

# the celtic connection

ISSUE 28 VOLUME 3

*Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991*

MARCH/APRIL 2019



## *Awaken to Spring! St. Patrick's Day Celebrated Around the World*

PHOTO: Tourism Ireland

ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL Parade in Dublin, Ireland. This year's festival features a spectacular five-day family program with the very best of traditional and contemporary storytelling integrated into the whole festival. [Read more in our interview with Dana Welch, Manager for Tourism Ireland in Canada on page 12]

### WIN FREE TICKETS OR A GIFT BASKET!

Win a pair (2 tickets) to Festival du Bois at Parc Mackin, Coquitlam on March 22-24 (your choice of days). See page 5 for more details. Mark your entry Festival du Bois and include your name and daytime telephone number. Entry by March 15.

You could win an 'Irish Basket' with a large 'Paddy Pie', Irish white pudding & black pudding sausages from Black Pudding Imports in Langley. Check out their weekly sales on Facebook. (See page 11 for more info). Mark your entry Black Pudding and include your name and daytime telephone number. Entry by April 17.

All entries by e-mail only to: [cbutler@telus.net](mailto:cbutler@telus.net) (only one entry per person).



WILLIAM DONNELLAN, an Irish success story. Read how his enterprising spirit led him to emerge from the financial crash in Ireland to re-build in Vancouver, B.C. [See page 6]

CELEBRATE the 48th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Seattle, WA on Saturday, March 16. This year's annual St. Patrick's Festival runs March 16 & 17 at the Seattle Centre and admission is FREE [Read more page 24].



**ALSO INSIDE: OUR SPECIAL ST. PATRICK'S GREETINGS SECTION - PAGE 12**

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**CELTIC PERSON OF THE YEAR**

WARMEST congratulations to Jane Byrne, this year's annual Celtic Person of the Year. Jane is a long-serving member of the Vancouver Welsh Society. She will be presented with her award by Harry Cussen, President of the Vancouver CelticFest Society, at the Welsh Men's Choir concert on Saturday, March 16 at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver.

HOSTED AT THE EDMONTON IRISH CENTRE

# Rose of Tralee

Selection Night Saturday, May 25

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# A Light of Faith and Hope Burns in the Season of Spring

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE



WE count our days against the constant of the setting sun and the rising moon. While the cycle naturally ripples through each day, and year, the pattern itself quietly becomes our reason to be.

We live lifetimes because we have them, we spend the days in orderly or disorderly ways, we decorate the ribbon first with our discoveries and dramas, and then with our memories. We pass.

Yet, the guarantee of days and nights, while we have them, can offer us more than the clock which counts out our lives. It provides us faith to live out the life that is truly ours.

John O'Donahue was a Catholic scholar. His work, *Anam Cara*, opened the eyes and hearts of many, offering reflections on universal human themes.

Every so often, I open the book for a thought or two.

He writes, "Deep within every life, no matter how dull or ineffectual it may

FESTIVAL OF FIRES, Hill of Uisneach, Co. Westmeath, Ireland. On Beltaine (May time), a fire was lit on Uisneach to celebrate the coming of summer.

seem from the outside, there is something eternal happening."

Spring is a season of hope and return, of a better or at least different way forward.

Within the Celtic spring from Imbolg to Beltaine, the vernal equinox (this year on March 20, 2019), St. Patrick's Day, and Easter are woven into our tapestry of time.

For ancient or modern, these festivals bridge nature and inspire divine.

These special days give us a chance to renew our faith in the certitude of nature.

They can also stand to renew our own faith in the unique light that is a core aspect of each soul, as Donahue notes, "something eternal."

It is the work of theologians and philosophers to piece together that "something eternal."

For others, it is enough to rest with Donahue's statement which echoes throughout human time, about a hidden, but eternal aspect of our journey here on the blue planet.

The suffering on this planet is immense.

War zones thrive on the landscape and in the heart. No one can prove divinity is a committed do-gooder. Our consciousness controls how that die is cast.

Against the natural backdrop, our lives can play out in lock-step fashion, living, betraying, repenting, and dying.

Or against that same natural backdrop, we can struggle with the gifts we are given and the circumstances by which we are challenged.

Mediocrity or authenticity, one returns to dust, the other rings on through the ages.

The choice is yours. In any season, in any otherwise tiring work day, recognize the hidden light making its way into the world it is you.

**Irish Women's Network of BC**

**Community Mapping Project**  
Attention all Irish organizations/groups/networks in BC:

If you have not yet registered for the Community Mapping Project, make sure you complete the survey so your group is included.

[Irishwomenbc.net/](http://Irishwomenbc.net/)  
[Irish-community-mapping-project](http://Irish-community-mapping-project)

Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Vancouver  
Consulate General of Ireland | Vancouver  
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**A very Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!**

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They say you should always listen to your heart, and it wants to be in the right place.

Find your way home at [Ireland.com](http://Ireland.com)

# Irish Talent Show Sparkles

VANCOUVER – It was quite the night on Saturday, February 23, with a sold out concert featuring 14 finalists at the ‘Irish in Vancouver’s Got Talent’ talent show, and providing an amazing variety of entertainment.

The winner was Brian O’Brien with his golden Limerick voice. In second place was Matt Bagshaw, a remarkable hula hoop acrobat who could easily be a star in Cirque du Soleil, and third was Sian Colman, an operatic soprano from Dublin.

People are already asking about next year’s show.

Many thanks to the fantastic committee from the Irish Sporting and Social Club for inviting CelticFest to co-host.

Some six years ago, CelticFest approached the Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir and invited them to participate in the festival.

We suggested incorporating bagpipes and Irish dancing into their repertoire which the choir adapted. Their annual CelticFest concert is now a big fan favourite.

If you want to experience over 100 magnificent voices singing old favour-



By HARRY CUSSEN

ites like *The Fields of Athenry* or *Carrigfergus* or *Loch Lomond* or *Men of Harlech* in one of our most beautiful intimate Vancouver settings – Christ Church Cathedral – don’t miss the opportunity on Saturday, March 16.

For those who would rather dance the night away, on the same night, March 16, we have the CelticFest Vancouver Ceilidh 2019 taking place at the Scottish Centre in Marpole. Entertainment provided by Blackthorn and friends.

Playwright Joan Bryans is from Scotland and a longtime resident of Vancouver.

She loves to write about strong women, so when she saw a photo of a rebellious lady with rifle in hand involved in the Irish Rising of 1916, she was intrigued.

She had discovered Countess Markovitz and after much research,

the result is Joan’s new play *Changed Utterly*.

This verbatim drama is part of our festival and is currently running at the Jericho Arts Centre. We urge you to see a performance and experience Easter 1916 through the eyes of the participants.

On St. Patrick’s Day, CelticFest will co-host along with the Consulate General Ireland Vancouver and the Rogue Folk Club a FREE FAMILY DAY at St. James Hall on West 10th Avenue.

There will be live music, Irish wolfhounds, face painting, arts and crafts and lots of fun. A concert featuring Tim Readman and Gerard Kerr will take place that evening with a cover charge.

Lastly, we are aiming to restart the St. Patrick’s Day Parade next year and are actively pursuing sponsors but we will also need help from Vancouver City Hall in reducing their charges which are exorbitant.

CelticFest will shortly be electing a new board of directors and would appreciate hearing from all talented individuals who have an interest in helping this worthwhile annual event.

For more information about joining the CelticFest Vancouver board of directors or volunteering for the festival, e-mail: hcussen@aol.com.

## ISSC Vancouver

### St. Patrick’s Day Tournament

On March 17, the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club (ISSC) will host their annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration at Andy Livingstone Park, located on Expo Boulevard in Vancouver.

There will be mens’ and ladies Gaelic football tournaments, along with hurling and camogie exhibitions.

Teams will participate from the Fraser Valley Gaels, Éire Óg, JP Ryans and the Vancouver Cougars Australian Football Club. There will also be youth coaching from a visiting GAA coach.

The event is open to all ages and to all members of the public. It will be held from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

# SFU Pipe Band poised to deliver another exciting show at the Vogue

VANCOUVER – There is a buzz of excitement growing, as the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band gets ready for its upcoming evening concert at the Vogue Theatre on Saturday, April 13.

The internationally-renowned band has a long history of delivering exhilarating and moving performances to packed audiences around the world, including concerts at the Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Sydney Opera House and the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

The band has performed at the Vogue several times, and it was selected again by Pipe Major Alan Bevan because “it is one of our favourite venues, with the acoustics lending themselves especially well to a pipe band performance,” adding that “it may come as a surprise to some that most concert halls are not designed with pipe bands in mind!”

While the six-time world champion pipe band has a huge focus on competition, travelling to the World Pipe Band Championships every year, they also enjoy having the opportunity to stretch themselves musically outside of the competition circle.

Concerts at venues like the Vogue allow the band to be more creative, take bigger risks, and play the sort of music that is not always accepted or fully appreciated in the more conservative milieu of a pipe band contest.

“The band is really fired up about delivering a great show on our home turf,” continues Pipe Major Bevan. “We will be showcasing some exciting new music and revisiting some old favourites as well.”

Andrew Lee, a long-time member of the SFU pipe corps, shares Bevan’s enthusiasm. “The SFU Pipe Band is really excited to get back on the con-



THE SFU PIPE BAND competing at the 2017 World Pipe Band Championships in Scotland.

cert stage. It has been a number of years since we have put on a concert in Vancouver.”

Lee was recently appointed as the new director for SFU Pipe Band’s youth music program, the Robert Malcolm Memorial Pipe Band (RMM).

This year marks RMM’s 25th anniversary, and as part of that celebration they will be joining the SFU Pipe Band on stage at the Vogue.

For Lee, “RMM has been a huge part of my life since a very young age. Not only did it provide me with a tremendous place to learn the bagpipes, but I have developed relationships that have lasted my whole life.”

Founded in 1994, over 2,000 young pipers and drummers have participated in RMM, with the juvenile bands achieving global excellence by winning world titles on five occasions.

They currently field four pipe bands as well as running introductory music classes for beginners.

The senior juvenile band will be travelling in August 2019 to compete for

the first time in the North American Pipe Band Championships, which will be held in Maxville, Ontario.

The future of the SFU Pipe Band is strong, with a great mix of experience and young, up-and-coming players.

Pipe Major Bevan has felt a tremendous rise in the self-confidence of the band over the past few years, and is “hearing that reflected in the passion that comes through when we play our music. I foresee us becoming more musically adventurous and virtuosic in the coming years.”

The all-ages SFU Pipe Band concert will be on Saturday, April 13 at 7 PM, with doors opening at 6 PM. Tickets are \$28.50-\$38.50 and are available for online purchase through the Eventbrite website: [www.eventbrite.ca/e/sfu-pipe-band-in-concert-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sfu-pipe-band-in-concert-tickets).

[For more information on the SFU Pipe Band and the Robert Malcolm Memorial Pipe Band, visit their website: [sfupipeband.com](http://sfupipeband.com). For more information on the concert, contact Maria Roth at: [info@sfupipeband.com](mailto:info@sfupipeband.com).]

## CELTIC FEST VANCOUVER

FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 20, 2019

**WELSH MEN'S CHOIR**  
MAR 16 - \$27-\$40

**CELTIC FEST CEILIDH**  
MAR 16 - \$20-\$25

**St. Patrick's Day FAMILY CELEBRATION**  
MAR 17 - FREE

**Changed Utterly**  
FEB 22 - MAR 16 - \$14-\$28

**WELSH MEN'S CHOIR**  
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690 Burrard Street  
<https://vwmc.ca>  
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**'CHANGED UTTERLY'**  
Written and directed by Joan Bryans  
Jericho Arts Theatre  
1675 Discovery Street  
[www.vitalsparktheatre.co](http://www.vitalsparktheatre.co)  
[www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

**CELTIC FEST CEILIDH**  
Scottish Cultural Centre  
8886 Hudson Street  
[www.blackthornband.com](http://www.blackthornband.com)  
[blackthornband.eventbrite.com](http://blackthornband.eventbrite.com)

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION**  
St. James Hall - 3214 West 10th Avenue  
1:30pm - 4:30pm  
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

Presented by Rogue Folk Club  
**COIG IN CONCERT**  
Saturday, March 9 - 9 PM  
Tickets: \$30

**IMAR IN CONCERT**  
Wednesday, March 20 - 8 PM  
Tickets: \$28

St. James Hall - 3214 West 10th Avenue  
Tickets: [www.roguefolk.com](http://www.roguefolk.com)  
Highlife Records or Tapestry Music

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# Some wonderful concerts coming up for St. Patrick's Day and Vancouver CelticFest

**V**ANCOUVER – March Madness is upon us! Not basketball, but music!!

There are some wonderful concerts coming up as we celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** and **CelticFest** (not to mention **Festival du Bois**, and a whole bunch of shows which are not quite so Celtic!!) Read on for more ...

Meanwhile, if March is shaping up to be mad, how about February?

The Rogue held its second annual fiddle festival – **The Driven Bow** – over the February 8-11 weekend, with stellar performances by the likes of **Ashley MacIsaac**, **De Temps Antan**, **The Revelers**, **Daniel Lapp & co.**, **Genticorum**, and **Qristina & Quinn Bachand**. It was a fantastic event!

Four concerts and eight workshops later, we (seven Rogue board members and staff) headed to Montreal the very next day for the **Folk Alliance International Conference**: Five days packed with hundreds of showcases, dozens of panels and peer group sessions, and thousands of musicians and radio DJs and presenters from all around the world.

We even joined in with a syndicated re-creation of John & Yoko's famous **Bed-In** – which took place in that same hotel 50 years ago.

Some of the standout performers included Scotland's **Manran**, Newfoundland's **The Dardanelles**, Quebec's **Le Vent Du Nord**, PEI's **The East Pointers** and **Vishten**, France's top Celtic band **Doolin?**, and young Irish combo **Moxie**.

We got back to town just in time for **Roguelele Night** – and the **Danny Michel** concert the next night!

This month we've already presented the lovely **Rosie & The Riveters** from Saskatoon, and Cuban-born harmonica virtuoso **Carlos del Junco**.

Now we are gearing up for the return of Cape Breton's **Coig** – in my humble opinion the finest Celtic band in Canada these days.

Their twin fiddle attack of **Chrissy Crowley** and **Rachel Davis** is stellar. Rachel also sings in Gaelic and English.

They are driven along by the musical dexterity of **Darren McMullen** on everything with strings and Cheticamp pianist **Jason Roach**.

They release their fourth CD, **Ashlar**, on March 15 but assure me they will have copies available when they perform at St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue in Kitsilano) on **Saturday, March 9**.

This concert kicks off The Rogue's involvement with the 2019 edition of **CelticFest Vancouver**. Not a bad way to start things off, eh?

There is a Ceilidh at the Scottish Cultural Centre (8886 Hudson Street in Marpole) on Saturday, March 16 with the fine local Celtic band **Blackthorn** playing the tunes, along with special guests **The BC Regiment Irish Pipes & Drums**, **Shot of Scotch** Highland dancers, and **De Danaan** Irish Dancers. That sounds like a lot of fun!



By  
**STEVE  
EDGE**

## THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB

We are delighted that the **Vancouver Irish Consulate** has been organizing events to bring together the various Irish/Celtic groups around town since they opened up here in Vancouver late last year.

They are also sponsoring a free afternoon **St. Patrick's Day Family Celebration** at St. James Hall on The Day – **Sunday, March 17** – it starts at 1:30 PM and runs until 4:30 PM.

There will be a concert set by Irish musician **Brian O'Brien** and **Paul Caldwell**, an open seisiun, some drop-in Gaelic lessons, Irish food, Irish Wolfhounds, arts & crafts, face-painting for kids, and a cash bar.

We really hope you can come down to join in the celebrations – of the day, and even more, of the community.

That evening there is a concert in the hall, featuring Vancouver trio **Fear Of Drinking**. Singer/guitarist **Tim Readman** teams up with brilliant Scots-Canadian fiddler **Shona Le Mottee**, and they will be joined by Kiwi singer **Gerard Kerr** to reprise **Fear of Drinking** – both to mark the occasion with some trad Celtic songs and originals, and some fiddle tunes, and to promote the release of a lost archive recording of the band from a European tour in 1999 – *Live in Zurich*.

The evening will start with a shining example of the Irish diaspora in Canada: twin sisters **Alanna and Brianne Finn-Morris**, aka **Fionn**, who released their eponymous debut CD last year.

It's acoustic pop-folk with a distinct flavour of their Celtic roots. Their harmony singing is quite breathtaking!

Two days later why not come back to the Rogue to sing along and strum your ukulele to some Irish songs at **Roguelele Night**? Then, on Wednesday 20th comes the Vancouver debut of an amazing powerhouse Celtic quintet based in Glasgow: **Ímar**.

“At a time when fast-and-furious is fashionable, **Ímar** stand out. Even playing at breakneck speed, they retain a lightness of touch, fingertip control, and deep sensitivity to the supple interplay between the instruments.” – *Paul Matheson, Roots magazine*.

With prestigious BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2015, 2016 and 2018, as well as Folk Band of 2017 at the MG Alba Scots Trad Awards this band is absolutely stunning!

The lineup is **Mohsen Amini** (concertina) from Glasgow; **Ryan Murphy** (uilleann pipes, flute, whistle) from Cork; **Tomas Callister** (fiddle) and **Adam Rhodes** (bouzouki) from the Isle of Man; and **Adam Brown** (bodhran, guitar) from Suffolk.

Having first met through the



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**, March 17, there will be an evening concert at St. James Hall featuring Vancouver trio **Fear Of Drinking**. Singer/guitarist **Tim Readman** teams up with brilliant Scots-Canadian fiddler **Shona Le Mottee**, and they will be joined by Kiwi singer **Gerard Kerr**.

**Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann** as young lads, they became a band at **Celtic Connections** in 2015 and have gone from strength-to-strength.

They released their debut CD, *Afterlight*, in 2016 and the follow-up *Avalanche* late last year.

We saw them at **Celtic Colours** in Cape Breton in 2017 and were amazed! We're so pleased to be able to bring them to town for the first time.

There's another top-notch Irish musician heading to town at the end of the month, too.

Irish harpist and singer **Maire Ni Chathasaigh** last played The Rogue in 1992!

She's performed out here – at the **Mission Folk Festival** – just once since then, and it's a very rare treat to be able to hear this wonderful singer.

She'll be accompanied by the scintillating guitar work of her husband, Yorkshire-born **Chris Newman** – himself a master of many styles of music, ranging from the most intricate jazz to dynamic swing and ragtime as well as Celtic and folk and blues.

They play The Rogue on Friday, March 29. Info for all Rogue shows is on [www.roguefolk.com](http://www.roguefolk.com).

Don't forget to “flaunt your Frenchness” at the 30th annual **Festival du Bois** in Maillardville on March 23 and 24 at Mackin Park.

One of this year's themes is Acadian music, with the brilliant trio **Vishten**, and **Les Tireux d'Roches** among the guests. Info at [www.festivaldubois.ca](http://www.festivaldubois.ca).

One of Ireland's very best trad bands returns to the Lower Mainland on Wednesday, March 27. **Lúnasa** hasn't played in these parts for many a year, but they are back!

I saw them last February in Portland, where they gave me copy of their latest CD, *Cas*. It's unique for them: there are five songs by a variety of guest vocalists including **Natalie Merchant**, **Daoiri Farrell**, and **Eric Bibb**.

All their previous albums are totally instrumental. And why not? The band

boasts some of the very best musicians in Ireland, including **Kevin Crawford** on flute, **Cillian Vallely** on uilleann pipes, and Manchester-born **Colin Farrell** on fiddle.

They play West Van's **Kay Meek Theatre**. There are still a few good seats left. Click <https://kaymeek.com/events/lunasa>. Don't miss them!!

The pick of the new releases this month is **The Gloaming 3** (Real World Records).

**Martin Hayes** and co. have come up with another superb album, setting to music two poems by Ireland's **Liam O'Muirthile**, one by **Sean O'Riordan**, and one by 17th Century poet **Eoghan Ruadh mac Uilliam Og Mic an Bhaire** (names I'm very unlikely to attempt to pronounce on my radio show!! Maybe I should take advantage of those drop-in Gaelic lessons first!!).

Of course, they also offer up some incredible tune medleys as well. What a

great band!

A couple of “discoveries” at Folk Alliance: Welsh trio **The Trials Of Cato** are three young lads who play various stringed instruments on trad songs and tunes with great intricacy and alacrity on their debut CD, *Hide & Hair*.

The Irish quartet **Nava**, comprising two Iranian brothers on santoor and tar, and two young Irishmen – one from the trad world and one who specializes in bluegrass!

Their debut CD is called *Tapestry*, and their Irish/Persian fusion of *Banish Misfortune* is especially wonderful!

I invite you to tune in to **The Saturday Edge On Folk** every Saturday from 8 AM to noon on CiTR fm 101.9 and [www.citr.ca](http://www.citr.ca) to hear music by these – and heaps of other performers. I've been hosting this show since June 1985 and there just never seems to be enough time to play all the new (and old) music I get so excited about!

*Slainte, Steve*



**ÍMAR**, an amazing powerhouse Celtic quintet based in Glasgow, will make their Vancouver debut at The Rogue on Wednesday, March 20.

# Celebrating 30 years of sharing the joy of French culture at Festival du Bois

COQUITLAM – This year’s Festival du Bois, March 22-24 at Mackin Park in Maillardville/Coquitlam celebrates three special occasions.

First, 2019 marks the festival’s 30th anniversary of presenting the finest in French Canadian and francophone music and culture to a broad-based audience of people of all cultures from the Lower Mainland and beyond.

Second, the World Acadian Congress, a gathering of people of Acadian heritage from all over the world happens in August in Nova Scotia.

The event is held every five years since 1994 with the last gathering in 2014 drawing over 100,000 attendees.

And thirdly, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Canada’s Official Languages Act.

There is a lot of all three milestones in the music groups you’ll see performing in the Grand Chapiteau – the huge heated tent on the festival site.

What began three decades ago as a festival that presented the rich traditions of predominantly traditional Québécois folk music has evolved into a dynamic and diverse, music-focused three-day event that incorporates the voices and sounds of French-speaking artists from a range of cultures, genres and places.

This year you can experience everything from brilliant fiddling and foot percussion to an extraordinary Innu songwriter from Quebec to brilliant African guitar. Festival du Bois embraces the best of tradition, creativity and innovation.

And while the festival prides itself on showcasing a broad range of francophone musical artistry from across Canada and beyond, this year also sees an exciting focus on Acadian music and culture.

The Acadians are the descendants of French settlers who came to North America, to what is now Nova Scotia as well as Maritime areas, from 1604 onward.

They brought their rich music and culture with them, and despite being challenged by forced expulsion from their



COMTÉ DE CLARE are from Baie Sainte-Marie (Clare), an Acadian region in south-western Nova Scotia. This new trio performs a new kind of tradition-based music merging traditional Nova Scotian sounds with electronic music.

lands in 1755, years of severe hardship, struggle and eventual return in much diminished numbers, maintained a strong and vibrant identity.

The three bands with roots in Acadia performing at this year’s festival are proof of the cultural vitality that exists to this day.

The talented singers and multi-instrumentalists of the trio Vishtën hail from both PEI and the Magdalen Islands. Their dazzling music fuses Acadian and Celtic genres with other indie, folk and rock influences.

New Brunswick’s Seconde Nation is a folk quartet that plays music rooted in the Acadian tradition along with their own compositions, combining storytelling, music and comedy in highly entertaining shows.

From Baie Sainte-Marie (Clare), an Acadian region in south-western Nova Scotia, comes Comté de Clare. This new trio performs a new kind of tradition-based music. Their sound features live instruments as well as pre-recorded and live-mix sequences to merge traditional Nova Scotian sounds with electronic music.

These groups join the renowned Québec group, Les Tireux d’Roches, on the roster. With roots in the Mauricie region of the province, this traditional Québécois folk quintet has been a much-loved fixture on the international touring scene for over 20 years, performing at festivals and con-

certs around the world.

Also in the lineup: The singer-songwriter, Shauit, is from north-eastern Québec’s Maliotenam region and sings in Innu, French and English. His songs mix Innu traditional music, indigenous folk and a variety of other popular genres.

Alpha Yaya Diallo is an outstanding guitarist and singer from West Africa with a global reputation for successfully uniting the traditional and the contemporary; Jou Tou, the duo of André Thibault and Qiu Xia He, are world music virtuosos who lend their formidable chops to French music from around the globe.

André Thériault is a consummate entertainer, sharing songs from the grand French Canadian oral tradition – the music of La Bolduc, Félix Leclerc and others.

A very family-friendly event, the festival features the children’s tent, a great place for kids and families. This year’s talented line-up of performers includes the popular Will Stroet, André Thériault, Jean Pierre Makosso, La Boussole and Podorythmie.

2019 at Festival du Bois is a celebration of the festival’s 30 years, the vitality of Acadian music and the rich francophone culture and heritage that surrounds us.

For more information, go to [www.festivaldubois.ca](http://www.festivaldubois.ca).



## Rogue Folk Club

we invite you to join us at our own CelticFest

[www.roguefolk.com](http://www.roguefolk.com)

**Saturday, March 9th**  
Canada's finest Celtic band!!



**Còig NS**

**Wed., March 20th**



Amazing Pan-Celtic Supergroup  
**Imar** Manx/Scot/Eire

**Sunday, March 17th**

St. Patrick's Day evening concert

**Fear of Drinking BC**  
**Fionn BC**

**Friday, March 29th**

Renowned Celtic harp/ guitar duo

**Maire Ni Chathasaigh & Chris Newman** Eire

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

Tickets & Info (604) 736-3022

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## Hearts Beat 2019: An evening of cultural sharing

VANCOUVER – Last year the UBC Learning Exchange team created a new event where traditional First Nations and Irish drum players could gather to learn from each other in a cultural exchange.

After two drum/bodhran workshops, they hosted with the support of the Carnegie Centre the first Hearts Beat event which included music, dance, and stories.

The event was so successful that in 2019 the Annual Hearts Beat will be held in a larger venue at the Carnegie Centre Theatre to increase participation and celebration.

The organizers are excited about this year’s event with the collaboration of the UBC Learning Exchange, Carnegie Community Centre, and Irish in Vancouver.

Hearts Beat 2019 will be held at the Carnegie Centre Theatre located at 401



HEARTS BEAT 2019 presented by the UBC Learning Exchange offers two workshops on First Nations and Irish drumming.

Main Street in Vancouver on Thursday, March 14. Doors open at 5:30 PM and performance at 6 PM. For more information, call (604) 827-2772.



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# Since arriving in Canada just 10 years ago Irish immigrant William Donnellan has built an empire

**S**INCE arriving in Vancouver 10 years ago as a young Irish immigrant, businessman William Donnellan has blazed a path and accomplished so much at a dizzying pace.

First he established the hugely successful IRL Construction, then he went on to open Donnellan's Irish Pub on Granville Street in the downtown Vancouver entertainment district, and now last December he launched Donnellan's Chipper.

While building his local empire, William seems to be absolutely thriving and enjoying every minute of it. As he says himself, "there are a lot more plans still to be accomplished."

A native of Craughwell, Co. Galway, William arrived in Vancouver in 2009 looking for work with an eye to eventually establishing his own construction business.

In Ireland William had his own small but busy construction company that specialized in carpentry.

When the economic collapse hit Ireland, construction was one of the hardest hit areas and, like so many others, his business soon collapsed and ground to a halt.

Upon arrival in Canada, William soon found work in construction in Vancouver and in 2011 he set up his own company – IRL construction.

He worked night and day in the beginning – when he finished work at IRL he would go to another location and build sun decks until midnight.

Now, it's been five years since *The Celtic Connection* first sat down to speak with William and big changes have taken place in his life.

First, he married his childhood sweetheart Laura Newell and the couple welcomed their first child – a son – named Larla.

Larla made a dramatic entrance into this world on the night of the official opening night of the new Donnellan's Irish Pub.

William recalls, "Our amazing young son, Larla was born 10 weeks premature on August 4, 2017 at 3:30 PM, the same day and exact time as the official opening of Donnellan's Irish Pub. Obviously, he wasn't missing the party."

Fortunately, he said, "my family was over from Ireland for the official opening and my parents cut the red ribbon on behalf of the Donnellan Group."

William continued, "In 2018 we established and opened Donnellan's Chipper and Bar, also in the downtown Vancouver entertainment district. It specializes in Irish fare that is mostly missed here by the many from Ireland."

This year, the Donnellan Group is full speed ahead.

William said, "This year, we established the IRL Group – a parent company for the following departments: IRL Skilled Labour Hire, IRL Safety, IRL Moving and Waste Disposal, and IRL Development."



By  
**CATHOLINE  
BUTLER**

*"Our amazing young son, Larla was born 10 weeks premature on August 4, 2017 at 3:30 PM, the same day and exact time as the official opening of Donnellan's Irish Pub. Obviously, he wasn't missing the party."*



GAA football jerseys on display.

It's this enterprising spirit that led William to establish Donnellan's Irish Pub.

He said, "I saw the need to open an Irish bar in the city that was Irish owned and Irish operated.

"We have invested in the community and it has most definitely paid off such as getting behind the local soccer teams, GAA teams and Irish film festival.

"We bring in the GAA games from Ireland and show them live here such as hurling and Gaelic football. We are the only venue in Vancouver that shows the GAA live.

"Early on in the season there may not be the big crowds to watch the games but certainly as it goes on in the season there will be the crowds.

"I was here last year for the All Ireland Hurling Final between Galway and Limerick, and we had a packed house.

"I wanted to go home to Ireland to see the match but just couldn't do it but it was really nice to have the atmosphere and the spirit here and was the next best thing to being in Croke Park for the game."

He laughed and said, "I think the Limerick crowd put in that extra little bit of effort because they knew a Galway man owned Donnellan's Pub....we didn't come out on the right end but Limerick were a long time waiting."

William has a strong GAA connection. At home, he started playing hurling with his local club at the age of 10.

Craughwell has a senior team and William represented Galway in the minor under 21. He has played in Croke Park several times which he describes as an intimidating experience.

Here in Vancouver, William coached the Joseph P. Ryan hurling team and in 2014 the team won the North American Junior A Hurling Championship in Boston which he describes as a momentous sense of achievement.

Those accomplishments are on display at Donnellan's Irish Pub with trophy cups behind the bar and lots of signed inter-county jerseys. More trophies can be seen in a trophy case at the pub.

When time permits, he still likes to play hurling with the team.

Strangely enough, it was a trophy that inspired William to open his own pub.

After playing and winning a trophy, he asked a local pub if they would display the trophy up behind their bar.

They responded with a flat out no, and that's when he decided to open his own bar. Hence, Donnellan's Irish Pub was born.

Speaking about upcoming changes at IRL Construction, William said 2019 is going to be a very exciting year for the company.

He said, "We're going to change the structure at IRL, adding some other companies such as IRL Moving and Waste Disposal, which has already started.

"IRL Construction will change to the IRL Group and underneath that group will be IRL Moving and Waste Disposal, IRL Skilled Labour Hire and IRL Development, and IRL Safety Division. You could say, there will be four companies under that IRL umbrella."

Continuing, William said, "We're also going to acquire our own real estate and begin developing multi-family homes in the Fraser Valley.

"We're currently looking at property and have a good team put together now on our board of directors and it's looking very promising.

"We have also looked into modular homes since they are popping up all over the place but we think multi-family homes may suit us better since we have access to labour."

According to William, people are one of the biggest assets with his company.

He said, "We have about 100 employees and skilled workers and that's probably our biggest asset.

"Sixty to 70 percent of our workforce is Irish but if a good carpenter comes through our doors and if he has the qualifications and skills that we're looking for then he will be hired."

At the time of our meeting, William had just returned from a whirlwind week-long visit home to Ireland.

He spoke about the uncertainty and some of the concerns around Brexit at the moment.

"There is a big concern, and many are



WILLIAM DONNELLAN (L), Managing Director of the IRL Group, and Johnny McDonnell (R), Manager of Donnellan's Irish Pub in Vancouver.



IRL CONSTRUCTION on site at a residential development project in east Vancouver.

wondering if there will be a hard border. It's really hard to know. It will definitely affect the economy, possibly leading to another recession in Ireland.

"This is a real concern for farmers or anyone exporting products such as beef, it's all just so unknown at the moment."

Continuing, he explained how Ireland is bringing in new regulations to comply with fossil fuel reduction. They are getting rid of solid fuels and turning to heat recovery systems such as solar panels and electricity.

"I saw some homes being built now that have no chimneys because you are not allowed to have solid fuel

anymore, there will be no more briquettes or coal, turf will be gone and no more oil.

"The government is going to clamp down on it and it will be illegal.

"Everyone will have to bring their homes up to speed to comply and it's going to cost people a lot of money. The government will compensate maybe 50 percent or maybe not at all."

It will be interesting to see how it all plays out in the coming months and years.

Going forward, one thing is certain, it will be exciting to watch what other gems William Donnellan and the IRL Group will be adding to the Donnellan empire.



## TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR MARCH

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

[www.worldbeatcanada.com](http://www.worldbeatcanada.com).

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

1. *Step Up* by Afro Celt Sound System - *Flight* on ECC Records.
2. *Pack it Up* by We Banjo 3 - *Haven* on independent.
3. *Borderline* by Skerryvore - *Evo* on Tyree Records.
4. *Heroes* by Larry Kirway - *Heroes/Belfast EP* on independent.
5. *Something to Say* by The Town Pants - *Something to Say* on independent.
6. *Fear of Falling* by Merry Hell - *Anthems in the Wind* on Merry Hell Records.
7. *The West Highland Line* by Dolphin Boy - *The Highland Swing* on Skye Records.
8. *The Little Grisan* by Sver - *Reverie* on independent.
9. *Santy Ano* by Pat Chessell - *I Confess* on independent.
10. *Botany Bay* by Fear of Drinking - *Live in Zurich* on Big City.

**Celt In A Twist - Pick Of The Month:  
Afro Celt Sound System - Flight  
(ECC Records)**

# Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug: A magnet for Irish both young and old

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

VANCOUVER – Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug has been in business since 2004 and has often been described as the closest you will find to a traditional Irish pub in Canada.

The first thing you encounter in this tiny establishment is the bar and its prime location where you can sit and chat to the barman and other patrons.

In no time at all, you're not a stranger anymore but part of the conversation and laughter, and maybe even have met a new friend.

Some years ago, new Irish arriving to Vancouver were directed to look for the pub with the red door on Granville Street, it was there you could be sure to meet up with some fellow Irish men and women.

The red door has now been replaced with a plate glass one, but it's not gone...it's just hanging on the wall now as a reminder when you enter the pub.

The removal of that door however has not been any deterrent to new arrivals to this city and Johnnie Fox's continues to be a magnet for Irish both young and old.

I recently stopped by Johnnie Fox's and spoke to Athlone-born general manager Sean Flynn about plans for St. Patrick's at the pub.

On Thursday, March 15, they will have their regular traditional Irish music session with Paul Caldwell, a very talented musician from Donegal who has just released a single on YouTube.

The next night, they're planning to kick off St. Patrick's with a Fox's weekend festival.

On Saturday, March 16, Sean warns, "I would say, if you want to have comfort and have a table, you need to be here early...by at least 11 AM.

"We're a very small pub and space is limited, so it's best to get here early as we need to be very strict on the numbers we can let in."

There will be two bands playing on Saturday, one from 6-9 PM and another from 9 PM to midnight.



JOHNNIE FOX'S IRISH SNUG (L-R) Johnny Griffin (Limerick) Manager and Sean Flynn (Athlone) General Manager.

Other from 9 PM to midnight.

One group is the Paul Caldwell and Brian O'Brien duo and their band is called The Fight Outside. "They are very, very popular with the Irish community," said Sean.

He could not confirm the name of the second band but he could say there will definitely be music all weekend at Johnnie Fox's.

On St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, they will open at 11 AM and there will be an early Irish trad session with Michael and Rosie starting at 1 PM. Later they will have Eamon who is also an excellent musician on stage.

Fox's are noted for their delicious Irish comfort food and Sean said St. Patrick's weekend there will be more of the same favourites.

In the morning on Friday and Saturday they will have their Irish breakfast rolls, and in the afternoon the Irish chicken fillet roll.

This is a French baguette with breaded chicken fillet, lettuce, tomato and cheese with a side of curry cheese fries.

"This is very popular here, especially with the Irish expats," said Sean, "and it's only \$9.95, so we sell a lot of these. On Sunday we have our traditional Sunday roast beef dinner."

He remarked that he has noticed that the new Irish arrive in waves. In sum-

mer, they usually arrive about May and June, and again just before Christmas.

The staff at Johnnie Fox's generally try to give the new arrivals as much information as possible about who to contact for possible employment and where to look for accommodations.

As an example, Sean said, "Last weekend, I would say 95 percent of our patrons were the newly arrived Irish. One of the reasons for that is that we are so close to the hostels where many of them are staying.

"I also think it's because Johnnie Fox's is such an authentic kind of Irish bar that it's a nice taste of home for them."

Then, Sean laughed with a bit of humour and said, "To keep it looking like a typical Irish bar, all we need to do is not clean the place and not paint the walls....maybe add a few cobwebs."

Continuing, he said, "It's not just the newly arrived Irish that like Johnnie Fox's, a lot of the old guard like to come in for a pint.

"A lot of people have told us they like the laid-back atmosphere and the fast, friendly service. Actually, that is exactly what we have built our business on."

Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug is located at 1033 Granville Street in Vancouver. For more information, check out their website at: www.johnniefox.ca.



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# A Taste of Home at Donnellan's Chipper in the Heart of Downtown Vancouver

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

VANCOUVER – Donnellan's Chipper, located in downtown Vancouver in the Granville Entertainment district, has only been opened since December but it has already made a name for itself as the establishment specializing in Irish fare.

The Chipper is further hoping to enhance their menu by adding a liquor licence... possibly by the time you read this article.

Manager Melissa McGorman is Irish-born from Monaghan, and she has a wealth of experience having worked in chippers at home since she was 15-years-old.

She said most of the other staff working at Donnellan's Chipper are also Irish. "We have staff working here from Dublin, Galway, Newry, and just about every other county in Ireland, and they are all familiar with chippers."

Many of their menu items are prepared in-house such as the battered burger which is very popular back home, also their breakfast roll is also made as close



MARIE HARLOWE and Melissa McGorman at Donnellan's Chipper.

to the way it's made in Ireland.

One of the biggest sellers is the spice bag which has fries, onions, green peppers, a mixture of spice and chillies, and chicken tenders.

Also, as expected at a chipper, there is an extensive menu for fries.

Melissa said, "Our fries are hand cut and soaked overnight to remove the starch and then double cooked, fried once, and then fried again."

The selection includes plain fries, curry fries, curry cheese fries, butter chicken fries, chicken curry fries, and even taco fries to name just a few – fries for every possible taste.

In case that isn't enough for you, you

could top it all off with a battered fried Mars bar.

Donnellan's Chipper also has a lot more to offer than after hours nourishment.

You could start your morning with a hearty breakfast roll consisting of sausage, bacon, black and white pudding and an egg, or a breakfast sambo of sausage, bacon, black and white pudding and egg. There is also a veggie bun. All prepared the way you remember it at home.

For lunch or anytime you're hungry, there is the Donnellan's burger, a chicken or a veggie burger, hot dogs, battered sausage, or cod and chips. Sides are coleslaw, curry, garlic and mushy peas.

These are just some of the items on offer at the Chipper and they're available Sunday to Thursday from 3 PM to midnight, Friday and Saturday from 3 PM to 4 AM – eat in or take-away.

Donnellan's Chipper is located at 1224 Granville Street in Vancouver. For more information, call (604) 331-4302, or visit their Facebook page.

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## Mahony & Sons Burrard Landing: Inspired by a traditional Irish public house with a modern twist

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

VANCOUVER – Mahony & Sons Burrard Landing is one of three family owned and operated Irish pubs in the Vancouver area.

Located at the foot of Burrard Street beside the Convention Centre, it presents a warm west coast ambience with hardwood floors and Celtic artwork throughout.

The view is absolutely breathtaking – overlooking the North Shore Mountains and the beauty of Stanley Park.

Guests can enjoy watching small seaplanes coming in for a landing or taking off from Coal Harbour while socializing, and during cruise ship season huge vessels are docked within meters of the front door.

Mahony and Sons Burrard Landing also offers an exceptional dining experience inspired by traditional Irish public houses but with a modern twist.

Gerard Mahony is the general manager at the Burrard Landing pub and he said they have a busy schedule planned for the March 17 St. Patrick's Day long weekend celebrations.

It's not officially listed as a long weekend...but nobody has told the Irish or their friends.

Gerard said, "It's always a fun experience here with the Eire Born Irish dancers coming in to do a set on Saturday evening the night before Paddy's day.

"We also have two sessions on St. Patrick's day, one in the early afternoon and one at dinnertime on the Sunday.

"The dancers are always well received, and I know our guests really enjoy the traditional Irish dancing.

"With our hardwood floors the hard shoes worn by the dancers make a stomping sound and it really brings the pub to life and guests onto their feet.

"We will also have live musicians throughout the day, so there will be lots of great music on St. Patrick's day.

"We have Guinness on tap and I like to think we pour the best pint of Guinness this side of Ireland.

"We're looking forward to making it a really big weekend as that's what everyone seems to be up for this year. Hopefully, everyone paces themselves a little bit and won't be too tired by Sunday."

The music line-up for the weekend includes regularly scheduled live music from 7:30 PM to midnight on Friday and Saturday with Johnny Leroux on Friday, and Barry Quinn on Saturday. Sunday, March 17, will feature live music all day.

The extensive menu at Mahony & Sons Burrard Landing features a delicious selection, including Irish stew, bangers and mash, Guinness battered Pacific cod fish and chips, shepherds pie made with ground beef and lamb, lamb dip and their famous Irish potato soup.

They also offer a children's menu.

Check out their website for more information: [www.mahonyandsons.com](http://www.mahonyandsons.com).



MAHONY & SONS Stamps Landing (L-R) manager Joe McGloin, server Sarah Seebach, and bartender Paudie Butler.

## Panoramic views and great hospitality at Mahony & Sons Stamps Landing

By CATHOLINE BUTLER  
VANCOUVER – The Mahony Irish clan, all 11 of them and their parents from Australia, seem to have a real knack for picking-out beautiful locations to open their Irish pubs.

The Mahony & Sons Stamps Landing location is a testament to that.

Located on beautiful False Creek with a walking promenade that curves around to the front door of the pub provides a great excuse to drop in for some refreshment and nourishment after a brisk walk.

Inside the front door is a friendly atmosphere with a big circular bar and a cosy fireplace to sit with friends and enjoy some of the delicious food from Mahony's menu.

Guests sitting downstairs in the pub enjoy a panoramic view of False Creek while the upstairs patio is definitely one of Vancouver's premiere waterfront patios.

It offers an amazing view of downtown Vancouver and Yaletown, and at night this is a fairytale setting with all the lights of the city twinkling.

There is an elevator to the second level which is a real bonus for disabled patrons. The west side of the patio is also pet-friendly.

Pete Mahony, who is based at the False Creek location, is the company CEO.

There are now three Mahony & Sons establishments in Vancouver – the original Mahony & Sons Public House at UBC which opened in March 2007, the Burrard Landing which opened in 2011, and Stamps Landing which opened in 2014.

Speaking about celebrations for St. Patrick's weekend, general manager Alison Kelly said Mahony & Sons Stamps Landing will have live music Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They will also feature appearances of the Eire Born Irish dancers. Patrons can order food off the pub's extensive regular menu.

Kelly said, "we're really hoping the weather cooperates with nice sunny days so that patrons can enjoy the patio for the St. Patrick's celebrations."

There is limited parking out front but Translink offers nearby bus service.

Another great transportation option is the False Creek ferries system with a number of dock locations in the area.

This is a great way to enjoy the sights and there is a stop at Stamps Landing almost right outside the front door at Mahony and Sons.

For more information, check out their website at: [www.mahonyandsons.com](http://www.mahonyandsons.com).



MAHONY & SONS Burrard Landing (centre) Gerard Mahony, General Manager, with servers Hillary, Saoirse, Adrienne, and Benita.



MAHONY & SONS Burrard Landing located at the foot of Burrard Street beside the Vancouver Convention Centre presents a warm west coast ambience with hardwood floors and magnificent Celtic artwork designs throughout.

## New EU Policy ends clock changes from 2021

DUBLIN – A love-hate relationship with clocks jumping forward and backwards an hour each year will now terminate within two years under a new EU policy.

Ireland must now choose between winter or summer time with Brussels having ruled that clock changes across the EU should cease from 2021.

It is now up to individual member states to decide which time, winter or summer, they will adhere to throughout the year.

The decision was taken by the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee – with the European Parliament having already voted to accept a similar proposal from the European Commission.

Under the decision, each member state must now decide by April 2020 whether they want to remain on summer time.

Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan confirmed last year that a special consultation process over summer time or winter time is underway.

It was acknowledged there are many benefits to ending the process of changing the clocks each year such as improved outcomes for road safety and economic benefits.

In addition brighter evenings in winter would have a positive benefit for public health. The majority across Europe wanted better standardisation in light of greater integration of European economies and travel systems.



MAHONY & SONS Stamps Landing opened in 2014. It offers amazing views of downtown Vancouver and Yaletown and the upstairs patio is definitely one of Vancouver's premiere waterfront patios.

# Brexit: 'What is absolutely certain is that nobody has any idea of what is happening'

**G**REETINGS from a warm sunny Bournemouth.

**POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH**



By **ELFAN JONES**

The daffodils have arrived trumpeting the approach of spring and for the past six or seven days we have been blessed with clear blue skies and record high temperatures for this time of year.

The last few weeks have been busy and enjoyable, travelling around the South of England visiting customers.

I will be 75 this year but will not retire until either my work stops being fun or bad health prevents me from continuing.

I sell cashmere knitwear, men's shirts and socks to up market stores on a freelance basis.

When travelling, if business is good, I book into in a good small hotel or country inn and have a good meal, but if business is bad then I stay in a better hotel and have a better meal.

The political uncertainties have affected trade and business has been difficult, consequently I have stayed in some really nice places.

Over the years I have compiled a list of my favourite establishments and this year found a little gem called The Hatch Inn which is located in Hatch Beauchamp, a quaint hamlet four miles from Taunton in Somerset.

The folks were friendly and the food delicious; roasted figs with goats' cheese then a seafood linguine.

Somerset is famous for its apples and cider, so dessert had to be homemade Somerset apple cake and homemade ice-cream.

There was a comprehensive, reasonably priced wine list and I could not resist finishing with an English cheeseboard and a wee glass of port.

The full English breakfast or the cardiac arrest special as my wife calls it was not to be missed. If you are in that area it is the place to stay.

I ended up in Cardiff at the weekend to witness Wales beat England at rugby so all is well in my world.

Now there is just a little matter of defeating the Scots in Edinburgh which we should do, then the Irish in Cardiff which we might do.



**SHAMIMA BEGUM**, who left Bethnal Green in east London to join Islamic State as a 15-year-old in 2015, recently said she regretted speaking to the media. The 19-year-old, who gave birth days after a journalist tracked her down to a refugee camp in northeastern Syria, has now fled the camp along with her newborn after receiving death threats and she has being stripped of her British citizenship, blocking her return to the UK.

All being well in three weeks time Wales will be the Grand Slam winners and European champions.

The national news has featured Shamima Begum who four years ago, as a 15-year-old London school girl, was radicalised and travelled to join ISIS in Syria.

Within 10 days of her arrival she was married to a jihad warrior and in four years has given birth to three children, two of which died.

The *Times* journalist Anthony Lloyd found her in a Syrian refugee camp heavily pregnant as the birth of her third child was imminent.

She expressed her desire to return to the UK so that her baby could be looked after, but showed no remorse for her actions, and demonstrated that her opinions on ISIS had not changed.

The public outcry resulted in Sajid Javid, our home secretary, revoking her British citizenship, which in my opinion is wrong and indicative of the knee jerk reactions our politicians have today.

The young woman is naïve and now regrets speaking to the media. Had she simply said she had made a mistake and wanted to come home, I wonder what the reaction would have been.

The vitriolic outpouring saddens me as there is no proof whatsoever that she was involved in any of the horrors perpetrated by ISIS.

Instead of bringing her back to the UK and finding out how she was brainwashed, and allowing our courts to assess any guilt, the government is washing its hands of her and attempting to show she is not a British citizen in the hope that another country will accept responsibility for her.

Javid has allowed her to be tried and convicted by public opinion.

The Brexit circus rolls on in a surreal comic manner.

On March 29 after two years of negotiation we leave the European Union, well maybe, but perhaps not, because there might be a delay, or there could be a second referendum and then again there might not be.

There will definitely be a deal as nobody wants a 'No Deal' situation but everybody is preparing for a 'No Deal' situation.

What is absolutely certain though is that nobody has any idea of what is happening.

I am beginning to enjoy it all, and in years to come it could be written as one of those bedroom farces where people are going in and out of doors in a muddle of misunderstanding.

The betting odds are interesting. UK leaving on March 29 is 11 to two.

UK delaying the leaving date is now odds on at one to four.

The UK to leave with no deal is five to one.

The holding of a second referendum is nine to two.

Whatever the outcome the odds that the government will accept blame, apologise to the country and resign is one hundred to one.

*All for now. Elfan.*



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# The Paperboys will headline 88th BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival

COQUITLAM, BC – BC Highland Games attendees are in for a treat this year, as B.C.'s top Celtic band, The Paperboys, is poised to take the beer garden stage at the Games in June for a Games afternoon concert, plus a free Friday night event.

The Paperboys will headline the 88th BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival in its new location, Coquitlam's Lafarge Lake Park.

The band will play on Saturday afternoon, June 15, for two performances.

For those who can't make it Saturday, you can still enjoy a bit of Celtic culture with The Paperboys on Friday night at a free kick off Ceilidh.

"We are thrilled to have the Paperboys as our main act," says Mike Chisholm, executive director of the BC Highland Games.

"We have wanted to have the band at the Games for many years, so it's great to finally land them for our expanded Games in our new location.

"We have been working and planning with City of Coquitlam officials for the past three years to move the Games to Lafarge Lake Park, and what better way to kick things off than to have B.C.'s Celtic kings welcome everyone to the new venue in a free Friday night concert and as headliners on Saturday."

Lafarge Lake Park is a grassy, treed area on the edge of Lafarge Lake in downtown Coquitlam. It is the site of a number of summer civic celebrations including Canada Day and the Kaleidoscope Festival.

The BC Highland Games will be the first big, non-civic event to be held in the park, a stone's throw from the Games old venue, Percy Perry Stadium, where the Games were held for 27 years.

The new venue is a more intimate setting for all the Games competitions, including the Scottish heavy events.

The City of Coquitlam is now in the final stages of completing a new lawn at the site which will be ready this spring, and will host its first event June 15, when the Scottish heavy athletes take the field at 9 AM with a special ceremony at 11 AM.

"We have decided to name the heavy event field after one of the Games longest supporters, Lew Ross.

"Lew is the former athletic director of the Games and was key to developing Scottish heavy event athletics in B.C. It's a very appropriate name for this new field, in our new location," says Chisholm.

A special ceremony will be held at 11 AM to dedicate the Lew Ross Heavy Event Field and to recognize the City of Coquitlam for its cooperation and assistance in the move to Lafarge Lake Park.

Lew will also be asked to throw the first "ceremonial" stone to officially begin the heavy events, which start at 9 AM.

Along with The Paperboys, Highland dancing, piping, heavy events and whisky school, the Games this year will feature an acoustic stage for traditional musicians.



MIKE CHISHOLM Executive Director of the BC Highland Games.

Well known B.C. musician Michael Viens of Blackthorn will host the stage, along with invited musicians, including East coast piper Barry Shears, fiddler J.J. Lavelee and others throughout the afternoon.

Piping and drumming will be located in a section of the park appropriately named "Piper's Glen."

"With plenty of space, trees and secluded areas, it will be perfect for tuning up, competitions and hanging out with pipers and drummers from throughout the Pacific Northwest who attend the Games," says Chisholm.

"And Highland dancing will also be in a new, more scenic location on the north end of the park bordering the lake."

The main TD Community Stage will be the site of official ceremonies, Scottish Country dancing and cultural activities.

From interactive and massed Scottish country dancing, to a Gaelic milling frolic for everyone, the main stage will be hopping all day.

The stage will also be the location for the final ceremonies with hundreds of pipers and drummers wrapping up the Games in thunderous style.

Behind the scenes, a committee of more than 35 people are working on planning for the Games in its new location just steps from the Lafarge Lake Skytrain station.

The Games will continue to provide a top level event for all competitors, and a moveable feast of sights, sounds and experiences for everyone else.

"The Games are a perfect event for families and friends to gather, spend the day wandering the field, enjoying the food, vendors, music and competitions that make the Games such a unique experience," says Chisholm.

"We continue to grow these Games into a bigger community celebration that is easy to access via public transit, and has something for everyone, all for just \$15."

Friday night will be a free event in the park with open Piobaireachd (classical music of the pipes), beer garden, a whisky tasting, a 10 & 5k Tartan Run, vendors and The Paperboys.



TD COMMUNITY STAGE, Lafarge Lake, Coquitlam, B.C. will be the site of this year's BC Highland Games and Festival.

PHOTO: City of Coquitlam

## Good to know.....

- Tickets for the Games are now on sale on the Games website ([BCHighlandGames.com](http://BCHighlandGames.com));
- Tartan Run info is also available on the Games website or click the events category [here](http://www.events.runningroom.com);
- Volunteers: Games Hosts are still needed. Please see the Games website for info;
- Friday night is a free event in the park. Bring a lawn chair;
- Access is via Skytrain Millennium Line (Evergreen Extension) Lafarge Lake Station.



THE PAPERBOYS led by Tom Landa will light up the TD Community Stage on Saturday, June 15 when they headline the 2019 BC Highland Games and Festival at Lafarge Lake in Coquitlam.

## The Pender Highlanders Ceilidh Band to perform at the Scottish Culture Centre

VANCOUVER – The Pender Highlanders Ceilidh Band, founded on Pender Island in British Columbia in 2008, is an eight member Celtic group playing largely traditional Celtic tunes and songs.

A notable feature of the ensemble is its three Scottish smallpipe players, which give the band its distinctive sound. Other instruments include Scottish harp, keyboard, guitar, bodhran and pennywhistle.

The band works continually on new repertoire, which for an upcoming concert at the Scottish Cultural Centre in Vancouver will feature beautiful ballads and well-known traditional and comic songs in Gaelic, English and Broad Scots as well as traditional and contemporary instrumental tunes.

All players but one are also members of the Pender Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band. Emphasis is placed on encouraging those present who enjoy



AN EIGHT MEMBER Celtic group, The Pender Highlanders Ceilidh Band features traditional instruments and perform beautiful ballads and well-known songs in Gaelic, English and Broad Scots.

singing to participate in the vocal pieces if they wish.

The Pender Highlanders Ceilidh Band will perform at the Scottish Cultural

Centre on Saturday, May 4. They will be performing with well-known Gaelic singer Robyn Carrigan and all are welcome to attend.

# Canada Spotting in Scotland as a Distraction from Brexit



By  
**HARRY  
McGRATH**

EDINBURGH – “Dear March – Come in” is the opening line of a poem by Emily Dickenson. She goes on to say how glad she is that March has come and that she had hoped for it before.

Here in Scotland, many hoped that March would never come as, in theory at least, it is the month of Brexit.

Even the unseasonably warm weather isn't really cheering us up; global warming casts a shadow over the al fresco drinkers in their t-shirts.

South of here the pandemonium continues.

A series of cancelled votes has now given way to a putative sequence of new ones.

In the middle of March there could be as many as three votes.

There's the so-called “meaningful vote” on the prime minister's deal by March 12. If that fails, then ‘No Deal’ or an extension of Article 50 enters the equation.

In the meantime, a Tory cabinet minister was quoted as saying with reference to Scotland and Brexit, “Once you hit the iceberg, you are all on it together.”

In other words, the whole thing is a disaster but we are to embrace it anyway.

At the risk of extending the rather tasteless *Titanic* metaphor, there were people aboard it who survived. Scotland has a lifeboat.

The prospect of Brexit is so depressing that I had to invent a game to take my mind off it.

“Spot the Canada connection” started when Tim Hortons opened in Glasgow city centre in July 2017.

Glaswegians were so enamoured of a place that sells both doughnuts and the wee bit they cut out of the middle, two more Tim Hortons soon sprung up in the Glasgow area.

Tim Hortons isn't the only Canada-associated company at work here.

One wonders what the 30 or so folk in the “special service area” of Herschel, Saskatchewan would think of the fact that every second person in Scotland is carrying a backpack named for their community.

Among other things, the packs bring a splash of colour to otherwise drab Scottish males.

Lululemon is here too with a store in Glasgow and another in Edinburgh.

Aberdeen has a Sandman Hotel offer-



TIM HORTONS opened in Glasgow in July 2017 to huge public approval for doughnuts and timbits. Crowds queued down the street as Canadian mounties manned the doors for the official opening. Sources say the queue started at 6 PM the night before opening. Since then three more locations have sprung up around the Glasgow area.

ing “classic Canadian hospitality.”

Its restaurant might be the only place in the world that “combines Scottish and Canadian cuisines.”

I was fascinated to discover this results in a menu that contains “Haggis Bon Bons, Canadian Clubhouse, Battered Haddock, and the signature Chop Burger, topped with streaky bacon, sautéed mushrooms, cheddar cheese and sautéed onions.”

In aviation, Scotland has long had Air Transat but WestJet is a more recent addition.

Its current advertising campaign notes the fact that Canada has over half the world's polar bears before offering flights from Glasgow to Halifax.

It doesn't mention that you still have a wee bit to go from Halifax before you meet any bears.

If, on the other hand, you want beer originally brewed by a Masonic Scot called Alexander Keith, you are heading to the right place.

Identifying Canadian connections in Scottish soccer is a particularly diverting exercise.

Some years back there was a mini boom in Canadian soccer players here with Davide Xausa, Nick Dasovic, Richard Hastings, Paul Fenwick and Jason de Vos playing for various Scottish teams.

Now we have Scott Arfield who plays for Rangers and captains Canada even though he was born in Scotland.

Similarly David Wotherspoon plays for his hometown team St. Johnstone but has opted to play for Canada.

Another Canadian, Dario Zanatta, was signed by Hearts in 2015 but is currently on loan to Alloa which is a long way, in every respect, from Victoria where he was born and raised.

Until recently Canada was so far ahead of Scotland in women's soccer that there wasn't much to compare.

However, Scotland and Canada have just finished playing each other in the prestigious Algarve tournament in Portugal.

Both teams are using the tournament to prepare for the World Cup in France where Scotland is a first-time qualifier.

Canada beat Scotland 1-0 in Portugal on a goal by Christine Sinclair which is familiar enough in Canadian terms but the closeness of the result indicates that a lot has changed for Scotland.

The rise of women's soccer in Scotland, now ranked in the top 20, is the result of lots of hard work and dedication.

It has also come about despite some idiotic male oppositionism.

In 2013 a tabloid columnist here wrote that the stadium that hosted a women's game between Scotland and Bosnia-Herzegovina should be “torched ... in order to cleanse it,” called the game “turgid” and claimed that “even the most fervent fans must agree it's time to chuck it.”

If Scotland can face down Brexit with the same dignity and class that its women's soccer team displayed when confronted with this crass stupidity, perhaps there is hope for us all yet.

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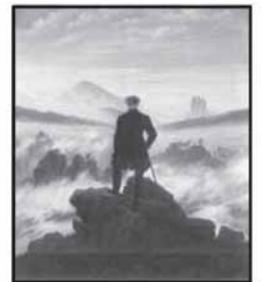
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# 'Fill Your Heart With Ireland' and discover your heritage

By CATHOLINE BUTLER



DANA WELCH, Manager for Canada with Tourism Ireland.

**T**OURISM Ireland has a new branding campaign this year called 'Fill Your Heart with Ireland' and it is being launched globally and in Canada.

Recently, Dana Welch, manager for Canada with Tourism Ireland spoke with *The Celtic Connection* about St. Patrick's celebrations in Ireland, tourism and the impact that Brexit may pose to tourism.

She said from March 14 to 18 the St. Patrick's Festival will take place in Dublin with a spectacular five-day family program and the very best of traditional and contemporary storytelling integrated into the festival.

This year's theme is *Scealaíocht Agus Seanchai* (A Celebration of Irish Storytelling) with stories and storytellers from Irish mythology and defining historical moments of Ireland's past rich storytelling tradition.

While St. Patrick's celebrations used to be over four to five days, they now extend over a month and throughout the whole country.

There will be activities such as in Northern Ireland in Armagh and St. Patrick's Trail, but the biggest St. Patrick's parade will be in Dublin.

Festivals are very important for tourism. For most Canadians with Ireland on their list, a festival or festivals may be a compelling reason to prompt them to make that decision to take it off their bucket list and make now a time to visit Ireland.

Dana explained there are many festivals in Ireland throughout the whole year, and St. Bridget's is one of them.

St. Bridget's Day or *La Feile Bhríde* is on February 1 and many consider her to be the true patron saint of Ireland.

The Hallowe'en Festival in Derry~Londonderry is just amazing and so family friendly with a huge fireworks display.

It's also a great way to let people know that Hallowe'en actually originated in Ireland.

This autumn a new food festival will be launched and will take place throughout the island.

Dana said, "We will see more and more

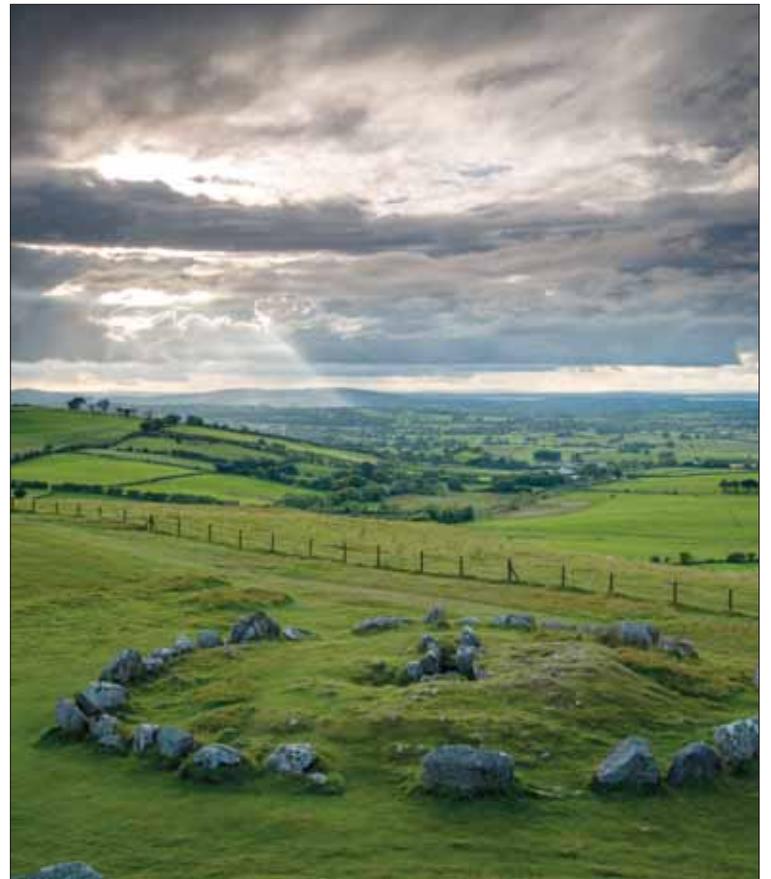


PHOTO: Tourism Ireland

**THE LOUGHCREW CAIRNS** are an amazing hidden wonder in Co. Meath near Oldcastle in Ireland. This is an area of great historical importance and home to a group of megalithic tombs dating back to about 4000 BC. In a landscape of inspiring beauty and intriguing history, the cairns at Loughcrew form the largest complex of passage graves in Ireland.

festivals pop-up in all parts of Ireland throughout the years."

Travel to Ireland has never been easier with Air Canada offering direct flights to Ireland and this June WestJet will launch their new Dreamliner flights to Dublin from Calgary.

"I also know that Aer Lingus are looking at several other locations in the U.S. and Canada," she added.

"We have actually seen a 50 percent increase in traffic from Canada to Ireland. So, that's over 13,000 seats a week in the peak of summer.

"Speaking about the broader market, Norwegian Air will be running flights this March from Hamilton, Ontario to Dublin."

Tourism Ireland has made contingency plans in relation to Brexit and its impact on tourism to Ireland.

"Tourism Ireland have been proactive and a Brexit Taskforce was established when Brexit was first announced," said Dana.

"We have no interest in seeing a hard border and it's something that we are monitoring closely and the impact it may have on Great Britain, which is a big source market for tourism into Ireland.

"We are fortunate that markets like North America have seen strong growth. Overall tourism into Ireland is really strong.

"Last year we had about 250,000 visitors from Canada which is great and we are seeing more and more interest from Canadians.

"From the U.S., we had about two million visitors last year and are seeing interest for growing that larger this year.

"Last year we had six percent growth in tourism over 2017 and this translates to a revenue of just over six billion euro and that creates 325,000 jobs across the island."

Over five million Canadians claim Irish ancestry and while genealogy is a huge draw, interest in ancient history is also a huge attraction.

Newgrange, Ireland's oldest passage tomb was built during the Neolithic period, around 3200 BC, making it older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids.

Dana added, "One of the other things that we hear from Canadians is how pleasantly surprised they are with the food. There is a really vibrant culinary scene in Ireland.

"We know that when Canadians are thinking of food, Ireland may not be the first on that list but we want to let people know it should be up there because we have access to such fresh local ingredients and seafood.

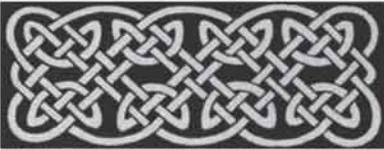
"Whether it's in a Michelin star restaurant or in a pub you can get some really great food and a fun experience."

Check out Tourism Ireland's new 'Fill Your Heart Campaign' on their website. It's a fun video featuring a real couple from Sweden visiting Ireland for the first time.

Dana explains, "They are not actors and both are wearing a heart rate monitor.

"The heart rate captures when they were really excited or when they were calm as they were filming the different parts of their journey across Ireland. I think people will find it really fun to watch."

Learn more about Ireland and check it out at: [ireland.com](http://ireland.com).



# BEANNACHTAÍ NA FÉILE PADRAIG

The Blessings of St. Patrick on You



Page 1



## Happy St. Patrick's Day!



On behalf of the Executive I would like to wish all our members a Very Happy St. Patrick's Day.

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Martin Doyle  
President

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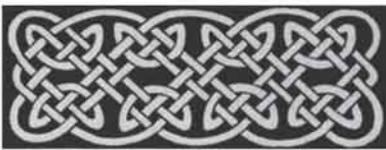
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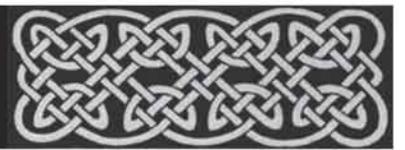
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The Blessings of St. Patrick on You



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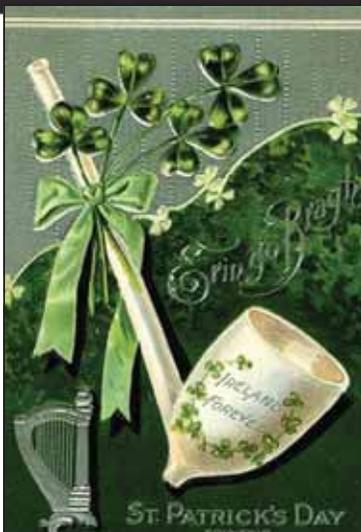
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*I love scandals about other people,  
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—Oscar Wilde

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# Are you calling in sick due to a hangover or still green from St. Patrick's Day Celebrations?!

"I drink to keep body and soul apart." – Oscar Wilde

By **SUSIE NEWMAN**

While St. Patrick's Day is a day of lively festivities celebrating the rich history and culture of Celtic heritage, for some it can also be a time of overindulgence and reckless behaviour.

Witnessing someone you care about struggling with the disease of alcoholism can be painful, frustrating and deeply concerning. You may be feeling powerless to help.

If you are wanting to help a loved one who is addicted, it is important to first recognize addiction is a chronic primary brain disease and as such, requires specific and appropriate treatment.

## WATCHING FOR SIGNS OF ALCOHOLISM

Like other chronic illnesses, alcoholism is progressive and if left untreated can be fatal. Below is a list of warning signs to watch out for if you suspect your loved one is struggling.

Behavioural changes:

- Being dishonest about frequency of drinking;
- Inability to limit or stop drinking despite an expressed desire to do so;
- Becoming angry and/or defensive when questioned about alcohol use;
- Changes to normal habits, or sudden mood swings.

## WHAT STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP SOMEONE WHO YOU SUSPECT IS STRUGGLING WITH ALCOHOLISM

### 1. Be Compassionate Rather than Blaming:

It is understandable to be upset by



**SUSIE NEWMAN**

behaviors and attitudes, but shame and blame don't work and often lead to resentment and only perpetuate the cycle of addiction.

Approaching the person with a compassionate solution-focused approach is the best way forward.

### 2. Be proactive rather than ignoring or minimizing the problem:

Your loved one may be in denial and or minimizing the severity of their drinking. Alcoholism is a progressive disease and will get worse if left untreated.

### 3. Support them in recovery rather than addiction:

It is painful to watch a loved one spiral into alcoholism.

You may feel the desire to protect them from the negative consequences by offering money, covering for them at work, lying for them or picking up the slack in some other way.

While this may offer your loved one

temporary relief, it will ultimately enable the progression.

### 4. Educate yourself about alcoholism:

Alcoholism is often described as a "cunning, baffling and powerful" disease.

The more you understand, the more helpful you can be to your loved one and the better you can help yourself.

Programs such as Alanon are specifically designed to help loved ones affected by alcoholism.

### 5. Be direct and maintain your boundaries:

Confronting your loved one about their drinking can be tricky.

Denial is one of the defining features of alcoholism, so be prepared for your concerns to be initially dismissed or met with hostility and defensiveness.

Regardless of the reaction, state your own boundaries clearly and firmly and set clear consequences for boundary violations.

It may be helpful to write a compassionate letter to your loved one describing your own perceptions of how their drinking affects you.

If you are unsure about how to address your loved one, calling a licensed and accredited treatment center to seek guidance is a good place to start.

[Susie Newman is an addiction counsellor at the Orchard Recovery Center on Bowen Island. Susie was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland and emigrated to Canada in 2004. With over 22 years of recovery from alcoholism she remains passionate about her work and enjoys helping Orchard clients realize a life beyond their wildest dreams is possible.]

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## IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

# A Warm Cead Mile Failte for all newcomers

**WHITE ROCK** – The Irish Club of White Rock, located in White Rock, B.C. – the 'City by the Sea' – has long been a community collaboration welcoming new Irish into the area.

Located just 30 kilometers south of Vancouver, the Irish diaspora has risen and continues to rise in the White Rock/South Surrey area and beyond.

The first group of Irish people who arrived in White Rock began to meet and converged when the group eventually morphed into the Irish Club of White Rock in 2004.

Indeed, in the most recent census report nearly 16,000 identified as Irish or of Irish descent in the area.

The Irish Club of White Rock welcomes all ages and diversity – families, individuals, elderly and children are all included and welcome.

The club has been a successful alliance of old and young, bringing together the



community with the annual St. Patrick's dinner and dance.

This event is a sell out every year and 2019 promises to offer more of the same on Saturday, March 16.

It will be held at the Hazelmere Golf and Tennis Club and offers delicious food with a buffet dinner, Irish dancers with the De Danaan School, and entertainment by the Happy Hour Celtic band.

If you are new to the area and want to learn more about events presented by the Irish Club of White Rock and the St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance, call either president Sharon Woods at (604) 338-3553 or secretary Deirdre O'Ruairc at (604) 803-0773.

### A Prayer on St. Patrick's Day

One of the most powerful prayers attributed to St. Patrick is the *The Deer's Cry*, also known as *The Breastplate of St. Patrick* and *The Lorica*.

The following is an abbreviation of that prayer: Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ in breadth, Christ in length, Christ in height, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

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# Liam Neeson: Tried and convicted in the court of public opinion

THE moment of truth did not come, so we will never know whether Liam Neeson may have assaulted or murdered a man 40 years ago, but he did think about doing so. For that, all these years later, he is being pilloried.

The circumstances were as follows.

After the rape of his friend by a black man, Neeson stalked up and down black areas in an unspecified city for a week hoping, as he said, “that some ‘black b\*\*\*\*\*d’ would come out of a pub and have a go at me about something, you know? So that I could kill him. It shocked me and it hurt me I did seek help, I went to a priest.”

Neeson admitted this in a promotional interview for his latest film, *Cold Pursuit*, and it has led to sustained controversy and the characterisation of Neeson as a racist.

As a response to his frenzy 40 years ago, Neeson made a confession to a priest.

Approaching a priest had a certain logic, since what had happened pertained to conscience rather than the law.

While the power of the confessional has been routinely abused (and that abuse has been extreme since confession bestows upon the confessor an especial capacity to dominate), still the rite has provided succour for some.

Today, more public modes of expressing a guilty conscience are in vogue. However, publicly confessing a shameful act in our time can backfire terribly.

On certain themes, a confession and an attempt to reconcile on the basis of confession will almost certainly be rejected.

By taking advantage of a penitent’s vulnerability, the same perversion of the traditional confessor’s authority is now happening in another guise. This explains why Neeson’s mania was so excoriated in the court of public opinion.

Since the court of public opinion is not accountable as a court is, being innocent of a criminal act is no barrier to a guilty verdict.

Absent the possibility of a legal trial, alternative trials today are staged through the media and social media; and the weight of public opinion is the central, if not sole, criteria for ‘prosecution’.

In this shift, something that is legally unpunishable (like a thought) has effectively become punishable.

As Caitria O’Neill, writing for the Nieman Journalism Lab at Harvard, has argued, “A new journalistic standard has been set. The court of public opinion may be invoked to build support for issues that cannot be decided in a court of law.

“Surely, though, such a ‘journalistic standard’ engenders far more problems than it solves. Furthermore, public opinion is so nebulous that its expression has become dangerously synonymous with, and supplanted by, celebrity opinion.”

Besides, there is a subtle inversion of allegedly pro-equality sentiment in the vituperations of Neeson.

## THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By MAURICE FITZPATRICK

*“To get at the root cause we must have open, honest and sometimes painful conversations. This must involve allowing people who have held biased views in the past to be heard without fear of recrimination.”*

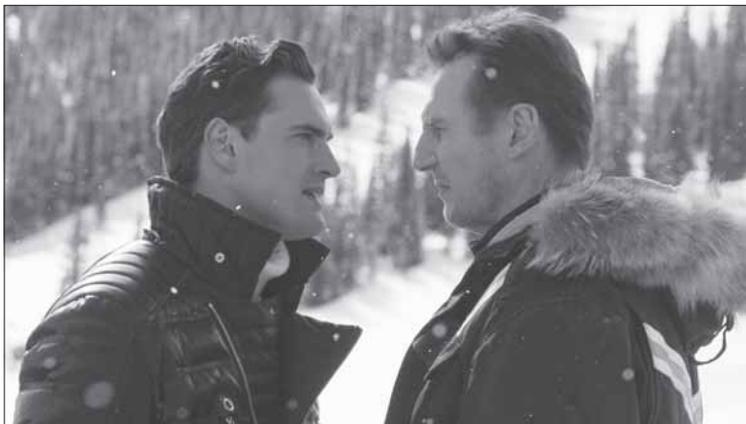
Neeson’s renunciation of the thoughts he once had is portrayed as infinitely junior in importance to the fact that he had them in the first place.

Contrast this with the case of novelist James Baldwin whose violent thoughts and actual violence towards a waitress who refused to serve him on account of his being black – hating her “white face” and admitting that in attacking her he had been ready to “commit murder” – are not rejected to the same degree.

Baldwin’s account of that incident and his fulsome repudiation of his behaviour form part of a text that continues to be deservedly applauded: the feverish essays that comprise *Notes of a Native Son* (1955), largely set in the menacing atmosphere of Harlem in which Baldwin grew up, is a modern classic.

Those who have assailed Neeson should at a minimum be aware of the repercussions of what they are attempting to eliminate.

Is it permissible, by the standards they espouse, for a method actor, say, to emotionally identify with Euripides’



LIAM NEESON is a man looking to exact revenge on the gangsters that have killed his son in his new film *Cold Pursuit*. He sparked controversy in a promotional interview for the film when he spoke about his own thoughts of revenge related to an incident 40 years ago.

Medea in her infanticidal rampage?

And what place is there for the poetry of William Blake, who wrote, “Sooner murder an infant in its cradle than nurse unacted desires?”

At bottom, this controversy is neither about Liam Neeson nor an experience he had 40 years ago.

It is a battle between those who wish to delegitimise the act of speaking about something horrific, and those who defend the right to do so.

As former England footballer John Barnes, who encountered a great deal of racist abuse in the 1980s, said in response to the Neeson incident, “Policing language and even legislating against certain behaviours will only go so far to address the pervasive problem of racial bias.

“To get at the root cause we must have open, honest and sometimes painful conversations. This must involve allowing people who have held biased views in the past to be heard without fear of recrimination.”

To blacklist Neeson (the contemporary word is ‘cancel’) is to diminish the prospect of that conversation happening.

Demonising Neeson amounts to a flight from confrontation with pervasive violence in society which, though indubitably nasty, nevertheless is human.

The conversation is important indeed because to airbrush someone for articulating his having had terrible urges does not remove the possibility of the urges.

Rather it is an attack on the freedom of speech, which, as history attests, opens the gates to political turmoil.

To see the political consequences of confronting matters such as demonic rage illiberally, consider a Trump rally in El Paso on February 11, when the obnoxiousness of Trumpism was best encapsulated by an attack on a BBC cameraman for merely recording the event.

Trump had taken a swipe at the fake news media and one of his supporters subsequently set upon the cameraman.

Yet liberalism can only legitimately form a bulwark against such behaviour by living up to its own self-description, by taking the high road and relentlessly practicing tolerance. Baldwin would have called that the price of the ticket.

Maurice Fitzpatrick’s latest film, *John Hume in America*, is narrated by Liam Neeson.



FRANK BREHANY discovered his family’s “deep secret” after promising his late father he would find his mother. He is pictured above with 88-year-old Mary Merritt, who credits his grandmother with looking after her during her 14 years in the laundry.

## Emotional ceremony for grandson of woman who worked at a Magdalene laundry

DUBLIN – The grandson of a woman incarcerated in one of Ireland’s notorious Magdalene laundries has spoken of his family’s pride as he attended an emotional commemoration.

Frank Brehany, from Wales, discovered his family’s “deep secret” after promising his late father he would find his mother.

Brehany’s grandmother Mary spent many years in High Park laundry in Dublin.

From the 18th Century right up to the mid-1990s, tens of thousands of women were put to work in laundries run by Catholic orders of nuns.

Unmarried mothers and girls from troubled backgrounds suffered years of abuse inside the grim facilities.

Brehany was at a memorial event in Glasnevin cemetery, Dublin, on Sunday, March 3 to commemorate the women who died inside the walls of the laundries.

There, he embraced 88-year-old Mary Merritt, who credits his grandmother with looking after her during her 14 years in the laundry.

“I am deeply moved and privileged to be standing here in the company of giants – it’s a cliché but it’s a true cliché,” Brehany said.

“My journey started in 2010 to uncover the secret, the deep secret of my family. Before my father died I promised I would find his family, that I would find his mother.

“The other part of that promise is I would find justice for my family, justice for Mary and I am delighted to be able to tell you that I am luckier than most because my father had a birth certificate.



FLOWERS laid at the grave for the residents of Our Lady Of Charity Residential Home in Sean McDermott Street.

“As a result of that, I have not only found my family history going back to the late 1700s, but I have surviving family in the Irish Republic, in Northern Ireland, in London, in Connecticut, and Chicago.

“We are united as a family again and we are proud, we are not ashamed, we are not hiding away Mary’s past – she did no wrong, my father did no wrong.

“She was a Magdalene woman, he was a Magdalene child.”

Merritt gave thanks that Ireland had been transformed since the days of the laundries.

“I am 88 years of age now and I hope to be able to come every year until I am 100 or more to pay my respects to the Magdalene women because I love each and every one of them, and I love all of you who come here and pay respects to them,” she said.

“It’s a great day for Ireland that it’s all changed.”

### History of the Magdalene Laundries

The Magdalene Laundries in Ireland, also known as Magdalene asylums, were institutions usually run by Roman Catholic orders, which operated from the 18th to the late 20th Centuries. They were run ostensibly to house “fallen women,” an estimated 30,000 of whom were confined in these institutions in Ireland. In 1993, a mass grave containing 155 corpses was uncovered in the convent grounds of one of the laundries. This led to media revelations about the operations of the secretive institutions. A formal state apology was issued in 2013, and a £50 million compensation scheme for survivors was set up by the Irish Government. The religious orders which operated the laundries have rejected activist demands that they financially contribute to this program.

# E.U. diplomatic status to the U.S. now restored after downgrade

WASHINGTON – On Monday, March 4, two months after news broke that Washington had downgraded the diplomatic status of the European Union mission to the United States, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union announced that the United States has restored the diplomatic status.

Irish civil servant David O'Sullivan who served as the Ambassador of the European Union to the United States from 2014 to 2019 finished his term at the end of February.

His time in Washington was a dramatic period which saw the transition from the Obama administration to the Trump presidency, which he has described as "a game of two halves."

His downgrade was largely taken as a sign that the Trump administration saw the European Union as another pesky multilateral institution and not a partner organization.

It was an awkward diplomatic spat but the reversal is viewed as "a gesture of goodwill" said Benjamin Haddad, director of the Atlantic Council's Future Europe Initiative.

Still, Haddad said, "It was a completely unnecessary denigrating move in the first place."

Experts agree that, while the move will be seen as a welcome course correction, it cannot undue the damage from a diplomatic downgrade Europeans believe should not have happened in the first place.

In September 2016 the Obama admin-



DAVID O'SULLIVAN, who has served as European Union Ambassador to the United States from 2014 to 2019 finished his term at the end of February.

istration upgraded the status of the E.U. ambassador to the United States to be on par with that of the head of any bilateral mission.

The Trump administration reversed that decision without informing the European Union. E.U. officials determined the downgrade had happened in October or November of last year; news of it broke in January. The news outraged both E.U. officials and Democratic lawmakers.

In an interview with *The Washington Post*, O'Sullivan spoke about the transition saying, "I'm not going to pretend that it was easy or comfortable, particularly for those of us who are passionate believers in the fact that this world order, whatever its defects, did actually deliver good outcomes for all of us, particularly for America."

"But the administration doesn't share that view, and the challenge not just for European diplomats, but all of America's allies and partners, is to engage in the most constructive way possible."

O'Sullivan also shared his views on his Irish identity within the E.U., saying, "My European identity is complementary to my Irish identity — not a substitute to it. I think that's the strong view of all Europeans."

"And Ireland has never had a stronger international profile or a stronger sense of national identity than we've had since we joined the European Union."

"It has amplified our sense of self in ways that the claustrophobic bilateral relationship with Britain perhaps didn't permit."

Reflecting on what Brexit has meant to the European Union, he replied, "The U.K. is a part of Europe, has contributed hugely to the European Union, and I think the idea that they would leave is something to be deeply regretted. But they've taken their decision and we have to work it through."

"It is interesting that today, support for the European Union is at an all-time high, as well as support for the euro."

"One of the things that has emerged from the Brexit debate is that suddenly, people are recognizing all the things the U.K. is losing by leaving."

The new E.U. Ambassador of the European Union to the U.S. is Stavros Lambrinidis, a former Greek foreign minister who currently serves as the EU's special representative for human rights, as part of the EU's regular rotation of diplomats.

## Two Northern Ireland fishing boats impounded by the Irish Navy

BELFAST – Following the impounding of two Co. Down fishing boats by the Irish navy, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said the incident was "truly regrettable."

The two vessels were seized in Dundalk Bay on Wednesday, February 27 for allegedly fishing illegally in Irish waters.

It follows the collapse of a gentleman's agreement allowing vessels from Northern Ireland and the Republic reciprocal access to each other's inshore waters.

Northern Ireland vessels are banned from fishing inside six miles of the Republic but southern fleets have not been excluded from the north's waters.

Fishing industry representatives have been complaining about the situation since the collapse of the so-called Voisinage Agreement in 2016. They say it is evidence there is already a "hard border" in the Irish Sea.

The agreement collapsed after Irish fisherman challenged its legality in Dublin's Supreme Court and it ruled in their favour.

The Irish Government promised to legislate to regularise the situation, but it has not yet done so.

It has been claimed this is due to the fact it has now become a potential bargaining chip in wider Brexit fisheries negotiations.



THE TWO BOATS were tied up at Clogherhead Harbour in Co. Louth following the Irish navy seizure.

Prawn trawlers from the Northern Ireland fleet favour the sheltered waters of Dundalk Bay in the winter.

The collapse of the agreement has affected about 20 Northern Ireland registered boats that would traditionally have fished there.

Speaking in Belfast, the taoiseach said he was pleased the ships have now been released and wants to update Irish law within weeks.

"The situation arose in 2016 when our Supreme Court struck down the provisions which allowed us to give access to Northern Ireland vessels within our six-mile limit," he said.

"We need to change that law, we are going to change that law to restore the status quo to what it was before 2016."

He added, "That will allow us to go back to the situation as it was between 1960 and 2016 where both Northern Ireland and Ireland allowed each oth-

er's vessels to enter our six-mile limit.

"What would be helpful would be an indication from the UK Government that they won't withdraw Northern Ireland from the London Convention (on fishing rights) because it wouldn't make sense for us to change our law only to find that the law then changes in Northern Ireland as well."

Earlier, a district court judge in the Republic described the captains of two Co. Down fishing trawlers as "people of absolute integrity" who do not deserve convictions.

Jack Brown and Kevin Trainor, from Killeel, pleaded guilty to breaching fishing regulations and been given the benefit of the Probation Act, with their boats – Boy Joseph and Amity – released on March 1.

A probation order in the Republic allows the courts to give offenders an official warning without imposing a sentence.

The boats seized were described as "modest vessels," with a total of five staff between them.

The Boy Joseph had about 1,200 euro worth of shellfish on board when it was seized. Amity had an estimated 2,000 euro of crab and lobster.

The two captains left Drogheda District Court after the judgment and travelled to Clogherhead Harbour where the boats had been kept.



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### Upcoming Events

#### March

##### Mar 15 – St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

Irish Dancers – Music by DJ  
Tickets available at the door

##### Mar 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Showing the Club Hurling and Gaelic Football Championships  
Music by Martin Doyle, Clan McNaughton Pipe Band – Peter Kelly and the Black Velvet Band  
Irish Dancers throughout the day

##### March 22 – Open Mic Session

#### April

##### April 5 – Ladies Night

##### April 13 – Wolfe Tone Trivia Night – 7 PM



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# A gripping account of the 'Troubles' equal parts true-crime, history, and tragedy

SAY NOTHING: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland  
By Patrick Radden Keefe  
Penguin Books  
New York, NY (2019)

By SABINA CLARKE

Recently I met with Patrick Radden Keefe the amazingly gifted author, investigative journalist and staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 2012 and contributor since 2006.

His latest book *Say Nothing* out now and getting rave reviews examines the horrific death of Jean McConville – a mother of 10 – against the backdrop of the turbulent period in Irish history known as ‘The Troubles’.

“Ireland is a great country for storytelling. I wanted to write a book that could function as a rigorous history of this period and draw in new readers who are not familiar with ‘The Troubles’ and have never been to Belfast and those who have some familiarity but would like to know more.”

Radden Keefe who is of both Irish and Australian ancestry has always wanted to be a writer since childhood but “didn’t quite know how to do it and pay the rent.”

He started writing in law school and published his first book at age 29 after he passed the New York State bar exam.

In 2013 intrigued after reading *The New York Times* obituary of Irish Republican Army (IRA) volunteer Dolours Price, the former wife of Irish actor Stephen Rea, Keefe made two trips to Belfast researching Price’s life.

He also interviewed Jean McConville’s grown children, documenting the trauma felt by each of them on the night their mother was forcibly abducted from her home at gunpoint never again to be seen alive.

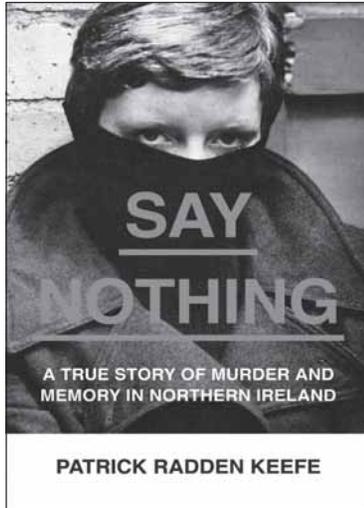
With the overwhelming response to his mesmerizing account *Where the Bodies Are Buried* that appeared in *The New Yorker* in 2015, he was prompted to consider writing a book with McConville’s murder as its starting point.

So he made seven trips to Northern Ireland and conducted more than 100 interviews over four years researching *Say Nothing*, the title taken from a Seamus Heaney poem quoting an old Irish phrase “Whatever you say, say nothing” – “O land of password, handgrip, wink and nod.”

Almost simultaneously, the unsolved Jean McConville murder case was being resurrected with the exposure of a closely guarded secret – the existence of The Boston College Belfast Project – the oral history archive of ‘The Troubles’ stored in the Burns Library at Boston College.

This was subpoenaed and seized by the Police Service of Northern Ireland under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), between the U.S. and the U.K. on the grounds that it was needed to investigate a murder – the 40-year-old unsolved murder of Jean McConville whose remains had finally been found on a deserted beach.

The Boston College Belfast Project became an international story making headlines around the world.



Appeals to deny the seizure of the archives by Boston College and author and journalist Ed Moloney, director of the Boston College Belfast Project, and Dr. Anthony McIntyre who conducted the interviews with former IRA members in Ireland, went on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and the High Court of Belfast.

The target was Gerry Adams and the seizure of Dolours Price’s interview relating to the McConville murder.

In *Say Nothing* Keefe paints a masterful and historically accurate portrait of ‘The Troubles’ ascribing equal blame to both the loyalist and nationalist communities, with a nod to the main antagonist and instigator – the British State – for the bloodshed and horrific human toll extracted by the war.

But what is so gripping about his work is the style in which it is written.

Keefe calls it narrative non-fiction. It is reminiscent of the style invented by Truman Capote, the “non-fiction novel” in his riveting account of the murder of the Clutter family in Kansas.

But Keefe goes a step further by skillfully and accurately weaving McConville’s murder into the larger canvas the historical background of ‘The Troubles’ in a way that can be easily grasped by the novice reader with no prior knowledge of this period in history.

He does this expertly without sacrificing any degree of scholarship in a telling that rivals the best crime novel.

In his riveting and perceptive portraits of IRA volunteers Brendan Hughes and Dolours Price and her sister Marian Price, he brings home the huge personal toll the war took on each of their lives and their complete inability to cope when the war ended in a compromise rather than with their goal of the end of British rule in Ireland.

For them, the Good Friday Agreement was a sell-out.

But Keefe suggests a more painful reality that perhaps there was no longer a role for them to play and “they were left behind by history,” rather than being tossed aside, and no longer needed by Gerry Adams on whom they turned with bitterness and a surprising degree of revenge.

To his credit Adams never reciprocated.

Of the three people who were with Jean McConville when she died, Keefe dons his hat as the superb investigative journalist and identifies without a trace of doubt that the triggerman was Marian Price, the sister of Dolours Price.



PHOTO: Katharine Gilbert

SABINA CLARK is pictured above interviewing author Patrick Radden Keefe, author of the new book *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*.

Through her attorney, Marian Price refused to speak with Radden Keefe and denied any involvement which he thinks is telling.

Another pivotal iconic figure in the history of ‘The Troubles’ Bernadette Devlin McAliskey also refused to be interviewed by Keefe who observed that the past in Belfast is very much in the present.

He added, “A culture of silence suppresses any real dialogue. It stretches back decades. People involved in the republican movement were very circumspect about talking about their experiences.”

And of course, Gerry Adams refused to give an interview to Keefe. But then why would he? And Keefe says as much. Nothing to be gained and much to lose.

Despite this, Keefe’s portrait of Adams may be one of the best I’ve read.

“He is an endlessly fascinating guy, intriguing and a bit of a riddle. I have done my best to understand him but I don’t think anybody is able to totally get him.”

Also insightful are his deft and perceptive portraits of both Dolours Price and Brendan Hughes all three loom large in the book.

As to whether Jean McConville was an informer, Radden Keefe says, “It would be heedless for me to say for sure that McConville was an informer. I lay out the evidence.”

“Her children say she was not. The Ombudsman says she was not. Ed Moloney and Brendan Hughes say that definitely she was. I am not as certain.”

As for the preoccupation by some with Adams’ purported membership in the IRA, and his abandoning his comrades by his denial, I find this puzzling since admitting to even a brief stint in the IRA would mean immediate imprisonment – and this for a man who delivered the peace and dedicated his life to the promise of a free and united Ireland.

“Yet, because of this,” noted Keefe, “his legacy will be more complicated.”

The Irish can be an unforgiving people.

In conclusion, Keefe makes a valid argument for a Truth and Reconciliation Process as established in South Africa with immunity granted.

Then past crimes can be permanently put to rest and the present finally liberated.

[ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Patrick Radden Keefe grew up in Dorchester, Massachusetts and received his undergraduate degree from Columbia where he majored in Modern European History and wrote his thesis on the First World War. He earned a law degree from Yale Law School, a Masters in Philosophy in International Relations from Cambridge University and a Masters in Science from the London School of Economics. He has received many fellowships including those from the Marshall Scholarship Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. He was a policy adviser in the Office of the Secretary of Defense between 2010 and 2011.]

## Ballymurphy residents should have been protected by soldiers, inquest told

Over three days, from August 9-11, 1971, ten people died in shootings at a number of locations in west Belfast.

The events have become known as the Ballymurphy Massacre.

The people of the area should have been protected by soldiers during the incident but instead hid fearing a massacre, an inquest has heard.

Eilish Meehan was 19 on the evening of August 9, 1971 as she helped evacuate children from the Springfield Park area close to a developing flash-point within the mainly Loyalist Springmartin area.

She told an inquest that people in the area had come under attack by Loyalists and some had gone to the nearby Henry Taggart barracks to ask for protection.

As the shooting intensified, she found shelter with a number of others close to flats in Moyard.

Meehan said news of Father Mullan’s death spread like wildfire among those sheltering from the gunfire, sparking fear of a massacre.

“We thought we were going to be overrun, we thought we were going to be massacred,” she said.

“We had nothing to fight back against these crazy people shooting at us and we didn’t know why.”



Soldiers have long been held responsible for killing all 10 people, but the accepted narrative became clouded last year when former members of the Loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force came forward to claim their organisation was also involved.

Meehan told the inquest that before the shooting started she had seen a number of boys throwing stones at soldiers based at the Henry Taggart barracks in the area, but described that as not unusual.

Later a crowd had gathered at the back of the houses in Springfield Park, Meehan said someone shouted “they are coming in,” in reference to Loyalists in Springmartin, and there was a single shotgun blast, which she described as a “warning shot.”

She said she did not see who fired the shotgun in Springfield Park, but said

she overheard someone say it was a legally held gun used for hunting.

Meehan described the main shooting event that evening as “crossfire” with shots coming from two directions, including from people lying on top of flats in Springmartin.

“I hadn’t a clue why we were being shot at, I am a citizen, I expect protection, people had gone down to the Henry Taggart barracks to ask for protection, that protection never came.”

Meehan was giving evidence to an inquest which is examining a series of shootings in which 10 people died in August 1971.

The sequence of events started after the introduction of internment in Northern Ireland that year on August 9. Mass arrests sparked rioting across the region.

# Bloody Sunday: Boris Johnson taken to task by SDLP leader over British army tweet

DERRY – Former British Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, has been heavily criticised after he said British Parachute Regiment soldiers responsible for the deaths of 14 unarmed civilians on the streets of Derry on January 30, 1972 should not face criminal prosecution.

He made the comments in an opinion piece for the *Daily Telegraph* after it emerged that up to four British soldiers involved in the massacre could face criminal prosecutions.

Johnson claimed that there would be “a storm of utter fury” if the men were charged later this month while the government let former members of the IRA “get away with” their actions throughout the Troubles.

“They did not get up in the morning with the intention of killing and maiming innocent civilians,” he wrote.

Later he tweeted, “We mustn’t let politics trump justice in this travesty of a Bloody Sunday trial, what signal does it send to our brave armed forces?”

In response, SDLP leader, Colum Eastwood replied to the tweet telling him what the “signal says.”

“It says, ‘if you murder 14 unarmed civil rights marchers you should expect to be prosecuted,’” exclaimed Eastwood.

Thirteen people were shot dead by the British army in Derry on January 30, 1972; a fourteenth person died several months later as a result of injuries sustained on Bloody Sunday.

The Saville investigation into what happened on Bloody Sunday was established in 1998 and delivered its verdict in 2010.

Then British prime minister, David Cameron, apologised on behalf of the British Government on the day the Saville report was published on June 15, 2010.

At the time the PSNI started their investigation into the shootings.

On Saturday, March 2, The *Daily Telegraph* published a story claiming four soldiers involved in the shootings, all of whom are in their sixties and seventies, could be prosecuted.

The Public Prosecution Service will deliver its verdict when they meet with the families of those killed on Bloody Sunday on Thursday March 14, 2019.



IN AN EXTRAORDINARY scene, Derry's nationalist community gathered in Derry's Guildhall Square to cheer a British Conservative prime minister following Lord Saville's report which was published in June 2010. David Cameron's address to the House of Commons was shown live on a large screen before thousands gathered in the square. The Saville Inquiry laid the blame for Bloody Sunday's deaths on the members of the Parachute Regiment who fired the shots and on their commanding officer. All those who died were declared innocent. What made the findings even more significant was the total acceptance of the report by British Prime Minister David Cameron and the apology that went with it.



## Northern Ireland Secretary faces calls to resign over Troubles comments

Victims' families have called for the Northern Ireland secretary to resign over comments she made about the Troubles.

Karen Bradley said that killings at the hands of the security forces were “not crimes”.

She later clarified that “where there is evidence of wrongdoing, it should always be investigated.”

Thirteen people were killed on Bloody Sunday in January 1972 after troops opened fire, and another died of his injuries some months later.

John Teggart, whose father was killed in the 1971 Ballymurphy shootings, also said the secretary of state should resign.

“What Karen Bradley said is that the soldiers who murdered my father - 14 bullets went through his body, ripped chunks out of his body - that soldier acted in a dignified and appropriate way.

“For Mrs. Bradley to come out with insulting, despicable insults to families, it's an absolute disgrace.”

Irish deputy prime minister Simon Coveney met Bradley in London on March 6 during which he intended to discuss her comments.

“The position of the Irish Government is clear,” his department said.

“There should be effective investigations into all deaths during the Troubles, regardless of the perpetrator.”



KAREN BRADLEY

Speaking in the House of Commons, Bradley was responding to a question from DUP MP Emma Little Pengelly about legacy issues.

“Over 90 percent of the killings during the Troubles were at the hands of terrorists, every single one of those was a crime,” she said.

“The fewer than 10 percent that were at the hands of the military and police were not crimes.

“They were people acting under orders and under instruction and fulfilling their duty in a dignified and appropriate way.”

She faced a huge backlash from Northern Ireland politicians, with both Sinn Fein Vice President Michelle O'Neill and SDLP leader Colum Eastwood calling for her to resign.

## Anna Burns gives voice to the gossip, hypocrisy and misogyny of living under an oppressive state

*“In the eyes of the community, and especially in the eyes of the paramilitaries, this eighth woman was an enemy out to entrap into informership our seven naive and dotty women. So one Wednesday night-time the renouncers burst into the shed to take her away. They barged in – in Halloween masks, balaclavas, with guns – with a few secure enough in power and stature to eschew any type of facial covering ...but there was no eighth woman.” — Milkman*

MILKMAN  
By Anna Burns  
Graywolf Press  
ISBN-10: 1644450003

*Reviewed by Sharon Greer*

Anna Burns' originality and unique use of language won her the 2018 Man Booker prize.

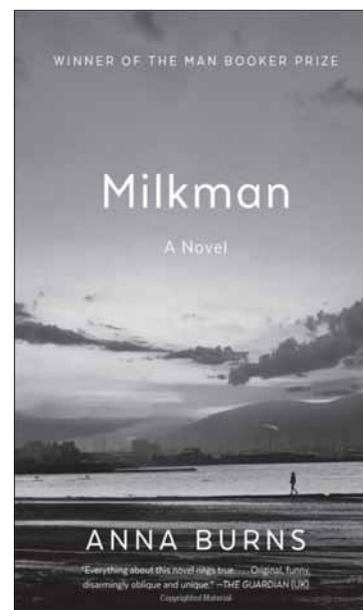
She is the first Northern Irish writer to win this prestigious award.

It is a well deserved prize for a courageous and personal effort at what it is like living under tyranny and subjugation. An exceptional work of imagination.

Obviously Anna Burns has the depth of understanding very few can articulate on growing up in 1970s Belfast.

*Milkman* captures the debilitating confines of sectarianism and state violence in a way no other writer has been able to encapsulate. You can feel the smothering effects of it throughout this remarkably innovative novel.

Imagine being an 18-year-old woman stalked, pursued and threatened by a creepy 41-year-old married man who happens to be a key paramilitary player in the community the young woman lives in.



In any ‘normal’ situation it would be frightening enough but set the scenario in militarized Belfast during the early days of the ‘Troubles’ and this is one terrifying circumstance.

This ominous tale unravels gradually exposing the paranoia and repression of living in a ‘totalitarian district’ as described in this astonishing tome.

You can feel how the entrapment surrounding the protagonist affects everything she does.

While running with her brother-in-law she can hear the clicks of hidden cameras while under surveillance, conveying the powerlessness of the situation.

There is so much fear interwoven in Burns' latest narrative that it is palpable all the way through this extraordinary book.

In the beginning it is a challenge to wade through the repetitive themes that permeate this inventive story, but progressively the reader becomes accustomed to a different kind of articulation. And there is a good dose of humour throughout.

I was in stitches with the hilarious story of a feminist women's group trying to organize meetings while the paramilitaries are breathing down their necks.

There is paranoia galore around these meetings as well as in the gossip, hypocrisy and misogyny of living under an oppressive state.

This is a universal story. An account of domination not only reflecting circumstances in Northern Ireland which is simply a microcosm of this too frequently onerous world.

# Shocking levels of sectarianism among some Scottish football fans

EDINBURGH – One of Scotland's most senior police officers has said there are concerns about rising disorder and sectarianism at football matches.

Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr said he is surprised at how "normal" sectarianism and aggression towards police is from some fans.

He said recent incidents include a flare being thrown at a police horse, officers being pulled from horses and others being spat at and attacked.

His comments come after Police Scotland said they are investigating reports of sectarian singing at Hearts' Tynecastle ground on February 27, as well as reports of coins being thrown from the away stand housing Celtic fans during the match.

Hearts goalkeeper Zdenek Zlamal was almost struck by the object.

Earlier Kilmarnock striker Kris Boyd was hit by a coin and subjected to verbal abuse while warming up to come on in a game against Celtic.

Kilmarnock FC manager Steve Clarke also hit out after being the subject of sectarian abuse from Rangers fans at Ibrox during a cup tie.

He accused the Rangers support of living in the Dark Ages as chants of "sad Fenian b\*\*\*\*\*d" echoed around Ibrox on his side's visit.

Speaking at a Scottish Police Authority board meeting in Greenock, Kerr said, "The vast majority of fans who go to these football matches do so entirely peacefully and just want to enjoy the wonderful spectacle that is Scottish football.

"But what I've been surprised at over the last six months, particularly when it comes to behaviour at football matches, has been two things.

"One has been the level of sectarian-



ONE OF SCOTLAND'S most senior police officers has said there are concerns about rising disorder and sectarianism at football matches.

ism on display, and I say that having policed in Northern Ireland for nearly 30 years.

"I've been surprised at how much it is seen as normal... it feels almost visceral in a way I haven't experienced for quite a while."

Kerr hit out at the fact that the "consistently thuggish behaviour of a very small number of fans is considered normal." He added, "This is not normal. It is a sport.

"I've also been surprised just at the level of disorder on display at some of the matches and we have been concerned, particularly over the last 12 months that there has been a rise in both disorder, that type of offensive behaviour and the levels of aggression to police officers."

Meanwhile, footage has emerged of a group of Celtic supporters in an Edinburgh bar singing that they hoped Brendan Rodgers would be murdered by the IRA.

Rodgers, the former Celtic manager, left the club to take up the reins at

Premier League side Leicester City. The move had been greeted with disappointment and anger from large sections of the Celtic fan-base.

The video which was shared on social media shows a small group of people singing the words "I hope you die in your sleep Brendan Rodgers from a bullet from the IRA" has been roundly condemned by Celtic supporters.

"As a Celtic fan these guys are embarrassing," replied one Facebook user, while another branded the video an "absolute disgrace," saying those caught singing the words are "no true Celtic fans."

Kerr said clubs, fans, police and councils all need to look at what can be done differently to change this behaviour "from being normal to being unacceptable."

He said part of that will be enforcement but "we're certainly not going to arrest our way out of this."

An independent review of policing at football matches in Scotland is due to be launched shortly.



IAIN LIVINGSTONE, Chief Constable of Police Scotland, has confirmed that police are preparing for Brexit.

## UK Police 'prepared for potential disorder' sparked by food shortages post-Brexit

EDINBURGH – The British Government announced on February 27 that it has appointed a minister to oversee the protection of food supplies for the first time since the Second World War.

MP David Rutley, a former Asda and PepsiCo executive, is responsible to oversee the protection of food supply through the Brexit process.

Britain could see a return to rationing in the immediate aftermath of Brexit, with Police Scotland confirming that they were ready to respond to any public disruption.

Police Scotland have confirmed they are prepared for any public disorder that may follow potential food and medicine shortages post-Brexit.

Chief Constable Iain Livingstone said that his officers were prepared and are also braced to potentially help other forces protect the borders in Northern Ireland, Dover, sea ports and airports.

Livingstone told the Scottish Police Authority Board that he does not have "exact clarity" on the cost of policing Brexit.

He said "It is a concern and an issue which I have discussed with colleagues in the Scottish Government and the SPA."

Speaking at an SPA board meeting in Stirling he said, "I am aware that the Cabinet Office is coordinating the UK Government response.

"The Treasury, I am told, has developed a contingency fund for the potential cost of a no deal Brexit or a contested Brexit arrangement.

"Such matters would clearly involve the potential provision of mutual aid from Police Scotland to colleagues in Northern Ireland, where there may be pressure in regard to the common travel area and the land border that they have with the south.

"There is potential disruption to food and pharmaceutical supply chains, potential disruption to seaports and airports.

"So, in that regard, we as the second largest police service in the UK stand ready to provide any mutual aid that may be required, while at the same time ensuring that we address any vulnerabilities and threat to our own country.

"That is the reason we need UK wide coordination.

"This is the UK that is leaving its treaty obligations that it has previously entered, and therefore the implications will be felt throughout the UK, at the same time recognising the very different legal systems that exist in Scotland and Northern Ireland."

The decision to appoint a minister to oversee protection of food supplies sparked much debate following the announcement with Nicola Sturgeon saying that such an appointment should give everyone in the UK pause for thought.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the appointment exposes the "shambolic" handling of Brexit and said Tory Brexiters should be the first to bear the brunt "if there ever comes a day when there is food rationing in this country."

"The Tories' stewardship of Brexit and the UK as a whole is proving so catastrophic that they have had to appoint a minister for food supplies, which is the first time that such a post has been held since World War II," she said.

"How has it come to this situation? It is shameful, and it should be a source of shame for a long time to come for every member of the Conservative Party.

"I certainly hope that it will not come to food rationing in this country. Things are becoming so shambolic that it is time to draw a halt to this Brexit catastrophe.

"If there ever comes a day when there is food rationing in this country because of a Tory Brexit, perhaps the first people who should bear the burden of that are Boris Johnson, Jacob Rees-Mogg, David Davis and Michael Gove – all people who perpetrated a dishonesty on the people of this country.

"We will see how they enjoy their Brexit bonanza."

## Invest NI chief Alastair Hamilton quits investment organisation

BELFAST – The head of Invest NI has announced his decision to quit the organisation.

Alastair Hamilton – a former DUP special adviser – took up his position in April 2009. He said he always intended to step down after 10 years.

The body is responsible for encouraging foreign investment in Northern Ireland through helping businesses establish a base in the country and in supporting existing organisations to grow and develop.

Invest NI said Hamilton had notified the board he intends to leave later in the year.

Hamilton said he had thoroughly enjoyed his time with the organisation and counts it a great privilege to have been able to serve the organisation, and his home country, in such a significant role.

"There is never a good time to leave



ALASTAIR HAMILTON has announced that he will leave his position as head of Invest Northern Ireland.

such a position, but it has been my intention to step down after 10 years in the post, which would be during 2019.

"I intend to explore new opportunities and further expand my other areas of interest."

Hamilton is to remain in post to allow

for the recruitment of a new chief executive.

Since his appointment the business landscape in Northern Ireland has been transformed with organisations such as major global law firms and even the New York Stock Exchange setting up a base in Belfast.

# Scottish Government hub in France opened by first minister along with visits to the U.S. and Canada

EDINBURGH – Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon returned from an overseas trip to the U.S. and Canada in early February.

The SNP leader visited Washington DC, New York, New Jersey, Ottawa and Toronto where she met with community leaders and business representatives.

On arrival in Ottawa, she hosted a Scotland is Now reception to officially launch the new Scottish Government office in Ottawa and to launch the global marketing campaign to a Canadian audience for the first time.

In Toronto, she started the day meeting the CEO and senior management team of the Toronto Region Board of Trade and World Trade Center to discuss and promote trade opportunities, particularly in the digital, data and fintech sectors.

She also opened the Toronto Stock Exchange and visited West Neighbourhood House social enterprise.

During her visit, she announced an international agreement to grow and sustain social enterprises in Scotland and Canada.



SCOTTISH FIRST MINISTER Nicola Sturgeon hosted a Scotland is Now reception to officially launch the new Scottish Government office in Ottawa and to launch the global marketing campaign to a Canadian audience for the first time.

The Social Enterprise Academy, the body providing learning and development for the sector in Scotland, has launched a new partnership with the Canadian Community Economic Development Network supported by Toronto's Learning Enrichment Foundation and the Scottish Government.

Later in February, she travelled to France where she officially opened the Scottish Government's hub office in Paris.

France is the third largest market for Scottish exports and the first minister described the relationship between the

two nations as "one of the oldest in the world."

She travelled to the French capital to address the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Assemblée Nationale, the lower house of parliament.

Speaking at the hub office's opening, the first minister said, "The Scottish Government wants to strengthen our partnership – not just on the basis of our historic ties but our modern connections: friendships, cultural links, business ties, shared appetite for innovation and, most of all, our shared values."



THE EFFECTS of a no-deal Brexit are expected to be more severe in Northern Ireland than in Britain.

## NI 'let down' by lack of assembly, says Scottish Brexit minister

EDINBURGH – Scotland's Brexit Secretary says the people of Northern Ireland have been let down by the lack of an executive.

SNP politician Mike Russell said the Stormont stalemate has impacted on the wider Brexit debate.

He said cross-party discussions about the UK leaving the EU have proved difficult because there are no Northern Ireland executive ministers present.

Northern Ireland has been without a government since the power sharing executive collapsed in January 2017.

Speaking to the BBC Northern Ireland programme *The View*, Mike Russell said, "I think the people of Northern Ireland have been let down by not having [a Stormont] administration.

"The reasons for that are for the Northern Irish people to discuss, not for me. But I think there has been an added difficulty in these talks, which has been created by that."

Since 2017, civil servants have represented local ministers at Joint Ministerial Committee meetings involving politicians from Cardiff, Edinburgh and London.

Russell told the BBC, "There has been a good principled representation from the Northern Ireland Civil Service. I sit alongside those people at committee meetings, but I don't think Northern Ireland has been heard."

While local politicians have not been discussing Brexit at Stormont, at Westminster it has been a different matter.

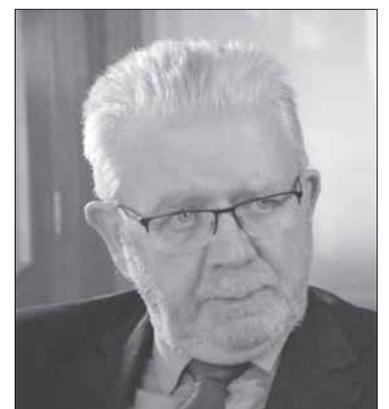
The DUP's 10 MPs have found themselves centre stage in the Brexit debate over the key issue of the Irish border backstop.

The Conservative Party entered into a pact with Arlene Foster's party after the general election in 2017, in order to give Theresa May a working majority in the Commons.

The DUP agreed to support the government on all Brexit votes, finance bills, the Budget and a number of other areas, in exchange for an extra £1 billion spending for Northern Ireland.

Whilst the DUP have the ear of the prime minister at Westminster, some Conservatives say different opinions from Northern Ireland are missing.

Scottish Tory MSP Adam Tomkins



MIKE RUSSELL said the Stormont stalemate has impacted on the wider Brexit debate.

*The more extreme you are, the more likely you are to be listened to by the prime minister.*

told *The View* the DUP's voice "is being heard loudly in London at the moment because Theresa May is reliant on DUP votes in terms of confidence and supply, and also, presumably, in terms of the meaningful vote later in March."

He added that "other voices in Northern Ireland have not been forthcoming."

Mike Russell says the SNP government campaigned for Scotland to be considered a special case after Brexit.

However, he claims the Conservative government has not taken their arguments on board.

He said, "I don't think anybody has been listened to, except those who are around the prime minister. The more extreme you are, the more likely you are to be listened to by the prime minister. I don't think the prime minister listens to anybody."

However, Conservative MSP Adam Tomkins said the SNP are playing politics over Brexit.

"They have weaponised Brexit, not because they particularly care about the terms on which the United Kingdom leaves the EU, but because they are trying to use it to push their own aggressive case for an independent Scottish state," said Tomkins.

## Irish businesses tapping into markets beyond UK over Brexit concerns

DUBLIN – Irish businesses are responding to the challenges posed by Brexit by tapping into markets beyond the UK, the country's finance minister has said.

As the government continues to urge firms to be prepared for the UK leaving the European Union, Paschal Donohoe and Minister for Business Heather Humphreys visited businesses in the border region last month.

New regional enterprise plans have been launched to support growth and job creation in border counties, which are considered to be most vulnerable to Brexit.

In response to reports that Brexit could be delayed for up to two years, Donohoe said that more time would allow Irish businesses and the economy to plan for the future.

He added, "It will be in the long term interests to get clarity regarding what the future relationship will be like between the UK and the EU.

"A transitional period that gives more time to plan for that future would be of benefit to all but we will be looking to move all of this forward as members of the EU and through the task force led by Michel Barnier."

The north-west regional plan has a total of six objectives which aims to en-



HEATHER HUMPHREYS, Irish Minister for Business.

hance the visibility of skills and maximise the potential of the Wild Atlantic Way and tourism.

Minister Humphreys said many companies are already prepared for Brexit.

"There are a wide range of supports available through Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) and I would particularly encourage companies to register online with Revenue," she added.

"Later today I am launching an online customs training programme and also



PASCHAL DONOHOE, Irish Minister of Finance.

one-to-one mentoring and we already have an Enterprise Ireland website that gives training for customs and we want people to engage in that.

"There are lots of other supports out there we have been providing to businesses.

"We have been encouraging businesses to prepare for the worst case scenario while we continue to negotiate for the best possible outcome.

"We still have some time to go but I am saying to businesses, be ready."

## 2019 IRISH FESTIVAL IN SEATTLE

### PASSINGS

• Flory Sullivan (95), a native of Co. Cork and brother of Pete, died in Renton February 13;

• Margie McDevitt (89), the daughter of Irish immigrants from Co. Donegal, died in Seattle December 8;

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

**PARADE GRAND MARSHAL** – Council member Joe McDermott has been on the King County Council since 2010 and served as Chair for the past three years.

His father's family originated from Co. Tyrone and his mother's family (Keohane) from Co. Cork.

Having first attended a family gathering in Ireland in 1994, Joe now visits Ireland annually to see family, lead political exchanges, attend film festivals, and conduct genealogical research.

He considers watching the sun rise over an ancient stone circle and being locked into a pub after hours to be essential life experiences!

In his spare time, he bakes a mean Irish apple cake and takes Irish history courses at the University of Washington.

We are delighted and honored to have Joe McDermott as our 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal.

**HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL** – Extremely proud of her Irish heritage, Nicole Russeff has participated in the Seattle St. Patrick's Day parade for the past 15 years, and it's always the highlight of her year.

Nicole's great-grandparents immigrated from Co. Down in 1907 and her great grand-aunt was Lily Kempson who fought in Dublin during the 1916 Easter Rebellion.

Because of her pure delight in celebrating St. Patrick's Day every year, and the infectious joy she conveys to all watching, the Irish Heritage Club are delighted to have her as Honorary Grand Marshal of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

**MAYOR'S LUNCHEON** – Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Galway Mayor Niall McNelis will both attend the Mayor's Irish Week Proclamation Luncheon on Friday, March 15, at the Ninety, 406 Occidental Avenue South, Seattle, on Friday, March 15, at noon.

Proclamations of Irish Week 2019 will be issued and the parade sashes will be presented to the Grand Marshal and Honorary Grand Marshal. Reservations (required) for the salmon lunch at (253) 237-2811.

**PARADE HIGHLIGHTS** – In Seattle's St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16, for the first time ever, the Correctional Service Canada Community Pipes and Drums out of Abbotsford, B.C. will participate, joining half a dozen other bands, including the Seattle Firefighters Pipe Band, the Seattle Police Pipe Band and the Navy Band Northwest.

Also participating for the first time is a marching group from the Duwamish Tribe, Seattle's indigenous people. They will join a Samoan Youth Group, about 60 Unicyclists from Whittier Elementary School, 25 Star Wars Costume characters, the Seafair Pirates, and the Seafair Clowns.



By  
**JOHN  
KEANE**



**COUNCIL MEMBER** Joe McDermott is 2019 Grand Marshal of Seattle's St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 16.

The Ride-the-Ducks Boat will again serve as a Shamrock Shuttle to carry seniors who are unable to walk the parade route (seating reservations at (253) 2371-2811).

All are welcome to walk with their favorite group or behind their provincial banner. Parade starts at 12:30 PM. Find all the details at: [irishweek.org](http://irishweek.org).

**IRISH FESTIVAL** – Admission to all Irish Festival activities is FREE on both Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17 at the Seattle Center.

The festival features non-stop Irish music, singing and dancing, booths selling Irish and Celtic products, workshops, lectures, cultural displays, children's contests and activities, including contests to find the kid with the 'Smilingest Irish Eyes' and the 'Most Irish Looking Face'.

Special festival features includes an exhibit marking Éamon de Valera's visit to Seattle in 1919 where he was greeted with a huge Seattle newspaper headline calling him the "Head of So-Called 'Irish Republic'."

The festival runs noon to 6 PM Saturday and 10 AM to 6 PM Sunday. For all the details visit: [irishweek.org](http://irishweek.org).

**IRISH FILMS** – Among the films to be screened at the Irish Festival at the Seattle Center on March 16 and 17: *Under The Clock* (2018), a film about relationships that began under one of Ireland's most iconic landmarks, Clerys Clock in Dublin; *Sanctuary* (2016), about two people in Galway with developmental disabilities who long to be together; *1916: The Irish Rebellion* (2016), the landmark documentary giving a comprehensive overview of the 1916 Easter Rising. Admission is FREE and detailed schedules are available at: [irishweek.org](http://irishweek.org).

**R/T TICKETS RAFFLE** – On the evening of St. Patrick's Day at the Irish Festival at the Seattle Center, some lucky person will become the winner of a coupon for two round trip tickets direct from Seattle to Dublin on Aer Lingus.

Tickets at \$5 each can only be pur-

chased in person from an Irish Heritage Club or Seattle Gaels member – they cannot be sold online or via mail or telephone – and ONLY 1,000 TICKETS ARE BEING SOLD.

So pick up your tickets at any of the Irish Week events or at the Irish Heritage Club booth during the Irish Festival.

The special drawing is on the festival's main stage at 5:30 PM, Sunday, March 17, and you do not have to be present to win. *Ádh mór* – good luck!!

**OTHER EVENTS** – Other events at Irish Week include the St. Patrick's Day Mass on Friday morning, March 15, at 10 AM at St. Patrick's Church, celebrated by 99-year-old Father Bill Treacy.

Then late afternoon at 5:50 PM, the Pirates Landing of St. Patrick will be held at south Lake Union, near MOHAI, followed at 7 PM by the 'Painting of the Green Stripe' on 4th Avenue. All events are free and more information is available at: [irishweek.org](http://irishweek.org).

**BUSINESS BREAKFAST** – On March 18, 7:30 AM, at the Washington Athletic Club, join Irish Network Seattle for a breakfast conversation with Ciarán Cannon, Irish Government Minister for State for the Diaspora and International Development, along with Brian Cotter, Advocacy & Public Affairs Director with the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland.

For tickets and more information, visit: [irishweek.org](http://irishweek.org).

**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL** – On March 18, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, you're invited to join Minister Ciarán Cannon for a World Affairs Council Lunch to discuss Managing the Brexit Challenge: Ireland, the EU, and Transatlantic Relationships. Discussion is moderated by John Galligan, Microsoft's head of Global Government Affairs. Details and reservations at: [world-affairs.org](http://world-affairs.org).

**RÉALTA CONCERT** – Réalta, billed by the Belfast *Irish News* as "the new stars of Irish trad music!", will be in concert on March 10 at the Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Avenue, Mount Vernon.

This award winning multi-instrumentalist group present an enchanting program of Irish traditional dance music interspersed with the occasional story, air, and song. Details at: [celticarts.org](http://celticarts.org).

**SEAN-NÓS FESTIVAL** – The 12th annual Sean-Nós Northwest Traditional Irish Festival at Evergreen State College in Olympia, two full days of workshops and classes on traditional Irish singing, dancing, language, music, and culture, with classes all day Saturday and Sunday, April 13 & 14.

Classes in gaeilge (Irish language), singing, dance, guitar, fiddle, and accordion. Registration at: [seannos.org](http://seannos.org).

**O'TOOLE AWARD** – Former Seattle Police Chief, Kathleen O'Toole, who is currently serving as chair of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland, is being honored at the Éire Society of Boston's Annual Gold Medal Dinner on April 27.

O'Toole will receive the society's gold medal for her achievements as an International Law Enforcement Professional.

[Continued next page...]



PARTICIPANTS at Seattle's Irish soda bread cooking class on February 23 – (L-R) Fionna Shriane-Travis, Morgan Thorne, Casey McNerthney and Wayne Methner.



AISLIN TRAVIS digs in at Seattle's Irish soda bread cooking class on February 23.



INSTRUCTOR FIONNA giving direction to the other cooks at Seattle's Irish soda bread cooking class on February 23. (L-R) Laird Nelson, David Jacobsen, Daisy Jacobsen, Fionna Shriane-Travis, and Corina Leahy.

## 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. – PMK, MJK, CC, CB, CLF, KLSLK, BC

### 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. – NB

# 2019 IRISH FESTIVAL IN SEATTLE



ST. PATRICK'S DAY Parade Honorary Grand Marshal Nicole Russeff with the Seattle Firefighters Pipes and Drums before the start of the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Seattle.

[Continued from page 24]

This honor places her in the company of leaders in all levels of government, business, diplomacy, academia, clergy, literature, arts and culture on both sides of the Atlantic who have been so recognized by the society in its 82-year history.

**EMERALD EVENING** – The Seattle Police Pipes & Drums host their Emerald Evening 2019 on Saturday, April 6 at the SPAA Pavilion, 11030 E Marginal Way S, Tukwila.

The event to raise funds for the SPD Pipe band starts at 4:30 PM cocktail hour, program 5:45 PM, followed by a buffet dinner, hosted beer and wine bar, dessert dash, whiskey tasting bar, live auction, etc.

Performances by the Seattle Police Pipes & Drums, then dancing to the Celtic sounds of Stark Raving Plaid. Tickets \$40 at (253) 237-2811.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

• For information on the next Irish Book Club meeting, e-mail: jaadams095@gmail.com.

• The Cascadia Irish Music Week is July 21-27 at the Evergreen State College, Olympia, Irish music classes based on your instrument and skill level. More information and registration at: [ceolcascadia.org](http://ceolcascadia.org).

• Ulster Historical Foundation has three genealogy seminars this month in Salt Lake City, Utah (March 14/15, e-mail: [info@heritagejourneys.net](mailto:info@heritagejourneys.net)), and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (March 20, e-mail: [twneel@gmail.com](mailto:twneel@gmail.com)). For details and other locations, visit: [ancestryireland.com](http://ancestryireland.com).

## Head of 800-year-old mummy stolen from Dublin church crypt

DUBLIN – An 800-year-old mummy has been decapitated and its head stolen from a church in Dublin.

The head of 'The Crusader' was removed from a crypt in St. Michan's Church. The crime was discovered when a guide went to open the church for visitors on the afternoon of Monday, February 25.

The crypt has been badly damaged and several of the mummies, including the 400-year-old remains of a nun, had been desecrated.

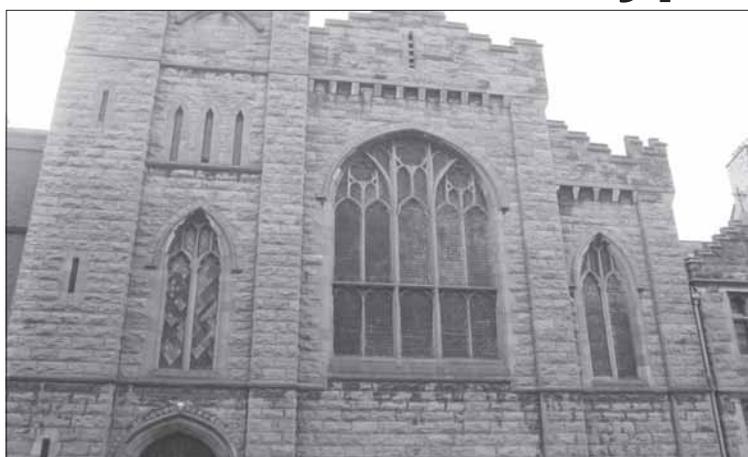
The Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson expressed sadness and outrage at the incident.

"I am shocked that someone would target this ancient burial place and desecrate the remains of those lying within it," he said.

"Not only have these individuals desecrated the sacred crypt but they have destroyed these historic mummies which have been preserved in St. Michan's for hundreds of years.

Archdeacon David Pierpoint said he has been left "upset and disappointed" that the church has been targeted again after the crypt was earlier vandalised in 1996. "The actions of these people are devastating and sacrilegious," he said.

Many of the coffins in the underground vaults date from the early Middle Ages although many also date from more recent times: leaders of a failed rebellion in 1798 are also interred here.



THE ATTACK happened at St. Michan's Parish Church in Dublin.

The walls in the vaults contain limestone, which has kept the air dry, creating ideal conditions for preservation.

The church vaults have historically been open to tours on Saturdays, and seasonally on some weekdays, receiving approximately 27,000 visitors during 2018.

Following the recent vandalism however, these tours were reportedly "cancelled for the foreseeable future."

On March 5, gardai reported that they had recovered the skull along with another stolen from the crypt but would not give any details about the circumstances of the find.

A spokesperson merely said "the items were recovered as a result of information that came into the possession of the investigating gardai."



A VIEW of the vault beneath St. Michan's, in which some of the mummies are exposed

### HEAD OF SO-CALLED "IRISH REPUBLIC," WHO IS A VISITOR IN SEATTLE TODAY



THE SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER newspaper headline when Eamon de Valera, the President of the revolutionary Irish Republic, arrived in Seattle on November 11, 1919.



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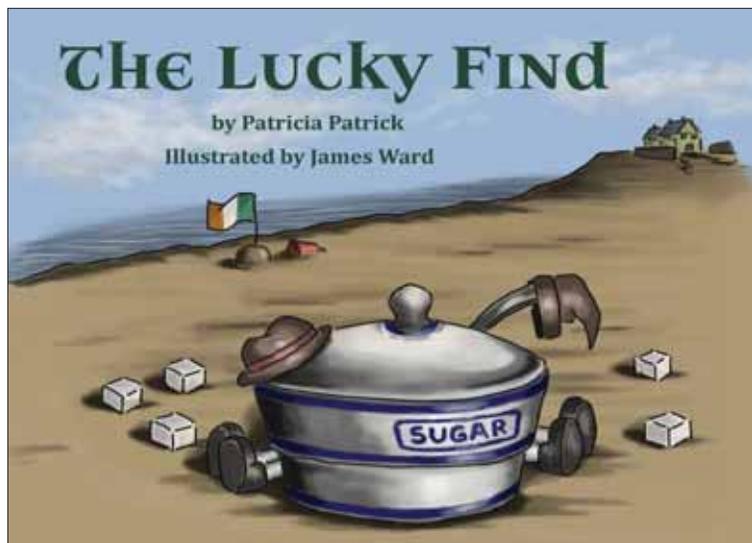

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## Irish Canadian writer recalls a happy childhood in Co. Cork in new book

VANCOUVER – Local writer Patricia Patrick's new book *The Lucky Find* is based on one of her many family trips to Kilcrohan in County Cork when she was a child.

She says, "I know I have a very active imagination but I really do believe that I saw leprechauns in Cork all those years ago. I also know that I am not the only Irish person to believe in the 'Little Folk'."

"To this day many of the tours around Ireland will mention fairies and leprechauns when crossing over a bridge or passing a fairy ring or fort.

"Even my grandmother wouldn't throw her dirty dishwater on the grass in case there was a fairy ring that she might disturb!"

Patricia recalls that in addition to the many family vacations, she also remembers those Sunday outings where the family would all pile into the car for a drive "just to get out of the house and as far as I know we never really had a destination!"

Extended family including cousins would often go along as well and they all enjoyed picnics galore in farmers' fields or by the side of the road. Inevitably they would visit a local establishment to finish off the day.

As kids, they were either left to sit in the car eating crisps and drinking soft drinks or sitting with the adults in the pub listening to their stories and eat-

ing cocktail sausages with chips. She recalls happy days, even if not up to modern sensibilities.

When Patricia turned 11, she and her older sister attended boarding school at the Holy Faith Convent in Glasnevin on the north side of Dublin.

Her English teacher was the first person who told her that she had a nice writing style. She spent seven years there with the nuns but those stories will have to wait for another day.

"I emigrated to Canada in the early Eighties and started my teaching career in Victoria, B.C.," said Patricia, "and my son and his family are still living there."

With a smile, she says, "It must be my lot in life to be constantly visiting islands, travelling back each year to Dublin to visit family."

Today, Patricia lives in Maple Ridge with her husband and being a Montessori teacher, she has told the story of her leprechaun sightings to hundreds of students over the years.

They have always loved it and begged her to repeat the tale year after year, especially around St. Patrick's Day.

"In fact," she says, "it was my students who convinced me to write the book. Who knows, maybe I will see leprechauns again on my next trip home."

[Visit Patricia's website to purchase or learn more about *The Lucky Find*: [www.patriciapublications.com](http://www.patriciapublications.com).]

## Welsh flag has been voted the coolest on the planet

The Welsh flag has been acknowledged as the coolest in the world in a massive global survey.

Ranker, a worldwide digital polling website, asked the population of the planet to cast their vote on "The Coolest National Flags."

Ranked from best to worst by the number of votes by the site's 49 million monthly visitors, it includes the coolest flags from any country on earth.

Voters are advised that when considering which country has the best flag, they need to consider a few things. The design should be "simple and "memo-



orable" plus "worthy of the nation it represents."

The poll, which had almost 184,000 votes from across the world, has listed the Welsh flag as the coolest national flag on the entire planet.

## VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

# St. David's Day celebrations at the historic Cambrian Hall

By EIFION WILLIAMS



VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Welsh society celebrated St. David's Day on the evening of March 1 with a fun-filled open house at the Cambrian Hall.

This celebration has grown into an annual event featuring a wide array of Welsh music, poetry, traditional ceremonies and national symbols.

This year, Vancouver's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Michael Wiebe, read the Proclamation of St. David's Day in the City of Vancouver.

Simulating the pageantry of the Gorsedd of the Welsh National Eisteddfod, there were Trumpet Fanfares played by Roy Beavan and Jackie Little, followed by a procession of 'Druids' led by the 'Archdruid', David Llewelyn Williams, who led the audience in the traditional call "Is There Peace?" (A Oes Heddwch?) followed by the audience responding three times with "Peace" (Heddwch).

Jane Byrne read the Gorsedd Prayer in English and Welsh and Jackie Chapman, accompanied by Ray Batten, read the words to *Ring Out the Bells of St. David*, followed by a reading and Prayer for St. David's Day by Marilyn Hames.

The Archdruid then invited all present to eat the leek and toast St. David in water.

The evening ended with community singing and cups of delicious leek soup (cawl cennin).

On Saturday evening, the annual St. David's Day dinner was held at the Cambrian Hall, chaired by Welsh Society President Lynn Owens-Whalen.

The guest artist was soloist and harp-



DAVID LLEWELYN Williams as the 'Archdruid' invited all present to toast St. David.



GUEST ARTIST soloist and harpist Leanne Page was accompanied by her son Connor on guitar.

ist Leanne Page. Leanne is a classically trained singer from Surrey and a notably accomplished harpist who performs regularly throughout the Lower Mainland.

The traditional greetings from kindred societies were read out by Eifion Williams, while toasts to Wales and St. David were presented by Jane Byrne and Lynn Owens-Whalen.

The toast to Canada was presented by Don Davies, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Kingsway.

Messages of congratulation on the Cambrian Hall anniversary were also received from the Canadian Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism Pablo Rodriguez, the Premier of British Columbia John Horgan, and from Mark Drakeford, First Minister of the Welsh Assembly.

President Lynn Owens-Whalen also congratulated long-time member and ex-president of the Welsh Society Jane Byrne on being selected as this year's Celtic Person of the Year by the Vancouver CelticFest Society.

## Canada's Heritage Minister sends message of congratulations

VANCOUVER – This year the Vancouver Welsh Society is celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Cambrian Hall.

The hall was officially opened on Saturday, September 1, 1929 by Marion Malkin, wife of the mayor of Vancouver.

The iconic building at 17th Avenue, just off Main Street, is recognized by Welsh communities across North America as the only Welsh hall built specifically for that purpose.

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, the Canadian Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism has sent a message of congratulations which was read during the Vancouver Welsh Society St. David's Day celebrations. It reads as follows:

St. David's Day celebrations are particularly noteworthy this year for Van-

couver's Welsh community, as it celebrates the 90th anniversary of Cambrian Hall.

It's an especially poignant way to mark this feast day, as this historic cultural centre marks nine decades as a beacon for Welsh culture in Vancouver and beyond.

These walls could likely tell countless stories, from cultural events to weddings to concerts to Welsh language classes. Cambrian Hall is not only a historic building in the city, it is a cultural hub.

Our government knows that Canada's diversity is one of its greatest strengths.

Our country's story is constantly enriched through the efforts of cultural groups such as the Vancouver Welsh Society.

As Minister of Canadian Culture and Multiculturalism, I'd like to congratulate everyone whose efforts have made



the Cambrian Hall a cultural landmark in Vancouver.

*Dydd Gu yl Dewi Hapus!* (Happy St. David's Day).

# Hereditary Hemochromatosis: We all have a role to play to help others learn more

Hemochromatosis is an inherited condition that causes the body to absorb too much iron from the diet.

The excess iron accumulates over time, damaging organs and tissues in the process and potentially leading to disease.

In Canada, an estimated one in 300 people carry the two gene mutations responsible for the majority of hemochromatosis diagnoses.

While hemochromatosis can affect people of all ethnicities, the condition is most common in people of northern European and Celtic heritage. Here is Melita Paul's story.

**By MELITA PAUL**

My Hemochromatosis journey began many years before my diagnosis. Many years of suffering from unexplained health conditions was very frustrating and tiring.

Receiving a diagnosis of hereditary hemochromatosis was almost rewarding in a way; it meant that there was really something medically wrong within my body.

Thanks to a doctor friend and the support of the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society, I learned to become my own advocate for my health and the health of my family members.

There had never been anyone in my community in Newfoundland and Labrador diagnosed with this disease, and our health care system wasn't sure how to respond to the need for regular phlebotomies.

This meant that I needed to leave my community for several weeks in order to obtain regular phlebotomies.

I used this time to lobby my health care provider for nurses in my community to be trained to offer this service, as I knew that I would not be the only one in my family with this disease.

I also used this time to learn every-



MELITA PAUL

thing I could about hemochromatosis and how it could affect a person's health.

Other members of my family had genetic testing done following my diagnosis and it was discovered that one of my brothers and my two children were also plagued with this disorder and required regular phlebotomies.

I took a very conscious approach to my health and lowered the iron in my body to acceptable levels within four months and have been consistent with regular blood work, making sure my ferritin and iron saturation levels are kept in the ranges that my doctor requested.

I do a lot of advocacy in my area and often do radio interviews to raise awareness of hereditary hemochromatosis.

When I meet people who are newly diagnosed, I advise them to get in contact with the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society and avail of the great work that they do.

I have had the opportunity to share my story with others through the Society's website and other sources of media.

It appears that more and more people are being diagnosed with hereditary hemochromatosis and I am sure the work that the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society is doing in raising awareness is contributing to this.

I think we all have a role to play to help others learn more. By being my own health advocate, I saved the life of my brother whose ferritin numbers were not readable because they were higher than the lab medical staff could record in our province.

I live each day with some complications that I believe have been caused because of my late diagnosis; however, I try to stay positive and be thankful that I am still here, as often times people don't find out they have hereditary hemochromatosis until it's too late and their body is too damaged from the iron overload.

Even though there has been great work done around educating people and health care providers about hemochromatosis, there is still work to do.

I will continue to be an advocate for this disease and if I can prevent one person from suffering any longer than they need to, I will have done my part.

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. If you have benefitted in any way from the work of the Society, please support its 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](http://www.toomuchiron.ca/celtic).

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