

THE SHAMROCK LEAF
NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH CANADIAN CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK

VOL. 1 - #2

April, 1984

This newsletter will cover a wide variety of topics, but will be as brief as possible on the content of each topic. I believe that we are well established. We have a firm foundation, and we must take stock of what has been accomplished. It is good to say that certain things must be done. This means nothing, if nothing was accomplished. We can point to a number of projects that were accomplished, or are in the planning stages.

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Irish Historical Poster Map of New Brunswick

The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick submitted a Special Project Form to the New Brunswick Bicentennial Commission for the possibility of receiving a grant. We were successful in receiving \$5,000.

Peter Rafferty, Riverview and Rev. Leo J. Hynes, Moncton, are the co-editors of the Poster Map. They have succeeded in finding about 160 places in New Brunswick that were either settled by the Irish or named after Irish people or places. There are many other facts and drawings about the Early Irish of New Brunswick.

The Early Irish Historical Poster Map of New Brunswick will finally show the people the important role that the Irish played in the building of this province.

The Poster Map will sell for around \$5.00. It will be sent free to our members. It is you that has made this possible, because without you we would not have an Association.

I want to publicly thank Peter Rafferty and Father Hynes for the many, many hours that they have spent on this project.

We were hoping to have the map ready by St. Patrick's Day, however, the graphic artist states that it will take some time to do it because of the hundreds of things on the Poster. We expect to launch the Poster in mid-April if everything goes as planned.

I should state that the Poster will cost in excess of \$7,000. This does not include possible promotion costs.

First Irish Festival In Canada

Your Association also submitted a Special Project Application concerning a major undertaking. A number of meetings were held in the Miramichi area to launch an Irish Festival. We once again were successful in receiving a Bicentennial Grant of \$15,000. This may seem like a lot of money, but first year cost or start up costs are quite high.

The \$15,000 was turned over to The Irish Festival Committee. Blair Clancy Jr., Chatham, is the Chairman. The Festival is incorporated.

Blair has a very good Committee working with him. Farrell McCarthy is the Vice-Chairman; Margaret Bowes, treasurer; Cathy Bryan, Secretary; Board of Directors, Lillian Barry, William Murphy, Eleanor Richard, Audrey Cormier and Rev. Bernard Broderick.

The Irish Festival will be held in Chatham on July 13, 14, & 15.

Tables To Rent

The Irish Festival will involve a wide variety of events. Tables will be available to be rented. We want to stress that it is a New Brunswick Irish Festival. If you have a talent or you know someone who can make crafts such as sewing, knitting, woodwork articles, quilting, etc, please write to:

Mrs. Lillian Barry
140 Victoria Ave.
Chatham, N.B.
E1N 1X8

If possible, we would like what you have to sell at the Festival to have an Irish theme. Mrs. Barry will send you a form that will explain how to rent a table, etc.

Celtic Cross On Middle Island

Plans are in progress to erect a Celtic Cross on Middle Island as a memorial to the 200 Irish Famine victims who are buried there. Middle Island is an Island in the Miramichi River, a short distance east of Chatham.

The dedication of the Cross would take place on July 15, the last day of the Festival. Rev. Donald McGowan, Chatham, is the Chairman of the Committee to plan the Special Service.

A Fund raising Committee has been formed to raise money to construct the Cross. If you would like more information about the possibility of helping to raise money for the Celtic Cross, etc., please contact Audrey Cormier, 51 University Ave., Chatham, N.B., E1N 2V2.

Other members of the Committee are Cathy Bryan and Farrell McCarthy.

An Authentic Play for the Festival

Mary Jane Losier, Bathurst, has written a play on the Looshtank. The Looshtank is the Irish ship that brought some 360 Irish Famine victims to Middle Island in 1847. The ship originally had 470 passengers when it left Ireland.

Some 200 Irish Famine victims from the Looshtank and two small Irish ships are buried on Middle Island. We all look forward to seeing the play at the Festival.

Dr. John Mannion

Professor John Mannion from Memorial University, St. John's, NFLD, will be giving a talk entitled, "Irish Immigration To The Miramichi" on Thursday, 5th, April, 8:00 p.m., at the Dr. Losier Junior High School, Chatham. Tickets available from: Lil Barry 773-3261, Blair Clancy 773-3098, Tom Coughlan 622-8261, Earl Englis 622-1318. Admission \$2.00 per person. Professor Mannion who comes from Galway in Ireland is a familiar figure to those interested in Irish/Miramichi History, since much of his field work has been carried out in this area.

Irish Literary Supplement

The "Irish Literary Supplement" is a newspaper of book reviews. Each issue has about 50 book reviews and one or more essays by leading scholars and writers on some aspect of Irish publishing, scholarship or research. It also includes a number of other features that makes this a 1st class newspaper.

If you are interested, make cheques of \$7.00 payable to Michael Kenneally and mail to:

English Department
Marianopolis College
Montreal, Quebec
H3H 1W1

*(Canadian subscribers only)

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Philips' 19th Century County Atlas of Ireland

Cluny Press is pleased to announce the publication of "superb reference work for Irish genealogy" -- a high quality facsimile reprint edition, enlarged for greater legibility, with 32 detailed, individual county maps (plus a map of all Ireland), a comprehensive place -- name, index and an informative new introduction.

\$10.00 including postage -- 72 pp.

Cluny Press, P.O. Box 2207, Kingston, ON, K7L 5J9

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"Now it's Gaelic in Manitoba"

This was the title of a special article in the Globe and Mail -- Toronto, March 8, 1984 by "Richard Cleroux in Winnipeg".

It is the story of a new Irish organization that was founded one year ago by Gerry McKinney, a local Irish-Canadian. Today, the Irish-Canadian National Association of Manitoba Inc., is conducting Irish Gaelic language classes three times a week for 200 students, staffed by nine Gaelic teachers, financed by the Secretary of State.

This summer they will run a Gaelic language summer camp near a place appropriately called Erinview, Northwest of Winnipeg. They're also organizing a group of Irish musicians -- harpists, flutists and pipers -- to keep traditional Irish music alive. And, there are places to set up an Irish Football League.

A very interesting article -- what surprised me -- was that someone in the West was starting an Irish Cultural Organization at about the same time as we were beginning one in the East. John G. MacDonald of Black River Bridge, N.B., Northumberland Co., wrote in an article to The Telegraph Journal recently to show, stating example of "The Celtic Renaissance" in N.B. Manitoba is one more example of this revival.

Mary O'Hara In Concert

Mary O'Hara, singer and harpist, in concert at Bernice MacNaughton High School, Moncton, Saturday, March 31, 1984 at 8 p.m. -- tickets: \$8.00, \$6.00, available from Librarie Acadienne, Champlain Place.

"Mary O'Hara is mesmerizing" states the New York Times.

Town Council supports Irish Cultural Center

The Chatham Town Council at a recent meeting called for the building of an Irish Cultural Center as part of the \$9,000,000 Revitalization Plan for Downtown Chatham. This Irish Historical and Research Center would fit in with plans to make the Miramichi the site of an Irish Cultural Festival each year.

Partridge Island

It probably is a good time to get some concrete answers on Partridge Island. I will bring you up to date on the, what I like to call, the Irish Historical Parks Situation.

The Federal Government seems to have an interest in developing Grosse Isle as some type of park. Grosse Isle is an Island in the St. Lawrence River near Quebec City. It was a quarantine Station and a resting place for some 9,000 Irish Famine Victims. Some 90,000 Irish immigrants passed through this area in 1846-47.

Partridge Island could be developed, especially the area around the Celtic Cross, as a Memorial Garden to honour the 2000 Irish Famine Victims that are buried there. An interpretation Center could be built on the main land facing the Island that would tell the story of the Irish. Why they came to Saint John? Where they settled? etc., etc.

We should realize that one and/or both proposals should especially commemorate the role of the Irish. Our ancestors are the only ones that were quarantine and died by the thousands. It is estimated that around 15,000 died coming across the Atlantic, and 15,000 died after they arrived in Canada.

According to the census of Canada in 1871, 867,414 people were of Irish descent. This was the 2nd largest group in the country at this time, and they comprised 24% of the population.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada will be meet in June to consider possible projects for both Grosse Isle and Partridge Island. The Hon. Charles Caccia, Minister - Environment, Canada, is the cabinet minister responsible for Parks Canada. I received a letter from him on June 13, 1984. He states that "overall immigration should be considered if additional work should be done on these Islands".

We strongly suggest that one or both must honour the role of the Irish. It is a good time to lobby politicians. A new Liberal Leader will be chosen in June. A Federal election will be held in the next few months.

Write to Hon. Charles Caccia stating your views on Partridge Island and/or Grosse Isle. It looks as if one and/or both should be developed.

Hon. Charles Caccia
Minister - Environment Canada
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H3

Write or send a copy of your letter to your local member of Parliament, a Senator, etc.

Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A4

It does not require a stamp to write to Cabinet Ministers, members of Parliament, Prime Minister or Senators.

Finally, letters could also be sent to:

Mr. Henri Téter
Historic Sites & Monuments Board of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0H4

OR

W.C. Turnball
Director Atlantic Region
Upper Water St.
Halifax, NS
B3J 1S9

These letters would require stamps. The ball is in your corner. Please do your part. Write to one or more of these people. Get your friends to write to them.

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Chair In Irish Studies -- St. Mary's University -- Halifax

There is a great need in Canada where one can gather information relating to the "Irish" of Atlantic Canada. The Federal Government will pay one half of the cost of funding "A Chair" in some specific field. Dr. Cyril Byrne, St. Mary's University, Halifax, NS B3H 3C3 has done the ground work in this area.

In his letter, Dr. Byrne states that "we have had contact with the Multiculturalism Branch of the Secretary of States' Office about the Chair in Irish Studies, and we have an excellent prospect of getting our funding in place for next year; certainly we are second in line for getting it, after Ottawa University.

To support this Chair, please write to:

Hon. David Collenette, M.P.
Minister of State Multiculturalism
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0M5

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Griffith's Valuation

In 1986 the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax will observe its bicentennial. To mark this event, the society last year generously made a gift of \$10,000 to Saint Mary's University, to begin a special collection of research resources for the study of Irish and Irish-Canadian history, folklore, literature and genealogy to be in place for the bicentenary. The first major component of this Irish research resource is a microfiche of Griffith's Valuation of Ireland. The Valuation was made between 1848 and 1864 at a crucial time in Irish history, the social upheaval of the Great Famine. The Valuation supplies researchers with the name of each occupant or tenant in the whole 32 counties of Ireland. It supplies also the name of the townland or street where the land was occupied and gives the value and area of the holding. Because of the loss during the Irish civil war of many valuable census and land records through the destruction of the Four Courts in Dublin, Griffith's Valuation is an invaluable tool for researchers in Irish social history.

The building up of the holdings of the Patrick Power library in the Irish Studies Area is part of a plan to establish a Chair programme of Irish Studies at Saint Mary's.

New Address

Please note that the new address of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick is: 109 Roy Ave, Newcastle, NB E1V 3N8.

For the first year we used the P.O. Box number of St. Patrick's Society in Saint John. However, everything that was sent there was rerouted to me in Newcastle. I would like to thank Lou Duffley for the work he did in sending the mail to me from Saint John.

Working Executive

It is also important to have certain members of the executive in the same area as the President. At present, the secretary is 100 miles to the North of me, and the treasurer is approximately 200 miles to the south of me.

It was decided at our last meeting to combine the office of Secretary and Treasurer and to choose a Secretary - Treasurer from the same area as the President. I am at present looking for a Secretary - Treasurer in the Miramichi area. The job will be quite demanding and the person who finally takes it will have to be willing to spend some time to do the job well. The person should have an interest in our organization, be competent and well organized.

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An executive and Board of Directors will be elected at the meeting. Our constitution states that we should have not more than twenty directors. The great majority of our members are from four main areas of New Brunswick -- Moncton area, Miramichi area, Saint John and Fredericton area. We have very few members from the North Shore area and Upper Saint John River area.

The number of members on Board of Directors from each region should reflect the number of members we have from those areas. Our present executive and Board of Directors were appointed and were known as an Interim Board of Directors. I am interested in running for office as President again. At present, we do not have any Vice-President. John Murphy is now living in Ontario. Kevin Mann is attending St. Michael's College, in Vermont.

As I stated earlier, the Secretary - Treasurer post will be combined. Experience has taught me during my interim year as President that the working executive must be in the same area or the President ends up being President-Secretary.

I should also like to emphasize that we are an active organization. If you agreed to serve on the Board of Directors, you will have to do some travelling and probably have certain responsibilities from time to time. Our Constitution states that we should meet at least four times a year. I hope that you will give some serious thought to offer for one of the positions.

Dues

To make our book-keeping as simply as possible, our membership dues should run from January to December. The majority of our members joined in March to June of 1983. When I sent the membership cards out in June, I put they expired in June 1984. A number of our members joined in the fall of 1983. If those who joined in the fall of 1983 think that the dues should apply to 1984, then I will not disagree with you. However, I would hope that the great majority would sign up for January to December 1984 membership year.

Membership dues of \$15.00 -- individual -- amounts to 80¢ a month, \$25.00 per family -- amounts to \$2.00 a month -- a small contribution to our Irish Culture.

To Incorporate or Not to Incorporate

We must look seriously at getting our Association incorporated. I will get as many facts as possible concerning incorporation and present them at our Annual Meeting..

Galway Quincentennial -- 1484 - 1984

This year marks the 500th Anniversary of Galway as a mayoral city. Everyone is welcome, but there will be special events for those who bear the names of the original 14 Tribes of Galway: Athy, Blake, Bodkin, Browne, D'Arcy, Deane, Ffont, Ffrench, Joyce, Kirwan, Lynch, Martin, Morris and Sherrett. For more information contact Irish Tourist Board, 10 King Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 1C3.

There is a 28 page section on Galway in the March - April 1984 edition of Ireland of the Welcomes. This is a good Irish Cultural magazine for only \$12.00 per year. Ireland of the Welcomes - 1255 Portland Place, P.O. Box 2744, Boulder, Colorado 80321. The \$12.00 applies to both Canada and U.S.

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Adrift

Adrift is a biannual magazine of fiction and poetry by Irish and Irish-American authors. Published in affiliation with the American Irish Cultural Project, it is the only magazine of its kind in the U.S.

The magazine consists of 32 pages of poetry and prose on the Irish experience in Ireland, America and elsewhere. It also features criticism and interviews with authors.

Adrift may be purchased by mail from: The Editor, Adrift, 239 E. Fifth St., New York, N.Y. 10003, for \$4.00 or \$6.00 for two issues.

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An Gael

Irish Traditional Culture Alive in America today. This is another fine new Irish Cultural magazine.

1 year - \$10.00 (U.S.) (4 issues)

If interested, contact: The Irish Arts Center, 553 W. 51st St., New York, N.Y. 10019

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The All-Ireland Heritage

A Journal of Genealogical and Historical Research

A publication geared toward both genealogical and historical researcher: a useful tool to enable the average individual to trace his/her Irish ancestry.

Published three times a year - February, June and October. This looks like a very promising journal.

Charter subscriptions (valid till May 1, 1984)
1 year - \$15.00 (U.S.)

The All-Ireland Heritage, 2255 Cedar Lane, Vienna, Virginia, 22180

The Irish Echo

Information on the above three magazines was taken from The Irish Echo, a weekly newspaper published in New York. The March 17th edition consisted of 120 pages. There were a lot of very good articles. One article was entitled "The Famine Irish of 1847-50 are remembered in Quebec". The Irish Echo, 309 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10016. (\$20.00 for Canadian subs. for 1 year.)

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St. Patrick's Society

The St. Patrick's Society of Saint John announced at their annual dinner that they were donating \$1,000 towards the proposed establishment of a department of Irish Studies at UNBSJ. They are to be congratulated for the initiative they are taking to develop a program of Irish Studies at the University.

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McCarthy Family Reunion

A gigantic McCarthy Family Reunion will be held in Ireland beginning on June 27, 1984. It will bring together as many McCarthy's as possible from U.S., Canada and Ireland. They have managed to locate 27,162 families in Canada and the U.S. The material on this reunion was sent to me by one of our members and it consists of 16 pages.

If anyone is interested (McCarthy Family members only), please contact: Halbert's Inc., 58 Scarsdale Road, Don Mills, ON M3B 3L8.

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Irish Festival Inc.

The address for the Irish Festival Inc. is: P.O. Box 153, Newcastle, N.B. E1V 3M3

Committees are being formed. Everyone's help is needed to help out with the Festival.

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Irish Flags

This year, along with your Canadian flag, fly one to show you have an Irish background, made locally, these 100% nylon flags are just \$17.00 for a 27 x 54 in (69 x 137 cm) size. We also make all other sizes. Available at Miramichi Craft Shop, 351 Water St., Chatham, or mail check or money order; add Provincial sales tax - 10% (N.B. residents only) to:

Northumberland Flags
P.O. Box 305
Chatham, N.B.
E1N 3A7

Quality guaranteed

Allen Barry, Chatham, must be congratulated for this very Irish endeavour. The flags are well made. They will also be available at the Irish Festival.

The Celtic Migration

The Scots, Irish and Welsh in Atlantic Canada; why they left their homes, the traditions they brought with them, and how those traditions have grown and changed in Canada.

At the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

- A week long programme from July 29 through August 3.

For more information write to:

Atlantic Canada Institute
110 York St.
Mount Allison Campus
Sackville, N.B.
EOA 3C0

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Membership Cards

I will wait for awhile before the membership cards are sent out. I will try to get the names typed on the cards. Please indicate on the membership form the exact way you want your name (individual) or names (family) typed on the card.

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Meetings

If you want to plan a meeting in your area, I would be happy to attend. The New Brunswick Bicentennial Commission are holding their meetings in different areas of the province, and we expect to meet in the Saint John area soon.

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Annual Meeting

The First Annual Meeting of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick will be held at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, Fredericton, on Saturday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m. Year's Report, election of Officers, entertainment, discussions, unveiling of Poster (if ready), etc. Mark the date on your calendar -- Board of Directors Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Note →

*I hope you enjoyed the newsletter. As you can see we are alive and well. You can help us to accomplish much. Do your part, in your own way, to help us to achieve our goals. See you in Fredericton on April 28th.
Bring a friend*

*Farell McCarthy
President*