



# Irish Society

## Of The National Capital Region

IRISHSOCIETYNCR.COM

Volume 1 / Issue 1

February 2025

### 2025 St. Patrick Day Parade POSTPONED



### HARDSHIPS IS NOTHING NEW TO THE IRISH

By now you all have read that I had to make the difficult decision to postpone this year's St. Patrick Day Parade. While the board did agree to pay the absorbent user fee for 33 Off Duty Policing (\$26K) the clock ran out. The fear of terrorism is impacting local community groups' simple events.

### WORKING ON A NEW DATE AND NEW TIME

We are now in discussions with the City of Ottawa and the NCC to leverage the Queen Elizabeth Driveway as an alternate route. It's also ideal to have St. Patrick's Parade march along the canal that our ancestors built.

It's extremely important to the Irish Society Executive that we have a parade in 2025 after a long hiatus so we can dust off the cobwebs and get back on track to celebrate Bytown's 200 birthday in 2026.

### MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> IRISH WEEK IN THE CAPITAL

### SHARING A PINT AND SALUTING OUR FOREFATHERS – MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> NOON

On Thursday March 6th at noon a number of Irish men and women of the Irish Society will gather above the Rideau Canal on the south side of Rideau Street Bridge to share a pint with other Irish Descendants and salute our forefathers who worked to make this engineering feat a reality. The Rideau Canal was more than just a waterway; it enabled Ottawa to become the Capital of Canada.

*See Calendar below*

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*"They dug a canal and built a nation"*

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### CITY HALL PROCLAMATION OF IRISH WEEK – MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> 4:30PM

Proclamation of Irish Week will be read, and the flag of Ireland will be raised at City Hall accompanied by staff from the Irish Embassy and all Irish descendants all are welcome.



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[irishsocietyncr.com](http://irishsocietyncr.com)

### JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION AND BECOME A MEMBER OF THE IRISH SOCIETY OF THE NCR

Due to the postal strike we didn't get everyone's renewal in, so if we missed you sorry but it's not too late to renew or join again just click on the link below

<http://www.irishsocietyncr.com/get-involved/membership>

***"We are looking for a volunteers"***

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Michael John Kelly on February 10, 2025 at the Renfrew Victoria Hospital after a brave battle with illness. Brother of the Irish Society Past President Pat Kelly.

Predeceased by his parents Pádraig Kelly and Noni Nolan of Ballygar, Ireland, his nieces Carol and Tina and his nephew Joey. He is survived by his loving partner, Wendy Scharf, his brother Patrick (Mirian), Thomas (Margaret) and his nieces; Sabrina and Veronica and his nephews David, Patrick, Pádraig Jr. and numerous cousins in Ireland and Canada.

He loved farming, his cattle, horses and especially his dog Prince. He will sorely be missed.

### IRISH SOCIETY CO-PRESENT WITH IRISH FILM FESTIVAL OTTAWA – MARCH 16TH

#### FILM SCREENING: MRS. ROBINSON

With special Zoom Q&A with Mary Robinson

DATE: MARCH 16, 2025  
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
LOCATION: SAW GALLERY

The Irish Society of the National Capital Region and the Irish Film Festival Ottawa co-present the award-winning documentary *Mrs. Robinson*.

**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!**

Presented by:



With the support of:



MRS ROBINSON



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## IRISH KITCHEN RECIPES

### GUINNESS CHOCOLATE CAKE BY CLODAGH MCKENNA

#### INGREDIENTS:

260g/2¼ sticks plus 1 tbsp unsalted butter  
300ml/1¼ cups Guinness  
100g/1 cup cocoa powder  
2 eggs  
420g/2 cups plus 2 tbsps caster/superfine sugar  
2 tps vanilla essence  
180ml/¾ cup buttermilk  
300g/2½ cups plain/all purpose flour  
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
1 tsp baking powder

#### For the icing

100g/7 tbsp unsalted butter, softened  
300g/2½ cups sifted icing/confectioners sugar  
1 tsp vanilla essence  
300g/1¼ cups full-fat cream cheese

#### METHOD:

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C /325°F/gas mark 3. Line the base of a 30cm round spring form tin with baking parchment.
2. To make the cake, heat the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat until melted. Stir in the Guinness, then remove from the heat and stir in the cocoa powder.
3. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, sugar, vanilla essence and buttermilk and then slowly add the Guinness mixture, whisking all the time.
4. In a separate large bowl, sieve together the flour, bicarbonate of soda and baking powder. Using an electric whisk, slowly pour the wet mixture into the dry ingredients and keep whisking until it is all well combined.
5. Transfer the mixture in to the cake tin and bake for approximately 45 minutes. Test to make sure the cake is cooked by inserted a dry skewer into the middle of the cake - if it comes out clean, the cake is cooked. Set aside to cool a little, and then remove from the tin and allow to cool completely on a wire rack.
6. Meanwhile, make the icing by blending all the ingredients together using an electric hand whisk until light and fluffy.
7. Place the cooled cake on a plate and generously spread the icing on top. The cake will keep for up to 1 week in an airtight container.





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### Ireland Through the Eyes of a Former Tour Guide: Spotlight on County Kerry

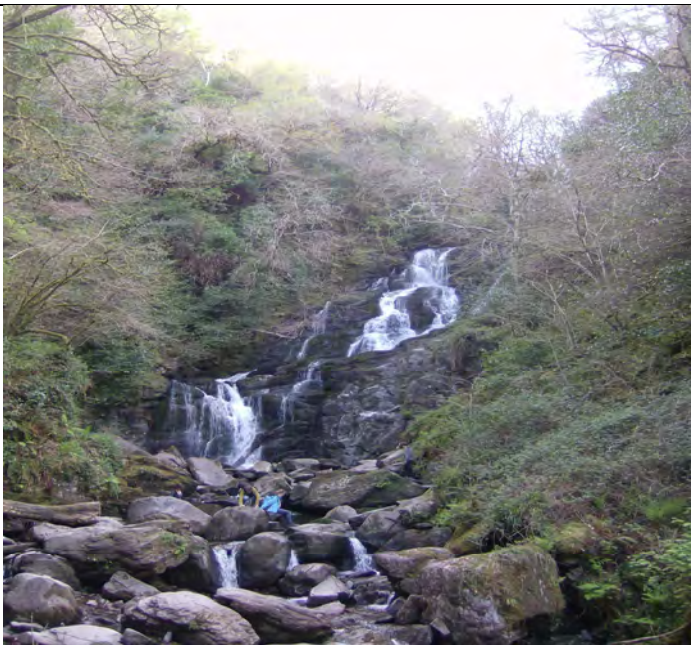
Hello fellow Society members! My name is Donal Lehane. I am a born and bred Irishman from County Kerry, living in Ottawa for the past two years. I was a tour guide in my home country, and would like to share my experience with you of my homeland's treasures.

If you are lucky enough to visit Ireland, County Kerry is a must. Home of the famous Ring of Kerry, the Kingdom (as it is known) has a lot to offer in both hospitality and scenery.

Killarney Town, also called "Beauty's Home", is a great base for exploring the region. The town centre is easily walkable, with lots of hotels, B&Bs and hostels. Killarney has a range of good restaurants, and its pubs are well-known for their homemade food, washed down with a creamy pint of Guinness, as well as live music. Local shops sell Irish-made crafts, knitwear and artwork.

An easy walk just on the edge of the town centre brings you to St Mary's Cathedral. Across the road, you can explore Killarney House, with its fabulous gardens, which are free to the public. The house itself, which is open for paying tours, sits on the edge of the Killarney National Park. The nearby HaHa (a roundabout) is a great place to book a ride in a jaunting cart. These carts, with their lively local drivers, are a great way to explore deeper into the Park.

Killarney National Park, with its gorgeous tall trees and stunning rhododendron bushes which are at their peak in spring, is also home to a number of must-see sites. These include Muckross House and Gardens, and the ruins of its former Abbey. Muckross was formerly a private home, and once boasted a visit from Queen Victoria. It is now owned by the state. There is a working farm housed on the former estate (much like Upper Canada Village), showing you Irish traditional life. Take time to walk the garden paths around the House. You can hear the horses clip-clopping as they pull jaunting carts filled with tourists around the grounds before taking you on to nearby Ross Castle.





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Ross Castle, once owned by the O'Donoghue Clan, is now a ruin, sitting alongside Lough (Lake) Leane. May I suggest from this point you can take a boat tour from the pier next to the Castle, which is a beautiful lake trip showing the true beauty of Kerry.

From Killarney Town, you can also book some fabulous day trips, such as the Dingle Peninsula and the Ring of Kerry, through local tour operators – let a knowledgeable local guide drive on the other side of the road while you relax and enjoy the scenery!

The Ring of Kerry, so-called because of the circular shape of its route, will give you some of the most beautiful scenery Ireland has to offer, including views of the Atlantic Ocean. Your tour will also take you to Ladies' View, overlooking the stunning freshwater Lakes of Killarney, nestled up in the mountains that overlook the town. You will see beautiful Moll's Gap, with its views of the MacGillicuddy's Reeks mountains. As you drive down from the mountain, you will be welcomed by the sound of fresh mountain waters gushing down Torc Waterfall – a beautiful and romantic spot right back in the National Park.

*This is only a snapshot of all that my home county has to offer. I encourage you to travel there and see for yourself. If you are planning a trip, feel free to contact me – I would be happy to talk to you about your plans! Reach me at [donaltaxi@gmail.com](mailto:donaltaxi@gmail.com).*

**MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**

### IRISH WEEK IN THE CAPITAL CALENDAR

#### Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup> 12pm

Irish men and women will share a pint with our Ancestors off the South side of the Plaza Bridge located between the Conference Center and the National Art Center above the Rideau Canal



110 Laurier Avenue, West  
Ottawa, Ontario

#### Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup> 430pm

City Hall will read the Proclamation of Irish Week and raise the flag of Ireland at City Hall accompanied by staff from the Irish Embassy and all Irish descendants all are welcome.



# Irish Society

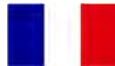
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**Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> 12pm to 7pm**

## **FISH FRIDAY**

Over 30 local Irish restaurants in around the city will be servicing up traditional Irish Fish and Chips accompanied with your favorite beverage.



**IRELAND VS FRANCE 9:15 AM**

Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Ireland



**SCOTLAND VS WALES 11:15 AM**

Murray field, Edinburgh, Scotland

**Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM**

**Watch live broadcast from**

**Heart & Crown Pub - 67 Clarence St**

**Brigid's Well 100 Cumberland Street**

**Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM**

**Watch live broadcast from**

**Heart & Crown Pub - 67 Clarence St**

**Brigid's Well 100 Cumberland Street**



**ENGLAND VS ITALY 11:00 AM**

Allianz Stadium, London, England

**Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM**



**Heart & Crown Pub - BYWARD Market**

67 Clarence Street

**Local Authors' Book Signing – Free Admission**

**2025 IRISH SOCIETY AUTHOR**



**THE IRISH**

**WITHIN US**

**Carole A. Logan**





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**2025 IRISH SOCIETY**



**1847**  
**Elizabeth Bruyere**  
**And The Irish**  
**Famine**  
**Refugees**  
  
**Michael McBane**

**Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM**



**Heart & Crown Pub - BYWARD Market**  
67 Clarence Street  
**Local Authors' Book Signing – Free Admission**

**Monday March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Irish Radio Canada**  
**8:00 -8:30**

**Irish Radio Canada**



**Comerton**

**Austin**



**Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Ottawa Celtic Choir**  
**7:00 PM**  
**St. John Evangelist Church**  
**154 Somerset St. West**

**Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Authors' Day Book Reading**

**St. Columba Anglican Church**  
**24 Sandridge Rd, Ottawa**

**2025 IRISH SOCIETY AUTHOR**



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**Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

**Rhythm of the Dance National Dance Company of  
Ireland**

**CentrepoinTE Theatre**

**101 CentrepoinTE Dr**

**Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts  
310 St. Patrick Street, Ottawa**

**Irish Language Classes**



**Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**1PM**

**Mrs. Robinson**

(Former President of Ireland)

SAW 67 Nicholas Street

Mary Robinson will be joining us via Zoom for a  
QA following the screening.



**Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 AM**

**St. Patrick Day Mass**

**Celebrated by Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall  
Marcel Dampousse**

**220 Kent Street, Ottawa**

