

the celtic connection

ISSUE 27 VOLUME 4

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

MAY/JUNE 2018



IRELAND will hold a referendum on 25 May on liberalising its strict abortion laws. The vote has triggered strong reaction with fears of foreign influence. In a 'Home to Vote' campaign, supporters are urging the global diaspora to return to help repeal the eighth amendment which has been in place since 1983. This recognizes the equal right to life of both mother and unborn child, effectively banning terminations. [See page 14]



TENS OF THOUSANDS joined the May 5 march for Scottish independence in the biggest public demonstration since the 2003 rally against the Iraq war.

Thousands march through Glasgow for Scottish independence

GLASGOW – Tens of thousands of independence supporters marched through the streets of Glasgow, aiming to bring Scotland's largest city to a standstill.

Marchers draped in Saltires waved flags and played bagpipes and drums as they walked from Kelvingrove to Glasgow Green on Saturday, May 5.

It was the biggest public demonstration in Scotland since the 2003 rally against the Iraq war.

The event is one of a series being held across Scotland by All Under One Banner. The pro-independence organisation aims to march at regular intervals "until Scotland is free."

"Glasgow city centre will be brought to a standstill as our independence march traverses through en route to George Square," one member of the organisation said on a fundraising page before the event.

The march achieved a high turnout. Police Scotland estimated that 35,000 people joined the procession, which ended with speeches and music. Organizers of the event estimated that as many as 90,000 joined the march.

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**SIR ALEX FERGUSON
RECOVERING AFTER
EMERGENCY SURGERY**
Page 18

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PHOTO ROUNDUP**
Pages 12, 13, 16, 17

**HEARTS BEAT:
A CELEBRATION
OF TRADITIONAL
CULTURAL MUSIC**
Page 4



Win Free Tickets Or a Celtic Gift Basket

- Win a pair (2) tickets to the Kick Off Ceilidh Beer Garden with Ruckus Deluxe on Friday, June 15, at the annual BC Highland Games and Scottish Festival held at Percy Perry Stadium in Coquitlam (see page 20 our back cover for details). Entry by May 25. Mark your entry 'Beer Garden'.

- Win a pair (2) entry tickets to the BC Highland Games and Scottish Festival at Percy Perry Stadium, Coquitlam on Saturday, June 16, (see page 20 our back cover for details). Entry by May 25. Mark your entry 'BC Highland Games'.

- Win a pair (2) weekend passes to Vancouver Folk Music Festival at Jericho Beach Park in Vancouver on July 13-15, (see pages 3 & 5 for details). Entry by June 15. Mark your entry 'VFMF'.

- You could win an 'Irish Sweet & Grocery Basket' from Black Pudding Imports in Langley. Check out their weekly sales on Facebook. (See page 11 for more info). Mark your entry 'Irish Sweet'. Entry by May 25.

- Win a weekend pass with camping included to The Mission Folk Music Festival at Fraser River Heritage Park, Mission, B.C. on July 20-22, (see page 5 for details). Entry by May 26. Mark your entry 'Mission Festival'.

- Win a pair (2) weekend passes to all events at Canmore Highland Games in beautiful Canmore, Alberta, on September 1-2, (see pages 3 & 5 for more info). Entry by June 29. (Only one entry per person per event). Mark your entry Canmore

Entries by e-mail only (only one entry per person). Send to: cbutler@telus.net.



ONE of the most highly anticipated and thrilling events at the annual BC Highland Games and Festival is the massed pipes and drums. On June 16 hundreds of pipers and drummers will march onto the field at Percy Perry Stadium in Coquitlam to receive their awards from their various competitions. This year's Games will be on June 15 & 16. [More inside on pages 10 & 20]



MALCOLM NICHOLSON of BC Pipers' Association was awarded the Order of Canada by Governor General Jules Léger in 1979. He was the only person in the history of the merit to be awarded the honour for services to piping. [Read more on page 8]



THE PRINCE GEORGE Celtic Club has celebrated 40 years of pan-Celtic gatherings. Members are pictured above dressed in period costume on the steps of the Barkerville House Hotel for Bloomsday on June 16. Barkerville was the main town of the Cariboo Gold Rush in British Columbia and is preserved as a historic town. [More on page 12]

Publication
Mail Agreement:
4000398

The sky's the limit for local singer/songwriter Pat Chessell

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

Well-known local musician, singer, and songwriter Pat Chessell has just released his third CD entitled *I Confess*.

The album features seven tracks and Chessell co-wrote five tracks with his brother Shawn, including the title track, *I Confess*.

Amazingly, all the songwriting and recording took place while Chessell entertained five nights a week.

The title track, *I Confess*, is a lively, energetic toe-tapper and a tongue-in-cheek confession of Pat's imagined sins as he sings that he's never been a drinking man, nor had any of Ireland's biggest exports pass his lips.

Chessell wrote about some of the characters he met while entertaining in the pubs such as the track, *My Old Town*.

Here he sings about some of the older men in the bar as they talk about the nostalgic good old days and how things have changed, and sadly they will have to move out of town because of the high cost of living.

Will You Dance With Me is another song about the people he met in the bars.

On the track *Santy Ano*, a Clancy Brothers sea shanty song, if you didn't know it was Pat singing you could easily mistake him for one of the Clancys, the voices are so similar.

The inspiration for *The Mother-In-Law* came when Chessell was watching old re-runs of *The Honeymooners*.

It's a hilarious, laugh-out-loud song about a lazy son-in-law and his mother-in-law, who has no mercy for him both verbally while throwing a few punches his way because he won't go out and get a job.

The chorus goes "You haven't seen the devil until you've seen my mother-in-law."

Chessell writes in a Celtic vein, telling a story about the characters he has met while playing in the bars and basically telling their stories. He likes their sayings and hearing their life stories.

Over the years, I have watched Pat's music career blossom from the days of the old Culpoppers in Vancouver, when he played music with the late Danny Burns from Belfast.

Chessell spoke about those formative years and said, "Danny was my mentor and he got me up to speed on my music career. He had a real knack of reading a crowd and running a room and he gave me a lot of tips about that."

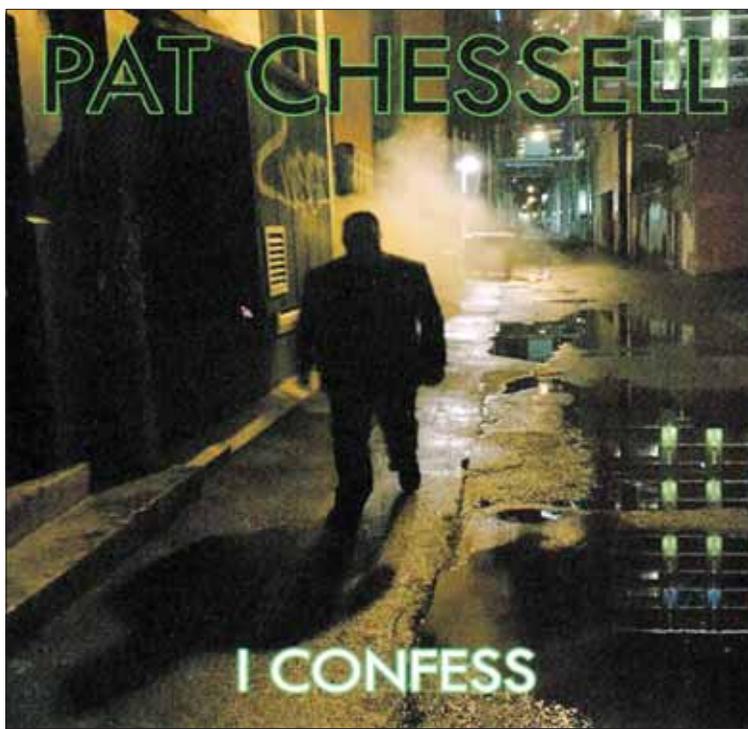
"When we moved from Culpoppers to the Wolf & Hound, Danny and I played music there for many years, as long as Jackie Metzler owned it."

"I have been playing music in the bars now for the past 17 years."

Chessell performs between five and six times a week, and he spoke about the changes he has noticed at the pubs.

"When I first started playing music in the pubs, the hours would be from nine or 10 PM until two in the morning. Now, you start at six and finish about nine o'clock. Unfortunately, the younger crowd have to work the next day."

Speaking about the CD and the backing musicians on the album, Pat said, "I had some well-known and great musicians such as Bruce Coughlan, Steve Dawson, Geoffrey Kelly, Mike Michalkow, Brendan Mooney, Gerry



O'Connor, Nathanael Powell, Tim Renaud, Greg Schneider, Michael Viens, and Damaris Woods.

"Our CD has been getting a lot of air play on *The Maui Celtic Radio Show* hosted by Hamish Burgess. He's a good friend of The Irish Rovers and I am too."

Some of the Irish pubs where you can catch Pat Chessell playing include Mahony & Sons at UBC, Mahony & Sons Burrard Landing in Vancouver,

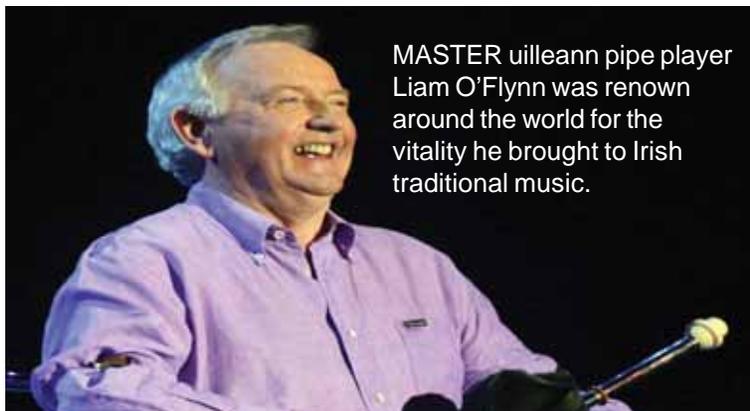
and Dublin Crossing in Surrey.

You can see Pat Chessell perform live on May 19 at the Roxy in downtown Vancouver. He is also on the line-up for the North West Festival in Seattle.

There is no moss growing on Pat Chessell...there just isn't the time. Now that he has added songwriting to his portfolio, the sky's the limit.

For more information about Pat Chessell or to purchase his CD, visit: www.patchessell.com.

Tributes to Irish musician Liam O'Flynn, dead at 72



MASTER uilleann pipe player Liam O'Flynn was renowned around the world for the vitality he brought to Irish traditional music.

DUBLIN – Liam O'Flynn played with such acclaimed musicians as Christy Moore, Kate Bush and Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler.

He died in Dublin on March 14 at the age of 72 after a long illness.

O'Flynn, who played the uilleann pipes, had been a member of the group Planxty alongside Christy Moore, Andy Irvine and Donal Lunny.

The master piper had also performed with Kate Bush, Emmylou Harris and Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits. He also worked with the poet Seamus Heaney and the composer Shaun Davey on *The Brendan Voyage*.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar expressed his condolences on behalf of the Irish Government.

Speaking from Washington, he said, "I think he was a genius and great Irishman. In this most Irish of weeks I would like to express my condolences

to his family, the music industry and the arts sector on their loss."

Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin said O'Flynn helped to revolutionise traditional Irish music.

"His immense legacy can be seen in the vitality of traditional Irish music across the globe today. From Kill, Co. Kildare, to the far corners of the world he has bequeathed a mesmerising tapestry of music," he added.

Musician Phil Coulter was among the first to pay tribute to O'Flynn, a native of Co. Kildare.

"Devastated to hear that the great Liam O'Flynn has passed away. He was a king among pipers and a prince among men. A complete musician and a gentle soul", Coulter tweeted.

The Arts Council of Ireland described him as a "virtuoso piper...who brought uilleann piping and Irish music to the world stage."

The City of Vancouver officially declares month of May as Rogue Folk Club Month

MAY has been officially declared **Rogue Folk Club Month** by the City of Vancouver!

With this in mind, there are quite a few shows happening at the Rogue House this month, starting with the long-awaited return of Nova Scotia singer/songwriter **Laura Smith**, whose rendition of the Scottish ballad, *My Bonny*, has become her most-requested song at concerts and festivals – and radio shows – across Canada and beyond.

She performs at St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue, in Kitsilano) on Thursday, May 10.

Bay Area Bluegrass diva **Kathy Kallick** leads a fine band which plays a lot more than just Bluegrass, and they will be at St. James on Sunday, May 13.

The following night we mark “Bonny Black Hare Day”* with **Tony McManus**, an exiled Scot residing in Toronto, who is widely regarded as the finest guitar player in Celtic music and is called “one of the 50 (most) transcendent acoustic guitarists of all time” (*Acoustic Guitar Magazine*).

It’s a rare treat to hear him in a solo concert. Self-taught from childhood, initially through listening to the family record collection, his twin obsessions of traditional music and acoustic guitar have worked together to produce a startlingly original approach to this ancient art.

He has come to be recognized throughout the world as the leading guitarist in Celtic Music.

In Tony’s hands the complex ornamentation normally associated with fiddles and pipes is accurately transferred to guitar in a way that preserves the integrity and emotional impact of the music.

With a string of remarkable albums – notably *Ceol More* for Celtic music aficionados and *Maker’s Mark* – where he played an eclectic repertoire on no less than 15 master-crafted guitars, Tony keeps raising the bar and testing himself on new rhythms and styles.

So much so that his latest solo CD, *Mysterious Boundaries*, includes classical compositions like **Bach’s Prelude** and the stunning *Chaconne* in D Minor, as well as **Erik Satie’s Gnosienne #1**.

He released a duet CD – *Round Trip* (2015) – with Italian maestro **Beppe Gambetta**, and was last seen at The Rogue accompanying **Laura Smith** in a memorable concert on a hot July evening in 2014.

Since then, we’ve run into him at **Celtic Colours** and the **Edmonton Folk Festival**, but we’ve been striving to bring him back for a concert to no avail – until now.

Essential listening for all fans of Celtic music and/or guitars.

[* “On the 14th of May, at the break of the day..” so begins the risqué folk song, *Bonny Black Hare*. It’s a song full of double-entendres and there are many versions. I’ll play **Fairport Convention’s** version – featuring the late **Dave Swarbrick** on vocals – on **The**



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB



PHOTO BY BRUCE DIENES

NOVA SCOTIA singer/songwriter **Laura Smith** plays St. James Hall on May 10.

Saturday Edge On Folk on www.citr.ca on Saturday, May 12, in case you’re interested.]

I’m looking forward to seeing the legendary **Paul Simon** at Rogers Arena on May 16.

It’s the opening date of his Farewell Tour, which finishes up on September 20/21 with two shows at Madison Square Garden in NYC and a final show

in – I think – Central Park on the 22nd.

The tour includes a show in London’s Hyde Park on July 15. What an impact his music has made down the years!

Later that week (May 17 & 18), **Pharis & Jason Romero** launch their fourth CD, *Sweet Old Religion*, with two shows at St. James Hall.

Sublime vocals and fascinating songs are hallmarks of this fine duo, and their band will feature **John Reischman** on mandolin.

Welsh guitarist/bluesy singer **Martin Harley** plays St. James on Sunday, May 20. It’s a Capilano U Global Roots Series show, with The Rogue as co-hosts. He’s brilliant!

Rogue May winds up with American songwriter **Ellis Paul** and accordion/piano wizard **Radoslav Lorkovic** on May 24.

The following day Margaret and I fly to Italy for a three week tour. Never been there before. It will be amazing, I’m sure.

The **Vancouver Folk Music Festival** runs July 13 - 15 at Jericho Beach park. The line-up was announced this week.

It’s a customarily eclectic and fabulous line-up, and while there’s not that much of particular interest to Celtic music fans, I’d recommend Quebec’s **Les Poules a Colin** for their trad-based songs, Ontario’s **Jayme Stone’s Folklife** for their unique approach to Appalachian trad, Louisiana’s **Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys** for their fabulous approach to Cajun and



PHARIS & JASON Romero launch their fourth CD, *Sweet Old Religion* with two shows at St. James Hall on May 17 & 18.

Zydeco music, and Irish singer/songwriter **Mick Flannery**.

I saw him at the Doolin Folk Festival in 2015. A mighty voice with interesting songs. Full lineup on www.thefestival.bc.ca.

Mission Folk Festival (July 20 -22) has yet to announce its full lineup, but it will be bigger and better than the last two events, as the festival continues to rebuild and recover from some bad luck with weather in successive years.

On the bill this year are the likes of **James Keelaghan, David Francey, and Pharis and Jason Romero**, with the remainder to be announced soon. www.missionfolkmusicfestival.ca.



TONY McMANUS plays a solo concert at the Rogue on Monday, May 14. He is widely regarded as the finest guitarist in Celtic music.

The Rogue will present English guitarist and singer **Martin Simpson** on July 12 at St. James. 40 years into his career he’s sounding better than ever, and his guitar work and studied vocal styles lend themselves so well to everything from trad Celtic to Delta Blues – with all stops in between! www.martinsimpson.com.

At the end of July we present **RogueFEST** – a free day of live music at Granville Island (Sunday July 29, Noon to 6 PM) with a beer garden too! Details will be announced soon on www.roguefolk.com where you can find all the info on Rogue shows.

HEARTS BEAT: A CELEBRATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL MUSIC

By **ELLIS COURTNEY**

VANCOUVER – For the past couple of years, in the month of March, I have had the pleasure of working with Suzie O’Shea, Community Animator at the UBC Learning Exchange, on bringing a taste of Irish culture and heritage to their community members.

Having moved from Gorey, Co. Wexford only nine years ago, Suzie’s lovely accent had attracted some of the UBC Learning Exchange’s patrons to inquire more about Ireland and all things Irish, so we co-ordinated a couple of informal cultural sharing sessions in the lead-up to St. Patrick’s Day.

This year, Suzie and her colleagues at the UBC Learning Exchange decided to expand on the idea of sharing the Irish culture and find a way to bring in other cultures to explore shared traditions and practices.

Earlier in the year, in partnership with the Carnegie Community Centre, and working with community member Isaac White, they ran a workshop that taught participants how to make their own traditional indigenous drum.

Then, as drums are a common instrument in many cultures (including Ireland), Suzie approached me about helping to co-ordinate a couple of bodhrán workshops.

The plan was to invite the community members who made their drums, as well as anyone else who was interested



HEARTS BEAT Irish traditional group — (L-R) Sal Gallagher, Tony Dalton, Denise Dalton, Ellis Courtney, Jim Fitzpatrick, Denise McAuliffe and Blake Williams.

in learning about the bodhrán, to come along to two workshops at the beginning of March.

My job was to find someone who could lead the bodhrán sessions and I found the perfect person – Blake Williams from The Irish Wakers.

Blake is not only a champion bodhrán player but is also extremely interested in the exchange of traditions and cultures.

So led by Blake and supported by myself and Denise McAuliffe, the workshops “created a relaxed, collaborative and welcoming space,” as Suzie observed afterwards.

Fueled by home-made brown bread, Dubliner cheese and Barry’s tea, the group shared drumming rhythms and songs over the two nights.

The workshops led up to a night of music on March 14 called ‘Hearts Beat: A Celebration of Traditional Cultural Music’.

Seven members of the Irish community brought their instruments and shared the evening of music and drumming with the members of the Carnegie Cultural Sharing Program.

Musqueam Elder Shane Pointe provided a welcome to the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and *Tsleil-Waututh* nations and spoke

of the importance of exchange of culture and sharing of traditions within our broader community.

Then for the next hour and a half, the packed house was entertained by a variety of talented performers – members of the Carnegie Cultural Sharing Program started the evening with a number of traditional welcome songs from different B.C. First Nations; Irish dancer Jessica Parker treated the audience to a couple of jigs and reels; community members Erica and Grant led us in song, and then the traditional Irish music kicked into full swing.

The energy in the room was palpable and everyone was participating with drumming, hand-clapping, toe-tapping or just enjoying the atmosphere.

An exit song from the Cultural Sharing Program brought our evening of celebration to a warm close.

As Nicole Bird from the Carnegie Centre noted afterwards “Hearts Beat brought a community closer together through the sharing of cultural music, song and dance. The event brought out many Cultural Sharing participants who have never drummed before. A night to remember forever!”

For all the participants and attendees, it was truly a unique experience and a rare opportunity to connect over music. Thank you to everyone involved in creating this opportunity and to the participants for sharing their talents.



POPULAR CELTIC BAND and Canadian treasures the Mudmen will return to play the Sunday night Ceilidh at the Canmore Highland Games.

Bring on the pipes...Mudmen to play the Canmore Highland Games

CANMORE, Alberta – Popular Celtic band and Canadian treasures the Mudmen will return to Canmore this year to play the Sunday night Ceilidh, one of the events held in conjunction with the Canmore Highland Games on September 1 and 2 this year.

A band who have under their belts not only kilts but a trail of accomplishments (they've played in concert with Johnny Reid and met the Queen), the Campbell brothers of Hockey Night in Canada fame will put on a show that will have everyone – ages three to 93 – up dancing!

All five members of the group are talented guys who love their jobs. They love to play Celtic music to people who came to hear the Great Highland bagpipe, rocking it up in a way that makes it easy for everyone to revel in the sound.

"I caught the Mudmen in action last summer at the Montreal Highland Games," said past volunteer Sally Garen. They were playing in the beer tent, and while I knew I was enjoying the music heartily, I was amazed and surprised to see all ages of people jumping out of their chairs to dance up a storm right there on the grass in the beer tent.

"I knew then we had to bring them back to Canmore and the committee agreed to do so for 2018.

"The kids were transfixed with the antics of piper Sandy Campbell, and the adults were just plain having fun!"

So, here's to the pipes and the fun of celebrating Celtic culture in the Rocky Mountains at Canmore!

Get out yer tartan and see you there!

Advance tickets and bundles are now available online for the Canmore Highland Games and Celtic festival. For more information visit www.canmorehighlandgames.ca.



Rogue Folk Club

Celebrating 31 Years of the best Celtic & Roots!
www.roguefolk.com

<p>Thursday, MAY 10 <i>N.S. Songwriter ("My Bonny")</i> Laura Smith</p>	<p>Thursday, MAY 17 & Friday, May 18 <i>sublime harmonies / magical songs</i> Pharis & Jason Romero</p>
<p>Sunday, MAY 13 <i>Bluegrass / Folk singer from CA</i> Kathy Kallick Band</p>	<p>Sunday, MAY 20 <i>Welsh guitarist / blues singer</i> Martin Harley</p>
<p>Monday, MAY 14 <i>Finest guitar player in Celtic music</i></p>  <p>Tony McManus</p>	<p>Thursday, MAY 24 <i>US songwriter with Croatian accordion / piano genius</i> Ellis Paul & Rad</p>
<p>St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Ave.) Tickets & Info (604) 736-3022</p>	

Celtic in A Twist



Canada's Contemporary Celtic Radio

download weekly at
www.worldbeatcanada.com
Sundays @ 4pm, AM 1470, CJVB Vancouver

Two very different Irish songwriters at 2018 Vancouver Folk Music Fest

VANCOUVER – The 41st annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival will, as it has every year for the last four decades, offer a range of familiar and favourite names of singers and bands from across North America, the UK and around the world for us to enjoy.

This year is no different, with artists like Neko Case, Ry Cooder, James McMurtry, Rodney Crowell, and recent Juno Award winners, The Dead South, on the bill.

But the other great thing that makes the festival so special is the opportunity to see, discover and experience artists, cultures and music that you otherwise might never know.

These artists could come from anywhere in the world like, as this year, the brilliant tango singer Melingo from Argentina, or the innovative folk of Ukraine's, Dakhabrakha, Mozambiquean marrabenta combo Wazimbo & Banda Kakana, or Mexico's Son de Madera.

The discoveries could also come in the form of up-and-coming performers who are just now making their mark on the wider music scene – count roots artist Steph Cameron and Appalachian singer Dori Freeman among those.

A visit to the festival could introduce you to amazing groups from your own back yard, such as Gord Grdina's Haram, playing Arabic and Persian music, or D lava's glorious Moravian (Czech) folksong.

New or known, from here or around the world – and playing everything from mariachi, to Quebecois traditional music, Cajun, blues, Americana, Gullah spirituals, edgy folk-electronica or



MICK FLANNERY

bluegrass and more – a visit to the festival is fun, exciting and inspiring.

And on the roster this year are two very different singer-songwriters from Ireland that promise to be on everyone's list of fantastic festival discoveries!

From Wexford, at the mouth of the River Slaney in southeast Ireland, a young **Wallis Bird** prepared to take on the world armed with a stunning voice, a multi-octave vocal range, and a can't-take-your-eyes-off stage presence.

Combining elements of traditional folk, blues and funk with a rock sound, she moves from tender, honest love songs to cheeky covers to stunning sean-nós to power ballads with ease. *The Irish Times* said, "[Her] sheer visceral energy could kick-start an entire economy."

Bird can spur audiences to a loud and raucous fervor, then seamlessly, emotionally entrance them into silence.

Now resident in Berlin, Bird has recorded five albums, won two Irish Meteor awards, toured, and attracted



WALLIS BIRD

a notoriously impassioned fan-base drawn to her ferocious live shows and heartfelt lyricism.

Raised by a music-loving family in a farmhouse in Blarney, County Cork, **Mick Flannery's** early influences were Tom Waits and Bob Dylan. It was also evident early on that he was really, really good at fashioning songs.

Good, as in buttery voice that makes the lyrics about betrayal and hurt stay with you. As in winning the International Songwriting Competition in Nashville good. As in, two consecutive Number One albums in Ireland good.

Now in his mid-30s, Mick has broadened his songwriting themes beyond heartache and the unfairness of love gone wrong.

His more recent lyrics are more likely to target universal injustice, greed and social hardship. His evocative croon and songs have always touched hearts. Now, there's a reason to be inspired.

The festival runs July 13-15 in Jericho Beach Park. For more info and tickets, go to thefestival.bc.ca.



2018 FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY 20 TO 22 FRASER RIVER HERITAGE PARK • BC •

..... FEATURING

JAMES KEELAGHAN • EARLY SPIRIT
DAVID FRANCEY'S STORYTELLING PROJECT
MATT GORDON AND LEONARD PODOLAK
AND A WHOLE HOST OF OTHERS



CONCERTS	SQUARE DANCE	PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS
FOOD VENDORS	FESTIVAL BISTRO	ARTISAN MARKET
		CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES CAMPING

ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE NOW | **WEEKEND PASS \$70** | **INFO@MISSIONFOLK.CA** | **604.309.6079**

MISSIONFOLKMUSICFESTIVAL.CA



M&S
EST. 1884

Get all your favourites at the
CELTIC TREASURE CHEST
U.K. & Irish Food & Gift Imports

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



HUNDREDS gathered for the Windrush generation solidarity protest in Brixton, London on April 20.

WINDRUSH SCANDAL

Caribbean migrants told they are in UK illegally, despite having lived in the country for decades

LONDON – Thousands of people from the Caribbean who arrived in the UK as children are being threatened with deportation.

The so-called Windrush generation were told they were in Britain illegally despite having lived and worked in the country for decades.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has also been caught up in the growing anger over Britain's treatment of the migrants.

Rule changes mean the legal status of thousands who arrived from the Caribbean is now in limbo, but it also emerged that Downing Street snubbed a request for a formal diplomatic discussion on the scandal.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd – who has now resigned over her role in the debacle – issued a grovelling apology for the “appalling” treatment of the Windrush generation.

Representatives of 12 Caribbean countries who asked to meet the PM during the April 2018 meeting of Commonwealth heads were told it would not be on the agenda.

Barbados high commissioner Guy Hewitt confirmed, “We did request a meeting and regrettably they advised us it is not possible.”

Campaigner David Lammy said the snub “brings great shame on our country.” But the Labour MP did celebrate a petition calling for an immediate amnesty gaining the 100,000 names needed to trigger a Commons debate.

The migrants were named after the *Empire Windrush* ship which first brought families over to help rebuild post-war Britain. They arrived on British shores between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries.

The *Windrush* docked at Tilbury Docks, Essex, on June 22, 1948, carrying 492 people, many of them children.

They came from islands such as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

There are around 500,000 people who are resident in the UK who arrived before 1971 and were born in Commonwealth countries, according to

Oxford University's Migration Observatory.

Although many of the child migrants travelled on their parents' passports, so it is difficult to estimate how many people belong to the Windrush generation.

They have fallen victim to rule changes in 2012 aimed at stopping overstaying. Their legal status changed overnight despite living, working and paying tax in Britain for decades.

The migrants were told they needed evidence including passports to continue working or getting NHS treatment. But most arrived on parents' passports and never applied for travel documents.

Their landing cards had also been destroyed in 2010 while Theresa May was the Home Secretary.

On April 17, Theresa May personally apologized to Caribbean leaders over the treatment of the Windrush generation.

She welcomed her Jamaican counterpart Andrew Holness to 10 Downing Street for talks after U-turning on the initial decision to turn down the meeting.

On April 29, Amber Rudd called the PM to tell her that she was resigning after it emerged she was fully aware of deportation targets. Sajid David is the new Home Secretary.

Rudd buckled under mounting pressure after it was revealed that targets for deporting illegal migrants do exist despite her telling a Commons committee they didn't.

Former Home Secretary Amber Rudd confirmed that UK citizenship fees and language tests will be waived for the Windrush generation and their families.

She told MPs she wanted people to have the “formal status” they should have had all along, without having to pay naturalization fees or pass any tests.

The free citizenship offer will apply not just to the families of Caribbean migrants who came to the UK between 1948 and 1973 but anyone from other Commonwealth nations who settled in the UK over the same period.



PRINCE WILLIAM and his wife Kate outside the Lindo Wing at St. Mary's Hospital in London following the birth of their newborn son.

William and Kate reveal new baby's name

LONDON – The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have named their second son, Louis Arthur Charles.

The couple's third child, who was born on Monday, April 23 will be known as Prince Louis, Kensington Palace announced.

Prince Louis is the younger brother to 4-year-old Prince George and Princess Charlotte, who turned three last month.



PRINCE HARRY and Meghan Markle announce their engagement.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle wedding

LONDON – Millions of well-wishers around the world will watch the live broadcast of the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on Saturday, May 19.

The ceremony is due to take place at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle at 12 PM.

The wedding is expected to be much smaller than the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's ceremony which saw 1,900 arrive at the church. At this year's ceremony, 600 guests are expected.

In addition, 2,640 members of the public have been invited to Windsor Castle to watch the couple arrive.

Of those members of the public, 1,200 will include young people who have shown strong leadership and those who have served their communities.

The couple opted not to invite high profile political figures such as Prime Minister Theresa May and President Donald Trump.

The bride's father Thomas Markle will walk her down the aisle. He will meet her at St. George's Chapel after she has travelled to the venue in a car with her mother.

Prince Harry has announced that he had chosen his brother Prince William to be his best man.

Johnnie Fox's IRISH SNUG

1033 GRANVILLE
WWW.JOHNNIEFOX.CA

...time well spent.

Open Daily at 11:30am

For More Information
www.johnniefox.ca • 604.685.4946

We're Here to Help.

Athena Theodorakakis, Ryan Crean, Christina Koh, Anne Plunkett-Rumley, Sherry Moreau, Steven Colon, Megan Johnson, Chris Bradshaw, Gabe Rogan, Aaron Morrison, Taylor Meers, and Mike Crean

From our family to your family, serving with compassion for over 110 years.

We provide a full range of funeral & cremation services • Fair and affordable prices
No commission sales people • Open six days a week, available by phone 24/7
We welcome inquiries about pre-planning & pre-paid funeral trusts
We have 4 Lower Mainland locations to serve you:

Kearney Columbia-Bowell Chapel 219-4 th Street, New Westminster, B.C. phone: 604-321-8881 email: Columbia-Bowell@KearneyFS.com	Kearney Cloverdale & South Surrey 17667-57 th Avenue, Surrey, B.C. phone: 604-574-2003 email: Cloverdale@KearneyFS.com
Kearney Funeral Services 430 West 2 nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. phone: 604-736-0268 email: Vancouver.Chapel@KearneyFS.com	Kearney Burnaby Chapel 4715 Hastings Street, Burnaby, B.C. phone: 604-299-6889 email: Burnaby@KearneyFS.com

www.KearneyFS.com

Do you know the origins of May Day?

POSTCARD FROM LONDON



By **ELFAN JONES**



LONDON – Greetings on May 1st from a cold and soggy London.

Mayday...Mayday....Mayday! We all know that this is the international distress signal, but have you wondered how it originated?

It was the idea of Fredrick Stanley Mockford, a senior radio officer working in Croydon Airport just south east of London. Most of the air traffic there at the time was between Croydon and Le Bourget Airport Paris.

In 1923 he suggested "Mayday" as a variation of the French expression "m'aidez" which is a shorten version of "venez m'aidez," meaning "come and help me."

It was so simple and would obviously irritate the French so, acting with the speed that British Governments are famous for, it became internationally recognized in 1948.

May 1 is International Workers Day or Labour Day in many countries.

For me, it conjures up pictures of grim looking cold war Soviet leaders, standing on a balcony, reviewing soldiers and weapons of destruction parading outside the Kremlin; a show of communist power representing workers' solidarity; and a scene replicated all over socialist Eastern Europe.

I assumed that this was a communist propaganda event, so I was surprised to learn that "International Workers Day" was first chosen in 1904 by a pan-national organization of socialist and communist parties to commemorate the 1886 Chicago Haymarket affair, or massacre, depending on your political leanings.

On May 3, 1886, there was a general strike in Chicago to demand an eight hour working day. The next day a rally

was held in reaction to the killing of several workers by police.

As police moved to disperse the public, a bomb was thrown at the police. The ensuing gunfire resulted in the deaths of seven police officers, four civilians and scores were injured.

Eight of the organizers were arrested and convicted of conspiracy with flimsy evidence that one of them may have built the bomb. Seven were sentenced to death and one to a term of 15 years in prison.

In Canada there is a separate Labour Day on the first Monday in September.

The Canadian origin can be traced to Toronto 1872 when trade unionists organized a demonstration in support of a printers' strike for a shorter working day.

On April 15, the printers led a parade through Toronto with marching bands and the workers carrying banners proclaiming their demands.

The march started with 2,000, but numbers swelled to 10,000 by the time it reached Queens Park, approximately 10 percent of the population.

The following day, 24 members of the strike committee were arrested, but hours later then Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald introduced and passed the Trade Union Act which legalized and protected union activity.

A celebration was held annually by the trades union from then on until 1894, when Prime Minister John Thompson and his government declared a Labour Day holiday to be held in September.

In the United States credit is given to two trade unionists, Peter J. McGuire

and Matthew Maguire for organizing a workers' holiday in New York in 1882.

As the years rolled by other states followed suit until 1894 Congress passed an act declaring the first Monday in September to be a national holiday called Labor Day. Whoever declared it obviously couldn't spell Labour.

From a Celtic point of view, May Day is a very joyful event. We cannot take the credit because the Egyptians started celebrating a spring festival called Sham-El Nessim, and the Romans had a flower festival, but the Gaelic festival of Beltane which means "the return of the sun" celebrates spring time fertility, and the arrival of warmer weather.

People believed that the sun was held prisoner during the winter months and, from where I'm sitting, I can assure you it has not been let out yet.

I will do my best to follow the ancient celebrations because people danced around fires (I'm sitting next to a radiator and to keep warm by stamping my feet), they drank a great deal (will have a go), and celebrated fertility (at 73 years of age this could be a problem, but willing to try).

The celebrations died out by the mid-20th Century as it may well have been snowing.

*Best wishes,
Elfan*

Welsh First Minister to step down after nine years

CARDIFF – The head of the devolved government in Wales, Carwyn Jones, has announced that he intends to stand down in the second half of this year.

His decision to stand down will bring to an end his nine-year stint as first minister, succeeding Rhodri Morgan in December 2009.

The decision comes months after Jones referred himself to an independent inquiry over allegations of bullying at a senior level of the Welsh Government three years ago, following the death of assembly member Carl Sargeant in November.

Former minister Leighton Andrews has said that Sargeant, who is believed to have taken his own life four days after being removed from his role as cabinet secretary for communities and children while facing allegations of inappropriate behaviour, was "unquestionably the target" of some of the behaviour and "toxic" atmosphere.

PATIO SEASON HAS ARRIVED!

Come enjoy the best view of Vancouver through the glass!



IRISH SUNDAYS
Raise a glass of Irish beer every Sunday for \$6 a pint - all day!

CRAFTERNOONS
Monday - Friday til 5pm get a pint of one of our rotating craft brews for \$5

WINE WEDNESDAYS
All wine is half price from 6pm onwards every Wednesday night.

Mahony & Sons™

BURRARD LANDING | STAMPS LANDING | UBC

@mahonyandsons

www.mahonyandsons.com



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR MAY

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. *Sinead Maire's* by Lunasa - Cas on Lunasa Records.
2. *Welcome to Adamstown* by Flogging Molly - *Life is Good* on Vanguard Records.
3. *Drums of Chelsea* by The Go Set - *One Fine Day* on ABC Music.
4. *Rainy Tuesday Morning* by Pat Chessell - *I Confess* on independent.
5. *The Brocca Set* by Pete's Posse - *The Conversation* on Epact Music.
6. *The Tullaghan Lassies* by Altan - *The Gap of Dreams* on Compass Records.
7. *ID Circulaire* by MAZ - *ID* on Production MAZ.
8. *Don't Let It Bring You Down* by Bela Fleck & Abigail Washburn - *Echo In The Valley* on Rounder/Concord.
9. *Asphalteuse* by Genticorum - *Avant l'Orage* on independent.
10. *Dreamcatcher* by Clan of the Celts - *single* on Independent.

Celt In A Twist - Pick Of The Month:
LUNASA - Cas
(Lunasa Records)

Heart & Crown



Heart & Crown ByWard Market
67 Clarence St.

Heart & Crown Barrhaven
3161 Strandherd Ave.

Heart & Crown Preston Street
353B Preston St.

Aulde Dubliner & Pour House
62 William St.

HEARTANDCROWN.PUB

BC Pipers' Association marks the 40th anniversary of Malcolm Nicholson's Order of Canada award

VANCOUVER – On April 19, 2018, the BC Pipers' Association (BCPA) honoured the late Malcolm Nicholson, C.M. on the 40th anniversary of his investiture as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Malcolm is the only person in the history of the Order of Canada to be awarded the honour for services to piping. The cornerstone of the Canadian honours system, the Order of Canada recognized Malcolm Nicholson's uniqueness and outstanding achievement, his dedication to Scottish music and to the youth in the community.

He was a founding member of the BCPA, Pipe Major of the Vancouver Police Pipe Band, creator of many junior and adult bands, instructor to hundreds of youngsters and teens.

He spent his life directing boys and girls in various bands whose consistently high calibre has won them awards in Canada, Britain, the United States and Europe."

Rob MacNeil, president, BC Pipers' Association, said, "his pioneering vision and drive to take juvenile pipe bands to compete nationally and internationally, and his dedication to the development of young pipers established the commitment to the development and success of juvenile pipe bands across the BCPA region continues to this day.

"His efforts also set in motion the rise of BC Grade 1 bands on the international stage. Such a fitting testament to his spirit and vision."

In honour of this significant anniversary, BCPA asked Malcolm's granddaughter Elouise Roane, former Pipe Major of the Burnaby Ladies Pipe Band, to recount the events around Malcolm's Order of Canada award and investiture and his legacy.

Finally, while the combined BCPA Mini-Gathering and Annual Gathering Grade 1 Piping aggregate trophy is in Malcolm's name, to recognize his dedication to the instruction of juvenile bands, BCPA is establishing the Pipe Major Malcolm Nicholson, C.M. Shield for the top juvenile band in Grade 4 or 5 at the Annual Gathering.

The shield will include the picture at his Order of Canada investiture and each year the name of the top juvenile band along with the names of the primary piping instructor and primary drumming instructor will be added.

In recalling the events of her grandfather's remarkable life, Elouise said, "He was incredibly relentless in his giving of time to others and his sharing of musical expertise all to make one a better player and a lifelong friend. He made other people's lives better!"

His wife Elsie, his daughters Kathleen, Jessie and Norma and his grandchildren witnessed it each and every day.

It was a very powerful, proud and emotional moment for Malcolm, and the entire family, when Malcolm stood before Governor General Jules Léger in Rideau Hall, Ottawa, Canada at the Order of Canada Investiture Ceremony on April 19, 1978.



MALCOLM NICHOLSON



THREE generations of Nicholsons (L-R): Malcolm Nicholson with his daughter Jessie Nicholson Roane, and granddaughter Elouise Roane.

Nicholson was born in 1901 in Pleasant Valley, Prince Edward Island, where his ancestors arrived on the ship *Polly* from Portree, Skye in 1803.

He moved to British Columbia along with his family in 1903 and settled in Maple Ridge where he achieved his teaching certificate.

During his early teenage years, Malcolm, with the support of his Gaelic speaking parents, developed a keen interest in the bagpipes.

In the early 1920s, along with two drummers, Malcolm played at summer fairs and gatherings from the back of a pick-up truck around Haney. It is said that this was the beginning of the Haney Pipe Band.

In 1923, he moved to Vancouver where he began teaching public school and attended the Vancouver Police Band practises. At the same time, he joined the New Westminster Pipe Band.

He and Elsie Phye, who was born in Whitehaven, England, were married in 1926.

When a good friend decided to join the Vancouver Police, he asked Malcolm



PHOTOS: Courtesy of Elouise Roane
ELSIE AND MALCOLM Nicholson on receiving the Order of Canada at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on April 19, 1978. Nicholson, a BC Pipers' Association Life Member was recognized for his remarkable legacy of services to piping in Canada.



THE NICHOLSON QUARTET – Malcolm Nicholson with his daughters (L-R): Norma, Kathleen, Jessie.

to accompany him to the station to apply. While there, a constable suggested that Malcolm also apply.

He did. As luck would have it, Malcolm was hired to the police department and, unfortunately, his friend was not.

At this time Malcolm also became a member of the Vancouver Police Pipe Band under PM D. MacTavish.

He became a founding member of the British Columbia Pipers' Association in August 1932 and was involved in the design of the Association's letterhead crest.

Eventually, all three children – Kathleen, Jessie and Norma – would learn at an early age to play the pipes, Highland dance, and to sing.

Their Triumph Street address became the centre for all things Scottish in Vancouver; ceilidhs, piping, drumming, dancing, distribution of equipment and alterations of uniforms. Elsie was known as the "hostess with the mostest."

In 1945, Malcolm was appointed Pipe Major of the Vancouver Police Pipe Band – a position he would hold for

the next 16 years.

Mary MacNab (nee Isdale) of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band approached Malcolm in 1950 to assist with reorganizing the band and to assume position of director and instructor, a position he would hold until 1967.

One of the first orders of business then was to raise funds to purchase uniforms and, for the first time, the band turned out fully equipped.

He also started the Hastings East Boys Pipe Band (Hastings Community Centre Pipe Band), with the help of Sandy Stewart in 1956.

The following year, the band became known as the Vancouver Optimist Junior Pipe Band (and in later years the band became known as the White Spot Junior Band), under direction of Malcolm Nicholson and Don Bellamy.

With sponsorship from the Kiwanis Club, in 1957 Malcolm formed the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band for youth up to the age of 18.

It was 1961 when Malcolm was awarded a Life Membership by the BCPA.

He contributed immeasurably to the BCPA by producing a regular supply of new pipers. Often, a high percentage of soloists in the amateur classes were his students or former students.

He also organized, directed and taught the Highland Ladies Pipe Band for youth aged 14 years and younger.

He retired from both the police department and the police band that same year and his daily handwritten police journals can be seen at the Vancouver Police Museum – the oldest police museum in North America.

After his retirement, Malcolm, never a man to sit idle, decided to add to his already busy schedule teaching practical vocational life skills to the youth with handicaps.

Four years after being formed, Malcolm took the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band to Scotland in 1962 where they captured one first, two seconds, and two thirds.

At the BC Highland Dancing Association Highland Games on July 1, 1963, Malcolm was presented with a special award for his support.

On that day, five pipe majors of participating bands were pupils of Pipe Major Malcolm Nicholson.

The following year, Malcolm took the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band to Scotland where in Grade 4 they captured first place at the European Championships and second place at the Scottish Championships.

Their pipe major was Malcolm's daughter Norma, who in 1965 married the award winning jazz musician Don Thompson (In 1987 he composed the famous *Journey to Skye* suite performed by the 78th Fraser Highlanders, and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2009).

In 1967, Malcolm founded and directed the Burnaby Ladies Pipe Band. It was a ladies band for all ages therefore a senior band and a junior band were designated.

He also organized the Army, Navy and Airforce Veterans Pipe Band, known as ANAVETS Pipe Band for male players over the age of 18.

In 1970 he took the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band to Scotland where they captured the Cowal and European Championships in the Juvenile grade.

The following year he took the Burnaby Ladies Pipe Bands (senior and junior) to Scotland to compete in Grade 3 and 4, respectively.

The (Dowco) Triumph Street Pipe Band, was also established by Malcolm's former pupils, primarily from the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band players who had aged out.

The band members thought it significant to name their new band Triumph Street after the street on which the Nicholson family lived for over 40 years and was the heart and soul of many, many a night of teaching, piping and dancing in Vancouver.

Malcolm passed away at the age of 96 on July 1, 1997. Elouise Roane said the family likes to think that he was called away to "tune up a band for Canada Day festivities."

He and his beloved wife Elsie are buried together in Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be in Brexit Britain



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

EDINBURGH – Spring finally sprung in Scotland. The temperature rose to 10 degrees, the wind died down and “taps aff” season arrived.

That is, Scottish men who should keep their shirts on at all times suddenly remove them and parade topless in the streets and, for some reason, at transport hubs.

I recently saw a group of taps-aff males gathered outside Edinburgh airport impersonating whatever the collective noun is for red peppers.

The urban dictionary defines “taps aff” as “the removing of one’s shirt or upper body garments, most often in the event of warm weather but also often for the purpose of celebration of simple antagonism.”

However, I suspect there is more to it than the dictionary allows.

On the odd occasion that I can’t avert my eyes in time, I see these rubicund harbingers of summer as nostalgists, perhaps dreaming of younger days on the beaches of Bute or Portobello when life was full of promise and before things went pear-shaped.

Sadly, this kind of innocent longing – if that’s what it is – is a rare commodity in Brexit Britain.

Nostalgia is one of the pillars of the Brexiteer narrative but in a form that the majority of Scots are reluctant to engage in.

I first noticed this phenomenon three months before the 2016 referendum, when I reviewed a book called *Doomed Marriage* by Brexiteer “intellectual” Daniel Hannan.

Hannan, ironically, is a long-serving member of the European Parliament.

The book is an extended exercise in British exceptionalism and attempts to revive past glories.

Hannan produces a long list of “unique” qualities that he considers the British to have that are not shared by the Germans or the French.

He includes the Scots in his analysis because they “watch the same television, follow the same sports, eat the same food, shop at the same chains and speak the same language as people elsewhere in Britain.”

This means, apparently, that Scotland should eschew its own independence and withdraw from the EU along with the rest of Britain.

Much of Hannan’s vision of the future is actually a vision of the past and the Commonwealth, or selected countries therein, is a big part of it.

On trade, for instance, he believes that Britain should trade with New Zealand where they speak English instead of France where they don’t.

At the time, I thought that was about as daft as the pro-Brexit argument would get. I was wrong.

Instead Hannan’s nostalgia for a once-mighty Britain is now a kind of mantra among Brexiteers.

The two world wars are referenced constantly, Boris Johnson, the British Foreign Secretary, speaks of lions roaring and Conservative MP Jacob Rees-Mogg says of Brexit that “it’s Magna Carta, it’s the Burgesses coming at Parliament, it’s the great reform bill, it’s the bill of rights, it’s Waterloo, it’s Agincourt, it’s Crecy.”

By contrast, Liberal Democrat Vince Cable has characterised the Brexit vote as “driven by nostalgia for a world where passports were blue, faces were white and the map was coloured imperial pink.”

The Windrush scandal, which saw people threatened with deportation to the Caribbean despite being long resident in Britain, suggests that Cable was on to something.

Sadly, it’s not just Britain that is furiously rowing backwards.

Donald Trump’s “Make America Great Again” speaks for itself. Even Canada is not immune.

Recently, there has been some social media chat here about an organisation called CANZUK which has the self-appointed mission of “promoting closer ties between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.”

I was surprised to discover that the founder lives in Vancouver, though his

ideas appear to be resonating with Brexiteers on this side of the pond.

One of CANZUK’s proposals is for free movement of people between the four member states based on the notion that such a freedom existed before the UK joined the European Economic Community in 1973.

What happens to people from other Commonwealth countries or, indeed, any country that’s not in CANZUK – Poland, say, or Ireland – is not clear. But one can guess.

I subsequently discovered that CANZUK has enjoyed extensive coverage in Canada’s mainstream media with some high-profile figures being quoted in support of it.

However, Professor Srdjan Vucetic from the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa believes that CANZUK “is about post-imperial nostalgia... resuscitating an old dream that goes back to the 19th Century, and that dream is called imperial federation within the British Empire.”

He could have added that it is also about denying the reality of modern Canada. CANZUK’s “free movement before 1973” is really code for entitlement and privileged access.

It was only the removal of those things from the immigration system that enabled Canada to become the multicultural country that it is today. Those of us who love it would like to keep it that way.

Juncker: UK will come to regret Brexit decision

BRUSSELS – European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has called for “more clarity” about the UK’s plans for Brexit.

Addressing the European Parliament, Juncker was cheered by Eurosceptic MEPs as he noted the UK’s departure was due on March 29, 2019.

Responding to their applause, Juncker said the time would come “when you will regret your decision.”

But former UKIP leader Nigel Farage claimed the European Commission was seeking to “bully” the UK and suggested Theresa May should back a departure from the bloc without a transition deal.

All EU members are part of the customs union, within which there are no internal tariffs (taxes) on goods transported between them. There is also a common tariff agreed on goods entering from outside.

The UK Government has said it is leaving the EU customs union so that it can strike its own trade deals around the world, something it cannot do as a member.

This means the UK and the EU will have to agree to a new arrangement for what happens at their border post-Brexit.

The UK, which put forward two alternative proposals last year, has yet to confirm its favoured model.

Juncker said “cherry-picking is not going to be possible” in the future trade relationship between the UK and EU. “I would rather have preferred Britain not to have decided to leave the European

Union, but anyone who leaves the European Union has to know, frankly, what this means,” he said.

“If you decide to jettison, leave behind, the common agreements and rules, then you have to accept that things cannot remain as they are.”

Juncker said the controversial “backstop” proposal for dealing with the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic “translates faithfully” the agreement reached between May and the EU in December.

He said the EU was ready to work with the UK on its preferred option of the border issue being resolved in the future trade deal, or by other specific measures. But he added “we need to receive concrete proposals from the UK first.”

Juncker said, “The 27 member states stand firm and united when it comes to Ireland. For us this is not an Irish issue, it is a European issue.”

But he was heckled by one MEP who shouted “it is a British issue.”

Brussels’ chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said May’s decision to leave the single market and customs union was “closing doors” to possible models of future co-operation.

“It’s time to face up to the hard facts,” he said. “The UK is choosing to leave the union, the single market and the customs union, we have noted that.

“Do they also want to distance themselves from our regulatory model, the one that we have constructed together with you – and you with us – for 44 years?”

18-month TERM DEPOSIT

2.65%[†]

[†]Terms & conditions apply. Minimum \$5,000 deposit required. Rates are subject to change without notice. Offer expires soon.

Chequing, Savings, Mortgages, Loans and Friendly Advice.
www.gvccu.com

GVC credit union
GREATER VANCOUVER COMMUNITY For Real People

BURNABY

1801 Willingdon Ave.
604-298-3344

NEW WESTMINSTER

258-800 McBride Blvd.
604-525-1414

VANCOUVER

115-370 E Broadway
604-875-8590

SURREY

125-15280 101 Ave.
604-584-4434

Learn to play pipes and drums with the World Champions!

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



Lots of fun • Great instruction

For information, call:
(604) 942-5118

Could this be the last year for BC Highland Games at Percy Perry Stadium in Coquitlam?

COQUITLAM, BC – Plans are well underway for the June 15 and 16 BC Highland Games and Scottish Festival in Coquitlam, but for organizers, this may be the last year for the Games at Percy Perry Stadium.

“We’ve been here for 27 years. It’s been a good location for more than a quarter century. But it’s time to move on,” says Games chair Mike Chisholm.

“We have been working with the City of Coquitlam since last fall, holding discussions on the future of the Games and looking at a new location that I believe will be superior in many ways and create a truly exceptional Highland Games cultural experience that welcomes everyone,” says Chisholm.

The Games have been held at Percy Perry Stadium since the early 1990s, moving there from Deas Island in Delta. However, with the new artificial turf that was installed several years ago, restrictions on usage and changing event circumstances means it’s time to look for a new location.

“In our first year at the stadium in 1992, I was asked to bring two dozen doughnuts and two urns of Tim Horton’s coffee as the Games food,” says Sheila Braconnier, who is retiring as the Games field operations coordinator in 2019.

In the ensuing years, many things have changed. Today, almost a dozen food trucks and food vendors participate each year, along with dozens of merchandise vendors, cultural events, children’s activities, pipe bands, heavy event athletes and live Celtic entertainment.

The City is anxious for the Games to relocate to nearby Lafarge Lake Park which is only steps from the Lafarge Lake Skytrain station.

“After visiting the site several times, it does appear to be a better location, with more grassy areas, trees for shade, a great stage, room for all competitions and an open, festival atmosphere,” says Chisholm.

“We still need to find a place to host our Scottish heavy events; however, our focus right now is on a successful 2018 Games in June.”

2018 BC Highland Games

The 2018 Games kick off Friday evening, June 15 with two events on the field at Percy Perry Stadium.

The Open pìobaireachd (classical music of the pipes) competition, attracting the top level pipers from around the Pacific Northwest starts at 5 PM.

And for the first time, a Friday night “Kick Off Ceilidh Beer Garden” featuring live music from Whistler’s Celtic musicians Ruckus Deluxe will be held in the beer garden on the east side of the field.

“We moved the beer garden to a new location last year, and it was a huge success. The place was hopping all day Saturday, and in fact, people were lining up to get in before opening.

The views of the Games and the heavy event competitions were fantastic and it was the perfect Highland Games beer garden,” says Chisholm.

Ruckus Deluxe will be the live entertainment in the beer garden on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Tickets

“We have been working with the City of Coquitlam since last fall, holding discussions on the future of the Games and looking at a new location that I believe will be superior in many ways and create a truly exceptional Highland Games cultural experience that welcomes everyone”

for the Friday night ceilidh are available online at the BC Highland Games website.

On Saturday, the line up is coming together nicely, with most of the local competitive pipe bands including the SFU Pipe Band and the RCMP E. Division Pipe Band; the Vancouver Highland dancing championships; the BC Highland Games Whisky School with Bill Diamond; British food and cars; and live Celtic entertainment with Blackthorn and Bob Collins.

For the second time, a fusion of cultures, mixing Scottish Highland dancing with Punjabi Bhangra dancing and Japanese Taiko drumming will also be presented.

“We live in a vibrant cultural area, and as the original immigrants to this country, the Scots are extending their famous hospitality to various cultures, to come to the Games, fuse their music and dance with Scottish music and dance, and present a truly Canadian performance,” says Chisholm.

Last year a video of the Shot of Scotch Highland Dancers and the Royal Academy of Bhangra at the BC Highland Games was posted on YouTube and as of May had been viewed more than one million times around the world and shared 16,000 times.

This year, Shot of Scotch will do a repeat performance with the Royal Academy of Bhangra, and are adding a fusion dance with a Japanese taiko drumming group.

“We are thankful to the BC Arts Council for their support of these innovative and truly Canadian dance experiences,” says Chisholm. “And hopefully we will see many more in years to come.”

The volunteer-run games committee is



PHOTO: Blair Howard Photography

THE HEAVY EVENTS are an important part of the BC Highland Games. Among the oldest contested sports in the world, these events encompass a series of nine feats of strength. Many are derived from the Scottish military weapons of war, while others came directly from everyday life.



PHOTO: Blair Howard Photography

ANOTHER hugely popular competition is the Highland dancing championships. The 2018 BC Highland Games & City of Vancouver Championship & West Coast Open Premiership is organized and run by the BC Highland Dancing Association. This competition attracts dancers of all levels from all over Canada and the United States.

also thankful to RE/MAX for continuing their support of the BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival.

The company has stepped up their involvement this year to gold level status, and the support from local companies like this help to ensure the Games continue to grow, thrive and be a popular destination for families.

The City of Coquitlam, through its Spirit Grants, and the BC Government, through the lottery grants, are also key partners in the Games.

“One of the great successes from last year was the greening of the Games,” says Chisholm.

“We employed Green Chair Recycling to handle all our waste and recycling. And the result was amazing.”

In 2017, workers and volunteers collected 100 per cent of the waste from the Games, and by Saturday evening, had diverted 92.3 per cent of waste from the landfill.

This was all recycled or composted, with a mere 7.7 percent of waste going to the landfill. Green Chair will be back in 2018, ensuring that the festival site is left in pristine condition with no impact on the environment.

The 2018 Games will also feature some

key cultural activities in the new cultural tent in the centre of the field.

Last year groups of people lined up to participate in Gaelic singing and milling frolics that were taking place in and around the cultural tent. That tent will now be located on the centre field, with events taking place inside and out all day long.

Vendors will also make up a key part of the Games, with dozens of artisans and crafts people, along with key tenants Tartantown, the British Food Shop and the Scottish Shop back in 2018.

The children’s area will also see the return of a number of new rides and activities for the kids and of course, the very popular Haggis Hunt that takes place around the field.

The BC Pipers’ Association, the BC Highland Dancing Association and Athletic director Karyn Dallimore have all indicated planning is well underway for their competitions on the field, which always draws big crowds.

Access to the Games is easier than ever, with Skytrain’s Millennium Line Lafarge Lake Station only a short walk from the stadium along Lafarge Lake.

Gates open at 4 PM on Friday for the evening entertainment, and at 8 AM on Saturday, wrapping up with a ceilidh (party) in the beer garden until later in the evening.

Tickets are available online at: bchighlandgames.com.

Over a Thousand Years of Scottish Tradition at Highland Games

For over a thousand years, periodic gatherings of Scots to celebrate their nature and heritage by competing against each other in music, dance, and athletic trials, has been an integral part of Scottish culture. Such contests are now known as Highland Games.

As far back as Roman times, there is mention of such games in Scotland.

History tells us that in the year 844 Kenneth MacAlpine, King of Scots, organized a three day games to keep his army occupied while awaiting favourable omens before joining battle with the Picts for final control of the land of Dalriada.

Kenneth won his battle and, in due course, the name of the land was changed to Scotland.

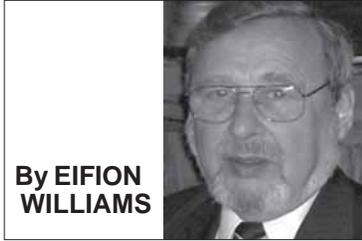
Hence, it may be said that the Scottish Highland Games are at least three days older than the nation of Scotland itself.

Later, Malcolm Canmore, who reigned from 1058 to 1093, held regular games to select the strongest and fastest Scots for his elite personal guard, and in 1314 a small village in Scotland held a games to celebrate Robert the Bruce’s victory at Bannockburn and claims to have held these every year since without interruption.

Over the centuries, as Scots spread across the globe, they carried the games with them and many parts of the world now boast a long history of annual Highland Gatherings. North America has become one of the staunchest followers of the tradition.

Welsh Society welcome visitors from People's Collection Wales

By EIFION WILLIAMS
 VANCOUVER – On Sunday, April 22, a group of Welsh Society members met in the Cambrian Hall's Red Dragon with three representatives of People's Collection Wales (Casgliad y Werin Cymru).



By EIFION WILLIAMS

People's Collection Wales describes itself in its website as "a contemporary, interactive and bilingual online experience dedicated to the history of Wales and its people."

Its aim is to chart the history of Wales through reminiscences, photographs, videos and other memorabilia submitted by individuals and groups in Wales and overseas.

The three presenters at the Cambrian Hall, Tom Pert, Dafydd James and Mike Jones, represented the three institutions behind the project – The National Library of Wales, the National Museum of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

The group was in Vancouver to attend an International Museums Conference at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre.

The three presenters explained to the audience how the site is designed to allow users to discover, share and contribute

digital objects relating to Wales to a huge, interactive database.

Users are trained to navigate the site so that they can easily contribute photographs, diary pages, video and sound clips, and even 3-D objects.

The items are then grouped into collections that can be accessed by anyone.

The presentations generated much interest among the Welsh Society members present, many of whom have written about and collected memorabilia on the Welsh heritage in Vancouver and elsewhere in North America.

President Lynn Owens-Whalen, who is keenly interested in all matters relating to her Welsh heritage and Welsh history, was presented with a plaque commemorating the presentation by the visiting team.

People of Welsh heritage in Wales or abroad are encouraged to submit their stories and other materials to what promises to be a vast and permanent collection of digital articles relating to Welsh history and culture.

More information on the project can be found on the People's Collection Wales website at: www.peoplescollection.wales.



PRESIDENT of the Vancouver Welsh Society Lynn Owens-Whalen with the *Casgliad y Werin* plaque presented by the People's Collection Wales group.

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

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

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

Are you .Scot yet?

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

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

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

Another Successful Welsh Society Spring Sale

By EIFION WILLIAMS
 VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Welsh Society's annual spring sale was held at the Cambrian Hall on Saturday, April 21.



As in previous years, the event attracted a large number of buyers, some of whom waited outside the hall for the 10 AM opening.

For the first hour the hall was packed with people checking out the items on display and sales were brisk.

As in past years, one of the busiest tables was the home-made baking and preserves table, with many customers from previous years returning to buy Welsh fare such as bara brith and the ever-popular Welsh cakes.

Other items for sale included collectibles, china, books, children's wear, toys, and electronic goods.

Also popular was the silent auction, in which prospective buyers could write offers on more valuable items donated by over 30 organizations, companies or individuals.

The annual spring sale is also a social event for the sale's volunteer workers and customers, many of whom took advantage of the tea room set up in the lower hall's Red Dragon to enjoy home-made cakes and sandwiches.

The annual spring sale is organized by members of the Welsh Society's social committee.

Organizer Gillian Rogers was pleased with the success of this year's sale, especially with the response from Welsh Society members and the public at large.

The number of donated items to the silent auction far exceeded expectations and the money raised by the spring sale exceeded that of last year.

THREE WOMEN dressed in traditional Welsh costumes in the Red Lion tea room at the spring sale – (L-R) Heather Davies, Pat Morris and Mary Lewis. One of the busiest tables at the sale is the home-made baking and preserves table, with many customers from previous years returning to buy Welsh fare such as bara brith and the ever-popular Welsh cakes.



THE ANNUAL Vancouver Welsh Society spring sale again attracted a large number of buyers, some of whom waited outside the hall for the 10 AM opening.

PW Trenchless Construction Inc.

DON'T DIG IT !!!

LET
PW SPLIT IT!!!

11618-130th Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 2Y3
 Ph. 604 580 0446 Fax 604 589 4698
 e-mail: david@pwtrenchless.com

Tartantown
 Celebrating 40 Years of Service!

Highland Dress - Scottish Giftware - Kilt Rentals
 Highland Dance - Bagpipes and Bands

Visit our stall at the
 Coquitlam Highland Games!

Rent Me!

555 Clarke Rd., Coquitlam www.tartantown.com

Forty Years and Counting for the Prince George Celtic Club

By CAROLYN KELLY

In November, 2017, members of the Prince George Celtic Club gathered for their annual Christmas dinner.

This year's event also remembered the local club's 40 years of activity in the Prince George area, and featured a slide show of photos taken at various events over the years.

Originally formed by a group of Irish immigrants to this central British Columbia city, wishing to feel closer to home by gathering to sing, play tunes, share literary offerings, dance, and share the craic, the club now includes people from Scotland, Isle of Mann, Wales, and North American Celts.

The number of members goes up and down, but there has always existed a core of dedicated people who have made sure that there are club nights once a month from September through April, featuring the different nations, as well as special events of celebration during the year.

Club members and friends join the Celtic Clan team during the Relay for Life each spring, and dress up in Edwardian garb for a Bloomsday event in June, which has been held in Barkerville/Wells over the past several years. In December there are the Men's Night and Women's Night gatherings.

During the years when many of our now grown children were young, we organized picnics, sleigh rides, and Christmas parties.

For the adults in the club, there were those amazing Medieval Night events, with everyone dressing up in whatever costuming they could dream up, and our very own club member, George, making a honey mead for libations.

For several years the PG Celtic Club worked in conjunction with other local organizations to put on events like the Gathering of the Clans and Robbie Burns dinners. St. Patrick's Day is always celebrated.

Before technology and social media brought the Celtic cultures right to people's homes via computers and cell phones, the members of the PG Celtic Club brought concerts to this city.

We were treated to performances from artists such as the Chieftains, North Sea Gas, Capercaillie, Dick Gaughan, The Fureys, Tommy Sands, Phil Coulter, Eric Bogle, Natalie McMaster, and others.

Local thespians have produced, directed, and acted in theatrical presentations such as *The Field*, *The Donoghue Sisters*, *The Black Pig's Dyck*, *The Weir*, and they continue to find and produce works by various Celtic playwrights.

The club has been the venue in which some local Celtic musicians met and formed groups like Kilmore Crack, Out of Alba, and Clann Cara, all sharing their talents on local and regional stages.

Scots Gaelic language specialist, musician, and club member, Andrew McFayden, not only shares Scots Gaelic tunes on club nights, but teaches the language, and for several years, has hosted a local radio program on CFUR, called *Celtic Fire*, which features songs and tunes by local, national, and international Celtic artists.

The members and friends of the club have shown great support to each other in times of celebration as well as in



A READING by Prince George Celtic Club members at Wake Up Jakes in Barkerville on Bloomsday – a commemoration and celebration of the life of Irish writer James Joyce, during which the events of his novel *Ulysses* are relived on June 16.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY gathering at the Bridget Moran statue. [Bridget Moran, née Drugan, 1923-1999, was born in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, and was a prominent social worker, activist and author in British Columbia. She consistently fought on behalf of the weak and underprivileged, producing several important biographies of Aborigines. In 2003, the City of Prince George approved an initiative to erect a statue of her that was created by Nathan Scott of Living Stone Studio.]



MEMBERS gathered for a club night in Prince George.

loss, and they have formed a unique bond of "family away from family" over the years.

As long as there are people dedicated

to keeping the cultures of the Celtic nations thriving in these many ways, the Prince George Celtic Club will continue to share its gifts in our area for many more years.

The Ireland Canada Monument Society AGM

VANCOUVER – The Ireland Canada Monument Society has announced their annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 7-9 PM at St. Vincent's Cafe at St. Patrick's Parish Vancouver BC 2881 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C. Everyone is welcome.

MEMBERS of the Ireland Canada Monument Society at the monument site – Teresa McDonnell, director, Esther North, website designer, and Claire Fox, director.



MEMBERS of the Fraser Valley Gaels GAA Club at the Hazelmere Golf and Tennis Club on March 17 – (L-R) Chris O'Connor, Peter Agnew, Vinnie Crowley, Renee Agnew, Denis Ryan and James Woods.

Looking ahead after a great St. Patrick's Day

By DEIRDRE O'RUAIRC
Secretary, Irish Club
of White Rock

WHITE ROCK, B.C. – This month we cannot say hello from sunny White Rock as we have had nothing but rain all of April. Hopefully, the sun will arrive for May and June and in time for a visit to our picturesque community by the sea.

Located just a short distance east of Vancouver, White Rock has a large Irish community and a great Irish club which extends a very warm welcome to both visitors and newcomers.

In March, the Irish Club of White Rock had a very successful St. Patrick's Day dinner dance at the Hazelmere Golf and Tennis Club. It was a sold out event with over 140 people in attendance.

Many thanks to the Hazelmere and staff, Brian Nichols and friends for providing great dance music for the evening, and DJ Robbie Greville who closed the night with a great selection of Irish music.

Thank you also to the De Dannan School of Irish Dance, they started the night with a wonderful show.

The Irish Club of White Rock held its annual general meeting on May 9 at the Elks Hall on George Street in White Rock.

Upcoming events include a pub night social at 7:30 PM on Saturday, May 19 at the Artful Dodger Pub at 2364 - 200th Street Langley.

Everyone is invited to come out to White Rock/South Surrey area and en-

joy an up-and-coming Celtic band 'Happy Hour'.

In August the Irish Club of White Rock will hold their annual summer picnic – date to be confirmed.

The Irish Club of White Rock partners with the Fraser Valley Gaels GAA Club for many events.

Congratulations to the Fraser Valley Gaels on winning the St. Patrick's Day Tournament and we wish their new executive the very best in the coming year.

The Fraser Valley Gaels, who were the 2017 North American Intermediate football champions, will host the 2018 Western Canadian Championships at the Burnaby Lake Rugby club on the August long weekend.

Irish Club of White Rock members will volunteer and provide support to the Fraser Valley Gaels with this event.

If you plan to visit White Rock, there is always an Irish gathering about 10-10:30 AM every morning at Tim Horton's on 152nd Street/17th Avenue with lively discussion on world events and events happening in Ireland. Always a welcome at the table.

For over 30 years, the Irish have been gathering in White Rock, and in February 2004 the Irish Club of White Rock became official with its first president Brendan Hamill.

If you are new to White Rock, you are very welcome. Please contact us and join our next event.

Contact information: president Sharon Woods (Galway) at (604) 338-3553, or secretary Deirdre O'Ruairc (Dublin) at 604-803-0773. Check out and like our Facebook page and share.



THE NEXT GENERATION of young Irish-Canadians at the Irish Club of White Rock St. Patrick's event – (L-R) Aoife Woods, Yvonne Eviston, Siobhan Harrington Coopman, Suzanne Eviston, Sinead O'Ruairc Hibbert, and Aisling O'Ruairc Towson.

Philadelphia: Original manuscript of James Joyce's *Ulysses* housed at the Rosenbach Museum & Library

Somewhere in the back of my mind, I kept thinking of the Brian Friel play *Philadelphia Here I Come* during my recent visit to that city.

By MARIE BRUCE

I was there in March for the world-famous garden show which has been on my bucket list for years.

This year's show was called 'Wonders of Water' and it was held in the vast convention center in the center of Philly.

Of course, it was marvelous and full of innovation with many display gardens, including a tropical rain forest, and all things new and exciting in the gardening world. Gardeners travel from all over the States and beyond to this show.

I had five days in Philly to enjoy all the tourist sites – and there were more than enough museums, gardens, and theaters to keep me on the go.

Philadelphia is a beautifully laid out historic city attributed to the English Quaker William Penn. He was given the land in the 1600s and set about building this city on the grid system with four main squares.

It is a walking city with so much to see and admire – so much public art, historic churches, art galleries and notable buildings.

I was amazed to discover that the original copy of James Joyce's *Ulysses* found a home in Philadelphia at the Rosenbach Museum and library.

I spent a very happy morning in this museum on a guided tour learning about the history and how this world-famous collection of rare and first edition books came to be housed in Philadelphia.

Back to *Ulysses*, there were a few pages on display under glass but the books are only shown to the public on Bloomsday – the 16th of June – which is celebrated every year.

Philadelphia is the birthplace of the United States – it was here where the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Ben Franklin lived and reinvented himself here many times and he is much loved and remembered for the Renaissance man that he was.

The Barnes Foundation houses one of the world's finest art collections. To list just a few in the collection – 69 Cezannes, 181 works by Renoir, 47 Picassos and many more – a treasure trove of Impressionist art.

The massive Catholic Basilica of Saint Peter and Paul welcomed Pope Francis in 2015, it is said to be the third largest Catholic church in the USA. One of its side altars features St. Patrick adorned with Celtic symbols.

There are over 70 colleges and universities in Philly, which adds to the atmosphere and vibrancy of daily life.

I noticed Irish pubs galore, coffee houses, restaurants and food carts everywhere. I tried the famous Philly cheese steak on a bun smothered in fried onions and cheese of choice – it is a local delicacy and a bit messy to eat out of hand but delicious.

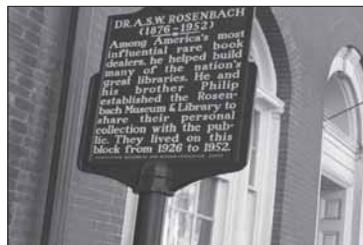


MARIE BRUCE at the Philadelphia flower show.

My five days flew by and I would love to have spent much longer in Philly, it was a complete surprise to me.

I barely scratched the surface of what it has to offer with heritage buildings, arts and theater, bike paths, gardens, and easy access to the countryside.

Philadelphia is a wonderful and interesting historic city, I highly recommend it to anyone interested in art, American history and gardens.



THE ROSENBACH Museum and Library in Philadelphia is housed in the 1860s townhouse owned by the Rosenbach family. Located in the heart of the Rittenhouse-Fitler historic district in Center City Philadelphia.



PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL was designed by Scottish-born architect John McArthur Jr. and Thomas Ustick Walter and was constructed from 1871-1901 at a cost of \$24 million. With almost 700 rooms, it is the world's largest municipal building.

St. Patrick's Day at the Edmonton Irish Centre

EDMONTON – St. Patrick's Day 2018 was a great success at the Irish Centre.

There were crowds all day enjoying entertainment by local Irish dance schools, three showbands, and, of course, the GAA club finals broadcast

live from Ireland.

Over the course of the day, hundreds of people came through the Irish Centre to enjoy food and a few pints. A tent was set up in the back to give members and guests more room to celebrate. – Kimberly Budd



RAY HAMILTON, Frank Byrne, Bill Senior, and Martin Doyle pictured at the Edmonton Irish Centre on St. Patrick's Day.



PICTURED inside the large tent set up outside the Irish Centre – (L-R) Dave Devaney, Cindy Hamilton, Shawn Harley, Paddy McCormack, Ray Hamilton, Shannon Haggerty.



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

ENTERTAINMENT

May 17 **Damian McGinty (Ticket holders only)**

May 26 **Western Canada Rose Selection Night**

June 2 **The Acoustaholics**

June 16 **Duff Roison**

July 1 **Canada Day BBQ**

*Every second Thursday there will be an **Open Stage Jam Session**.
Come and enjoy some music!

www.edmontonirishclub.ca



WILLIAM KELLY & SONS - Group of Companies

** Complete Mechanical Contracting **

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



The Legal Alternative

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

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

Call (604) 873-3738

St. Patrick's Day in New York: Greener than Shamrock

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By
**MAURICE
FITZPATRICK**

NEW YORK – There was something hidden in the shamrock this St. Patrick's Day in New York City. For 257 years the New York Irish have celebrated our patron saint in grand manner.

They have proudly marched up Fifth Avenue (and, the old joke goes, stumbled down Third). That has been done in honour of Patrick, a unifying figure whose legacy to bring people together in celebration and mutual acceptance is matchless.

The Mayor of New York City, alert to the political value of aligning himself with this tradition, did so in spectacular fashion on March 17, 2018.

He made this declaration to Gerry Adams: "I, Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim March 17, 2018 in the city of New York as Gerry Adams Day."

The event at Gracie Mansions was attended by, among others, the taoiseach, who congratulated Adams.

If the re-designation of St. Patrick's Day was not opposed by the taoiseach in New York, it certainly was back home.

Austin Stack, whose father, a former prison officer, Brian Stack, was murdered by the IRA, publicly demanded that de Blasio dedicate next year's St. Patrick's Day to victims of IRA atrocities.

De Blasio's proclamation was so egregious that he managed that rare feat of uniting people in Northern Ireland, if only in condemnation.

UUP MLA Steve Aiken characterized it as an attempt to rewrite history.

The presentation of a proclamation to Gerry Adams by the Mayor of New York was a kick in the teeth for the victims of terrorism, it brings shame on the office which he holds and it is an insult to the law-abiding majority on these islands who celebrate the day.

Wouldn't it be ironic if something so partisan as "Adams Day" succeeded in eliciting a bipartisan letter, co-signed by engaged people on both sides of the border, which demands that the Irish Government clarify its position on de Blasio's proclamation?

That would constitute an occasion to revisit the occurrence, and to do so would benefit the government in several ways.

De Blasio's implicit unwillingness to acknowledge the people who are dead because of the IRA's campaign to unite Ireland at the point of a gun, while glorifying a terrorist campaign sustained over 30 years, is a farrago of deceit.

The Irish Government should be unambiguous about that.

The government should take distance from any proclamation that upholds

Gerry Adams as a man who has, as de Blasio put it, "in all he has done, accepted that a life of fighting for change came with peril, came with the threat of violence and the experience of being attacked.

"History will remember Gerry Adams for being one of the people who did something truly heroic and truly revolutionary, [Adams] found a path of peace so many are alive today because of that."

Secondly, many people who took a stance against the IRA, both in Ireland and elsewhere, paid a hefty price for so doing and their efforts are completely ignored in the mayoral statement.

During the Troubles de Blasio's comments would have constituted a dismissal of those who sought to remedy the injustices of Northern Ireland through constitutional means, positioning de Blasio with such politicians as Mario Biaggi (Congressman for New York from 1969 to 1988).

The impact of senior politicians in the U.S. advocating extreme views in the Troubles validated violence, in the eyes of some, and thickened the stream of funds to fill IRA coffers.

Today, lionising Adams (who was, it is widely believed, both chief of staff of the Provisional IRA and a member of the IRA army council) picks up that thread of validation of IRA violence, something that is very damaging both to a clear-headed Nationalist interpretation of recent Irish history and to the prospect of retaining the trust of Unionists in the impartiality of political America on the Irish Question.

While "Adams Day" was in full swing, Sinn Féin Senator Máire Devine saw fit to retweet a post from the anonymous twitter handle, @rnerionstreet, which characterized Brian Stack as "a sadist prison officer."

Devine was suspended by Sinn Féin for re-tweeting the slur. While re-tweeting a calumny about a dead man is callous, ordering executions as part of a guerrilla campaign is a crime.

Families of victims have been deeply

hurt by the first, but incensed by the ambivalence that de Blasio's encomium for Adams suggests about the latter.

Apologias for the IRA campaign tend to rely on the lie that there was no alternative to violence.

Yet there was.

In Ed Moloney's essential study of the organization, *A Secret History of the IRA*, an IRA volunteer admits that in sabotaging the 1973-74 power-sharing Executive in Northern Ireland the IRA wanted to "make our presence felt as a force without which there could be no solution which was not to our liking."

An Phoblacht, the IRA's media mouthpiece, excoriated Northern Nationalist politicians such as John Hume and Gerry Fitt for taking their seats in the 1973-74 power-sharing Executive.

But Hume and others were putting into practice a politics that it took Adams and his colleagues decades to adopt while innocents continued to suffer and die.

Hume's statement after the fall of the Executive in May 1974, brought on by a mixture of Unionist and Republican strong-armed tactics, is therefore increasingly important to recall:

"The only way to solve the problems of Northern Ireland is not through conflict of the different sections of our people, but through partnership.

"It would now appear that the representatives of a majority of people in Northern Ireland have rejected that concept. I think that is a tragedy."

The long road to return to power-sharing in Northern Ireland was far from heroic or revolutionary: it was a litany of tragedy.

Bill de Blasio might do the memory of victims of a generation of violence the courtesy to consider the facts before his next proclamation.

Maurice Fitzpatrick's latest film, *John Hume in America*, and his book, *From Derry to DC: John Hume in America*, are on release.

Apple 'to pay 13 billion euro Irish tax bill this year'

DUBLIN – Apple's 13 billion euro Irish tax bill will be paid this year, Ireland's finance minister said.

Paschal Donohoe said he expected the recovery of funds to be completed in the coming months after signing a detailed legal agreement on the refund of what the EU alleges is state aid from the technology giant.

The European Commission said in 2016 that the multinational had received unfair tax incentives from the Republic and ordered it to pay back taxes to the state.

Ireland had given Apple an effective one percent corporation tax.

Apple and the Irish Government are appealing the Commission's ruling on the grounds that the tax treatment did not break Irish or EU law.

The money will be held in an escrow account meaning the proceeds cannot be released until there has been a final determination in the European courts over the validity of the Commission's decision.

The Bank of New York Mellon, London branch, Amundi, BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited and Goldman Sachs Asset Management International have been selected as preferred tenderers for the provision of services related to the money.

Ireland's open economy is based on using low corporate taxation among other incentives to attract multinationals. In Apple's case it was significantly below the standard 12.5 percent imposed on income.

The Irish Government opposes any effort to force it to change its taxation practices, which have seen the world's top financial and technology firms set up base in Dublin.

Minister Donohoe reiterated his government's fundamental disagreement with the Commission's Apple decision.

He added, "However, as committed members of the European Union, Ireland is intent on complying with our binding legal obligations in this regard."

Irish abortion referendum

Repeal the eighth campaign maintains lead as Irish are urged to come 'Home To Vote'

DUBLIN – Ireland goes to the polls on Friday, May 25 to vote in a referendum that could end the country's ban on abortion.

Voters will be asked if they want to repeal the eighth amendment of the country's constitution, which recognizes the equal right to life of both mother and unborn child, effectively banning terminations for any reason.

This amendment has been in place since 1983, and the campaign to repeal it has rapidly picked up steam in recent years, spurred on by cases such as the death of Savita Halappanavar in 2012.

If the amendment is repealed, it will allow for the Irish Government to legislate on abortion as they see fit, most likely up to 12 weeks.

The two biggest parties in the country, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, are allowing members to take a free position on the issue, while Sinn Féin and Labour are officially backing a 'Yes' vote.

The referendum comes as voters in the traditionally Roman Catholic and socially conservative country have shown increasingly liberal attitudes. But the campaign has been highly divisive and accompanied by fears of foreign influence.

Cervical cancer scandal engulfs Irish Government

Just weeks before the referendum, a major political scandal regarding women's health is also causing shock waves around the country.

It has emerged that over 200 women who were diagnosed with cervical cancer in recent years should have received earlier intervention, and that 17 of those affected have since died.

The government has agreed to launch an investigation looking at all women diagnosed with cervical cancer over the past decade.

Addressing the issue in the Dail, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said, "This country is one that hasn't always treated women very well – so I am

determined to get to the bottom of this."

The scandal piles pressure on the Minister for Health Simon Harris, who is advocating a 'Yes' vote in the referendum, and will be responsible for introducing abortion legislation if it passes.

Presbyterian and Catholic Church urge 'No' vote

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has come out in support of a 'no' vote in the upcoming referendum.

In a letter read out at Sunday services, the church said the Irish Government's proposed changes to abortion law are "regressive, incompatible with human dignity and morally unacceptable."

Only about 0.5 percent of people in the Republic of Ireland belong to the church. The Catholic Church – to which almost 80 percent of the population belongs – also opposes repealing the eighth, and advocates for a pro-life stance.

'Home To Vote' campaign launched

One of the most remarkable memories most people have of the same sex marriage referendum in 2015 was the 'Home To Vote' campaign.

It encouraged people from the Irish diaspora around the world to come home and use their vote, to help deliver marriage equality.

On the day itself, the sight of large groups getting on ferries and planes to travel home – largely to vote 'Yes' – was a moving image for many, and showed the solidarity of the Irish nation, with most travelling from the UK, but others coming from as far afield as Canada, the United States and New Zealand.

Now, a campaign is urging people to do the same to repeal the eighth.

A London-based group have released a video, calling on citizens abroad to make the trip home on the day.

The video says, "On the 25th of May we're getting a once in a generation chance to make Ireland a fairer, safer place for women. Let's do it together. Come home to vote yes to repeal the 8th Amendment."

Taoiseach Varadkar gives October deadline for Brexit Irish border issue

BRUSSELS – A withdrawal treaty including any Irish border deal will have to be agreed by October, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has warned.

He spoke to reporters as he arrived at a European Council meeting of state leaders in Brussels on April 22.

He said the deadline was necessary to allow time for UK and European parliaments to ratify arrangements before Brexit next year.

Varadkar also reiterated his firm stance on the importance of the backstop arrangement in which Northern Ireland would continue to follow EU regulations which affect the island if no other solution is found.

But he said that was not his preferred option.

"So the way it can be changed is for us to develop option A, which is a really close trading relationship between the UK and the EU, so close that many of the things that are in the backstop may become unnecessary, if that makes sense," he said.

Taoiseach marches alongside partner in St. Patrick's parade in New York

NEW YORK – Taoiseach Leo Varadkar walked in the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade alongside his partner Matt Barrett.

Up until recently, LGBT groups were banned from marching in the parade and Varadkar said that the changes showed signs of progress and diversity.

"Only a few years ago people couldn't march under the rainbow banner, but that has all changed," Varadkar said.

"Ireland has embraced diversity and inclusiveness, and certainly Irish America in New York embraces that too."

Prior to the change, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio boycotted the parade in protest.



TAOISEACH Leo Varadkar and his partner Matt Barrett at the 2018 St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City.

Varadkar said being in NYC on St. Patrick's Day had given him a sense of how strong the Irish community is in the city and how proud people are of

their Irish connections.

He also said that on a personal level it was a pleasure to be taking part with his partner.

Hereditary Hemochromatosis: Chasing Wellness

By COLETTE MANDIN

I am 62 years old and yet it was only a few years ago that I found out that I was born with a genetic disorder – Hereditary Hemochromatosis (aka the Celtic Curse). I have been on a learning curve ever since.

In 2010, I was commuting home from work with my husband when, very suddenly, I felt discomfort in my chest.

It went up my arms and I had an electric feeling up my spine and skull. We drove to the hospital thinking I was having a heart attack.

Many tests and hours later, a physician told me that my heart seemed fine but that he was puzzled by my symptoms – they seemed to be neurological.

He told me that if this happened in another 10 days to come back. It did.

Back I went and after another examination and a follow up referral to a cardiologist, it seemed my heart was doing fine. But I had no answers....what was going on?

Time went on with a stream of weird symptoms like low energy, acute vertigo, acute gastritis. I thought, "This post-menopause stuff is awful!"

In 2012, my family doctor did some iron studies and discovered my ferritin was 700 ng/mL and my transferrin saturation was 97 percent.

She ordered a DNA test and it confirmed I was a C282Y homozygote and had Hereditary Hemochromatosis.

I saw a genetic counsellor who explained it and gave me information about what I should tell my family.

It became painfully clear to me that my mother's long illness and death by liver cancer may well have been undiagnosed Hemochromatosis.

Under the supervision of a hematologist, I started with regular phlebotomies every 10 days at a medical IV clinic.

By May 2013, my ferritin was down to 51 ng/mL and I was put on a three-month recall.

I followed this recall until 2015 when



COLETTE MANDIN

"It became painfully clear to me that my mother's long illness and death by liver cancer may well have been undiagnosed Hemochromatosis."

my family doctor discovered that despite my ferritin being monitored and within a normal reference at 124 ng/mL, my transferrin saturation was back up to 82 percent! I was not feeling great.

I went for a few extra phlebotomies to lower that number, then onto a recall of every second month.

After a few months, I was feeling so much better. My ferritin was dropping as was my saturation (47 percent) and I finally felt well again.

For about a year I donated blood at Canadian Blood Services every two months and became symptom free.

My fitness increased as my energy climbed. I thought the solution was found! I was so excited.

In June 2017, I got a call from the hematologist's office ordering a stop to the phlebotomies for six-12 months because my ferritin was at 9 ng/mL.

I booked an appointment to see him and he was surprised at how healthy and fit I was – I was walking, cycling, doing yoga.

However, as the time passed without a phlebotomy, I watched with dismay as my energy and wellness slowly

evaporated and all of my symptoms returned.

These symptoms which I get include gastric discomforts; sore joints, especially the large knuckle of my right index finger; sleep disturbances including night time headaches and nightmares; low energy and mood; dry mouth and eyes; hair loss; and intolerance to hot/cold.

I am with a new family doctor and we are learning how important monitoring transferrin saturation is at this stage.

I am currently on a three month recall via donations to Canadian Blood Services.

My doctor would like to see the results of this schedule by performing my iron studies prior to each phlebotomy.

I agreed to experiment with this schedule, although I do feel tentative going for three months between phlebotomies since my previous experience at this same interval led to me feeling so unwell.

I am sharing my experience because it is clear to me that not all people with Hereditary Hemochromatosis manifest it in the same way.

There seem to be inconsistencies in the knowledge and treatment of the disorder. While I am grateful that I was diagnosed in 2012, we still struggle to figure out what my treatment norms should be. I feel like I am on a roller coaster, with no turn-off switch, chasing wellness.

One in 300 Canadians mainly of northern European descent are at risk for hemochromatosis. Most are unaware of the condition. The Canadian Hemochromatosis Society's mission is to promote the early diagnosis, screening and testing of Hereditary Hemochromatosis through its awareness-raising programs in medical communities and with those at risk, to see an end to suffering and premature death related to the disorder.

Please support this mission with a donation to the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society, 285 – 7000 Minoru Blvd., Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5. More information can be found at www.toomuchiron.ca/celtic.

ORCHARD
RECOVERY CENTER

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

1-866-233-2299
orchardrecovery.com

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



Attracting too much iron?

We help Canadians affected by hemochromatosis access expert information, support and guidance so they can live longer, healthier lives.

toomuchiron.ca

Canadian
HEMOCHROMATOSIS
SOCIETY
Société canadienne de l'hémochromatose

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

• Margaret Mary McSweeney Cornell (82), a native of England who grew up partly in Ireland, died in Seattle April 22;

• Sr. Ellen Caldwell, CSJP, a native of Co. Cavan who celebrated her 100th birthday in November, died in Bellevue April 5;

• Sr. Camillus Elliott, CSJP (99), a native of Co. Carlow, died in Bellevue April 2;

• Kenneth Cooper (65), son of the Seattle area's Alice and John, and father of Keely, died suddenly in California February 24;

• Marty Owens (72), a native of Limerick, died February 24 in University Place;

• Seamus Healy (84), a native of Co. Roscommon, died in Walla Walla February 7;

• Margaret Gardner (90), the mother of Irish Network Seattle's Aly Gardner-Shelby, died in Dublin February 5;

• Eamon Moran (62), a native of Co. Roscommon and brother of Seattle's Mike Moran, died suddenly in Seattle January 28;

• Brendan Gallagher (89), a native of Achill Island, Co. Mayo, husband of Diane and a Seattle-area resident since 1952, died in Tacoma January 13;

• Michael Byrne (74), father of Seattle's Dave Byrne, died in Wexford on January 21 following a long battle with Parkinson's.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh
a h-anam dílis
May their faithful souls rest
at God's right hand*

IRISH FIDDLE CONCERT – Seattle Folklore Society presents in concert traditional Irish fiddler Gerry O'Connor with accomplished guitar accompanist Richard Mandel, on Saturday, May 19, 7:30 PM at the Phinney Center in Seattle.

Gerry is a many times All Ireland title winner, and a four-time Féile Oriol winner who has played with legendary bands such as Planxty, Bothy Band, De Dannan, and the Chieftains.

Richard has performed with numerous well-known Irish artists such as Paddy Keenan, Mick Moloney, and Jimmy Keane. Tickets at Brown Paper Tickets.

SIFF IRISH FILMS – The Seattle International Film Festival which runs May 17 - June 10, has several Irish films in its lineup.

Kirkland Opening Night: *The Drummer and The Keeper* – A drummer for a Dublin rock band who is diagnosed with bipolar disorder joins a weekend mixed-ability soccer team and makes fast friends with a 17-year-old with Asperger's Syndrome.

Zoo – Based on a true story, as the Blitzkrieg hits Belfast in 1941, a teenager and his friends break into their zoo to protect a baby elephant.

Making the Grade – Every year over 30,000 students prepare for rigorous and daunting piano exams in Ireland.

This documentary explores the bond between teachers and pupils, and the intense musical dedication required to make the grade.

Details at www.siff.net/festival/film-guide.



By
JOHN
KEANE

MAY 28 MEMORIAL DAY MASS – An open-air Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated at the Seattle area's Irish Pioneer Cemetery, St. Patrick Cemetery in Kent, at 10:30 AM on Monday, May 28.

The four-and-a-half acre cemetery is located one mile east of I-5 on Orillia Road at 204th Street, just east of Sea-Tac Airport.

Founded by Limerick-man Richard O'Connell in 1880, the cemetery is the resting place for numerous Irish-born Seattle Pioneers who survived the Famine and they are especially remembered on Memorial Day in addition to remembering those who have given their lives in service to this country.

All are welcome but bring a lawn chair! For information, contact (253) 237-2811.

JUNE 23 SENIORS' LUNCHEON – All Irish seniors and spouses and friends – those of Irish birth, Irish descent or Irish connections – are invited to the Irish seniors' luncheon on Saturday, June 23, at Assumption Church Hall, 6201 33rd Avenue NE, 8-10 blocks north of University Village Mall.

The lunch is \$10 pp (\$20 non-seniors). Reservations are requested to (253) 237-2811.

JULY 1 IRISH RACES – Irish Day at the Races at Emerald Downs is Sunday, July 1 at the racetrack in Auburn.

Coupons for free admissions and free race programs will be mailed upon request. Call with your name and address to (253) 237-2811.

Irish Day features thoroughbred racing with Irish music, stepdancers, free kids activities (pony rides, inflatable slide, face painters, etc.). For reserved seating or dining reservations, or for more information on Emerald Downs, call (253) 288-7711.

JULY 15 PICNIC – Seattle's Irish Community Picnic is noon-6 PM, Sunday, July 15, at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah (exit # 15 off I-90).

Games and fun for the entire family, and all are welcome. Free hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided but bring your own drink and a dessert to be shared.

There's a covered picnic area and several BBQ grills if you bring charcoal.

Hurling game starts at 1 PM followed by games and fun for the entire family (tug-o-war, sack-races, water balloon toss, etc.). For details, e-mail: picnic@irishclub.org, or call (253) 237-2811.

JULY 24 IRISH BASEBALL – Irish Night at the Seattle Mariners is Tuesday, July 24, vs. the San Francisco Giants at Seattle's Safeco Field.

Watch the Tara Academy Irish Dancers and the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums

perform in center field about 30 minutes before the game which starts at 7:10 PM.

Reduced price tickets (\$34 view level or \$44 main level) and a free Irish Night Mariners' Cap – available online only – at: mariners.com/Irish, or call (253) 237-2811.

2018 LAW FELLOW – Tara Casey from Bray, Co. Wicklow, a final year law student at University College Dublin, is this year's Thomas Addis Emmet Fellow who will be working in Seattle for two months this summer at the Appleseed Foundation.

Founded in 1997, the law fellowship program is named for a hero of Ireland's 1798 United Irishmen rebellion.

Sponsored by the UW and Ireland's Free Legal Advice Centers, the fellowship program is supported by Seattle's Irish Heritage Club.

PLANE PURCHASES – Ireland's low cost air carrier Ryanair announced in April that it will purchase an additional 25 Boeing 737s, at a list value of \$3 billion.

This brings to 500 the number of Boeing jets in Ryanair's fleet, all of which were built in the Seattle area.

Ireland is Washington's fourth largest European export market, with exports totaling \$2 billion in 2016.

SEATTLE-DUBLIN DIRECT – Aer Lingus starts their new Seattle to Dublin direct route on May 18 and Irish community organizations in Seattle have been credited in the media with helping bring about the new route.

Sea-Tac Airport's calculations show that each new route adds between \$75 million and \$100 million to the local economy.

Incentives are usually offered to encourage new routes, for example, Aer Lingus will receive about \$1 million in incentives from Sea-Tac and the community, while the airport will also temporarily waive landing fees, etc.

In 2016, a total of 35,189 passengers flew between Sea-Tac Airport and Dublin, approximately 23,460 outbound to Dublin and 11,730 inbound to Seattle.

The new flights, four times weekly, are expected to sharply increase those numbers.

MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIPS – For students seeking to apply for one of the 12 available Mitchell Scholarships for the 2019 academic year, the application is now online at US-IrelandAlliance.org with an application deadline of September 28.

Up to 12 scholars will be selected for one free academic year of post-graduate study in any discipline offered by an institution of higher learning in Ireland.

The scholarship program provides tuition, housing, a cash stipend for living expenses, and a travel stipend.

IRISH WEEK 2018 – Thanks to all who participated in our Irish Week celebrations in Seattle and especially to all the volunteers who helped organize 15 different Irish Week events which ran from February 18 to March 25.

On St. Patrick's Day, we had the largest crowd ever attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Irish Festival afterwards.



GALWAY MAYOR Pearce Flannery and St. Patrick, aka Tom Keefe at Seattle's Irish Week Proclamation luncheon.



HONORARY PARADE Grand Marshal Bruce Cosacchi following Seattle's St. Patrick's Day Parade.



JANE SEPEDE and Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal at Seattle's 2018 Irish Week Proclamation luncheon.



FRANK AND MARY Shriane celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 27. For which for over 30 years was a center for Seattle's Irish community activities.



IRISH ATTORNEY GENERAL Séamus Woulfe speaking at Seattle's 2018 Irish Week Proclamation luncheon with Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan seated at left, and MC Kip Toner at right.

Our guests from Ireland – Attorney General Séamus Woulfe and his wife Sheena Hickey, Galway Mayor Pearce Flannery and Galway City Director Tom Connell, and from the DC Irish Embassy Joe Gavin and Martina Gavin – all expressed surprise at the number and quality of the events celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Seattle.

CRH TOUR – While in Seattle for Irish Week, Irish Attorney General Séamus Woulfe toured the Northwest Oldcastle and Americas Materials companies' new facility in Frederickson, just south of Puyallup.

The companies are owned by CRH, Ireland's largest company which has 87,000 employees worldwide.

CRH, whose name began in 1970 as an abbreviation of Cement Roadstone Holdings, is the largest building materials company in North America and the second largest building materials company in the world.

CRH companies in the state of Washington directly employ 1,270 workers.

If you see the name Oldcastle on a

truck, that's a CRH-owned company. If you buy paving stones at Lowe's Hardware, they were probably manufactured by a CRH-owned company. For more information, visit CRH.ie.

MISCELLANEOUS

• Congratulations to Frank and Mary Shriane who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a party at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett.

Frank Shriane from Co. Roscommon married Mary Keating from Co. Carlow in 1968 and they raised three children in their Capitol Hill home, which for over 30 years was a center for Seattle's Irish community activities.

• Ceol Cascadia Irish Music Week is at the Evergreen State College in Olympia August 5-11.

• The winner of the Irish Festival raffle who won two return tickets from Seattle to Dublin on Aer Lingus was Patrick Hand, while Joseph Lavy won a week's stay for two in the Blooming Wildflower B&B in Dingle, and Mal Monahan won the Irish Belleek Pottery plates.

Digitized footage of architects of Irish independence now online

DUBLIN – Footage of the architects of Irish independence unseen for a century has been made available online.

Easter Rising 1916 leaders Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera were among those featured in an Irish Independence Film Collection which repatriates and digitalizes the priceless material.

The collection was acquired from British Pathé and Topical Budget, which was one of the biggest British showreel companies of the silent era.

Their archives were “the most representative and covered the broadest period of time”, said IFI director Ross Keane.

Ireland lacked homegrown film-making during the rebellion against British rule, the subsequent War of Independence and Civil War.

The only recordings of these key events were kept abroad, often inaccessible to the public and held in British archives.

The Irish Film Institute (IFI) has now transformed these fragile film prints into digital copies and centralized them in Ireland for the first time.

They included Collins addressing a huge crowd following the signing of the treaty which heralded the end of British rule over 26 counties of Ire-



PHOTO: Irish Film Institute

OVER 150 films in the Irish Independence Film Collection are now available for the public to view online, free of charge. Many of the newsreels had not been viewed since their original broadcast in cinemas 100 years ago.

land and de Valera visiting Boston in 1919.

The material also featured the funeral procession of the founder of Sinn Fein, Arthur Griffith, in Dublin, as well as Irish crowds welcoming republican Countess Constance Markievicz after her release from prison.

It includes the visits of Queen Victoria to Dublin in 1900 and King George V and Queen Mary in 1911 as well as the funeral of republican hunger striker Terence MacSwiney in Cork in 1920.

The shelling of the historic Four

Courts by the Irish Free State Army was also covered.

The IFI received funding from Ireland’s Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to create copies of the original newsreels.

Keane said the collection related to one of the most pivotal periods in Irish history and it was critically important to bring this material back home, gathering it all together in the one place and sharing it with the world, free of charge, on the IFI Player.

“The value of this moving image material cannot be overstated,” he said.



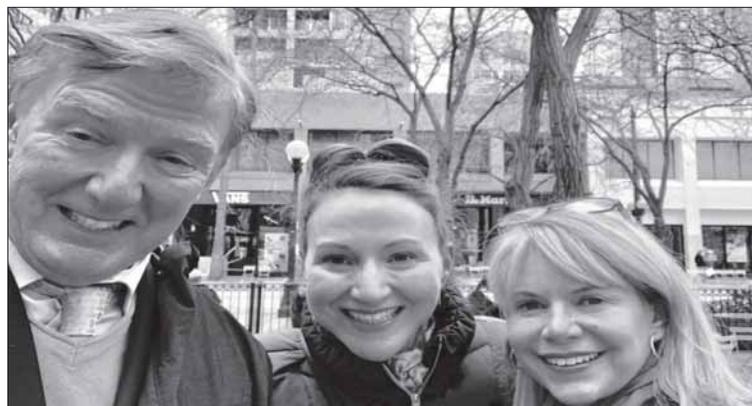
ON THE REVIEWING STAND at Seattle’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade – (L-R) Washington State Attorney General and St. Patrick’s Day Parade Grand Marshal Bob Ferguson (with his young son), Irish Attorney General Séamus Woulfe, Galway Mayor Pearce Flannery, Sheena Hickey, Martina Gavin, Dónal McKeivitt, and Irish Embassy (DC) official Joe Gavin.



THE ROBERT EAGLE STAFF Middle School marching band performing in Seattle’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade.



IRISH PRINCESS Nicole Russeff poses with the Seattle Firefighters Pipes and Drums before the start of the parade.



JOHN O’BEIRNE, a resident of Vancouver, B.C., was in Seattle along with his family for the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade. While watching the parade, one of the assigned reviewing stand announcers roped John into being an announcer with them. According to organizers, John did a great job sharing the parade announcing duties. Pictured above at the parade (L-R) John and Gerrarda O’Beirne with Noreen McCormack.



ADAM NORBY and Rory Fuhrman, along with Alex and Mark O’Beirne, accompanied John O’Beirne to the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Seattle.

Bank of America to relocate up to 125 UK staff to Dublin from July

DUBLIN – Bank of America Merrill Lynch intends to relocate up to 125 UK staff to Dublin as part of its Brexit contingency plans, with affected employees at risk of redundancy if they refuse to move to Ireland.

The bank said the “likely” relocations will impact staff working in control and support function roles, including finance, risk, compliance, tech and operations as well as wholesale credit.

It added that staff will be moved “predominantly” to Ireland, starting in July 2018.

The role changes are expected to be made through a combination of new hires and “voluntary” relocations of “relevant staff” who will be offered new local contracts.

But those who fail to accept an offer to head to Dublin risk losing their jobs.

While Bank of America plans to consult affected staff, any employee which “declines an invitation to relocate to Ireland will be considered for suitable alternative employment, failing which they may be made redundant”.

Another raft of relocations to other EU offices could follow depending on the outcome of Brexit negotiations, the bank explained.

“The precise number (and timing of) the potential second-phase relocations remains under review”, the bank said, adding that it was also subject to discussions with the Central Bank of Ireland and European Central Bank.

It expects the majority of those roles will head to France, with a smaller number moved to Ireland, Germany

and other EU sites, and will again be made up of both new hires and voluntary relocations.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch detailed its plans in a corporate filing regarding a cross-border merger of its UK and Irish banks, meant to ensure it can continue conducting business and servicing clients in the EU after Britain leaves the bloc.

Its London banking entity is intended

to operate as a branch once the merger is complete.

The Wall Street giant confirmed last year that it had chosen Dublin as its post-Brexit EU hub.

The company currently has 700 staff in Dublin and about 6,500 in the UK.

Most of its UK staff are based in London, though around 1,000 are based in Chester, while smaller teams are dotted throughout the country.

Seattle Irish Immigrant Support Group



FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE

to Irish people in need, regardless of the person's religious, social or economic background.

Consultation and referrals, networking opportunities, limited immigrant legal assistance, advocacy and support in handling drug, alcohol, child or spousal abuse, family crises, senior issues, poverty, etc.



Call toll-free **877-517-3559** or email info@irishseattle.com
P.O. Box 75123, Seattle, WA 98175 www.irishseattle.com

Vancouver GAA Calendar 2018

Date	Game 1- 930am	Game 2- 11am	Game 3- 12.30pm	Game 4- 2.00pm	Game 5- 3.30pm	Game 6- 5.00pm	Venue
June 17	Senior Hurling	Harps v FVG (JMFL)	Celts v Eire Og (SMFL)	Harps v FVG (SMFL)	Camogie	Ladies Football	Bridgeview Park, Surrey.
July 8	Harps v Eire Og (JMFL)	Harps v Celts (SMFL)	Eire Og v FVG (SMFL)	Ladies Football	Junior Hurling	Senior Hurling	Bridgeview Park, Surrey.
July 14	Camogie	Senior Hurling	Ladies Football	FVG v Eire Og (JMFL)	Harps v Eire Og (SMFL)	Celts v FVG (SMFL)	Bridgeview Park, Surrey.
August 5,6	Western	Canadian	Championship		Tournament		Burnaby Lakes.
August 12,	Ladies Football	2v3 (JMFC)	1v4 (SMFC)	2v3 (SMFC)	Junior Hurling	Senior Hurling	Crescent Park, Surrey.
August 19	Junior Men's Football Final 1 v (Winner of 2v3)	Junior Hurling	Intermediate Men's Football Final	Ladies Football	Senior Hurling	Senior Men's Football Championship Final	Bridgeview Park, Surrey.

JMFL- Junior Mens Football League SMFL- Senior Mens Football League
JMFC- Junior Mens Football championship SMFC- Senior Mens Football Championship



SENIOR LADIES FINAL – ISSC Harps vs ISSC Celts.



JUNIOR MEN'S FINAL – Éire Óg vs Fraser Valley.



SENIOR MEN'S FINAL – ISSC Royals vs ISSC.



JUNIOR LADIES FINAL – JP Ryan's Camogie vs Fraser Valley Gaels.

IRISH SPORTING & SOCIAL CLUB

Vancouver ISSC is starting with the right leg forward!

By AISLINN RICE
VANCOUVER – The ISSC football season has kicked off with an amazing Spring League!

Teams from ISSC, JP Ryan's hurling and camogie, Fraser Valley Gaels, Eire Og, and Aussie Cougars all took part in a six-week ISSC Spring League.

All teams showed tremendous skill and love for the sport throughout the six weeks. Each team played one game every Friday night, which led to the finals on the last night.

Suspense was high on the finals night as the score lines were very tight.

All teams played to the best of their abilities and showed that the standard of football has once again risen in Vancouver.

Although the competition was very high and extremely close, there could only be one winner for the women and one winner for the men!

Ladies football: JP Ryan's camogie team were victorious in the Junior Women's final over Fraser Valley Gaels.

ISSC Celts defeated ISSC Harps in a very close Senior Women's Final.

Men's Football: Eire Og, on their first year as a club, won the Junior men's League Final, while ISSC Royals

nabbed the John Coughlan Cup with the Senior title.

Well done to all teams for a great display of team spirit and skills throughout the six weeks.

Massive thank you to our development officer, Lorraine, who organized the Spring League with the help of her amazing committee.

A special thanks to all players and supporters, without you all this would not have been a success.

On April 14, 2018, both the JP Ryan's camogie and hurling teams travelled to Seattle to play in a games day with Seattle and Tipperary San Francisco.

Despite the weather, the display of hurling and camogie was none short of fantastic!

All teams proved that all games are equally as important regardless for the award given!

JP Ryans's were victorious across the board on this day and showed that they will not be defeated easily at any level this season.

With football, camogie and hurling off to such a great start, training has well and truly begun.

Please visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/isscvancouver/ for updates on training days, times and

venues for all codes.

Likewise, please visit our website at www.isscvancouver.com for all updates and upcoming events.

Please contact isscvancouver@gmail.com if you have any questions or queries about our sports or club. All new members are welcome to join throughout the season.

Season Schedule 2018

May 18-21 – ISSC will travel to Victoria for the Highland Games;

May 26-27 – San Diego 7s Tournament;

June 9 – Seattle Day Tournament;

June 16 – ISSC club night out;

June 17 – BC Highland Games;

June/July – Vancouver League Commences (please see schedule below);

August 5-6 – Western Canadian Championship in Vancouver hosted by Fraser Valley Gaels;

August 31 – North American Championship in Philadelphia.

We would like to wish all our Vancouver clubs and teams the very best of luck for the upcoming games and tournaments.

The ISSC look forward to another great sporting year full of healthy competition amongst the Vancouver teams and teams of North America.

Irish village turns out to welcome Grand National champion Tiger Roll

DUBLIN – Grand National winner Tiger Roll received a hero's welcome as the champion horse and his trainer Gordon Elliott were treated to a rapturous homecoming in the village of Summerhill in County Meath on April 15.

A remarkable eight-year-old, Tiger Roll added the world's greatest steeplechase to his CV when hanging on in a dramatic finish to emerge victorious by a head from the strong-finishing Pleasant Company, trained by Willie Mullins.

In doing so he gave trainer Elliott a second win in the Aintree spectacular, after Silver Birch in 2007, and was adding to his three triumphs at the Cheltenham Festival.

A native of Summerhill, Elliott's pride and joy paraded down the main street surrounded by a couple of hundred people, in company with stablemates Bless The Wings, who was third, and General Principle, who landed the Irish Grand National on Easter Monday.

Elliott said, "It's unbelievable and it's only sinking in now when you get home

and see all your family, friends and the crowd here in Summerhill."

Looking back on the race itself, he said of the Davy Russell-ridden winner, "Two hundred yards out I thought we were home and hosed and we were going to hose up. In fairness, he's only a small horse and in the last 50 or 100 yards he just hit a brick wall.

"Thankfully the line came in time. I wasn't sure he had won. When you aren't sure of the angles at a track, you are always very nervous. If it was in Ireland I could tell you the angles of every track. It was just a feeling of relief and it's great."

He added, "He's been a super little horse to win at three Cheltenham Festivals and then come back and win an English National. I'm very proud of him."



A HUGE crowd gathered in Summerhill, Co. Meath to welcome home Grand National champion Tiger Roll.

Alex Ferguson has emergency surgery after brain hemorrhage

MANCHESTER – Alex Ferguson is in intensive care after undergoing emergency surgery following a brain hemorrhage.

The 76-year-old former Manchester United manager was rushed to hospital on the morning of Saturday, May 5.

In a statement, a United spokesman said, "Sir Alex has undergone emergency surgery today for a brain hemorrhage. The procedure has gone very well but he needs a period of intensive care to optimise his recovery. His family request privacy."

Ferguson has been married to wife Cathy since 1966. They have three sons: Mark (born 1968); and twins Darren and Jason (born 1972).

His son Darren, the manager of League One side Doncaster, did not attend his side's final home game of the season on Saturday after his father took ill.

The Football Association, Premier League, FIFA, UEFA and individual clubs from Britain and around the world all tweeted their best wishes along with a host of current and former United players.

The Scot retired as United manager in May 2013 after winning 38 trophies during 26 years in charge.

He was at Old Trafford a week earlier when he presented Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger with a commemorative trophy.

"We will keep Sir Alex and his loved ones in our thoughts during this time, and we are united in our wish to see him make a comfortable, speedy recovery," United later said in a tweet.



SIR ALEX FERGUSON managed Manchester United between 1986 and 2013.

The most successful manager in the history of the British game, Ferguson's trophy haul at Old Trafford included 13 Premier League titles, two Champions League crowns, five FA Cups and four League Cups.

Ferguson famously won the Treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in 1999, the year in which he was knighted.

Ferguson began his playing career with Scottish club Queen's Park as a 16-year-old striker whilst working as an apprentice tool-worker at Clyde Shipyards.

His most notable spell as a player came in a two-year stint at Rangers from 1967. He retired as a player in 1974 when he was on Ayr United's books.

He began his managerial career as a 32-year-old at East Stirlingshire before

going to St. Mirren, where he won his first trophy by taking the Scottish first division title in 1977.

Ferguson moved on to Aberdeen and turned them into a major force in a Scottish top division in which Rangers and Celtic had dominated.

He led them to three Scottish titles, four Scottish FA Cups, one League Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1983 by beating Real Madrid 2-1 in the final.

Ferguson managed Scotland in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico following the death of Jock Stein, although he was unable to take his country past the group stage.

He became Manchester United manager later that year. United celebrated their first Premier League triumph under Ferguson in 1993, the club's first league title for 26 years.

Pope Francis confirms first papal visit to Ireland in 40 years

DUBLIN – Pope Francis will visit Dublin on August 25 and 26 as the city hosts the World Meeting of Families, an international Catholic event which is staged every three years.

The conference is taking place in Dublin August 21-26 and the 81-year-old pontiff will preside at the closing ceremonies on the final two days.

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has welcomed the news and said they are "deeply honoured" that Pope Francis has chosen to come to Dublin.

The last pontiff to visit the Republic of Ireland was Pope John Paul II. He drew crowds of over 2.5 million – more than half the state's population – in 1979.

Like John Paul II, Pope Francis will celebrate Mass in Dublin's Phoenix Park but he will arrive in a vastly changed and much more secular Ireland, with the church greatly dimin-

ished by clerical sex abuse scandals.

It is anticipated there will be protests by victims' groups angry that the Church has yet to redress their grievances.

Margaret McGuckin, who is leading calls for a special payment to child victims of abuse in Catholic residential homes in Northern Ireland, said the Pope has not done enough to help victims.

Ireland was once considered among the most conservative countries in Europe, where the Catholic Church wielded great power and influence over the state authorities.

Until the 1990s, homosexuality and divorce were illegal. Homosexuality was decriminalised in 1993 and the ban on divorce was removed by a referendum in 1995.

In 2015, the Republic of Ireland became the first state in the world to make same-sex marriage legal by a popular vote.

Full details of the Pope's visit will be released at a later date.

Prayer for our First Responders

Lord, please watch over all of the men and women who work protecting others. We pray for police officers, firefighters, and paramedics that they may have safe shifts and come home to their families each and every night. We pray that despite the evil they might see on a daily basis, that they remain compassionate and caring towards all. Lord, we ask that you hear these prayers through St. Michael the Archangel. Amen.



NOVENAS

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

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, MJK, CC, CB, KLSLK, BC

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.

Publication of each novena is \$25 per issue (Canadian residents include 5% GST)

MMA fighter Conor McGregor freed on bail after Brooklyn melee

NEW YORK – Ultimate Fighting Championship star Conor McGregor was released by a New York judge on \$50,000 bail after being charged on Friday, April 6 for his part in a melee at a media event to publicize a series of UFC fights at a Brooklyn arena.

The sport's best-known athlete and an international star, McGregor (29) appeared before a judge at the Kings County Criminal Court, dressed in a blue, long-sleeved shirt that hid his trademark tattoos.

He is charged with three counts of assault and one count of criminal. At the bail hearing the judge also granted a request to allow the Irish-born McGregor to travel outside the United States before his next court appearance on June 14.

The MMA star had surrendered to police on Thursday evening, soon after a video of the fracas at Brooklyn's Barclay Center went viral.

It appears to show McGregor and his entourage using a metal barricade and other objects to smash windows on a bus filled with fighters departing from the media event.

The fracas appeared to be related to the Ultimate Fighting Championship's decision to strip McGregor of his title. He last fought in a UFC bout in November 2016, when he defeated Eddie Alvarez to win the lightweight belt.

But he never defended the title, though



CONOR MCGREGOR arrived at a New York City courthouse in handcuffs.

he took on boxer Floyd Mayweather in August 2017. His technical knockout loss to Mayweather was the second biggest pay-per-view fight in history.

In January, the UFC announced that Khabib Nurmagomedov and Tony Ferguson would fight for the undisputed lightweight title at Saturday's MMA event, known as UFC 223.

UFC President Dana White told ESPN on Friday that a UFC fighter on the bus was hit and cut by a dolly thrown through the window, and that another fighter had the cornea of his eyes cut as the glass broke into dust-like material.

UFC was founded in 1993 and popularized cage fighting. It holds dozens of fights around the world every year that have surpassed pro wrestling and boxing in popularity, and are broadcast in more than 156 nations, reaching 1.1 billion households.

Ireland wins Six Nations Grand Slam

LONDON – Irish rugby fans hailed a glorious Saint Patrick's Day after clinching the Grand Slam against England at Twickenham.

London turned green as Ireland's triumphant rugby squad took their place in Irish folklore following the Six Nations showdown.

Ireland had already won the Six Nations – their third in five years – but secured a tremendous triumph over

England to cement their third ever Grand Slam.

A packed-out Twickenham erupted in a thunderous roar as the men in green stormed to victory on the feast day of Saint Patrick, beating England 24 to 15.

Despite flurries of snow, the Guinness flowed and there was an Irish invasion of fans in pubs near the stadium in south west London, the home of English rugby.

Positively Affecting Where We Live

NEW WEST
GYPSUM RECYCLING

We ARE Gypsum Recycling

Whether you call it Drywall, Gypsum Wallboard or Sheetrock, its all 100% recyclable to us!

"A product designed for your safety and made to be infinitely recycled into new gypsum wallboard! A true closed-loop product."

Documentation for LEED certification available! Now accepting New and used gypsum @Kent, WA

604-534-9925 www.nwgypsum.com

BC HIGHLAND GAMES AND SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

KICK OFF CEILIDH BEER GARDEN

WITH  RUCKUS DELUXE

FRIDAY • JUNE 15 5:00 TO 9:30PM

bchighlandgames.com

\$10.00



BC HIGHLAND GAMES 2018

KILT RAFFLE

A FULL KILT OUTFIT VALUED AT \$1,200! SPONSORED BY TARTANTOWN

\$5 for one ticket

\$10 for three tickets



DRAW: SEPTEMBER 29 2018

KILT \$600
JACKET \$400
HOSE \$30
FLASHES \$20
SPORRAN \$150



Tartantown

2016 RAFFLE WINNER ADRIAN RUTHERFORD

*Shoes not included

BC Gaming License # 1113927

For tickets, visit BChighlandGames.com

BC HIGHLAND GAMES AND SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

"COME TO THE GAMES AT THE END OF THE TRAIN"

PERCY PERRY STADIUM, COQUITLAM

Take the Millennium Line to Lafarge Lake Station

FRIDAY, JUNE 15
KICK OFF CEILIDH BEER GARDEN
WITH RUCKUS DELUXE \$10 (5-9:30PM)

SATURDAY, JUNE 16
GATES OPEN 8:00AM



RE/MAX

TICKETS & INFO

bchighlandgames.com