



## Jeanie Johnston: replica of Quebec-built famine ship to visit Montreal

A full-size replica of the *Jeanie Johnston* arrives in the Old Port on Thursday, September 18, 2003, and will be here for five days. The building of the *Jeanie Johnston* replica and her journey to North America was conceived as a way to remember and honour the courage and will to succeed of the pioneering Irish Famine emigrants. Originally a Millennium project, the idea was to have the ship built and crewed by young people from across the religious divide and from the north and south of Ireland under the supervision of skilled shipwrights, marine architects and mariners knowledgeable of sailing ships. During her five-day stay here, the Irish community will have many occasions to visit this fine vessel — now seen as one the best of its class afloat — and to celebrate this important event. From September 19, portions of the area below deck will be converted into a museum with life-sized depictions and representations that bring emigrant circumstances and experiences vividly to life for the visitor.

For those who choose to seek out a moment of quiet solitude, a visit will perhaps provide a personal opportunity to touch the souls of their courageous forebears and get a sense of what those who founded our community may have felt as they crowded on board small ships like the *Jeanie Johnston* with little more in their hearts than a faint hope for a new beginning. After sailing aboard *Jeanie* from Dublin and Belfast, Niall O'Dowd, publisher of the *Irish Voice* newspaper in



*The Organizing Committee: April O'Donaghue, Elizabeth Quinn, Dennis Dougherty, Leo Delaney (Chair), Dennis Reen (CEO of the Jeanie Johnston Company), Margaret Healey and Mary McGovern. Missing: Paul Loftus, Mike McGee*

New York, said: "You simply cannot board this ship without the ghosts of your past and ancestors becoming vividly alive. We should be grateful it was built." He went on to say: "Compared to green beer, tooraloora songs and 40 Shades of Green, it is as authentic a vision of old Ireland as exists." Now there's a thought worth remembering.

### A Quebec-built barque

The original vessel was built here. A 123-foot (37.5 metres, for those so-inclined), 408-ton barque, she was launched in Quebec City in June, 1847, for the Kerry-based merchant family, John Donovan & Sons. The builder was Scottish-born shipwright, John Munn. A barque is a vessel with at least three masts, all of them fully square-rigged except for

*cont. p.4*

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## A word from our President

Since the last issue of *NUACHT*, we have had an extremely successful golf tournament, thanks to Wayne Hogan, Paul Doyle and their committee. The tournament netted \$12,332 for the Society but ended with gall bladder surgery for Paul, from which he has recuperated nicely. The golf tournament always marks the beginning of summer for the Society and some well-deserved downtime for our many volunteers.

Downtime, yes, but not completely. As you can see from the calendar, our meetings are lined up for 2003-04. Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan (see p. 7) has agreed to be our guest speaker on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and among other things, will reminisce about her father, Dennis, who was our president from 1967-69. She will read an excerpt from her new book *Sheila's Take*. We will have copies for sale and Sheila will be happy to autograph them. Do come out to meet her and listen to her tales about growing up in an Irish Catholic family of eight in Montreal. If you, or someone you know, are dealing with the death of a spouse, her three stories about her husband's terminal illness and her own recovery are a must.

Ever conscious for the Irish impact on the history of Montreal, we have arranged to hold our November general meeting at Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel and adjoining Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum in Old Montreal. The Chapel was the first gathering place for English-speaking (i.e., Irish) Catholic Montrealers in 1815, and the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame opened the first school for English-speaking Catholic children next door in 1938. On the ceiling near the main entrance to the Chapel, there is a marvelous painting by Theophile Hamel, commissioned and erected in 1849 to commemorate those who nursed the Irish victims of typhoid in the fever sheds of Montreal. The CND sisters have done a wonderful job of the museum and we will have an opportunity to visit the archaeological dig beneath the Chapel where Amerindian artifacts have been found dating back to 400 B.C. Be sure to mark November 10<sup>th</sup> on your calendar.

At long last, the *Jeanie Johnston* will be spending the weekend of September 18-21 in Montreal. This replica of the Quebec-built ship that never lost a passenger to the Fever during her numerous Atlantic crossings in the 1840s and 1850s will give us an opportunity to reflect on that otherwise sad time in our history while rejoicing in our community's survival and cross-cultural ties with the French Canadians who welcomed us. St. Patrick's Society is pleased to be able to contribute financially to the entertainment that will reflect this reality.

This summer, Michael Kenneally convened a meeting of representatives of several of our local associations to examine the possibility of reviving the Montreal Irish Show in a new format for local network television. A committee

was formed, chaired by Geoff Moore, who also happens to be a VP of St. Patrick's Society. We are happy to endorse this new venture, hopeful that not only will it honour the tradition originated by the late Liam Daly, but also that it will represent the many cultural interests of the Irish in Quebec. The inauguration of a community-based program will indeed serve as yet another means of presenting a united voice and image of the Irish community and, as such, we wish it much success.

We are delighted that with financial support from St. Patrick's Society, the annual AOH trip to Grosse Île was a sold-out event. We, ourselves, are working with the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society to organize a weekend trip to Quebec City and Grosse Île next summer and hope it will include Marianna O'Gallagher's walking tour of Irish historical sites in *La Vielle Capitale*.

Last spring, Sun Youth offered invaluable assistance to the families of the two Irishmen mowed down by a hit-and-run driver near Concordia University downtown. In fact, they intervened in a manner reminiscent of the earlier days of St. Patrick's Society. We are grateful for their efforts and are in the process of considering how we might repay their generosity.

It looks like there wasn't that much downtime after all. Please keep your fall calendar handy and come out to as many Society events as possible. I look forward to meeting everyone.

*Patrick Dunn, September 1, 2003*

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## St. Patrick's Society of Montreal Scholarship recipient thanks Society

In 1995, encouraged by SPS member Jimmy Heaslip, Tarah Brookfield, then living in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, was awarded a scholarship/bursary by the Montreal St. Patrick's Society. This enabled her to complete an M.A. in History at the University of Waterloo. After working for four years as supervisor of the Kitchener-Waterloo YMCA's International Development and Education program, she is about to begin her Ph.D. in History at York University thanks to another scholarship, the John A. Macdonald Fellowship for Graduate Studies in Canadian History. Tarah recognizes that without the financial support she received from SPS earlier in her academic career, she might not have been able to attend university. She applauds the Society's continued support of Irish cultural, social and education needs.

The subject of Tarah's Master's thesis was the life of Dr. Ritchie-England and what follows is Tarah's overview of this remarkable woman.

*Although virtually unknown within Canadian history, Dr. Octavia Grace Ritchie-England (1868-1948) was respected by her contemporaries for her lifelong efforts to improve the lives of women. Ritchie-England had many stunning accomplishments that broke traditional gender barriers such as her acceptance into the first class of women at McGill in 1894, becoming Québec's first female physician, and her endorsement by the Liberal Party as their first female candidate in 1930.*

*The years surrounding World War I highlight a particularly compelling moment in Ritchie-England's endeavours that demonstrated her strong principles and unwavering commitment to women's rights. As President of the Montreal Local Council of Women (MLCW), a high-profile association dedicated to community philanthropic, social and cultural causes, Ritchie-*

*England lobbied all levels of government to extend the vote to women. In 1917 the federal government, under Prime Minister Borden, temporarily granted the right to vote to any women whose father, brother, husband or son was serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. Ritchie-England publicly criticized Borden for limiting the vote because it "cast a slur upon the general womanhood of the country by judging their worthiness on the military role played by their male relatives." She also actively campaigned against Borden in the upcoming election. By not supporting the party touted to win the war, Ritchie-England was called a "traitor" and "pro-German" and was asked by MLCW members to step down as President. After an investigation into her wartime actions, she was allowed to remain President and the MLCW decided that "Dr. Ritchie-England's patriotism is unimpeachable, and her private right to freedom of opinion and action absolute and unquestionable."*

*Ritchie-England left behind a legacy of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century educational, medical, and political history and reform. As a pioneer in the women's movement, she led by striving for change in her own life and toward universal justice.*

*T.M.*

### In Memoriam

#### Jimmy Patrick Mossey (d. June, 2003)

Longtime member, Jimmy Mossey, who served on our Board in the '80s, was affectionately known as "the silent Director" because he rarely spoke! His funeral was celebrated by several priests including Father McKee, Father McEntee, and Father Francis Coyle. Our sympathies to Jimmy's family at this time.

### Montreal to host Oireachtas

For the first time in its 30-year history, the Eastern Canadian Oireachtas will be held in Montreal. The Irish Dancing Championships for Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are a qualifying event for the World Championships which take place annually around Eastertime in Ireland. This year's Oireachtas is scheduled for November 7-8-9 at the Delta Centre-Ville Hotel. Some 700 dancers are expected to compete in solo and team events.

The Oireachtas is being organized by the 42-member Irish Dance Teachers Association of Eastern Canada under the chairmanship of Bernadette Short. Bernadette explains that because of the repetitiveness of the competitions, "the Oireachtas is not really a spectator event." However, admission is \$10 per day for those who cannot resist watching championship-level dancers from under eight to over 21 as well as four-hand and eight-hand céilí dances. A limited number of tickets is available for the dinner-dance on November 8th which features the first-place winners of each category in the spectacular Parade of Champions. The cost is \$45 plus cash bar and you can reserve by calling Alistair O'Hara at 481-6834.

### Liam Daly endowment fund established

With the recent death of Liam Daly, the Montreal Irish Community has lost one of its special and most treasured members (see June *NUACHT*). To preserve Liam's memory an endowment fund has been established by the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. A goal of \$100,000 has been set and all donations will receive tax receipts. The Foundation will manage the endowment fund and will channel the annual contribution to Concordia University's Centre for Canadian Irish Studies. Liam's life emphasized culture, charity and humanitarian commitment to his community. Please give generously and donate to a project that will permanently allow students to appreciate the richness of Irish history and the diversity of its culture.

Please send donations to: Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, 1590 Doctor Penfield Ave., Montreal, Qué., H3G 1C5. (514) 848-8711. Unless otherwise indicated, a list of donors will appear in the Foundation's Newsletter.

**Four days before the mast**  
**One of our own repeats his**  
**forebear's journey**



**P**eter Shea, avid sailor, *bon vivant* and former President of St. Patrick's Society was, in part at least, following the route of his great grandparents to Canada's relatively friendly shores when he joined the crew of the modern *Jeanie Johnston* for four days from Halifax to Miramichi. His great grandfather, Daniel Shea, hailed from Kenmare, which is only a stone's throw from the original vessel's home port of Blennerville near Tralee, and where the current replica was built.

Shea family folklore has it that Daniel, born in Kenmare, Co. Kerry in 1842 and married in St. Patrick's Church in Montreal in 1864, came to Canada in 1847 or 1848 which is during the period the ship plied her way sixteen times from Ireland to North America. Although this cannot be confirmed with certainty, as there are no extant records for the Canadian voyages, given the timing and the family's proximity to the ship's home port he may well have come on board the *Jeanie Johnston*.

At last report before *NUACHT* went to press, Peter had not been keelhaunched and was enjoying the trip of a lifetime.

For those interested it may still be possible to join the crew for the return trip to Ireland – the ship leaves St. John's Newfoundland on October 22, 2003 for an estimated 21-day crossing – the cost is about \$4,500.

**Jeanie Johnston (cont.)**

the stern-most one, which is fore-and-aft rigged. It was the most common type of deep-water passenger and cargo-carrier in the middle of the 19th century. She carried 200 passengers and had a crew of 17 and the fare, one way mind you, was three shillings and six pence — about 25 cents — a considerable amount at the time.

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**No coffin-ship this**

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Although accommodations were primitive, the *Jeanie Johnston* was among the safest of the emigrant ships and had the distinction of having a doctor, Richard Blennerhassett, on board for most voyages. He was from Dingle, Co. Kerry; a graduate of Edinburgh University who died at age 36 from cholera contracted on board another ship bound for Galveston, Texas. There were no outbreaks of serious disease and no lives were ever lost from the estimated 2,500 passengers and crew that travelled on the *Jeanie Johnston*, thanks in no small part to the way the ship was run by her skipper, Capt. James Attridge and Dr. Blennerhassett. She made 16 successful trans-Atlantic voyages between 1847 and 1856 at a time when the 5,500KM trip was fearfully hazardous. Even when she was sold in 1856 and went down, overloaded and waterlogged, in mid-Atlantic in 1858, all aboard got off safely.

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**A Millennium project**  
**...better late than never**

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She missed her Millennium deadline by three years. Indeed, creating the oak and pine replica of the *Jeanie Johnston* was in many ways fraught with more difficulties than building the original. The project almost disintegrated. In the words of one journalist: "Rarely has a ship been bailed out so often before leaving port." The original budget was C\$8.5M but this blossomed Olympic-stadium-like to £C\$22M amidst huge local controversy where comparisons were drawn between closure of hospital beds, growing waiting lists for health care and wildly spending money on dreams of doubtful value. When the need for more funding became

apparent, the project got further side-swiped by the US Republican Party criticism, led by Senator McCain, of the International Fund for Ireland, as the Bush administration attempted to make a cut of US\$16.5M in its contribution to the fund. As if this were not enough, doubts were raised about the vessel's sea worthiness and its ability to pass modern-day marine safety tests. (Thanks to bureaucratic and regulatory spoilsports she was finally fitted with a steel frame and bulkheads, diesel engines, desalination units, sewage treatment and even air conditioning.) The *Jeanie Johnston* became a byword for disaster as the unfinished vessel spent three years moored to a dock in Kerry, part of the time impounded for unpaid debts and the subject of a government inquiry — nothing new or less effective in Ireland! But against all odds, the ship was saved when the Kerry Group, Ireland's food-processing giant, offered investment and judges approved a bankruptcy deal. That cleared the way for the completion of sea trials and the commencement of the planned trans-Atlantic trip.

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**Irish parties — come**  
**along for the "craic"!**

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A full program of activities for the ship's five-day stay in Montreal is being planned by the local committee who have been awaiting *Jeanie's* arrival for over five years. On Friday, September 19, 2003, an *Irish Community Evening* will take place at the ship between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., during which canapés will be served and there will be an open bar, sponsored by *Hurley's Pub*. Following the reception there will be a show featuring "La Bottine Souriante," a talented, foot-stomping, internationally renowned Quebec-based folk music group drawing on, and we hope acknowledging, their Irish roots. The cost for the *Irish Community Evening* is \$25.00 per person. Numbers are limited because of space. Early reservation is strongly recommended. For information and tickets, please call Margaret Healy at (514) 932-5250 or email Elizabeth Quinn at [Elizabeth@charlesboulanger.com](mailto:Elizabeth@charlesboulanger.com).

## Jeanie Johnston (cont.)

And for those who cannot make Friday or those who are up for a double treat, on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., there will be entertainment at the ship including the *Celtic Grace Dancers* and local Irish musical groups, sponsored by St. Patrick's Society. Admission to the entertainment will be free although a freewill donation for admission to the ship is requested.

*Ned Eustace*

### Cheers to all and enjoy the JJ's visit

The replica ship is attracting attention wherever she lands. T Martimer and playwright Robbie O'Neill writes that he was involved with the *Jeanie Johnston's* port call in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Excerpts from his play, *Bound from Tralee* — written three years ago — were performed at the official welcoming ceremony. "She is a beautiful replica ... not to be missed," adds Robbie.

His intention had been to sail on the vessel from Saint John to Halifax, but because Transport Canada had not yet worked out the necessary details regarding carrying passengers at that time, Robbie was disappointed.

Any one interested in things Irish is invited to check out Robbie's website: [www.robbyoneill.com](http://www.robbyoneill.com). He will be showcasing his play *I Must Be Talking to My Friends* on The Rock later this month. He hopes a tour will ensue with a visit to Montreal.

## Become a friend of the *Jeanie Johnston*: join the Roll of Honorary Montreal Crew Members

The *Jeanie Johnston's* visit is not without real monetary cost and so far this has been borne by contributions from St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, Hurley's Pub, Tourism Ireland, United Irish Societies, Erin Sports Association, other private donations, grants from the federal and provincial governments and the City of Montreal. Ticket sales for the Irish Community Evening on Friday, September 19, which exceed 250 as *NUACHT* goes to press, will also help defray costs.

Despite the Organizing Committee's best efforts there is a shortfall in required funding for the five-day visit. To offset this, members of the public are asked to become a **Friend of the *Jeanie Johnston*** by contributing \$100. Donors' names will be added to the **Roll of Honorary Montreal Crew Members**. All monies raised will go exclusively to cover the local costs of the ship's visit to our city.

**A charitable donation tax receipt will be issued for the full amount of the donation.** Contribution cheques should be made payable to **St. Patrick's Society of Montreal**, and be clearly marked for "The Friends of the *Jeanie Johnston* Fund" and remitted to:

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal  
6767 Côte St. Luc Road, #1  
Montreal, Quebec  
H4V 2Z6

*Go Raibh Míle Maith Agat — Thank You — Merci*

### Dana's suggestions for Cine Gael 2004

During my annual trip to visit my very elderly mother in Ireland in July, I paid a fleeting visit to the Galway Film Festival to check out the programme of new Irish feature films. The lineup was impressive, or, as one media commentator put it, "it showcased what must have been the most concentrated outburst of new Irish features in our history."

The Festival opened with a feature called *Conspiracy of Silence*, which dealt with the Catholic Church's inability to deal with the issues of celibacy and AIDS among the clergy (Director: John Deery) and closed with *Spin the Bottle* ( a spin-off from RTE's *Paths to Freedom*) which tells the story of a dim ex-con coming up with a series of misconceived schemes to send his clinically obese aunt to Lourdes — "a joyously ramshackle romp" according to some punters (Director: Ian Fitzgibbon). In between, I got to see Liz Gill's *Goldfish Memory*, a story about the dangers and delights of dating in contemporary Ireland; *Headrush* directed by Shimmy Marcus, a crazy caper comedy about two young stoners orbiting society in a haze of dope and dreams; Karl Golden's *The Honeymooners* — a love story with a difference involving a jilted groom and a highly strung waitress (one of my favourites); Sean

Walsh's *bl.m* — yes, you've got it! Thirty-six years after Joseph Strick's attempt to put Joyce's *Ulysses* on screen, Walsh tries it again. I didn't get to see this one, but by all accounts Stephen Rea and Angeline Ball are excellent in the lead roles, but otherwise reviews are pretty mixed about the success of this attempt. And finally, John Crowley's *Intermission* which won the prize for best first feature. It's a violent comedy — the story of modern romance with a bitter twist, with a cast of stars including Colm Meaney, Colin Farrell, Shirley Henderson and Kelly Macdonald. Crowley is an award-winning theatre director and his film seemed to be the hot topic of the festival.

We will be planning our Cine Gael 2004 season with these features in mind. In addition, we are contemplating a weekend of Gay Cinema. And on our guest list for the up-coming season a number of possibilities has already been suggested including Roddy Doyle and Bernard MacLaverly. We will keep you posted. Our opening date is Friday, January 23rd, 2004. Bon Cinema!

*Dana Hearne*

## The French connection: another look at the history of the Irish in Montreal

The Irish College in Paris, located in the heart of the French capital since 1769, was first established in 1578 with a gathering of Irish students at the College of Montaigu. Priests, doctors, bankers, and soldiers were trained for Ireland though many of them were to remain in their adopted country. In fact, in the wake of the Cromwell massacres in 1649, some 35,000 Irish soldiers had been in the service of France, forming distinct regiments.

In 1677, the Irish acquired the vacated College of the Lombards, thereby increasing the number of Irish in France significantly. After the flight of the Wild Geese in 1691, hundreds of thousands of Irish migrated to France.

It was through this French connection that many Irish found their way to New France — some of them long before the English conquest of Quebec in 1759. Among them were Sister Mary Kirwin (1643), Cornelius O’Brennan (1670), Jack Reilly (1704), an ancestor of Louis Riel, Timothy O’ Sullivan (1718), who was to become Marguerite d’Youville’s stepfather, and Charles McCarthy (1745), who was in charge of the port of Quebec City. Accustomed to French ways, they readily integrated with the early French settlers.

By the end of the 1600s, it was said that 130 of all the 2,500 families in New France, or roughly 5%, were Irish. In 1871, after massive immigration from Ireland itself, the figure rose to somewhat more than 10%, making the Irish the second largest group in Canada after the French.

### The Riels

Born in Limerick, Jack Reilly was married in Boucherville in 1704 under the name Jean Baptiste Riel. His descendants became the Riels *coureurs des bois* and Métis. The most famous of them, Louis Riel, was born in Saint Boniface, Manitoba the same year the Grey Nuns opened a branch there. When Louis Riel attended the Collège de Montréal in 1861, he lived at the Grey Nuns’ motherhouse. His sister, Sara, herself joined the Grey Nuns in 1865. Riel, responsible for achieving provincehood for Manitoba in 1870, subsequently would be accused of treason for setting up a provisional government in Saskatchewan. He was hanged in 1885.



Louis Riel

### Timothy O’Sullivan (1695-1749)

Born in Cork, the son of Daniel O’ Sullivan and Elizabeth McCarthy, Timothy O’ Sullivan (Timothée Sylvain) came to Montreal in 1718 and married Marie Renée Gauthier, a widow, two years later in Boucherville. She had six children, one of whom, Marguerite d’Youville, founded the Grey Nuns in 1737. While he was a controversial figure, O’ Sullivan, a doctor, was credited with “considerable cures” and ably provided for his new family. Two of the sons became priests.

Shawn McAlear

(We inadvertently omitted Shawn’s name in the June NUACHT. Our apologies to him.)

## Next challenge: the World Championships, 2004

Anne-Marie Keenan, recent winner of the North American Irish Dancing Championships, dreams of standing on the podium at the World Championships. This could become a reality if her determination and focus don’t weaken.

In July, at the competition held in Nashville, Tenn., Anne-Marie proved herself to be the best of 90 contestants who came from Ireland, England, the U.S. and Canada. “This was my greatest high,” said the modest teenager, “as well as winning the North American Senior Belt in Connecticut in June.”

She started her career in dancing at the age of three in jazz ballet, performing in *Calendar Girl*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Cats*. Two years later, encouraged by her parents with their strong Irish roots, she enrolled in Bernadette Short’s School of Irish Dancing.

When injuries sidelined Anne-Marie, she hated not being able to dance. This could be stressful if an important competition was on the horizon. To aspiring young dancers, Anne-Marie says, “Work hard, enjoy what you do, and you will succeed.”

In addition to winning medals, Anne-Marie has made many friends from all over the world. Another great experience for her was dancing *From Galway to Grosse Île*. She particularly enjoys performing with the Celtic Grace Dancers in and around Montreal.

When competition days are over, our young dancer would love to join a show such as *Riverdance* and later become an Irish Dance teacher, like her role model, Bernadette Short.

We look forward to seeing Anne-Marie on the podium at the World Championships next March in Ireland. *Sláinte!!*



Anne-Marie Keenan with her role model, Bernadette Short

## Sheila's "take" on growing up in an Irish Catholic family in Montreal in the forties and fifties

My husband's chance meeting with the daughter of a past-president of St. Patrick's Society led to the discovery of a wonderful little book called *Sheila's Take*. The author, Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan, 59, is the daughter of the late Dennis F. Kindellan who was President of the Society from 1967-1969. It was her sister Mary who met Pat (my husband and current St. Patrick's Society President) on a flight from Toronto to Montreal to attend the book launch in early June.

As luck would have it, a couple of weeks later, I just happened to hear an interview on CBC with the author of the newly published *Sheila's Take*. She told of growing up in Montreal as the second of eight children, of spending summers in Cacouna, of her parents' Irish roots in Quebec City and St. Patrice de Beauvillage. She read a passage from "Saddle Shoes," one of the 14 true stories that make up the book, and I was hooked. Hooked, not only because of the magic of her storytelling but especially because of her insight. As a child, she had loved her summers in Cacouna. Later in life, she became aware of her mother's isolation there, even with a brood of kids, while her father remained in the city to work. It was then that Sheila realized, "... my father had crossed our palms with silver. My mother's sacrifice had crossed our hearts with gold."

It would be a mistake to read the book, as I did the first time round, only for the well-known Montreal landmarks, for the names of friends and teachers Sheila encountered, or even to discover where our paths may have crossed. Her tales of life in a CND classroom in the early fifties struck pretty close to home, as did the countless religious references that symbolized a long-gone way of life. The book deserves a second reading to go beyond such details to the heart of her storytelling. As an only child, I could laugh at the antics of her early years in a large family, envy them even, yet wonder about the motivation that would lead to such mischief. I, who would have loved to have had ten children, could only pity her mother and wonder how anyone could cope



*Dennis Kindellan and daughter, Sheila*

with the shenanigans. What I liked best about Sheila's memoirs, however, are the little bits of wisdom that she has managed to glean from having lived the experiences, even the bad ones. The book is funny, sad, disturbing, inspiring, and will reach everyone in some way.

This is not a book specifically about being Irish and Catholic or English-speaking in Quebec, but it does give a pretty good picture. It is, rather, a book about relationships and especially those that have made the author who she is today. In a telephone interview, Sheila told me that when she retired from her 30-year teaching career (22 of which were spent at St. Thomas High School in Pointe Claire), she had intended to write about her husband, Tom Sheehan, who had died of cancer at the age of 53. She found herself coming back to her own story, however, and decided to concentrate on that. "The most important thing a person can learn about himself," she said, "is where we come from. The very things I was angry with are the things that have seen me through." One particularly touching story tells of a trip Sheila and

her Dad took in 1991 to visit his boyhood haunts in and around Quebec City. It was the first and only time she had ever spent five days straight alone with her father, something an only child like me finds amazing. But I could easily identify with "The Best Intentions" of coping with an elderly parent.

*Sheila's Take* is available at Double Hook in Westmount, at Argo on St. Catherine St. W., and at Librairie Au Bord du Lac in Pointe-Claire Village. It sells for \$19.95.

Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan will be the guest speaker at the Society's first general meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's Square. If you've read her book, you will want to meet her. If you have not yet read it, you will want to after hearing her talk about it.

*Kathleen Dunn*

### If the medicine doesn't work, try a 'cure'

Looking for a cure for haemorrhoids? Carry a walnut in your pocket and say an "Our Father." This is one of many strange pieces of advice you might get if you live in Co. Armagh and have a health problem.

Using a grant that she received from the ABC Millennium Awards Scheme, Sister Nora Smyth travelled through the region talking to older people in villages and towns. The results of her research were compiled in a fascinating booklet. *Going for the Cure* explores which traditional cures still exist in Co. Armagh, identifies who practises them, and explains how they are administered.

One problem that Sr. Nora encountered was the reluctance of healers to discuss their gift or be identified by name in the booklet. They seemed to regard their powers as being supernatural in origin and did not want to appear boastful. Also the curers rarely charged for their services, exhibiting an unselfish attitude. The gift is handed down through families, but young people today are not very keen to assume the responsibility, possibly fearing lawsuits or not wanting to forfeit their free time.

*cont. p.8*

## Marianna O’Gallagher — faithful chronicler of who we are

Quebec has produced many remarkable people of Irish descent. Their achievements are legendary and serve as an example to us all. One such person is Marianna O’Gallagher. A native of Quebec City, Marianna keeps Irish history alive in her home town and province. Her love of this subject stems from the work done for Grosse Île by her father, Dermot O’Gallagher, and from stories told to her by her mother, Norma Kathleen O’Neil. Thanks to her efforts, she drew the attention of Canada and the rest of the world to the historical significance of Grosse Île. This quarantine station for Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine of the 1830s and final resting place for thousands of people is now a national historic site.

A member of a religious order for some years, Marianna graduated with a B.A. from Mount Saint Vincent, Halifax, and an M.A. from Ottawa and taught school for over twenty-five years in both Canada and the U.S. until her retirement.

A prolific writer, she is the author of *Grosse Île, Gateway to Canada*; *St. Patrick’s Quebec*; *St. Brigid’s Quebec*; and *The Shamrock Trail*, as well as numerous articles in historical and genealogical journals. With friend and co-author Rose Masson Dompierre, she published *Eyewitness Grosse Île 1847*, a compilation of the correspondence of the chaplains at Grosse Île with their respective bishops, Anglican and Catholic, during the awful summer of the worst of the famine years — “Black ’47” as it has come to be known.

1997 was a big year for Marianna when she directed the commemoration of 1847 in Quebec City — *The Irish Summer/ L’Été irlandais* — a remembrance of the Great Famine in Ireland whose victims overflowed into Quebec City. For this and other work on the history of the Irish, Marianna was named Chevalier de l’Ordre national du Québec, and was honoured by La Commission des Sites et Monuments historiques du Québec, and by the Canadian Association for Irish Studies. Later, in July 2002, Marianna



*Marianna O’Gallagher receiving the Order of Canada from Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada*

was named to the Order of Canada, and in the same year she also received the Queen’s Jubilee Medal. Most recently, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network recognized her work by presenting her with the Marion Phelps Award.

A familiar figure on the lecture circuit in Ireland, Canada and the United States, with her personality and style she brings the Quebec-Ireland connection to life. Also, for the past 15 years she has organized pilgrimages to Grosse Île and has collaborated with local agencies to further develop the national historic park there under the auspices of Parks Canada.

Family is very important to Marianna O’Gallagher. She hopes that what she writes will help her numerous nephews, nieces, grand-nieces and grand-nephews to remember and cherish their heritage. And even with the hectic schedule that she follows, Marianna still finds time for classical and folk music, reading, writing and good conversation. Plan to join one of her pilgrimages next summer!

*Anne Forrest*

### Cure (cont.)

The text of *Going for the Cure* is interspersed with photos of healers and their patients, as well as pictures of a fairy tree, a ringfort, standing stones, a Celtic cross and several wells. It is a highly readable little book, a mere 62 pages, and written in an accessible and anecdotal style.

A religious of the Sacred Heart, Sr. Nora studied in Montreal for three years and still maintains contact with many good friends here.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of *Going for the Cure*, please contact the editor of *NUACHT* at the SPS office.

### Minister of Transport passes driving test

After five months on a waiting list, the Irish Minister for Transport, Mr. Séamus Brennan, has qualified for a full driving licence. He had held one for than 25 years, but had allowed it to lapse after his appointment to a number of Cabinet posts, which gave him the use of a State car and Garda driver.

The Minister got a taste of the waiting list backlog for driving tests after he was forced to wait five-and-a-half months to sit the test after applying for it last March. It emerged that the Minister sat his test last Monday after a series of 10 one-hour lessons with Rosemary Smith, who represented Ireland in international rallies in the 1960s and 1970s.

*From The Irish Times, September 5, 2003*



## Around town

### Siamsa

**B**eginning September 18, Siamsa will be offering weekly group classes for adults in fiddle, whistle, bodhrán, set and céilí dancing, Irish drama, banjo, mandolin, Celtic guitar, and pub singing. For information, call or email Emily Andrews at (514) 932-0135; info@siamsa.org. Or for only \$8.00 you can enjoy a Céilí held every few weeks at the Royal Canadian Legion, at Addington and De Maisonneuve. No experience required!

### Comhrá

**A** reminder that the Fall session of the Montreal Irish Language group began September 8. Cost is \$56.00 for 14 classes. All levels catered to. For more information, contact Sean Treacy at (514) 637-4539, seantreacy@sympatcio.ca., or Sylvie Gauthier at sylviega@aie.ca.

### Gaelic football

**A**t the Toronto Championship held in August, the men's team lost in the quarterfinal by one point to Brampton. The game was closely contested, with the outcome in doubt right up to the final whistle. Although the Shamrocks fell short of causing a major upset, they impressed the Toronto spectators. Also, for the first time, a team was fielded in the Ladies' Championship. The ladies started well but were gradually overpowered by a very strong Durham team. With more experience they will have better days ahead.

Training continues every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Parc Dupuis, Verdun. New players are always welcome and no experience is necessary.

Don't forget to go to McKibbin's Irish Pub, 1426 Bishop St., from 8:30 a.m. to watch the All-Ireland Hurling Finals (Sep. 14) and the All-Ireland Football Finals (Sep. 28 ). Info: call Paddy at 631-4847.

*Paddy Mahon*

### Irish 2000 Music and Arts Festival

**T**he largest single-day Irish Festival on the planet will be held on Saturday, September 20, at the Altamont Fairgrounds, Rt. 146, Altamont, NY., from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Admission is \$15.00 at the gate or \$10.00 if paid in advance. Children under 10 are admitted free. Parking costs \$3.00 or a shuttle-bus service will be available from Albany to the Fairgrounds for only \$8.00.

This 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish 2000 Music and Arts Festival will feature Celtic rock to traditional Irish music and everything in between. In addition there will be three Irish dancing schools: Boland; Campbell; and Farrell. Irish storyteller, Bairbre McCarthy, will be on hand to entertain everyone. Musicians include: the Young Dubliners; The Cottars; the Makem Brothers; Hair of the Dog; Black 47; The Tannahill Weavers; the Glengarry Bhoys; Seamus Kennedy; and Paul Brady. And not to be missed is the Schenectady Pipe Band.

For more information, log on to [www.irish2000fest.com](http://www.irish2000fest.com).

### Marguerite Bourgeoys to be honoured

**A**n English mass to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Marguerite Bourgeoys in Montreal will be held at Bon-Secours Chapel at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 20. An exhibition *Life on Board Ship in the 17th Century* will be presented in the adjoining museum and tower. For further information, contact Sr. Joyce Roberts, CND, (514) 282-8670.

### Free lectures and credit courses

**T**he Fall session is now under way, but it's not too late to register for the two courses scheduled for the winter semester outlined below. In addition to the credit courses offered by the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies, there are several free public lectures which may be of interest.

WINTER 2004

*History of Ireland*

Ronald Rudn

*Contemporary Irish Writing: Landscape, Nation and Identity*  
(Graduate Course)

Michael Kenneally

September 22      Public Lecture      8:30 p.m. H-407

**Tom Hayden** (former Senator from California, author and an individual who is highly recognized for his services to human rights, the environment and the community). The title of his lecture is *Irish on the Inside: the Case for Ethnic Identity in the Age of Globalization*.

October 2      Public Lecture      8:30 p.m. H-407

**Lucy McDiarmid** (Professor of English at Villanova University). The title of her lecture is *Fighting about Culture: Irishness, Belligerence and Controversy*.

October 9      Second Annual Bishop Neil Willard Irish  
Studies Lecture      7:00 p.m. DeSève Theatre

**Dr. Garrett FitzGerald** (a formidable advocate of social reform and modern economic thinking in Ireland as well as being a successful former Taoiseach — Prime Minister — of Ireland, will be the guest speaker). Dr. FitzGerald will be lecturing on the following subject: *The changing impact of Northern Ireland on Anglo-Irish relationships since independence*.

November 77 (date, time, location to be determined)

**Henry Glassie** (College Professor of Folklore at the Folklore Institute at Indiana University in Bloomington and also serving as Co-Director of Turkish Studies, with adjunct appointments in Central Eurasian Studies, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and American Studies, as well as being a member of the Advisory Council of India Studies).

For further information on the credit courses or on the public lectures, contact the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies.

Tel: (514) 848-8711

## 2003-2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLAR IMEACHTAI 2003-2004

DATE	EVENTS	FURTHER INFORMATION
Sep. 15	St. Patrick's Society Executive Meeting 5:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Sep. 15	St. Patrick's Society Directors' Meeting 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Sep. 19	<i>Jeanie Johnston</i> Cocktail Party, Jacques Cartier Pier, 6:30 p.m., \$25	Margaret Healy 932-5250
Sep. 21	UIS First Annual Meeting, St. John Brebeuf, 1:30 p.m.	Sheila Showers 696-0647
Sep. 27	GAA Annual Golf Tournament, Lafleur Golf Club, Kahnawake	John O'Shea 697-8889
Sep. 29	St. Patrick's Society General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., McCormick Hall	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Oct. 4	Tara Golf, Final Tournament, Hemmingford Golf Course	Bob Batah 630-4482
Oct. 18	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White 722-1219
Nov. 7-8-9	Eastern Canada Oireachtas, Delta Centre-Ville Hotel, \$10.00 per day	Bernadette Short 697-4343
Nov. 10	St. Patrick's Society Executive Meeting 5:30 p.m., Bon-Secours	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Nov. 10	St. Patrick's Society General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Bon-Secours	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Nov. 19	St. Patrick's Society Grants Committee Meeting, TBA	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Nov. 29	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White 722-1219
Dec. 8	St. Patrick's Society Executive Meeting & Christmas Reception, TBA	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Jan. 23	Cine Gael 2004, DeSève Cinema	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Jan. 26	St. Patrick's Society Executive Meeting 5:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Jan. 26	St. Patrick's Society Directors' Meeting 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Feb. 7	UIS Queen's Pageant Selection Evening, Delta Centre-Ville Hotel	Elizabeth Quinn(450) 672-5087
Feb. 14	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White 722-1219
Feb. 16	St. Patrick's Society Executive Mtg 5:30 p.m. /Directors' Mtg 6:30 p.m. TBA	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Mar. 13	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bob White 722-1219
Mar. 14	St. Patrick's Day Parade	Kenn Quinn 932-0512
Mar. 20	UIS Awards Banquet, Buffet Sorrento	Elizabeth Quinn(450) 672-5087
Apr. 24	Siamsa Céilí, NDG Legion, Addington/DeMaisonneuve, 8:00 p.m.	Bill White 722-1219
May 10	St. Patrick's Society Executive Meeting 5:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney 481-1346
May 10	St. Patrick's Society Directors' Meeting 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney 481-1346
June 7	St. Patrick's Society AGM, 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Square Boardroom	Doris Rooney 481-1346
June 15	St. Patrick's Society Annual Golf Tournament, Bellevue Golf Club, \$110.00	Doris Rooney 481-1346



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— an anonymous friend of St. Patrick’s Society

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