

the celtic connection

ISSUE 28 VOLUME 7

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

NOVEMBER 2019



ARTWORK by Amanda Clark [More about the artist on page 2]

AS WE ENTER THE SEASON of darkness and draw closer to the warmth of our hearth and family, we are reminded that the light returns with Winter Solstice. It whispers the promise of renewal with the coming of Spring [St. Brigid's Day: February 1]. This eternal journey is illustrated in the final stanza of the Brendan Kennelly poem *Begin*: "Though we live in a world that dreams of ending / that always seems about to give in / something that will not acknowledge conclusion / insists that we forever begin."

[Read more in Cynthia Wallentine's column, page 19]



AGAINST A BACKDROP of the shuttered Northern Ireland parliament, women who suffered under the restrictive abortion laws celebrate 'historic' decriminalisation on October 22, 2019. Termination of pregnancy has been legal in England, Wales and Scotland for decades, but remained banned in Northern Ireland in almost all circumstances – including rape and incest. In July, in the absence of a sitting Northern Ireland Executive, MPs in Westminster voted by a landslide to give women the right to abortion, as well as to lift the ban on same-sex marriage.

[Read more on page 15]

Inside This Issue



THE BODIES of 39 people were discovered in a refrigerated trailer unit in a U.K. industrial park in the early hours of October 23. The grim discovery sparked a huge international investigation to try to identify the victims – eight females and 31 males – now understood to be Vietnamese nationals. Police believe they are dealing with a multi-million euro human trafficking ring. [More on page 8]



THOUSANDS of Scottish independence supporters at a rally in George Square in Glasgow on Saturday, November 2 where the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said it was time to break away from the "chaos of Westminster" in a second independence poll next year. Scotland voted 62 percent to remain in the European Union in the Brexit referendum. [Read more on page 9]



THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs hosted the inaugural Conference of Honorary Consuls of Ireland in Dublin in September. Attendees outside outside Farmleigh House included [L-R] Laureen Regan (Calgary), Deirdre Halferty (Calgary), Doodie Cahill (Edmonton), Eithne Heffernan (Toronto), and John Keane (Seattle). [See more on pages 13 & 17]

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LÁ FHÉILE BRÍDE
Ag Ceiliúradh Cruthaitheachta na mBan

ST BRIGID'S DAY
Celebrating the Creativity of Women

Saturday, February 1, 2020
Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre Campus
Downtown Vancouver

Don't miss our evening keynote speaker from Dublin:

AILBHE SMYTH

A leading Irish activist and former head of Women's Studies at University College Dublin

[One of *Time Magazine's* 'Most Influential People' of 2019 for her work as Co-Director of 'Together For Yes' and as Convenor of 'Coalition to Repeal the 8th Amendment in Ireland']



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• *Letters from the Diaspora*

'Yours Always: Irish Women Writing the Diaspora'

Presented by SFU Professor Dara Culhane

[Deadline to register for this workshop November 12 - so don't delay!]

To register, e-mail: 2019vivavoce@gmail.com

• *Legends & Mythology of Brigid: Triple Goddess and Matron Saint*

With storyteller Philomena Jordan from the west of Ireland and round table discussion: 'What does Brigid~St. Brigid mean to you?'

• *Brigid Cross-Making Workshop*

Presented by Irish/Canadian Artist Deirdre Keohane

• *Healing: Addiction Recovery & Mental Health Workshop*

Leading activists and mental health professionals in a round table discussion of issues faced by the Irish diaspora.

Following an introduction the panel will open for questions.

• *Exhibits & Displays including:*

HerStory: A cultural movement that tells the life stories of historical, mythic and contemporary women.

[Local Irish women are invited to submit a digital image of a woman who has inspired their lives...be it an historical figure, a friend, or a family member.

Participants will be then be invited to attend a photographic session to create a pop-up illumination exhibit standing beside a projection of the image of their inspiration.

[Deadline for submissions: Friday, December 20]

For details, e-mail: mauradefreitas1@gmail.com

• *And much more!*

Irish women are invited to gather and share stories and ideas throughout the day

Presented by the Irish Benevolent Society of B.C.
in association with the Irish Women's Network of B.C. & Simon Fraser University

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More Information on Facebook:

Féile Bríde: Celebrating the Women of Ireland - Vancouver
e-mail: mauradefreitas1@gmail.com or call (778) 238-1522

Féile Bríde 2020 **Vancouver:** **Celebrating the** **Creativity of Women**

VANCOUVER – The Irish Benevolent Society of B.C. in association with Simon Fraser University and the Irish Women's Network announces St. Brigid's Festival in Vancouver.

By **MARY McSWINEY**

Féile Bríde is a full day academic and cultural event dedicated to the celebration of the women of Ireland, through the medium of Brigid – Ireland's triple goddess and matron saint.

The daytime program features workshops such as "Yours Always: Irish Women Writing the Diaspora" presented by Professor Dara Culhane from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Simon Fraser University.

The workshop and performance will share how Irish women as writers and readers of letters home maintain enduring connections over time; creating the ties that bind and bridging the lines that divide.

Exhibits will include 'HerStory' the Irish women's storytelling project, which uncovers forgotten and fascinating women's stories from history, mythology and contemporary culture. Further information on Herstory can be found at <https://www.herstory.ie>.

[Local participation is invited for the HerStory project. Details to follow in the December issue of *The Celtic Connection*.]

Attendees can also participate in a St. Brigid's cross making workshop taught by Irish-Canadian artist, Deirdre Keohane.

The evening portion features refreshments and keynote speaker Ailbhe

Smyth; an Irish feminist, socialist and LGBT activist listed as one of *Time* magazine's most influential people of 2019.

Ailbhe Smyth has been instrumental in the success of recent referendums aimed at moving Irish society towards modernity and inclusiveness. A presentation by Ailbhe is inspiring, emotive and not to be missed.

Ruth Negga writes of Ailbhe and her activist colleagues in *Time* magazine "It was breathtaking to witness the determination, intelligence and sheer hard work of its leaders Grainne Griffin, Ailbhe Smyth and Orla O'Connor, who mobilized people of all different backgrounds in the lead-up to the vote. They put the experiences of women and the needs of their country first."

Coinciding with the traditional festival of St. Brigid's day, Féile Bríde takes place on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Simon Fraser University Harbour Campus in Downtown Vancouver.

It is supported by the Government of Ireland through grant funding with the Irish Emigrant Support Programme.

Updates on Féile Bríde will be posted to Irish Benevolent Society of B.C. Facebook page.

For further information contact: Maura De Freitas (Publisher/Editor, *The Celtic Connection*) by e-mail: mauradefreitas1@gmail.com or (778) 238-1522.

Attendance is free, evening attendees are asked to register in advance on eventbrite.ca: St. Brigid's Day 2020 Vancouver.

ABOUT OUR COVER ARTIST

Our cover artist this month Amanda Clark lives in the small village called Shalford in England. Her home is a two minute walk away from a beautiful woodland where she loves to explore and go for dawn walks.

All of the seasons fill her with inspiration and dreams for painting. While walking in this magical place, she is in the company of deer, crows, a fox or two, sometimes a glimpse of badgers and hares speeding across the open fields from the woodland edge with a swoop of a flying owl over head. Much of her inspiration for paintings comes from this place.

She has been creating artwork since 2000, and said she loves every moment of an artist's life. Amanda has an Etsy shop where she sells ceramic pieces and jewellery, greeting cards, and open edition prints. You can find more here: <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/earthangelsarts>.

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Veteran RTÉ broadcaster Gay Byrne dies aged 85

DUBLIN – The death of legendary RTÉ broadcaster Gay Byrne was announced on Monday, November 4. He was 85 and had been ill for some time.

Since news of his death was announced, tributes have poured in for Byrne who was the undisputed leading figure in the history of Irish broadcasting.

He played a hugely influential role in the transformation of attitudes in the latter part of the 20th Century.

In a tribute to Gay Byrne, the week's *Late Late Show* opened featured the original music and a series of classic entrances by the late host.

President Michael D. Higgins opened the tributes on the night, hailing Byrne as an icon who had the courage to "open up what should be opened up."

"I think that maybe the biggest thing was that people felt that you had a kind of a safe, non-judgmental space where you could begin to think in a modern way," he said of the show during Byrne's tenure in the host's seat.

In a career that spanned six decades, he was father figure, confessor, inquisitor and entertainer, all rolled into one.

The show had a close relationship with



GAY BYRNE [1934-2019]

its listeners who were encouraged to write in and then phone Gay to comment on the issues of the day and with their own stories.

A natural showman, his seemingly effortless command of his medium in both television and radio belied a fierce perfectionism and unrelenting work ethic.

The *Late Late Show*, which he presented for many years, as well as his daily radio show, were both groundbreaking for their time.

After first airing in 1962, the *Late Late Show* went on to become one of the world's longest running chat shows thanks to Byrne's relaxed but knowledgeable presentation style.

This allowed him to combine light entertainment with serious current affairs discussions and matters of human in-

terest. On some occasions the show made headlines itself, with celebrity guests and politicians.

It also featured discussions on issues such as divorce, abortion and LGBTQ, issues which were then rarely spoken about on television.

Some notable guests included former EU Commissioner Pádraig Flynn who spoke about his European salary and lifestyle and Annie Murphy, who had had a child with Bishop Eamonn Casey.

Gay also presented a long running radio show on RTÉ Radio 1, first known as the *Gay Byrne Hour* and then the *Gay Byrne Show*. He presented his final daily radio show in 1998 and his final *Late Late Show* the following summer.

However, he did not retire from public life, becoming the chairman of the Road Safety Authority and presenting other acclaimed television shows including *The Meaning of Life*.

Gay also returned to his first love, radio and presented a regular jazz programme on Lyric FM until he was diagnosed with cancer in 2017.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen, their daughters Crona and Suzy and their families.

FÉILE BRÍDE - CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF IRELAND
BRINGS YOU

WRITING WORKSHOP - YOURS ALWAYS: IRISH WOMEN WRITING THE DIASPORA

Presented by Professor Dara Culhane



Across the Irish Diaspora, women write and read "letters home."

This workshop invites eight women to co-create a 90 minute "Readers Theatre" performance – tentatively titled "Yours Always" – where we will invite people gathered to celebrate St. Brigid's Day in Vancouver to join us as we read aloud from our "letters home."

For more information please visit the **Féile Bríde: Celebrating the Women of Ireland** Facebook page and sign up for the event.

Deadline to submit applications is **November 12, 2019**

**TO REGISTER E-MAIL DARA CULHANE AT:
2019VIVA VOCE@GMAIL.COM.**

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Celtic Colours Festival in Cape Breton, N.S.

'The Highlight of My Year'

THE 23rd annual Celtic Colours Festival took place in Cape Breton October 11-19, and I was invited as part of their *Media and Presenters Program*.

I missed it last year, but had been to the previous three. It's a highlight of my year – not just for the music and the scenery, but it's also a rare chance to catch up with my cousins who live in Nova Scotia.

So Margaret and I flew into Sydney and zoomed away in our rented Mustang to Centre 200 in downtown Sydney to see **The Chieftains & Friends**. It's a hockey arena and there must have been well over 5,000 people there. Brilliant sound, too.

Thanks to amazing good fortune we found someone pulling out of the parking lot just as we arrived, so were able to park and pick up our accreditation in time to catch the first act, Scottish singer / harpist **Phamie Gow**.

She was joined by **Ashley MacIsaac**, and then English guitar wizard **Tim Edey** joined Ashley for some fast and furious tunes, and Phamie and Ashley played some lovely duets.

Then came the intermission, where I managed to meet up with cousins Elaine and Greg from Digby – and a few Vancouver friends too – in the crowded lobby.

Our seats were right at the back, but with the trusty Nikon 300mm lens I managed to get a few decent photos of the stage.

This show is part of The Chieftains' 57th anniversary tour, and the second half was spectacular! Only three core Chieftains remain in the band these days: piper and raconteur **Paddy Moloney**, flautist **Matt Molloy**, and singer / bodhran player **Kevin Connolly**.

They were joined by harpist **Triona Marshall**, young Irish fiddler **Tara Breen**, Hebridean singer **Alyth MacCormack**, Ottawa valley brothers **Nathan** and **Jon Pilatzke** (amazing dancers, and Jon plays fiddle), and Jon's wife **Cara Butler** – another fabulous dancer.

There was **Will MacMorran** from Nashville on guitar too. Ashley joined them for a set, **Mary Jane Lamond** sang a Gaelic song with them, **Tim Edey** joined in on melodeon, the **Cape Breton University Pipe Band** played a selection from the *San Patricio (Mexican War)* CD, and there were more Irish dancers on stage before the music reached its crescendo with a blast of reels led by Tara Breen on saxophone! I'd never heard reels played on the sax before. She is a phenom!

Cara Butler and Nathan led an *An Dro Breton* dance from the stage and into the audience, sweeping up dancers to join the ring and the ensemble snaked its way around the floor and back onto the stage to join the massed ranks of musicians.

The show was billed as "*The Chieftains Irish Farewell*" and I wondered if this might be my last chance to see them in North America. Not so. They are playing a big tour in March in the States. I guess that might be their last one. Who knows?

We stayed in Baddeck, which is an hour's drive from Sydney, and we'd

ROGUE FOLK CLUB



By
STEVE
EDGE

been travelling all day so it was a bit of challenge to be up and running for the next show in Inverness, around the southern arc of the Cabot Trail on the west coast of Cape Breton.

The theme of this year's festival was "*Young Heroes and their Mentors*," celebrating the burgeoning array of young musicians and dancers and singers from both sides of the Atlantic – and also celebrating some of their teachers and mentors who continue to pass on the torch of tradition in Cape Breton and beyond.

"*We'll Meet In Inverness*" took place in a large wooden church, and featured teenage sisters **Elizabeth** (17), on fiddle and **Sarah MacInnes** (19), on Gaelic vocals. They are the granddaughters of fiddle legend **Buddy MacMaster**, and are exceptionally talented.

Young Scots **Jenna Moynihan** (fiddle) and **Mairi Chaimbeul** (harp) played some sublime duets, before sisters **Dawn** and **Margie Beaton** from Mabou played some more inspired fiddle tunes.

After the break the Scots trio **Talisk** took to the stage. Concertina wizard **Mohsen Amini** (also of the quintet Imar, who played **The Rogue** in March) won the *BBC Musician Of The Year* at the 2018 Folk Awards and here he shone in the company of **Hayley Keenan** (fiddle) and **Graeme Armstrong** (guitar).

What a tremendous band! All instrumentals but played with verve, panache, and quite a bit of subtlety at times as well. The finale with all the musicians and singers on stage was remarkable.

We headed back out into the pouring rain for the long drive to Membertou, which is part of Sydney. The Trade & Convention Centre is huge (600 seats around tables) and has a restaurant and casino attached.

Tim Edey and **Dwayne Cote** (fiddle) started the evening with some spirited Celtic and manouche tunes and then my favourite Canadian Celtic band, **Coig**, played a typically scintillating set.

Tim Edey joined them on melodeon too. After the break **Troy MacGillivray** (fiddle, piano) and **Andrea Beaton** (fiddle) were joined by Troy's sister **Sabra** (dance) before Scotland's **Breabach** – one of two bands honoured as *Artists In Residence* (the other being Cape Breton's **Beolach**) – finished the evening with some wonderful pipe and fiddle tunes and songs in Gaelic and English.



PHOTO: Steve Edge

MAIRI RANKIN & ERIC WRIGHT play The Rogue Folk Club on Saturday, November 30.

"I cannot recall ever having heard such a breathtaking guitar jam!"

Sunday began with a *Meet & Greet* with the other delegates at our motel before we drove up to the Gaelic College in St. Ann's for a concert called "*The Young Heroes*."

The **CB University Pipe Band** kicked things off with some wonderful original tunes and the very young singers of **Na Gaisgich Oga** sang a few songs in Gaelic.

Then came two young guitarists (**Ben VanZutphen** and **Keigan MacLennan**) and their mentor **Brian Doyle** to play some fiery tunes. **Fuaran** from Scotland also featured some extremely talented young musicians and singers.

Formed by **Feisean Nan Gaidheal** to encourage a new generation of Gaelic singers and speakers this is a fantastic idea, and again there were some very gifted singers especially **Duncan MacLeod**.

The future looks very rosy for Scots / Gaelic music. More excellent fiddle tunes from **Elizabeth MacInnes**, and then some great medleys from Quebec's **Veronique Plasse** and (mentor) **Andrea Beaton** finished the afternoon in fine style.

Then we zoomed back over Kelly's Mountain, grabbed Thanksgiving dinner at a roadside cafe, and we were back at Membertou again – this time to witness Cape Breton's hirsute folk rockers, **Villages**.

They reminded me of **Lindisfarne** in the 1960s, but slightly less melodic. Talk about retro! I can't recall seeing anything quite like them this century!

More amazing young Scots performers followed – **Ur: The Future Of Our Past**.

"That looks like **Jocelyn Pettit**," I mused from our table at the back of the huge room. I zoomed in with the camera. "It is Jocelyn!!" She will be graduating from the **Royal Scottish Conservatory of Music** with a Masters in February.

These young performers are definitely top notch, led by the remarkable guitarist **Jen Butterworth**. One song in

particular, *The Earl of March's Daughter*, I think, was especially memorable.

After the break **J.P. Cormier** and **Tim Edey** launched into a guitar medley which embraced jigs, reels, swing tunes, bluegrass, manouche and rock and roll in a set which ran for almost an hour without a break.

I cannot recall ever having heard such a breathtaking guitar jam! There was still more to come! Scotland's **Kinnaris Quintet** are five young women from Glasgow, again led by **Jen Butterworth**.

Fiddles, cello, guitar and mandolin – and very glittery dresses – treated us to an exhilarating set!

One of their tunes is called *Space Ghetos*. If you say it with the double T in an "American" accent, you are saying "Spice Girrls" in Glaswegian! Great fun!

Monday began with brunch and another showcase at the Gaelic College. **Colin Grant** (fiddle) has a new band called **Knotwerk** with two guitarists. Very impressive ballads and fiddle tunes! Look for their debut CD in the next few weeks.

James MacLean is another young CB guitarist and a student of **Brian Doyle**. After seeing JP and Tim the previous night any solo guitarist was going to have to go some to make an impression.

Villages were on next, but we'd already seen them so we hit the wonderfully scenic Cabot Trail in the sunshine and drove counter-clockwise to Cheticamp for a delicious fish supper and then continued on to Judique for another evening of fiddle tunes.

We were a bit late. Not surprising after a six hour drive and a stop for dinner!

Some legendary local fiddlers like **Stan Chapman**, **Brenda Stubbart** and **Wendy MacIsaac** were joined by pianos and guitars and the first half wound up with a superb set by **Mairi Rankin** on fiddle and **Eric Wright** (**The Fretless**) on cello.

The Fretless string quartet gave a

typically wondrous set in the second half. Such inventive medleys and arrangements!

A very rainy Tuesday followed, and we had another showcase to attend, this time at the First Nations Hall in Wagmatcook.

Fiddler **Howie MacDonald** was accompanied by his brother on piano and **Jerry Holland Jr.** on cajon and played some brilliant tunes mostly from his new CD, *Shades Of Plaid*.

The **Denny Family Dancers** treated us to some fascinating traditional dances from their Miqmaq culture, and then we hit the southern end of the Cabot Trail once again to head over to Mabou for our final concert: "*Kicking Ash*," with the two Artists In Residence – **Beolach** and **Breabach**.

The former released their first CD in 15 years that night. *All Hands* is a fabulous collection of tunes on fiddle, pipes and piano. You can hear what I mean when they play **The Rogue** on January 31.

So, after nine shows in five days, and around 2,500 kilometres driving around the roads of Cape Breton, we headed back to the airport early the next morning to begin our long journey home to B.C. in time for the **Martin Simpson** and **Sojourners** concerts.

On the Saturday it was so good to be able to relax and watch the *Celtic Colours Finale Concert* on their Live Stream, with **Beolach** and **Breabach** together again, and, best of all, an outstanding set by Hebridean singer **Julie Fowles** and her superb band – plus a duet with the remarkable 16 year old Miqmaq singer **Emma Stevens** in a tri-lingual rendition of The Beatles' *Blackbird*.

If you haven't been to Celtic Colours yet – or even if you have – I'd definitely recommend you consider it next October.

If you're interested, I've posted some photos of the trip and those incredible shows on my Flickr page <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmHQoA63>.

Back at **The Rogue**, we have Newfoundland's folk / pop duo **Fortunate Ones** with opener **Sherman Downey** on Friday, November 8; bluegrass / old time / Celtic / country-folk legend **Tim O'Brien** and his five-piece band on Friday, November 22; Quebecois trad. supergroup **Le Vent Du Nord** on November 26; The lovely **Marin Patenaude Band** and opener **Mark Stuart** on November 29; and the aforementioned **Mairi Rankin & Eric Wright** on Saturday, November 30.

Looking ahead we have bluegrass / country folk quintet **John Reischman & The Jaybirds** on December 5, and our annual **Cool Yule** with **Van Django & LJ Mounteney** on December 13.

David Francey, **Fred Eaglesmith**, and **Beolach** – plus **Pharis & Jason Romero** at Cap University – in January.

J.P. Cormier and **Daniel Lapp**, **Pierre Schryer** and **Adam Dobres**, and **Loudon Wainwright III** in February; **Sharon Shannon**, **Altan**, **Irish Mythen**, and **Martyn Joseph** – plus **Dervish** at Cap – in March; and **The Fretless** and more in April!

Full details on www.roguefolk.com.

A year of toe-tapping tunes enjoyed at the Wolf & Hound

VANCOUVER – It seems hard to believe that already a year of Irish sessions that began in October 2018 has passed.

If time flies when people are having fun, then there has been an abundance of fun in the past year at the Irish sessions that take place from 5:30-7:30 PM each Sunday at the Wolf & Hound.

Led by legendary local fiddler Mary Brunner as session master and supported by two time provincial fiddle champion Michael Burnyeat, the session flows smoothly with familiar tunes, occasional songs, new tunes, and occasionally a song from a guest in the audience.

The sessions have a small core group of players who regularly attend which is a big commitment and other musicians who are invited to both fill the

By **BLAKE WILLIAMS**

limited openings available and to add different instruments and playing techniques.

The customers include international visitors, locals, UBC students, Irish new to Vancouver, and all generations. Some have driven from as far away as Chilliwack, White Rock and Deep Cove in North Vancouver to attend.

The diversity of players each week, the Sunday roast beef dinners, and the charm of hearing acoustic Irish music keeps them coming back.

Others from Ireland now living in Vancouver say they come for the 'craic' as it helps ease homesickness and missing friends and family.

There is a small dance floor where toddlers drag their parents and grandparents to join in a multi-generational dance.

Restaurant owners Brian and Chander are avid fans of the sessions and recently commented, "Seeing families

bond together, parents moving to the music, kids lil' feet swaying in their strollers....the sessions have cast a spell!"

It can take a while when something new begins for the word to get out, but now it really is getting out. Thanks to the owners, staff, players, and patrons the sessions go on and October 13 marked the first anniversary of the regular Sunday night sessions.

Mary Brunner reflects that she really enjoys the diversity of playing with different musicians every week and speaking with customers who come up to ask questions and to express their enjoyment and appreciation.

Everyone is invited to attend 'An Irish Christmas' – a special fundraising event on Sunday, December 22 to support the Irish Benevolent Society of B.C. and Féile Bríde 2020 Vancouver. Admission is \$10 by donation and will feature music, song and dance with the participation of 10 session musicians at The Wolf & Hound, 3617 West Broadway in the heart of Kitsilano, Vancouver.



BLAKE WILLIAMS (R) on the bodhran at the Sunday night Irish music session at the Wolf & Hound in the heart of Kitsilano.

CD MUSIC REVIEW



The Celtic Kitchen Party Sociable!

The Celtic Kitchen Party (CKP) have just released their latest CD entitled, *Sociable!*

Boasting a diversity of talent the band plays a mix of their own originals as well as traditional and contemporary East Coast, Irish and Scottish Celtic music with just the right dash of pop, classic rock and country.

All of the above ensures a lively high energy performance at any venue that CKP perform.

There are five members in the group, Andrew Vanhorn, leader, guitar and vocals; Colin Skinner, tin whistle, bagpipes, background vocals; Ted Chew, fiddle; Scott Jackson, bass and Nathan Crockett, drums and percussion.

Based in Kingston, Ontario, the group formed nine years ago out of their association with the Kingston Irish Folk Club and their connection with Long & McQuade music store since several were both members and employees and realized they had a love of this style of music.

CKP have shared the stage with the Mudmen, The Mahones, Sean McCann, Next Generation Leahy and Queens Bands to name a few. For the past seven years, they have a regular first Saturday of the month billing at the Tir Nan Og Irish Pub in Kingston.

There are 11 tracks on *Sociable!* which include such favourites as *Wild Rover*, *All For Me Grog*, *Wolfe Island Jig*, *Lullaby (For Those Who Died)*, *Pride of Newfoundland*, and the *Hockey Song*.

For more information about The Celtic Kitchen Party, visit them online at: celtickitchenparty.com.



MUSICIANS gathered at the Wolf & Hound on West Broadway. The regular Sunday night sessions led by legendary local fiddler Mary Brunner were started in October 2018 and have grown in popularity with visitors including UBC students, Irish new to Vancouver and all generations in between.



Book your seat now for the 2019 Irish Seniors' Holiday Luncheon

VANCOUVER – It's that time of year when we start to think about the holiday season and one of the popular events on the local Irish community calendar is the annual Irish seniors' luncheon.

The luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 12 from 11:30 AM to 2 PM. Seats are limited so book now and don't be disappointed!

Each year over 100 Irish seniors get together at the Hilton Metrotown Hotel in Burnaby. Just like many elders in our community, Irish seniors are vulnerable to isolation and loneliness and they miss connecting with old friends.

So this is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends, enjoy a delicious meal, share stories, and have the craic. The lunch usually ends with a sing-song and many have their party-pieces ready to share.

They are hosted by the Irish Women's Network of B.C. with support from the Government of Ireland through grant funding with the Irish Emigrant Support Programme.

Special guests at this year's event will be Irish Consul General Frank Flood and his wife Orla Ní Bhroithe.

Tickets are \$20 and to reserve e-mail Aileen Clery at: aileen1433@gmail.com, or call (604) 727-8590.

You can mail a cheque (made out to the Irish Women's Network of BC) to Aileen Clery, 986 East 20th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V5V 1N6, or pay by e-transfer to irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com.



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Irish language weekend: A first for western Canada

VANCOUVER – Irish language enthusiasts gathered at Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre Campus for the first Gaeilge immersion weekend to be held in western Canada on the weekend of October 4-6.

The event was organized by Barra Ó Scannláin and supported by the Consulate General of Ireland, Vancouver.

The weekend offered Irish classes, workshops, and social events, designed to give students an immersive experience in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

Presenters included Dean Farrell who is from Dublin and currently living in Fredericton, New Brunswick, where he is working as an Irish language instructor with the Ireland Canada University Foundation.

Síne Nic an Aillí is working with Conradh na Gaeilge in Dublin, where she is Director of the Cultúr Club initiative.

Barra Ó Scannláin who is originally from Donegal is currently working as an Irish language instructor with the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Following the weekend, Barra wrote a summary of the event in both English and Irish. It is published below in both languages:

By **BARRA Ó SCANNLÁIN**
*Teagascóir Gaeilge/
Irish Language Instructor*

A chairde Gael,

Bhuel, is doiligh cur síos ceart a dhéanamh ar an chraic agus an chuideachta a bhí againn i Vancouver an deireadh seachtaine seo.

Bhí sé speisialta, lán craic agus comhrá, agus thar a bheith pléisiúrtha domhsa, do na múinteoirí eile Dean agus Síne, agus daoibhse na rannpháirtithe fosta tá súil is agam!

Tá mé ag scríobh chugaibh inniu le buíochas a ghabháil libh agus le buíochas a ghabháil leis na daoine a chuidigh liom an éacht seo a bhaint amach.

Tá mise mo lúí i mo leabaidh, piachán orm agus ag streachailt na súile a choinneáil oscailte, ach is mé atá sásta agus tá súil agam gur amhlaidh an bás ag gach duine agaibh!

Tá aitheantas speisialta tuillte ag Dean agus Síne, a thaisteal achar fada an bheirt acu le bheith linn anseo in iarthar Cheanada, agus a chuir go mór mór leis an deireadh seachtaine.

Thug siad fuinneamh, craic, greann, agus saineolas leo! Bhí siad iontach sa rang mar is dual daofa, ach rinne siad obair mhór sa chúla fosta.

Buíochas mór le Ard-Chonasalacht na hÉireann Vancouver, a thacaigh liom ón tús, idir maoiniú, obair riaracháin, moltaí do bhialanna agus tithe tábhairne, gréasánú, agus eile.

Tá áit in mo chroí don fhoireann istigh ansin, Frank, Jenny, Krystel agus Katherine (agus Órla ag coinnéil súil orthu!), a chuir fáilte chroíúil romham nuair a landáil mé in Vancouver i lár na seachtaine.

Buíochas fosta le hOideas Gael (<http://www.oideas-gael.com/ga/>), a chuidigh liom costais a chlúdach, agus Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, a phléigh leagan amach an deireadh seachtaine liom i rith an tsamhraidh, agus a roinn liom an taithí



BARRA Ó SCANNLÁIN introducing the Irish Language Weekend presenters Dean Farrell and Síne Nic an Aillí at the opening night reception on Friday, October 4.



GROUP PHOTO of all participants in the first Irish language immersion weekend in western Canada held at SFU Harbour Centre campus in downtown Vancouver.

fairsing atá aige ar chúrsaí Gaeilge i Meiriceá Thuaidh. Is mór an truaidh nach raibh sé ábalta bheith linn sa deireadh.

Tá mé buíochas daoibhse go speisialta, na daoine a chuir muinín ionam, a cheannaigh ticéad, a rinne poiblíocht ar an ócáid, agus a thaisteal (bódh sé cúpla uair a chloig ar eitleán nó cúpla uair a chloig ag cuartú spás páirceála in Downtown Vancouver!) le bheith i láthair thar an deireadh seachtaine.

Agus an pobal Gaelach i Vancouver, ar ghlac riar maith acu páirt sna himeachtaí thar an deireadh seachtaine. Is sibhse a dhéanann obair na gcapall sa chathair i rith na bliana le deiseanna a thabhairt do dhaoine teagmháil a bheith acu leis an Ghaeilge - coinnigí oraibh, tá sé ina spreagadh mór do chathracha ar fud Mheiriceá Thuaidh agus ar fud an domhain maraim!

Tá súil agam gur bhain sibh rud éigin amach as an deireadh seachtaine - cairde úra, nasc leis an pobal Ghaelach, focal Gaeilge nó dhó, píosa craic, cibé cad é, bhain mise sult thar na bearta (do Leibhéal 3!) as, agus tá mé ag déim len é a dhéanamh arís amach anseo, gan dabht ar bith. Bhí sé ina phléisiúr mór castáil libh ar fad agus aithne a chur oraibh. Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís!

[English translation]

Well, it's hard enough to describe the craic and company we enjoyed this weekend in English let alone in Irish but I hope I can articulate properly how special it was.

The weekend we spent in Vancouver was full of fun (craic!) and good conversation, and it was a real pleasure for myself and for the other teachers, Dean and Síne, and for you the participants too I hope!

I'm writing to you all today to express my gratitude to those who helped make this ambitious project happen.

I'm writing from my bed, with a hoarse voice and sleepy eyes, but I'm feeling good and I hope you are too.

Dean and Síne, who both travelled great distances to be with us out west, deserve special recognition for all they contributed to the weekend; they brought with them lots of energy, great craic, fun, laughs, and expertise of course!

They were both fantastic in the class, as was to be expected, but they also put in a lot of work behind the scenes.

A huge thanks to the General Consulate of Ireland, Vancouver, who have been supporting me in this venture from the start, from funding to administrative support, to recommendations for restaurant and bar venues, networking and more.

There is a place in my heart (that sounds better as Gaeilge!) for the team working in there, Frank, Jenny, Krystel and Katherine (and Órla keeping an eye on them all, à la Irish mammy). They gave me a good warm Irish welcome to Vancouver.

Thank you also to Oideas Gael (<http://www.oideas-gael.com/en/>), who helped cover some of the expense involved with this weekend, and to Liam Ó Cuinneagáin who discussed the running of the weekend with me over the summer, and for sharing his experience with Irish language work in North America.

It was a pity Liam couldn't make it this weekend to Vancouver.

I am especially grateful to all the participants, who put your faith in me and in the weekend, bought tickets, advertised the event, and travelled (whether it was a few hours on a plane or a few hours looking for parking in downtown Van) to be there.

And to the Irish language community in Vancouver, many of whom took part in the activities over the weekend.

You are the ones doing the great work on the ground all year round to give people the opportunity to have regular contact with Gaeilge.

Keep at it, for it's an inspiration to cities with Irish communities anywhere in North America, and anywhere in the world for that matter!

I hope you got something out of this weekend – new friends, a connection with the Irish language community, a word or two of Gaeilge, a bit of craic, whatever it was, I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I can say without hesitation that I'd like to do it again next year.

It was a great pleasure to meet you all and get to know some of you. *Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís!* See you all next year!?

Irish language immersion weekend for beginners

NEW WESTMINSTER – An Irish language immersion weekend for beginners will be held on November 30 - December 1 in New Westminster, B.C. near the Royal Columbian Hospital and two blocks from Sapperton Skytrain Station.

Cost is \$30 for one day or \$50 for two day classes. A light lunch will be provided each day. Full details will be provided to registered attendees. To reserve, e-mail: brendanflynn_1@hotmail.com or Aisling at ashydonovan@gmail.com.

The Merriam-Webster of Medieval Irish just got a major update



A TINY group of scholars has added 500 words and made 5,000 revisions to the Dictionary of the Irish Language.

For the past five years, Sharon Arbuthnot has been on the hunt for new words. She isn't searching in the places one might expect linguistic invention, such as far corners of the internet or the text messages of teenagers. Arbuthnot – a scholar of early and medieval Irish at Queen's University Belfast – is more interested in forgotten words, ones invented over a thousand years ago that have become lost to modern scholars and dictionaries.

So she spends her days poring over delicately inked manuscripts written in medieval Irish, scanning for an arrangement of letters that seems somehow new – a difficult thing for a language that's well over a thousand years old.

Now Arbuthnot and researchers from the University of Cambridge have just completed the monumental, sprawling project of revising the Dictionary of the Irish Language, which was first published by the Royal Irish Academy in the first half of the 20th Century.

Over the past five years, they identified 500 words lost from dictionaries for centuries, made around 5,000 revisions to current definitions, and debunked several words that turned out to be fake or erroneously defined.

The dictionary, which was digitized in 2007 by scholars at the University of Ulster, spans around a thousand years, from about 700 to 1700. Their research is funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Updating the lexicon of a thousand-year-old language may seem like a foolish task for anyone living in the 21st Century.

But understanding the words medieval people used offers insight into the lives they lived – how they behaved, what they believed, and how they saw the world, says Máire Ní Mhaonaigh, a medievalist at Cambridge, who worked with Arbuthnot, in a press release.

To maximize their chances of discovering new words, the researchers focused on less-studied, and often less savory, manuscripts.

This meant shelving popular stories and poems and diving into legal texts and medical tomes.

Some texts, by their very nature, are less useful for the job. "You don't get much vocabulary from genealogies," Arbuthnot says.

Accordingly, the rediscovered words shed light on a less romantic part of medieval Irish culture.

For example, one gross word the researchers discovered was *béochlaid*, which means to "rub with grease and fat."

Béochlaid first appeared in a 14th-century passage on how to care for a newborn baby, stressing that people should be careful not to lose anything in the baby's ears as it is being washed and rubbed with grease.

These words may seem strangely specific now, but might have been quite common in medieval Ireland.

Arbuthnot sees medieval Irish as a "beautifully transparent" language. For example, the word for mousetrap translates into "wooden cat."

She also rediscovered the medieval Irish word for placenta, *bratt boinne*, which translates into "a cloak" or "covering" relating to a female. "It's a lovely sort of phrase," she says.

Medieval Irish, like many other languages at the time, was written in *scriptio continua*, a style of writing without spaces. In other words, the manuscripts contain long strings of text without any division, with words written continuously into each other.

"Sometimes you'll find the rare large capital letter, but really it's just continuous running text," Arbuthnot says. "Once you've lost your way, it's hard to get back on again."

Though she hardly thinks that any of the 500 words will enter modern use, Arbuthnot hopes that people will use the dictionary to gain a fuller understanding of medieval Ireland.

Something for everyone with the best in Irish cinema

By PADRAIC COFFEY

VANCOUVER – This November sees the launch of the second Vancouver Irish Film Festival (VIRFF).

Established in 2018, VIRFF brought a diverse selection of films from around Ireland to audiences here in British Columbia, with support from the Consulate General of Ireland based in the city.

In 2019 the VIRFF received Emigrant Support Programme funding for the first time. Now, it returns with an equally stellar line-up for cinemagoers, representing the best the Irish have to offer.

The festival will take place over three nights, from November 29 to December 1, in the Vancity Theatre on Seymour Street.

In addition to its excellent array of feature films, there will be live traditional Irish music on our Friday opening night, and snacks that will have you nostalgic for the auld sod (don't be surprised if a few packets of Tayto are found).

The programme at VIRFF 2019 has something for everyone: comedy, drama, fantasy, Irish Oscar shorts, documentaries, Irish-language cinema and family fare.

Among the films being shown this year is the comedy *A Bump Along the Way*, which scooped the Best Debut Irish Feature Award at the 2019 Galway Film Fleadh.

It stars Bronagh Gallagher as the mother of a teenager girl, who finds

VANCOUVER IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

herself unexpectedly pregnant in her forties. Fans of the hit Netflix series *Derry Girls* will love this story set in the Oak Leaf county.

A slightly more sombre tale is *Rosie*, written by acclaimed novelist Roddy Doyle. Set in Dublin, it details over 36 hours the efforts of a mother-of-four to find emergency accommodation for her family.

Not sugar-coating the current housing crisis in Ireland's capital city, *Rosie* has won acclaim from both audiences and critics, winning Best Irish Film at the Dublin Film Critics Circle Awards.

Those with an interest in Irish-language cinema will be delighted to see *The Camino Voyage*, a documentary charting the journey of four artists and musicians from Ireland to Galicia in Northern Spain, using only a naomhóg, a traditional Irish canoe.

Among its crew are Brendan Begley, Liam Holden and the late poet Danny Sheehy, but also singer-songwriter Glen Hansard of The Frames, and star of the smash-hit musical *Once*.

That's not the only documentary which can be seen at VIRFF 2019. There's also *Gaza*, from Garry Keane and Andrew McConnell, Ireland's official entry for Best International Film at the 2020 Academy Awards.

Chronicling the lives of those living in the war-torn strip of land between Egypt and Israel, *Gaza* is a heartrending work, and demonstrates

that Irish film can extend outside the Emerald Isle, to examine important issues around the globe.

More light-hearted than *Gaza* is *Extra Ordinary*, a comedy-horror featuring Maeve Higgins, star of the much-loved RTÉ series *Naked Camera*.

She plays a driving instructor in rural Ireland with the ability to communicate with the dead, something she must reckon with when an ageing rock star makes a deal with the Devil in her town.

Touted as Ireland's answer to *Shaun of the Dead*, *Extra Ordinary* has already proved a hit back in Ireland, and will no doubt please audiences in Vancouver.

Some Irish classics will also feature at the festival.

For a certain generation, there is no more magical Irish family film than *Into the West*, the story of two traveller boys who head from their council estate in Dublin towards the West of Ireland, in search of the mythical land of Tír na nÓg, on a horse of the same name.

With these and other films being shown, the Vancouver Irish Film Festival is an event you won't want to miss!

Tickets can be purchased through the Vancity Theatre website. For updates on the festival, follow on Facebook (facebook.com/virff.org/), Instagram (instagram.com/vancouveririshfilmfestival) and Twitter (twitter.com/virfforg), or look for the hashtags #virff #irishfilm #hashtag #irishabroad.

A Maritime Treasure Comes to The ACT Arts Centre Maple Ridge

MAPLE RIDGE – The role of iconic Anne Shirley in The ACT Art Centre's upcoming presentation of Canada's Ballet Jörgen's (CBJ) *Anne of Green Gables™* – The Ballet will be played by Halifax, Nova Scotia native, principal dancer Hannah Mae Cruddas.

Hannah received her formative dance training from the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts and the Leica Hardy School of Dance before joining CBJ in 2009.

Like many from the Maritimes, Cruddas has always felt a connection with the character of Anne, starting from an early age – a connection to Anne's appreciation of beauty, her imagination and tenacity, and her ability to connect with people around her.

Learning to transform into Anne has been a natural progression for Cruddas who has reread the series and watched the movies. In order to portray the uniqueness of Anne without words, Cruddas has paid particular attention

to the book's description of the red-haired orphan's physicality, movements, and voice.

As a dancer, everything is about the body and movement so in order to properly portray the story of Anne Shirley, Cruddas worked with CBJ's Artistic Director and CEO Bengt Jörgen and Stage Director Heinar Piller to find the perfect dance movements to fit Anne's words and emotions.

This was not always an easy task because Anne, although buoyant, light, and happy, often has swings in emotion going from what she calls "the depths of despair" to being over the top ecstatic, signified through dance with plenty of jumping.

"I think we can say some things with ballerina Anne that might not be able to be said or seen on screen or in the musical."

– Hannah Mae Cruddas

Audiences of *Anne of Green Gables* – The Ballet can experience the wonderfully eclectic elements of Anne's vivid imagination, told through the beauty of dance, firsthand on The ACT Arts Centre Mainstage Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:30 PM – one of only three Lower Mainland performances during the tour.

Single tickets or family packs may be purchased online at theactmaple.org, by phone (604-476-2787), and in-person (11944 Haney Place, Maple Ridge).

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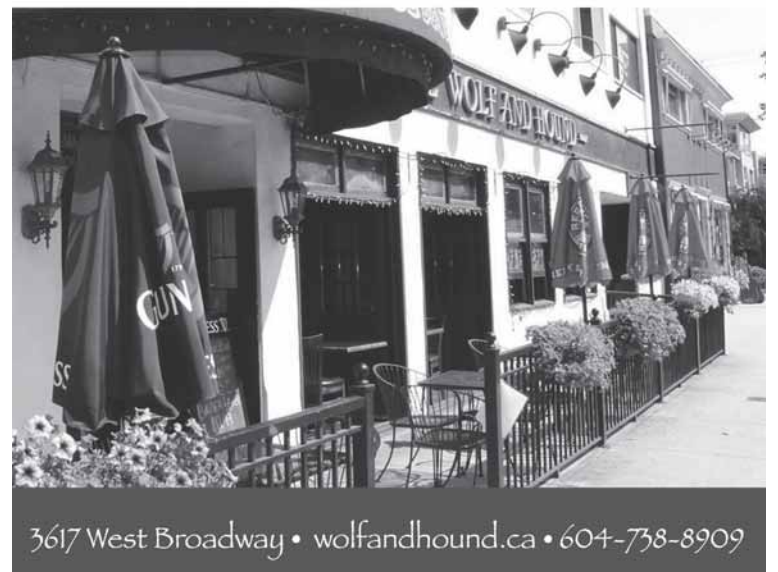
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TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR NOVEMBER

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www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

1. *Borderline* by Skerryvore - Evo on Tyree Records.
2. *Pull Me Down* by Debra Lyn - Blue Sun Rises on Palette Records.
3. *Des Chemins Creux* by Dom Duff - 7vet Kelc'h on Coop Breizh.
4. *The Airt O The Deil* by Yoko Pwno - ArteFacts on Skye Records.
5. *Three Reels* by Natalie MacMaster - Sketches on Independent.
6. *The Bunker Hill Set* by Tradish - *Homemade Tales* on GO' Danish.
7. *The Capable Wife* by Coig - Ashlar on Coig Music.
8. *The Rambling Irishman* by Dervish - *The Great Irish Song Book* on Rounder.
9. *Ocean Child* by Flook - *Ancora* on Flatfish Records.
10. *Something to Say* by The Town Pants - *Something to Say* on independent.

Celt In A Twist - Pick Of The Month:
TRADISH - Handmade Tales
(Go' Danish)



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U.K. to Hold December Election in New Phase of Brexit Odyssey

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain, in the boldest gamble of his high-wire political career, has won backing to hold a general election on December 12, throwing back to the British people the bedeviling issue of how, or even if, their country should leave the European Union.

The 438-20 vote in Parliament, which came after the opposition Labour Party dropped its resistance, provided the starting gun for one of the most momentous and unpredictable campaigns in post-World War II Britain, a six-week race that could forever alter Britain's relationship to Europe and its place in the world.

Much will hinge on the sentiments of a fickle British public that is not just divided into warring camps but exhausted with the whole shambolic process and hoping for something, anything, finally to be decided — as long as it is not for the other side.

For Johnson, a flamboyant populist who took office in July and has presided over a period of unrelenting political upheaval but little tangible progress, the election is a bet that he and his Conservative Party can win a parliamentary majority by selling to the public a Brexit plan that Parliament has held up.

But it comes with extraordinary risks, not least that Britain could end up in the same political cul-de-sac it is in now, with no party winning a clear majority and with Parliament still hopelessly divided about the way forward, more than three years after Britons voted to leave the European Union.

It is also plausible that the divided opposition camp could put aside its differences and ride a wave of public disgust with the Conservative government's failures to an upset victory that puts the Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, in the prime minister's office and leads to a softening or outright reversal of Brexit.

"The gulf between left and right is so deep, and the outcome is so uncertain," said Anand Menon, a professor of politics at Kings College London. "It is a uniquely volatile moment in our electoral history."

Still, after weeks of paralysis, capped by another day of byzantine maneuvering in Parliament over the date of the vote, the prospect of going to the polls provided a rare moment of clarity. As Menon put it, "You can say many things about this election, but you can't say it is not an election about big things."

Facing a British public that is fed up with Brexit and campaigning in the early twilight of the days before Christmas, Johnson and his opponents will seek to frame the election around competing visions of Britain's future: Johnson's, based on a swift exit from the European Union; and the Labour Party's, based on holding a second referendum on whether to leave at all.

History warns, however, that other issues could intrude, from crime or the stability of Britain's National Health Service to an external shock, like a terrorist attack, or a peripheral issue that assumes symbolic importance.

Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, called a snap election in 2017, confident that she could expand her major-

ity and strengthen her hand in negotiating a Brexit deal.

Instead, May wound up with a shrunken majority after running a desultory campaign during which she was tarred for advocating a harsh new policy on care for the elderly that critics branded a "dementia tax."

With two smaller parties, the Liberal Democrats and the hard-line Brexit Party, also contesting for votes, the choice of the next government could turn on a tiny number of Parliamentary seats.

Far from securing a healthy majority, the next prime minister may have to govern with a minority, as Johnson has.

**British PM
Boris Johnson
wins backing for new
U.K. General Election
Thursday, December 12**



DOMINIC CUMMINGS with Boris Johnson as his puppet were depicted on one float joining the march. The float was being manned by Phil Jeanes (67), who said he had driven the sculpture from Dusseldorf in Germany overnight. He was part of a group called EU Flag Mafia, and has lived in Essen for the last nine years with his German wife.

Thousands march on Westminster to demand vote on Brexit deal

LONDON — Effigies of the prime minister were held aloft on the People's Vote protest through central London on Saturday, October 19.

Star Trek actor Patrick Stewart praised a crowd of thousands of people for keeping the fight for a second EU referendum alive as they filled the streets of London.

And many of them cheered as they learned Boris Johnson had lost a key Commons vote on his Withdrawal Agreement, withholding approval of the deal until the legislation to implement it is in place.

It came after Stewart said the crowd has proven a second referendum was not the "pipe dream" that opponents have described it as.

He told the crowd, "You haven't just filled a nice bar in north London, you have taken over an entire city. You haven't just impacted the Brexit debate, you have transformed British politics."

He added there was "nothing democratic" about the 2016 referendum. "People weren't just misled, they were lied to," he said.

Protesters made their way through central London towards Parliament Square,

where a number of celebrities and politicians addressed the crowd.

One group of protesters spotted near Downing Street were pulling a float depicting Number 10 aide Dominic Cummings using Johnson as a puppet.

With "Demonic Cummings" splashed across its forehead, the figure on the float appeared to be wearing a Nazi uniform, including an armband which read 'Get Brexit Done'.

Meanwhile, pro-Brexit activists also gathered in Westminster.

Jason Hurt (48), from Sheffield, was sporting a "I voted Leave" T-shirt, and said he feels people who voted for Brexit are being ignored.

"I voted Leave, I want my voice heard," he said. "It is always about the Remainers, never about the Leavers. There are 17.4 million of us, we never get our voices heard."

Pam Julian, from Bermondsey, south-east London, held a sign which read, "Screw EU, we want our country back" — but said she has nothing against Europe.

The 68-year-old said Brexit is about regaining her independence. "It is not just about trade or what Boris is saying. The main thing is to regain our independence, to be able to self-govern," she said.



THE CONTAINER lorry where the remains of 39 migrants were discovered in the early hours of Wednesday, October 23.

39 people found dead were all Vietnamese

LONDON — Members of the Vietnamese community gathered in London for a vigil in memory of the 39 people found dead in a lorry in Essex.

The service on the evening of November 2 was held at the Church of the Holy Name and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in east London.

Candles arranged to read "39" were at the foot of the altar ahead of the mass in the Catholic church, which has a large Vietnamese congregation.

The Reverend Simon Nguyen said, "Today we gather to remember the people who have departed. These people who used to live among us, who dined with us. Today they are no longer with us."

Members of the congregation performed readings as part of the vigil and candles were lit. Addressing the congregation, Nguyen said, "Yesterday the police in Essex announced all the victims were Vietnamese."

"We show our condolences and sympathies for the people who have lost their lives on the way seeking freedom, dignity and happiness."

"We ask God to welcome them into his kingdom even though some of them were not Catholic but they strongly believed in eternal peace, so we pray for them."

"We pray for those who have lost their sons and daughters, their loved ones at this very challenging time."

The bodies were discovered in the back of a refrigerated trailer unit in a U.K. industrial park in Grays, Essex, 20

miles east of London in the early hours of October 23.

The grim discovery sparked a huge international investigation to try to identify the victims — eight females and 31 males. Police believe they are dealing with a multi-million euro human trafficking ring and are determined to charge the crime bosses behind it.

Two suspects arrested have links to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as well as with the road haulage and shipping industries.

Truck driver Maurice (Mo) Robinson (25), of Craigavon, Northern Ireland, was arrested at the scene in Essex. He appeared at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court charged with 39 counts of manslaughter, conspiracy to traffic people, conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration, and money laundering.

Three other people arrested in connection with the incident — two men aged 38 and 46 and a 38-year-old woman — have been released on bail.

A second Northern Irish man is also facing multiple counts of manslaughter. U.K. authorities allege that he delivered the trailer in which the migrants were found dead to a Belgian port before its onward journey to Britain.

Eamon Harrison (22), from Mayobridge, Co. Down, was arrested in Dublin following the endorsement of a European Arrest Warrant.

Meanwhile, authorities in Vietnam say they have also arrested two suspects believed to be part of the smuggling ring connected to the deaths.

Grenfell Tower fire report

LONDON — London's Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, which killed 72, was Britain's deadliest residential blaze since the Second World War.

Findings from the first phase of the long-awaited public inquiry, led by retired judge Martin Moore-Bick, were released on October 30.

On June 14, 2017, a faulty refrigerator started a small kitchen fire on the fourth floor of Grenfell Tower. Within minutes, flames were crawling — at alarming speed — up the facade of the building.

The Grenfell report cleared the occupant of the apartment where the fire started of any wrongdoing. It blamed combustible panels affixed to the exterior of the building for accelerating the blaze.

For nearly two hours, residents in the 24-storey building were told to stay in with their doors closed.

Exterior cladding, made out of flammable aluminum composite material, had been added to the building the year before and that material wouldn't have been allowed on a highrise in many countries.

Hundreds of highrises around Britain have similar cladding and insulation.

The government said it would all be replaced, however, many people are still living in buildings sheathed in it. Owners, residents and government officials are fighting over who will pay to replace it.

The second phase of the inquiry will begin in the new year and focus on context, such as how the tower came to be wrapped in combustible panels.

Nicola Sturgeon: Scotland's future 'must be in our own hands'

GLASGOW – Thousands of independence supporters heard Nicola Sturgeon call for "Scotland's future to be put into Scotland's hands."

The first minister told a major rally in Glasgow the time would come to break away from the "chaos of Westminster" in a second independence poll next year.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has said a new Scottish independence referendum was not "desirable or necessary." The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats also oppose a further vote.

Sturgeon was one of a number of SNP politicians and independence campaigners to speak at the #indyref2020 rally in George Square.

It was the first time she had spoken at an independence rally since 2014.

The event prompted a counter demonstration by dozens of unionist supporters who waved flags and blew whistles as supporters of Scottish independence gathered.

The SNP leader focused on the U.K.-wide election on December 12 at the event, which was organised by *The National* newspaper.

She has made it clear that she wants to hold a poll on the issue next year and said the general election was a "crossroads moment" for Scotland.

Sturgeon told the pro-indy crowds, "Over the next few weeks, it is our job to convince everyone we know to

come out on December 12 and send the biggest, loudest most resounding message to Westminster.

"That it is time for Scotland to choose our own future. It is time for Scotland to be an independent country.

"An independent country that will be the best of friends and family with our neighbours across the British Isles, across Europe and across the world."

The first minister told the crowd the general election was "the most important election for Scotland in our lifetimes. The future of our country is on the line," she said, "and there is no doubt whatsoever that Scotland stands at a crossroads moment."

There were boos from the audience



SCOTTISH First Minister Nicola Sturgeon addressed thousands of independence supporters at a rally in George Square in Glasgow on Saturday, November 2. It was the first time she had spoken at an independence rally since 2014.

when she claimed a victory for Boris Johnson in the election would result in "a future where Scotland gets ripped out of our European family of nations against our will, a future where the U.K. turns in on itself, a future of a hostile environment for migrants."

Instead, she said, there was "a much better alternative and that alternative is not a U.K. Labour Government that

can't even make up its mind where it stands on the question of Brexit."

The first minister's speech came after she confirmed that she would send a letter "before Christmas" to 10 Downing Street — regardless of who was occupying the office — requesting the Scottish Parliament is granted powers to hold another independence referendum.

The Rise and Rise of the Scottish Diaspora

EDINBURGH – The Scottish diaspora was discovered some time shortly after the Scottish Parliament 'reconvened' in 1999.

This doesn't mean, of course, that Scots didn't emigrate in droves before that. In his book *To The Ends of the Earth: Scotland's Global Diaspora, 1750 - 2010* historian Tom Devine reveals that 2.5 million Scots left Scotland between the years 1825 and 1938 and that the exodus continued even in periods of relative economic boom.

These included both the mid-Victorian period when Britain was said to be a land of plenty and the 1950s when standards of living were rising and PM Harold MacMillan famously said "most of our people have never had it so good."

Devine goes to some lengths in the book to explain this paradox but one thing we can say for certain is that Scottish emigration isn't what it used to be, either in nature or in numbers.

An uncle of mine once told me that seeing friends off to Canada from the docks in Greenock felt like a bereavement as you could be almost sure you would never see them again.

Nowadays, a relatively small number of young folk fly out of Scotland armed with the Canadian Government's Working Holiday Visa.

Even if they find a way to stay in Canada beyond the two year programme, social media and international flights mean that they never seem that far away.

The number of first generation Scottish immigrants to Canada has, in the words of another Scottish historian "been reduced to the trickle," but history ensures that there are still far more people with a Scottish connection outside of Scotland than there are Scots at home.

Until devolution, however, there were no organised government initiatives to involve diasporic Scots in their homeland.

That changed after 1999 even if some of the original projects were, to put it kindly, somewhat naive.

One of the first of these extended an invitation to people of Scottish descent to return to their homeland and help



By
HARRY
McGRATH

address the issue of declining population in Scotland.

Canada was a natural target and was visited by the first minister at the time and the leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland who gave a 'come back' speech at St Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia.

As far as I know, nobody accepted the invitation and it was roundly satirised in a front page *Globe and Mail* story under the headline 'Will ye no come back again?'

The newspaper provided a handy list (with pictures) of well-known Scots-Canadians and implied that it would be happy enough to be rid of some of them.

The next initiative was a better one. The 'Fresh Talent Work in Scotland Scheme' enabled international students to stay in Scotland for two years after completing their studies.

However, it had a kind of in-built weakness. Scotland's invitation was someone else's to rescind and even graduates who might be inclined to stay permanently were often invited to leave by the United Kingdom Border Agency after their two years was up.

Indeed, the programme itself was not secure and Fresh Talent was duly 'deleted' by UKBA in 2008 and replaced by Tier 1 (Post Work Study) until it too bit the dust in 2012.

Fast forward to 2019 and I am happy to report that Scotland's efforts to reach out to its diaspora, and the world in general, is in a much better state.

The Scottish Government has offices in China, Canada, United States and Europe and Scottish Development International has hubs in more than 30 countries around the globe.

Remits include inward investment and diaspora engagement. The long-standing Global Scots initiative is increas-

ing in numbers and strengthening its presence in various countries.

And where resources are stretched, innovative private concerns have picked up the slack.

I recently attended a series of events organised by the Scottish Business Network which, among other things, is working in partnership with the .scot domain.

SBN has a particular focus on connecting Scottish entrepreneurs with international Scottish business leaders and creating a Scottish diaspora network to help facilitate this.

The quality of the speakers at 'Scottish International Week', the number of countries in which they had worked and their willingness to share their knowledge and experience was inspiring.

Remarkably, a SBN-sponsored 'Scottish Business Diaspora Survey' conducted before international week received over a thousand responses.

In September, the U.K. Government even reintroduced the two year post study work visa.

This was broadly welcomed by universities and employers even though the inspiration behind it may include the prospect of Brexit wreaking havoc on the university sector and the fact that the U.K. economy is estimated to have lost £8 billion since the visa was abandoned in 2012.

Canada, in particular, capitalised on the opportunity to attract international students who may otherwise have come here.

There were some shallow sighs of relief when the Brexit deadline was postponed from tomorrow (October 31) to the end of January and replaced with a general election on December 12.

Recent surveys suggest that antipathy to Brexit is deepening even further in Scotland.

There was some circumstantial evidence of this at International Week too as speaker after speaker insisted on referring to it as 'the B word'.

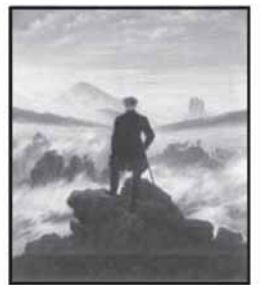
To paraphrase Robert Burns, there's a lot of guessing and fearing around. But if there is an upside, it might be that Scotland's relationship with its diaspora has never been closer or more promising.

Are you .Scot yet?

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THE CHILDREN'S Halloween party hosted by the Irish Club of White Rock.

A dynamic community in White Rock, B.C. gathers year-round for great Celtic celebrations

WHITE ROCK – The Irish Club of White Rock has just hosted their annual children's Halloween party and it was a big success celebrating Halloween Irish-style with all the old traditional games and treats.

Do mark it on your calendar for next year. Fun was had by young and old alike.

The next event is the annual Celtic Christmas Celebration on Friday, December 6 at Beecher's Place in Crescent Beach, Surrey.

This is a full night of entertainment with live music, delicious food and Christmas cheer. Advance ticket sales only. Tickets are \$20 and to book, call Sharon (604) 338-3553 or Deirdre (604) 803-0773.

The club also offers many other small local gatherings. One of the highlights

is always the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance with music by Pat Chessell and Band and Irish dancing by the Steele School of Irish Dance.

This is always a great evening and next year it will be held at the Hazelmere Golf and Tennis Club on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

White Rock is located about an hour drive east of Vancouver in a beautiful seaside town and it is home to the Irish Club of White Rock and surrounding area.

The club has been in existence for over 40 years and now offers a very strong Irish community. Everyone is invited to visit and to share the information with friends and family. A warm welcome is extended to all new arrivals.

For more information about the club, put a like on the Irish Club of White Rock on Facebook and follow, or sign up for their e-mails at: irishclubofwhiterock@gmail.com.



KEVIN MCDONNELL, Spiderman (aka Ray O'Farrell) and Chelsea McDonnell.



TRIONA KING, Jason Crew, and Sharon Woods decorating for the Halloween party.



JUNE PARNELL, Kathleen Pedersen, Sharon and James Woods, Robbie Greville, Mia Woods and Declan Ryan.

Discover how many Irish are in B.C., or where to find an Irish community group in your area

VANCOUVER – A great new resource for Irish community organizations is now available online at www.irishinbc.ca.

Visitors can access a wide range of information and explore maps showing where the 675,000+ people with Irish heritage are located in the province or where to find the seven GAA clubs in B.C.

The new website was launched on October 17 in front of representatives from a wide range of registered community groups.

It is the result of an extensive Community Mapping Project undertaken by the Irish Women's Network of BC on behalf of the Consulate General of Ireland in Vancouver.

While the exact number of Irish-born in the province is hard to pin down given the mobility of people on working visas and the lack of tracking of movement between provinces, it is estimated that there are close to 10,000 Irish-born in B.C.

This is based on the almost 6,000 Irish-born noted on the 2016 Census in addition to the newer arrivals.

In terms of community groups providing support to the Irish community or promoting Irish culture and heritage, 47 have registered to date and are now 'mapped' on the website. These are based primarily in Metro Vancouver, Victoria, Prince George and the Okanagan.

Of those number, 17 were founded since 2010 which speaks to the phenomenal growth of Irish in this province and specifically in Vancouver.

Do you have an organization or Facebook page that supports or promotes the Irish that is not yet listed?

Organizers are confident that there are many more groups around the province yet to be included. Registration remains open so that additional groups can sign up and be added.

Irish Consul General Frank Flood and Vice Consul General Jenny Bourke acknowledged and paid tribute to the work done by the IWN on the Community Mapping Project and spoke about how important the project has

THE IRISH WOMEN'S NETWORK OF B.C.
www.IrishinBC.ca

been to their work with the community, given their relatively new presence in Vancouver.

Another significant part of the Community Mapping Project was reaching out to community members around the province to seek their input on

what challenges they face as immigrants as well as thoughts on how the Consulate can best support their community.

Between focus groups and individual surveys, over 280 individuals provided input on these questions and their comments will help inform the community engagement strategy of the Consulate moving forward.

For more information, or if you have questions or comments, please go to irishinbc.ca/contact-us.



IRISH WOMEN'S NETWORK President Eilis Courtney at the official launch of the new IrishinBC website in October. It is the result of an extensive Community Mapping Project undertaken by the IWN on behalf of the Consulate General of Ireland in Vancouver.



JENNIFER BOURKE, Vice Consul General of Vancouver, Jackie Parsonage (IWN) Geraldine Megannety (IWN), Eilis Courtney (IWN), Leanne Ardley (IWN), Frank Flood Consul General of Vancouver at the launch of the new online resource.

IWN members presented with a copy of new book by Irish feminist writer

VANCOUVER – Two members of the Irish Women's Network of B.C. – Geraldine Megannety and Mary Hatch – were presented with a copy of the recently published book *The Making of Inequality: Women, Power and Gender Ideology in the Irish Free State 1922-1937* from Oonagh Berry, on behalf of the author Maryann Valiulis.

Maryann Gialanella Valiulis is a fellow emerita of Trinity College Dublin. She was director of the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, TCD, from 1994 to 2012.

She is also the author of the award-winning biography of Richard Mulcahy, *Portrait of a Revolutionary* (Dublin, 1992).

She has published extensively in Irish history, including editing *The Irish Journal of Feminist Studies*.



GERALDINE MEGANNETY and Mary Hatch with Oonagh Berry.

Valiulis also edited the 2008 book *Gender and Power in Irish History* published by Irish Academic Press. That book asks what can gender history add

to the traditional narrative of Irish history and how it can help to understand the ways in which power operated in and flowed through Irish society.

New Ireland - BC Trade Directory launched by the ICCCVan

IRELAND CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER – The Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver (ICCCVan) officially launched the first Ireland - BC Trade Directory on October 1. This project was funded by the Consulate General of Ireland in Vancouver.

Jim Kelly the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada and Frank Flood the Consul General of Ireland in Vancouver were special guests at the launch of the new directory.

The advantage of doing business in Ireland is outlined in the directory and it shines a light on the strong economic ties that exist between Ireland and British Columbia.

It maps out the links between the two regions highlighting the connective tissue that makes such a diverse range of industries thrive in both areas.

Enterprise Ireland has identified four key areas of opportunity where Irish companies are well placed to deliver products and services: Financial services, natural resources, agriculture and agri-food and telecommunications. These are some of the areas covered in the new directory.

To view the entire directory online, see: icccvan.ca/trade-directory.

Referendum on extending presidential vote 'highly unlikely' this year

DUBLIN – A referendum to give voting rights to Irish citizens living outside the state in presidential elections is now unlikely to take place until the new year. Government sources indicate the vote has been delayed amid Brexit turmoil.

The referendum, which would, if passed, allow Irish citizens living abroad to vote in presidential elections from 2025, was originally earmarked for a polling date in May – at the same time as the local and European elections – but was then rescheduled for late October or early November.

That would have required the legislation to have been published before the summer recess to ensure a Referendum Commission was established sufficiently in advance of polling day.

However, in cabinet meetings during July, several ministers expressed reservations about the referendum going ahead in the autumn, arguing that it would divert public attention away from preparations for Brexit.

The referendum is likely to encounter a higher degree of opposition than the recent ones on divorce and on blasphemy.

In February, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar told the Dáil the campaign could turn out to be complex and if the government was to succeed with it, it would need to put in a "good campaign."



PHOTO: Mark Montgomery
[L-R] FRANK FLOOD the Consul General of Ireland, Vancouver with Jim Kelly the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada with Lar Quigley and Ruairi Spillane of the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce.



PHOTO: Mark Montgomery
MEMBERS of the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver executive who worked on project [L-R] Lar Quigley, Gertie O'Shea, Mark Montgomery, Ruairi Spillane, Aoife Dowling, Brid Dunne.



PHOTO: Mark Montgomery
SUZIE O'SHEA chatting with IWN president Eilis Courtney at the launch of the new Ireland - BC Trade Directory.



PHOTO: Mark Montgomery
GUESTS applaud the welcoming statements at the official launch of the new Ireland - BC Trade Directory in October.



IRISH SENIORS' HOLIDAY LUNCH

Come and enjoy the holidays the Irish way, with good friends, great food, and traditional festive cheer!

Special guests: Consul General Frank Flood and his wife Orla Ni Bhroithe

Thursday, December 12, 2019
11:30 am to 2:00 p.m.

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel
6083 McKay Avenue, Burnaby

Parking: Free underground for 3 hours or Skytrain only one block away

Entertainment by Pat Chessell Group; door prizes and 50-50 draw

Ticket cost \$20

To reserve a seat: mail cheque (made out to the Irish Women's Network of BC) to Aileen Clery, 986 East 20th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V5V 1N6 or pay by e-transfer to irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com

For more info: email aileen1433@gmail.com or phone 604-727-8590

This lunch is supported by a grant through the



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Bhean Ghealltach Eanáir agus Tírdhla
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Wine sponsored by William and Laura Donnellan; Prizes donated by UBC Extended Learning, The Celtic Treasure Chest, and Donnellan's Irish Pub



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END OF SEASON wrap up party at Donnellan's Irish Pub on September 27.

ISSC 45th anniversary dinner and dance

By **GRÁINNE MC DERMOTT**
PRO and Irish Language
& Culture Officer
ISSC Vancouver

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club (ISSC), together with JP Ryan's Hurling, are proud to celebrate their 45th anniversary dinner dance on November 22 at the Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel Vancouver from 6:30 PM.

It will be a night of celebrations in honour of a hugely successful season in which teams represented the club, and collect silverware, all over North America.

One of the major focuses of the ISSC is around promoting our Gaelic Games and encouraging participation at every age and skill level. It was an active year in this regard with several initiatives across various fronts.

On the youth side, we provided a Gaelic games coach to seven local schools for four weeks, ran youth games across the season and had a Gaelic games youth camp.

The youth weren't the only group to have an opportunity to learn the skills of the game, all were welcome at six weeks of skills development sessions for beginners for football and hurling/camogie, a hugely successful initiative which will run again in early spring 2020.

It would be remiss to reflect on such a successful year without taking the time to acknowledge and thank all of the

volunteer coaches, referees, committee members and organisers who make these fantastic events possible.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all of our sponsors that supported us this year, Donnellan's Irish Pub, Tegan Law, Seva Physiotherapy and Whistler Water.

Dinner dance tickets are on sale now and cost \$90. Please contact events@isscvancouver.com to arrange e-transfer and for further information on the night.

ISSC Ladies' Football Success:

- Senior & Junior Vancouver Championship
- Western Canadian Championship
- Intermediate North American Championship

ISSC Camogie Success:

- Junior B San Diego 7's Football Championship
- Emerald City Tournament
- Football Spring League

ISSC Men's Football Success:

- Senior Spring League
- Senior Vancouver Championship
- Junior Vancouver Championship
- Senior Western Canadian Championship

JP Ryan's Hurling Success:

- Senior North American Championship
- Senior Western Canadian Championship
- Senior Vancouver Championship
- Junior Vancouver Championship



LADIES FOOTBALL USGAA cup presentation



JP RYAN HURLING North American Senior champions (first time for JP Ryans & first time a Canadian team has won it).

IRISH HERITAGE QUEBEC – LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE QUÉBEC

Collecting and preserving the history of the Irish in Quebec

By **CATHOLINE BUTLER**

QUEBEC CITY – Irish Heritage Quebec was founded in 1973 by the late Marianna O'Gallagher along with several members of the Irish community in Quebec City. The organization was incorporated on August 13, 1990 and was registered as a charity in 1998.

Joseph (Joe) Lonergan is the president of Irish Heritage Quebec and he recently spoke to *The Celtic Connection* about some of the aims and events that the organization is promoting.

Lonergan is a retired school teacher who taught at St. Patrick's School from 1971-2006, the same school that his father and grandfather all attended. He recently published a book titled *From Shamrock to Maple* which is available on Amazon.

"Marianna O'Gallagher founded Irish Heritage Quebec and her intent was to form a local Irish historical society in Quebec City," he said.

"When I say local, we don't give courses in Irish history, our interest is the local Irish people and to help them with genealogy studies and to collect documents that people might be discarding such as old photographs. Also to encourage anybody that is involved in any aspect of preservation of Irish heritage in Quebec.

"We currently have about 270 dues paying members and on our Facebook page we have between 900 and 1,000 members.

"We used to have a strong Irish community in the city, but I would say there no longer is. A lot of people have emigrated west to Montreal and Ontario and other parts unknown.

"There was a time in the 1960s when the Irish would have made up 40 percent of the population, but now they make up less than two percent."

Speaking about the premises that the organization occupies, Lonergan said, "we have an office in the presbytery of St. Patrick's church. We also have the use of McMahon Hall which is beneath the church and holds up to 180 people. There is also underground parking, so we are very lucky in that sense."

Lonergan said that historically there was a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Quebec City but it stopped in 1926 until it resumed again in 2010.

According to the records, Québec City's first parade was held in 1837, four years after the opening of the Irish community's first church, St. Patrick's, on rue McMahon.

The parade attracted a large number of people and quickly became a major annual event in Québec City. In 1916, the parade was suspended due to World War I, resuming in 1921.

In 1928, two years after the last parade, the *Québec Chronicle Telegraph* acknowledged with regret that the fes-



HERITAGE QUEBEC directors: [L-R] Back: Larry Hamilton and John O'Connor. Front: Michael Pouliot, John Bertrand, William Mylett, Bryan O'Gallagher, Coleen Bilodeau, and Joe Lonergan. (Absent from photo: Daniel Hughes.)



MARIANNA O'GALLAGHER, founder of Heritage Quebec pictured sitting on a float when she was the Grand Marshal in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Quebec City, 2010. Sadly missed, she passed away the same year in May 2010.

"...the fact that they weren't fully adopted into the family but were considered more as workers to help on the farms and households."

Pipe Band and also bands from Boston and Chicago here for the parade. So, city hall is very generous with funding for the parade because of course it brings lots of tourists into the city.

"Also taking part in the parade are Les Patriotes de Québec, the women and men's Gaelic football and hurling teams."

Speaking about the history of the Irish in Quebec City, Lonergan said, "a great number of Irish arrived into Quebec at the height of the Famine but many of them didn't stay.

"Surprisingly, there was a strong Irish population pre-famine in Quebec. The Irish started trickling in by 1810 and by the 1830s there were enough here to start their own Irish church and they built St. Patrick's Church."

Speaking about the devastation of the Irish Famine, the one positive thing that happened for the young orphaned children who arrived at Grosse Ile was that they were allowed to keep their own name but there is more to the story according to Lonergan.

He said, "Last spring we had a keynote speaker from Parks Canada, Marie-Claude Belley, and she spoke about the adoption of famine Irish orphan children, not only in Quebec City, but throughout the province.

"Very often they were adopted by agricultural families and often they were allowed to keep their Irish names. That can be looked at two ways. You may say, well that was great culturally, but the speaker said it is also indicative of the fact that they weren't fully adopted into the family but were considered more as workers to help on the farms and households.

"Sometimes it was possibly a very happy affair, but other times that may not have been the case. It would have depended on the families."

Dr. Mark McGowan, Professor of History at the University of Toronto is writing a book about the period entitled *Suffer the Children: Irish Famine Orphans and the churches of Montreal 1847-1848*.

For more information about Irish Heritage Quebec and for any help with family genealogy related to the area, particularly greater Quebec City and area, see online www.irishheritagequebec.net, or call (418) 704-3404.

tivity had begun its passage into history. However, the Cadets of St. Patrick's High School held modest parades until the 1940s.

The parade starts at St. Patrick's School and proceeds down Grande Allée and finishes at city hall.

Lonergan said, "We have a contingent that walks in the parade but we do not put the parade on as that is a separate organization from Heritage Quebec. They have a great relationship with city hall and, of course, city hall is very interested in having the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"We have the New York City Police

First Department of Foreign Affairs conference for honorary Irish consuls from around the world

By DEIRDRE HALFERTY

*Honorary Consul Ireland
Calgary and Southern Alberta*
CALGARY – I recently returned from Ireland where along with Laureen Reagan (Honorary Vice Consul Investment and Trade, Calgary), and all the honorary consuls for Ireland from around the world, I had the immense privilege of attending the inaugural Conference of Honorary Consuls of Ireland.

The conference was hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs with the intention to provide the opportunity for honorary consul generals, honorary consuls and honorary vice consuls to share experiences, to acknowledge our contribution to Ireland, and to discuss the government's key priorities.

The conference took place against the backdrop of the centenary of the diplomatic service and the landmark initiative Global Ireland 2025 – Ireland's ambitious program to double the scope and impact of the Irish global footprint by 2025.

The opening reception for the conference was hosted by Ciarán Cannon TD Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development at the EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum.

Many local readers met the minister earlier this year when he visited the Irish Centre in Calgary.

If you have not been to the EPIC Museum located at the CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, Dublin...it is an absolute must see! The exhibit was designed by the same people who created the Titanic exhibit in Belfast.

The conference opened with welcome remarks by Niall Burgess, Secretary General followed by a presentation from Global Ireland.

The intent of Global Ireland to double Ireland's global footprint by 2025, and represents the most ambitious renewal and expansion of Ireland's international presence ever undertaken in terms of diplomacy, culture, business, overseas aid, tourism and trade.

Ann Derwin the Director General, Global Ireland Service and John Concannon, Director General, Global Ireland said, "the initiative is designed to support a renewing of our international presence, ensuring that we are properly equipped for the new challenges we will face in a changing world."

To deliver Global Ireland, the following five strategic objectives will be pursued: Ireland will build strong strategic political partnerships with the U.S. and Canada and assume a lead role in building stronger transatlantic relations; Ireland will build a mutually beneficial two-way economic relationship, approaching a trillion U.S. dollars by 2025; Ireland will consolidate, deepen and expand the extraordinary partnerships with our diaspora in the U.S. and Canada doubling the impact of this collaboration in the period to 2025; Ireland will double our impact by promoting our culture and nurturing our reputation across the U.S. and Canada; and finally, a



THE PRESIDENT of Ireland Michael D. Higgins (centre) is pictured above with his wife Sabina (L) and Deirdre Halferty (R), the Honorary Consul Ireland for Calgary and Southern Alberta.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is keen to reach out to their diaspora and to double its footprint by 2025 as part of the Global Ireland 2025 initiative – Ireland's ambitious program to double the scope and impact of the Irish global footprint by 2025.

strong government-led 'Team Ireland', will double its impact over the next six years.

Pat Breen TD Minister of state for Trade Employment, Business, EU Single Market and Data protection, spoke about Ireland's new policy for international development.

Ireland is consistently recognised globally as a leader in the delivery of high-quality aid which is untied and comes from the stance that Ireland works to end hunger; Ireland works to protect; Ireland works to improve health; Ireland works to ensure girls have access to education; Ireland works to prepare young people for the future; and Ireland works to promote democracy and governance.

Brendan Rogers, Deputy Secretary General presented on Ireland's campaign for an elected seat on The United Nations Security Council 2021-2022. Their platform is to approach from the perspective of Ireland's empathy, partnership and independence.

The highlight of the conference was the first evening when we attended a reception hosted by President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin.

The president was extremely generous with his time and we were introduced to the two-family dogs.

If you wish to read the president's speech you can find it at the following link. <https://president.ie/en/media-library/speeches/speech-at-a-reception-for-honorary-consuls>.

Simon Coveney TD Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, also hosted dinner for us at Farmleigh House in Phoenix Park.

Along with Tanaiste Simon Coveney TD and Helen McEntee TD Minister of State for European Affairs, we were enlightened about the Irish Government's efforts to position Ireland for either a deal or no-deal Brexit.

These meetings and discussions were lengthy with no answers as the Irish Government itself is completely in the

dark at this point. What is clear is that Ireland will have to be prepared for either eventualities, which means an inordinate volume of work in shortening time frames.

The second day continued with meetings on trade and promoting Ireland as a destination for business investment, tourism and education presented by Eamonn McKee Director General, Trade Division and a presentation by Ireland's Global Cultural Outreach hosted by Eugene Downes, Cultural Director.

A discussion on consular assistance and consular services was hosted by Elizabeth McCullough, Consul Director along with an overview of Ireland's visa service was presented with much discussion highlighting the need to speed up the process.

We learned about data protection and the implementation of the general data protection regulations in a presentation by Fiona Flood, Director of Security, Coordination and Compliance.

The closing reception, hosted by Tourism Ireland took place in the Long Room at Trinity College Dublin.

The Long Room is still an active library and houses the iconic Book of Kells. If you have never been there, I highly recommend it as a must see.

This was an exceptional conference and one in which I was very proud to participate.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is keen to reach out to their diaspora and to double its footprint by 2025.

They realise that there is power in the Irish diaspora and the intention is to support cultural groups and business to the best of their ability.

Given Ireland's history of emigration, relations with the diaspora have always been a part of the country's political, social and economic life.


The result of generations of emigration is that today the Irish nation can be said to stretch far beyond the boundaries of the state.



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Policing the Irish border is becoming a lethal risk

ATTEMPTING to plot a train route from one end of the Irish border at the Irish Sea to the other end in South Donegal is an impossible endeavour.

Though only around 100 miles separates the two places, it might as well be 10 times that distance from the point of view of rail infrastructure.

Travelling from one end of the border by rail to the other is a little like trying to travel from Key West in Florida to Havana: merely 100 miles separates the two cities, but most travel operators will route you through Canada.

Uniquely on the island, the North midlands and the North-west of Ireland are unserved by rail.

This severance from the rest of the island's rail connection is symbolic of a deeper and enduring political disconnection from the politico-economic centre of the North (Belfast) and from the politico-economic centre of the South, Dublin.

Even if Shane Ross remains minister for transport for the next thousand years, he will not lay tracks along the border.

The government's reluctance to cultivate the border area is also matched by an unwillingness in the private sector to stray anywhere near the border to invest and to develop.

Some lenders operating in Ireland today even explicitly exclude consideration of borrowing applications from border counties on the southern side such as Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal.

As if these economic challenges were not stark enough, the border area stands to be more damaged by Brexit than anywhere else on the island. It is in the light of these realities that attacks on the border in recent months should be understood.

Northern governance of the border is undermined by the ongoing political inertia in Belfast.

As the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Simon Byrne stated in August, the absence of the Northern Ireland Assembly has created a "political vacuum" and a "breeding ground" for dissident terrorism and hatred of the police.

From this vacuum came a bomb attack at Wattlebridge in Fermanagh in August, which targeted the police.

Clearly frustrated, Chief Constable Byrne was unusually outspoken about the failure of politicians to do their jobs causing risk to the police: "We have become the shock absorbers for failures elsewhere in terms of the ability of other agencies to do their job because they're not getting direction because of the lack of an Executive."

Of all the sensitive issues that required cross-community assent to facilitate a new society in Northern Ireland after the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, the justice and policing system was the most vexed.

That a new civilianised police force, reflective of the population, in the years after the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 was successfully implemented is a great credit to (among others) former Deputy First Minister Seamus

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By
**MAURICE
FITZPATRICK**

Mallon and to Chris Patten, who chaired the commission for a new police force.

Given how elusive this new policing system was to secure, why would politicians today jeopardise it?

Again, Chief Constable Byrne illustrated how an essential societal matter has been made into a political football: "The time is fast approaching when we need to return policing and justice functions to Westminster in order to deal with the very real problems faced by our police and the local justice system."

Such a reversion might bring narrow political gains for the Democratic Unionist Party, which still enjoys a prominent (though rapidly diminishing) political position in London.

Yet restoring policing and justice functions to London's purview would be an extreme provocation to the nationalist community.

In any society premised upon the check of one community being required to balance the other, the perception that the police force is once again a unionist organisation would be disastrous for the Good Friday Agreement's provisions.

Against this backdrop a most grisly



KEVIN LUNNEY, a director of Quinn Industrial Holdings, sustained 'life changing' injuries after being abducted and tortured. The sinister attack is the latest in a series of violent incidents that have plagued the business.



A SPOKESPERSON for the 'New IRA' told Channel 4 in October that "any infrastructure would be a legitimate target for attack and armed actions against those infrastructures and against the people who are manning them."

affair on the Cavan-Fermanagh border occurred in September.

A director of Quinn Industrial Holdings in Derrylin, Kevin Lunney, a local man, was abducted, brought to the southern side of the border and tortured within inches of his life.

The attack on Lunney forms part of a long series of QIH workers who have been attacked, and who have had their homes and cars targeted.

The attack on Lunney, however, was the closest that the thugs have come to murder. The background to the QIH is a complex narrative of a dispossessed businessman and competing loyalties, but the fact that it is happening on the border does not help ongoing security concerns in that region.

Garda Commissioner of Ireland, Drew Harris said in response: "Some of the individuals involved are very careful to ensure that their identities are concealed and the burning of vehicles and destruction of evidence is very evident in this and have made this particularly difficult."

Harris's comment is a disturbing straw in the wind. The commissioner is saying that the police forces on neither side of the border have a strategy to halt the vigilantism.

These are the on the ground effects of the political instability in Northern Ireland and of Brexit.

A spokesperson for the 'New IRA' told Channel 4 in October that "any infrastructure would be a legitimate target for attack and armed actions against those infrastructures and against the people who are manning them."

He did not state that if Irish soldiers or Irish customs officers were manning the border they would be any the less targets. Policing the border is becoming a lethal risk.



A PHOTOGRAPH taken by Martin Kenny of his car burnt out at his home in Aughavas, Co Leitrim. Supplied by Brian Farrell.

Sinn Féin TD shocked after arson attack at his home

AUGHAVAS, Co. Leitrim – Following an arson attack at his home in Aughavas, near Ballinamore in Co. Leitrim, Sinn Féin TD Martin Kenny has cancelled a planned trip to Canada to speak at the annual Friends of Sinn Féin banquet in Toronto.

Martin Kenny who is the Sligo/Leitrim deputy described the incident as traumatic for both himself and his family.

His vehicle was set alight outside his home in the early hours of Monday, October 28, after receiving a death threat because of his defense of asylum seekers in Ireland.

Kenny has supported a proposal to accommodate asylum seekers in Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, where a local community group has mounted a round-the-clock silent protest in opposition to the plan.

In an interview with Ocean FM, he said there is no suggestion that any of those involved in the protest were involved in the incident.

He said the destruction of his car was "traumatic," adding that his vehicle was parked near to his house and that the flames from the fire cracked one of the windows of his home.

"There was sheer panic in the house. My wife was very distressed and worried. It's just crazy, I can't believe it. I woke up around two in the morning to hear hissing and cracking and then I saw the flames," he said.

"We were fortunate. If it was closer to the house, there could be a lot more damage done. We are where we are, as a garda sergeant said to us last night, it is steel and glass and plastic, they are all replaceable."

He said since the attack, he has received thousands of messages of solidarity and support for him and his family.

While he emphasized that while he was not placing blame on any group, Kenny called ongoing demonstrations being held by Ballinamore Community Group against plans to home asylum seekers in Ballinamore "regrettable."

"The situation in Ballinamore has become a very tense and difficult situation. To say it is regrettable is an understatement," he said.

"The handful of people who are at the head of that really need to look at what



MARTIN KENNY

happens when you fire things up to a high level and what impact that has, and the consequences it has, which is beyond their control," he said.

In a statement, Ballinamore Community Group condemned the attack on Kenny and said the demonstrations will continue.

"The demonstration in Ballinamore has been conducted in a peaceful and respectful manner and it is our firm commitment that it will continue in the same way. Any other elements are not indicative of the community of Ballinamore," it said.

Alan G. McConnell of Sinn Féin of Sinn Féin (Canada) expressed solidarity with Martin Kenny and said his strong opposition to racist hate speech against asylum claimants is precisely the type of principled and courageous stand supporters have come to expect from Sinn Féin leaders.

He said the FOSF annual dinner in Toronto is scheduled to proceed as planned on November 9 with Niall O'Donnghaile as a replacement for Martin Kenny.

He is a Dail Éireann Senator and a former Belfast City Councillor who was appointed the youngest ever Mayor of Belfast at the age of 25.

In Vancouver, an inaugural Friends of Sinn Féin dinner will be held on Sunday, November 10 with Megan Fearon, Sinn Féin MLA, Newry & Armagh, as guest speaker. She will discuss issues related to Brexit and Irish unity.

The dinner will be held at the Anza Club at 3 West 8th Avenue in Vancouver. For tickets or more information, call Bernard Ward (604) 218-7524 or e-mail: bernardward@shaw.ca; or call Séan Maloney (778) 773-3775 or e-mail: stmaloney@telus.net.



SISTER Joan Chittister and former president Mary McAleese in conversation at Trinity College Dublin.

Mary McAleese has sharp words of criticism for the Catholic Church

DUBLIN – Former president Mary McAleese has been elected the new chancellor of Trinity College in Dublin. She will succeed her predecessor in the role of president Mary Robinson.

The former president graduated with an honours law degree from Queens University Belfast in 1973 and was appointed Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at TCD in 1975.

At 24, she was the youngest person to hold the post and in that role she was a founding member of the Campaign for Homosexual Law Reform and its legal advisor.

She was the first Catholic and the first woman to be appointed director at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies at QUB in January 1988. In 1994 she became the university's first female pro-vice-chancellor.

McAleese went on to serve two terms as president of Ireland from 1997 to 2011. She is now a member of the Council of Women World Leaders, a network of 74 current and former female prime ministers and presidents.

In the role of chancellor, she will be the official head of the university and preside at meetings of its senate.

Speaking at a conference in TCD on November 2 under the title 'The Women The Vatican Couldn't Silence,' McAleese had some very harsh words of criticism for the Catholic Church.

She was joined on the podium by U.S. theologian and Benedictine nun Sister Joan Chittister who has also been a strong women's advocate speaking out about the lack of gender equality in the Church.

Both women received a standing ovation on arrival at the conference to a packed Edmund Burke Theatre for a discussion chaired by broadcaster Ursula Halligan.

Chittister said that "silence, invisibility is the only role a woman has in the Catholic Church. We make very good window dressing, but in terms of being able to contribute as a baptised person to the development of the church, we are not there.

"Some day you have to wake up and say what you see, and what I see is that the Catholic Church, for women, is a totally owned subsidiary of pious males. We really are not full members of the church. We are the outside edge."

During the discussion, McAleese called on the Catholic Church to allow women to become deacons. She said it would be a breakthrough, a breach in the bun-

ker of "really embedded misogyny" which goes very deep in the church.

Permanent deacons are ordained men who have no intention of becoming priests.

They can be married and have secular jobs to support their families. They support local priests by visiting the sick, teaching the faith, counselling couples and giving advice to the pastor.

They can baptize, witness marriages and perform funeral and burial services outside of saying Mass. They can also distribute communion and preach the homily.

They are called permanent deacons to distinguish them from seminarians, who spend a year as transitional deacons before being ordained as priests.

She added that allowing women deacons would not solve all the problems in the Catholic Church and that the voices of women need to be heard.

She said women are not just oppressed in the Catholic Church at the moment but actively suppressed.

Referring to the ban on her taking part in a conference on women at the Vatican in March of last year, she said she "never received an explanation as to why [she was banned], even though I asked for one."

"Ironically, a conference dedicated to women in the church was not to be allowed to have women who were prepared to speak about women in the church."

McAleese also spoke out about the mistreatment of migrants to Ireland. She said it bothers her greatly to see people who are strangers to Ireland treated in ways that are contrary "to the ethic of our country and our people."

Without specific reference to community protests against accommodating asylum seekers in Achill, Ballinamore, and Oughterard, she spoke of people who had to leave their homes and "suddenly they have nowhere, and nothing. And now they rely on the kindness of strangers.

"My God tells me I have to be the stranger who is kind. It bothers me greatly finding that [in] a country that I'm so proud of, that sometimes people are not experiencing the kindness that I know is the ethic of our country and our people."

She pointed out, "We relied on it [kindness] ourselves so often when we went as emigrants to other countries, poor, our two hands the one length, looking for opportunity."

Northern Ireland has been forced to change its abortion laws and recognize LGBT rights

BELFAST – Of all the strange twists and turns that U.K. politics have taken in recent years, the sudden legalisation of abortion and same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland is perhaps one of the most unexpected.

At a time when the Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) still props up the Westminster government, change seemed unlikely.

The party is staunchly socially conservative and largely opposed to reform on both issues. Yet thanks to movement from Westminster, abortion has now been decriminalised in Northern Ireland.

Until October 21, 2019, abortion was only legal in Northern Ireland if there was a severe and long-term physical or mental risk to the woman's health.

The Abortion Act introduced in the rest of the U.K. in 1967 was never extended to Northern Ireland, which has meant that every year hundreds of women have had to travel to England for terminations.

Recent rulings in the High Court in Belfast and the Supreme Court in London have stated that the situation in Northern Ireland was incompatible with human rights legislation.

In January 2017, the devolved government of Northern Ireland broke down over a dispute about a renewable heating initiative and was suspended.

In July this year, Westminster passed legislation which said that if the Northern Irish Assembly had not been re-established by October 21, 2019, then the law in Northern Ireland would be changed.

That means that a new legal framework for abortion law must be in place by March 31, 2020 and same-sex marriage and opposite-sex civil partnerships must be introduced by January 13, 2020.

The U.K. Government now has a legal duty to introduce access to abortion in Northern Ireland by the 2020 March deadline along the lines of the 2018 UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women report.

This will allow for abortion at the very least in cases of rape, incest, severe foetal abnormality and threats to a woman's physical or mental health.

In the meantime, interim arrangements have been put in place so that abortion is now decriminalised. GPs will be encouraged to put women seeking terminations in contact with a central booking system which can arrange NHS-funded treatment in England.

Despite these monumental developments, it's not guaranteed that Northern Ireland will end up with the same abortion laws as the rest of the U.K. There may still be an uphill battle to implement a similarly liberal framework.

Indeed, these legislative changes have not been driven by the government in Northern Ireland, but from Westminster.

The changes do reflect a growing cross-party consensus in Westminster that Northern Ireland should not continue to be allowed to impose different rules



PATRICK CORRIGAN, Northern Ireland director of Amnesty International, said the moment comes after years of campaigning. "This is an incredible moment for so many people, especially for same-sex couples, who will now be treated as equal citizens in their own country."



CAMPAIGNERS celebrated the decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland on Tuesday, October 22 after a hard-won victory.

on its citizens than other parts of the U.K.

The DUP has opposed the changes but has been treading a careful line. To block Westminster, it would have to get the Northern Ireland Assembly up and running again, which would have involved political compromises on other issues that it is not yet ready to make.

But senior DUP members, including party leader Arlene Foster have been present at sizeable anti-abortion rallies outside Stormont, home to the assembly.

The DUP attended the assembly just as the deadline on the legislation approached in what was supposed to be an attempt to get the Northern Ireland

Government up and running again.

But Sinn Féin chose not to take part and the event ended up being largely symbolic. It was over within an hour and descended into farce, with various parties walking out en masse.

Yet the DUP's position against liberalising abortion may suggest there will be difficulties ahead in cementing substantial change by the end of March next year.

Resistant voices may have influence during the consultation. As a result, at least in the interim, we will still see significant numbers of women having to travel to England for treatment. Abortion equality across the four regions of the U.K. is yet to be fully guaranteed.

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Deceased Irish grandad's prank from beyond the grave goes viral

DUBLIN – Mourners couldn't believe it when they heard a voice beyond the grave at a Dublin man's funeral.

Those who attended the funeral of Irish Defence Force veteran Shay Bradley on October 12 couldn't believe it when he started speaking to them from his coffin.

His voice could be heard shouting: 'Hello, hello. Let me out, it's f***ing dark in here' as the coffin was being lowered into a grave. But instead of alarm, a ripple of laughter sweeps across the crowd.

The voice continues, "Where the f*** am I? Is that that priest I can hear?" and the laughter grows even stronger as the sound of knocking on wood can be heard.

He continued, "This is Shay I'm in the box. No in f***ing front of you. I'm dead." Shay then sings: 'Hello again, hello...hello, I just called to say goodbye.'

This was a prank planned by Bradley who passed away in October after a long illness. Through a pre-recorded message, he was able to entertain the attendees at his own graveside.

His daughter Andrea, who described it



DUBLIN MAN Shay Bradley, who died on October 12 at the age of 62, had organized the prank with his son Jonathan, and footage has been viewed hundreds of thousands of times on social media since the funeral.

as "the best send off for an incredible man," wrote on Twitter that the recording had been played through a speaker on the ground next to her father's grave.

The video which has gone viral, was shared by the Irish Defence Forces Veterans' News who said on Facebook: "It is with great sadness that I was informed of the passing of our Military Brother and Veteran Colleague Shay Bradley. On behalf of the

members of the IDFVA I extend our sincerest condolences and prayers to Anne and family at this sad time. May Shay Rest in Peace."

In a separate post they added: "Was asked a question the other day, it was what's the difference between military humour and civilian humour... it's simple, it's black. This video should say it all. This is the funeral of Shay Bradley on the 12th of October 2019 and it says it all..."

Book written in memory of those who died during NI Troubles

BELFAST – This July marked the 50th anniversary of the first lives lost to the Troubles in Northern Ireland. The conflict lasted for 30 years until the signing of the Good Friday Agreement on April 10, 1998.

The death of an innocent Derry man, Sam Devenney, as a direct result of a brutal police assault in his own home during rioting, coincided with that of Francis McCloskey, an elderly farmer during an RUC baton charge in Dungiven, Co. Derry on July 14, 1969.

Since October 5, 1968 the 50-year-old unionist state had been rocked to its foundations by the rising challenge of the civil rights movement.

The events in Derry on that day as unarmed marchers were batoned by the RUC under the direction of a one-party unionist regime had shocked U.K. and world opinion.

Since that time booksellers have amassed a huge collection of more publications about the Troubles than even the most assiduous of readers could probably read in a lifetime.

But there's one rather hulking elephant which isn't widely available. And that's one of the most impressive and comprehensive books ever written about the Troubles – *Lost Lives: The stories of the men, women and children who died as a result of the Northern Ireland troubles*.

The book details, in over a million words, the stories behind every one of the 3,700 deaths during three decades of horror.

It is out of print now and with the firm that published it going out of business there's little likelihood that it will ever return to retail shelves.

On the internet however a flourishing second-hand market has grown up around the book with copies on offer



LOST LIVES WRITERS [L-R] Brian Feeney, David McVea, David McKittrick, Chris Thornton and Seamus Kelters.

from anywhere between a few hundred pounds to over a thousand.

"We all regard that as a shame and a disgrace which goes against the spirit of the book," said David McKittrick, one of the five-strong team who produced *Lost Lives*.

"We all went into it with no expectations of making money. The intention was to do good so the idea that people are making money out of our book is horrendous to us."

But now *Lost Lives* has found a new concept as a movie. A 'who's who' of 18 Northern Irish actors have recorded stories for a movie made by the Belfast based DoubleBand Films company.

David McKittrick found it a compelling but difficult watch. But he said it has done justice to the book which was produced by him, David McVea, the late Seamus Kelters, Brian Feeney and Chris Thornton, the producer of the new BBC Northern Ireland series, *Spotlight on the Troubles: A Secret History*.

The seeds for the book were first sown in the early 1990s when the writers started with a completely blank canvas, with no files, no publisher and basically no idea about where their journey might lead them.

They thought it might take them a couple of years to get their book into print but in the end the research and writing took over a decade, during which time the original team recruited dozens of people, including another 15 journalists, to help them.

David said the original plan had been to record just a line about each death.

"We became engrossed and we started collecting more files and more information and it turned into one of the most worthwhile things that I have ever done, growing and growing all the time into a huge book," he said.

"There was nobody in charge and a great camaraderie developed between us. We were driven by a shared vision and desire."

No fewer than 50 companies were approached but the response was almost universally discouraging with some saying the book was "going to be like a Bible and was going to cost at least £30."

"They asked who was going to buy it and we said 'not many'," revealed David.

Eventually Mainstream Publishing in Edinburgh agreed to take a massive financial gamble to bring out the book and it was published in 2001.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS



CIARÁN CANNON, Irish Government Minister for the Diaspora and International Development; Jenny Durkan, Seattle Mayor; Paul Burfield, Enterprise Ireland SVP; and Michael Treacy, Irish Vice-Consul at the announcement of the opening of an Enterprise Ireland office in Seattle, WA.

Enterprise Ireland opens a new Seattle office

SEATTLE – Enterprise Ireland (EI) has officially opened a physical office in downtown Seattle at 1201 3rd Avenue, Floor 22.

Enterprise Ireland is the VC (venture capital) arm of the Irish Government, responsible for supporting Irish companies to start, commercialize and globalize.

With a portfolio of 3,500 Irish companies, EI is the largest VC firm in Europe by deal volume. Collectively, their portfolio is responsible for helping bring US\$26.13 billion exports to Ireland.

Irish investment in the U.S. is at an all time high. Over 100,000 people are employed in the U.S. by Irish companies in 2018, of which 85,000 people are employed by 520 Enterprise Ireland-supported companies.

Ireland is now the ninth largest source of foreign direct investment into the United States at \$146.2 billion.

"Washington State and the city of Seattle is a prosperous region for aerospace, data centers, cybersecurity, interactive media and the wider breadth of digital technologies," said Paul Burfield, SVP West and Southern United States, Enterprise Ireland.

"These centers of excellence align strongly with the capabilities of Irish companies, and connecting the Emerald Isle and the Emerald City is a link that we at Enterprise Ireland are excited to develop."

For more information, contact either of Seattle's now-local EI representatives, Jack.Callaghan@enterprise-ireland.com or Eva.Mahon@enterprise-ireland.com.

Galway: 2020 European Capital of Culture

Galway's year as European Capital of Culture "could not be more timely" amid changing political relationships, a senior diplomat said.

The programme launch was celebrated with an extravaganza of festivities in Galway on September 18.

Chair of Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture, Arthur Lappin and Irish Culture minister Josepha Madigan were among those in the city to celebrate the beginning of the year.

Ireland's ambassador in London Adrian O'Neill said culture can be successful in "challenging mindsets" in a way that brings people together and is "non-threatening." He hailed culture as a "very effective instrument of soft diplomacy."

He said, "As we now try to kind of maybe reset political relationships during difficult times, I think we need culture more than ever."

"So I think Galway 2020 could not be more timely and I'm sure Galway 2020 will be a very, very effective demonstration of the power of culture to do all of that."

The county will be ablaze in a week-long festival of fire to launch the programme in February, as flames move through six towns and villages in an ancient pagan Celtic tradition, ahead of an opening ceremony in the city.

Highlights of the 12-month project, include an art installation called 'Borderline', involving communities in the county working with those from across the border in Derry. The Connemara mountains will be lit up in green for St. Patrick's Day in March in a commission entitled 'Savage Beauty' by Finnish artist Kari Kola.

Irish President Michael D. Higgins said, "The festival will provide uniquely Galwegian, Irish and international perspectives exploring those quintessential Irish themes of language, landscape and migration." He said the festival will become a celebration "of the local, national and European communities of which we all are part."

Funding for the 39.7 million euro programme comes from the Irish Government, Galway City Council, Galway County Council, and the European Union.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

- Sister Sheila Collins CSJP (97), a native of Co. Galway, died in Bellevue on October 15.
- Sr. Marie Murphy, OP (87), a native of Co. Cork, died in Seattle on September 29;
- Ed Heavey (90), formerly a King County Superior Judge and president of the Friends of St. Patrick, died in Seattle on September 27;
- Tom O'Connell (96), whose Irish-born grandfather founded St. Patrick Cemetery in Kent, died in Kent on September 26;
- Margaret O'Connell (95), Tom's wife of 75 years, died in Kent three weeks earlier on September 5;
- Fr. Colm Stone, OCD, a Carmelite priest who served at St. Cecilia's in Stanwood, died in Dublin on September 2;
- Pat Cummins (81), a native of Co. Louth, died in Seattle on September 8;
- Janet Becker (80), a sister of Diane Gallagher of Tacoma, died in Rockford, IL on August 22;
- Pat Murphy Wood (77), a sister of IHC Board Member Heather Murphy, died in Seattle on August 2;
- John Rowland (95), a native of Co. Mayo and brother of the late Finian Rowland, died in Seattle on August 2;
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílse
— May their faithful souls rest at God's right hand

IHC AGM — The annual general meeting and election of officers for the Irish Heritage Club is at 6 PM on Sunday, November 10, at St. Patrick's Church Hall, 2702 Broadway E (at Roanoke), Seattle. All officer terms end in 2019 while board members whose terms expire in 2019 are Frank Gill, Jean Roth, Meagan McGuire, and Nanci Spieker.

If you're interested in getting involved or would like to make a nomination or suggestion, contact the Nominations Chair at (253) 237-2811.

SENIORS' LUNCHEON — The Irish seniors' Christmas luncheon is at noon on Saturday, December 7, at Shawn O'Donnell's Restaurant in Fremont, 3601 Fremont Avenue N, in Seattle (three blocks west of Aurora Avenue on the corner of 36th Street & Fremont Avenue). All seniors with an Irish connection are welcome.

The Christmas lunch buffet will offer Irish soda bread; roasted turkey; glazed ham steak; homemade stuffing; colcannon; cranberry sauce; green beans amandine; and more!

The subsidized cost for the buffet lunch is \$10 for seniors and \$20 for non-seniors and all are welcome, but we are restricted to 100 seats! So, advance reservations are required to (253) 237-2811.

GAELS AGM — You're invited to attend the Seattle Gaels AGM (annual general meeting) on Saturday, December 7 at 6 pm at St. Andrews Bar & Grill, 7406 Aurora Avenue N, Seattle.

The AGM is a very important event where 2019 business is concluded, talk about the future of the Seattle Gaels and vote in the committee members and on any motions for the 2020 season.

All registered club members from 2019 are eligible to vote. Details on the AGM and other events at Facebook.com.



By
JOHN
KEANE



L-R] BILL BARNES, Kay McKenna, Maura Barnes, Seattle Archbishop Paul Etienne, and John Keane at a social following a Celebration of Our Saints Mass for the Seattle area's ethnic communities at St. James Cathedral on October 26.



IRISH PRESIDENT Michael D. Higgins with John Keane (Seattle) and Doodie Cahill (Edmonton) at a September 19 reception at Áras an Uachtaráin in Dublin for Ireland's Honorary Consuls.

YOUTH GAA — Woodinville High School has now been added to the list of Seattle area schools that are using Gaelic football in PE class.

Over the past several years, the following schools have at one time or another used Gaelic football in PE class: Skyline HS, Woodinville HS, Liberty HS, Issaquah HS, Lake Washington HS, Eastlake HS, Juanita HS, and Kirkland Middle School. For information contact Youth@irishclub.org.

IRISH THEATRE — Director Kelly McMahon is establishing an Irish-focused theater company in Seattle, with the aim of presenting an inaugural production in 2020.

Kelly has a Masters degree in Drama & Theatre Studies from NUIG (Galway), and has worked with Irish theater artists and companies in Ireland.

With the support of the Irish Heritage Club, she has organized a meeting for Friday, November 15 at 6:30 PM at the Starbucks in Upper Queen Anne, 2135 Queen Anne Avenue N. Anyone interested in more details should e-mail: ninthwave27@gmail.com.

VISA LOTTERY — Irish Immigration Centers around the U.S., including Seattle's Irish Immigrant Support, urge Irish nationals who are interested in getting a U.S. Green Card to enter the

2021 Diversity Visa Lottery at dvlottery.state.gov.

Lottery registration is open through 9 AM PDT on November 5. The Diversity Lottery (sometimes referred to as the Green Card Lottery) provides a limited number of U.S. visas for individuals from countries with historically low immigration to the U.S. and people from Ireland and Northern Ireland are eligible. There is no fee involved to apply.

CULTURE CAPITAL — Seattle's Sister City of Galway is a European Capital of Culture in 2020. Each year, the European Union designates a city as a European Capital of Culture, and these cities are expected to produce an innovative year-long cultural program that highlights the richness and diversity of cultures. Big things are planned for Galway next year, making 2020 the year to visit.

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL — Interested in Irish film? You're not alone! Come to the Irish Heritage Club meeting (6 PM, November 10, St. Patrick Church Hall, 2701 Broadway E), and meet with Betty Egan and others to see how we can make this happen.

The Irish Reels film project was launched in 1997 to support Irish filmmakers by providing a platform for films not getting U.S. distribution and to introduce Northwest audiences to these unique and inspiring stories.

The Reels are no longer active and even though we have an abundance of ways to distribute films globally and for audiences to access film, we are asking if an Irish Film Festival program in Seattle is welcomed, needed, or doable. More information at (253) 237-2811.

MISCELLANEOUS

• For information on the next Irish Book Club meeting, contact hudit@comcast.net.

• The 41st Annual Magical Strings Celtic Yuletide Concerts throughout the Northwest, from December 1 to December 21 with Seattle's concert on December 7. Details at: magicalstrings.com.

NOVEMBER PRAYER FOR OUR BELOVED DEPARTED SOULS

Grant O lord, that my own heart may be touched, as yours is, at the passing of all souls into eternal life. In great confidence, I pray for all my friends and loved ones who are no longer here on this journey of faith. I pray also for those who are facing at this moment their own last agony.

When I am sad at the death of those who were close to me, may my sadness be firmly supported by my faith that life is merely changed not ended that those I love are still with me though unseen.

O Lord, increase my faith in the great mystery of eternal life. Teach me to live each day knowing that all here passes and that when we leave we will travel very lightly.

May you, Lord Jesus Christ, welcome me and all those for who I pray into eternal life at the moment pleasing to you. Glory be to you one God, Father Son and Holy Spirit now and forever. Mary, Mother of the living pray for us. Amen

— From St. Benedicts Abbey
Benet Lake Wisconsin



[L-R] Mary Kelly, Nick Duggal, Cherry Leung, Trisha Creaven, Tina Bonfield, and Jordan Harris at the social after the Mass of Remembrance in Gaelic at St. Patrick's Church on October 25.



[Clockwise from bottom left] JOHN TOBIN, Brendan Boyle, Rod Margason, Linda Noé, Fr. John Madigan, Fr. Martin Bourke, and Miriam Doyle at the tea and coffee social after the Mass in Gaelic on October 25.



[L-R] IRISH VICE-CONSUL Michael Treacy, exhibit artist Paula Stokes, and King County Council member Joe McDermott at the opening of an Irish Famine Exhibit in Seattle on October 18.

Seattle Irish Immigrant Support Group



FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

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



Call 253-237-2811 or email info@irishseattle.com

P.O. Box 75123, Seattle, WA 98175 www.irishseattle.com



THE SOUTHERN NAMIB desert is home to some of the tallest and most spectacular dunes of the world, ranging in color from pink to vivid orange. These dunes continue right to the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. The cold waters of the sea brushing against the dunes of the Namib desert is one of the most surreal sights.



IN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK, a safari park we dined under a myriad of stars and enjoyed watching as animals emerged from the bush and drank. We marvelled at the gentle Springbok that arrived before suddenly fleeing as two black rhinos and two male lions arrived simultaneously, eyeing each other as they drank.

Otherworldly or breathtaking just seem inadequate descriptions

GREETINGS from the Namib coastal desert, which covers over 50,000 square miles.

Namib quite aptly means "vast," and having existed for 43 million years is reputed to be the oldest desert on earth.

I am here with my wife on a three week holiday to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary and my 75th birthday. Starting in Namibia then a brief stop at Victoria Falls ending up in The Okavango Delta Botswana.

Namibia, was once a German colony and although tourism is the largest industry here, it is not a common choice for a holiday for the British.

I had heard of its beauty a few years ago whilst working in neighbouring South Africa and it has lingered on my bucket list. Now here it has not disappointed.

The scenery in the desert area is hard to describe, because when you see red sand dunes hundreds of feet high stretching as far as the eye can see, there is the feeling that you might have been transported on to the film set of Star Wars – otherworldly or stunning or breathtaking just seem inadequate descriptions.

POSTCARD FROM NAMIBIA

By
ELFAN JONES



The recommended means of travel is self-drive, and although there is little traffic and Namibians drive on the left as we do in the U.K., it is probably an adventure for younger folk.

This has to be one of the few countries in the world where the process to collect your hire vehicle is accompanied by a safety video. After watching the video the inclination is to say "forget it" and give them the keys back.

With 50 times as many accidents as in the whole of Europe, you are provided with two spare tyres, and a mobile phone.

The hire company strongly advised to always have bottled water on board, keep filled up with fuel and never, ever drive after dark because of wild animals roaming the road.

The distances between towns are vast, as in Canada, but unlike Canada most of the roads are gravel. Not a place to go if you have false teeth.

Tara, the gentleman who checked my tyre pressure, refers to the driving experience as the "African massage!" After a six hour drive I wondered if Parkinson's disease was setting in.

We flew from London to Windhoek via Johannesburg on Monday, October 21 and in a week have driven from the desert to the mountains and today 350 miles into Etosha National Park.

This is a safari park which covers an incredible 8,500 square miles. We were 40 miles into the park when a tyre finally succumbed to the roads and we were stuck.

Strictly forbidden to leave our car we waited two hours to be rescued, and as the minutes ticked by the mood inside the car did become a tad tense.

Luckily the lions must have dined elsewhere and the two armed rangers kindly changed the wheel and we were on our way.

Last night we stayed at the Ongava Lodge, an African-style hotel comprising of 15 en-suite thatched cabins and a large open sided main lounge, bar and dining area overlooking a watering hole.

We dined under a myriad of stars and watched as animals emerged from the bush and drank.

As we marvelled at the gentle springbok that arrived, they suddenly fled as two black rhinos and two male lions arrived simultaneously, eyeing each other as they drank.

The black rhinos then entertained us with a fight and the lions quietly watched hoping that perhaps that one would severely injure the other and they could finish him off.

I cannot think of any restaurant in London or Bournemouth that offers this entertainment.

Dining in Namibia is remarkably inexpensive. A bottle of wine here is the same as one pays for a glass in London which is wonderful and dangerous at the same time.

The people are friendly and, although there is a higher level of sophistication in the Republic of South Africa, you will not feel threatened here which can happen in South Africa, especially in Johannesburg.

I am just back from a four hour "game" drive. We were driven around in an open jeep and saw, giraffes, zebra, elephants, black and white rhinoceros, a pride of lions, ostrich, a mongoose, a black backed jackal, several ground squirrels, and various forms of deer, springbok, oryx, kudu etc. We also swallowed more dust than a coal miner.

As a matter of interest, a white rhino is not white but has a wide mouth and a German explorer named it the wide rhino meaning wide. This got mistranslated to white.

The black rhino isn't black, in fact both are a dull grey colour. The only difference is the width of the mouth and that the white is reasonably docile and the black will pick a fight with anybody.

On that note, and hoping I have not put you to sleep, I will be on my way back to Windhoek and on to Victoria Falls.

*Best wishes
Elfan*

Cambrian Hall 90th anniversary celebrated over three event-filled days

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Welsh Society celebrated the Cambrian Hall's 90th birthday on October 4-6 with some popular and entertaining events.

The weekend celebrations began on Friday night, October 4 with a traditional Welsh Noson Lawen, an evening of mixed entertainment in the Red Dragon, featuring both amateur and professional performers.

The highlight of the weekend was a Welsh Celebration Concert, held at West Point Grey United Church on October 5. The concert was jointly organized by the Vancouver Welsh Society and the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir.

In addition to the Orpheus Choir, the program featured guest artists mezzo-soprano Nerys Jones from Seattle, local harpist Leanne Page and her son Connor, and Samuel Wyn-Morris, an up-and-coming young tenor from Wales, who also served as master of ceremonies for the concert.

The Vancouver Orpheus Choir is well known for its unique arrangements and its mix of popular music genres, including male voice classics, sacred music and folk songs.

A capacity audience at West Point Grey United Church was treated to an engaging performance of popular numbers from the Choir's extensive repertoire.

Much of the Orpheus's success is due to its Artistic Director Liana Savard and its popular accompanist Barry Yamanouchi, both of whom received enthusiastic receptions from the audience at the October 5 concert.

In addition to Liana, some musical items were conducted by the Choir's

Assistant Conductor, Luke McAndless-Davis.

Welsh-born mezzo-soprano Nerys Jones is based in Seattle and has performed with numerous opera companies, including the Puget Sound Opera, Tacoma Opera and Seattle Opera. The popular soloist has won many accolades and made many friends during previous visits to the Cambrian Hall.

Nerys delighted the Point Grey audience with selections from Grand Opera and well-known stage musicals, as well as popular Welsh songs.

Leanne Page is a well-known Celtic harpist and classically trained singer based in Surrey.

She was accompanied at the concert by her son Connor on classical guitar and Irish whistle. The popular duo played a selection of traditional Welsh, Scottish and Irish music.

Their expressive combination of voice, harp, guitar and whistle created a musical atmosphere that enchanted the audience.

Tenor soloist Samuel Wyn-Morris, a graduate of the Guildford School of Acting, has already made a name for himself in musical theatre and concert appearances.

Sam was the first member of LARS (Loud Applause Rising Stars), a Llanelli-based organization mentoring talented young musicians. Sam represented LARS at the 2018 World War2 Liberation Commemorations in the city of Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands.

He is soon to join the 2019-2020 cast of *Les Miserables* in London's West End and sang one of the most popular hits from the musical at the West Point Grey Concert.



MEZZO-SOPRANO Nerys Jones, tenor Sam Wyn-Morris and Welsh Society President Lynn Owens-Whalen all contributed to the success of the weekend celebrations.



THE 90-YEAR-OLD Cambrian Hall, a Vancouver Heritage building, has been home to Welsh in Vancouver since 1929.

Interspersed with the choral and solo items, three members of the Vancouver Welsh Society, Alwyn Rogers, Lynn Owens-Whalen, and myself presented brief historical snapshots on the 90-year history of the Cambrian Hall.

Lynn Owens-Whalen, the Vancouver Welsh Society president, was instru-

mental in organizing this special event, together with representatives of the Orpheus Choir.

The last event of the weekend was a well-attended Gymanfa Ganu (hymn festival) on Sunday, October 6 in the Cambrian Hall, when two of the artists who performed in Saturday's Concert, Nerys Jones and Samuel Wyn-Morris, gave encore performances as guest soloists.

The Gymanfa was conducted by Orpheus Artistic Director Liana Savard, again with Barry Yamanouchi as the accompanist. Following the Gymanfa, members of the Social Committee served a te bach (light refreshments) in the Red Dragon lounge.

President Lynn Owens-Whalen and Vancouver Welsh Society members wish to express their gratitude to the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir and guest artists for their valuable contribution to the success of the Cambrian Hall's 90th anniversary celebrations.

My life-long memories of religion and prayers after growing up in 1950s rural Ireland

I HAVE ALWAYS been fascinated and drawn to holy places and the symbols of my Catholic religion.

By MARIE BRUCE

For instance, I have a large collection of holy water fonts purchased on my travels from all over the world and proudly display them in my hallway at home. I have a St. Christopher medal pinned on the pannier on my bike.

I bring holy water along when I visit very sick friends they were always happy to be blessed with water from Fatima or Lourdes or for that matter Knock. I have visited great spiritual places, like Lourdes, Fatima and I have walked the Camino.

Together with my late husband George, I have visited nearly every great church in Rome and twice I heard mass in the Vatican and the great Notre Dame in Paris.

I visited the glorious church of Our Lady Victorious in Prague to see the Child of Prague statue, to this day it is crowded with pilgrims from all over the world.

A friend of mine told me one of the treasures in her family was a big statue of the Child of Prague given to her mother as a wedding present.

I have walked the labyrinth in glorious Chartre Cathedral.

On a trip to Jordan and Egypt we climbed Mount Sinai on an Easter Sunday.

We started at 3 AM by the light of the



OUR LADY VICTORIOUS in Prague in the Czech Republic is famous for its statuette of the Infant Jesus of Prague. The statue originated in Spain and was donated to the Carmelites by Polyxena of Lobkowicz in 1628.

night sky accompanied by African pilgrims who chanted their way up the steep climb.

We arrived just in time to watch the sun rise and fully experience the place where Moses received the ten Commandments.

I grew up in rural Ireland in the Fifties, despite a hugely busy home with a dairy farm and eight children, time was always made for prayer.

We said the rosary every night kneeling on a draughty flag stone kitchen floor. In our house there was no escaping the rosary – cold and tiredness were no excuse and we also had added prayers for the sick and special intentions, it seemed to go on forever.

I went to a convent boarding school, where daily mass and a stop for the Angelus, night prayers, and many retreats were all part of the curriculum. I could say the main focus of my whole childhood was the Catholic Church.

I found it tedious and boring and sometimes scary but it made a deep impression on me and one that continued throughout my life in a bittersweet way, so it is not surprising that I have a fascination with religious places.

I came to Canada in late Sixties and met George at Whistler on the very first night I was there.

Eventually we married in the Catholic Church without all the blessings because George was a non-Catholic.

We had three children and they were all dutifully baptized and we went to Mass every Sunday.

I chose Catholic school for my children where they received all the sacraments. Then they grew up, went to university and travelled.

This brings me up to my own life and how times have changed in my lifetime.

I am now 75 and George died very suddenly in 2011. We had a United Church funeral service more suited to his non-traditional church values.

I was in deep grief for years and searched for peace. I turned to my re-

ligion and went to early mass every day.

I sat at the back of the church and felt safe, it was the only place that I felt such peace and serenity although I don't think I prayed much.

There was always a little voice inside me that said "here you are back where you started in your hour of great need." I felt guilty I wasn't a more diligent Catholic. Guilt comes with my Irish Catholic upbringing.

This is what prompted me to write about this new secular life some of us have embraced. I often wonder if it is lack of commitment or the influence of the scandals in the Catholic Church which has caused many of us to fall away.

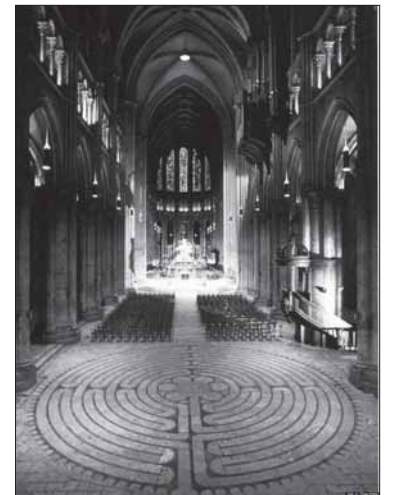
Organized religion is not part of my children's life and the daily prayers we said are abandoned to more secular pursuits like yoga, and biking and hiking in the beautiful environment they live in.

I am proud of my children. They are honest, hardworking and responsible, they have no fear of someone looking over their shoulders, and they know right from wrong.

Our influences are very different, maybe they are better but I muse now on how much the world has changed and the direction in which it is heading.

I feel we all still need some sort of spiritual help and time for prayer and reflection is important.

When I look back, I feel grateful that I was born in Ireland and suffered though those gruelling Catholic sermons of hell and damnation and the



THE CHARTRES CATHEDRAL Labyrinth in France is one of the world's most well-known labyrinths, attracting pilgrims for over 1,000 years. Situated in the floor of the church, it serves as a tool for contemplation, meditation, and prayer.

terror of confessions....not to mention the nightly rosary.

Out of those dark times I still have my own version of Catholicism without the fierce dogma of the 1950s in rural Ireland. I've become a different Catholic.

The church I attend is welcoming, encompassing and inspiring. There is a strong community spirit and it embraces a gentler more loving approach to God.

I am here out of choice and Sunday mass is still a very important and uplifting part of my life.

Finding Light in the Darkness of Days Between Samhain and Solstice

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

THE darkness of this Samhain season parallels an enveloping planetary darkness that chills even the warmest heart.

Technological prowess, the will for political power, and fear of change strip the ability of human, animal, and environment to adapt rapidly enough to survive.

Anyone who viewed the impassioned comments of 16-year old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg before the United Nations cannot help but be struck by what generations have done to the generations that will follow their footsteps on this good Earth.

And if you are one of those who ridiculed this girl as she spoke accurately and emotionally, shame on you and your kind.

Despite her good intent, the august body did not enact change or resolve to actually do anything about the fire,

storm, heat, and extinction now visited upon our planet.

Although the glaciers and ice pack are irretrievably melting, we turn away, check our cell phones for messages, and count on others to save the planet.

For those who feel pain for people and the planet, respite is infrequent.

Families and children are humiliated for seeking safety and a better future, bombastic politicians advertise their personality disorders around the globe, single-use plastics choke the heating oceans, and animals, insects, and birds quietly die.

There are grim recitations in every era, but in our time we did not anticipate the breathtaking consequences of the technology that we loosed upon our world at the advent of the Industrial Age.

Exploration and greed are fundamental qualities of the human psyche and it goes to follow that unbridled development along both of those avenues would come to folly if not held in check. And here we are.

The time is long past for swiping left to rid ourselves of uncomfortable

news. No single action can turn the tide of our times.

Instead we must, one by one, resolve to tackle the darkness by aligning with the light that which is considered through a lens of compassion and care instead of the drivel of gaping mouths whose fear of change and longing for retro-vision has pressed our society to its very edge.

Just like the quest to explore, resilience is baked into every human community.

Samhain, the season of darkness and disintegration, is initiated on the eve of the Celtic New Year on October 31.

The season, and its hallmark event, Halloween, remind us of native decay of our seasons, our society, and our bodies. No living system remains unchanged in perpetuity.

The great mythologies of the world do not exist only to provide fanciful vision to young learners, they represent an enduring, collective primer to the perils, pleasures, and meaning of human life.

Wherever your roots, embedded in those folktales and seasonal traditions

is the still-living wisdom of our existence, the reason to be and the resilience to survive.

The Celtic festival of Samhain tells us we will each be, until we are not.

Treading the darkened road, the eye naturally seeks light. Punctuating the darkness of these days, the winter solstice guarantees that light returns to the planet, offering promise of what may be, of brighter, warmer days, however you define them.

Perhaps those bright days may not arrive in our lifetime, but maybe so. No individual or society that has suffered is without patience, sometimes terrible patience.

Stand today for what you believe is right. Live with integrity, eschew greed, use what you need, help others.

Witness darkness and hope for light, those of tomorrow will celebrate your resilience and effort today.

You need not move mountains, a change of heart travels farther than any thrown stone ever could.

Blessed Be in this season of Samhain, may you always find light in the darkness.

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERINGS

Almighty Father, we your faithful, attend here with offerings. I pray that, by your command, what we bring shall become more than money, but rather an instrument of your will, worth ten, nay, one hundred times its value as mere currency. May it strengthen the walls of your house and provide service and comfort to all who come here in need. Amen.

~ Submitted by Roger Buston

NOVENA

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.

– PJMK, MJK, CC, CB, LMC, ST

Publication of a novena is \$25

RECLAIMING CAPE BRETON GAELIC THROUGH FILM AND THE ARTS

HALIFAX – Speakers of Cape Breton Gaelic have their origins in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Scottish Gaels were settled in Nova Scotia, commencing in 1773 with the arrival of the ship *Hector* and continuing until the 1850s. Gaelic has been spoken since then in Nova Scotia on Cape Breton Island and on the north-eastern mainland of the province.

The Gaelic cultural identity community is a part of Nova Scotia's diverse peoples and communities.

Thousands of Nova Scotians attend Gaelic-related activities and events annually including: language workshops and immersions, milling frolics, square dances, fiddle and piping sessions, concerts and festivals.

Despite the long history of Gaels and their language and culture in Canada, the Gaelic speech population started to decline after 1850.

This drop was a result of prejudice (both from outside, and from within the Gaelic community itself), aggressive dissuasion in school and government, and the perceived prestige of English.

For generations Gaelic has faced widespread prejudice in Britain, and those feelings were easily transposed to British North America.

In 1868, the *Scottish-American Journal* mockingly reported that “the preliminary indispensables for acquiring Gaelic are: swallowing a neat assortment of nutmeal-graters, catching a chronic bronchitis, having one nostril hermetically sealed up, and submitting to a dislocation of the jaw.”

That Gaelic had not received official status in its homeland made it easier for Canadian legislators to disregard the concerns of domestic speakers. Legislators questioned why “privileges should be asked for Highland Scotchmen in [the Canadian Parliament] that are not asked for in their own country?”

Around 1880, Am Bàrd Mac Dhiarmaid from The North Shore, wrote *An Té a Chaill a' Ghàidhlig* (*The Woman who Lost The Gaelic*), a humorous song recounting the growing phenomenon of Gaels shunning their mother-tongue.

With the outbreak of World War II the Canadian Government attempted to prevent the use of Gaelic on public telecommunications systems.

The government believed Gaelic was used by subversives affiliated with Ireland, a neutral country perceived to be tolerant of the Nazis.

In Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton where the Gaelic language was strongest, it was actively discouraged in schools with corporal punishment. Children were beaten with the *maide-crochaidh* (“hanging stick”) if caught speaking Gaelic.

Job opportunities for monolingual Gaels were few and restricted to the dwindling Gaelic-communities, compelling most into the mines or the fishery.

Many saw English fluency as the key to success, and for the first time in Canadian history Gaelic-speaking parents were teaching their children to speak English en masse.

The sudden stop of Gaelic intergenerational transmission, caused by shame and prejudice, was the immediate cause of the drastic decline in Gaelic fluency in the 20th century.

Ultimately the population dropped from a peak of 200,000 in 1850, to 80,000 in 1900, to 30,000 in 1930 and 500 to 1,000 today.

There are no longer entire communities of Canadian Gaelic-speakers, although traces of the language and pockets of speakers are relatively commonplace on Cape Breton, and especially in traditional strongholds like Christmas Island, The North Shore, and Baddeck.

In 1939, A.W.R. MacKenzie founded the Nova Scotia Gaelic College at St. Ann's. St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish has a Celtic Studies department with Gaelic-speaking faculty members, and is the only such university department outside Scotland to offer four full years of Scottish Gaelic instruction.

Many English-speaking artists of Canadian Gaelic heritage have featured Canadian Gaelic in their works, among them Alistair MacLeod (*No Great Mischiefs*), Ann-Marie MacDonald (*Fall on Your Knees*), and D.R. MacDonald (Cape Breton Road).

Gaelic singer Mary Jane Lamond has released several albums in the language, including the 1997 hit *Hòro Ghoid thu Nighean*, (“Jenny Dang the Weaver”). Cape Breton fiddling is a unique tradition of Gaelic and Acadian styles, known in fiddling circles worldwide.

The first Gaelic language film to be made in North America, *The Wake of Calum MacLeod* (*Faire Chaluim Mhic Leòid*) is a six-minute short filmed in Cape Breton. The Gaelic scholar Michael Newton made a half-hour documentary, *Singing Against the Silence* (2012), about the revival of Nova Scotia Gaelic in that language.

Now, a young Halifax filmmaker wants to make a feature film entirely in Gaelic set in Cape Breton.

Iain MacLeod who is learning the language of his ancestors wants to use his films to show that Gaelic isn't a thing of the past.

His earlier project, a short film, *An t-Inneal Espresso*, or the Espresso Machine in English, was one of three Gaelic shorts that premiered at the FIN Atlantic International Film Festival this fall. It's a comedy about a woman desperately trying to get her expensive espresso machine back from a friend's ex-girlfriend.

“The reality is that for minority languages, any kind of media representation is very valuable,” MacLeod told CBC's Mainstreet. “If you can make a film in Gaelic, and start to make even a few people start to think about it in a different way, I think that's a huge thing.”

But actually getting a Gaelic language film from script to screen is proving difficult.

That's partly because one of the major funders of Canadian film — Telefilm Canada — focuses on productions in English, French and Indigenous languages.

“There are millions of Canadians who don't speak English and French and



MANY SCOTTISH immigrants were drawn to Cape Breton Island because the landscape reminded them of the Scottish Highlands with its rugged beauty and relative isolation. About one third of Cape Breton Island is a National Park, and a large portion of the island is encircled by the Cabot Trail, which is a 186 mile loop road that travels around the perimeter of the island's northern section.

that doesn't make them any less Canadian,” MacLeod said. “I think if they want to tell those stories in their own languages, they should absolutely have the right to do that. Those stories are no less Canadian.”

A spokesperson for Telefilm Canada told CBC that due to the number of applications the organization receives, it focuses on Canada's official languages, although exceptions could possibly be made on a case-by-case basis if there was demonstrable audience demand.

MacLeod is still in the process of writing his feature-length film, which is based on a 2,000-year-old Irish epic about a stolen bull called the *Cattle Raid*

of Cooley. The twist is that it will be set in modern-day Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

MacLeod purposefully writes his Gaelic films in the present day to show that the language is still very much alive. He hopes his short film, which has English subtitles, can be used as a resource for Nova Scotians interested in learning the language.

MacLeod is still looking for funding for his feature film, and is even casting his net as far as Scotland.

In the meantime, he's travelling around the Maritimes showing audiences that it's possible to create a film that celebrates the tradition of Gaelic without keeping it stuck in the past.



IAIN MACLEOD is a Halifax-based filmmaker who is writing a feature film entirely in Gaelic set in Cape Breton.

The Fairy Flag of Clan MacLeod and its Legendary Protective Powers

The Fairy Flag (Scottish Gaelic: Am Bratach Sith) is one of the treasures kept by the chief of Clan MacLeod, a Highland Scottish clan associated with the Isle of Skye.

It is held in Dunvegan Castle along with other notable heirlooms, such as the Dunvegan Cup and Sir Rory Mor's Horn.

The Fairy Flag is known for the numerous traditions of fairies, and magical properties associated with it.

It has been examined numerous times in the last two centuries, and its condition has somewhat deteriorated. It is ripped and tattered, and is considered to be extremely fragile.

The silk of the flag has been stated to have originated in the Far East, and was therefore extremely precious, which led some to believe that the flag may have been an important relic of some sort.

Others have attempted to associate the flag with the Crusades or even a raven banner, which was said to have been used by various Viking leaders in the British Isles.



PRINCESS singing lullabies. Illustration by H.J. Ford, 1921

The flag is said to have originated as a gift from the fairies to an infant chieftain or a gift to a chief from a departing fairy-lover.

Clan tradition, preserved in the early 19th century, tells how the Fairy Flag

was entrusted to a family of hereditary standard bearers. In the mid-20th Century, the Fairy Flag was said to have extinguished a fire at Dunvegan Castle, and to have given luck to servicemen flying bombing missions in the Second World War.

One of the main stories that have been traditionally told about the origin of the fairy flag is its association with magic.

It tells of certain events which took place after an heir to the clan's chieftain was born.

It tells a tale how a host of fairies appeared and wrapped the infant in the Fairy Flag after the child's nurse momentarily left him on his own.

When the clansmen banqueting below demanded to see the child, the maid was ordered to bring him forth. When she brought out the baby, wrapped in the flag, everyone gazed in wonder at the child and the garb wrapped around him.

The room was filled with the fairies' song which declared that the flag had the power to save the clan three times.