

A Message from the Ambassador

The last few months have been very productive in area of Canada-Irish links. It would not be possible to list all that has happened.

The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper have both visited the other's country. The Harper visit included extensive talks with the Taoiseach; Tánaiste; and the Minister for Finance and also with the President. The PM was accompanied by a large delegation, including Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

We have also had a steady stream of Ministerial visits to several Provinces, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Alberta. In return a large number of Canadian Ministers, both Federal and Provincial, have travelled in the opposite direction. It has probably been the most intensive interaction in the history of the two countries. After complaining long and hard about the lack of substantive contacts, I now feel we need a rest to absorb all the discussions and negotiations which have taken place. A lot has been achieved lately.

On Immigration, the new IEC programme has been launched successfully, after a few difficult weeks. It should operate much smoother next year as the bulk of applications will be from outside Canada and the new systems will be well tested by then. Ireland was the pilot project and although this caused problems, the alternative would have been that our citizens would not have benefitted early from the greatly improved terms on offer, especially the new 2 year period. Much appreciation must go to Hilary Reilly and Sarah Thorenton who were both heavily involved in the negotiations. Also a huge thanks to the Irish community, and especially the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre and other groups, who have put so much work into helping the new system get underway. We are also grateful for the political support we received, right across the political spectrum at home, in our efforts to secure the best possible deal for Irish citizens. It goes to show we can achieve a lot when we all work together.

There was also the fantastic news of all year round air access from Ireland. This has been a bone of contention with the community for some time. The Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Loyola Hearn has played a major part in the campaign. The announcement that Rouge and Aer Lingus are providing these new strengthened links is indeed terrific news. Well done to all who had a part in the successful lobbying of the airlines. I have no doubt but that it will be successful. Ireland and Canada are geographically neighbours yet it was maddening how difficult it has been to travel between them, especially in winter.



**Dr. Ray Bassett,
 Ambassador of
 Ireland**

**To be added to our
 Newsletter mailing
 list, send your email
 address to:
ottawaembassy@dfa.ie**

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AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE CONT.

This is very welcome news for everybody and especially for those wanting to do business between the two countries. Minister Leo Varadkar has stated that this is only a start and he wants a much wider coverage of flights from Ireland to other major centres in Canada in addition to Toronto. Let's keep up the pressure.

Before we become complacent there are still a number of outstanding issues which I will be pushing in the coming months. Although we have made some progress on the mutual recognition of drivers' licences, we still have to conclude agreements with some of the major Provinces. This will be especially important with Ontario where the talks have been too slow. I am very conscious that the lack of an agreement has placed our citizens at a disadvantage to other EU nationals. We will work hard to eliminate this anomaly.

We also have the EU Canada trade negotiations still unfinished. We have been the subject of some unfair criticism in the Canadian media on the issue but Ireland is not holding up the deal. Prime Minister Harper also made that particular point while in Dublin. Ireland will potentially benefit greatly from the CETA arrangements and we are in fact an ardent supporter. Let's hope we can finally conclude this long awaited new trade deal later this year. As PM Harper said in Dublin, it is better to get a good deal than a fast one.

We have also appointed a new Consul in Halifax, Brian Doherty which will further strengthen our links with Atlantic Canada. I am very anxious that we should continue to promote links with this part of the country where we have such strong ethnic ties. We need much better direct air links with this part of Canada to facilitate greater economic interaction with Nova Scotia, PEI, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

It was also with great sadness that I learned of the death of Cameron Milliken, our Consul in Calgary. Cameron was a tower of strength in Alberta for successive Irish Ambassadors. He worked in the Peace process, including as the Canadian Government's Observer on the international Fund. He was native of my own locality, Castleknock in county Dublin so I always felt a special bond of kinship with Cameron. I will sorely miss his direct, honest and sensible advice.

On another sad note, I have to mention the forthcoming departure of Sarah Thorenton who has been with the Embassy for nearly 2 years. Sarah was a terrific co-worker and I doubt if we could have achieved as much in the Embassy without her. I wish her the very best both personally and professionally as she moves her career further in New York. I would also like to welcome our newest diplomat Liz Keogh to Ottawa. Liz has already served in Irish embassies in Moscow and Beijing and will bring to the Embassy the benefits of that experience. I look forward to working with Liz.



The late Cameron Milliken, Honorary Consul General of Ireland with Laureen Regan of the Ireland Canada Centre for Commerce Calgary, and Ambassador Bassett

*Photo: Celtic Connection-line:
<http://www.celtic-connection.com>*



MARCH IN BRIEF



Greening of Niagara Falls March 17th

IRISH MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE AND THE GAELTACHT VISITS TORONTO

The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan T.D., visited Toronto from 14-18 March. Given the Minister's portfolio and the vibrancy of the Irish language, culture and heritage in Canada more generally, the Minister attended over 23 events and meetings during his visit including; a business breakfast hosted by Enterprise Ireland, in co-operation with the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce, a meeting with the board of the Ireland Fund of Canada, Bank of Montreal (BMO), and Parks Canada. The Minister attended, the annual St Patricks Day mass at St. Michael's Cathedral, met with the Canadian and Toronto boards of the GAA, Cumann na Gaeltachta, the Irish Cultural and Irish Benevolent Societies of Toronto, the Kerry Association of Toronto, and members of the Global Irish Network. He attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade, visited the Irish Canadian Centre of Hamilton, Lár na nGael Irish Centre in Brampton, the Department of Celtic Studies at the University of Toronto, and finished his visit with a call to the Mayor's office and a meeting with representatives of the Irish Dairy Board.

Above: Minister Deenihan and Tourism Ireland CEO Niall Gibbons at the Greening of Niagara Falls **Below:** From one GAA legend to another: Honouring Brian Farmer, President of Canada's GAA at the Grand Marshal's Ball





MARCH IN BRIEF

Minister Deenihan with Robert Kearns reading the names of those commemorated at Ireland Park- The [Toronto Irish Famine Memorial](#)



YouTube

http://youtu.be/R_6tLMAiUVs

Upload

Minister Deenihan with 2012 Toronto Rose Máire Dineen wishing success to all Canadian Roses participating in the 2013 [Rose of Tralee International Festival](#)



Minister Deenihan visits [Toronto International Film Festival - TIFF.net](#). As part of their heritage programme, the venue hosts an exhibit of Irish artefacts as it was previously the site of an isolation hospital for Irish immigrants during the Famine.



Minister Deenihan meeting with representatives of [Heritage Toronto](#)



MARCH IN BRIEF

AN TAOISEACH'S STOP OVER IN EDMONTON

Taoiseach Enda Kenny met with the Embassy's Honorary Consul General in Edmonton, Doodie Cahill, Colm O'Carroll, President of the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce Edmonton chapter, and other local Irish community group representatives during a brief stopover in Edmonton en route back to Ireland from the West coast of the United States on the afternoon of Friday 22 March. Edmonton, Alberta is currently attracting a lot of new Irish migrants to Canada and the Irish community there is a vibrant one.

St Patricks Day events took place all across Canada. The season started in February and continued to the end of March. Some communities, such as Montreal even had events spanning February to early April. The Ambassador, Deputy Head Mission Hilary Reilly, Cultural Officer Sarah Thorenton, and other Embassy staff represented the Embassy at meetings and events held throughout the St. Patrick's Day season.



From left: Colm O'Carroll, Hon. Consul General Doodie Cahill and Taoiseach Enda Kenny

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN INT'L IRELAND AND OTTAWA VALLEY AID FOR CHERNOBYL CHILDREN PARTAKE IN THE OTTAWA ROSE OF TRALEE

Communities across the country seized the opportunity to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and their Irishness and embraced the broader community who enthusiastically wished to share in the celebrations and promote community involvement.

On March 17th, the Ambassador once again hosted the Rose of Tralee Ottawa selections at the Residence. This year, the Ottawa Centre chose to donate part of the proceeds to [OTTAWA VALLEY AID FOR CHERNOBYL CHILDREN](http://www.ovacc.ca) (OVACC) In line with the Rose of Tralee International Festival who work closely with [Adi Roche's Chernobyl Children International](http://www.adiroche.org) in Ireland, the Ottawa Centre wished to highlight the importance of both community an international partnerships. Further, they hoped to spread the word about the Festival and how it is comprised of pride in one's heritage, pride in one's community, pride in one's own accomplishments and ultimately, how all of these elements help others and to achieve great things.



YouTube CA

<http://youtu.be/MHIR0A1Gigs>

Chief Executive of Chernobyl Children International, Adi Roche sends a message to the OVACC and the Ottawa Rose Centre



RECENT VISITS

MINISTER VARADKAR VISITS ST JOHNS, NEWFOUNDLAND, & MONTREAL, QUEBEC



From left: Honorary Consul General for Montreal Michael Kenneally, Minister Varadkar, Ambassador Bassett, Tourism Ireland's Head of North America, Alison Metcalfe



A Special thank you to [The Rooms](#)

Upon returning to Ireland, the Minister attended a Book launch by Conservative MP, Jesse Norman, on Edmund Burke (Irish statesman who served in the House of Commons) at Trinity College Dublin. The Minister, while preparing his speech, remembered a quote of Burke's from the tour of the Irish exhibit at The Rooms (a cultural facility in St. John's), given by Prof John Mannion. On short notice, the Minister's office rang the Rooms. As an extra step, Mark Ferguson, Manager of Collections and Exhibitions, offered to go to the museum with his camera and take a picture of the quote. The Minister sends on his sincerest thanks to Mr. Ferguson and to all of the staff at the Rooms.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Dr Leo Varadkar T.D. visited Newfoundland and Montreal in May. The Minister undertook a wide range of engagements in both areas, including meetings with members of the Newfoundland provincial government, engagements with the Irish community and tourism promotion activities, particularly on the Gathering. He spoke at a lunch jointly hosted by the Embassy and Tourism Ireland in Montreal, at which he promoted the Gathering 2013 and spoke about recent developments in Ireland. The Minister also met with newly arrived emigrants to Montreal, as well as with members of the wider Irish community, at a newcomers event hosted by the St Patricks Society of Montreal, under the auspices of the Irish Immigration Integration Initiative, an initiative which has been funded by the Emigrant Support Programme of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, together with the St Patricks Society. As the Irish Minister with responsibility for Sport, the Minister was in Montreal to represent Ireland in an EU Presidency capacity at the World Anti-Doping Agency which is headquartered there. He also undertook meetings at the International Civil Aviation Organisation.



RECENT VISITS

ENTERPRISE IRELAND TRADE MISSION TO ALBERTA



Enterprise Ireland Trade Mission to Western Canada Pictured with Minister Costello (centre) were from left: Brendan Flood, Enterprise Ireland, Jim Maddocks, VP, GLE; Colm O'Mahony, Energy Sector Director, PM Group and Doug MacKenzie, President, GLE

The Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with responsibility for Trade and Development, Mr Joe Costello T.D. led a trade mission to Alberta from 10-13 June last. The Trade Mission was organised by Enterprise Ireland, in co-operation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin and the Embassy in Ottawa.

A key objective of the trade mission was to create and develop opportunities for Irish companies in the oil and gas industries in the province of Alberta. 15 Irish companies participated in the mission, across the engineering, construction, technology and services sectors.

During the trade mission, the Minister met with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Enterprise and Advanced Education of Alberta, Thomas Lukaszuk, as well as with the Minister for International and Intergovernmental Affairs, Cal Dallas. The Minister also spoke at breakfast events hosted by the Ireland-Canada Chambers of Commerce in Calgary and Edmonton, and he delivered a speech at a Seminar on European Innovation in the Canadian Heavy Oil Industry. The Minister held a number of meetings with Canadian industry players as well as with the business partners of Irish companies.

During the visit, two Enterprise Ireland client companies announced significant wins. Irish company PM Group and Calgary based Gas Liquids Engineering signed a new international enterprise agreement, which will help open new markets and develop new business in the gas processing industry in Europe. Decisions (D4H) announced details of a contract with the Government of Alberta for their innovative software which improves vital emergency response efforts. The Minister also visited the Irish Centres in Edmonton and Calgary, where he met with members of the local Irish community.





RECENT VISITS

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER VISITS IRELAND



Office of the
Prime Minister
Canada

Left: Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper with Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore in Ireland. Right: Prime Minister Harper with Ambassador Bassett in Ottawa prior to the visit.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper travelled to Fermanagh in June to participate in the G-8 Lough Erne Summit. Prior to the Summit, the Prime Minister visited Dublin and was accompanied by Jim Flaherty, Canadian Minister of Finance, and Canadian Minister of International Trade Ed Fast.

During his visit to Ireland, the Prime Minister promoted trade and investment, and the importance of concluding the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). He also discussed ways to address international security challenges with his fellow leaders. During the visit, Prime Minister Harper met with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore, and President Michael D. Higgins.

In statement release by the PMO, the Prime Minister praised the deeply rooted connections between Ireland and Canada, “Canada’s relationship with Ireland is both historic and is intimate...there are literally millions of Canadians with ancestral links to Ireland, including in my own family”

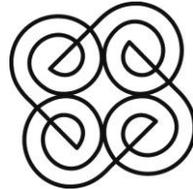
“Canada and Ireland have, in fact, a strong and growing relationship. In 2012, for example, our two-way trade in merchandise was worth more than one-and-a-half billion dollars, and Canadians are strong believers in Ireland’s economic future, with direct investment here reaching almost sixteen-billion dollars in 2012 and continuing to grow. That makes this country the seventh-largest recipient of Canadian direct investment anywhere in the world today.”

“...we all see the news and know that Ireland’s had some tough go lately, some tough times, so we are truly big believers in the progress that this country has made and will continue to make in the future. So I look forward to pursuing our mutual goals and to strengthening what is already a very deep relationship between our two great countries.”



FEATURED

IRELAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar
Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh
Irish Presidency of the Council
of the European Union
eu2013.ie

Ireland held the Presidency of the Council of the EU for the first six months of 2013, 1 January-30 June 2013. This was Ireland's seventh Presidency and it came exactly 40 years since Ireland joined the then EEC in 1973. Since January 1973, both the EU and Ireland have been transformed. From 9 Member countries in 1973, the EU now includes 28 countries (with Croatia, the newest member, joining on 1 July 2013). These countries have a highly integrated market, with free trade within this market of 500 million consumers, and a common currency shared by 17 countries.

Ireland's seventh Presidency, which concluded on 30 June 2013, was a huge task. It involved our Ministers and officials chairing 2,477 meetings and events, and working with the EU institutions and the other 27 Member States to negotiate and bring about common agreement on a large number of policy areas.

The Irish Presidency set as its priorities economic stability, jobs and growth across Europe. Major results that contributed to that included:

- Brokering agreement on the 2014-2020 EU Budget, a €960bn investment programme across infrastructure, cohesion, education, research, agriculture and other key areas;
- Reaching agreement on most of the legislative programmes which will deploy the EU Budget multiannual funding, including Horizon 2020 (the EU's programme for research and development), the Common Agricultural Policy, Erasmus + (which brings together all existing EU schemes for education, training and sport into one programme, making it easier for students across the EU to apply for grants and programmes of study), and COSME (a programme to boost the competitiveness of the Europe's 20 million SMEs among other initiatives)
- Making progress toward achieving stronger banking union, with agreement reached on a new single banking supervisor, stronger capital rules for banks and new rules for bank wind-downs;
- Agreement on a Council Recommendation on a Youth Guarantee, aimed at ensuring that young people up to the age of 25, who are not working or studying, receive an offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed or completing their studies;
- Securing better access to public procurement opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises in the EU's €2trillion public contracts market
- Making progress on external trade agreements as drivers of economic growth, including agreeing a mandate to open negotiations on a trade agreement between the EU and the United States.

In terms of Canada, negotiations on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) advanced in recent months. We all hope that a deal can be concluded in the relatively near future, as it will bring tremendous economic benefits to both the EU and Canada. Worth noting that it is the European Commission which conducts the trade negotiations directly with the external partner, on the basis of a mandate given by the Council.

Lithuania has now taken over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU, so it's over to our Northern Baltic neighbours. We wish them all the best!



FEATURED

IRISH CANADIAN IMMIGRATION CENTRE NOW NAMED THE EAMONN O'LOGHLIN IRISH CANADIAN IMMIGRATION CENTRE



The late Eamonn O'Loughlin was chair of I/CAN from December 2011 to December 2012. He led the committee that founded the Centre and lobbied the Irish government and Irish community organisations across Canada for start-up funding. I/CAN was the final block in Eamonn's far-reaching legacy—a legacy that will have a lasting and generative impact on this new wave of Irish immigrants to Canada. (<http://www.irishcanadianimmigrationcentre.org>)

Eamonn was a personal friend to the Ambassador, a faithful and dedicated proponent of Ireland and an immeasurable force in the community.

**MEETING THE NEEDS OF NEWLY
ARRIVED IRISH TO CANADA**

I/CAN



THE EAMONN O'LOGHLIN
**IRISH
CANADIAN
IMMIGRATION
CENTRE**



FEATURED

RIDEAU CANAL WORKERS RECEIVE OFFICIAL HISTORICAL DESIGNATION

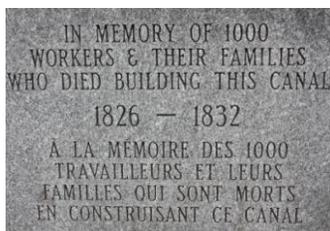


Unveiling ceremony, June, Rideau Locks, Ottawa

On June 21, Minister of Environment and Parks Canada, Peter Kent, unveiled a plaque honouring the National Historical Significance of the Rideau Canal Workers (1826-1832). For a more detailed by Kevin Dooley of the CWCG please see the following link:

http://truenorthperspective.com/Friday_21_June_2013/Dooley

Through the auspices of the Ottawa and District Labour Council, the Rideau Canal Celtic Cross Committee erected a Celtic Cross Memorial by the canal in Ottawa in 2004



A Message from the Ambassador presented to the Canal Worker's Commemorative Group

I extend my best wishes to all those who join in celebrating the designation of the Rideau Canal Workers. The Rideau Canal is a monumental achievement realised by the workers, largely Irish immigrants, who persisted in the face of unimaginable conditions in order to ensure the completion of this commanding historical landmark.

As a National Historic and Unesco World Heritage Site, the canal has played a significant role in Canadian history and will continue to be a focal point for the community, a draw for international visitors interested in its story, and particularly in the winter, for those seeking an authentic cultural experience. The inclusion of the workers in the existing Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada designation, announced by the Honourable Peter Kent, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada on November 2nd, 2012, is a testament to the work of the Canal Workers' Commemorative Group and a fitting tribute to the legacy of the workers, many of whom gave up their lives.

This year represents the Centenary of the "Lock-Out" in Dublin in 1913. My own grandfather was among those who were locked out. The designation of the canal workers is also a reminder of the sacrifices that have been made to establish decent working conditions for workers. It is with great pleasure that I extend my best wishes to those celebrating and to all those who have helped to bring about this significant designation.



FEATURED

IRELAND REACHES OUT - *Parish volunteers in Ireland help family history researchers*



Ireland 
Reaching Out

Photo credit: Fennell photography

Ireland Reaching Out (Ireland XO) is an award winning national community programme that works with parishes across Ireland to connect with their diaspora worldwide, enabling people to trace their roots to specific Irish parishes and providing a 'Meet & Greet' service. The Ireland XO website will provide a profile for every parish in the country, and aims to facilitate connections with some of the estimated 70 million diaspora

In September, Irish Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Michael Ring announced a partnership between The Gathering Ireland 2013 and Ireland Reaching Out. The partnership further enhances the Gathering Ireland tourist initiative that is aiming to bring 325,000 tourists to Ireland over the course of 2013.

Connecting you to Ireland

There are two ways that Irelandxo can connect you with your ancestral community in Ireland. The first is a 'reverse genealogy' technique whereby local Irish communities, largely through volunteer effort and with the support of Ireland XO, endeavour to locate the worldwide living descendants of past generations who emigrated from their parishes. The local Irish community (parish) then 'reaches out' by inviting the descendants – including you – to become part of a new virtual global Irish community. The alternative, or second way, is for you to register online with Irelandxo and actively search for your relatives. You do this by visiting www.IrelandXO.com and joining your parish (or county) of origin if you know it.

Perhaps the best place to start is to sign up for the Irelandxo Newsletter at <http://www.irelandxo.com/mailling-list> and fill in the simple form which puts you on the mailing list. This enables you to follow-up on any genealogical research leads that may interest you. At a later stage, you can create an account (it's free) to facilitate your further research after you become familiar with the content of the website www.irelandxo.com. Whether your ancestral community finds you, or you find them, you can seek direct genealogical research advice and assistance at no cost. In addition, local volunteer community teams, trained in local heritage, are ready to meet and greet you should you chose to visit Ireland.

For further information on how individuals or communities can get involved in Ireland XO please contact the Ireland XO community activation team at info@irelandxo.com

Further local contact: Phil Donnelly. pdonnelly@irelandxo.com 'Ireland XO' International Volunteer for Rideau Valley, Canada



FEATURED

BRIAN DOHERTY APPOINTED HONORARY CONSUL OF IRELAND FOR NOVA SCOTIA



Well-known businessman and musician Brian Doherty was appointed Ireland's newest Honorary Consul for Nova Scotia in May.

Honorary Consuls assist the Embassy by providing a consular service to Irish citizens within their consular area as well as representing Ireland's interests while promoting mutually beneficial relationships.

The province of Nova Scotia and Ireland have enjoyed a long and close relationship. This appointment will serve to further those links.

Mr. Doherty is president and owner of The Old Triangle Alehouse, president of Music Nova Scotia, the Irish Society and of Eastern Entertainment Agency Inc. He has also been a member of the musical duo Evans and Doherty for 26 years

** While Honorary Consuls will endeavour to assist with enquiries, they may not always be in a position to provide the full range of services that the Embassy in Ottawa provides. Please also note that as Honorary Consuls act in an honorary capacity, there may be times during normal office hours when the Honorary Consul may not be available to provide immediate assistance. If this occurs and the matter is urgent, you should contact the Embassy in Ottawa directly for assistance.*



Photo credit: Clare Fogarty © 2013

VICE PRESIDENT OF ICCOC MONTREAL STEPHEN FOGARTY APPOINTED HONORARY LEGAL ADVISOR

Earlier this year, Ambassador Bassett appointed Stephen J. Fogarty, member of the Bar of Quebec and of the Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario), to the post of Honorary Legal Advisor to the Embassy of Ireland in Canada. Mr. Fogarty will be providing advice to the Ambassador on a wide range of legal issues.

Stephen Fogarty has been a member of the Quebec Bar since 1986 and of the Law Society of Upper Canada since 1991. He practices at his office Fogarty Law Firm in Montreal, mainly in immigration and citizenship law of Canada. He has taught courses on immigration and criminal law matters to other members of the legal profession since 2004.

Fiercely proud of his Irish roots, Mr. Fogarty is also currently the Vice-President of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce (Montreal Chapter).



FEATURED

LATEST FUNDRAISERS



The new Irish Embassy residence in Rockcliffe has proved to be a major asset in terms of public diplomacy and as a venue for hosting fund raising events for both Irish and Canadian causes. The Ambassador was honoured to host a fundraising dinner for the 'Friends of Thomas Stanton-Bursey' which raised \$15,000 for the CHEO Foundation. Assistant to the Ambassador, Caoimhe Bennis was delighted to join Thomas and his family in presenting the cheque during the CHEO Telethon on June 9th, 2013. Over \$6.7 million dollars was raised this year which goes toward paying for the specialised equipment, life-saving research, and staff training necessary to ensure the best medical support for children like Thomas.

Another fundraiser was hosted by the Ambassador on 27 June and was organised by the Ottawa Hospital Foundation, through Board member John Cardill. The purpose of the evening was to raise financial support, from the local business community, for the dermatology department of the hospital. This department is very active in the treatment of skin cancer, a condition which the people of the Celtic nations are very susceptible. The Mayor of Ottawa; Jim Watson attended the event at the Residence. The Mayor said he had twice been a patient in the dermatology of the Hospital. He spoke very warmly of the standard of treatment he received and asked for generous donations. The event was very successful and between \$150,000 and \$200,000 was raised.

In July, the Ambassador also welcomed community supporters of The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band for their fundraiser in support of for their August performance trip to Scotland. The group was most appreciative of the warm welcome they received and the night was filled with dance, song and a delicious assortment of Scottish treats.

To date, events at the new Residence have raised close to \$1M.





FEATURED

QUÉBEC'S MINISTER OF EDUCATION APPROVES PROPOSAL TO OFFER MAJOR IN CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



Québec's Minister of Education recently approved the proposal to offer a Major in Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University. After many years of work, Principal and Chair at the School of Canadian Irish Studies and Honorary Consul General of Ireland, Michael Kenneally, welcomed the announcement, "we have been working on this for a long time so it is a significant step forward for Canadian Irish Studies, which now has its own academic unit (the School), three programs (a Major, Minor and Certificate), five full-time professors dedicated solely to Irish Studies and two Visiting Scholars from Ireland each year. At the moment, we offer twenty two courses in ten disciplines, with an enrolment of 830 students."

The newly-approved Major in Canadian Irish Studies will make Concordia unique in Canada in offering an undergraduate degree focusing on the complex history and rich culture of Ireland, as well as the many narratives of Irish immigration and settlement in countries around the world. But the degree will have relevance far beyond Irish matters, since this small country offers a case study for universal issues stemming from imperialism, post-colonialism, national liberation, partition, linguistic preservation, cultural nationalism, famine, exile, immigrant re-settlement, and the challenges of preserving national identity and economic viability in a globalized world. The degree also provides students the opportunity to explore different subjects at university, rather than choosing one discipline, and allows them to benefit from studying in a small, hands-on, mentoring environment within a large university in cosmopolitan Montreal.

For more information on the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University, please see the following link: <http://cdnirish.concordia.ca>



FEATURED

EU, CANADA AND THE US LAUNCH ATLANTIC OCEAN RESEARCH ALLIANCE IN GALWAY



In May, The European Union, The United States and Canada agreed to join forces on Atlantic Ocean Research with the goal of better understanding the Atlantic Ocean and promoting the sustainable management of its resources. The Agreement aims to connect the ocean observation efforts of the three partners. The work will also study the interplay of the Atlantic Ocean with the Arctic Ocean, particularly in relation to climate change. The EU and its Member States alone invest nearly two billion euro on marine and maritime research each year. The **'Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation'** was signed at a high level conference at the Irish Marine Institute in Galway.

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, said: "The enormous economic potential of the Atlantic remains largely untapped. We probably know more about the surface of the Moon and Mars than we do about the deep sea floor. This alliance can make a big contribution to meeting challenges such as climate change and food security."

European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, said: "The agreement fully supports the Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic we put forward... While the initiative is of particular interest for the EU's five Atlantic states, it is open to researchers from all over Europe and beyond. The knowledge gained will be of benefit to all." The agreement recognises that Atlantic research will in many areas be more effective if coordinated on a transatlantic basis. Areas for potential collaboration under the agreement include: an Atlantic Ocean observation and forecasting system; mapping critical areas of the Atlantic seafloor; identifying and recommending future research and ocean literacy and awareness initiatives.

Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D., said: "This marks a new political and policy awareness of the ocean's potential to create sustainable jobs and growth. Such awareness also provides broader societal benefits of understanding major environmental changes and associated risks. It was a major priority of the Irish Presidency to support the achievement of an Atlantic Ocean research alliance and I welcome the signing of the Galway Statement by the European Commission, the United States and Canada here at the Marine Institute. The delivery of a Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic was also a priority of Ireland and I congratulate all those involved in the launch of the Action Plan to revitalise the marine and maritime economy in the Atlantic Ocean Area."

The Atlantic Action Plan aims to show how the EU's Atlantic Member States, their regions and the Commission can help create sustainable growth in coastal regions and drive forward the "blue economy", which has the potential to provide 7 million jobs in Europe by 2020.

Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine said: "Ireland has a significant role to play in the implementation of the Atlantic Area Action plan and will also derive many benefits from it. The Government's 'Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland – Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth' is rooted in the role the oceans can play in our economic recovery with a goal of significantly increasing the turnover of Ireland's "Blue Economy" to over €6.4 Billion by 2020 and doubling the GDP contribution by 2030 (to 2.4%)."



FEATURED

ANNOUNCEMENT ON YEAR-ROUND DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN IRELAND AND CANADA



On July 3rd, after dedicated lobbying efforts, Aer Lingus announced that it will expand its Transatlantic Service, including a new year-round direct flight service between Toronto and Dublin, starting in 2014. Aer Lingus have also announced that they will provide connections to eight Canadian cities.

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade welcomed the announcement, the Tánaiste's full statement can be found through the following link:

<http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=89692>

This announcement is in addition to an announcement earlier this year by Air Canada Rouge that it will extend its seasonal Toronto-Dublin service to a year-round service in 2014.

The Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Loyola Hearn played a major part in the campaign.





FEATURED

“I WOULD TAKE THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE...”



The North-West Passage has captured the imagination of explorers and traders for centuries, as they sought to find an elusive trade route which would link Europe to Asia. On Canada Day, Irishmen Paul Gleeson and Denis Barnett, together with Kevin Vallely (who has family from Limerick in Ireland) and Frank Wolf, set off on their journey to row the 3000 miles across the North West Passage from Inuvik = in the Northwest Territories to Pond Inlet, Nunavut. The crew are aiming to set a record of being the first people to cross the North-West Passage by human power in a rowboat in a single season. They also aim to highlight the effects of climate change in the Arctic. Several explorers have in the past navigated the Passage but only over the course of several seasons and in motor powered vessels.

We wish them all the very best and a safe Passage.

For more details of their trip, check out: www.thelastfirst.com



FEATURED

CELEBRATING BLOOMSDAY



Bloomsday is a commemoration and celebration of the life of Irish writer James Joyce during which the events of his novel *Ulysses* (which is set on 16 June 1904) are relived. It is observed annually on 16 June in Dublin and across the world. Joyce chose the date as it was the date of his first outing with his wife-to-be, Nora Barnacle. The name is derived from Leopold Bloom, the Ulysean protagonist.

As Ireland celebrates The Gathering and the term as Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Embassy of Ireland, in partnership with [Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts](#)- Home of the National Irish Canadian Culture, joined Dublin's James Joyce Centre in a live online Global Gathering reading of *Ulysses*.

25 Cities from across 4 Continents participated in the readings as they were live streamed from Saturday 15 June 2100 GMT until after midnight GMT on Bloomsday, Sunday 16 June.

The Cultural Programme of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union was aptly named **Culture Connects**. The Bloomsday event celebrated Ireland's rich cultural heritage and connected communities across the globe. St. Brigid's also hosted an exhibit from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs which depicted the life and times of Joyce.

Large Bloomsday celebrations also took place in Montreal, Toronto and White Rock, B.C.

Global Bloomsday readings can be found at:
<http://globalbloomsday.com/>



An App developed by Professor Joe Nugent and his students at Boston College, as a virtual guide of Joyce's Dublin, was featured in Ottawa on Bloomsday.

For info on the app, use the following link:
joyceways.com/



FEATURED

LAUNCH OF MAYO MEMORIAL GARDEN



Research has been ongoing for years at the Ionad Deirbhile Heritage Centre. On July 24th, a Garden in remembrance to the 3,300 people from North West Mayo who left for Boston & Quebec in 1883 + 1884 was launched to coincide with the 130th anniversary. The event was held in the spirit of The Gathering, and guests included travel writers, government officials and tourists.

The Heritage Centre houses a wealth of information relating to local folklore, emigration, archaeology, local history and an account of a former way of life. Along with the Gairdín Cuimhneacháin (Memorial Garden) in Blacksod, the Centre now holds information on all the passengers who made the journey to Boston and Quebec.

A new online database was launched which hosts a wealth of information relating to the passengers – where they came from, who they travelled with, where they went to etc.

For more information on the Blacksod Bay Emigration and the launch of the Memorial Garden, please visit: <http://ionaddeirbhile.ie> and <http://www.mayo.me/erris-remembers-those-who-sailed-from-blacksod-to-america>





FEATURED

SHAMELESS SPECIAL MENTION TO AMBASSADOR'S NIECE AISLING LOFTUS



(c)ITV

For more information about Aisling's character and the series *Mr. Selfridge*, visit the PBS and ITV webpages:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/programs/character-hub/series/mr-selfridge/character/agnes-towler_s506

<http://www.itv.com/presscentre/press-releases/new-series-mr-selfridge-itv-studios-goes-production>



(c)ITV

Mr. Selfridge is a British period television drama series about Harry Gordon Selfridge and his London department store Selfridge & Co, produced by ITV Studios for ITV and PBS. It began airing in the Canada and the United States in March.

The Ambassador's niece Aisling Loftus stars as the intelligent, spirited and creative Agnes Towler. The series also stars Jeremy Piven, Frances O'Connor and Katherine Kelly.

Aisling was also recently featured in Irish film *Death of a Superhero* which screened at Montreal's Cine Gael film festival last year.

Aisling is currently working on filming the second season of *Mr. Selfridge*.

The Ambassador notes that while he'd like to claim Aisling's talent as coming from his side of the family, he must give fair due to the family of his wife Patricia for their talented genetics.



NOTICE BOARD



The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is having its 19th Annual Family History Conference from September 20-22, 2013.

Library and Archives Canada
(395 Wellington Street, Ottawa)

The focus of this Conference will be on Ireland.

For further information please see the following link:

<http://www.bifhsgo.ca/cpage.php?pt=22>





Irish citizens travelling or living overseas – Register with the Department of Foreign Affairs

Citizens who are outside the Common Travel Area, Ireland/Great Britain are encouraged to register their contact details with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Registration is voluntary. It is a facility available to all Irish citizens and is intended for use by people travelling on holidays, and also for business travellers and Irish citizens living overseas. While we encourage everyone to register, the facility is particularly useful for people travelling to remote destinations or locations where they may be at risk. The registration system records the dates on which people expect to be abroad, so it is worth registering, even for short trips. When you register your details with the Department, it means that we can contact you if there is an unforeseen crisis such as a natural disaster or civil unrest or if you have a family emergency while you are overseas. If there is a major crisis abroad, the Department already has a record of your details, so we can contact you at an early stage in a crisis. Your registration will assist us to locate you and, if necessary, provide assistance to you and your family in Ireland.

You can find out more about the registration facility and fill out the registration form on our website:
<http://www.embassyofireland.ca/home/index.aspx?id=87262>



Ambassador
Dr. Ray Bassett

Passport Officer
Ms. Siobhán Doran

*Embassy
Support
provided by:*
**Mr. Alain
Tasse**



*Deputy Head of Mission
(Political/Economic/Irish Community/
Press)*
Ms. Hilary Reilly

Visa Officer/Accounts
Ms. Gurpreet Bajwa
Ambassador's PA
Ms. Caoimhe Bennis

Second Secretary
Ms. Elizabeth Keogh

Foreign Birth Registration
Ms. Debbie Earwaker

The Embassy is very grateful to Mr Daniel Reilly for his graphic design services in creating our original newsletter design. Anyone interested in Daniel's work can contact him at danielpreilly77@gmail.com

Embassy of Ireland

Suite 1105, (11th Floor)
130 Albert St
Ottawa,
Ontario, K1P 5G4

Telephone: + 1 613 233 6281

Fax: + 1 613 233 5835

www.embassyofireland.ca

Office Opening Hours:

10a.m.-12.30 p.m and 2p.m. -4 p.m.

Telephone lines are open between 9 am and 5 pm Eastern Standard Time Monday –Friday.

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