



SPACE EXPLORATION 2026

NASA's first crewed test flight Artemis II, was manned by astronaut **Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency** and Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch of NASA

The purpose of this trip was to demonstrate that Orion's life support systems can support crew members on upcoming flights and to give them the opportunity to practice tasks that are crucial to the success of Artemis III and beyond.

On April 10, 2026, the crew successfully splashed down in the Pacific Ocean following a 10-day journey, marking the first human return to the moon's vicinity in more than 50 years. It is the furthest man has ever traveled, surpassing the previous record set by Apollo 13 crew in 1970.

The crew successfully completed several tests that demonstrated the Orion capsule and Space Launch System's as well as the Orion's life support are ready for deep space travel and can manage the environmental conditions of deep space with a crew on board.



Kellie Gerardi, Dr. Shawna Pandya and Dr. Norah Patten

Dr. Patten, a native of County Mayo, will be a crew member on the Virgin Galactic spacecraft beside **Dr. Shawna Pandya from Canada** and Kellie Gerardi from USA on the space project IIAS-02 scheduled to launch in the fall of 2026. In human-tended research, the team is setting the standard for microgravity quality and active payload integration, expanding the possibilities to use space as a laboratory for human benefit.

There are several chances for Ireland and Canada to work together in the space industry outside of Dr. Patten's efforts. Canada is a cooperating state, and Ireland is a member of the European Space Agency. Additionally, there are chances to broaden partnerships to involve more Irish researchers given the established cooperation between the National Research Council (NRC) Canada and the (IIAS) International Institute for Astronautical Sciences through our microgravity research initiatives.



Jeremy Hansen, mission specialist; Victor Glover, pilot; Reid Wiseman, commander; and Christina Hammock Koch, mission specialist.

Colonel Joshua Kutryk, of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), will be the next Canadian astronaut to travel to space. He will board the SpaceX Crew-13 mission in mid-September 2026 and go to the International Space Station (ISS) for a 6-month stay.



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THOMAS DARCY McGEE TURNS 201

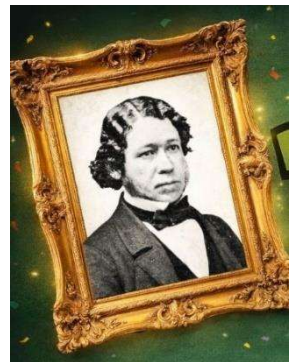


On April 13 at D'Arcy McGee's on Sparks Street from 5 pm to 8 pm, a large crowd gathered to celebrate a special birthday honouring Thomas D'Arcy McGee. It was a big success. The band **The RACKET** played to an energetic crowd with everyone's favourite 80s dance tunes. In true Irish style, **Gail Gavan** came up on stage and sang five songs, and her gang from Quyon even drove up to celebrate her birthday and performed a girl's song about Quyon. The makeshift dance floor was packed, and everyone was had a great time. There were two very large birthday cakes. The band sang Happy Birthday in Beatles style, and the delicious cake was shared with everyone.

Happy Birthday to D'Arcy and Gail!



Syd Baxter contributed "The Parting Glass," a song often sung at the end of a gathering with friends.





IS IT SPRING YET ?

OTTAWA and AREA	IRELAND
<p>Weather: April is unpredictable, featuring a mix of warm sunshine, rain, and potential lingering snow.</p> <p>Baseball training</p> <p>Bike season begins for most</p> <p>Hockey: NHL regular season ends PWHL regular season ends</p> <p>Maple Syrup Season</p> <p>Maple Syrup Vendors out in full force</p> <p>Ottawa Grassroots Festival</p> <p>Outaouais Film Festival</p> <p>Irish Film Festival Ottawa</p> <p>Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show</p> <p>Outdoor Rugby typically starts</p> <p>Preparations for spring flooding</p> <p>Spring Craft Sale</p> <p>Ottawa Grassroots Festival:</p>	<p>Weather: Expect "four seasons in one day," with mild temperatures, occasional sunny spells, but a high probability of rain.</p> <p>Many people mark the first day of spring with the feast day of St. Brigid</p> <p>Welcoming the Spring: Traditionally, women would knock on the door holding fresh green reeds to symbolize Brigid arriving to bring spring.</p> <p>Food & Arts Festivals: Galway Food Festival (May) West Waterford Festival of Food Cork International Choral Festival Cúirt International Festival of Literature</p> <p>Visiting sacred wells and springs connected to the goddess and/or saint Brigid.</p> <p>Racing Festival: Fairymouse Easter Racing Festival</p> <p>Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival</p> <p>Rugby: Energia AIL Finals (Club) Bank of Ireland Towns Cup Final</p>

TRADITIONS, FOLKLORE and SPRING

In Celtic mythology, the patron of the spring equinox was the goddess Eostre. She symbolized growth, fertility and renewal.

Spring equinox was the day that night and day stood equal and the rare balance was seen as a powerful time for magic and nature.

Lighting a bonfire is a spring equinox tradition. Often accompanied by feasting, dancing and singing. It represents the return of warmth and light.

According to Irish legend, the spirit of winter, the Cailleach, loses her strength as spring approaches.

You get the biggest spuds if you sow root crops after the full moon, when she's on the wane.



TRADITIONS, FOLKLORE and SPRING (cont'd)

The old Irish farming calendar was marked not by months but by saints' days and natural indicators. "Sow peas and beans on St. Patrick's Day, set potatoes on St. Columcille's Day" went one old rhyme.

Before planting farmers often sprinkled their seeds with holy water.

Today "Seed-savers" hold a "Potato Day", to exchange old seed varieties.

Looking for a fun afternoon out?

Enjoy an afternoon of laughter, great storytelling, and community spirit — all while supporting ISSGO. There will be door prizes too!

Tickets may be purchased through an e-transfer at aconnoon67@gmail.com

Tickets may also be purchased at the OLT door on the day of the play.

The Irish Society of NCR will not be organizing a golf tournament this year. We encourage our membership to support our fellow Irish Communities and enjoy their golf days.

OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE

IRISH SENIORS SOCIAL GROUP OTTAWA
in collaboration with Ottawa Little Theatre presents

RURAL COMEDY
THE BIRDS AND THE BEES
BY MARK CRAWFORD
DIRECTED BY BARBARA KOBOLAK

Sunday,
May 3, 2026
2:30 p.m.

Fundraiser for ISSGO

📍 Ottawa Little Theatre

🎁 Door Prizes Available

🍀 Join us for an afternoon of laughs & Irish community spirit! 🍀

⚠️ Adult comedy – mature content



A GOLFER'S PRAYER

**"May your swing be straight and the ball fly far,
May your round be blessed with no worse than par".**

THE SUE FAY HEALY MEMORIAL
Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Presented with:

MOOSE McGUIRE'S
PUB & GRILL

Join us for friendly competition and unforgettable memories, while raising funds for SFH Irish Dancers to represent Ottawa & Canada nationally and globally.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

1:00PM Tee-Off

The Meadows Golf & Country Club
4335 Hawthorne Rd
Ottawa, ON K1G 3N4

\$600 per foursome (\$150 pp)
includes golf, carts, lunch & dinner

POST-GOLF DINNER EVENT
Moose McGuire's Huntclub
3320 McCarthy Rd., Ottawa, ON

Featuring:

- 18 HOLE SCRAMBLE
- FUN GAMES ON COURSE
- BOX LUNCH AT COURSE
- DINNER
- PRIZES
- RAFFLES
- IRISH DANCE

REGISTER & PAY BY: MAY 12, 2026
with: Shandy.Moose@gmail.com

For sponsorship opportunities:
sfhirishdanceevents@gmail.com

Sue Fay Healy was born in Dublin, Ireland, where she discovered her lifelong love of Irish dance at the age of eight. She began her training with the Harvey Sisters and quickly distinguished herself as a talented and dedicated competitor. In 1989, she and husband Fran, founded the Sue Fay Healy School of Irish Dance. Sue became a highly respected figure in the global Irish dance community. As a certified TCRG and ADCRG with An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha, her influence extended across North America and the globe. She also founded two annual competitions: the Capital Feis, held each May since 1992, and Feile Nollaig, a beloved Christmas-themed feis that celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2024. Yet it was through teaching that Sue made her most enduring impact. Known for her authenticity, wit, and directness, she

created not just skilled dancers but a vibrant, supportive community. She believed deeply in the power of dance to build confidence and lifelong friendships. Her legacy lives on in every dancer she taught, every competition she helped shape, and in the family and community who will carry her love of Irish dance forward for generations to come. Sue Fay Healy passed away peacefully on June 8, 2025. We know that she would be honoured to receive the Gradam Award.



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"May your drives be long, your putts be true, and your luck be Irish today".

THE 2026
**JARLATH CONNAUGHTON
MEMORIAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2026

IRISH HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

\$150
per player

- 18 Holes
- w/ Power Cart
- Lunch
- Buffet Dinner
- Contests and Prizes!



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How Many Do You Know?

A Cracker: An excellent golf shot.

Work Away: "Go ahead," often used when inviting someone to play through.

A "Sonia": Named after Irish Olympian Sonia O'Sullivan, this describes a poorly hit shot (usually thin) that somehow ends up with a good result because it "runs like hell".

"Banjaxed": Generally, means broken; you might use this if you've bent a club or your game is falling apart.

"Houl yer whisht!": A classic way to tell someone to be quiet, particularly useful when someone is about to tee off.

"Keep 'er lit!": An encouraging shout for a drive that is going long and straight.

Frog Hair: The short fringe of grass immediately surrounding the green.

Worm Burner: A shot hit very low that stays just above the ground.

"Faffing": for wasting time

"Wee": small, adding to everything like a "wee putt"

"Foot wedge": kicking the ball

Fried Egg: A ball plugged in a sand bunker

Barkies: Hitting trees yet still getting a good score.

Jammy: A lucky shot, such as a ball bouncing off a tree back into the fairway.

Jacks: the bathroom

How is she cuttin? How you doing?

"Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf."

- Irish saying



2026 St Patrick's Parade Road Trip



Quebec City

Hudson Quebec



Montreal



Toronto





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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



Stephen Daniel Holmes passed away on March 30th, 2026, at the age of 60. Steve grew up on the Holmes family farm in Wilson's Corners, Québec, which boasts a history of over 175 years from when his great-grandparents arrived from Ireland in 1847. His heritage naturally fostered a love for Irish tunes, which he listened to on repeat during long plane rides and his excursions around the world.

All who knew him described him as kind, humble, generous and friendly. He was able to make friends wherever he went. He had a gift for making others feel special and valued by remembering both the big life events and the small things about them. This is evident in the vast social network he maintained throughout his life. He was incredibly proud of his career in the car business spanning over 40 years, but his proudest accomplishment was as a devoted husband to his wife Joanne and father to his daughter Jessica. Protecting and providing for his family were important values to him, which he did faithfully.

A Funeral Mass will be held at Saint Patrick's Basilica, 220 Kent Street, Ottawa on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 10 am. Interment to follow at Ste-Elisabeth's Cemetery, 47 Ste-Elisabeth Road, Cantley, Quebec.

The Irish Society NCR would like to thank Steve for all the support and wish you **Slán abhaile.**

The Parting Glass

Of all the money that e'er I had
I spent it in good company
And all the harm I've ever done
Alas it was to none but me
And all I've done for want of wit
To mem'ry now I can't recall
So fill to me the parting glass
Good night and joy be to you all

Of all the comrades that e'er I had
They're sorry for my going away
And all the sweethearts that e'er I had
They'd wish me one more day to stay
But since it falls unto my lot
That I should rise and you should not
I gently rise and softly call
Good night and joy be to you all

If I had money enough to spend
And leisure time to sit awhile
There is a fair maid in this town
That sorely has my heart beguiled.
Her rosy cheeks and ruby lips
I own she has my heart in thrall
Then fill to me the parting glass
Good night and joy be with you all.

A man may drink and not be drunk
A man may fight and not be slain
A man may court a pretty girl
And perhaps be welcomed back again
But since it has so ought to be
By a time to rise and a time to fall
Come fill to me the parting glass
Good night and joy be with you all
Good night and joy be with you all



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APRIL FOOL'S DAY IN IRELAND

In Ireland, April 1st wasn't always known as "April Fool's Day" but was often called "Lá na gCuach" or "Cuckoo Day."

The traditional notion that the first cuckoo arrives in Ireland on this day is the source of the name "Cuckoo Day." Hearing the cuckoo's first call was considered lucky, but only if your pockets weren't empty! "Your pockets will stay empty all year if they are empty when you first hear the cuckoo."

On April Fools' Day, it is customary in Ireland for all practical jokes to end at noon. If you're tricked after noon in Ireland, you can reply: "April Fool's Day is dead and gone. You're the fool for carrying on."

Interesting Irish pranks:

In parts of Ulster, including Donegal, April 1st pranks were often known as "**hunting the gowk**". This meant sending someone on an impossible task, like looking for a nonexistent object or sending them to a location that doesn't exist. (***We called them "a wild goose chase."***)

Serving Fools Pies. People would give friends or family members homemade pastry shells filled with unpleasant ingredients, such as mustard, pepper, or vinegar, and made to look like innocent or sweet pastries.

Switching the 'Push' and 'Pull' signs on doors or changing the language on someone's phone.

One the most famous Irish April Fools' Day prank was pulled in 1965 when the newspaper The Irish Times ran an article detailing Taoiseach Seán Lemass' plans to ban alcohol and enforce prohibition in Ireland. The readers were more than concerned until Lemass came out and reassured everybody and denounced the publication as nothing more than an elaborate joke.

What was your most memorable prank?



A hamburger and liver pie
topped with pink icing.
YUM!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 10

Happy Mother's Day to all moms, grandmas, stepmoms, moms-to-be, foster moms, mother figures, godmothers, moms in Heaven and all the women in our lives who love, care for, and support us unconditionally. We thank you for making the world brighter and kinder every single day. Wishing you all a day filled with love, appreciation and beautiful moments.

Hope this brings you a smile:

Please and Thanks

You taught me how to wash my face
And how to use the potty.
You made me eat up all my greens
And wiped my nose when snotty.

You taught me to say Please and Thanks,
Because politeness is the way,
So 'Please' can I borrow some money?
Thanks!

Just kidding. Happy Mother's Day!

~ Anon



The Heart That Raised Me

*For the Heart That Raised Me
You are the light that guides my way,
The love I feel every single day.
Through every joy, through every tear,
Your strength has always brought me near.
On this Mother's Day, I just want to say,
Thank you for loving me in every way.
Forever grateful, forever true,
The world's best mom, it's always you.*

