

the celtic connection

ISSUE 27 VOLUME 6

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018



[Cover artwork by Wendy Andrew
Read more about the artist: www.paintingdreams.co.uk]

Blessings from the Harvest Goddess

IN cultures around the world celebrations are still held to honour the harvest goddess. These festivals mark the end of the summer and the gathering and storing of foods to last through the leaner months of winter.

Whilst the names of the local goddesses may no longer be recalled at many harvest festivals and thanksgiving celebrations thanks are still given for the earth's great bounty.

In Celtic traditions, corn dollies were woven at harvest time to represent the harvest goddess. Traditionally, she was plaited from the last sheaf of wheat, providing a winter home for the corn spirit to ensure an abundant harvest the following year.

FEATURED INSIDE THIS ISSUE



JOURNALISTS RELEASED ON BAIL – Loughinisland families and supporters protest outside the Heights Bar in Co. Down, Northern Ireland on Friday, August 31, following the arrest of two journalists who contributed to the acclaimed documentary *No Stone Unturned*. They were released on bail after almost 10 hours of questioning. The film investigated the massacre of six innocent football fans when loyalist gunmen burst into the small rural pub in Loughinisland and opened fire on customers as they watched the Republic of Ireland team play in the 1994 FIFA World Cup. [More on page 14]

Controversy as statue of Canada's first Prime Minister John A. Macdonald removed from Victoria City Hall in B.C.

READ MORE ON PAGE 9

Pope Francis: Visit to Ireland set against a backdrop of a Catholic Church in crisis over clerical sexual abuse.

READ MORE ON PAGES 10 & 11

WIN FREE TICKETS OR AN IRISH BREAKFAST BASKET

• Win a pair (2) free tickets to see **Skerryvore** direct from Scotland on October 9, at McPherson Playhouse, Victoria (see page 3 for more info). Entry by September 21. Mark your entry 'Skerryvore'.

• Win a pair (2) free tickets to see the **Barra MacNeils'** East-Coast Christmas Concert, November 22, at the Centennial Theatre, North Vancouver (watch next issue of *The Celtic Connection* for more details). Entry by October 28. Mark your entry 'Barra MacNeils'.



• Win a pair (2) free tickets to see **The Irish Tenors** Holiday Concert, December 18, at Benaroya Hall, S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium, Seattle (see page 5 for more details). Entry by October 31. Mark your entry 'Irish Tenors'.

• Win all the traditional fixin's for a real **Irish Breakfast** in a basket from Black Pudding Imports in Langley. Check out their weekly sales on Facebook. (See page 5 for more details). Entry by Sept. 21. Mark your entry 'Black Pudding'.

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

Publication
Mail Agreement:
40003398

Encouraging words for cultural media in Canada

VANCOUVER – *The Celtic Connection* was honoured when Thomas Saras, president of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada presented publisher Maura De Freitas with an award on Saturday, July 21, 2018.

In presenting the award Saras said it was presented on behalf of the NEPMCC board of directors in recog-

nition of the newspaper's public-spirited support of the various Celtic communities and for the newspaper's work in helping to promote co-operation and understanding among members of the various cultural groups of Canadian society.

During his presentation before approximately 40 members of the local cultural media, Saras discussed changes in the system of Federal Government funding for community newspapers.



In January 2018, Saras addressed the Canadian Senate and inter-parliamentary committee regarding the urgent need for additional funding for ethnic publications and the inconsistencies between funds available for mainstream media and cultural newspapers.

The ethnic media has been a part of the Canadian media landscape for more than a century and this definition is broadly described to include media for all immigrants, ethnic, racial and linguistic minorities.

There are currently 650 newspapers and magazines nationally serving more than 12 million Canadians from all over the world who have made Canada their home.

The Canadian Government recognizes the contributions made by these publications and for this reason has set aside an additional grant funding of five million dollars over five years in addition to funding of \$57 million currently available through the Department of Canadian Heritage for Canadian publishers.

Thomas Saras said the NEPMCC understood the challenges facing print media today in a changing marketplace but emphasized the importance of continuing this valuable work.

He said the Council is working tirelessly on behalf of cultural media across Canada and encouraged all publishers present to apply for the upcoming 2018 grant.

Homeless in Vancouver

By MARIE BRUCE

The plight of the homeless is ever present in Vancouver and now more than ever with the loss of affordable rents.

I am so sad when I read about pensioners (my age group) who are living on the bare minimum and barely scrimping by because of soaring rents.

I met such a woman on the bus recently, she told me she was off to house and pet sit on the Sunshine Coast.

It was a paid job and she was grateful to get this extra income and to have a few more bookings during the summer, plus it gave her a break from the city and she loved animals.

Her rent in Vancouver for a studio of 420 square feet is over \$1,100 a month. She said it was a bargain since, with her pensions, her income came to under \$2,000.

She had serious ongoing health issues and had lived in Vancouver all her life, so moving to a small town at her age was not an option.

She counted every penny and had nothing left over but she had a roof over her head.

I was reminiscing about my National School experience in Ireland back in those distant days of 1950.

I don't remember hearing of anyone being homeless – poor yes, but always with a roof over their head.

I went to the Presentation sisters in Kilcock, Co. Kildare. Only a few happy school experiences stand out and one was poetry.

I was about seven-years-old when I first learned the poem by Padraic Colum, *An Old Woman of the Road*.

It sparked my imagination and I had no trouble picturing the cosy scene of "heaped up sods upon the fire."



Now older and wiser, I still think this is one of the most evocative poems I know and that little house not only sheltered our bodies but our souls too.

AN OLD WOMAN OF THE ROADS

O, to have a little house!
To own the hearth and stool and all!
The heaped up sods against the fire,
The pile of turf against the wall!

To have a clock with weights and chains
And pendulum swinging up and down!
A dresser filled with shining delph,
Speckled and white and blue and brown!

I could be busy all the day
Clearing and sweeping hearth and floor,
And fixing on their shelf again
My white and blue and speckled store!

I could be quiet there at night
Beside the fire and by myself,
Sure of a bed and loth to leave
The ticking clock and the shining delph!

Och! but I'm weary of mist and dark,
And roads where there's never a house nor bush,
And tired I am of bog and road,
And the crying wind and the lonesome hush!

And I am praying to God on high,
And I am praying Him night and day,
For a little house – a house of my own
Out of the wind's and the rain's way.

— Padraic Colum

[Padraic Colum, a beloved Irish poet, was born in Longford on 8 December 1881, and died January 1972.]

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

ISSUE 27 VOLUME 6 - Established in 1991

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

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

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

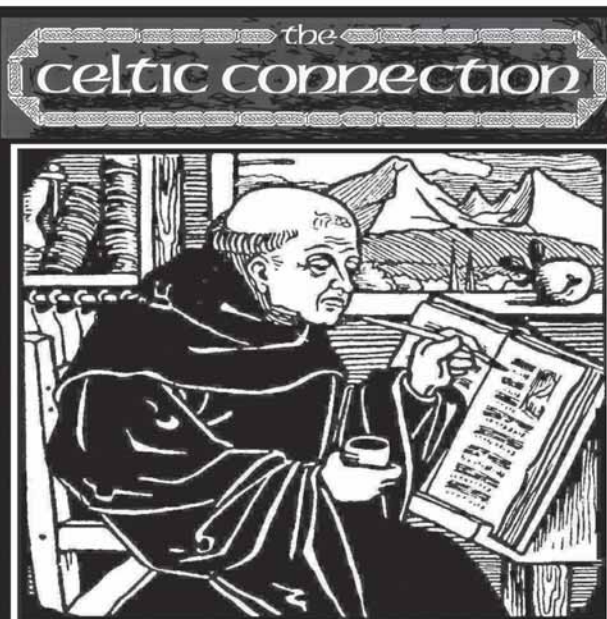
Catholine Butler - Advertising - • E-Mail: cbutler@telus.net

Colleen Carpenter - Copy Editor • Thary Chhom - Ad Production

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

Published 7X per year. Unsolicited submissions welcome but will not be returned. Please retain a copy for your files. Contents copyright 2018 *The Celtic Connection*. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the publisher but rather a reflection of voices within the community. All correspondence must include a name, address and telephone number.

Canada Post Canadian Publications Agreement 40009398



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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Prov/State: _____

Postal/Zip: _____

Country: _____

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

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

The first cool day in a long hot season, today is a reason to reflect on change.

Maybe it is still hot or cold where you are. Maybe the seasons are flipped or even difficult to observe where you call Home.

Even uncelebrated, the tug of time persistently and doggedly draws down the span of our lives.

For the young, time is a companion. A steadfast friend that grows our bodies to maturity and produces sometimes confusing liberation from the days of childhood.

Only in childhood and when head-over-heels in love does time truly seem to stand still.

Young adulthood, middle age, or getting on in years, the stages of time each offer something the others cannot, and so pass our lives.

To comprehend the reason and rationale for the human life that spreads across the face of this planet would be a task that borders on psychosis.

Travel is a beautiful way to befriend

time. When outside of well-defined space, time folds in ways unimagined, sometimes bringing one face-to-face with generations passed, or even with those who will populate the future.

Both common and rare, encounter is a daily gift of life and time. Time seems more visible as season mixes with season.

Skyward, the humidity has dropped, producing distinct ribbons of salmon-colored cloud against a deep blue background as twilight slips in. The hue colors this room and the moment.

A pick-up basketball game is playing in the distance and there are remarkably few sounds of traffic. The quiet, yet wall-to-wall sound of cicadas is a sure signal that Lughnasadh has passed and we are moving toward the autumnal equinox.

Why take stock of your life and what truly moves you? Why not? Just for a moment, withdraw from the busy amnesia of life and remember or reflect on what you are doing here, who you are doing it with, and where we all are going.

Then laugh, sigh, and shake it off as sunset arrives all too soon.

Taking Stock in the Seasons as the Sun Slides toward Samhain

Skerryvore: Headliners at 2018 Tíree Music Festival

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS-CUSSON

Picture clear, sparkling Atlantic waters off the west coast of the Scottish Highlands. The CalMac ferry that had left Oban and navigating the inner Hebridean isles buzzed with expectation on its three-hour journey to Tíree.

Among them: locals coming home to be with loved ones for the weekend, vacationers destined for cottage or camping R&R or wind surfing, and, like us, festival-goers keen to experience an impressive array of some of Scotland's most well-loved traditional, and up-and-coming musical acts.

As directors of CeltFest Vancouver Island, my husband and I had accepted the invitation from Tíree Music Festival's organizing committee to come sample the artists and this wonderful island and its culture.

Performances were on small outdoor stages and in a huge main-stage tent. All of this was amid the striking, desolate beauty of treeless green landscapes, white sand and warm turquoise ocean – that aptly earned Tíree the tag 'Hawaii of the North'.

2018 was the ninth annual festival, which has won nine national awards in its first eight years, and experienced sell-outs every year.

The *Daily Record's* observation that TMF is "famed for its laid back atmosphere" is true outside the main performance tent once bands are underway.

Further, that the festival "attracts a diverse audience and is well-known as being one the most family-friendly festival in UK" is quite obvious to us.

In every direction we are surrounded and swept up in the collective energy of parents with youngsters on their shoulders, young teens, middle-agers and seniors who all enthusiastically jump, sing, lock arms and dance to their favourite local heroes. All day and all night.

Many of the non-local audience and their families "glamp" on-site in exotic-looking white yurts on the ocean.

Among its stellar line up of artists at this year's festival were: The Hoosiers, Skerryvore, Rura, Skipinnish, Wolfstone, Mary Ann Kennedy, Elephant Sessions, Be Charlotte, Martin Joseph, and Trail West, to name just a few.

As this is Scotland's "Year of Young People," a third performance stage was added to showcase more young artists.

A delightful touch was watching groups of intergenerational singers and musicians performing Gaelic songs. These performances marked the impending launch of a new Tíree Song Book project to compile some of the old music and songs of the island, under the expertise of Mary Ann Kennedy and Anna Massie.

Personalities often seen on BBC TV Alba and Gaelic mods showed up to the festival to support these touching performances and the special brand of Gaelic culture they represent.

Daniel Gillespie, a founder and director of TMF, is from the Isle of Tíree himself. He explained the impact that this festival has now grown to have, saying "with Tíree only having a population of 600 people and us bringing 2,000 over for the festival, you can



PHOTO: Alan Peebles
LOCAL TÍREE MUSICIAN Martin Gillespie, of acclaimed band Skerryvore, cools down before going onstage at Tíree Music Festival 2018.

understand why this is a significant event here, now one that everyone looks forward to."

And then, there's the cultural tourism and related economic impact benefits to the island: The festival is responsible for bringing more than 8,000 first-time visitors to Tíree since its inception in 2010.

Daniel and his younger brother, Martin, also play in the eight-piece beloved Celtic trad folk-rock crossover boy band, Skerryvore – now wildly popular in Scotland, the UK and Europe – in part due to their omnipresent exposure via Visit Scotland television ads and music videos playing the hit songs

Live Forever and *Happy to be Home*.

Skerryvore makes their first-ever Canadian performance Tuesday, October 9 at McPherson Playhouse in Victoria. Info@CelticPerformingArts.com.

To view performance and interview video clips of some TMF 2018 artists and organizers, go to the Celtic Performing Arts/CeltFest Vancouver Island Facebook Group.

Carolyn Phillips-Cusson, MBA, is a management consultant, presenter and educator who specializes in strategy, leadership and development of cultural tourism organizations and events. E-mail: Carolyn@CUEconsulting.ca.



EILIS COURTNEY (L) president of the Irish Women's Network of B.C. and Deirdre O'Rauirc (R) of the Irish Club of White Rock, met Frank Flood and his wife Orla (centre) in Dublin.

Frank Flood: Ireland's New Consul General

VANCOUVER – There is great anticipation as Irish communities across western Canada look forward to welcoming Ireland's new Irish Consul General Frank Flood along with his wife Orla.

Currently serving as Ambassador of Ireland for Estonia, Flood is expected to officially take up his new role in Canada this September.

The new Consul has expressed a strong desire to meet representatives of all the local Irish communities to establish connections and determine how the Government of Ireland might better serve its diaspora.

He will also be developing trade relations and working to promote Ireland as a destination for both business and tourism.

Western Canada and Vancouver in particular has become a major destination for young Irish migrants seeking adventure and new work opportunities.



MAURA DE FREITAS, publisher of *The Celtic Connection* newspaper, met with Frank Flood, western Canada's new Irish Consul General, during his brief visit to Vancouver this summer.

Increasingly, Irish accents can be heard on the streets, in corporate offices, and throughout the city, so the expansion of the first Irish diplomatic presence in Canada since 1939 when the Embassy of Ireland opened in Ottawa has never been more timely.

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

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

Celt in A Twist

Canada's Contemporary Celtic Radio

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

CELTIC PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS
SCOTS TRAD AWARDS LIVE ACT OF THE YEAR WINNER

SKERRYVORE

DIRECT FROM SCOTLAND

VICTORIA • MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE OCTOBER 9, 2018 • 7.30

TICKETS \$37-\$40 PLUS GST & BOX OFFICE CHARGES

RMTS BOX OFFICE: WWW.RMTS.BC.CA OR (250) 386-6121 • 1 (888) 717-6121 TOLL-FREE
GROUP DISCOUNTS FOR 6+ • MORE INFO AT WWW.CELTFEST.CA

"A world beating fusion, which takes pride in their heritage and above all else is a pure joy to listen to."
FOLK RADIO UK

"A spectacular mix of traditional Scottish folk music and the most diverse rock elements."
SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, GERMANY

"See them now before they rocket up into the same musical orbit as the mighty Mumford & Sons!"
FALKIRK HERALD, SCOTLAND

SKERRYVORE.COM ●●●●● #EVOTOUR

Reflections on a great summer as a whole new season of tunes kicks off

VANCOUVER – The Rogue kicks off its Fall Season on September 8 with Vancouver folk/pop duo **Winsome Kind** launching their new CD *We Call It Home*.

Other September highlights include Grammy-winning gospel/soul singer **Mike Farris** (Wednesday, September 19), and brilliant young guitarist **Quinn Bachand** and his gypsy jazz band **Brishen** (Sunday, September 23).

We saw them at Butchart Gardens the other week. Brilliant show, and what a great sax player they have! Here is the full line-up for **September**:

- Sat - 8th **Winsome Kind** (BC) plus **Luke Wallace** (BC) – singer/songwriters
- Sun - 16th **Craig Cardiff** (ON) plus Raine Hamilton (MB) – singer/songwriters
- Wed - 19th **Mike Farris** (USA) – acoustic R&B/Blues/Gospel
- Fri - 21st **The Lonesome Town Painters** (BC) – Bluegrass
- Sun - 23rd **Quinn Bachand & Brishen** (BC) – gypsy jazz
- Sat - 29th **Fortunate Ones** (Nfld) – singer/songwriters

October is always a busy month at The Rogue, and it's especially busy at the start of the month!

- Sat - 6th **Guy Davis** (USA) & Fabrizio Poggi (Italy) – acoustic blues
- Tue - 9th **We Banjo 3** (Eire) – Celtic/Bluegrass
- Wed - 10th **Claire Lynch Band** (USA) – Bluegrass and more
- Sat - 13th **The Fretless** (BC/MB/ON/USA) – Celtic stringband
- Fri - 19th **The East Pointers** (PEI) – Celtic/contemporary
- Sun - 21st **Matthew Byrne** (Nfld) – Canada's finest trad. singer
- Thu - 25th **Irish Mythen** (Eire / PEI) – stunning Irish singer, now living in PEI

FESTIVAL FUN

I had a great time at the **Vancouver Folk Music Festival** in July, with a particular highlight co-hosting *The Saturday Edge On Folk* from Jericho Beach Park with Linda Bull.

I interviewed a few performers, notably **Eliza Gilkyson**, **Guy Davis**, **Dori Freeman**, **Martin Kerr**, **Ranky Tanky**, and **Gretchen Peters**, and marvelled at the music of **Ry Cooder** and **The Hamiltones** amongst others.

The **Mission Folk Festival** the following week was extremely enjoyable and it was good to see the event back on its feet again after a couple of tough years.

Sets by **Pharis & Jason Romero**, **Viper Central**, **Caleigh Cardinal**, **James Keelaghan**, and **Matt Gordon & Leonard Podolak** were among the highlights, but most memorable was the festival choir singing **David Francey's** songs for him, and the little interview I held with him on the log



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB

cabin stage. What a fascinating man!

So good to feel the emotion as he listened to his songs sung for him, while he rests his voice to avoid causing it more serious damage.

RogueFEST at the new Chain & Forge outdoor stage on Granville Island the next weekend was a huge success!

The event was free, and we ran a beer garden, but the music was the star attraction, and those bands sure lived up to their billing! **Van Django**, **Viper Central**, **The Rocket Revelers**, and **Sue Malcolm's Slow Pitch Jam** were in fine form, and attendance was excellent throughout.

Huge thanks to the **Rogue** volunteers and **Rob Nelson** on sound (with massive help from **Peter Bennett**), and thanks to the audience and dancers for making it such fun! We hope to be invited back next year!

Margaret, her sister Jean, and I decided to defy the smoke and fires across B.C. and we drove to the **Edmonton Folk Festival** a couple of weeks later.

It was quite the adventure! We didn't get to the festival site until quite late on the Thursday, but caught excellent sets by **Buffy Sainte-Marie**, and **The Decemberists**. It was very hot.

About 35C Thursday and Friday. **Tinariwen**, **Sharon Shannon**, and **Sidi Toure** delivered solid sets but didn't jam together on the Friday.

We then caught most of an excellent workshop with **Buffy**, **Las Cafeteras**, **Hurray for The Riff Raff** and **Glenn Skuthorpe** (a fine Australian aboriginal songwriter). **Neko Case** was OK on the evening stage, and **Lord Huron** were amazing! One of my favourite bands at the moment.

On Saturday the smoke rolled in from B.C. It was really thick. Still well over 30C though.

Highlight of the morning was a workshop with **Martin Simpson**, **Bruce Molsky's Mountain Drifters**, **Molly Tuttle**, and **Mairtin O'Connor's** trio with **Iarla O'Lionaird** on vocals. **Las Cafeteras** did the afternoon main stage. Very bouncy.

Caught **Dakhbrakha** and **Rura and Alex Cuba** after that, and then an even more exceptional workshop with **Martin Simpson** and **Molsky's Mtn Drifters** again, this time joined by **Sharon Shannon's** band and Mali's amazing **Trio Da Kali** – who jammed with everyone! So talented. Great fun!

Sadly, it started to rain after that set. Had been hot, smokey and sticky all day and now this!

We retreated to the hotel for a few hours and returned to catch wonderful sets by **Ry Cooder** and **Michael Franti**. In the pouring rain.

There was a great post-festival session in the party room that night, and I jammed with Scots band **Breabach**



WE BANJO 3 is an Irish quartet featuring two sets of brothers, two of whom play banjo! They play the Rogue on October 9.



THE CELTIC stringband The Fretless play the Rogue on October 13 at St. James Hall in Kitsilano on Vancouver's west side.



THE EAST POINTERS from Prince Edward Island play a fusion of Celtic/contemporary music. They play the Rogue at St. James Hall on October 19.

and company – with two pipers!!

I was thrilled when someone said they saw me “shredding” the bodhran! That's newspeak for playing really fast and grooving it up, apparently!

Sunday was cold (top of 13C, low around 7C) and it poured with rain all day.

Good sets by **The Step Crew**, **Rura**, and the **Mairtin O'Connor** band but hard to enjoy it in the rain.

There was a good gospel session with **Rev Sekou** and others – best was a young Memphis songwriter called **Devon Gilfillian** – but it was still very soggy and cold.

I was determined to see **Sona Jobarteh's** afternoon main stage set, though. She was incredible! Such a lovely voice!

Good kora player, fine band, and a

lovely communicator. She was born and raised in London to parents from Gambia.

Learned the kora by copying her older brother's lessons – ‘cos women aren't supposed to be griots or kora players or public singers!

Now she's set up Gambia's first traditional music school. She is a very inspirational young woman!

Went back to the hotel again to get out of the rain. Only came back for the salmon dinner and to see **Nick Mulvey**, who was excellent.

English songwriter raised in Havana. Never heard him before. Left after his set, ‘cos I'm not a big fan of the **Milk Carton Kids** – especially when it's so cold and wet out there!

Decent afterhours session with **Les Poules** a Colin, but it didn't last very long. Did some good schmoozing

though. Overall, it was an amazing musical weekend in Edmonton again, but with some truly alarming extremes of weather! Kudos to the troopers who stayed to party on the hill to the end!

NOTABLE NEW ALBUMS

Dog In The Fog – **Mike McGoldrick** and **Dezi Donnelly**. This Manchester duo features Capercaillie's brilliant flute player/uilleann piper and his good friend, the superb fiddler Mr. Donnelly. Dozens of great tune medleys for those looking for some new session tunes, or to just revel in superb musicianship.

Haven – **We Banjo 3**. This Irish quartet boasts two sets of brothers, two of whom play banjo! I don't know how they got their name, but I know why they tend to bring down the house wherever they pay!

Such scintillating playing – their fiddler is amazing! – and they sing really well, too. Great harmonies. One of the best acoustic party bands you could wish to see.

Their brand new CD, *Haven*, is #1 on the Billboard Bluegrass charts this week. Go figure! Catch them at **The Rogue** in October.

Two – **Dave Gunning & J.P. Cormier**. These two Nova Scotia songwriters have been friends for years, and they occasionally tour together. This is their first album together, and it's chock full of great story songs. They harmonize so well, too!

Live In Zurich – **Fear Of Drinking**. This was recorded in 1999 when the band featured twin fiddles (**Tom Neville** and **Victor Smith**), drummer **Revellie Nixon**, bassist **Brendan Mooney**, and the irrepressible founders **Gerard Kerr** (NZ), and **Geordie Tim Readman**.

The recording studio was robbed shortly afterwards, and the engineer thought the tapes had been lost.

However, a few months ago, when searching for a tape of a Swiss comedian, he found a mislabelled tape. This one!

It was hastily dispatched to Vancouver, and is now available. The band is in great form throughout, and this is a remarkable historic – and often hysterical – record of the sounds of Vancouver in the last millennium! Crikey, is it THAT old?!!

Stri – **Maeve MacKinnon. The Step Crew** blew through town in July, and gave us a memorable night of rollicking tunes and awe-inspiring dancing.

When the dancers stopped to get their collective breath back, Scottish Gaelic singer **Maeve MacKinnon** took to the stage to deliver her sublime renditions of the old songs.

Stri means struggle in Gaelic, and the subject matter often portrays the challenges of lost love, forced emigration and the like. But struggle she does not.

She is in complete control and the music is absolutely gorgeous. What a voice she has!

Slainte, Steve

[Tune in to **The Saturday Edge On Folk** every Saturday from 8 AM to noon on CiTR FM 101.9 and www.citr.ca to hear music by all these performers as well as heaps of new releases – and old favourites too!]

The Irish Tenors: Enchanting audiences for over 20 years with spellbinding Irish music

SEATTLE—Twenty years ago, the world-famous Irish Tenors burst on the scene. Ever since they have delighted audiences and performed in concert halls from the United States to Europe, Australia and beyond.

For one night only their rich and powerful voices will perform the magical "We Three Kings" holiday concert with full orchestra at Seattle's Benaroya Hall on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 PM.

The hauntingly beautiful Irish music and special well-known sounds of the holidays, as only the Irish Tenors can perform, is a treasured tradition for audiences of all ages.

Ronan Tynan, Anthony Kearns, and Finbar Wright are the award winning Irish Tenors.

These three renowned international artists will delight you in this inspirational and unforgettable night of stories and songs.

They combine their talents to produce a concert experience that touches the hearts and stirs the emotions.

The Irish Tenors' "We Three Kings" holiday concert presents songs of celebration and humor, mixed with touching melodies and the most loved Christmas music to celebrate this holiday season.



RONAN TYNAN, Anthony Kearns, and Finbar Wright are the award winning Irish Tenors.

The Irish Tenors have great chemistry yet they maintain their individual voices. All three are classically trained and perform individually and together around the globe.

Ronan Tynan is a modern day Renaissance man with a beautiful voice and charismatic style. He has performed for presidents and the Pope and many other dignitaries, and has brought com-

fort with his music to the families of the New York police and fire departments who lost their loved ones on 9/11.

The Wounded Warriors Project holds special meaning for him. He is a medical doctor, a motivational speaker, published author, and has performed at the National Memorial Day concert in Washington, D.C.

Anthony Kearns is known as Ireland's foremost tenor.

He has the incredible ability to flawlessly sing what audiences love to hear, he lights up a stage and enralls crowds with his universal appeal.

Even though he has sung for presidents and world leaders, he still makes time to sing for many wonderful causes and charities such as Autism Awareness, education and U.S. Veterans' causes. He has also performed at the National Memorial Day concert.

Finbar Wright tenor, songwriter and poet is also one of Ireland's most beloved romantic singers.

He has won major awards from the Irish Music Industry, performed for presidents and the Pope, and has hosted his own popular television series. He is truly a remarkable man with a remarkable voice.

Individually they are spectacular, and together these men are magical.

The world-famous Irish Tenors have played to sold out houses throughout the world and have thrilled PBS audiences.

Their CDs and DVDs have sold millions of copies and they have reached the upper echelons of the music charts.

A performance by the Irish Tenors always excites audiences, so prepare to be enchanted.

This highly anticipated concert benefits Ballard NW Senior Center.

Tickets for the December 18 "We Three Kings" holiday concert in Seattle can only be purchased through the Benaroya Hall ticket office.

Purchase tickets online at benaroyahall.org; by phone at (206) 215-4747 and in person at the Benaroya Hall ticket office in Seattle.



We Three Kings

The Irish Tenors Holiday Concert
Benaroya Hall, S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:30pm

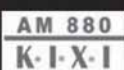
TICKETS ON SALE

Online at BENAROYAHALL.ORG

By Phone at 206.215.4747

In-Person at the Benaroya Hall Ticket Office
located on the corner of 3rd Ave. & Union Street. Ticket office
hours are Monday - Friday, 10am-6pm; and Saturday 1pm-6pm

Benefiting the Ballard NW Senior Center
a Community Partner of Sound Generations



Rogue Folk Club

Celebrating 31 Years of the best Celtic & Roots!

www.roguefolk.com

Fall Season Highlights!

Exciting music from across Canada and beyond, including ...



We Banjo 3 *Eire*



The Fretless *Canada*

Craig Cardiff - Sept 16
Mike Farris - Sept 19
The Lonesome Town Painters - Sept 21
Brishen - Sept 23
Fortunate Ones - Sep 29
Guy Davis - Oct 6
We Banjo 3 - Oct 9
Claire Lynch - Oct 10
The Fretless - Oct 13
East Pointers - Oct 19
Matthew Byrne - Oct 21
Irish Mythen - Oct 25
and many more to come

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

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!

TAPESTRY MUSIC

Serving British Columbia Musicians since 1996

SHOP ONLINE
Instruments
Accessories
Print Music
Rent or Buy
your Band
Instrument

FULL SERVICE REPAIRS • LESSONS

Great selection & expert advice
Guitars
Strings
Percussion
Brass
Woodwinds
Brands
Yamaha
Jupiter
Fender
Eastman
& many more!

3607 West Broadway, Vancouver
Ph 604.736.3036
TF 1.888.347.7480

There were people in Ireland who didn't drink?

"The disgrace of being seen drunk and fighting in the street...If you hear of shouting, rioting, or disorderly conduct, it is a hundred-to-one that the parties are Irish"

— 'Caution to Emigrants' [1852]

THE Irish pub often functions as the social hub of Irish life abroad. Friendships, jobs and new plans have all been founded there over a 'wee drink'.

This physical space, offers familiarity and the chance to 'catch our breath' among fellow Gaels as we attempt to build a new life in a new country.

Yet, the bar goes hand in hand with the 'drunken Paddy' stereotype and its negative connotations of rowdy, disruptive behaviours. This is a now a stereotype that we actively encourage in our seemingly relentless quest for 'the craic'.

We have owned it, embraced it and it is now celebrated across the world.

Consequently, the quantity of drink consumed in Ireland is one of the first points of conversation, when you meet someone from a different nationality. "Oh you Irish love a good drink," is a regular joke made.

As our reputation precedes us, when the conversation then gets around to my career, I am often met with shock, and confusion, and always asked, "There were people in Ireland who didn't drink?"



Beginning in the USA in 1826, anti-drink ideas were brought back to Ireland, when a visiting member of the diaspora returned in 1829.

Infused with new anti-spirits ideas and the benefits this lifestyle could advance throughout society, Reverend Joseph Penny (Donegal), was the catalyst that caused Reverend John Edgar (Belfast) to "pour his stash of whiskey, out this parlour window and on to the street below."

MODERATIONISTS

This act marked the starting point of the Irish temperance movement, leading to the formation of the Ulster Temperance Society (UTS) in Belfast in 1829.

Reformers at this stage were known as moderationists, only promoting the abandonment of spirits.

Beer and wine could be consumed so long as drunkenness was avoided. It is no coincidence that wine was more popular with the more affluent members of society.

'Drunkards', as was the 19th Century term for those who consumed "dangerous" quantities of alcohol in public and exhibited "inappropriate" behaviour, were not within the anti-spirits demographic.

In fact, when discussing his views on the spirits trade in Ireland in 1829, Edgar remarked: "The present generation of drunkards may give it feeble support for a time, but it [spirits] will be buried in their graves." He clearly was not a fan of either!

The anti-spirits movement had a limited effect on society and temperance reformers quickly became dissatisfied with moderation.

A new style of reform was incorporated into the movement, which promoted the total abandonment of all alcohol.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE

The first Total Abstinence Society in Ireland was formed in Strabane, Co. Tyrone in 1835; however it was Father Mathew's work that was the most well-known.

The Crusade, as it was popularly referred to, was aimed at the working class and promoted the idea that Ireland would only be economically, politically and socially strong when it has a population of sober, healthy and reliable individuals.

It is easy to see why O'Connell's Repeal movement, which was also happening during this period, appropriated temperance reform.

However Mathew preferred a non-political movement and contention arose.

These political tensions, coupled with the onset of the Famine accelerated the decline in the Crusade; when people had no means of food, fighting drink seemed irrelevant.

It was previously thought that Irish temperance never recovered from the decline of Father Mathew's Crusade.

Yet my research has shown that the Irish Temperance League (ITL), formed in Belfast in September 1858, provided the long sought after direction and funding to Irish drink reform.

As a total abstinence organisation the ITL encouraged co-operation among

those who preferred a persuasive and educational methodology, alongside those who preferred to work toward legislative control of the drink trade and prohibition.

The League also supported medical research into the effects of alcohol on the body and the development of knowledge of alcoholism as a disease.

In addition, the League developed a thriving coffee house business in the 1860s, which provided non-alcoholic refreshments and a public space for socialising and entertainment evenings which could compete with the local public house.

This organisation was focused on social reform and not only religious reform as is often assumed with Irish temperance.

Over the 19th Century the leadership of the ITL developed a national temperance campaign, which was based on business, social, and political prestige, but that also made attempts to purposefully include working class members of society.

By the outbreak of the First World War, the ITL had multiple total abstinence societies in every county in Ireland.

So yes, there were, and are, people in Ireland that don't drink and who found that long sought after 'craic' over a 'wee cup of tea' or coffee.

Therefore, while we may have embraced our appetite for alcohol, let's not forget the nuances of our identities and ancestors.

Let's not forget that historically the poverty stricken Irish immigrant often used alcohol to drown out his/her problems.

This became the 'drunken Paddy' stereotype, which was often used to further prejudices, inhibit social advancement and as part of many anti-immigrant campaigns.

CLASS EXCLUSION

This led to the Irish being excluded as recipients of the newly expanding economies – that their bodies helped build – ultimately furthering lives of oppression and poverty that most had left Ireland to escape.

The mass migration to the USA during and after the Famine is an example of increased calls for temperance reforms and restrictive alcohol controls among the newly emerging Irish communities, often dressed as a desire to eradicate poverty, crime and disease.

Moreover according to a recent article published in *The Conversation*, due to prejudices in Canada "almost 3,000 Irish immigrants found themselves in lunatic asylums in Victorian Ontario."

In comparison to other locations, Vancouver has been slower to develop an Irish immigrant population.

Nonetheless, there has been a constant and increasing flow of Irish to the west coast of Canada and it was only a matter of time before others began to follow en masse.

Traditionally, tensions have risen within Irish immigrant communities when a new wave of immigration begins, which differs in reasoning from the established norms to date.

Compare for example the pre-Famine immigrants to the USA. Motivated by the desire to work hard for a better life, they were reportedly embarrassed at the behaviors of the Famine immigrants, who were motivated by sur-

vival and clinging to many social norms from the homeland, including rural drinking patterns.

This is a simplistic argument and sectarian and class based discrimination was a factor in the former's disdain against the latter.

Yet at its essence it is the same in that different reasons for emigration, changed behavior patterns and caused tensions.

Most Irish immigrants, who come to Vancouver, want to experience a different way of life, to develop careers, have more financial freedoms and to benefit from a healthier work-life balance.

These immigrants often exhibit a 'work hard and play hard' ideology.

Yet, there is also a growing temporary immigrant demographic who prioritize fun and who exhibit a 'play hard – work later' ideology.

This is not to say that individuals do not have jobs, but rather that life experience is the point rather than career development.

At its core it is a philosophy about fun and enjoying your youth and there is nothing wrong with that.

Arguably, the majority of us who moved here were all motivated by the desire for more fun in our lives to a certain degree.

However, prioritizing fun becomes problematic when it begins to negatively affect others.

This leads to increased reports of disruptive behaviors and crime, and draws negative attention to the entire Irish community – eventually triggering the reappearance of negatively reinforced Irish stereotypes.

"Oh you Irish love a good drink" will stop being said as a witty comment, and become a pause of caution and a reason for refusing jobs, services and housing.

We are already seeing this happen. Therefore, while we should continue to celebrate our national love for 'the craic', let's not forget the historically turbulent relationship between the Irish immigrant and drinking behaviours.

The fun-loving 'drunken Paddy' stereotype is also one of addiction, discrimination and divisions among the wider Irish immigrant community.

"The disgrace of being seen drunk and fighting in the street...If you hear of shouting, rioting, or disorderly conduct, it is a hundred to one that the parties are Irish."

This quote is a complaint regarding the problematic drinking culture among new Irish immigrants, written by another Irish immigrant.

This was "Caution to Emigrants" published in 1852, yet it would not look out of place in a contemporary news report regarding the Irish reputation in Australia, or here in Vancouver this summer.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Wouldn't it be sad if we were having the same conversation in 2052? Therefore, perhaps this summer has offered us an opportunity here Vancouver.

Instead of falling victim to the age-old story of the Irish diaspora and alcohol, perhaps we could use the lessons of the past, to guide current events and begin early conversations on how to change this narrative for the better?

"Probably Okay" isn't "Okay."

People know not to drive drunk—
but when they've "just had a few
drinks," they convince themselves
they're okay to drive.

Don't chance it.

SINCE 2002
ORCHARD
RECOVERY CENTER



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



604-947-0420

www.orchardrecovery.com

811 Grafton Road, Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G2



World Record Set in Vancouver with a Cross-Cultural Drum Circle

VANCOUVER – Canada Day came and went but on that day over 100 drummers representing 61 different countries formed a large drum circle and performed at Creekside Park on False Creek before a Guinness adjudicator flown up from New York.

After careful consideration and scrutiny, the Guinness Adjudicator declared the Challenge successful!

Before the Challenge began for the "Most Nationalities in a Drum Circle" a greater number of drummers drummed simultaneously with drummers in 10 Canadian cities starting in Halifax.

Last year for Canada's 150th birthday celebration the Legacy 150 Celebration Society launched and co-ordinated drumming events across Canada to join Canadians of all ethnicities to drum together and celebrate our diverse multicultural nation.

The event was so successful that for Canada's 151st birthday, they did it again with groups of drummers across Canada in 12 cities starting in Halifax and ending in Vancouver simultaneously drumming for six minutes across several time zones and broadcast on several social media platforms.

In addition a Guinness world records attempt aim to set the record for "most nationalities in a drum circle (single venue)" of a recognized orchestral piece of music lasting at least five minutes was launched.

The attempt is based on the number of nationalities participating and the minimum number required is 50. This effort resulted in an incredible team effort to organize recruitment, verification, rehearsals, media, and is a case study in perseverance.



OVER 100 DRUMMERS representing 61 nationalities came together on Canada Day to play in the world's largest drum circle and earn top place in the Guinness World Records.



BLAKE WILLIAMS (R) was present with his bodhran at Creekside Park in Vancouver to participate in a cultural fusion of international drummers.

The challenge: "How to recruit more than 50 entrants (in a compressed time frame) from different nationalities with valid foreign passports, and time to rehearse and arrive ready to perform on Canada Day (July 1) at Creekside Park?"

Luckily, early registrants were keen to involve their friends and tagged them to join in.

Two Irish drummers Iain and Cathal

learned about the event through the Facebook page 'Irish in Vancouver', which became a community partner and helped spread the word. Iain signed up while he was still in Ireland!

The executive at Legacy 150 Celebration Society along with the enthusiastic staff and volunteers also helped create a national awareness.

When Canada Day arrived with sunshine and a cooling breeze off False Creek, drummers from 61 countries arrived to participate in both events in red shirts and drums.

Each registrant was checked by Guinness World Records adjudicator Claire Stephens who arrived from New York.

The drum circle formed, the rules were reviewed, and the drumming began with no music to help guide the beats and after five anxious minutes the drums stopped.

Later, after careful consideration, when Claire Stephens announced that the attempt had succeeded, a roar of drums and cheers was heard across the park.

It was a magical day for all present as families received complimentary drum lessons in a special tent – truly an experience of Canada at its best!

Rumours have it the certificates will be presented mid-September, possibly at an Irish pub....

Berlin U2 show cancelled after Bono loses his voice

BERLIN – U2 fans were left disappointed when their Berlin show was cancelled after Bono lost his voice.

The Irish band had played a handful of songs when the singer apologised to the crowd, saying: "I think we can't go on. It's not right for you."

Those at the Mercedes-Benz Arena were told there would be a short pause, but were later told the show was over. Bono promised another gig would be arranged.

Some fans said Bono had announced that smoke machines had affected his voice. "Bono was in great form and great voice prior to the show and we were all looking forward to the second night in Berlin, but after a few songs, he suffered a complete loss of voice," U2 said in a statement. "We don't know what has happened and we're taking medical advice," the band added.

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

Watch NFL games live at Mahony's, with large screens, the best atmosphere, drink specials and the chance to win!

NFL SUNDAYS
at Mahony & Sons

LIII SUPER BOWL
ATLANTA 02.03.19

WIN A VIP TRIP FOR TWO TO SUPERBOWL LIII

Plus a chance to win an NFL jersey every NFL Super Sunday at our Stamps Landing location.

IRISH SUNDAYS
Raise a glass of Irish beer every Sunday for \$6.5 a pint – all day!

CRAFTERNOONS
Monday - Friday til 5pm get a pint of one of our rotating craft brews for \$5.5

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

Mahony & Sons™
BURRARD LANDING | STAMPS LANDING | UBC

Facebook Twitter Instagram @mahonyandsons www.mahonyandsons.com

TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR SEPTEMBER
Celt In A Twist is local contemporary Celtic radio heard weekly on AM 1470, CJVB in Vancouver.
www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

1. *Summer in Dublin* by Bangers and Mash - Quicksand Café on independent.
2. *The West Highland Line* by Dolphin Boy - The Highland Swing on Skye Records.
3. *Santy Ano* by Pat Chessell - I Confess on independent.
4. *Botany Bay* by Fear of Drinking - Live in Zurich on Big City.
5. *Living the Dream* by The Barra MacNeils - On the Bright Side on independent.
6. *Sinead Maire's* by Lunasa - Cas on Lunasa Records.
7. *ID Circulaire* by MAZ - ID on Production MAZ.
8. *'S Trusaidh mi no Coilleagan* by Daimh - The Rough Bounds on Independent.
9. *Drums of Chelsea* by The Go Set - One Fine Day on ABC Music.
10. *Do People Still Do This?* by Aidan O'Rourke - 365: Volume 1 on Reveal Records.

Celt In A Twist - Pick Of The Month:
Bangers and Mash - Quicksand Café (Independent)

On this day....

Mend a quarrell. Search out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in a word or deed.

Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgoe a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind, be gentle. Laugh a little more.

Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Worship your God. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love, speak it again, Speak it still again. Speak it still once more.

— Found on the dresser of Irish actress Siobhan McKenna after her death.

THE AULD ALLIANCE: A re-awakening in the face of Brexit



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

EDINBURGH – Samuel Johnson famously said that “when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.”

In Scotland, the prospect of Brexit is having a similarly focussing effect, at least among the 62 percent who voted against it. According to recent polls, that number would be considerably higher if there was a second vote.

Alas, it seems that there will not be another vote and that leaves some Scots with both practical and philosophical concerns.

On the practical side, Scottish businesses, or about 70 percent of them, are lobbying to stay in the single market and folk who are eligible for Irish passports, or some other form of European residency, are scrambling to make the necessary arrangements.

At the existential level, Scots are being forced to question how big a part “European” plays in their overlapping identities.

This, in turn, has led to an increasing awareness of Scotland’s historical and cultural ties to Europe in light of Brexit placing barriers between Scotland and its European neighbours.

Among other things, this has put the term “Auld Alliance” back in vogue.

In historical terms, it’s a reference to a 13th Century alliance made between Scotland and France for the purpose of controlling England’s many invasions.

The historical alliance never did the Scots much good, as witnessed by the Battle of Flodden where Scotland came out for France and paid dearly.

Today, however, Auld Alliance is used as a term of mutual affection, occasional high-seas clashes between Scottish and French fisherman notwithstanding.

On a recent trip to France I had the idea of the Auld Alliance at the back of my mind. I was fascinated, for instance, to find a “Pub le Glasgow” when I was wandering around Fontainebleau. It was closed in the afternoon so there was no opportunity for refreshment or to enquire about the origins of its name.

Another Scottish connection emerged during my visit to the nearby Palace of Fontainebleau.

In the bookshop, there are multiple references to John Law, a Scot, who was Controller General of Finances of France during the minority of Louis XV.

Law was briefly the richest private citizen in the world, owning 22 private estates in France as well as considerable tracts of North America.

He was brought to his knees by the



ONE reminder of the Scot/French connection can be found in Fontainebleau, France, where the Pub le Glasgow is located.



collapse of the so-called Mississippi Bubble, a stock market adventure of his own devising.

Beyond France, Law is a somewhat neglected figure though, surprisingly, the Mississippi Bubble is the subject of a Canadian Film Board animation in which Law lugs his bagpipes around and speaks with a problematic Scottish accent.

Law embraced the use of banknotes and had ideas about Keynesian stimulation and so-called “quantitative easing,” three centuries before they became part of the modern banking lingo.

He initially proposed his ideas about paper money, land-use and the control of currency to the pre-union Scottish Parliament, but they were rejected.

The question of who would control an independent Scotland’s currency is, of course, still with us today.

Just down the road from Fontainebleau is the village of Grez-sur-Loing. It was here that Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson first met his future wife, the American Fanny Osbourne.

Stevenson returned to Grez on three successive summers, attracted by the writers and artists community that gathered there.

Stevenson’s presence in the village is celebrated to this day via a fellowship in his name which allows Scotland-based writers a month long residency in his hotel in Grez.

Stevenson described Grez as “a merry place ... pretty to see, merry to inhabit. The course of its pellucid river, whether up or down, is full of gentle attractions for the navigator.”

There’s evidence to support this description in some of the paintings of the “Glasgow Boys,” some of whom

were also part of the artist’s community in Grez.

Their presence is, of course, remembered in the name of the pub that I had stumbled across in Fontainebleau.

These are just three of the Scottish connections in one small area of France. The Scots had a presence all across Europe.

For instance, Google “Scotland and Poland” and the resulting list includes numerous books on the rich historical relationship between the two countries.

The irony is not lost on some of the Poles currently living in Scotland who now have to worry about their future status here.

Even the transport I used to reach France had a story to tell.

I took the Eurostar train from London to Paris through the Channel Tunnel, one of the great symbols of European cooperation, and I flew Easyjet when returning to Edinburgh.

The company has added the Austrian flag to the side of some of its planes as a prelude to opening a new headquarters in Vienna which will allow it to keep flying across Europe after Brexit.

Needless to say, the feeling of being cut off from Europe, keen though it is, is not the only factor that is increasing Scottish anxiety about Brexit.

The prospect of economic catastrophe is a much stronger one.

As I write, new polls claim that there will be increased support for Scottish independence and Irish unity after the UK leaves the EU.

The prospect of being hanged next March certainly seems to be concentrating some minds.

Former Scottish First Minister Resigns after sexual harrasment complaint

EDINBURGH – Former Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond has resigned from the Scottish National Party amid allegations of sexual harassment.

Two complaints were raised against Salmond in January and he was informed of an investigation in March. He has fiercely denied the allegations.

He is taking court action against the Scottish Government to contest the complaints process activated against him, with papers lodged at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on August 28.

To fund his legal action, Salmond launched a crowdfunding appeal which has now closed after raising double its £50,000 target. The fundraiser has been heavily criticised by opposition parties.

They have raised concerns that the high-profile crowdfunding campaign could make women less likely to come forward with sexual harassment complaints against other powerful men in the future.

The allegations against Salmond relate to allegations about his conduct towards two staff members in 2013, while he was first minister.

Salmond, who led the Scottish Government between 2007 and 2014, launched his crowdfunder as he announced he was quitting the SNP to focus on clearing his name.

He said he was doing so because he feared there would be “substantial internal division” within the party if his successor Nicola Sturgeon was forced to suspend him, and has stressed that he intends to rejoin the party after clearing his name.

The crowdfunder reached its £50,000 target within a few hours of its launch, and passed the £100,000 mark before



ALEX SALMOND

closing with more than 4,000 people contributing to it.

Many of those who left messages on the crowdfunding page said they donated as they believed Salmond was innocent, with some saying they believed he had been targeted because of his support for independence.

However, a Scottish Conservative party spokesman described the appeal as “crass.” He added, “Alex Salmond should never have been squeezing cash out of SNP supporters in the first place.

“His legal action has nothing to do with independence, yet he used the cause to convince the party faithful to cough up. It was crass and certainly not becoming of a former first minister of Scotland.”

Sturgeon, the current first minister, has staunchly defended the Scottish Government’s investigation into the two complaints that were made against Salmond, telling BBC Scotland that the rules also had to be fair to the women making the allegations.

She also said she wants a culture where people were able to come forward with complaints regardless of “how senior, how powerful, how well-known or what the political allegiance is” of the person involved.

Celtic v Rangers crush: ‘Chaos’ as five football fans injured before game

GLASGOW – Five football fans were injured during a “dreadful” crush before the Celtic v Rangers game on September 2.

It happened at Parkhead as fans tried to get into the stadium. Police said one person was taken to hospital after falling from a wall, while four others were treated by first aiders at the scene before attending the match.

Mike Robb posted a “frightening” picture of the crush on Twitter, saying it was “really dangerous” and that there were “no police or stewards in sight.”

Celtic fans said some supporters were forced to climb over a high fence to escape a crush, which they claim was caused by the stadium entry points being changed.

Police and Celtic FC said they would be reviewing their procedures.

One supporter, who did not wish to be named, told the BBC Scotland news website, “People couldn’t walk round the stadium anymore so there was a bottleneck under the north stand.



THOUSANDS of football fans were caught in a crush at Parkhead Stadium.

“Suddenly there was an absolute crush because there were about 1,000 people trying to get one way and about 1,000 trying to go the other way. The corridor is only six to seven people wide.”

Celtic supporter liaison officer John Paul Taylor posted on Twitter, “Apologies to fans affected by overcrowding issue at North Stand earlier, the Club will be investigating the cause to ensure no recurrence.”

Celtic won the game 1-0 as manager Brendan Rodgers came up against Rangers boss Steven Gerrard, who played under Rodgers at Liverpool.

Sir John A. Macdonald: Scotland disowns Canada's first PM

EDINBURGH – Canada's first prime minister has been scrubbed – at least for now – from government websites in Scotland due to his treatment of indigenous people. References to Glasgow-born Sir John A. Macdonald have recently been removed from Scotland.org sites.

The change comes amid an ongoing debate in Canada over his legacy and how he should be remembered.

In the late 19th Century, Macdonald's government initiated the creation of the residential school system.

For over a century, starting in the 1800s, more than 150,000 indigenous children were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to state-funded boarding schools, where children were forbidden to speak their language or practise their own culture. Some students died, many children experienced abuse.

In a statement last month, the Scottish National Party-led government confirmed it had removed articles on Sir John A. Macdonald from the websites "following the legitimate concerns raised by Canadian indigenous communities about his legacy."

"While we want to celebrate the very positive contributions Scottish people have made across the world we also want to present a balanced assessment of their role and are reviewing the wording of these articles in that light."

References to the Sir John A. Great Canadian Kilt Skate, an ice skating event in Canada funded in part by the Scottish Government, have also been removed. The government is reconsidering future funding.

Sir John A. Macdonald has long been celebrated in Canada as a nation builder – the father of Confederation who played a leading role in the effort to achieve a union of Britain's North American colonies.

But in recent years there have been growing calls to recognise the darker side of his complex legacy, which includes establishing the residential school system. Its impact has been depicted as "cultural genocide."

In his determination to connect the country from coast-to-coast with a transcontinental railway, his government also forced some First Nations from traditional territories, withholding food until they moved to areas designated as reserves.

Calls have grown to remove his statues and his name from buildings across the country.

Most recently, a statue of Macdonald was removed amid controversy from the entrance of city hall in Victoria, British Columbia.

The decision to remove the statue was taken as a gesture towards reconciliation with indigenous people in Canada, however Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps has since apologized for a decision which left many feeling excluded from the decision-making process.

One of the sharpest criticisms came from the statue's sculptor, John Dann. In a letter published by the *Globe and Mail*, Dann described the city's decision as "misguided."

"For this reason, I find Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps' actions precipitous and

misguided, for they were done in secret, hurriedly (in the span of 10 days), arbitrarily and undemocratically.

"If the tearing down of my sculpture is the best way to move forward, then I am all for it, but I cannot believe that any rational person who has reflected on our history can really think that removing about 150 kilos of bronze from view is going to change our history, or help us understand it better," wrote Dann.

In Montreal, a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald located at Place du Canada in downtown Montreal was vandalized overnight on August 17.

A video of the statue being spray-painted red was posted online after it was sent anonymously to various independent media outlets in Montreal.

The organization claiming responsibility for the action refers to itself as a group of "unnamed anti-colonial vandals."

In a statement to Global News, the city of Montreal said removing the statue is not the answer. "It's not by removing the statue of Macdonald that we will move toward reconciliation, but by adding cultural references and recognizing the historic contributions of indigenous people to life in Montreal."

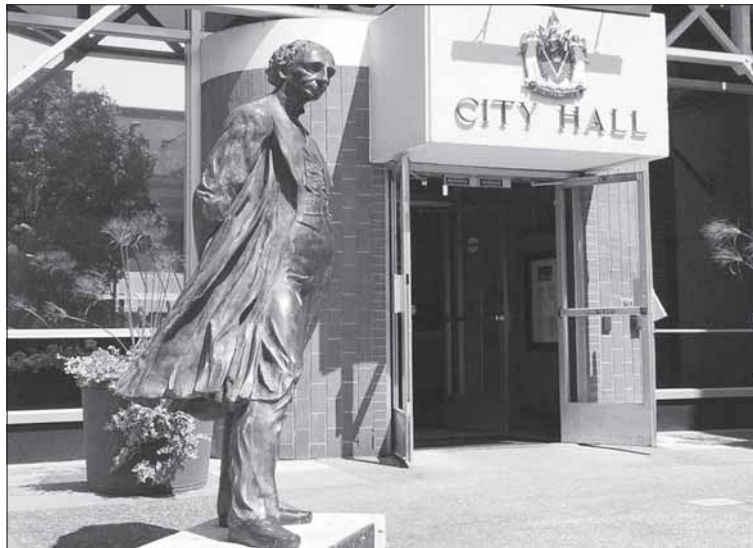
So far, the Canadian Government has resisted calls to remove Macdonald's name from federal properties.

Recently, Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said she has asked bureaucrats overseeing historic sites to look at how to address concerns with monuments like those to Sir John A. Macdonald, but she added that "you can't erase history."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Politics is a game requiring great coolness and an utter abnegation of prejudice and personal feeling"

– Letter by Sir John A. Macdonald, first Canadian Prime Minister to Sidney Smith, October 13, 1860 (Library and Archives of Canada)
[John Alexander Macdonald was born in Glasgow, Scotland on January 11, 1815]



VICTORIA, BC – A statue of Canada's first prime minister John A. Macdonald has been removed amid controversy from the grounds outside Victoria City Hall, days after the city council voted to remove it. This follows news that all references to Glasgow-born Macdonald have been scrubbed from government websites in Scotland due to his treatment of indigenous people.



CANADIAN Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said: "you can't erase history" following the removal of the John A. MacDonald statue outside Victoria City Hall.

U.K. prime minister says 'no' to second Brexit vote

LONDON – British Prime Minister Theresa May has said there will be no second Brexit referendum.

Writing in the *Sunday Telegraph*, the prime minister says she will "not be pushed" into compromises on her Chequers agreement that are not in the "national interest."

But May also warns she will not "give in" to those calling for a second referendum on the withdrawal agreement. She says it would be a "gross betrayal of our democracy and... trust."

She said "millions came out to have their say" in the June 2016 vote that set Brexit in motion.

Her embattled government has faced increasingly strident calls for another vote once the terms of Britain's future relations with the EU are known.

The Chequers agreement would see the UK agreeing a "common rulebook" with the EU for trading in goods, in an attempt to maintain friction-less trade at the border.

But critics say it will leave the UK tied to EU rules and prevent Britain from striking its own trade deals in years to come.

With under two months before Britain and the European Union want to agree on a deal to end over 40 years of union, May is struggling to sell what she calls her business-friendly Brexit to her own party and across a divided country.

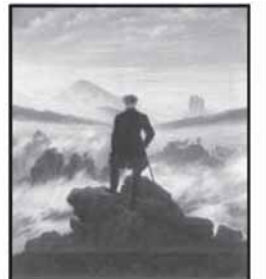
The UK is on course to leave the EU on March 29, 2019 but has yet to agree how its final relationship with the bloc will work. The EU has suggested that November is the latest a deal could be finalised.

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



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

POPE FRANCIS IN IRELAND

Pope Francis' historic two-day visit to Ireland took place against the backdrop of a church in crisis over clerical sexual abuse in Ireland and around the world

DUBLIN – When Pope Francis arrived in Ireland on August 25 for a historic two-day visit, he did so against a backdrop of a Catholic Church in crisis over clerical sexual abuse in Ireland and around the world.

He was also confronted with the controversy surrounding mother-and-baby homes in Ireland. The survivors of abuse have asked not for words, but for action.

Ahead of the visit, the Pope wrote a 2,000-word letter to Catholics in which he condemned the crime of sexual abuse by priests and subsequent cover-ups and demanded accountability in response to new revelations in the U.S. of decades of misconduct by the church.

For the many thousands who came out to greet him in Dublin and Knock, Pope Francis represents a hope that the Catholic Church will firmly tackle the legacy of abuse.

Upon arrival, a mix of well-wishers, tourists and protesters watched as the Pontiff travelled through Dublin in the Popemobile, passing many of the city's well-known landmarks before arriving at the Capuchin Centre off Church Street.

Later, around 80,000 people packed into Croke Park for the highlight of the World Meeting of Families.

The selection of themes throughout the night reflected the priorities in the ministry of Pope Francis, including homelessness, migrants and refugees and care for our common home.

During his visit, the Pope met President Michael D. Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin where the President told the Pontiff of the “anger which had been conveyed to him at what was perceived to be the impunity enjoyed by those who had the responsibility of bringing such abuses for action by the appropriate authorities and have not done so.”

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar called for zero-tolerance for those who abuse children and told the Pontiff that the past treatment of many women and young people by church and State had left a history of “sorrow and shame.”

He asked the Pope to use his office and influence to ensure that justice is served and urged him to listen to the victims.

“It is my hope that your visit marks the opening of a new chapter in the relationship between Ireland and the Catholic Church.”

In his speech at Dublin Castle, the Pontiff spoke of his pain and shame at the failure of church authorities to tackle the scandal of clerical abuse in Ireland and said people had a right to be outraged at the response of senior church figures to the “repellent crimes” inflicted on young people.

He later sat in silent prayer at the Candle of Innocence in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral – the candle has been permanently lit since 2011 to remember the survivors of clerical and institutional abuse.

During his visit, Pope Francis spent around 90 minutes with survivors of clerical and institutional abuse where he expressed “pain and shame” over failures to tackle the scandals.

A letter from survivors released afterwards said, “Around 100,000 single mothers who were forcibly separated from their babies were regularly told it was a mortal sin to search for, or even contact, their own sons and daughters.

“As an act of healing, Pope Francis, we ask that you make it clear to the now elderly and dying community of natural mothers and adoptees that there is no sin in reunion and rather that it is a joyous event that should be encouraged and facilitated by the Catholic Church.”

The letter added, “Five orders and congregations of Catholic nuns ran Ireland's notorious mother-and-baby homes where over 6,000 babies and children died as well as dozens of young mothers.

“These nuns have never taken responsibility for their wilful neglect. We ask you, Pope Francis, to publicly call on these nuns to acknowledge their actions and issue an unqualified apology to all the survivors of their institutions.

“We also request that you call on these nuns to immediately commit to paying the full cost of the current inquiry and any redress that may be awarded in the future.”



FOR THE MANY thousands who came out to greet him in Dublin and Knock, Pope Francis represents a hope that the Catholic Church will firmly tackle the legacy of abuse.



POPE FRANCIS met with President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina at Áras an Uachtaráin during his visit to Dublin.



UPON ARRIVAL for the historic two-day visit on August 25, a mix of well-wishers, tourists and protesters watched as the Pontiff travelled through Dublin in the Popemobile, passing many of the city's well-known landmarks before arriving at the Capuchin Centre off Church Street.



AN ART INSTALLATION by Manix Flynn protesting the Pope's visit is seen in Dublin City centre. The ‘Somebody's Child’ memorial in Temple Bar, Dublin lists the names and birthdates of children who died in care in Ireland. The children's names are listed and below them are empty silver nameplates to mark those children who were not properly buried or known.

Some of the survivors who attended the behind-closed-doors meeting said the Pontiff employed blunter language with them, apparently using the Spanish word “caca” – loosely translated as “filth from the toilet” – to describe those who covered up abuse.

During the mass at the Phoenix Park he asked for forgiveness for the church's treatment of survivors; where senior clergy kept quiet and where unmarried mothers were forcibly separated from their children and told that searching for them was a mortal sin.

The Pontiff ended his prayer by asking, “Give us the strength to work for justice. Amen.” His remarks were met with applause from the crowd.

Survivors who met the Pope have expressed shock that he knew nothing of Magdalene laundries and mother-and-baby homes.

On his flight back to Rome, the Pope told reporters that on hearing about mother-and-baby homes in Ireland, “It touched my heart, that is why I wanted to repeat it during my speech.”

He said, “I had never heard of these mothers, they call it the women's laundry, where an unwed woman is pregnant and goes into these hospitals, I don't know what they call them, schools, run by the nuns and then they gave children to the people in adoption.”

Finally, following what was overall a successful visit to Ireland, the Pope was faced with more controversy.

A former top Vatican official claimed that the Pontiff had covered up sexual abuse.

Pope Francis dismissed the statement from his former Papal Nuncio to the U.S., Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, telling reporters that he “will not say a single word on this.”

He is accused of being aware of serious abuse allegations against Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the former archbishop of Washington, D.C., five years before the cardinal's resignation in June.

The editors of *America* magazine, a Jesuit journal, wrote that the Pope was perhaps trying to “stay above the fray rather than dignify a venomous ideological attack,” in response to the accusation.

“Nonetheless,” the editorial said, “the Pope's refusal is an insufficient pastoral response for a church that is deeply wounded.”

The Catholic Primate of All Ireland said Pope Francis had taken a lead in terms of abuse scandals, but the proof would be whether or not there was accountability and justice and decisive action from the church.

While some survivors of abuse were critical of the Pope's statements on clerical abuse and mother-and-baby homes, Pope Francis himself said his visit to Ireland brought him great joy.

He also said for the tens of thousands of people who came out to see him on the streets of Dublin and in Knock, and who gathered in Croke Park and the Phoenix Park, the visit was a source of joy and an affirmation of their faith.



AS THE PONTIFF led mass at the Phoenix Park, thousands of people gathered in protests just a few kilometres away.

Liam Neeson to make film about mother-and-baby home controversy

GALWAY – There are reports that award-winning film star Liam Neeson is in talks to develop a film about the Tuam mother-and-baby home controversy.

The actor has spoken out about the responsibility the Irish Government and Catholic Church owes to families affected by the septic tank buried in the grounds.

Neeson said, “DNA technology is now available to identify all these bones, belonging to possibly over 790 babies and children, still lying in the ground in Tuam..

“The Irish Government, aided by the Catholic Church and especially the nuns’ order, the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours, must not shirk the responsibility of giving these souls the dignity and respect of identification,” he added.

Neeson said the planned plaque to remember those buried at the site would not solve the crime committed, “A wrong is still a wrong and a crime is still a crime no matter how many years have passed.

“A proposed bronze plaque isn’t going to absolve those responsible for this horror.”

In 2013, local historian Catherine Corless discovered official records showing that around 800 children died at the home in Tuam.

In March 2018, a commission of investigation announced it had found “a significant number of human remains” at the site.

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

A vigil was held in Tuam as one of a number of counter-demonstrations which took place during the pontiff’s visit to Ireland.

Ireland’s Minister for Children Katherine Zappone is expected to make a recommendation on the future of the mass burial site in Tuam in early autumn.

During the vigil, people held up the names of the 796 children as they gathered to protest at the site of the former home for unmarried mothers.

People also recited the children’s names and lit candles in their memory while hundreds of baby shoes were placed in a circle on the ground.



LIAM NEESON

CATHERINE CORLESS



AROUND 500 PEOPLE gathered for a vigil in Tuam, Co. Galway to coincide with the Papal Mass in Dublin. They gathered at the site of a mother-and-baby home which was managed by the Sisters of the Bon Secours between 1925 and 1961. Names of the children were recited as people lit candles in their memory and hundreds of baby shoes were placed in a circle on the ground.



SURVIVORS who met the Pope during his visit to Ireland expressed shock that he knew nothing of the Magdalene laundries and mother-and-baby homes. In Galway, local historian Catherine Corless discovered official records in 2013 showing that around 800 children died at a home for unmarried mothers in Tuam.

Irish Presidential Election to be Held on October 26

DUBLIN – The formal order calling the 2018 Irish presidential election has been signed by Minister for Local Government Eoghan Murphy. Polling day will be held on Friday, October 26.

The signing of the Presidential Election Order kick-starts a 28-day period in which hopeful candidates can secure a place on the ballot paper to take on President Michael D. Higgins in the autumn.

The closing date for nominations will be noon on September 26. The nomination period began on August 30. The winner of the election will be inaugurated on November 11, 2018.

Higgins confirmed in late June that he had decided to seek re-election for a second term as president of Ireland. The sitting president can nominate himself to contest in the election.



ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN located in the Phoenix Park in Dublin was completed in 1751. It is the official residence and principal workplace of the President of Ireland.



IRISH NEWCOMERS' INFORMATION AND NETWORKING SEMINAR

When: Saturday Oct 13, 2018, 2 – 5 pm
Where: BCIT Downtown Campus
555 Seymour St, Vancouver

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

To register for this free seminar, go to
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Seminar13Oct2018>

More info: Goto entry on Oct 13 at www.irishinvancover.com/whats-on.html
Sponsored by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Program



Bringing Home to You



WANT IRISH SNACKS IN YOUR STORE, BAR OR FOR AN UPCOMING EVENT?!

CONTACT US FOR RETAIL AND DISTRIBUTION.

siobhan@bcbio.ca

604-500-8602

Follow us: [Facebook icon] [Instagram icon]

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
219-4th Street, New Westminster, B.C.
phone: 604-321-4881
email: Columbia-Bowell@KearneyFS.com

Kearney Cloverdale & South Surrey
17667-57th Avenue, Surrey, B.C.
phone: 604-574-2683
email: Cloverdale@KearneyFS.com

Kearney Funeral Services
430 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
phone: 604-736-0268
email: VancouverChapel@KearneyFS.com

www.KearneyFS.com

Kearney Burnaby Chapel
4715 Hastings Street, Burnaby, B.C.
phone: 604-299-6889
email: Burnaby@KearneyFS.com

Clean Holdings OSA



CHAMPIONSHIP winner Mackenzie Cross has put Vancouver and the Watt School of Irish Dance in top categories on the competitive circuit.

Mackenzie Cross: Irish dancer with the Watt School has a bright future ahead

VANCOUVER – The Watt School of Irish Dance is no stranger to the world stage since opening its doors over 30 years ago.

The school is known for its rich history of excellence in competitive and professional Irish dance.

Many of its former and current students have placed among the best in the nation and world, with some making a professional career on stage with the popular stage show *Lord of the Dance*.

This year the school, originally located in Fort St. John, B.C. opened another branch in Vancouver under the tutelage of Aisling Watt; and it has garnered momentum within the Irish dancing competitive circuit.

One dancer in particular, Mackenzie Cross, has really put Vancouver and the Watt school on the map.

Cross, who was already a top dancer in Western Canada and North America, achieved a fifth place finish at the 2018 World Championships.

The World Irish Dance Championships brings together the best dancers from around the globe, with each dancer having to qualify to attend.

This top five finish represents the first time in almost 30 years that a woman

in B.C. has been on the podium at the World Championships.

Not only did she secure this world ranking, but she also placed within the top five at every major championship on the Irish dancing roster within the past year.

Her rankings include: Third at the Western Canadian championships; fifth at the Great Britain championships; fourth at the North American championships; and second at the All Scotland Championships.

Teacher Aisling Watt attributes Cross's success to her sheer passion, determination, and humble attitude.

She has watched Cross develop the necessary mental and physical fortitude required to be at the top of this rigorous sport over the past few years.

The future looks bright wherever Cross is headed next, and the world stage will be eagerly awaiting her next step.

The Watt School of Irish Dance accepts new students throughout the year from ages four and up. For more information, e-mail: wattsquad1@gmail.com.

IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

A growing Irish community with lots of young families now joining the club

WHITE ROCK – The Irish Club of White Rock is a small but vibrant social club with a great mix of young and old and all in between.

There are a few big events planned throughout the year, along with many small pop-up events such as a meet-up at Tim Hortons, a visit to someone's home, or maybe a pub night. Club members are always coming up with new ideas, and suggestions are always welcome.

The highlight this summer was the annual barbecue in July – the very best one so far. This is the first year children outnumbered the adults – just brilliant!

The food was incredible, many thanks to Kathleen and Dolores. Chefs on the barbecue did a wonderful job with the hamburgers and sausages (a big hit). Thank you goes out to James and Steve for all their hard work.

The big hit this year was the entertainment, organized by Sinead Ryan and Charlotte Jorge-Marrujo.

For the children, treasure hunts, and a fairy house in the fairy section of Redwood Park, boot toss, sack race, hurley, football, and much more.

A great selection of Irish music was provided by Vinnie Crowley and much appreciated by many in the park. Many more were involved in pulling this event together, so a big thank you to everyone.

There have been many new families joining up and some have just arrived to Canada, so the club would like to extend a very warm welcome to them.

The executive will be planning a meet up for the young families in September and maybe a pub night for the adults.

Ireland's new consul general Frank Flood will arrive in Vancouver at the end of September and he would like to meet up with all the local Irish groups. The club will be planning an event to welcome him sometime in the fall.

For more news on the Irish Club, follow on Facebook at Irish Club of White Rock, or call Sharon Woods at (604) 338-3553, or Deirdre O'Ruairc at (604) 803-0773.



IRISH FAIRY HOUSE in Redwood Park.



CHILDREN in the fairy corner at Redwood Park. This was the first year children outnumbered the adults.



THE BOYS (L-R) – Conor Crowley, Vinny Crowley, Jay Nolan, Adrian Hilliard, James Woods, Philip Reynolds, Chris O Connor.



ROSELLA MOLOUGHNEY, Deirdre O'Ruairc and Christine Lawlor.



BERNIE ROCHFORD, Dolores and John Wynne, Denise Wynne.



SHARON WOODS, Stephen Dockery and Wayne Pedersen.



GAMES organized by Sinead Ryan and Charlette Jorge-Marrujo included a sack race.

Tell Them You Saw it Here!

Our advertisers are very important to us. In fact, they are the lifeblood of this newspaper. They have enabled us to continue bringing you, our dear readers, your *Celtic Connection* for the past 27 years. For this reason, we urge you to support our advertisers, and when you do....tell them you saw them here.

The State of Play in Northern Ireland Politics

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By
**MAURICE
FITZPATRICK**

On Sunday, August 13, 1995, speaking to a crowd in Belfast, Gerry Adams said, "Let no one tell you that we won't have Irish unity, we will. Let no one tell you that all our political prisoners will not be released, they will. Let no one tell you that we will not break the British connection, because we will."

Twenty-three years later, only one of the certainties that Adams asserted has come to pass: IRA prisoners were released under the provisions of the Good Friday Agreement.

Fulfillment of the other two pronouncements, which were the alleged reasons for the IRA campaign (1969-1994), has yet to happen.

IRA prisoners got the release they demanded promptly since prisoner release was a tangible concession that both sides could make during the peace negotiations.

Both sides used those concessions to help to sell the peace agreement to their hardliners.

From the point of view of the paramilitaries, prisoner release entailed no loss of ground. Meanwhile the constitutional shift and national aspirations held by a broad swathe of the electorate has been put in the pending file.

Let us not pretend that those aspirations were easy to deliver, still less easy to deliver swiftly, in a milieu where a mutually exclusive set of constitutional aspirations are fervidly held.

Absent a dramatic sea-change in unionism, cutting the British connection remains almost impossible to countenance.

Unsurprisingly, then, the vehicle set

in forward motion towards Irish unity has largely become stuck in first gear, and has often been forced to yield right of way.

To someone born in working class Derry or Belfast in 1985, Adams' rhetoric may have sounded rousing in the mid-1990s.

Today that person is 33-years-old and is able to more independently form his or her own judgements about Republican leaders' ability to deliver.

That person may have also reached certain conclusions about what constitutes effective tactics.

So something else that Adams said that day in Belfast has become prominent in some people's minds.

In response to a man in the crowd who shouted "Up the IRA," Adams replied, with a big grin, "They haven't gone away you know."

Adams was to be reminded very abruptly that indeed the IRA have not gone away when, on July 13 this year, his Belfast home was attacked.

Adams responded by inviting his assailants to meet him: "Let them sit down across the table, or let their representatives sit down across the table and explain what this is about. There may be a connection to what is happening in Derry."

Adams clearly thinks that an organisation is responsible for the attack, and that that organisation is the Derry-based 'New IRA'.

Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald, responding to the attack on Adams' home, said that the assailants will not "drag us back to the past."

Everyone hopes that they do not, and condemnation of the incident was universal. However, McDonald should recognise that she can do something important to help to deter further attacks.

She needs to prioritise as a matter of absolute urgency the re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly because dissident terrorist groups are clearly exploiting the absence of any form of functioning politics for their own ends.

If talks to re-establish the Northern Ireland Assembly were to restart and succeed this time, and the DUP and Sinn Féin fondly held hands and walked through Stormont's portentous doors together, what would this new

attempt to administer represent?

Much as the DUP and Sinn Féin politicians responsible for folding the assembly would not admit this, they would be returning principally to contest the constitutional future of Northern Ireland.

For unionists, the tremors of Britain's disorderly exit from the EU are starting to be felt underfoot on Northern Irish soil, and the vista of Northern Ireland being an unwanted outlier of a very troubled England is getting harder to avoid.

This grassroots anxiety has reached DUP leader Arlene Foster and caused her to replace her provocative stance towards nationalists with a slightly more conciliatory mode.

Meanwhile, Sinn Féin, with their bickering, blaming and abstention is finding it harder to convince the electorate that they are the party to lead Ireland to the new constitutional horizons likely to emerge from Brexit.

In his letter of resignation from Stormont, the then Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness claimed that there would be "no return to the status quo."

Yet the status quo is exactly what Sinn Féin would be returning to if it accedes to again share power with the DUP in Stormont.

So why would Sinn Féin countenance a reversal of this decision?

The profound changes in the UK's relationship with the EU portend a new dispensation on the island of Ireland in the future.

Sinn Féin now judges that its interests are infinitely better served by being in government in the North (and in the South, if it can manage it) than by being a hindrance to the parliamentary process in either jurisdiction.

Moreover, the image of bridge-builder in Northern politics will be an asset in election campaigns in the South, just as the image of their continually holding out against a deal to re-establish Stormont will damage it.

When these realisations started to occur, an ability to make accommodations came over Sinn Féin like a rash.

Is their hunger to finally move from the Opposition benches in Dáil Éireann now such that they are willing to restore Stormont to accomplish their parliamentary ambitions in Dublin?

More people are returning to Ireland than leaving for the first time since 2009

DUBLIN – For the first time since 2009 more Irish emigrants are returning to Ireland than leaving.

The margin of difference is quite small (just 100 people!) but Crosscare Migrant Project reports this is very much in keeping with their experience as they are seeing more and more people contacting them with queries about returning to Ireland.

Sarah Owen, Irish Abroad Networking Officer with Crosscare, said while family is often at the heart of the decision to return, a move home is not with-

out its challenges and Crosscare is there to help.

Barriers to return have been well documented – from bureaucratic red tape like the habitual residence condition, to formal recognition of foreign qualifications and experience, and concerns about getting visas for non-EU family members so they can live in Ireland.

Owen said it is now time for every government department to take steps to ensure that returning Irish emigrants are not disadvantaged as a result of their emigration.

She said Irish immigration is not a thing

of the past however, with many new emigrants now going to the United Arab Emirates and Asia over traditional destinations such as the United States and Great Britain.

With this comes an increasing need to expand on the support available to Irish citizens abroad, to help them to remain connected to Ireland, and ensure they are able to return here in the future should they wish to.

More information about Crosscare Migrant Project and the support they provide to Irish emigrants both leaving and returning to Ireland can be found at: www.migrantproject.ie.



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

ENTERTAINMENT

Sept 22 Senior's Dance featuring music by **The Chancers**

Sept 29 Oktoberfest with food and drink specials!
\$20 at the door

Oct 28 Children's Halloween Party

Nov 2 Calvin Vollrath – get your tickets early and save

Open Mic nights will be starting again this fall
On September 21, October 5 & 19 and November 16 & 30

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



'I, Dolours': One of the most compelling documentaries of the year

DUBLIN – One of the most compelling documentaries of the year *I, Dolours* has been earning rave reviews ahead of its release.

The film is structured around a contested and controversial interview carried out with militant IRA activist and dissident Republican Dolours Price before her death in 2013.

In 2010, Dolours Price agreed to a taped interview with journalist Ed Moloney about her experience with the IRA, but only on the condition that the tapes wouldn't be released until after her death.

After Price died of a drug overdose, the tapes went public. They ultimately shed light onto some of the biggest mysteries of The Troubles, including the disappearance of West Belfast mother-of-ten Jean McConville in 1972.

McConville, who was believed by the IRA to be a British informant, was abducted from her home in 1972. Her body was found some 30 years later buried on a beach in Co. Louth.

In her interviews, Price admits to driving McConville and others who are now remembered as 'The Disappeared' to their deaths.

In the trailer for the documentary, Price – somewhat chillingly – describes what

she advocated for those who were discovered to be British informants.

"The bodies should have been thrown out on the street to put the fear of God into anyone who'd choose that way of life."

The documentary serves as a grim history lesson and warning for the future about the perils of a vacuum and the ensuing human cost.

It tells the story of her family's history in the republican movement, her own experiences in the civil rights campaigns, her conversion to the armed struggle, her arrest in England for her role in the IRA bombing of London's Old Bailey in 1973.

It sees the once-idealistic Price reflect on her part in the troubles and the depths she was willing to sink to in the name of the cause.

Lorna Larkin (*North Circular Road*) is excellent as Dolours Price recreated, personifying the real life figure's steely determination to carry out the will of the IRA.

As a historical account, the complicated politics of those linked to this tumultuous period is quite condensed, and one would want to either want to know the history of what happened or investigate it in more depth after seeing the film.

Two journalists arrested in Loughinisland 'theft' probe

BELFAST – Producer Trevor Birney and journalist Barry McCaffrey, who worked on *No Stone Unturned* with Academy Award winner Alex Gibney which investigated the massacre of six innocent football fans, have been released on bail following their arrest.

The documentary, released last November, examines issues surrounding six men who were murdered in a tiny pub in Loughinisland, Co. Down.

The attack unfolded on June 18, 1994 when loyalist gunmen burst into the Heights Bar and opened fire on customers.

The UVF gunmen struck as football fans watched the Republic of Ireland team play in the 1994 FIFA World Cup.

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

In addition, the film addresses persistent claims of state collusion and broke new ground by publicly naming those it said were suspects – including the lead gunman who still lives in the area.

Following their arrest on Friday, August 31, the journalists were released from Musgrave Street police station in Belfast after almost 10 hours of questioning.

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

Birney is widely regarded as the best investigative journalist in Ireland. He was a co-producer on the Oscar-shortlisted, Alex Gibney feature-documentary, *Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God*, for which he received an IFTA, an Irish Oscar, in February 2013.

The massacre caused outrage throughout Ireland and cast a huge shadow over the celebrations after the Irish team shocked the Italians with a 1-0 win. The game was likened to a home game for the Republic as there were so many Irish fans in the stadium at the time.

A 2016 report from the Ombudsman found that there had been collusion between the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and the UVF killers, and it also found that the police investigation had been undermined by a desire to protect those responsible for the six murders.

It has been reported that the arrests are in connection with the alleged theft of confidential documents from the Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland in relation to the killings. A police spokesman has claimed the theft of the documents "potentially puts lives at risk."

Outside the police station, a tearful McCaffrey said, "There are families here (who) lost loved ones who didn't get justice today."

Flanking his client outside the police



AN EMOTIONAL Trevor Birney (51) and Barry McCaffrey (48) speak to reporters following their release on bail in Belfast after being interrogated for almost 10 hours on August 31 in relation to the Loughinisland documents inquiry.



THE SIX MEN killed in the tiny Heights Bar in Loughinisland, Co. Down on June 18, 1994 – (L-R) [Top Row] Dan McCreanor, Adrian Rogan, Patrick O'Hare. [Bottom Row] Barney Greene, Malcolm Jenkinson, and Eamon Byrne.

station, McCaffrey's lawyer John Finucane said he was "deeply disturbed" by the men's detention.

"What I have witnessed today is nothing more than a very sinister attack on the freedom of the press," he said.

Birney's solicitor Niall Murphy said his client had gone through four taped interviews in custody. "Throughout those interviews not one scintilla of evidence was put to Mr. Birney," he said.

"It was very apparent at all times that the PSNI's predominant interest was their ability to continue to recruit informers rather than to investigate crime."

"I have spoken with the families of the Loughinisland atrocity today and they are bitterly disappointed, heartbroken in fact that the only investigative action arising from the film *No Stone Unturned* was the arrest of the two people who investigated the matter and sought to expose the truth, rather than to investigate the six murders that occurred and the protection that was afforded to the suspects by police."

While the men were held in Belfast, around 100 Loughinisland families and supporters turned out to the Heights Bar in solidarity with the journalists.

Several held aloft a banner calling for justice for the atrocity and others held framed photographs of their murdered loved ones.

Emma Rogan, whose father was killed in the shootings, said the village was left stunned when they heard about the arrests.

"The whole community were shocked to hear they were arrested while the perpetrators of this heinous act have never been charged," she said.

In 2011, the Police Ombudsman Al Hutchinson found there had been major failings in the police investigation following the shootings, but said there was no evidence that officers had colluded with the UVF.

However in 2016, a new Ombudsman Michael Maguire found there had been collusion, and the police investigation had been undermined by a desire to protect informers.

In 2017, a judge delivered a damning judgment against Maguire's report, ruling that he had exceeded his statutory powers by declaring officers guilty of colluding in the UVF attack.

Another judge is now presiding over a case that will focus on whether Maguire's findings should be formally quashed.

Bill proposing mile-wide stop and search zone along NI border

BELFAST – Controversial legislation which would allow for members of the public to be stopped, searched and detained a mile inside the Northern Ireland border has sparked outcry from political parties and human rights groups.

The Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill is currently working its way through Westminster. It is intended to bolster current UK counter-terrorism legislation and will give new powers to police and customs and immigration officers along the border.

If the bill passes into law any member of the public could be stopped within a mile of the border so authorities could check if they are entering or leaving Northern Ireland.

Parts of the town of Strabane in Co. Tyrone would fall into the one-mile zone as would out-lying parts of Derry.

The SDLP blasted the proposals as a "grotesque assault on border life." The party's Brexit spokesperson Claire Hanna said, "It is an affront to the peace agreement that Theresa May

would allow any hardening of the border, let alone providing for 'stop and search' zones."

She added, "The UK Government appear to neither care nor understand the anxiety they are causing here."

"At this point in the Brexit negotiations there is very little we could put past this government who seem prepared to sign up to almost anything in the name of Brexit, and oblivious to the tension these proposals create."

The proposals have also been criticised by human rights groups.

The Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) says it hopes the bill is not an attempt to create a post-Brexit "fortress UK."

In a briefing on the bill the group asked: "Will there be a kind of militarised zone along the border, where roving patrols can stop and question any person, resident or traveller, without any kind of justification?"

"Presumably not, but in this piece of legislation such a scenario is expressly provided for."

Iron Overload – Too Much of a Good Thing

By MARGARET MULLETT
Chairperson of the Irish
Haemochromatosis Association

My father worked as a dispensary doctor in Kerry. I was born there. He always had a great interest in science and was awarded a gold medal for making a carpet out of bulrushes and later for making paper out of bog cotton.

That's why he insisted that I study science in UCD. I decided to be a teacher and enjoyed teaching in Dominican Convent Eccles Street until I left to get married in 1966. It was mandatory to retire on marriage at that time.

We lived in the UK for the next seven years before returning to Ireland.

My husband, George, worked in St

George's in London. By the time we came back to Ireland we had four of our five children.

George was appointed as a consultant psychiatrist in Portrane Hospital, Co. Dublin.

The legislation regarding married women had changed and I was able to return to teaching.

For several years, I worked as a biology and chemistry teacher in a boys' school in Dublin.

It was a challenging career but I enjoyed every minute. I gathered that sometimes my pupils referred to me as "Maggie the Iron Lady."

I didn't realise then that I would soon become obsessed with iron overload and the genetic mutations that cause some people to absorb too much iron. I was to learn the all-too-real tragic consequences of untreated iron overload.

In April 2000, George was diagnosed with haemochromatosis and died six weeks later, aged 63, awaiting a heart transplant in the Mater Hospital, Dublin.

George had seen a cardiologist on a few occasions over the years because of an irregular heartbeat.

He had been prescribed beta-blockers and attributed his chronic tiredness to the prescribed medication.

He sometimes fell asleep watching TV but the family thought that it was because he was still working very hard as a consultant psychiatrist in St. James's hospital, Dublin. Otherwise, he seemed a very fit looking man and looked the picture of health.

George decided to get his sugar levels tested as I had read that sometimes people on beta blockers had diabetes.

The levels were sky high and he phoned me to say that I had saved his life, as he had diabetes. We still had no idea that he was so seriously ill.

His very good friend and former classmate, Dr. Colman Muldoon, suggested that he might have haemochromatosis as he now had three of the main symptoms of haemochromatosis: chronic fatigue, diabetes and an irregular heartbeat.

His very high ferritin level of 2500 ng/ml and the genetic test confirmed that he had haemochromatosis. The diagnosis came too late.

He went in to the Mater Hospital on Easter Monday 2000, and died the June Bank Holiday weekend. The family was heartbroken. He was an exceptional father and husband.

The five adult children were genetically tested and all were found to have the haemochromatosis genes. This was because by a coincidence I also had the two genes.

So it turned out that all of the family had haemochromatosis. George saved our lives.

I became passionate, some might even say obsessive, about raising awareness of hereditary haemochromatosis. My son says that I manage to bring every conversation around to haemochromatosis.

I joined the Irish Haemochromatosis Association in 2000. Our aim is that no one who has haemochromatosis in Ireland goes undiagnosed.

Despite the fact that approximately 20,000 people have been diagnosed, we still have a long way to go.

In Ireland one in 83 people are predisposed to iron overload and one in five are carriers. We estimate that there are another 20,000 who still need to be diagnosed.

I was very lucky to have been married to George for 34 happy years. We spent a very happy year in Canada – in Saskatoon – though it was a challenging journey with five children and 15 suitcases!

It is essential that Irish people, wherever they live, know that there is a possibility that they may be suffering from iron overload.

If you suffer from chronic fatigue, joint pain or any of the other symptoms, you should insist on both the ferritin and transferrin saturation tests.

Support the work of the Canadian



MARGARET MULLETT is chairperson of the Irish Haemochromatosis Association. Her children have all been diagnosed with the gene. They are pictured above (L-R) – Hannan, Janne, Adrian, Leonora, and Gavin.

Hemochromatosis Society (In Ireland we spell haemochromatosis with an 'a') so that they can help more people get diagnosed.

The Canadian Hemochromatosis Society's mission is to strengthen the well-being of Canadians affected by iron overload through its programs

designed to foster awareness and early detection of hemochromatosis.

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

Linguistics professor brings Ireland's rich history to Ottawa

By RYAN PEPPER

OTTAWA – A University of Ottawa professor is working to grow the Irish language in Ottawa, one learner at a time.

Sheila Scott, a linguistics professor with the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute at the U of O, hosts Irish teaching sessions and helps organize monthly ceilis in the city.

She is also one of the founders of the only Gaeltacht in North America, just outside Kingston, where Irish enthusiasts can play and listen to music, dance, and enter writing competitions, all in the Irish language.

Scott's parents emigrated from Ireland in 1957, and both had some knowledge of Irish, having studied it in Ireland like school-kids in English Canada study French.

"My dad had done all his primary school through Irish, so Dad had far more Irish than my mom. He grew up on the west coast, in Kerry, where there's a lot more Irish spoken.

"My mom grew up on the east coast, so Irish was a subject, an obligatory subject," said Scott. "You had to pass Irish or you didn't even graduate."

Scott was enamored by the language, particularly its unusual grammar and sentence structure.

She ended up doing her PhD in Irish syntax and morphology, and she hopes to instill a love of the language in Ottawans today, and not just those with Irish heritage.

"There are people in these classes who have Chinese backgrounds, or Vietnamese background, or East Indian background," she said of her classes.

"Some of them come because they are interested in linguistics, some are interested in the history, the evolution of what goes on in Europe."

Scott has noticed that people come to Irish culture for different reasons. Irish music and dance are popular, she



noted, and so she tries to work the Irish language into dance or music classes.

Although Irish is growing in popularity now, the language suffered for a long time under harsh English rule. People could be hanged for speaking Irish, Scott said.

So, when Ireland gained its independence, Irish became a symbol of pride, something it still is to today's learners.

In addition to Scott's own work and the work of groups like Ottawa Irish Arts, the U of O has a close-knit Celtic studies department and a visiting PhD student with the Ireland Canada University Foundation.


The department plays a role in promoting Irish culture in an academic setting, and is a good entry-point for students into the Irish community.

Scott has a vision for the Irish studies in Ottawa, particularly in the university.

"One thing is to encourage the chairs of Celtic Studies in all the different universities here, to make sure that language is always part of the curriculum – if we can make language part of curriculum for all those chairs, that would be really cool," she said.

Anyone wanting to get involved in Irish music, sports, dance, or language-learning is encouraged to e-mail Sheila Scott at sheila.scott@uottawa.ca.

Article reprinted from *The Folcruim*, a student newspaper at the University of Ottawa.



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



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

• Maura Doreen Marchionni, 81, a native of Belfast, died in Vancouver, WA, July 21;

• Jim Shea, 85, a longtime Irish Heritage Club member, died in Shoreline July 19;

• Bob Ryan, 89, a longtime Irish Heritage Club member, died July 2 in Seattle;

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis –

May their faithful souls rest at God's right hand

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SERIES – Irish Network Seattle starts a Business Leadership Series, 6-8 PM on Thursday, September 13 at WeWork's Holyoke Building, 107 Spring Street, Seattle, with a Leading a Successful Startup business and networking event.

WeWork Director Ben Wood will describe how his company provides shared workspaces, technology startup subculture communities, and services for entrepreneurs, freelancers, startups, small businesses and large enterprises.

Evros CEO Brian Larkin will describe how Evros Technology Group became Ireland's leading provider of IT managed services and systems integration, and Ashley Stewart from the Puget Sound Business Journal will be the moderator.

Register for this event at irishnetworkseattle.org.

SENIORS' LUNCH – The Irish Immigrant Support Group has scheduled another Irish Seniors' luncheon at the Wilde Rover Irish Restaurant in Kirkland at noon on Saturday, September 29.

All seniors with an Irish connection are welcome. Over 500 different Irish seniors have attended these luncheons over the past 10 years, and all have been wonderful, fun occasions.

The cost for the buffet lunch is \$10 for seniors and \$15 for non-seniors and all are welcome, but advance reservations are required to (425) 582-2688.

BELLINGHAM IRISH FESTIVAL – Bellingham's Irish Festival runs Friday-Sunday, October 6-8, with musical performances including Irish music sessions at Uisce Irish Pub; workshops on the fiddle (Irish and Scottish), rhythm guitar, sean-nós: Irish dance, shanty singing, the bodhrán for beginners, beginning tin whistle, ceili dance class, beginning flute, and Irish social dancing; and more! All venues are within a central six block area of downtown Bellingham and most events and performances are free! For the full schedule, visit bellinghamirishfestival.com.

IRISH TENORS – The Irish Tenors will be back in Seattle for their 'We Three Kings' holiday concert with full orchestra on Tuesday, December 18 at Benaroya Hall at 7:30 PM.

The warmth, joy, charisma, and skill of these three international singers, Ronan Tynan, Anthony Kearns, and Finbar Wright combine to produce a sound and concert experience which touches hearts and stirs the emotions.

Tickets range from \$50 to \$150 with all proceeds benefitting the Ballard NW Senior Center.

NEW VICE-CONSUL – Best wishes to Irish Vice-Consul John Callaghan



By
JOHN
KEANE

who has returned to Dublin from San Francisco having received a promotion.

John has been in San Francisco for just the past year but has contributed an enormous amount in a very short time including one visit to Seattle.

Taking his place as Vice-Consul is Michael Treacy who comes to San Francisco following a stint in the Irish Embassy in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Michael arrives with great experience and will be a valuable member of Team Ireland in the Western U.S.

CONSULATE NEWSLETTER – Starting this month, the Irish Consulate in San Francisco will publish a monthly e-zine showcasing the connections between Ireland and the Western U.S., and celebrating the achievements of our community, in addition to raising awareness of Irish activities across Western US.

The e-zine will also look forward to significant events over the month ahead. To sign-up for the newsletter, go to <https://bit.ly/2oA6xUS>.

GENEALOGY'S LOSS – Dr. Brian Trainor, the Ulster Historical Foundation's Emeritus Research Director, has died in Belfast at the age of 90.

Brian made an immense contribution to numerous genealogical archives and libraries around Ireland, and to local Irish historical, genealogy and community groups all over the world over the last seven decades.

He spoke several times at genealogy seminars in Seattle and has many friends here who will miss his expert contributions over the years, as well as his friendship.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP – Becoming a U.S. citizen affords individuals numerous benefits, including permanence, and yet many eligible Irish nationals do not take advantage of the citizenship process.

Becoming a U.S. citizen does not in any way affect your Irish citizenship. Both Ireland and the U.S. accept dual citizenship and a person can carry both a U.S. and an Irish passport.

The benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen greatly outweigh any doubts a person might have about the process.

Freedom of travel, increased access to benefits, no fear of deportation, the right to vote, and no re-entry or green card renewal issues are just some of the benefits. For more information, contact siisg@irishclub.org.

LIAM BOYLE – The Seattle Gaels recently hosted a Slán Abhaile celebration for longtime Gaelic football and hurling player and mentor, Liam Boyle and his wife Tara Conner, who are leaving Seattle and returning to live in Co. Antrim.

Liam has been a long serving and highly respected Seattle Gael since he and Tara and their family moved to Seattle in 1997.



(L-R) JOHN KEANE, Greta Mulhall, Noreen McCormack, Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Dan Mulhall, and Elaine O'Toole of Amazon who met up at Amazon Spheres during a private holiday to Seattle by the Irish Ambassador and his wife Greta.



IRISH AMBASSADOR to the U.S. Dan Mulhall and his wife Greta were in Seattle in July on a private holiday and visited the Chihuly Boathouse, the former home of the world-renowned glass sculptor Dale Chihuly. Pictured above (L-R) – Irish glass artist Paula Stokes, Greta Mulhall, Noreen McCormack.



(L-R) FR. JOHN MADIGAN, John Keane, Noreen McCormack, Mariners' left fielder Ben Gamel, Irish Consul General Robert O'Driscoll (who threw out the ceremonial first pitch), and David Jacobsen at Irish Night at the Seattle Mariners.



THE SEATTLE POLICE Pipes and Drums and the Tara Academy Irish Dancers performing in center field at Irish Night at the Seattle Mariners on July 24. Throwing out the ceremonial first pitch was Irish Consul General Robert O'Driscoll (center rear with baseball cap).



(L-R) MAURA BARNES, Tara Conner, Liam Boyle (seated), and Kay McKenna at the going away party for Liam Boyle. Maura and Kay are Liam's sisters and Tara is his wife.



CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to Seattle Gaels Chair Vanessa Peterson and Seattle Gaels Secretary Ranko Asari who were married in Seattle on August 11.

Liam was born in Belfast in 1948, one of 11 children, and Gaelic football and hurling have been his passion all his life.

In 1969, he captained the Antrim U-21 Gaelic football team which won the All-Ireland Championship, and since then he has participated as a player, coach and manager of Gaelic football and hurling teams in both Belfast and Seattle.

In 1984, Liam and Tara met when she was in Ireland visiting relatives. On one side, her grandparents were from Roscommon while the other side originated in Cavan.

She grew up in New York deeply involved in Irish dance, music and literature. She moved to Belfast in 1985 to study and graduated with a doctorate in psychology from the University of Ulster.

Tara and Liam married in 1991 and have two children, Sorcha and Declan, both of whom are also deeply immersed in Irish culture. In addition to playing Gaelic football and hurling in Seattle, Liam also taught classes in the Irish language.

Tara has worked with Plymouth Housing Group, a group dedicated to ending the Seattle area's homeless crisis. Liam and Tara have now decided the time is right to move to Ireland and they will be greatly missed in Seattle.

During their time here, they have made immense contributions to the promotion of Irish culture in the Seattle area and to the community at large. We wish them the very best in the future.

MISCELLANEOUS

• Contact Seattle's Irish Book Club at jaadams095@gmail.com (note new email address);

• The 40th annual Magical Strings Celtic Yuletide concerts throughout the Northwest, from November 25 to December 21 with Seattle's concert on December 15 – visit www.magicalstrings.com;

• Best wishes to Dan and Audrey Tobin who recently opened the Crown Alley Irish Pub in Klipsan Beach on the Long Beach Peninsula.



(L-R) KAY MCKENNA, Dan Pelfry (rear), Maura Barnes, Liam Boyle, Laura Pelfry and Tara Barnes at the Seattle Gaels going away party for Liam at the St. Andrews Bar & Grill.



THREE-LEGGED RACE at Seattle's Irish Community Picnic on July 15.



AT SEATTLE'S Irish Community Picnic on July 15 – (L-R) PATRICIA CROMER, Heather Murphy, Gordon Jacobsen, Caron McMahon, Gabby Jacoben, David Jacobsen (standing rear), Betty Egan, Diana Jacobsen and Daisy Jacobsen.

Protests planned for Trump Visit to Ireland

DUBLIN – Politicians and activists have said they will be holding protests during the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump to Ireland in November.

Following the announcement, the government said that the visit will be an "opportunity to follow up on the issues discussed in the White House in March including migration, trade, climate change and human rights issues."

However, the Labour Party, Green Party and Solidarity-People Before Profit have pledged to organise protests surrounding the visit.

In a statement, Green Party leader Eamon Ryan said, "We're calling on Irish people to tell our government to cancel this visit; and for them to demonstrate in never-before-seen numbers should they fail to do so."

Solidarity-People Before Profit TD Richard Boyd Barrett described Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's decision to welcome President Trump to Ireland as "shameful."

Workers' Party Cork City Councillor Ted Tynan said the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, were not representing the views of the majority of Irish people in extending the welcome.

"The deep and abiding connection between this country and the United States is based, not on the fawning and false obsequiousness of the taoiseach and Minister Coveney, but on the shared experiences of our peoples and their common struggles."

Coveney said that Trump's visit to Ireland will probably take place on his way home from ceremonies in Paris on November 11 to mark the centenary of the armistice which ended the First World War.

He said details of the visit have yet to be finalised but it would be a short trip and undoubtedly Trump would visit his own property in Doonbeg, Co. Clare, and the expectation is he will meet the taoiseach in Dublin.

Coveney said that while Trump is a controversial president, he has been hosted in other European countries, and when he asks to come to Ireland the government will facilitate the visit.

He said people should not confuse the facilitation of a visit of President Trump with an endorsement of his administration's policies in many areas.

Coveney added that it is no secret that Ireland would have a real difficulty with the approach that Trump has taken in many areas including climate change, migration, trade policies and the recent approach towards the Middle East and Iran.

He said this would be an opportunity for a mature discussion with a U.S. president, here in Ireland, to talk about the differences of opinion and different perspectives on many issues and to raise Irish concerns.

The visit will be the first time that Trump has visited Ireland since he entered the White House.

It follows a meeting between him and the taoiseach at the White House last March.



THE WHITE HOUSE has announced that Donald Trump will visit Ireland in November 2018. It follows a meeting between him and the taoiseach at the White House last March. Pictured above, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar presents Trump with a bowl of shamrock as Melania Trump looks on during the annual Irish-U.S. White House meeting.

Positively Affecting Where We Live

NEW WEST
GYPSUM RECYCLING

We ARE Gypsum Recycling

Documentation for LEED certification available!

604-534-9925 www.nwgypsum.com

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

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

Now accepting New and Used gypsum @Kent, WA

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

2018 USGAA: Seattle Gaels played with grit and determination

By JOHN KEANE

The Seattle Gaels competed in the North American GAA Finals in Philadelphia on the first weekend in September.

Ladies football had a brilliant first game in the quarter-finals against the Pittsburgh Banshees, coming back from a deficit in the first half to win by two points.

Unfortunately the ladies lost the semi-final match to the Austin Celtic Cowboys who would go on to win the Ladies Junior B Championship.

Men's football had a bye for the first round of quarter-finals and advanced to the semi-final on Saturday against Cayman Islands.

The men hung with it to the very end, however Cayman Islands came out the winner.

The men continued on to the Junior C shield competition on Sunday to play

their first game against Denver.

Seattle held a two point lead up to the very end when Denver pulled off a late breaking goal from a penalty kick that ended the game. Hard luck!

Camogie put on a stellar performance this weekend, winning against the Annie Moore's New York team in the quarter-final on Friday and against the home Philly team on Saturday in the semis.

They advanced to the Junior Camogie Championship Final on Sunday, but unfortunately fell to a strong Coastal Virginia team.

While the outcome wasn't quite what we wanted, we're still incredibly proud that the ladies made it all the way to the Camogie final!

Overall, a great weekend for the Seattle Gaels – lots of grit, determination, and heart on display from all the players. Up the Gaels!



Vancouver to Seattle & SeaTac Airport,
There and back! Quick and Easy!

For Reservations call:
604-940-4428

FAIRFIELD INN BY MARRIOTT

19631 International Blvd.

SeaTac WA 98188

1-206-824-9909

Includes Continental Breakfast

FOR HOTEL & BUS PACKAGES IN VANCOUVER OR SEATTLE
CALL: 604-940-4428

Western Canada GAA Championships: A great weekend of hard-fought competition

BURNABY – The chalk lines were drawn and the geese were temporarily scattered at Burnaby Lake Park over the August long weekend, as Fraser Valley Gaels hosted the Western Canadian GAA Championships for the first time.

Months of planning and hard work came to fruition when the tournament opened on Saturday, August 4 with food stands, full-colour programmes, children's activities and, most importantly, plenty of GAA action for all to enjoy.

After a packed schedule of over 20 games on Saturday, the surviving teams earned the opportunity to compete for trophies on Sunday.

The first final of the day was an all-Alberta affair, as the Calgary Chieftains took on Edmonton Wolfe Tones in the Junior Hurling final.

It was the men from Edmonton who triumphed on this occasion, but the Chieftains got their revenge in the men's junior B football final, defeating Edmonton on a scoreline of 3-9 to 3-5.

The senior hurling and camogie competitions were dominated by Vancouver's JP Ryan's, who claimed the top honours in both codes, setting a solid benchmark for the remainder of the season as both teams look towards the North American Championships in Philadelphia.

A similar level of dominance was exhibited in the ladies' senior football competition, as the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club Harps won the Tom Gibbons Cup for the eighth time in 15 seasons – a remarkable testament to the high standards that the club has set for ladies' football in British Columbia over the years.

The junior ladies' football competition concluded with Calgary taking on the hosts Fraser Valley.

This was the first time that the Valley had entered a ladies' team in the tournament and, after a hard year of training and preparation, the players were determined to mark the occasion with some silverware.

Encouraged and inspired by Sinéad Groarke, Aideen Gubbins, Ray O'Farrell, and Ronan Monaghan on the sideline, the hosts took off at a rapid pace from the throw-in and raced into an early lead.

Despite a spirited resurgence from Calgary, the Valley powered through until the final whistle to win out on a scoreline of 1-12 to 2-3, ensuring that the ladies in blue and white would be celebrating into the night.

O'Farrell and Monaghan then took off their 'bainisteoir' bibs to tog out for Fraser Valley in the men's junior football final against Éire Óg, the newcomers to the Vancouver GAA scene who were competing in their first Western Canadian Championships.

After a first half that ended with the teams all-square, Éire Óg took charge of the game and eked out a narrow lead as the second half progressed.

The challenge facing the Valley then steepened when Monaghan was forced off with a bad injury after putting in a typically brave challenge for the ball.

This setback, however, proved to be a rallying point for his teammates as they forged ahead in the final stages of



FRASER VALLEY GAELS – Proud winners of the 2018 Western Canada Men's Championship Trophy.

the game to claim a 3-15 to 5-7 victory.

The last match of the weekend saw Fraser Valley line out again to take on local rivals the ISSC Harps in the men's senior football final.

It proved to be a tense and engaging encounter with hard hits, flurries of skill and pace, and enough scores to keep young scoreboard-operator Conor Crowley hot on his toes for the full hour.

The men in blue and white started the brighter and took a five point lead into the break, but the Harps staged a number of onslaughts upon the resumption and dragged the game back into contention.

It looked as if either team could snatch victory at any moment, but the Valley men stuck resolutely to the masterplan of manager Joe Kelly, and ensured that their advantage didn't slide away.

A scoreline of 2-14 to 4-7 was just enough to allow Valley Captain Killian Foley to collect the Tom Butler cup from the late Mr. Butler's wife, Catholine, in a moment that linked past and present generations, and provided a fitting end to the 2018 Championships.

The weekend could not have been a



WESTERN CANADA GAA CHAMPIONSHIPS – Killian Foley (L) and Denis Ryan (R) of the Fraser Valley Gaels with Catholine Butler following the presentation of the Western Canada Men's Championship Trophy, the Tom Butler Cup, to the winning team.

success without generous contributions from all of the tournament sponsors, particularly Donnellan's Irish Pub on Granville Street, the official partner for the championships.

Fraser Valley Gaels would also like to thank Burnaby Rugby Club for the

provision of their facilities, the tournament's organising committee for their planning and preparation, and everyone who travelled to Burnaby to volunteer and participate over the course of the weekend, making it a tournament to remember.

ISSC victorious at first Vancouver Senior Football Championship

**ISSC VANCOUVER 2-12
FRASER VALLEY GAELS 1-10**

VANCOUVER – The Irish Sporting & Social Club (ISSC) Vancouver, managed by Roscommon native Tadhg Egan, made history in becoming the inaugural winners of the Vancouver Senior Football Championship with a five point win over near rivals Fraser Valley Gaels (FVG) on Sunday, 19 August last.

The ISSC also lifted the Junior Football Championship earlier in the day to make it two from two championship wins.

The game started at an intense and fast pace, with the pick of the first half scores coming from Conor Finnerty and Eamon Quinn.

Both players proved to be a thorn in the side of the Fraser Valley defense throughout the day's proceedings.

Fraser Valley's Danny Loughrey was very clinic in front of goal; the Westmeath native kicked six points for FVG with five of them coming from placed balls.

This ensured the minimum separated ISSC Vancouver and Fraser Valley Gaels at half-time, with FVG leading six points to five at the interval.

The second half started where the first half left off.

ISSC's Eamon Quinn exchanged scores with FVG's Danny Loughrey. However, the pivotal moment of the game proved to come from the introduction of super-sub Sean Corrigan.

The Fermanagh man contributed two goals and three points from play, his first goal started with some great build-up play from Shane Hennelly and Jack Quinn.

The move finished with a shot from Corrigan to the bottom left corner of FVG's net.

The victory was sealed for ISSC when Corrigan slotted home his second goal of the day after Corrigan took on FVG's defence and buried the ball to back of the net within 10 minutes of his first goal.

Corrigan would go on to further his tally by scoring three points from play prior to the full time whistle.

The closing plays of the game saw FVG apply sustained pressure to ISSC, however ISSC held out to win by five points, namely through goalkeeper Niall O'Carroll, full backs Ciaran McGoldrick and Brian Fleming.

Christy Grimes, Conor Doyle and Jack Quinn proved to be very influential in the outcome of the game with some great tackles and all round defensive play.

Alan Dunne and Michael Sweeney dominated in mid-field and provided some excellent passes into ISSC's star forwards on the day, namely Conor Finnerty, Eamon Quinn and Sean Corrigan.

The ISSC Vancouver Captain, Trevor Farrell, raised the David Gavin Cup and dedicated the victory to the late David Gavin, who lined out for ISSC Vancouver last year before his untimely passing in the summer of 2017.

All roads lead to the USGAA finals in Philadelphia where ISSC Vancouver will take on the winners of the Philadelphia championship and Fraser Valley Gaels will play against the champions of San Francisco.



THE IRISH SPORTING & SOCIAL CLUB (ISSC) Vancouver winners of the inaugural Vancouver Senior Football Championship with a five point win over near rivals Fraser Valley Gaels (FVG) on Sunday, August 19.

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.M.

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, CLF, KLSLK, BC

Lambeth Walk, London: Formerly a site of deprivation and misery... until the Luftwaffe took exception

GREETINGS from sunny Bournemouth where summer is hanging on by its fingertips.

This weekend we have the Bournemouth Air show with an expected half a million visitors in town.

I loved it the first few times, but 11 years on even the Red Arrows (The RAF display team) fail to excite.

Over the last three months the weather has been glorious and the experts tell us that it has been the warmest summer for 40 years.

I realise that global warming will potentially destroy the planet, but with the time I have left on it, selfishly, I have no complaints.

Not even a penguin could describe the sea around Britain as being warm but this summer I have bathed several times without shouting "Oh my god," turning blue, or contracting hyperthermia.

After eight weeks of living like a beach bum in Bournemouth it was with some reluctance that I agreed to put some clothes on and head to London to celebrate my birthday, but I am glad I did.

The day began with a London Walk; an experience that is really interesting, great value and a lot of fun.

For £10 which with today's rate of exchange (now that we are a third world country) is about 20€, you get a two hour walking tour of areas of London, with a guide who shows you

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH



By
ELFAN
JONES



THE KING'S ARMS on Roupell Street, Lambeth, London. The street features 70 Georgian houses dates back to 1830.

a completely different view of the city.

We were taken along the south bank of the Thames starting at the Royal Festival Hall which is a 2,500 seat theatre constructed for the 1951 Festival of Britain.

The building is an example of 'Brutalist' architecture which is a French term probably meaning bloody ugly: grey concrete blocks piled on top of each other like something a child would produce with Lego, but consid-

ered artistic by architects and Stalin.

In Georgian times this apparently marshy squalid industrial part of London was where the poor resided but today is a fun area with cafes, street entertainers, market stalls and filled with tourists.

This is Lambeth, Charlie Chaplin's birth place and until the Luftwaffe took exception to it was still an area of deprivation and misery.

Two hundred years ago several of the factories in Lambeth manufactured top hats and used steam from boiling mercury to achieve the sheen on the fur.

Inhaling the vapours caused many workers to go insane – hence the expression "As mad as a hatter."

In the area on which now stands the Imperial War Museum was the Bethlehem Mental Hospital which the locals called the Bedlam. As Michael Caine said, "Not many people know that."

A short walk away from the Festival Hall is Roupell Street which despite Hitler's best efforts is little changed since the 18th Century with cobbled pavements, the same lampposts (powered now by electricity rather than gas) and Georgian terraced houses make this a popular destination for filmmakers.

We walked along the street half expecting to see Oliver Twist or Jack the Ripper lounging in a doorway, or to see Dick Van Dyke pop out of a chimney and with a big cheery grin on his sooty face wishing us a nice day in the worst cockney accent known to man.

In Roupell Street there were metal plaques nailed to the front outside wall of several of the houses, which in the early 18th Century were proof that premiums had been paid to one of the many private fire brigade companies.

Each company had its own plaque design and as there was no public fire service, if a house caught fire the firemen from the various brigades would rush out to deal with it.

If there was no plaque or not their plaque displayed on the wall of the stricken house, they would allow the house to burn down!!

After refreshment in the Kings Arms, a Georgian pub where the lower windows were of clouded glass ostensibly to stop children witnessing scenes of debauchery, but more likely to stop wives seeing their husbands drinking the rent money, we took the tube North for a little retail therapy, and then on to meet friends for dinner and the open air theatre in Regents Park.

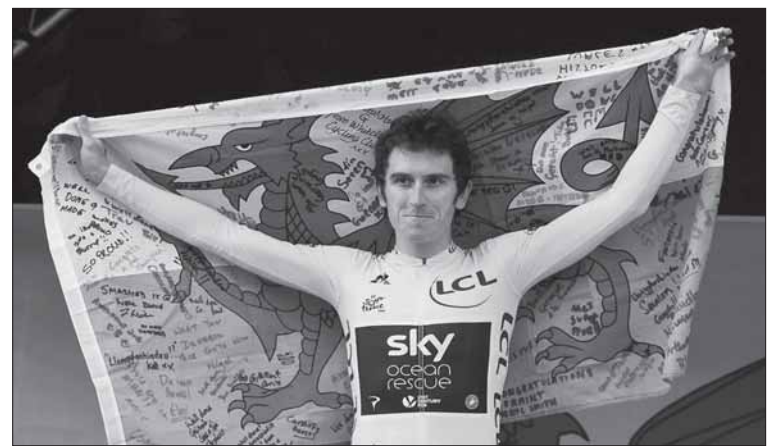
The evening was just magical.

I had seen the show – *The Little Shop of Horrors* – in an amateur production some years ago, and perhaps because the production was unlikely to pick up any drama awards, I was not over excited about seeing it again, but this was vibrant, very funny, and just wonderful.

The meal was superb, with two courses served before the show began then dessert and coffee during the interval.

If you visit London in the summer and the weather is kind then a London Walk and the open air theatre is a great way to spend your time.

Best wishes, Elfan



THIS YEAR'S Tour de France winner, Geraint Thomas, receives a huge Cardiff welcome. He is pictured above on August 9 responding to fans at the Cardiff Welcome Home Celebration.

Welsh Society members enjoy a lovely annual garden party

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Welsh Society's annual summer garden party was held once again this year at the lovely Dunbar residence of Lynn and Wilf Owens-Whalen.

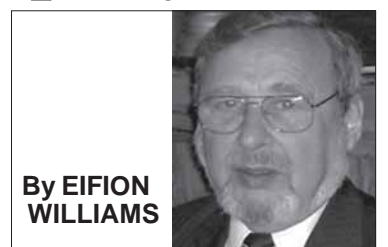
As in the past few years, Lynn and Wilf have welcomed Welsh Society members and friends to their beautiful home and secluded garden for a last summer gathering before the fall series of society events. Guests enjoyed delicious refreshments while catching up on members' summer activities.

Among this year's guests were Ruth and Mark Lloyd and their son Daniel, who were visiting B.C. from Llanelli, Wales. Daniel plans to take up a position with a shipping company in Vancouver.

Some of those present recounted their recent summer travels, including those who attended the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Cardiff.

This year, in addition to the annual Eisteddfod, thousands of Cardiff residents and visitors gave a resounding welcome home to Geraint Thomas, winner of this year's Tour de France. Geraint is the first Welsh cyclist to win this prestigious event.

The only Welsh Society activities to continue throughout the summer months were the popular Welsh lan-



By EIFION
WILLIAMS



guage lessons directed by Dr. Antone Minard.

The lessons will continue in the fall and new learners are welcome. The monthly Welsh-speaking meeting for fluent Welsh speakers will be held on September 17.

Members of the Welsh Society are now looking forward to various fall events. During the month of September, the society's regular activities will resume.

The monthly bilingual service will be held on Sunday, September 9, while the Cambrian Bookworms and the Genealogy group plan to meet on September 12 and 19 respectively. There will be another popular pub/quizz night on Saturday, September 21.

Preparations are also underway for this year's anniversary dinner on October 13 and plans are also underway for the annual Welsh Weekend in November.

Anyone interested in one or more of the above Welsh Society events and activities will find further information on the society's website: www.welshsociety.com.



MEMBERS of the Vancouver Welsh Society attended the annual garden party. (L-R) Llanelli visitors Ruth, Daniel and Mark Lloyd, hosts Lynn and Wilf Owens-Whalen, and Welsh Society Vice-President Paul Lievesley who thanked the Owens-Whalens for their hospitality.

Old Boys Rugby – Answer the Call

By TOM O'SULLIVAN

VANCOUVER – Calling on all Celts to avoid the winter blues and get involved in some rugby, fun and immature behavior with the Old Boys at the Evergreens Rugby Club, Brockton Oval, Vancouver.

Enjoy touch rugby at 5 PM every Wednesday (all year round) followed by a few beers at the Brockton Pavilion. New members are needed in order to have a half decent team for the Over 40's league involving other clubs in the Lower Mainland.

Enjoy a terrific mix of nationalities with players from England, Ireland, Scotland, France, South Africa, Aus-

tralia, New Zealand and many Canadians well schooled in rugby camaraderie.

All levels are welcome from those who have never played rugby before or are not in the greatest of shape, to guys who want to jump in and show off their talents.

Players as young as 38 are eligible to play in the Over 40's league. Hopefully we'll see you soon.

Please feel free to contact current player Tom O'Sullivan at: tomosullivan@hotmail.com, or text (604) 307-5452. Visit the club's website www.EvergreensRugbyVancouver.com.



OLD BOYS RUGBY CLUB - VANCOUVER

What do we know about Neolithic Britain?

The Neolithic Revolution was the world's first verifiable revolution in agriculture. It began in Britain between about 5,000 BC and 4,500 BC but spread across Europe from origins in Syria and Iraq between about 11,000 BC and 9,000 BC.

The period saw the widespread transition of many disparate human cultures from nomadic hunting and gathering practices to ones of farming and building small settlements.

The revolution was responsible for turning small groups of travellers into settled communities who built villages and towns.

Some cultures used irrigation and made forest clearings to better their farming techniques.

Others stored food for times of hunger, and farming eventually created different roles and divisions of labour in societies as well as trading economies.

In the UK, the period was triggered by a huge migration or folk-movement

from across the Channel.

The Neolithic Revolution saw humans in Britain move from groups of nomadic hunter-gatherers to settled communities.

Some of the earliest monuments in Britain are Neolithic structures, including Silbury Hill in Wiltshire.

Today, prehistoric monuments in the UK span from the time of the Neolithic farmers to the invasion of the Romans in AD 43.

Many of them are looked after by English Heritage and range from standing stones to massive stone circles, and from burial mounds to hillforts.

Stonehenge, the most famous prehistoric structure in Europe, possibly the world, was built by Neolithic people, and later finished during the Bronze Age.

Neolithic structures were typically used for ceremonies, religious feasts and as centres for trade and social gatherings.



STONEHENGE, the most famous prehistoric structure in Europe, possibly the world, was built by Neolithic people, and later added to during the early Bronze Age.

80-foot bronze dragon set to tower over Welsh countryside



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION of the planned 120-foot tall dragon installation. It will be surrounded by monolith stones and decorated with scenes from The Mabinogion.

CHIRK, Wales – A striking new image has been released of a 120-foot dragon planned to tower over the Welsh countryside.

The Welsh Dragon project will see an 80-foot bronze dragon installed on top of a 40-foot slate tower near Chirk.

The mammoth installation will then be surrounded by 11 monolith stones decorated with scenes from legendary Welsh text The Mabinogion.

It was given planning permission seven years ago but is now "well on its way" to reaching its £3 million fundraising target.

Welsh jewellery firm Clogau Gold has committed to taking a store at the landmark for at least 10 years, taking it one step closer to reality.

Simon Wingnett, who is leading the project, said, "It's an absolute honour to have such a well-known and respected brand such as Clogau on board and it means we're nearly at the stage

where we can put a spade in the ground and get it built.

He's now aiming to sell 5,000 Welsh slate plaques for £300 which buyers can personalize and will form part of the tower.

It's hoped the Welsh Dragon Project will draw tourists to Wales and boost tourism in the country by £10 million in its first year.

The art auctioneer hopes having the prestigious jewellery on board will also appeal to those wanting to tie the knot at the tourist attraction.

"People will want to get married here. It's a symbol of Welsh culture and people will want to come from all over the world and Clogau is known for its gold wedding bands."

The site will also offer an amphitheatre for performances, a 12-acre garden and a Welsh centre of excellence containing a cafe, sandwich bar and merchandise shop and art gallery.



BRÚ NA BÓINNE, which means the 'palace' or the 'mansion' of the Boyne in Gaelge, refers to the area within the bend of the River Boyne which contains one of the world's most important prehistoric landscapes. One of the most globally recognized is Newgrange a 5,200-year-old passage tomb located in the Boyne Valley.

Megalithic tomb uncovered in Ireland is the 'find of a lifetime'

DUBLIN – Archaeologists in Ireland have uncovered a 5,500-year-old megalithic passage tomb which has been branded the "find of a lifetime."

Experts announced the "significant" discovery this summer on farmland near 18th Century Dowth Hall in the Brú na Bóinne, or Boyne Valley Tombs, World Heritage Site.

The excavation uncovered two burial chambers, as well as six kerbstones, which would have formed part of a ring of stones that followed the perimeter of the cairn.

One kerbstone is heavily decorated with Neolithic carvings and represents one of the most impressive discoveries of megalithic art in Ireland for decades, experts say.

The research was carried out by the University College Dublin's (UCD) school of archaeology.

The finds were made at County Meath, on land owned by Belfast-based agriculture and technology company Devenish, around 25 miles (40 kilometres) north of Dublin.

To date, two burial chambers have been discovered within the western part of the main passage tomb, over which a large stone cairn – 130 feet (40 metres) in diameter – was raised.

During the project, a further two possible satellite tombs were also found.

Dr. Clíodhna Ní Lionáin, Devenish's lead archaeologist for the project, said, "For the archaeologists involved in this discovery, it is truly the find of a lifetime."

Dr. Steve Davis, from UCD School of Archaeology, added, "This is the most significant megalithic find in Ireland in the last 50 years, since the excavation of Knowth."

"The spate of archaeological discoveries in Brú na Bóinne in recent weeks highlights what a globally significant place this is."

As well as the large passage tombs, other significant discoveries have been made as part of an on-going programme



DR. CLÍODHNA NÍ LIONÁIN (pictured), Devenish's lead archaeologist for the project, said, "For the archaeologists involved in this discovery, it is truly the find of a lifetime." Detailed 5,500 year-old stone carvings discovered in the Boyne Valley are the "most impressive in decades."



DR. STEVE DAVIS, from UCD School of Archaeology, also said: "This is the most significant megalithic find in Ireland in the last 50 years, since the excavation of Knowth." This image shows archaeologists at work on the site

of archaeological research work on land's owned by Devenish at Dowth over the past five years.

This has increased the number of recorded monuments in the area from eight to 13. There are six distinct heritage landscapes on the Devenish Lands at Dowth dating from 5,500 years ago.

This includes Middle Neolithic passage tombs, a Late Neolithic henge and associated structures, and a Bronze Age enclosure.

It also includes at least two high-status Early Medieval enclosures, Late Medieval settlements and the demesne landscape created around Dowth Hall in the 1700s.

Speaking about the latest finding on Twitter, UCD researcher Dr. Ciaran McDonn added, "To say this is big news is an understatement."

"The passage tomb, and a number of satellite tombs, is the biggest discovery in the Boyne Valley, if not Irish archaeology, in decades."