



Stay in the Know

Tree Planting – Oct 4th

Changes to ISNCR Constitution

Autumn Equinox: Sep. 22nd

Thanksgiving: Oct. 13th

Halloween

**Gaels 50th Anniversary – Nov
22nd**

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Instagram**

2025 ISNCR AGM

The Irish Society of the National Capital Region held their Annual General Meeting on September 25th, 2025, with President Tom O'Neill presiding over discussions about the organization's progress and future initiatives. The board reviewed financial updates, membership plans, and parade preparations while approving various administrative matters including auditors and volunteer awards. The meeting covered ongoing projects such as website development, social media expansion, and constitutional reforms, with the board working to improve operational efficiency and pursue nonprofit status.

Highlights

- **2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade – March 7th, 2026**

The new route will become our permanent route offering us the ability to terminate the parade in the heart of the ByWard Market it will start from the Supreme Court of Canada on Wellington Street travel east down to Sussex Drive then north on Sussex to York Street turning east into the heart of the ByWard Market.

- **Danny McGarry** became a new member of the Board. WELCOME!!
- **E. O'Reilly** has resigned as a director but will remain active as a chairperson for **the 2026 Bicentennial Bytown.**
- **Heather Tessier** to chair funding efforts and coordinate special events.
- **Tree planting on Oct 4th in recognition to TD McGee's 200th Birthday**
- Presently there are **212 members**. Plans to implement an online membership system by late November, aiming to move away from traditional paper-based processes
- Working to **update and refresh the ISNCR Website**, increase membership to Instagram and Facebook
- The board is actively working on **amending their constitution** to streamline board size and improve operational efficiency. Several articles need to be updated to reflect today's times and environment. **Members will be informed well in advance of the meeting.**
- The Irish Society NCR is part of the committee planning celebrations for the **2026 Bicentennial Bytown.**
- **2026 expanding of the Irish Village** in the ByWard market to include Parent Avenue from St. Patrick to Elizabeth Bruyere Street and Murray Street from Sussex Dr. to King Edward Avenue.
- Looking into including a **Youth Chair** to the Board
- Continuing to pursue **charitable non-profit status**
- **Need volunteers and people to chair events**
- Unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for website development and are now exploring alternative funding options.

Meet Your new Board for 2025-2026



Irish Society

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Position	Position
President - Tom O'Neill	Director at Large - Jim Irving
Vice President - Bryan Daly	Director at Large - Shauna Bradley
Treasurer- Clare O'Connell Noon	Director at Large - Sean Gurmin
Secretary - Lorraine O'Reilly	Director at Large - Danny McGarry
Membership - Cathy Healy	

A



MAN ON A MISSION



Excerpts from the President's AGM Speech

On November 28, 2024, Thomas O'Neill, a 4th generation Canadian, took on the role of president of the Irish Society of the National Capital Region. A task requiring, initiative, energy, contacts and determination.

"COVID19 almost destroyed this 30-year organization but thanks to our previous board they struggled on to keep it afloat and today as President I am delighted to report to you that the Irish Society of the National Capital Region is back and ready to take to the streets.

We have re-focused our attention to promoting Irish Culture and History and started laying the foundation based on a strong financial footing, adhering to corporate disciplines, we have restored communication to our members on a monthly basis, focused on growing our membership both individuals and corporate, and we are working in collaboration with our Irish stakeholders to promote Irish Culture here in Ottawa.

We have been successful in working with Councillors Tierney and LaPlante and with all of Council to designate Parent Avenue and St. Patrick Street the Irish Village recognizing the Irish contribution to the building of this City.

*In 2026 we plan to expand the area as we mark the Bicentennial of Bytown along with putting the boots back on the streets with **the return of the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 7th, 2026, at 11am.***

We are working on rebuilding our website and developing an online membership and payment system to simplify our membership drive. We set a goal of 250 members for 2025, and we are almost there.

When I agreed to lead the society, I wrote down a few objectives I wanted to be accomplished as soon as possible to bring stability and credibility back to the society. While I am pleased as we have accomplished a lot, we still have more to do.

- Changing our non-profit status to a charitable non-profit
- More Members events,
- Reconstitution of the Irish Society - creating an executive and adding more volunteers to the board.

But the primary 2026 objective is to hear the pitter patter of Irish feet marching down the street in Ottawa in March to mark St. Patrick Day in the Capital once again."



So just like me, sign up and volunteer to help us paint the town green.

~ Tom O'Neill



September and the First Day of School Irish Influence on Our Schools



The impact of Irish culture on Canadian schooling is most evident in the widespread use of Irish National School books in Ontario and other British colonies. The educational principles and textbooks developed by Ireland's National Board of Education were adopted throughout the British Empire, including Canada. By 1866, over 96% of Ontario's common schools utilized these Irish national schoolbooks, establishing them as a standard for colonial education. Around 1846, Edgerton Ryerson, the first Superintendent of Education for Canada West (Ontario), introduced the Irish National Readers into the common school system. These textbooks, originating from Ireland, supported mass education and encompassed subjects such as grammar, spelling, history, geography, and literature.

TODAY

It's

Elementary Level (1-6)	
Ontario	Ireland
Usually starts after Labour Day	Generally, starts during the first week of September
194 instructional days	182 days for primary schools,
Building a strong base in reading, writing and math. They also learn about their community, Canada and world around them in social studies.	Greater focus on student wellbeing and a distinctive grading system
Schools receiving higher public investment	
	Have smaller class sizes
Offers a broad curriculum including subjects like Computer Studies, Canadian and World Studies, and Guidance and Career Education.	Features mandatory subjects such as English, Irish, Math, Science, Arts, and Physical Education, with a mandatory Junior Cycle curriculum.
2 (10-15 min) recesses/breaks, one in the morning and one in afternoon	Tradition of short, informal mid-morning and afternoon "tea breaks" before the start of classes.
Typically, last around 6 hours depending on the school board	Days are generally shorter, full day for primary school amounting to approximately 5 hours and 40 minutes,

important to remember that Edgerton Ryerson's impact on Canadian education wasn't entirely positive. His involvement in



creating residential schools, and his support for assimilating Indigenous peoples into Canadian society, are highly debated. This controversy has led to his name being removed from several educational institutions.

Autumn Equinox - September 22 at 2:19p.m. (ET)

In Gaelic the Autumn Equinox is known as **Cónocht an fhómhair**.

This celestial occurrence, which represents a perfect balance between light and darkness, takes place when the sun crosses the celestial equator from north to south, giving us almost equal periods of day and night.

It has strong roots in both contemporary customs and ancient traditions.

In ancient Ireland, the Autumn Equinox was commemorated as the harvest season concluded, with various festivities, like **Mabon**. Mabon was a celebration of the harvest. The rituals often included feasting, music, and storytelling.

It was thought to be a period of increased connection with the spirits as the barrier between the Otherworld and the human world thinning.

Today, the Autumn Equinox is celebrated in various ways across Ireland and Canada. From local festivals to personal rituals, people take this time to reflect on the balance in their lives and to prepare for the coming months. Modern celebrations often include gatherings that emphasize gratitude, community, and personal growth.

The ISNCR Board expresses its best wishes for an incredible Thanksgiving to all of you in advance.



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Happy Thanksgiving Oct. 13, 2025

*May your Thanksgiving be filled with moments as
golden as autumn leaves and memories as crisp as
a fall day.*



HAPPY 200th BIRTHDAY

Thomas D'Arcy McGee!

Thomas D'Arcy McGee

The Irish Society of the National Capital Region in partnership with the Bytown Museum and St. Patrick Basilica plan to commemorate the 200 Years of Thomas D'Arcy McGee birth with a **tree planting** event on the grounds of St. Patrick Basilica to recognize him for his contribution to this country and to this city.

Individuals wishing to donate to help offset the costs of this event can do so with any surplus going to the 2026 Bytown Bicentennial St. Patrick Day Parade.



(E-Transfer Treasurer@Irishsocietyncr.com)

Saturday October 4th

at 2pm

St. Patrick Basilica 220 Kent Street, Ottawa



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The Irish Society's Shauna Bradley Prepares to Fight

Part 2



(photo Ashley Fraser, Post Media)

On October 18th, the 17th Annual 'Fight for the Cure' will take place at the Westin Hotel in downtown Ottawa. This popular white collar boxing event has raised millions of dollars for the Ottawa Cancer Foundation. FFTC 2025 will feature 6 matches involving 12 Ottawa based business leaders. One of these brave contenders is our own Shauna Bradley, CEO of the Heart and Crown Irish Pubs. She has long been involved as a title sponsor of the event, but this year, instead of stepping into the ring to welcome and thank everyone, she herself will be a fighter for the Red Team. She has been training for 8 months, twice a week. Her opponent on Team Blue is Broker of Record Jen Arbuckle of Metcalfe Realty Company

Shauna's inspiration is her dad, Larry Bradley, who began sponsoring the 'FFTC' in 2008 at the time of its inception. He saw it as an innovative way to support a worthy cause; no family was untouched by cancer. Sadly, Larry himself died of cancer in May 2024. Shauna explains her motivation to put on the gloves: "I'm fighting to honour my dad, my grandma, [friend] Julie and every person who has faced this disease with courage. I want to help others navigate the pain, support clinical trials, and raise funds for the services the Foundation provides to patients and families. This fight is personal, and I'm proud to be part of it."

Shauna's goal is to raise \$100,000. At the time of this writing, she had raised over half at \$51,512.50. Irish Society members are encouraged to help Shauna reach her goal by donating through her profile page on the Ottawa Cancer Foundation site at this link: [Shauna's Profile Page](#)

In-person tickets for this year's **Fight For the Cure** are sold out. However, enthusiasts are invited to attend cheering parties at Heart and Crown's Byward Market location and Preston St. location. Fight time starts at 7:30 pm. In addition, a livestream is available for purchase at this link: [Livestream FFTC 2025](#). Every dollar of the purchase of this livestream is given to the Ottawa Cancer Foundation.

The Irish Society wishes Shauna, the "Queen of Hearts", all the best as she carries on her father's legacy. We wish her success in her fundraising efforts, as well as in the ring. Saturday, October 18 will be, in the words of the Ottawa Cancer Foundation, "an unforgettable evening of boxing, philanthropy, and community support in the fight against cancer." - C. Healy

GO SHAUNA GO!



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COUNTY FLAGS SPONSORED

Thanks to the following for sponsoring one of the Irish County flags.



Shawn Menard
County Down



Councillor Marty Carr

County Kildare



Councillor Clarke Kelly

Councillor

County Cork

There are a few flags on hold currently, but we still have flags without sponsorship.

FLAGS STILL AVAILABLE

Carlow 🍀 Ceatharlach	Derry, NI 🍀 Doire	Kerry 🍀 Ciarraí	Leitrim 🍀 Liatroim
Limerick 🍀 Luimneach	Longford 🍀 An Longfort	Louth 🍀 Lú	Offaly 🍀 Uíbh Fhailí
Waterford 🍀 Port Láirge	Westmeath 🍀 An Iarmhí	Wexford 🍀 Loch Garman	Connacht 🍀 Connacht
Munster 🍀 An Mhumhan			

Sponsoring an Individual County Flag

For \$170.10 you can support the parade of flags.

For more information Contact: Tom O'Neill.

president@irishsocietyncr.com

With the post office on strike again, you may want to use e-transfers. Please use this email address:

treasurer@irishsocietyncr.com





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CONGRATULATIONS LORI MORRISON

Thanks for Your Donations

We would like to acknowledge the many members who have made donations to the Irish Society NCR this year. Over the next couple of newsletters, a list of donors will be included (no amounts will be given). If you would rather **not** have your name displayed please email me (Lorraine) at secretary@irishsocietyncr.com

Ottawa Gaels GAA Golden Anniversary!

OTTAWA GAELS GAA

50th ANNIVERSARY GALA

NOVEMBER 22, 2025
INFINITY CONVENTION CENTRE

TICKETS

TABLE OF 10: \$1200
INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$130
Includes: Dinner, Anniversary Souvenir, Prizes, and Live Entertainment!



Questions? Email us: ottawagaels50@gmail.com



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An Old Irish Recipe for Longevity

Leave the bed sleepy.

Leave the table hungry.

Leave the pub thirsty.

Where in Ottawa? ANSWER

Can you identify the location of this Irish symbol?

Revealing Last Month's Clue



Keep the guesses
coming!

If you guessed **Saint Patrick Basilica**, you were right!



These crosses were from the original St. Patrick's Parish Hall on Gloucester Street - that once anchored Irish cultural life in Ottawa. It was the site of St. Patrick's Day receptions, theatrical productions by the Tara Players, musical instruction and performances by Irish music groups such as Comhaltas and regular community socials.

Stay tuned for next month's new **Where in Ottawa** hint.

Have you seen an Irish symbol around town? Send us your photo or idea to whereinottawa@gmail.com. It might be our next feature.

K. Barker

Irish Apple Cake



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This is an authentic Irish recipe for an old-fashioned apple cake, the kind that would be made throughout the apple harvest season all over the country, where every farmhouse has its own prized version of the recipe (no doubt made with their own heirloom apples.) It's delicious with or without a traditional custard sauce.

Prep Time: 35min.

Cook Time: 1hour

Servings: 10

Ingredients

Cake

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter at room temperature
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 3 Tbsp whole milk or cream
- 1 1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp salt
- about 3 Granny Smith apples, peeled and thinly sliced. Mine weighed a little over a pound after slicing. (Can also try Honeycrisp or Cortland apples)
- confectioner's sugar for dusting



streusel topping

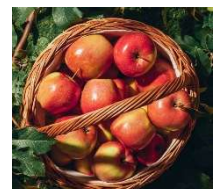
- 3/4 cup all purpose flour
- 1/4 cup old fashioned rolled oats
- 6 Tbsp unsalted cold butter, cut in small pieces
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350F and grease a 9-inch springform pan.
- To make the streusel topping, blend the bits of butter into the flour, sugar, and oats until the butter is incorporated and the mixture has a coarse crumbly texture. Put in the refrigerator.
- Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time.
- Whisk together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt. Fold the dry ingredients into the butter/sugar mixture, along with the milk or cream.
- Spoon the batter into your prepared pan, and smooth out evenly. Top with the sliced apples, and then the streusel topping. **Note: no need to arrange the apples perfectly but try to get them in an even layer.**
- Bake for about 50 minutes to an hour, until the top is lightly browned and a toothpick comes out without wet batter clinging to it.
- Let cool a bit in the pan before removing. Dust with confectioner's sugar before serving.

<https://theviewfromgreatisland.com/irish-apple-cake/>

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