bands and a Canadian music icon.

The band rose to prominence in the 1980s before winning their first World Championship in 1995 and again in 1996, becoming the first pipe band from outside of the United Kingdom to win the title more than once.

Since then, the band has played at venues including the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, and the Lincoln Center in New York.

The band placed fifth at the 2017 World Pipe Band Championships under Pipe Major Alan Bevan this past August and continues to push the boundaries of the artistic world with Scotland's national instrument.

The SFU Pipe Band is proud to have one of the most extensive and successful youth programs for piping and drumming in the world.

The Robert Malcolm Memorial (RMM) Pipe Band is the band's junior organization consisting of four bands and a beginner instructional program.

The organization was founded in 1994 after two members of the SFU Pipe Band, Robert and Malcolm, were killed in an automobile accident.

At the 2017 World Pipe Band Championships this past August, the RMM Grade III band competed in the Juvenile category taking home the prestigious Clydesdale Shield.

With uniforms and instruments costing well over \$2,000 per member, fundraising is an important part of keeping this musical tradition alive.

All proceeds from the Robert Burns fundraising dinner and silent auction will benefit the RMM Pipe Band organization.

The band is looking forward to welcoming everyone to their fundraising dinner to help promote piping, drumming, and Scottish heritage while enjoying a night of good music, entertainment, and fun.

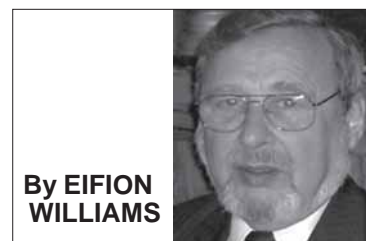
The Robert Burns fundraising dinner and silent auction will be held on January 27, 2018 at the Executive Plaza Hotel, 405 North Road, Coquitlam, B.C. Doors open at 6 PM. For more tickets and information, visit: [www.sfupipeband.com](http://www.sfupipeband.com).



PROCEEDS of the fundraiser will support the Robert Malcolm Memorial Pipe Band, the most extensive and successful youth program for piping and drumming in the world.

### VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

## A busy fall season in the Red Dragon



By EIFION WILLIAMS

**VANCOUVER** – The Vancouver Welsh Society hosted several popular social events in the Cambrian Hall over the past couple of months.

On September 29 there was another pub night featuring popular performer Tim Readman, in what is hoped to be a series of musical pub nights in the Red Dragon lounge.

The evening's entertainment also included a pub quiz and pub food, all contributing to a lively and enjoyable atmosphere.

The Vancouver Welsh Society's annual anniversary dinner was held on October 14 at the Cambrian Hall, catered by Jordan's International Food Designs. The guest soloist was Sarah Henderson.

Following the dinner, President Lynn Owens-Whalen presented, on the society's behalf, two framed portraits of late members Neville Thomas and Ieuan Lampshire-Jones. The two portraits will hang permanently in the Cambrian Hall.

Another popular Twmpath/Ceilidh/Square Dance evening was held in the Red Dragon on October 10.

The Rattlebone Band with caller JD Erskine once again entertained a wide age range of participants, from school

age to seniors, who also enjoyed the Welsh treats like bara brith and Welsh cakes that were on sale. The next dance will be held early in the New Year.

Another pub night was held in the Red Dragon on Friday night, October 28 when a convivial gathering again enjoyed the pub atmosphere and the rousing spontaneous singing.

The annual Vancouver Celebrates Wales events were held on November 3-5. A Noson Lawen (evening of entertainment) was held on Friday evening, November 3, featuring Portland entertainers Three Pound Note.

On Saturday afternoon, November 4, David Llewelyn Williams presented a 100th anniversary program to commemorate the death of the famous Welsh poet Hedd Wyn, together with a film of the opening concert at this year's National Eisteddfod in Anglesey.

A bilingual service was held on Sunday morning, followed at 2 PM by the annual Gymanfa Ganu (singing festival) in the Cambrian Hall.

This year's conductor was Orpheus Choir Musical Director Liana Savard, with accompanist Ray Batten. The soloist was Sarah Henderson.

The Welsh Society is now planning its annual Christmas celebrations.

The highlight will once again be a performance of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, featuring actor Russell Roberts.

The annual children's Christmas party will be held on December 12. Details of these and all Welsh Society events can be found on the society's website: [www.welshsociety.com](http://www.welshsociety.com).

[More Welsh news page 14]



# Scotland-Specific Immigration Policy Needed to Counter Brexit



By  
**HARRY  
McGRATH**

EDINBURGH – For the seasoned Canada watchers on this side of the pond, there have been two developments of note in the last wee while.

The first was the release of another set of statistics from the 2016 Canadian census which included a section entitled “Immigration and ethnocultural diversity.”

The second was an announcement by the Canadian Government that Canada will accept nearly one million immigrants over the next three years, the most ambitious immigration levels in recent history.

Both of these developments have a Scottish dimension though you have to look closely to discover it.

## Scots-Canadians

I first became acquainted with the Canada census in 2006 when I used its data in a report for a project to provide diaspora-support for good causes in Scotland in the way the Ireland Funds had done for Ireland.

My report investigated the Scots in Canada; how many there were, where they lived, what their employment characteristics were and so on.

The first of these was easy enough to discover, even though nobody seemed to have looked for it before.

The 2006 census revealed that there were 4,714,970 Scots in Canada; a figure that subsequently found its way into various Scottish Government pronouncements, albeit simplified to “almost 5 million.”

However, it wasn’t so much the number as the way it was reached that was interesting.

It came from the ethnicity question, combining “Scots-born” and others who picked “Scottish” as one of their four possible origins.

The 2016 census reveals that there are now 4,799,050 Scots in Canada, a rise of over 84,000.

This is counter-intuitive given that Scottish immigration has, in the words of one Scottish historian, been “reduced to a trickle.”

The places where Scots used to gather – Burns clubs, football supporters’ clubs etc – are, with some exceptions, much reduced. And the areas where census-mapping has Scottish clusters – West Vancouver, Kerrisdale – have few visible signs of a Scottish presence.

The rise is due to the increasing number of Canadians self-identifying as Scots.

There are similar trends elsewhere in the census, for instance a 42.5 percent rise in self-identified indigenous population.

The whole exercise shows the extent of Canadian multiculturalism and, at



BREXIT threatens to restore the demographic conditions of 2001 and its anti-immigrant heart makes the devolution of immigration powers to Scotland even less likely than before.

least by implication, makes a case for celebrating it.

Related to this is the recent announcement that Canada will be looking to attract close to one million immigrants in the next three years.

## Anti-Immigration

It’s a tone that the Scottish Government would love to set if it had the power to do so, but Brexit is designed to reduce rather than encourage immigration.

A Scotland-specific immigration policy found cross-party support back in February when a Scottish Parliament committee concluded that there were “acute” risks for EU migrants living in Scotland and called for a differentiated solution.

Committee members said that Brexit poses a major challenge for the 181,000 EU migrants living in Scotland, as well as for Scots living in Europe.

They added that Scotland’s economy could suffer if it no longer had access to European workers who are “a crucial part of our labour market.”

Since February individual voices from all political backgrounds and none have made similar observations. So far they have fallen on deaf ears.

## A Demographic Crisis

We’ve been here before. Back in the early 2000s Scotland was facing a demographic crisis with its population actually falling between the 1991 and 2001 censuses.

Initially, this sparked some rather peculiar initiatives.

First Minister Jack McConnell visited Ontario and appealed to people of Scottish descent to return to their “home-land.”

Around the same time, Scottish Cardinal Keith O’Brien asked the graduates

of St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia to come back to the land of their ancestors. Nobody did.

However a better idea came along soon after when the Fresh Talent Work in Scotland Scheme (FTWISS) was announced by the then Scottish Executive in 2005.

International students would be allowed to work in Scotland for two years after graduation and look to stay on beyond that.

The main problem was that the Fresh Talent invitation was not really Scotland’s to issue. The UK Home Office had the power to rescind the invitation and sometimes used it.

Eventually Fresh Talent itself suffered a similar fate.

FTWISS ended on June 29, 2008 (“deleted” according to the UK Border Agency website) and was replaced by Tier 1 (Post Work Study), until it too bit the dust in 2012.

So far all efforts – cross party or civic – have failed to bring any of this back to life.

Despite the demise of Fresh Talent, the demographic crisis of the early 2000s was eventually solved by immigration.

## Record Population

In June 2016 the National Records showed that 31,700 more people moved to Scotland than left and the total population rose to a record 5,404,700.

Now Brexit threatens to restore the demographic conditions of 2001 and its anti-immigrant heart makes the devolution of immigration powers to Scotland even less likely than before.

Little wonder that we can only gaze with envy while Canada plans its future.

**BREXIT: More on pages 20 & 21**

## Where are most Scots employed in 2017?

Scotland was once a land of heavy industry and agriculture but workers in 2017 are more likely to be employed by the NHS or local councils.

Health and social care remains the largest jobs sector north of the Border, accounting for 16 per cent of the country’s total workforce, a survey found. Employment experts said the dominance of health-related jobs is only expected to grow due to Scotland’s ageing population, with higher numbers of social carers required as a result.

The figures were revealed in an annual report from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), which examines the country’s labour force in depth.



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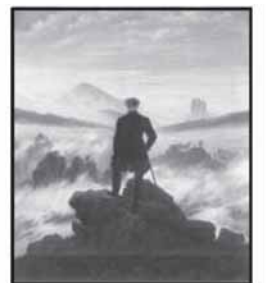
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# Ireland's Taoiseach Leo Varadkar Meets with business leaders in Seattle, WA



PHOTO: Brendan Shriane  
REGISTRATION DESK (L-R) JANE SEPEDE, Dean Arnold, Neil Francoeur, Gabby Jacobsen, Frank Gill, Caron McMahon and Diana Jacobsen at the Chihuly Garden and Glass.



PHOTO: Rozarii Lynch Photography  
LEO VARADKAR examines the gift presented to him by Dale Chihuly and his wife Leslie Jackson at the Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle. (L-R) Paula Stokes, Leslie Jackson, Dale Chihuly and the taoiseach.



PHOTO: Brendan Shriane  
CEOL CASCADIA MUSICIANS (L-R) Brendan Boyle, Ann Delahanty and Doug Mahoney, entertain the attendees before Taoiseach Leo Varadkar speaks at the Irish business luncheon at the Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle on November 1.



PHOTO: Brendan Shriane  
(L-R) HEATHER MURPHY, David Jacobsen, Mick McHugh, Gabby Jacobsen, and Diana Jacobsen at the Seattle Irish business luncheon.

By JOHN KEANE

SEATTLE – Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar was in Seattle on Wednesday, November 1, for meetings with Seattle companies Microsoft and Amazon, both of which provide employment to thousands of people in Ireland.

He was accompanied to Seattle by leaders of Ireland's Industrial Development Authority and Enterprise Ireland as well as by the new Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Dan Mulhall.

At a lunch at the Chihuly Garden and Glass at the Seattle Center, he later told business leaders and Irish community representatives that companies like Amazon and Microsoft make important economic contributions to Ireland. Here are excerpts from the taoiseach's speech:

"Seattle is a place which many of you call home. For others, this is a home-away-from-home. Although I stand here today more than 11,000 miles away from Ireland's western shores, your warm welcome has certainly made me feel at home.

"Of course, the C  ad M  le F  ilte that you have extended to me hardly comes as a surprise, considering the long presence of the Irish in Seattle, and the remarkable imprint that Irish emigrants have made on this great city.

"Irish people have been settling in Seattle for more than 160 years, helping to build, shape and strengthen this city.

"John Collins from County Cavan, became the first Irish-born mayor of Seattle in 1871, and made a considerable contribution to this city's development.

"Judge Thomas Burke – who is called 'The Man who Built Seattle' – was a first-generation Irish-American, and helped to bring the Great Northern Railway to its terminus here.

"In turn, Seattle has helped to build the modern Ireland that we have today. In the 1980s two Seattle entrepreneurs – Bill Gates and Paul Allen – recognized Ireland as a place to grow their company Microsoft.

"From a small manufacturing facility employing 100 people in 1985, Microsoft now employs 3,000 people in Ireland, in some of their most advanced operations, from software development and testing, to sales and marketing.

"Another Seattle company, Amazon, has invested over 1.5 billion in Ireland since 2004, and employs around 2,000 people across its Cork and Dublin sites.

"Companies like Amazon and Microsoft are part of a group of over 500 U.S. companies that have chosen to invest in Ireland, creating 140,000 jobs.

"These companies make an important economic contribution to Ireland and their presence contributes to our status as one of the tech capitals of the world.

"They have recognized the many qualities which make Ireland a desirable lo-



PHOTO: Rozarii Lynch Photography  
IRISH CONSUL GENERAL Robert O'Driscoll, Irish Ambassador to the United States Dan Mulhall, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar with Maureen Keane and Honorary Consul John Keane prior to the November 1 Irish business luncheon at the Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle.



PHOTO: Rozarii Lynch Photography  
(L-R) SEATTLE POLICE CHIEF Kathleen O'Toole, Seattle Mayor Tim Burgess, and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar speak before the Irish business luncheon in Seattle.



PHOTO: Rozarii Lynch Photography  
KEY MCKENNA (R) shakes hands with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at the Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle. Consul General Robert O'Driscoll (left) and Michelle Delaney (right).

cation for investment.

"The significance of trade and investment for Ireland is nowhere more evident than in our bilateral economic relationship with the United States.

"However it is important to remember that trade between Ireland and the United States is a two-way, mutually beneficial relationship.

"Viewed across both goods and services, our overall trade flows are remarkably balanced.

"Irish companies employ close to 100,000 Americans in a range of sectors including software, medical technologies and aerospace in more than 430 Irish firms across all 50 states, in-

cluding many here in Washington State.

"Today Ireland is an island at the center of the world – at the heart of the common European home we helped to build – confident about our place in the world at a time when so many other countries are not.

"Meeting you here today, and hearing about the important contributions that you continue to make to Seattle and to Washington State, is a great source of pride to me as taoiseach, and to the country as a whole.

"I want to congratulate you for all that you have accomplished, and all that you are working towards.

*"Go raibh m  le maith agaibh."*





GROUP PHOTO of all the teams participating in the David Gavin memorial tournament in Salmon Arm, British Columbia on September 23.

#### DAVID GAVIN MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

## Reflections on a positive end to a difficult season for the ISSC

By **TADHG EGAN**  
Chairman of ISSC  
Vancouver 2017

VANCOUVER – The GAA playing season in Western Canada came to an end on September 23, 2017 in the unique setting of Salmon Arm which hosted the David Gavin memorial tournament.

Teams from the ISSC Vancouver, JP Ryan's Hurling Club, the Fraser Valley Gaels and the Calgary Chieftains all travelled to Salmon Arm where competitive games were played in all four codes.

Some of David's friends and his girlfriend Ciara were also in attendance on the day.

The tournament was a positive end to what was unfortunately a difficult and tragic year for all involved in Western Canada GAA, in particular for David's teammates in the ISSC Vancouver Men's Gaelic Football team.

On June 29, those of us who were driving to Calgary for the Western Canadian Championships set off from Vancouver, while the remainder of our players chose to fly on the Friday after work.

We had huge numbers travelling to what promised to be a fantastic tournament hosted by the Calgary Chieftains as part of their 40th anniversary celebrations.



DAVID GAVIN



THE MEMORIAL TREE planted in the name of David Gavin in Breaffy, Co. Mayo in August.

The travelling convoys ended up in various destinations that night including Kamloops, Kelowna, Hope and coinci-

dentally for my group, we stayed just outside of Salmon Arm.

On June 30 as we awoke to what was a beautiful day surrounded by such breathtaking scenery, we never could have imagined the pain and tragedy that we would feel by day's end.

On that Friday afternoon, just as word began to filter through of the situation that was unfolding, quite a number of us were just arriving at Lake Louise.

While Kinbasket Lake was a place that was new to all of us at that time, it is now unfortunately a place that none of us will ever forget.

A lot has been said about David over the last few months, and as someone commented to me recently "even though I didn't know him, I genuinely believe that he must have been a great guy" and it is true, he was a great guy.

Many of us unfortunately did not get the chance to know him for a very long period of time while he was here, but even for the short time that we did know him, he left an impression that is as lasting and profound as I have probably ever seen.

Firstly he was an incredible footballer and athlete, one of the best to have ever graced the colours of the ISSC Vancouver.

He was a great teammate here and back home in Breaffy, he was an incredible friend to all who knew him, he was a loving boyfriend to his girlfriend of over 10 years Ciara, a legend of a brother to his younger sister Aoife and he was the type of child that any parent would dream of having and Michael and Angela loved him so much.

He excelled in every way, but at all times it seems he did it in his own humble, genuine and modest way.

The reaction to the fundraising efforts that followed the tragedy were a reflection of the high esteem David and his family were held in.

It was also a reflection of how fantastic Irish people, in particular the GAA community, are in times of great tragedy.

As Michael Gavin recently said to me, "Although we have not been successful in our endeavours just yet, we have a certain peace of mind knowing that we have done everything humanly possible to find David. We still harbour some hope for next May, please God."

A special mention must go to Jimmy Doyle of the Calgary Chieftains and his Western Board colleagues who organized the event at Salmon Arm.

While it was certainly not the ending anyone could have ever imagined, we can at least look back on a positive ending to the summer and we can look forward with renewed hope and optimism towards GAA in Western Canada in 2018.



DENIS RYAN (Fraser Valley Gaels and JP Ryans Hurling Club – Secretary of Western Board), Grainne Warren (ISSC Vancouver), Ciara O'Malley (David's girlfriend), and Jimmy Doyle (Calgary Chieftains – Western Board Chairman), at the Salmon Arm tournament.



JIM KELLY (second left) the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada was in Alberta last month and met with community and business leaders in both Edmonton and Calgary. He is pictured above at Mount Royal University in Calgary with Elizabeth Evans (third left) the Dean of Business and Communications, Jim Silovs (left) the Associate Dean, and Deirdre Halferty (right), Honorary Consul Ireland for Calgary and Southern Alberta.

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### New ISSC Executive

The Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club held a very well attended annual general meeting on Thursday, November 2 and a new committee was elected as follows:

**Maria Eviston** – Chairperson

**Sofie Gallagher** – Secretary

**Trevor Farrell** – Treasurer

**Aislinn Rice** – PRO

**Lorraine Muckian** – Club Development Officer

Contact the ISSC or learn more, online at: [www.isscvancouver.com](http://www.isscvancouver.com),  
or on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/isscvancouver](http://www.facebook.com/isscvancouver).



# Hemochromatosis (aka the Celtic Curse): My Husband Died of Iron Overload

By JACKIE LALUMIÈRE

In January 2010, my usually healthy, energetic 72-year-old husband began to feel unwell, unable to describe the feeling except to say that he felt very tired.

Regardless of this fatigue he continued to play tennis three times a week and worked a few hours at a small local store.

Sometimes the work was strenuous, but Tom enjoyed meeting people and he wasn't a man to give up easily.

During several physicals his doctor had noted a rise in ferritin levels.

In that spring my husband's serum ferritin level was 881 ng/mL.

The doctor said there was no cause for alarm as he had seen much higher ferritin levels in other patients.

There was no mention of iron overload; Tom and I assumed all was well.

By summer the ferritin levels had risen to 935 ng/mL.

The doctor thought it may be iron overload and ordered more blood tests; still no definitive diagnosis.

During the next two years, without diagnosis or treatment my husband began to show definite signs of what I now know to be hereditary hemochromatosis.



TOM AND JACKIE Lalumière in happier times.

He developed a bronze skin tone, and his friends would ask if he had been down south.

He was constantly tired and lost his appetite. His ferritin was now 1,793 ng/mL.

Finally in 2012 my husband was referred to a hematologist and a gastroenterologist.

An MRI disclosed severe liver damage.

Phlebotomies were ordered and after several treatments iron levels decreased, but so did the white cell count.

Following several inconclusive bone marrow tests, my husband was unable to continue with phlebotomy therapy

due to his low white cell count.

The only available treatment for him now was a chelation medication.

The medication was not suitable for my very ill husband; his damaged liver was unable to filter this strong medication.

His ferritin levels rose and he began to suffer with many of the associated illnesses of hemochromatosis.

Following several visits to the emergency room he was given higher doses of diuretics to try to reduce water retention in his abdomen and legs.

My husband should have been admitted to the hospital at that time as he was very ill.

We managed at home for a few more days until he was no longer able to walk.

On Friday, April 19, 2013, I called the ambulance to take my husband to hospital.

He died on May 3 from complications of hemochromatosis due to an untimely diagnosis.

One important point to note is that at no time during my husband's consultation with doctors was there any mention that his family, siblings or children should be tested for this hereditary genetic condition.

My daughter and I could not believe that someone so healthy and full of life could pass from this world due to high iron levels.

We researched the condition and discovered the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society (CHS).

We also learned that ours was not the only case of a late diagnosis ending so tragically.

We attended an information session in Montreal, and soon after we started the Ottawa Chapter for CHS.

Our first information session drew a small amount of attendees, but we found volunteers who were willing to help build the chapter.

Since those early days of starting up the chapter we have had several successful information sessions.

We attend the Highland Games to help bring information to the Celtic population who are often affected by hereditary hemochromatosis.

The chapter has organized four fundraiser golf tournaments and we attend health shows in the area, bringing awareness and information.

The cure for hemochromatosis is awareness. In our small group of eight volunteers, we have among us two who have hereditary hemochromatosis, my daughter and one of her friends are carriers of one of the mutations, and the father-in-law of one of our volunteers has just been diagnosed with the disorder.

It is very believable that 1 in 300 Canadians is at risk of this genetic hereditary condition.

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.

Support the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society, Suite #285 - 7000 Minoru Boulevard., Richmond, B.C. V6Y 3Z5. More information online at [www.toomuchiron.ca/celtic](http://www.toomuchiron.ca/celtic).

## Vancouver Welsh Society's 'lost' 1948 bardic chair found in London

By EIFION WILLIAMS

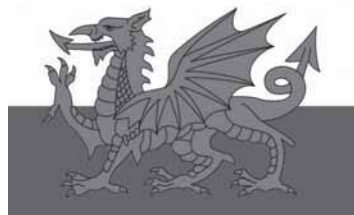
VANCOUVER – Vancouver Welsh Society Past-President David Llewelyn Williams has shown an increasing interest in recent years in the fate of the Bardic Chair donated by the society to the 1948 Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, held that year in Bridgend.

The story of the Vancouver Bardic Chair has always been regarded as a significant event in the Welsh Society's history, not least because of the personalities involved, both in Vancouver and in Wales, including the eccentric chaired Bard, Dewi Emrys James.

One of the Welsh Society members heavily involved in the story of the chair was Thomas Edwards, head of T. Edwards and Co., a prominent Vancouver funeral director whose name is inscribed as a donor on the Cambrian Hall cornerstone, together with those of other prominent Welsh immigrant philanthropists.

Thomas Edwards and his wife arrived in Vancouver from the Swansea area of South Wales in the 1890s. Both played an influential role in Welsh immigrant circles in Vancouver during the first half of the Twentieth Century. Their granddaughter, Ann Bosch, is still a respected member of the society.

It was suggested by Welsh Society members and friends in Wales that the Bardic Chair for the 1948 National Ei-



steddfod be built and presented by the Vancouver Welsh Society.

A committee chaired by Edwards was formed and sufficient money was raised by local Welsh immigrants to pay for the chair and its shipment to Wales.

The chair was made of Canadian black walnut to a specific design set by the Eisteddfod Council, with leather upholstery and a Welsh dragon motif. It also bore the symbols and motifs derived from early West Coast totems and the B.C. First Nations.

The chair was duly presented to the Eisteddfod by Thomas Edwards at the 1948 National Eisteddfod in Bridgend.

This ceremony was also the first to recognize and welcome the Overseas Welsh, a tradition that was to continue to the present day. Thomas Edwards was its first leader.

The Chairing Ceremony is the highlight of the week's events at the annual Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales and the winning bard is held in high esteem.

The winning poem must adhere strictly to a traditional Welsh metre form. The chairs are kept and cherished by the winners or occasionally donated to worthy Welsh organizations.

Dewi Emrys, the Chaired Bard at the Bridgend Eisteddfod, was a colourful character who had already won three Eisteddfod chairs in previous years, although one was replaced by a medalion in 1943 because of the War.

Due to his dissolute and occasionally vagrant way of life, Dewi Emrys managed to lose his winning chairs, including the 1948 Vancouver Chair.

Two of Dewi Emrys's chairs were recently discovered. One was found in Chirk Castle and another in Llanelli but the Vancouver Chair remained lost until the beginning of this year, when it was discovered in Jewin Welsh Chapel in London.

It is not known how it got there and it had apparently been covered up.

Following his attendance at this year's National Eisteddfod in Anglesey, David Llewelyn Williams was determined to see 'our' chair and a visit to Jewin Chapel was arranged for him by close friend Eileen Mitchell and by Gareth Owen, a Deacon at the chapel.

David said after the visit, "What is apparent in the design of the Chair is how

David Llewelyn Williams, Vancouver Welsh Society Past-President seated in the Bardic Chair donated by the society to the 1948 Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales. It now resides at the Jewin Welsh Chapel in London.



it represents British Columbia. It exhibits the essence of the heritage of British Columbia through the carvings representing the culture of its First Nations.

"This chair is a statement to the Welsh community, the First Nations of Britain, from the First Nations culture of British Columbia."

David adds that there is no doubt as to its authenticity and says it was a rare privilege to sit in it.

Having already sat in the Chirk Chair, he now looks forward to sitting in the Llanelli Chair, which he says, with tongue in cheek, "will complete my homage to Dewi Emrys."



# Ottawa's Barrack Hill Cemetery: Remains finally laid to rest almost 150 years later

OTTAWA – Perhaps one of the most poignant events of Canada's 150th year took place on October 1 at Beechwood Cemetery to commemorate the remains of 79 individuals – some of the region's earliest settlers.

Earlier the public was invited to pay their respects to the group who have become known as Ottawa's forgotten at the Canadian Museum of History.

The remains were left behind in what was once Barrack Hill Cemetery – Bytown's earliest cemetery – the city's first known gravesite for Europeans.

During the two decades before the original cemetery closed in 1845, some 500 human remains were buried there.

The cemetery served various denominations, including Roman Catholic, Protestant and Presbyterian. It is believed

most were likely of Irish, Scottish, French and British background.

However, when it came time to close the cemetery, in the name of progress and city building, only relatives who could afford to move their dead to another cemetery in Sandy Hill, now known as MacDonald Gardens Park, did so.

At the time, city archivist Paul Henry says Bytown sported a population of only 7,000 people and was still a wild west, of sorts.

Prior to the Municipal Corporations Act of 1849, it was incumbent upon the families to physically move the dead themselves, rather than being the responsibility of the county magistrate.

The unclaimed remained in their plots as new buildings and roads, including Queen and Metcalfe streets, were built over the two-acre plot of land.

These remains were unearthed in downtown Ottawa in 2013 after being discovered during early stages of construction of the Confederation Line, the city's new light-rail transportation system.

Ben Mortimer, a senior archeologist with the engineering consulting firm Paterson Group, led the dig, along with Janet Young, an anthropologist with the Canadian Museum of History.

They worked for several months in 2014 to exhume the remains from the former cemetery, originally bounded by Elgin and Metcalfe streets and Sparks and Queen streets.

Given the lower social economic status of the majority of those still at the site, "grave goods" such as jewellery were not found, and most remains were wrapped in a shroud without clothing and shoes.

"If you are burying your relatives, then (families) are going to reuse the clothes and they'll pass them down to somebody else," Mortimer says.

Women averaged between five foot and five foot four inches tall, and men were between five foot five and five foot 10 inches.

Most of the adults showed evidence of difficult lives, including indications of malnutrition and bodily stress, and skeletal degeneration sometimes associated with hard labour.

It should also be noted that there was a high rate of infant mortality in the assemblage taken from Barrack Hill Cemetery, a common occurrence in industrial cemeteries, especially those identified with lower socio-economic status.

Worn joints also showed a "hard life," for those likely working as labourers in the lumber trade or possibly constructing the Rideau Canal.

The cemetery was also in use during two cholera epidemics, which, Young



PHOTO: City of Ottawa  
OTTAWA Mayor Jim Watson and the dioceses entering the ceremony at Beechwood Cemetery to honour Barrack Hill Cemetery individuals.



PHOTO: City of Ottawa  
THE FINAL CASKET is carried to the new gravesite in a 19th Century horse-drawn hearse, an archival item provided by the Cumberland Village Heritage Museum.

says, may have wiped out entire families due to poor sanitation and drinking water, as well as a lack of proper medical care.

It is expected that additional Barrack Hill Cemetery burials will be found as two sites are undergoing excavation this year. These remains will be re-interred following protocol.

Members of the clergy from St.

Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, and the Roman Catholic and Anglican Dioceses of Ottawa were present for the ecumenical burial at Beechwood Cemetery.

Bryan Daly, president of the Irish Society of the National Capital Region, was also present, along with members of the Canal Workers Commemorative Group to represent the Irish community.



PHOTO: McCord Museum  
EARLY days of Bytown, now known as the City of Ottawa, Capital of Canada.

## Honour for Galway historian who uncovered mass grave at Tuam Mother and Baby Home

DUBLIN – The volunteer historian who uncovered details of a mass grave at the former Mother and Baby Home in Tuam has been honoured as a "fearless campaigner for human rights."

Catherine Corless was awarded the Bar of Ireland's Human Rights Award in Dublin on October 26.

In 2013 Corless discovered official records showing that 798 infants and children had died at the home in Tuam, Co. Galway.

In March, a Commission of Investigation announced that it had found "a significant number of human remains" on the site of the home which had been run until the early 1960s by the Bon Secours Sisters.

Corless believes most of the 798 infants and children are buried on the site, part of which had a local authority estate built on it in the 1970s.

Corless said she was "truly honoured" to receive The Bar of Ireland Human Rights Award.

"My work campaigning on behalf of the survivors of mother and baby homes continues and I hope that this special award will give even more survivors the strength to come forward to tell their story," she said.



CATHERINE CORLESS

The Bar of Ireland's Human Rights Award is an initiative of The Bar of Ireland's Human Rights Committee and is presented to a person or organisation who has shown exceptional humanitarian service.

In 2016 it was awarded to the Irish Naval Service for their work on the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean Sea.

Paul McGarry SC, Chairman of the Council of The Bar of Ireland praised Corless for her "incredible courage and determination in her advocacy work on behalf of the survivors of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home.

"She has worked tirelessly on their behalf and has shone a light on a dark period of our history, passionately represented the victims and their rights at all times, often in the face of adversity. She epitomises the very essence of a humanitarian and is a very deserving recipient of this award."

## IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

# A great year with many new families welcomed to the club in 2017

WHITE ROCK, B.C. – The Irish Club of White Rock has had a very successful year to date, including a great summer picnic at Redwood Park in August with a record attendance, including many new families to Canada.

The club's most recent event was a Halloween party for children on Sunday, October 29 at Bakerview Hall in South Surrey.

It was attended by a great number of children and adults and a wonderful time was had by all.

There were adults meeting new friends and catching up with old friends, children enjoyed face painting, music, dancing and many of the old traditional games and lots of home baking.

One special item was tea brack which was traditionally eaten at Halloween. Guests were advised to watch for the customary ring baked into the cake. The person finding the ring was said to be the next one married.

Christmas is just around the corner and the Irish Club is planning their Christmas dinner party on the last day of Christmas, Little Christmas, January 6.



A DELICIOUS table with home baking featured at the children's Halloween party along with traditional games such as bobbing for apples.

Details and location to be advised. More information on Facebook at: Irish Club of White Rock, or e-mail: irishclubofwhiterock@gmail.com.

Following the Christmas celebrations, tickets will be available for the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance to

be held at the Hazelemere Golf and Tennis Club in South Surrey.

Newcomers are always welcome at the Irish Club of White Rock. To learn more or get involved, call Sharon Woods (president) at (604) 338-3553 or Deirdre O'Ruairc (secretary) (604) 803-0773.



# Folktales and legends told around the fireside formed the backbone of Irish imagination for millennia



PHOTO: Department of Irish Folklore, UCD

THE FAMOUS Irish oral tradition is exemplified in such remarkable storytellers as Peig Sayers [1873–1958] from Dunquin (Dún Chaoin), Co. Kerry, Ireland. Seán Ó Súilleabháin, the former archivist for the Irish Folklore Commission, described her as “one of the greatest woman storytellers of recent times.”



**STORYTELLING** was a favourite art and amusement among the Gaelic-speaking people of Ireland and Scotland – particularly during the dark winter months – and much of their repertoire went back to pre-Christian sources.

In olden days, there were professional storytellers, divided into well-defined ranks – *ollamh* (professors), *filí* (poets), *baird* (bards), *seanchaí* (historians, storytellers), whose duty it was to know by heart the tales, poems and history proper to their rank, which were recited for the entertainment and praise of the chiefs and princes.

These learned classes were rewarded by their patrons, but the collapse of the Gaelic order after the battle of Kinsale (1601), and Culloden in Scotland (1746), wiped out the aristocratic classes who maintained the poets, and reduced the role of the historian and *seanchaí*.

Storytelling was, of course, one of the main forms of fireside entertainment among the ordinary folk also, and the popular Irish tradition became enriched by the remnants of the learned classes returning to the people.

The storyteller was held in high esteem by the Irish who revered and cultivated story and song as their principal means of artistic expression. Indeed, storytelling is the flagship of Irish folklore.

The famous Irish oral tradition is exemplified in such remarkable storytellers as Peig Sayers, Anna Nic an Luain, Eamon a Burc, and many more.

Notably, the members of the travelling community were traditionally regarded as amongst the best storytellers, and they have made an enormous contribution to the preservation of Ireland's oral and musical tradition.

Stories of Fionn and the Fianna (The Fenian Cycle) CúChulainn and the Red Branch Knights (The Ulster Cycle), The Cycle of the Kings, and the Mythological Cycle, comprise the four major saga cycles in Early Irish literature.

The Cycle of the Kings tells of the legendary kings of Ireland, both mythical and historical, including Labraid Loingseach, Conall Corc and, most famously, Cormac mac Airt and Brian Boru.

Alongside folktales and legends, all these stories, told around the firesides at night, formed the backbone of entertainment and imagination in Ireland for many millennia.

Legends tended, and still tend, to be told on a more informal basis – in the fields, over the kitchen table, at the pub – and do not require any specialised skill or knowledge in their telling. Legends were slightly more likely to be told by women than by men.

But other forms of storytelling – folktales, hero tales, and myths – have traditionally been the preserve of the *seanchaí*, who was slightly more likely to be male.

This cultivation of the quality of oral expression was important in the Irish-speaking tradition. Much of the particular nature of the English spoken in Ireland is owed to this linguistic inheritance.

Nevertheless, a lot was also lost in the transition from Irish to English; many tales have been recorded only in Irish, mainly due to the efforts of the Irish Folklore Commission, now in the department of Irish Folklore in University College, Dublin.

Yeats, Lady Gregory and J.M. Synge, names associated with the Irish Literary Revival, were all fascinated by the folklore of Ireland and created a new literature out of the oral heritage.

One of the difficulties faced by all the writers in English was how to translate the syntax and imagery of the Irish language into acceptable written English and reproduce the normal speech of the people in a natural manner.

Douglas Hyde, the son of a rector from Roscommon, knew Irish well and collected the songs and tales for posterity, preserving them as accurately as he could in Irish and providing English translations that were faithful, rather than literary.

The foundation of the Gaelic League in 1893 provided the opportunity and enthusiasm to study and develop the Irish language, and the stories of the Gaeltacht, the Irish-speaking districts, were diligently collected.

Soon after the establishment of the Irish Free State, the Folklore of Ireland Society (*An Cumann le Béaloideas Éireann*) was set up and a one-time assistant to Hyde, a County Antrim man called Séamas Delargy, became the editor of its journal *Béaloideas*.

In 1935, the Irish Folklore Commission was founded with Delargy as director and full-time folklore collectors were appointed.

One of these, Michael J. Murphy, was appointed the Commission's collector for Ulster east of Donegal.

Murphy has described his experiences as a collector in *Tyrone Folk Quest* and in 1975 published *Now You're Talking*, a fine collection of Northern stories.

In addition to its journal, the society has also produced other significant publications over the years, most notably the basic work, *A Handbook of Irish Folklore* by Seán Ó Súilleabháin.



BENBURB PRIORY situated in East Tyrone, about seven miles from the city of Armagh, celebrates over 1,000 years of history with a new £1.4 million library and museum based in the refurbished stables at the centre of the estate.

## New Benburb Priory museum to celebrate 1,000 years of archives

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland – A new £1.4 million library and museum at Benburb Priory was officially opened by Ireland's two Archbishops of Armagh – the Most Reverend Eamon Martin, and the Church of Ireland primate, the Most Reverend Richard Clarke – on October 26.

The facility celebrates over 1,000 years of history and is situated in East Tyrone, about seven miles from the city of Armagh, in an area of outstanding natural and scenic beauty.

The Servite Order, which owns the priory and its estate, dates back to 1233 in Florence, Italy. It has had a rich and varied history spanning and being affected by great political, religious and social change through its evolving locations in mainland Europe, England, United States, and beyond.

This has resulted in considerable transfers of books, manuscripts and archive material from country to country.

Some of the books date back to the 16th Century. There is also a collection of Irish literature and a wide range of general religious books. The archives date back over 150 years and include the complete records of the Servites in Britain and Ireland.

The above collections have undergone considerable conservation and are now catalogued for ease of access and study.

They are complemented by the equally important and developing “O'Neill Collection,” which focuses on the association of the O'Neill Clans with Benburb and the rich local history including the ‘Battle of Benburb’, the Plantation of Ireland, development of the various strands of Clans of O'Neill and the O'Neill diaspora.

It also covers the development of the Priory estate (formerly Wingfield/Powerscourt estate) including its role as a field hospital in World War II, and the significance of the Blackwater val-



ley in the economic, social and cultural development of the region over the centuries.

No similar collection devoted to the O'Neill Clans and associated history has been established elsewhere.

Benburb, by virtue of its history and association with the O'Neills, is the natural home for such a collection and the library and museum will be the future focal point for gatherings of the clans including the recently re-established O'Neill Summer School.

The “O'Neill Collection” will include the incorporation of the extensive and highly valuable private collection of Hugo O'Neill.

He is recognised as the present Chief by descent of the O'Neills of Clanaboy, by the Chief Herald of Ireland based at the National Library and by the Clans of Ireland organisation including the Association of O'Neill Clans.

The priory estate is of considerable historic interest. It was originally a Plantation estate, which was later bought by the distiller James Bruce in the late 19th Century. Bruce built the manor house and stables and also remodelled Benburb Village.

After a period of relative disuse, the estate was used in the Second World War as a field hospital for British, Belgian and U.S. troops. It was bought by the Servites in 1947, and a priory and seminary was opened in 1949.

The priory has evolved over the years in functional terms, and since the 1980s it has been a major retreat centre and meeting place for over 30 community groups. It has over 20,000 visitors annually.

## Who was the Hag of Beare?

Who was the Hag (*Cailleach*) Beare? She appears as a mysterious and shadowy figure hovering around the edges of Irish folklore and myth, yet very little is known about her.

The word *cailleach* has come to mean ‘hag’, or ‘crone’, yet in Old Gaelic it actually means ‘veiled one’.

This conjures up images of early Medieval Christian nuns, yet it is possible that the word has more ancient origins and could refer to the wise-women or female Druids of pre-Christian and maybe even pre-Celtic times.

The legend of the *cailleach* can be found not only in Ireland, but in Scotland and the Isle of Man, too. She is associated with winter, and the creation of the landscape.

In Scotland, it is said that if Imbolc (1st of February) dawns clear and bright, it is because the *cailleach* is out collecting firewood to keep herself warm through a long, cold and stormy winter to come.

But if the day dawns wet and wintry, the *cailleach* is still sleeping, and therefore the winter will be a short one.

*The Lament of the Old Woman of Beare* is a very (long and) beautiful old poem. Here are a selection of verses:

*Ebb-tide has come to me  
as to the sea;  
old age makes me yellow;  
though I may grieve thereat,  
it approaches its food joyfully.*

*I am Buí, the Old Woman of Beare;  
I used to wear a smock that was  
ever-renewed;*

*today it has befallen me,  
by reason of my mean estate,  
that I could not have even  
a cast-off smock to wear.*

*When my arms are seen,  
all bony and thin!*

*- the craft they used to practise  
was pleasant:  
they used to be about glorious kings.*

*The maidens are joyful  
when they reach May-day;  
grief is more fitting for me:  
I am not only miserable,  
but an old woman.*

*I have had my day with kings,  
drinking mead and wine;  
now I drink whey-and-water  
among shriveled old hags.*

*I see on my cloak the stains of age;  
my reason has begun to deceive me;  
grey is the hair which grows  
through my skin;  
the decay of an ancient tree  
is like this.*



# A small island with an enormous role in the history of the Irish in Canada

QUEBEC CITY – To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, the Government of Canada offered free admission for all visitors to Parks Canada to encourage people to experience Canada's history and heritage in a special way.

One of these sites is a small island with an enormous role in the history of the Irish in Canada – Grosse-Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site is located in the Ile-aux-Grues archipelago near Quebec City.

In 1997 a memorial was erected in memory of those who died on the island and this year over 27,300 people visited the site, a sharp increase from last year.

Grosse-Île was the site of an immigration depot which predominantly housed Irish immigrants coming to Canada to escape the ravages of Ireland's Great Hunger, otherwise known as *an Gorta Mór*, 1845-1849.

Thousands of starving and impoverished Irish arrived in Canada on diseased "coffin ships" during this tragic period.

These ships were intended for transporting lumber, and passengers often arrived at Grosse-Île only to perish from disease in the quarantine sheds.

It is now recognized as the largest burial ground for refugees of the Great Hunger outside Ireland. Between 1832 and 1937, more than 7,500 people died and were buried on the island, most of them Irish who arrived in the "black" summer of 1847.

One of the most vivid and disturbing accounts of that era is recorded by author Cecil Woodham-Smith in her book *The Great Hunger - Ireland 1845-1849* first published in 1962.

She quotes Robert Whyte, pseudonymous author of *1847 Famine Ship Diary: The Journey of a Coffin Ship*, who described the voyage onboard the sailing ship *The Ajax*.

"On arrival at Grosse-Île the Irish emigrant passengers on *The Ajax* dressed in their best clothes and helped the crew to clean the ship, expecting to be sent either to hospital or on to Quebec after their long voyage.

"In fact, the doctor inspected them only briefly and did not return for several days. By mid-summer doctors were examining their charges very perfunctorily, allowing them to walk past and examining the tongues of any who looked feverish.

"In this way, many people with latent fever were allowed to pass as healthy, only to succumb to their sickness once they had left Grosse-Île."

On July 28, 1847, Whyte recorded the neglect of his fellow passengers, who "within reach of help were to be left enveloped in reeking pestilence, the sick without medicine, medical skill, nourishment, or so much as a drop of pure water."

However, conditions on other Irish emigrant ships were still worse. Two Canadian priests who visited *The Ajax* described the holds of other vessels where they had been "up to their ankles in filth. The wretched emigrants crowded together like cattle and



PHOTO: Collections Canada

WATERCOLOUR of Grosse-Île from the officers' quarters, ca. 1838-1840. The island of Grosse Île, located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Quebec, was the site of an immigration depot which predominantly housed Irish immigrants coming to Canada to escape Ireland's Great Hunger [1845-1849].



AFTER extensive community consultation in 1994, a memorial was erected at Grosse-Île in memory of those who died on the island and this year over 27,300 people visited the site.



AUTHOR and activist the late Marianna O'Gallagher was instrumental in recognizing the importance of Grosse Île which is now officially known as the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada.



ONE of the most distinctive landmarks on Grosse-Île is the 46-foot high Celtic Cross.

corpses remain[ed] long unburied."

The exact numbers of those who died at sea is unknown, although Whyte himself estimated it at 5,293.

Thomas Keneally in his book *The Great Shame* writes that during the crossing

itself, bodies were thrown into the sea, but once the ships had reached Grosse-Île they were kept in the hold until a burial on land became possible.

The dead were dragged out of the holds with hooks and 'stacked like cordwood' on the shore. Even those passengers who escaped typhus and other diseases were weakened by the journey.

At Quebec, the French and English speaking Catholic clergy ministered to the discharged emigrants and convalescents brought from the island. Father McMahon, founder of St. Patrick's Church (Quebec City), took a leading part in organizing relief to the sufferers and orphans of that awful period.

More than 40 Irish and French Canadian priests and Anglican clergymen were active on Grosse-Île, many becoming ill themselves.

The Chief Pastor, Bishop Power, contracted fever and died after delivering the last sacraments to a dying woman in September. The Mayor of Montreal, John Easton Mills, also died in the course of caring for the sick.

In 1909 the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America set up a Celtic cross on the island with inscriptions in Irish, English and French, in memory of those who died during 1847 and 1848.

This large Celtic cross of grey granite from Beebe (Stanstead), Quebec, was unveiled high above the water on the rocky promontory at the western end of Grosse Île.

On each side of the pedestal are inscriptions carved on panels of dark granite. On the side facing the mass graves and the Gulf of the Saint Lawrence beyond, an inscription in Irish reads, "Children of the Gael died in their thousands on this island, having fled from the laws of the foreign tyrants and an artificial famine in the years 1847-1848. God's loyal blessing upon them. Let this monument be a token to their name and honour from the Gaels of America. God save Ireland."



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December 15 - Poker for Christmas Hampers

December 16 - Vibram Souls

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# Unity and Division: Northern Ireland and Catalonia

At time of writing Hurricane Ophelia is upending everything moveable (and many things that were apparently immovable) in Ireland, disproving Hamlet's description of his girlfriend: there is nothing 'fair' about Ophelia.

It is noteworthy that President Bill Clinton's appointment to meet the Northern Irish political leaders on Monday, October 16 was cancelled due to the ferocious gusts.

These tempestuous circumstances provide pathetic fallacy for the political climate just now in Northern Ireland, Britain and, most recently, in Spain.

Northern Irish leaders have not sat together to administer since the Assembly was suspended in January of this year.

Sinn Féin maintained in recent days that any notion that an agreement is imminent and that the Assembly will meet soon has no basis in fact given the present state of the talks.

The DUP is equally eager to dispel any hint that agreement is nigh. Is it entirely lost on Sinn Féin and the DUP that they have the biggest electoral mandates in the North of Ireland and that failure to resuscitate the Assembly reflects very badly on them?

Undeterred, Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, wrote an article in *The Guardian* on October 9 in which he was very explicit in urging leadership on all sides to confront the constitutional crisis in Catalonia.

Adams argues that what is required to resolve such problems is "a preparedness to engage in an inclusive process of dialogue." That is a message he might wish to communicate to his Sinn Féin colleagues in Belfast.

Catalonia – a very prosperous part of Spain – has been edging towards a serious independence bid for several years now.

Its citizens encountered extreme violence from the Spanish police when they attempted to hold a vote on independence on Sunday, October 1.

Even granting that holding the referendum was an unconstitutional act, the international community was appalled at the level of violence visited on Catalan voters and, consequently, considerable sympathy has transferred from the dilemma faced by the Spanish Government in confronting Catalan separatism to the people of Catalonia.

The Spanish Government's reaction could hardly have been better for Catalan separatists, who have hardened their stance with the fresh stimulus of state violence against them.

Their counterparts, Spanish unionists, are on the streets to resist any move towards independence for the region. As a result, Spain faces its biggest constitutional crisis since General Franco's rule.

In the past few weeks, Catalonia seems to have gone through a new constitutional status with every change of socks.

The leader of the Catalonia region, Carles Puigdemont, whose sails were fully inflated due to the brutal tactics of the Spanish police, declared independence in Catalanian parliament.

He announced, "Today I assume the mandate for Catalonia to become an independent state in the form of a republic."

Then he declared that he was suspending the declaration of independence for

## THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By  
**MAURICE  
FITZPATRICK**

a few weeks because "we want a reasonable dialogue."

In a letter to the Spanish prime minister on Monday, October 16, he asked for two months of such dialogue.

Madrid's response so far is that the declaration must be revoked or Catalonia will face direct rule from Madrid and the regional parliament would be void.

As in the case of Northern Ireland if it were again ruled directly from London, so in the case if Catalonia were ruled directly from Madrid: the result would be a disaster.

Catalan political separatism is in considerable measure based on cultural separatism: the Catalans have their own language and they are fiercely proud of the way in which they have successfully fostered its use in all spheres of public life in recent decades.

If Madrid directly rules Catalonia, many of the Catalan language rights in public areas could be rescinded.

That would be very unwise on the part of Madrid, but there is a bad precedent of such practices historically (during Franco's dictatorship); and, in recent weeks, Madrid's insensitivity to Catalonia's sense of cultural distinctiveness has been marked.

It is almost certain that the Spanish Government will be intolerant of the rather forthright way the regional Catalan parliament has asserted its linguistic rights.

So, in an instant, Catalonia would be politically at war with Spain and its separatist leaders and thinkers could demonstrate that its culture is being suppressed.

Secondly, since separatism by no means receives unanimous support in Catalonia, division between those who wish to remain Spanish and those who want to establish a separate Catalan nation would clash.

To add to this potent political cocktail, the local Catalan police could well side with the Catalans and resist the national police.

Already, the Catalan chief of police, who did not support the national police in their response to the referendum on October 1, faces the threat of a trial for sedition.

Close to 10 million tourists visit the Catalan capital, Barcelona, every year – a staggering figure, well higher than the city's population. Its art, music, football, food and dance draw people from all over the world.

For Catalonia to be drawn into both internal schism and a face-off with Madrid was hardly thinkable until weeks ago, and yet now it is urgent that Catalonia and Spain find a diplomatic solution or face years of anguish.

We will only fully see, with the passing of years, the degree of disunity that the

Brexit decision by the British electorate last June has introduced to Europe.

What is certain is that the option of secession, be it from a European country or from the European Union itself, is more conceivable now than it was before June 2016.

It is also clear that what enables the biggest parties in Northern Ireland to dally over negotiations to restore the Assembly is the full scale constitutional crisis impending in Britain.

The DUP's strategy is to consolidate its own standing and help to bring direct rule.

Sinn Féin's strategy is to wait it out until (and it is just a matter of time) the DUP/Tory government collapses in the hope that, in the midst of the instability in Britain, a more All-Ireland political structure may result.

Irrespective of what happens, the parties surely must see that they will need to sit down and practice politics. So isn't it high time that they resolved to just get on with their jobs? •

[POSTSCRIPT: On October 27, the Parliament of Catalonia unilaterally declared independence from Spain. Within hours, the Spanish Senate approved actions proposed by the Spanish Government to invoke Article 155 and assume direct control over some of Catalonia's autonomous powers.

The measure is intended to be temporary; its claimed objective is to "re-establish the rule of law" and hold Parliamentary elections within six months.

The first measures taken by Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy after the approval by the senate have been firing the Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and his cabinet, dissolving the Parliament of Catalonia and scheduling fresh Catalan elections on December 21, 2017.

On November 2, the judge Carmen Lamela of the Spanish National Court ordered that eight members of the deposed Catalan Government including the ex-vice-president Oriol Junqueras be remanded in custody without bail.

The prosecution requested issuing European Arrest Warrants for Puigdemont and four other members who left Catalonia for Brussels shortly after the declaration.]

## 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, CC, CK, RD, LM

## 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



[PHOTO: Wikipedia]

PROTESTS in Barcelona after Spanish police raided Catalan Government buildings on September 20, 2017.

## Bill Clinton and Theresa May hold talks on Northern Ireland deadlock

LONDON – British Prime Minister Theresa May held talks with former U.S. president Bill Clinton last month on the continuing political deadlock in Northern Ireland.

The meeting in Downing Street on October 19 followed private discussions earlier in the week between Clinton and the main Northern Ireland party leaders in Belfast.

As president, Clinton played a key role in helping to secure the 1998 Good Friday Agreement which led to power-sharing at Stormont.

Number 10, however, made clear that he had not been used to deliver a message on behalf of the government to the parties.

The devolved institutions at Stormont remain suspended following the collapse of the administration in January in the wake of the resignation of the late Martin McGuinness as deputy first minister.

As he left after almost an hour at Downing Street, Clinton told reporters, "We had a wonderful talk."



FORMER U.S. President Bill Clinton outside Number 10 Downing Street following his meeting with British PM Theresa May.

Asked by reporters about the prospects for Brexit, Clinton said, "We didn't talk much about that. I don't have much of a portfolio here."

## NOVENAS

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. — SVS

## NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY

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



# Loughinisland massacre: Startling documentary will take story of injustice to global audience

BELFAST – A brutal massacre took place on June 18, 1994 in the small village of Loughinisland, County Down, Northern Ireland.

Members of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), a loyalist paramilitary group, burst into the Heights Bar with assault rifles and fired on the customers, killing six civilians and wounding five.

The pub was targeted because it was frequented mainly by Catholics, and was crowded with people watching the Republic of Ireland team playing in the 1994 FIFA World Cup.

After years of research, Oscar-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney has brought renewed attention to this mysteriously unsolved sectarian-gangland slaying with his new film *No Stone Unturned*.

The documentary claims police were aware of suspects' names within 24 hours of the shootings but delayed making arrests. It also suggests that Special Branch had prior knowledge of the event but failed to act on the warning.

Former RUC officer Jimmy Binns, who was part of the murder investigation team, told the filmmakers that two Spe-



THE BEREAVED FAMILIES have fought for decades to access information on the attack and for justice and accountability on the loss of their loved ones.

cial Branch officers told him police had an arrest operation in place to catch the UVF gang after receiving intelligence from an informer.

However, he claims the informer phoned police hours before the planned shooting to say it had been called off because there were problems with the getaway car.

The now retired officer claims police cancelled the arrest operation but the attack went ahead anyway. He describes the prime suspect as "a hate-filled bigot."

The car used by the killers was later found in a farmer's field.

It had not been set on fire as was usual

in paramilitary attacks, but is thought to have broken down and been pushed off the road.

The car was later crushed by police, destroying any further potential evidential opportunities.

The documentary names all three suspects for the first time, as well as the

wife of the suspected gunman who worked in the canteen of a police station. Shortly after the atrocity, she made two anonymous calls to police and sent a letter to a local SDLP councillor naming the suspects claimed she had a part in planning the attack.

She was questioned in 1995 and admitted writing the letter but was never charged. The pair remain married and are in business together.

Solicitor Niall Murphy, who has worked with the victims' families throughout their campaign for justice, has questioned why the woman was not charged with conspiracy given her alleged admissions to police more than 20 years ago.

Police also did not probe allegations that an officer tipped off suspects they were to be arrested.

Following the atrocity, then Northern Ireland secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew visited the area and announced to television reporters in his distinctive patrician tones that the perpetrators would soon be in jail and no stone would be left unturned in the search for justice.

No-one has ever been convicted of the murders. Those who died that night were 87-year-old pensioner Barney Greene, his nephew Dan McCreanor (59), Adrian Rogan (34), brothers-in-law Eamon Byrne (39) and Patrick O'Hare (35) and Malcolm Jenkinson (52).

## 'A courageous voice against terrorism', former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave dead at 97

DUBLIN – Integrity was the hallmark of Liam Cosgrave's private and professional life, mourners were told at the former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave's funeral Mass on Saturday, October 7.

Cosgrave who died aged 97 years, had turned down a State funeral and requested a simple funeral Mass at his local church, the Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham, Dublin, where he worshipped for over 80 years.

He attended daily Mass there up to three months ago, sitting unobtrusively at the rear of the church.

Cosgrave, who led a successful Fine Gael-Labour Coalition from 1973 until 1977, was the son of the first head of government of the Irish Free State, WT Cosgrave.

He was the last surviving taoiseach born prior to the foundation of the State. Father and son dominated Irish political life for six decades.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar described him as "a courageous voice against terrorism" who protected the country in times of crisis.

"As taoiseach he played an important role in the Sunningdale Agreement, which helped pave the way for the later agreements culminating in the Good Friday Agreement and peace on this island," said Varadkar.



LIAM COSGRAVE [1920 - 2017] was a Fine Gael politician who served as Taoiseach 1973 to 1977. He served as a Teachta Dála (TD) 1943 to 1981. He is pictured above on St. Patrick's Day 1976.

He added, "Throughout his life he worked to protect and defend the democratic institutions of our State, and showed great courage and determination in doing so.

"He always believed in peaceful co-operation as the only way of achieving a genuine union between the people on this island, and in the 1970s he celebrated that this country had embarked, in his own words, 'on a new career of progress and development in the context of Europe'."

Cosgrave is chiefly remembered as a

staunch defender of Irish constitutional nationalism against serious threats from the IRA and other paramilitary violence through the 1970s. His government took a hardline anti-terrorist stance as violence in Northern Ireland threatened to spill into the Republic.

He was regarded as an internationally respected statesman. He was part of the government which declared Ireland a Republic in 1949, he oversaw Ireland joining the United Nations, and he addressed the Joint Houses of U.S. Congress in 1976. He consistently opposed violence.

Cosgrave served as a TD in the Dail for almost 40 years and was leader of Fine Gael for 12 years.

Chief mourners at his funeral were his sons Liam and Ciarán, daughter Mary, and extended family.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar was among the dignitaries at the mass as were former taoisigh Enda Kenny, John Bruton, Brian Cowen and Bertie Ahern.

President Michael D. Higgins, who was abroad, was represented by his aide-de-camp Col. Michael Kiernan.

Military policemen carried the coffin, which was not draped in the tricolour, into the church. The Army band led the funeral procession to the cemetery after the mass.

A firing party fired a three volley salvo close to the grave and the *Last Post* and *Reveille* was performed after the burial.



LIAM COSGRAVE'S requiem mass took place at the Church of the Annunciation in Rathfarnham on Saturday, October 7.

## Unionists praise Varadkar for 'shamrock poppy'

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has been praised by unionist politicians in the North for wearing a 'shamrock poppy' in recognition of the Irish soldiers who fought and died in World War I.

Senior DUP MP Jeffrey Donaldson said Mr Varadkar has provided an example of how reconciliation could be promoted between the two traditions in Ireland "respectfully" and "without abandoning our core values and beliefs."

Former UUP leader Mike Nesbitt posted online that Varadkar was "wearing his own style of poppy in Dáil Éireann" adding: "That's leadership. #respect."

Varadkar's decision to wear the pin, which is distributed by the Irish branch of the Royal British Legion, got a mixed reaction on social media and Sinn Féin Senator Pádraig Mac Lochlainn was quoted as saying it remains a "divisive symbol" in Ireland.

Addressing his decision to wear the badge, the Taoiseach posted on Twitter:



"History is the study of the future. Almost everything has happened before. Let history be our guide but let us never be its prisoner."

Donaldson said he was pleased to see Varadkar wear the shamrock poppy. He said tens of thousands of nationalists from every county died in the war, and "it is important that their memory is honoured alongside those of the unionist tradition."

He added, "If we are to have a shared future and to promote reconciliation between our two traditions, then we must have a better sense of our shared history and commemorate it with due respect."





PHOTO: Guilhem Baker

EXTERIOR building cladding is thought to have contributed to rapid spread of the deadly fire at Grenfell Towers last June.

## Fire at factory owned by Grenfell Towers cladding manufacturer

LONDON – A factory owned by the maker of Grenfell Tower's cladding panels was the scene of a large fire over the weekend.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service was called to the production plant of Arconic in Exeter just before 1:30 AM on Saturday, November 4.

The U.S. firm produces the Reynobond PE panels, installed as one component of the west London block's cladding system during a refurbishment.

It is suspected that the material, which is coated in aluminium but has a plastic, flammable core, helped fuel the devastating blaze in June.

Fire crews rushed to the factory on Kestral Way following reports of a fire in the casting plant at its foundry section.

The fire service said, "Due to the potential serious nature of this incident and knowledge of the type of building involved, fire control made the decision to redirect fire appliances from other lower priority incidents in the area to ensure fire service resources were in attendance as soon as possible."

Eight fire engines were sent to tackle the blaze, which started accidentally, along with additional support vehicles.

By 2:30 AM, the fire had spread to part of the roof of the factory, but firefighters using breathing apparatus brought it under control and extinguished it before 3 AM. The factory's furnace area was damaged by the fire and smoke, but there were no injuries reported.

In June, Arconic announced it was stopping global sales of Reynobond PE cladding for tall buildings, citing concerns about the "inconsistency of building codes across the world."

It said in a separate statement that the panels were provided to a company which supplied them to the facade installer working on behalf of the contractor for Grenfell Tower's refurbishment.

The company wrote at the time, "We were not involved in the installation of the system, nor did we have a role in any other aspect of the building's refurbishment or original design."

To date, 69 people have been confirmed dead in the Grenfell Tower fire by the authorities, although police have said they believe the final death toll will be about 80.

## Gordon Brown warns of Brexit 'crisis point'

LONDON – Former prime minister Gordon Brown has warned that the UK may hit a "crisis point next summer" as the UK edges closer to Brexit and held out the possibility that the UK may not leave the EU.

Speaking to the BBC he said that he was not now advocating a second referendum, but suggested that there "may be scope for a reassessment" as voters began to realise, he suggested, that the promises of the Leave side of the referendum campaign would not be fulfilled.

He suggested that there could be a "game changer" from the EU side that allowed the UK to rethink.

"By next summer, the public will have made up their minds that the four 'red lines' that the Government had actually set in place are not going to be achieved,

they're going to be crossed.

"So we will not have proper control of borders, we will not have proper control of our money, we're still going to pay loads of money to the European Union.

"We will not have proper control of our courts and laws because we will still be governed in many ways by the European Court of Justice and we will not have proper control of trade because we won't have individual trade agreements for years.

"And so all the propositions that were made by the Leave camp, including £350 million, remember, a week for the National Health Service, they're not being achieved."

Brown insisted the position will have to be assessed next summer when "crisis point" is reached.

## Flights between EU and UK could be suspended on day of Brexit

LONDON – British Chancellor Philip Hammond has said it is "theoretically conceivable" that all flights between the EU and the UK could be suspended on the day Britain leaves the EU.

He said that while highly unlikely there is a possibility that if the UK leaves without a deal there could be no "air traffic" on March 29, 2019.

He said, "It is theoretically conceivable that in a no deal scenario there will be no air traffic moving between the UK and the European Union on the 29th March 2019. But I don't think anybody seriously believes that that is where we will get to.

"There is a range of outcomes and what we will need to do at a point in time is determine what is a realistic worst case scenario that we need to plan for and invest for.

"On that specific point it is very clear that mutual self-interest means that even if talks break down, even if there is no deal, there will be a very strong compulsion on both sides to reach agreement on an air traffic services arrangement."

The UK's largest airports, including Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester, have previously warned the government that flights to Europe could be suspended if it fails to reach a deal on aviation in the wake of Brexit.

The EU Open Skies agreement, which



PHILIP HAMMOND, Chancellor of the Exchequer said that gloomy economic forecasts for the UK are due in part to the uncertainty caused by Brexit deadlock.

was introduced in the 1990s, currently provides uniform rules for the airlines and airports of member states.

It has helped cultivate a booming airport network allowing British holiday-makers to fly to hundreds of destinations on the continent – many at cut prices.

ACI Europe, the European Region Airports Council International, which represents more than 500 airports in 45 countries, including 21 major hubs in the UK, said in July this year such freedom will not be maintained if the British Government does not develop a strategy on "air connectivity" once outside the EU.

It warned that legal issues could result in all flights between the EU and UK

being grounded.

In a pointed rebuke of Eurosceptic Tory MPs Hammond also said that the UK will not spend money on planning for a no deal scenario "earlier than necessary just to make some demonstration point."

He said that every pound spent on preparing for no deal now is a pound that is not available for the NHS or social care.

He said, "What I am not proposing to do is allocate funds to departments in advance of the need to spend."

He added, however, that the Treasury has allocated £250 million to British Government departments to begin early preparations for a no deal scenario.

## Get Brexit negotiations back on track says Wales First Minister Carwyn Jones

CARDIFF – Wales First Minister Carwyn Jones says the UK Government should stop talking up a Brexit no deal and instead get the negotiations back on track.

He said walking away from the talks would cause chaos and lasting damage to the UK's economy and future security.

His comments come just a day after British PM Theresa May said it was her "mission" to negotiate a new post-Brexit partnership with the EU.

May made it clear a no deal scenario was still an option as she insisted the government was preparing for every eventuality.

Jones referred to a series of organisations, such as the British Medical Association, British Retail Consortium and the Freight Transport Association, who have warned in the last month of the risks to Britain of a no deal.

Speaking in the Senedd on October 24, he said, "The UK Government and the gung-ho Brexiters must wise up and listen to what the experts are saying.

"No deal is unthinkable. It would be impossible to mitigate the effects of such a disastrous conclusion to the Brexit negotiations. Preventing this out-



CARWYN JONES and Theresa May pictured in March this year.

come, not preparing contingency plans, is what we must focus on.

"To do otherwise would be like a passenger on the Titanic who, upon seeing an iceberg, chooses to find his lifejacket and pack his things, rather than rushing to the bridge and desperately attempting to alert the captain of the disaster ahead.

"The UK Government must concentrate on reaching a credible position on our exit terms so that the December European Council can move negotiations into the second phase and very rapidly thereafter agree a transition phase of at least two years."

A spokesman for the UK Government said, "We are committed to securing a deal that works for the entire UK including Wales, and are continuing to engage with the devolved administrations as we seek to secure that deal.

"While it is the duty of a responsible government to plan for all scenarios, we are clear that a deep and special partnership with the EU is the most likely outcome.

"We are confident of securing a bold and ambitious deal with the EU – this is ultimately in the best interests of both sides."



# U.S. President Trump – half-Scottish, but no warm welcome mat in Alba

EDINBURGH – Donald Trump may be half Scottish, but the people of Scotland have a decidedly chilly view of the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

His mum – Mary Anne MacLeod Trump – was born on the isle of Lewis before heading to America in 1930 at the age of 18.

If anyone else with such direct links to Scotland had made it to the White House he would be claimed as Scottish in the same way the Irish embraced JFK.

That's certainly the view of the former boss of Scottish Enterprise, Jack Perry who says, "Had it been anyone else, by golly, we'd have been rolling out the red carpet.

"Just touting the fact that he had such a close relationship and had been a major investor here. But the brand is toxic, there's no two ways about it," he said.

And that's the problem. Donald Trump may be half-Scottish but he is wholly controversial. During the U.S. presidential election campaign he was not exactly welcomed with open arms on his last visit to his maternal homeland in June 2016.

Protesters greeted him with golf balls emblazoned with Swastikas – a symbol synonymous with Nazi Germany – while visiting his golf courses in Ayrshire and Aberdeen.

Local residents, upset by both Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric and his earlier

attempts to take possession of private homes and land through eminent domain laws, also expressed their displeasure by raising Mexican flags over adjoining properties.

Michael Forbes, a farmer whose efforts to fight Trump's Aberdeen course got him voted Scotsman of the Year in 2012, erected a Mexican flag on his property which is visible from the golf course.

During his visit, Trump reacted with celebration and self-interest to the recent Brexit vote, predicting that it would benefit his business.

"Look, if the pound goes down, they're going to do more business," he said, when asked during a news conference about the referendum's market ramifications. "When the pound goes down, more people are coming to Turnberry, frankly."

He compounded the insult with a Twitter post cheering on the Scottish for "taking their country back."

He wrote, "Just arrived in Scotland. Place is going wild over the vote. They took their country back, just like we will take America back. No games!"

The problem, of course, is that Scotland voted 62 percent to 38 percent to remain in the European Union.

Trump faced immediate backlash, further compounding an already difficult relationship with the nation.

Among the responses, one read: "@realDonaldTrump you couldn't be more out of touch with reality if Nessie bit you on the arse you utter fool. Scotland voted REMAIN."

Another posted: "@realDonaldTrump

Scotland wanted to remain in the EU you utter Twonk - Who is using the Trump family brain cell today?"

And, another classic: "@realDonaldTrump Trump Scotland voted to remain you bankrupt traffic cone."

While on his visit, all five Holyrood leaders publicly opposed Trump's election and refused to meet the presumptive Republican candidate. Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen also rescinded his honorary degree.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon criticised him over his remarks about Muslims and dropped him as a business ambassador for Scotland, but soon after his election she spoke with him by phone and offered congratulations.

Sturgeon has continued to speak out when she disagrees with Trump but she has also said she would be prepared to meet him if he returns to Scotland.

Sturgeon's Labour predecessor as first minister, Lord McConnell, thinks that's the right approach.

"I think it is possible, if you are in a leadership role, to have a strong opinion about somebody or about what they are doing, to be able to express that publicly if you have to but also to take opportunities to raise those issues privately and to do other business as well," he said.

McConnell recalled having twice met President Putin of Russia and visits to Scotland by Chinese leaders with whom he also had significant disagreements.

As British prime minister, Theresa May, was the first international leader to travel to meet President Trump in the White House after his inauguration.



A YOUNG Donald Trump pictured with his mother, the late Mary Anne MacLeod Trump who arrived in the U.S. in 1930.



U.S. PRESIDENTIAL candidate Donald Trump at the Trump International Golf Links at Balmorie, near Aberdeen in Scotland on Saturday, June 25, 2016.

She is hopeful of an early post-Brexit trade deal with the U.S. but that hasn't stopped her disagreeing with Trump's approach on issues like Iran or climate change.

May offered President Trump a state visit to the UK which he accepted but has yet to make. Many now believe when he does make that trip, Scotland will be part of his itinerary.

## Nicola Sturgeon: 'Ireland and Scotland allies in Brexit negotiations'

DUBLIN – The Scottish first minister told an audience of business leaders in Dublin last month that she will argue for the Irish border to remain open in the wake of the UK's split from Europe.

She also said the Republic and Scotland are united on virtually every issue of substance relating to Brexit.

During her visit, Sturgeon expanded on the links between two Celtic countries, with bonds of language, culture and identity.

After talks with Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Sturgeon told an audience of about 1,500 business figures that staying in the European single market and the customs union is the obvious answer to the negotiations.

"The fact that the UK Government is committed to leaving the EU means that Scotland – like Ireland, and like Northern Ireland – now faces a dilemma which is not of our choosing.

"We want to remain a full member of the EU but face being taken out against our will," she said. "We deeply regret that. However, we believe that if the UK is determined to leave the Euro-



SCOTTISH First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

pean Union, it should remain a member of the single market and the customs union.

"In my view, that is the obvious compromise solution. It's democratically justified – the vote to leave was a very narrow one across the UK and two of the four nations of the UK chose to remain."

In her speech to the Dublin Chamber, she emphasised the social and economic links between Scotland and Ireland, and noted the shared interest in ensuring the

growth of a global economy is matched by a focus on inclusion.

Sturgeon said leaving the single market will be deeply damaging for Scotland's businesses, universities, trade and jobs.

"On virtually every issue of substance relating to Brexit, the Irish Government – and the Irish business community as a whole – has an ally in Scotland," the first minister said.

"Like you, we didn't want Brexit. Like you, we support single market and customs union membership.

"And, like you, we know that Ireland's circumstances require particular attention and we will argue strongly for an open border.

"We believe that those positions are in the best interests of Scotland, of Ireland, and of everybody on these islands."

Sturgeon told business figures the global political developments are a challenge to build a fair and inclusive society.

She added, "Scotland certainly hasn't got everything right, but – like Ireland – I think that we are at least facing up to the right issues.

"That's important from a political, social and moral perspective – and it's also crucial to ensuring that our economic policies are successful and sustainable."



AN IRISH international border point.

## EU leaders finding it hard to understand UK position on Brexit

LONDON – European leaders are finding it hard to understand the UK's position on Brexit due to mixed messages from the country, Ireland's prime minister has said.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said the ambiguity meant the other 27 nations in the EU are struggling to grasp what the UK wants from negotiations.

"It's still not clear what the UK actually wants in terms of a new relationship, because on the one hand it seems that the UK wants to have a close trading relationship with Europe like it has now, but it also seems to want something different, and it is very hard for us as European prime ministers to understand exactly what the UK wants the new relationship to look like," he said.

In an interview with the BBC's *Spotlight*, he said, "It certainly can't be, and I think anyone will understand it can't be, having all the benefits of EU mem-

bership but none of the responsibilities and none of the costs. If you join a club, you obey the rules and you pay the membership fee."

The UK has previously been criticised by EU leaders over claims that the country's Brexit plans lack sufficient depth or detail.

The UK Government has denied this, with Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson urging the EU to "get on" with talks to ensure timely progress is made.

Meanwhile, Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney has strongly signalled that Brexit negotiations could be blocked from moving on to trade talks unless the UK gives more clarity on the border.

He said customs checks would be unavoidable if the UK and EU are not in the same customs union. He also said the UK had so far not provided a "credible road map" to avoiding a hard border.



# Seattle Elects New Irish-American Mayor



**SEATTLE** – Jenny Durkan, whose grandfather was from Co. Mayo, will be the new Mayor of Seattle, the city's first openly lesbian mayor and Seattle's first female mayor since the 1920s.

By JOHN KEANE

Although about at press time one third of the votes remain to be counted, she's currently winning with a roughly 60-40 percent split of the vote.

She had previously served as the United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington under President Obama from October 2009 through September 2014.

The Mayorship is a non-partisan office but Seattle is a Democratic city and a Republican hasn't been able to mount a serious race here in 20-30 years.

Durkan is not married but she and her longtime partner, Dana Garvey, have two sons. Garvey previously ran a telecommunications project management firm but is currently writing a dissertation for her PhD at the School of Art +

Art History + Design at the University of Washington.

Jenny's father Martin Durkan Sr was born in Montana, the son of Martin Durkan from County Mayo.

From 1956-1976, Durkan Senior served two years in the Washington state House and 18 years in the Senate, becoming chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

After unsuccessful races for governor and Congress, he became one of the most-influential lobbyists in Olympia.

Often compared to the Kennedys, all eight Durkan children are involved in public life.

Sister Kathleen is a former NBC News foreign correspondent; a brother, Tim, was a special assistant to Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, and another daughter, Ryan, is one of Seattle's leading attorneys whose practice focuses on environmental and land use law.



STUDENTS from Eastlake and Skyline High Schools in Sammamish recently met on the Gaelic Football field to determine the 2017 winner of the Irish President's Trophy which was presented in 2015 by Irish President Michael D. Higgins when he visited Skyline HS. This year's winner after a hard-fought game was Eastlake HS, the students on the left side in the photo.

## SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

### PASSINGS

• Sister Kieran Kennedy, CSJP, 89, a native of Galway, died in Bellevue October 28;

• Merle Braden (83) whose daughter Donna O Murchadha lives in Cork, died in Centralia October 26;

• Maureen Fitzpatrick (93) a native of Dublin, died in Seattle on October 13;

• Ron Plummer (73) an Irish Dancing teacher and adjudicator, died October 9 in Ontario, Canada;

• Sister Frances Cusack OP (89) a native of Co. Mayo, died September 11 in Burien;

• Mike Boylan (86) a native of Dublin who lived in the Seattle area for almost 50 years, died in California August 7;

• Anne Kennedy (92), a longtime member of the Irish Heritage Club, both of whose parents were Irish immigrants, died in Seattle June 8;

*Ar dheis D, go raibh a n-anamacha dílse*

May their faithful souls rest at God's right hand

**SEATTLE GAELS** – The Seattle Gaels' annual banquet will be held on Friday, December 8 at their sponsor pub, St. Andrews Bar and Grill on 74th and Aurora in Seattle.

In the meantime, there's also the 12th Annual Turkey Bowl and Poc Fada on Saturday, November 18, starting at 11 AM at Lakewood Park, 11050 10th Avenue SW, in Seattle's White Center area. For more details, e-mail: Gaels@irishclub.org or visit: Seattle Gaels on Facebook.

**SENIORS' LUNCHEON** – The Irish Seniors' Christmas luncheon at \$10 per person (\$20 non-seniors), will be at noon on Saturday, December 9, at Assumption Church Hall, 6201 33rd Avenue NE, 8-10 blocks north east of University Village.

All seniors of Irish birth, descent or interest are welcome along with their spouses and friends. Our special guest on the day is Daidí na Nollag (Father Christmas).

Over 400 different Irish seniors, the majority of them Irish-born, have attended these luncheons over the past six years. For reservations, call (425) 582-2688 and include names of guests.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** – You're invited to attend the annual Irish Network Seattle Christmas party on Saturday, December 9 from 6:30-10:30 PM at the RView, 515 Madison Street 28th



By JOHN KEANE

Floor, Seattle. The RView is the Elite Member Club Lounge on the 28th floor of the Renaissance Seattle Hotel, with great views of the Space Needle and downtown Seattle.

Appetizers and a free drink will be served to all attendees. For more details, visit: Irish Network Seattle on Facebook.

**HS GAA GAME** – Skyline High School and Eastlake High School recently competed in six abbreviated Gaelic Football games at Skyline High School in Sammamish, and the Irish Presidential Trophy was presented afterwards to the winner, Eastlake HS.

Both schools competed well and the schools were about even on skill but Eastlake showed tremendous physicality and speed.

The Irish Presidential Trophy was donated by Irish President Michael D. Higgins when he visited Skyline High School in October 2015.

Last year's winner was Skyline HS. The games are co-sponsored by Cascade Youth Gaelic Games.

**CELTIC YULETIDE** – Magical Strings' 39th Annual Celtic Yuletide Concert series starts November 26 in Kingston and Seattle's concert will be De-

cember 9 with Tacoma's on December 8.

Concerts will also be held in Kent, Mount Vernon, Bellevue, Portland and Leavenworth, featuring the lyrical and joyful sounds of Celtic harps, hammered dulcimers, violins, cello, whistles, concertina, percussion and more.

This grand gala of Celtic-inspired holiday music is filled with Irish singing, dancing, juggling, caroling and storytelling. For the details, visit: magicalstrings.com.

**AFFINITI CONCERT** – The Kirkland Performance Center hosts a concert by Irish trio, Affiniti on Friday, December 8 at 8 PM.

Affiniti is a powerhouse female trio made up of vocalist Emer Barry (soprano), Aisling Ennis (harp) and Mary McCague (violin), all classically trained and masters of their instruments.

Their show combines the mystery of Celtic Music with the Magic of Christmas, and will also feature Howard Crosby, nephew of Bing Crosby. Tickets at: kpcenter.org.

### MISCELLANEOUS

• Contact hudit@comcast.net for details on the next meeting of the Irish Book Club;

• Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas on Saturday, December 23, at the Northshore Performing Arts Center, 18125 92nd Avenue NE, Bothell. Call (425) 984-2471.

• Plans are underway for the celebration of Nollaig na mBan (Women's Christmas) on January 6. Mark your calendar.



JENNY DURKAN was elected mayor of Seattle on Tuesday, November 7, following a tightly contested race. She gave a victory speech at the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle following her historic win.

## Ireland celebrates Che Guevara's Irish roots with a stamp

DUBLIN – The Republic of Ireland marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Che Guevara, on October 9, with a commemorative postage stamp. It's become hugely popular, but it's also causing quite a stink.

The stamp, features a famous image of Guevara by Irish artist Jim Fitzpatrick, which appears on t-shirts, posters, badges and clothing worldwide and is now rated among the world's top 10 most iconic images.

That image was itself reproduced by Fitzpatrick, who based it on a photograph taken in 1960 by Cuban photographer Alberto Korda.

Born in Argentina, Guevara helped Fidel Castro overthrow the U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. His father was Ernesto Guevara Lynch, a civil engineer of Irish descent.

A quote from Ernesto, "in my son's veins flowed the blood of Irish rebels"



**CHE GUEVARA** features on new one euro stamp issued by An Post, the Irish postal service.

features on the envelope issued by the An Post to accompany the stamp.

Not only has the stamp created controversy in Ireland, it has also incensed Cuban Americans in Miami, who've started a letter-writing campaign to the postal service in Dublin.



THE COALITION of Irish Immigration Centers recently celebrated its 20th anniversary with a reception at the Irish Embassy in Washington, D.C. where Seattle's Jim Cummins was presented an award for his service. (L-R) Ronnie Millar (Philadelphia), Celine Kennelly (San Francisco), Jim Cummins, Ambassador Dan Mulhall, and Paul Finnegan (New York).



# Apple moves holdings to new tax haven on Jersey after Ireland crackdown

LONDON – New revelations from the Paradise Papers – a huge leak of financial documents – is throwing light on the controversial world of offshore finance.

Records from Appleby, a top offshore law firm, reveal a client list that is a who's who of the world's wealthiest citizens, including Queen Elizabeth II, Bono and Madonna.

Reports in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *BBC News* include details how Apple moved two subsidiaries to Jersey after a crackdown in the Republic of Ireland.

The tech giant is revealed to have moved the firm holding most of its vast untaxed offshore cash reserve to the Channel Islands in 2014.

Located near the coast of Normandy, Jersey is described by *The Guardian* as "a crown dependency of the UK, which makes its own laws." Only 100,000 people live there and it is not subject to most EU legislation, making it a popular tax haven.

Apple sought a new tax shelter when the European Union began pressuring Ireland to fix loopholes that had for years so effectively drawn mega-corporations to form subsidiaries and shell companies there because of the country's minimal corporate tax rate and business-friendly tax regime.

The Irish corporate tax structure was so popular among tech companies like Google and Facebook that it had a nickname – Double Irish. This allowed Apple to funnel all its sales outside of the Americas – currently about 55 percent of its revenue – through Irish subsidi-



aries that were effectively stateless for taxation purposes, and so incurred hardly any tax.

Instead of paying Irish corporation tax of 12.5 percent, or the U.S. rate of 35 percent, Apple's avoidance structure helped it reduce its tax rate on profits outside of the U.S. to the extent that its foreign tax payments rarely amounted to more than five percent of its foreign profits, and in some years dipped below two percent.

Other European governments lobbied to put an end to the Double Irish back in 2014 and last year, the European Union ordered Apple to pay up to \$14.5 billion for illegal tax benefits in Ireland.

Apple has over 6,000 employees in Ireland and has long insisted it pays everything it legally owes in taxes.

In a statement, the company says it is the world's largest taxpayer paying over \$35 billion in corporate income taxes over the past three years, plus billions more in property tax, payroll tax, sales tax and VAT.

The company says that it had followed the law and its changes "did not reduce

our tax payments in any country." In a further statement it stressed that no operations or investments had been moved from Ireland.

But in preparation for a change to Ireland's tax policy Apple recruited Appleby, the Bermuda-based law firm for advice on where to next move its offshore tax residency.

Appleby specializes in helping clients lower their tax burden, and this search for the ideal tax haven is common practice among multinational companies in constant pursuit of the best (lowest) tax rate.

The Paradise Papers are a huge batch of leaked documents mostly from Appleby, along with corporate registries in 19 tax jurisdictions, which reveal the financial dealings of politicians, celebrities, corporate giants and business leaders.

The 13.4 million records were passed to German newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* and then shared with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

Apple's Tim Cook calls the EC ruling "total political crap," with "no reason for it in fact or in law."

Ireland says the EU is encroaching on sovereign taxation. It fears multinationals will go elsewhere, however it agreed to collect 13 billion euro to be held in a managed escrow account pending the appeal verdict.

In October 2017, the EU said it will take Ireland to court as it has not yet collected the money. Ireland says it is complicated and it needs time.

# Ireland at risk of having to compensate thousands of women travelling abroad Dáil committee told

DUBLIN – Ireland is at risk of having to pay costly compensation to thousands of women forced to travel abroad to receive an abortion unless the law is immediately changed to make the procedure legal and easily accessible, the Oireachtas Eighth Amendment committee heard this month.

The U.S.-based Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) made the claim after the State paid out 30,000 euro over an abortion case for only the second time in its history in response to a United Nations ruling on the matter.

Speaking at the latest Oireachtas Eighth Amendment committee meeting as two pro-life organisations cancelled planned meetings with the group and pro-life Independent TD Mattie McGrath accused committee members of "bullying," the CRR said Ireland remains at risk of further abortion pay-outs.

On November 8, it emerged the Government has agreed to pay Wexford woman Siobhan Whelan 30,000 euro in

compensation after she had to travel to Liverpool for an abortion in 2010 after being told her unborn child had a congenital brain malformation classified as a fatal foetal abnormality.

In a ruling earlier this year, the United Nation's human rights committee said Whelan received no support in Ireland and that what happened to her amounted to cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

The Government subsequently agreed to pay Whelan compensation, mirroring a similar pay out to another woman named Amanda Mellet earlier this year.

Asked by Independents4Change TD Clare Daly of the Oireachtas Eighth Amendment Committee "where Ireland needs to get to" to protect the State from further cases as "presumably there are much more cases," CRR regional director for Europe Leah Hoctor said Ireland "must make abortion services practically accessible now."

# Thousands Rally in Dublin Against Ireland's Abortion Ban

DUBLIN – Thousands of people marched in Dublin on September 30 to demand an end to the country's constitutional ban on abortion, one of the strictest such laws in the Western world.

The March for Choice is an annual protest against the Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution, which enshrines a ban on abortions, but this year it was held just days after the government announced it would hold a referendum next year that could potentially change the law.

The existing Eighth Amendment of Ireland's constitution affords equal rights to pregnant women and unborn children. Added to the constitution in 1983, the amendment recognises an unborn child's right to life.

Terminations are currently only permitted when the life of the mother is at risk and the maximum penalty for accessing an illegal abortion in Ireland is 14 years in prison.

Thousands of Irish women travel to Great Britain every year to have a legal abortion.



IRELAND recently announced it will hold a referendum next year which could have implications for the Eighth Amendment of the Irish Constitution. This clause amended in 1983 extends equal rights to pregnant women and unborn children.

The death in 2012 of Savita Halappanavar, a dentist who was 17 weeks pregnant, both reignited the debate and galvanized a new generation of abortions rights advocates.

Doctors at a hospital in Galway refused to terminate her pregnancy while she was having a miscarriage. She died of septicemia.

Organisers estimated that 40,000 peo-

ple took part in the march.

Anti-abortion activists staged smaller scale events elsewhere in Dublin and in other cities across Ireland but, unlike previous years, there was no evidence of direct counter-protests on the route of the march.

It was the sixth annual March for Choice organised by the Abortion Rights Campaign (ARC).

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# France has always been famous for its cuisine and our visit to the city of Lille didn't disappoint

**L**AST weekend my wife and I decided to go away for a few days to celebrate our wedding anniversary.

We were not keen to endure the aggravation of airports, so decided to take the Eurostar high speed train to Lille, 180 miles away near the Belgian border in Northern France.

We boarded the train in London at 9:30 AM and one hour and 22 minutes later arrived in the centre of Lille.

To travel the 150 miles from London to Cardiff in Wales by our regular trains, takes two hours and eight minutes (if you're lucky), but Eurostar runs at an average speed of 150 miles per hour.

It sometimes seems that the regular trains here have a man with a red flag walking in front of them to keep the cows off the line.

Lille is the fifth largest city in France with a population of a little over 250,000, and amazingly 28 percent of the population is under the age of 20 – consequently the place has a young vibrant feel to it.

When we arrived, we assumed that there must be a high number of students living there because as we walked into the Place du General de Gaulle (the main square), we saw the Column of the Goddess, a 30-foot pillar with a sculpture of a woman on top of it (erected in 1845 in memory of the 1792 siege of Lille).

She is now sporting an eye catching large pink bra which we thought had to be the work of students. It turned out that we were wrong, because the garment was the initiative of local business to raise awareness of breast cancer.

In the UK many of the main shopping streets and shopping malls contain the same chain stores, especially the smaller towns, as sadly independently owned businesses close down, unable to compete and pay the higher rents that the large chain stores can afford.

As a result, town centres in the UK are losing their individuality and their personality and they all begin to look the same.

In France these chain stores seem confined to shopping malls and the streets are filled with individual stores.

The cobbled streets of Lille are packed with little boutiques, patisseries and chocolate shops, and we spent hours admiring the wonderful displays.

It was heaven for my wife who has a masters degree in shopping, but mercifully for me there were plenty of little cafes to pop into for a reviving beer.

On the Sunday, when most of the shops are closed, we must have walked at least eight miles, visiting the enormous outdoor market "Marche de Wazemmes," one of the largest street markets in France.

We followed this with two hours of culture in the Palais des Beaux Arts, a museum dedicated to fine art, second only to the Louvre in Paris.

Next was a hike to the birth place of Charles de Gaulle.

## POSTCARD FROM LILLE

By  
**ELFAN JONES**

Why we did that is not clear, but I think we were in full tourist mode by that time...and finally, a city bus tour which is a great way of seeing the main points of interest in any city because you are seated.

France has always been famous for its cuisine, and although I would argue that the standard of many UK restaurants is equally good, there is always that special excitement when entering a French restaurant.

Having said that, when I worked in Paris I often wondered if there was a school that the Parisian waiters attended that taught them to be bloody rude.

On our weekend away, we ate in three of the Trip Advisor recommended restaurants.

Two were fairly average but, the one we chose for our anniversary was just fabulous, sensational.

I am still drooling over the meal I had, one of the best I have ever eaten.

The small restaurant is called N'Autre Monde. The address is Rue du Cure Saint-Etienne, Lille.

The meal began with the tiny pre-starter called the "mise en bouche," which literally translated means "put it in your mouth."

Very French, I mean where else would you put it?

Anyway, the mise en bouche was smoked cod with a garlic mousse.

The first course was crab salad with mango and coriander, followed by kefta lamb wrapped cabbage leaf and served with humous.

Next up was barbue, which is a fish with broccoli and a homemade salsa sauce.

The dessert was a cheesecake with exotic fruits.

Harry Baclet the charming owner served us and I let him choose the wines.

He did not disappoint and the whole experience was perfect.

If you ever visit Lille, then N'Autre Monde is the place for fine dining.

Just writing this has made me very hungry, so I will now go to the kitchen and rustle up some gourmet baked beans on toast.

*Au revoir.  
Elfan*



IN PLACE DU GENERAL DE GAULLE, the main square in Lille, there is a 30-foot pillar with a sculpture known as "the column of the Goddess" (erected in 1845 in memory of the 1792 siege of Lille). She is now sporting an eye catching large pink bra which as it turns out was the initiative of local business to raise awareness of breast cancer.

## More Facts About Lille

Lille is a city at the northern tip of France, in French Flanders. On the Deûle River, near France's border with Belgium, it is the capital of the Hauts-de-France region and the prefecture of the Nord department.

As of 2009, Lille had a population of 226,827 within its administrative limits, and an urban population of 1,015,744, making it the fifth largest urban area in France after Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Toulouse.

A former major mechanical, food industry and textile manufacturing centre as well as a retail and finance center, Lille forms the heart of a larger conurbation, regrouping Lille, Roubaix, Tourcoing and Villeneuve d'Ascq, which is France's 4th-largest urban conglomeration with a 1999 population of over 1.1 million.



PHOTO: Wikipedia

NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS (meaning "Our Lady of Paris"), also known as Notre-Dame Cathedral or simply Notre-Dame, is a medieval Catholic cathedral on the Île de la Cité in the fourth arrondissement of Paris, France. The cathedral is widely considered to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture, and it is among the largest and most well-known church buildings in the world.

## My visit to Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris

By **MARIE BRUCE**

I was on a visit to Paris in June. Shortly after arrival jet lag woke me at some ungodly hour and I had to get up and go for a very early walk.

It was a beautiful warm summer morning and I had no particular route in mind – I love wandering in Paris and it is always easy to get the metro back to my hotel.

I soon found myself on the Île de la Cité and there in front of me was Notre-Dame Cathedral in all its glory in the early morning light. How could anyone pass this glorious cathedral without a visit?

I have visited Notre-Dame at least twice before and I had no intention of doing so again. Paris is full of churches I have never visited but it didn't take long to change my mind and I made my way to the front entrance.

There are usually very long lineups in the summer and this year there was heightened security with a strong presence of armed guards.

It was about 7:45 AM and I knew there would be an 8 AM mass. I was allowed to walk straight into the cathedral when I mentioned I wanted to attend Mass.

Most of the interior of this great cathedral is usually cordoned off, leading visitors in an onward direction to keep the line-ups moving.

On this morning, I was surprised when the attendant ushered mass goers into the highly ornate carved choir stalls. What a privilege it was to enter this inner sanctum just below the high altar.

I sat there soaking up the atmosphere of centuries, gazing about in wonder at the carvings, the paintings, and the glorious stained glass.

I joined a few other mass goers there – mainly Americans with cameras who, like myself, could not believe their good fortune to be in the choir stalls of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

It is easy to imagine the historic and world events that have taken place here as Notre-Dame has played an all important role in the life of Paris.

On previous visits, I followed the crowd along the barriers, pushed and shoved and urged to keep moving. This time it felt like a much more genuine experience.

Then, without any fanfare or even the tinkle of a bell, a small priest carrying the chalice entered the stalls.

He was wearing a plain white cotton vestment and went to a small table be-



MARIE BRUCE as she prepares to depart from her recent European sojourn.



MAGNIFICENT detailed craftsmanship on the exterior of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

low the high altar. Mass started immediately, but I was puzzled...where were the altar boys, the bells, the flowers, the smell of incense, the lighted candles, and the music?

I was taken aback. Here I was, kneeling in the very ornate choir stalls in glorious Notre-Dame Cathedral – the very center of religious and political life in France for centuries – and my expectations were out of line with the simplicity of this daily mass.

I tried to focus on the mass which was in French, but the stark contrast of such magnificent surroundings and this simple ceremony brought me back down to earth.

I was very glad my walk took me back to Notre-Dame, and I will cherish the memory of that visit.