



DID YOU HEAR? The 2027 St. Patrick's Parade is MARCH 6TH

Global Irish Famine Way Memorial

On Sunday, May 17, 2026, community members gathered at the Global Irish Famine Way Memorial in Macdonald Gardens Park to mark the first official Global Irish Famine Way Memorial Commemoration Day.

The 35-minute ceremony was simple, respectful, and focused on reflection. Guests arrived to soft harp music and gathered quietly around the memorial before the ceremony began.

As Master of Ceremonies, I offered a reflection on the importance of National Irish Famine Commemoration Day and the memorial as a permanent place of remembrance in Canada's capital.

A historical reflection from the Irish Embassy by Deputy Jennie Quin reminded attendees that famine has affected many peoples and nations throughout history. The remarks highlighted how famine caused loss, migration, hardship, and lasting impacts across generations, while emphasizing the importance of remembering these experiences today.

A cultural reflection followed, featuring the reading of the poem "Quarantine" by Margaret Harvey-O'Kelly and a performance of the traditional piece "Skibbereen" by Kevin Dooley offering attendees a moment for quiet contemplation and remembrance.

The ceremony then observed a solemn minute of silence followed by the laying of flowers by Clare O'Connell Noon at the Global Famine Way Memorial monument.

Michael McBane spoke about the importance of preserving these histories through education, compassion, and public remembrance. His remarks emphasized that commemoration is not only about honouring the past, but also about strengthening our shared commitment to human dignity and solidarity.





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Global Irish Famine Way Memorial cont.



Nick McCarthy

Closing remarks thanked the partners, participants, and community members who helped make the event possible and recognized the gathering as the inaugural National Irish Famine Commemoration Day ceremony in Ottawa. Attendees were invited to return each year to continue the tradition of remembrance.

The ceremony served as both a tribute to those who suffered and died during famines around the world and a reminder of the importance of remembering difficult histories together with compassion, dignity, and respect.

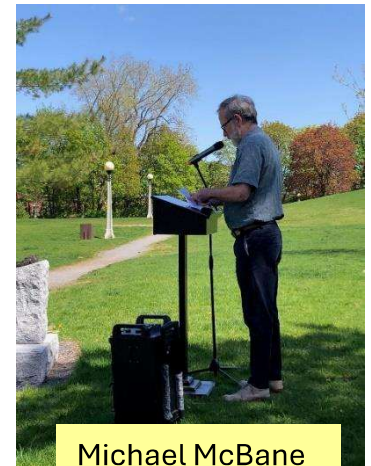
~ Nick McCarthy



Clare O'Connell-Noon



Deputy Jennie Quin from the Irish Embassy



Michael McBane



Kevin Dooley



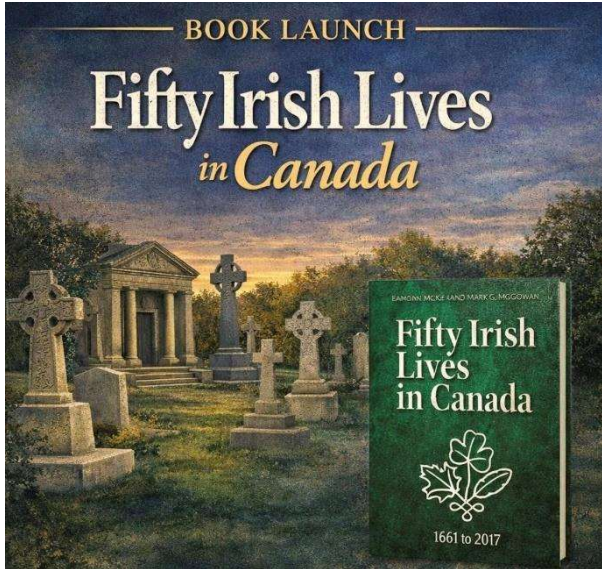
Margaret Harvey-O'Kelly



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“Fifty Irish Lives in Canada, 1661 - 2017”

Book Launch at Beechwood Cemetery, May 12, 2026



Dr. Mark McGowan held a master class on Irish history this evening at the launch of *Fifty Irish Lives in Canada* at Beechwood Cemetery.

Guests gathered for a memorable evening of storytelling, scholarship, and reflection celebrating the profound contributions of Irish Canadians over the past three centuries.

More than a book launch, the event was a meaningful celebration of identity, heritage, and the lasting connection between Ireland and Canada.

This book was conceived by Dr. Eamonn McKee, former

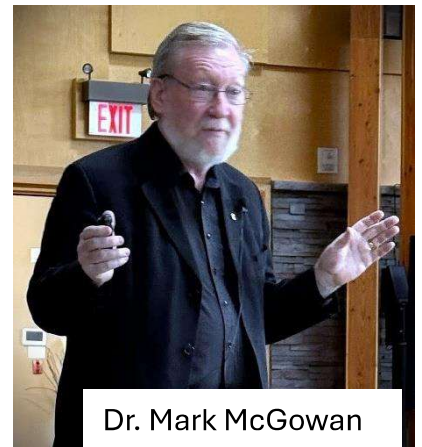
Irish Ambassador to Canada, and Dr. Mark McGowan, Professor of History and Celtic Studies of the University of Toronto. The individual biographies were written by a host of contributing authors.

It chronicles the lives of fifty men and women who were born in Ireland over the past 350+ years but who came to make their lives in Canada and made significant contributions with impacts that in some cases are still felt today.

After a video message from Dr. McKee in Ireland, Nick McCarthy of Beechwood introduced Dr. McGowan who spoke eloquently and compellingly about how the fifty biographies were selected for the book, related how the lives of individuals profiled reflected the breadth and diversity of Irish immigrants who settled here, and the influence they had upon Canada.

Other notable authors present at the event: Joanne Kellerman, author of “*Robert Gowan*”, Ralph W. Mahar author of “*Frank Platt*”, Michael McBane, author of “*John Egan*”, and Nick McCarthy author of “*John Macoun*”.

Submitted and edited by Clare O’Connell Noon, with thoughts from Nick McCarthy and Ralph W. Mahar.



Dr. Mark McGowan



Dr. Eamonn McKee



OTTAWA GIRL MAKES GOOD IN PWHL

Dia huit mo chara! It is my pleasure to introduce Rebecca Leslie! Rebecca Leslie is aimn di.



Rebecca Leslie was born in Ottawa, Canada 30 years ago this past month. Back then, I doubt anyone would have thought that by 2026 Ottawa would have a Professional Women's Hockey team and this bright young player, born on May 8th, 1996, would wear jersey #37 for her home team, shoot right and play forward!

Speaking of forward! Let's dive into Ottawa's Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL) team for a moment! The Ottawa team name was inspired by Ottawa's official motto "Advance – Ottawa – en Avant". Go forward! Charge! And secondly because of the region's long history with electrical innovation. Anyone who has been to the Chaudière Locks will

understand how hydro electricity has shaped our region. Lastly, Ottawa Charge was aptly named because historically the logging term used to describe a stack of lumber was a "charge".

Rebecca Leslie began her professional hockey career when she attended Boston University from 2014-2018. While attending university Rebecca studied business administration and management in the Questrom School of Business.



While playing four years for the Boston Terriers Leslie recorded a spectacular 171 points over 139 games! Leslie also holds the all-time program record for career assists with 102. **Ceart go lor!** Additionally, while at Boston U, Leslie earned her place as Captain of the Women's Division 1 Hockey Team (The Terriers) for her final 2017-2018 season. That year the women's ice hockey team competed in Hockey East with a notable season that also included a special trip to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to play in the Friendship Series tournament. But this was not Leslie's first time to shine abroad! Notably, in 2014 Leslie represented Canada at the International Hockey federation U-18 Women's World Championship and brought home a gold medal!

Post university hockey and pre-PWHL Leslie worked for the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG) as a representative for corporate sponsorship.

Perhaps, the most rewarding part of Leslie's past and future is her founding of the **Do It for Daron Foundation (DIFD)**. DIFD supports education, awareness and research initiatives at *The Royal* that encourages young people to talk openly about mental illness. Daron was a good friend and teammate of Leslie's, and she founded DIFD to honour her friend's sudden passing and evoke change.



OTTAWA GIRL MAKES GOOD IN PWHL Cont.

Leslie has accomplished a number of hockey milestones since her time in Boston. Including her first career assist in the PWHL on January 5th, 2024. On March 8th, 2024, Rebecca scored her first goal against Elaine Chuli of Montreal Victoire. Rebecca joined the Ottawa Charge on June 24, 2024, and earned 3 points that season. Now there are records. And then there are RECORDS. Rebecca was the first player in her collegiate program's history (Boston College Terriers) to record 20 goals and 30



assists in the same season 2017-2018. I looked it up. It's a big deal. For both the Men's team and the Women's team. It's no wonder she was made Captain.

This past week on Monday, May 18th Leslie scored the game winning goal against Montréal Victoire with 56 seconds left in regulation time!

Teammate Jocelyne Larocque stated after a game "She's an incredible player but most importantly, a great teammate".

Currently, the Walter Cup play offs are under way. Ottawa and Montréal teams are competing in a five-game series. Rebecca Leslie is looking to make a difference; on and off the ice! For more information on Rebecca Leslie, please go to Google and search: Rebecca Leslie, PWHL. For hockey statistics and standings search thepwhl.com

Rebecca currently resides in Ottawa, Canada with her partner, Cody Caron. A former professional hockey player, Caron now works on the coaching team for the Carleton Ravens Hockey Team.

Go Charge!!!

Barbara Ann Vocisano

Photo credit to Kent Johnston

IRISH SENSE of HUMOUR + FATHER'S DAY = IRISH DAD JOKES

They're silly, groan-worthy, and they're impossible not to laugh at.

Did you hear about the fella from Mayo born with two left feet? *He went out and bought some flip-flips!*

What do you call a Dublin fella who likes breaking up fights? Liam Malone.

Why did the buffalo say to his son as he left the house? Bison

Paddy and Mick see a sign "Tree Fellers Wanted." Mick says, "Shame there's only two of us."

Why did the leprechaun climb over the rainbow? To get to the other side.

Paddy's carrying a wardrobe. "Why not get Mick to Help? "He's inside carrying the clothes."

https://www.tartanvibesclothing.com/en-ca/blogs/culture/best-irish-jokes?srsltid=AfmBOoo2MJxy_fD6sT-efCJZ91RLnoA8ohLLiUXMW0cYCCXfdenJ3YzF



What is *Canada-Ireland 180* All About?



Canada-Ireland 180 is a major 2027 cultural initiative commemorating 180 years since the 1847 Irish famine migration. The purpose is to *remember* the 1847 migration, to *reflect* on the 180 years of shared history and to *reimagine* future collaborations. The new cultural initiative was launched by the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD, as part of his visit to Toronto and Ottawa, in January this year (see photo).

The Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and the Department of Foreign Affairs have committed a minimum of €1.2m (\$1.95m CAD) for the initiative. It will feature a nationwide season of contemporary Irish art, performances, exhibitions, and academic exchanges across Canada in a variety of locations from intimate to high-profile venues, as well as institutions and festivals.

Funding for the initiative will be awarded under two strands:

- Strand 1 - this funding is provided by Culture Ireland to support the presentation/touring of work by Irish professional artists, usually based in Ireland, covering all art forms at Canadian venues, festivals, galleries and institutions. Irish and Canadian organisations are eligible to submit for funding.

Culture Ireland was established in 2005 and operates within the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport. It aims to support Irish artists to promote their work internationally and to build relationships and network with arts and cultural organisations in Ireland and abroad.

- Strand 2 - this funding is provided by the Embassy of Ireland to Canada to support projects involving Irish artists and organisations based in Canada. Canadian organisations and institutions and Irish diaspora organisations based in Canada are eligible to apply for this funding.

Proposals from artists and their representatives, curators, venues and presenters interested in participating in this special programme were invited. Expressions of interest for artists and cultural organizations closed in April 2026.

Mary Garry

Sources:

<https://www.ireland.ie/en/canada/ottawa/>

<https://capaco.ca/en/international/funding-opportunity-irish-performances-ready-for-canadian-touring/>

<https://www.cultureireland.ie/>



Bloomsday 2026

The James Joyce Association of Ottawa have teamed up with the **Ottawa Celtic Choir** to make Bloomsday in Ottawa something special. Together they will present a concert **of Songs and Stories from Dublin** in the Sanctuary of St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts **on Saturday, 13th June 2026 @ 7pm.**


JAMES JOYCE
ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA


THE OTTAWA CELTIC CHOIR
www.ottawacelticchoir.ca

Present

Songs and Stories from Dublin

An Irish concert celebrating the works of James Joyce

Saturday, June 13, 7 pm

St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts
310 St. Patrick's Street, K1N 5K4

Tickets \$30 (includes a glass of wine) available at the door and from Eventbrite.
<https://tinyurl.com/ycy9e7vs>
<https://jamesjoyceassociationofottawa.com/>



The evening has something for everyone: from Joyce aficionados to people discovering his work for the first time. But apart from all that, it's an occasion to get together and have some fun.

Bloomsday marks the exact single day in 1904 when all the events in James Joyce's epic novel *Ulysses* take place— a day in the life of Leopold Bloom who wanders through Dublin. In recent years, it has become an international festival to celebrate *Ulysses*, Joyce and other things Irish.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdcvhscu>

The first known Bloomsday celebrated in Ireland was in 1954 on the 50th anniversary. On June 16, Ottawa celebrated Bloomsday for the first time with a special James Joyce concert at the National Art Centre.

Adapted from letter by Paula McCann



PLAY WELL!

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

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!

Scan the Code to Register

RAISING FUNDS FOR YOUTH AND SENIOR PROGRAMS!
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CALL OR TEXT 613.304.5705 FOR MORE DETAILS

In collaboration with the Irish Society of the NCR, the Fairmont Château Laurier donated a gift certificate valued at \$400 to the SFH Golf Tournament funds, which will support the promotion of Irish Youth Dance in Ottawa.



FAMOUS GOLF QUOTES

“If you watch a game, it’s fun. If you play it, it’s recreation. If you work at it, it’s golf.” – Bob Hope

“Golf is a game whose aim is to hit a very small ball into an even smaller hole, with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose.” – Winston Churchill

“The reason the pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can’t see him laughing.” - Bill Murray

"A golf course is nothing, but a poolroom moved outdoors." - Barry Fitzgerald

<https://hideawaygolf.com/famous-golf-quotes/>



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The Meaning of Several Celtic Knots

Celtic knots come in a variety of forms, but they are always unending knots with no clear beginning or conclusion symbolizing togetherness and highlight the cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth or love, happiness, faith and friendship.

The knots, which were once mostly used in religious artwork, are now in many aspects of our lives.



Triquetra, or the “Trinity Knot”

In Latin triquetra means “three-cornered”.

The Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit

Earth, Wind and Fire

Past, Present Future

The Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone.



Celtic Love Knot

Two interlocking hearts interwoven to create one unbroken line.

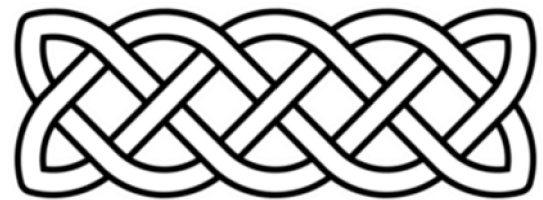
The unbroken line symbolizes the enduring nature of love, while the linked hearts show two people united in love.

Love knots are believed to have originally been exchanged between two people as a symbol of devotion and love, much like wedding bands are now.

Sailor’s Celtic Knot

Features two interwoven ropes with an infinite loop.
Believed to have been created as a way of remembering their loved ones when the sailors were out at sea.

It is an enduring symbol of love and friendship, often used today on wedding bands.



Celtic Shield Knot

Each of its four different corners is connected by interwoven lines, forming a circular with four quadrants. They connect in an unbreakable bond, symbolising protection. In addition to being used in battle, it has historically been given to the sick to fend off evil spirits.



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"Lá na nAithreacha Sona Duit" (Happy Father's Day)

June 21, 2026

As Father's Day is just around the corner, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the incredible fathers and father figures for their love, support, wisdom, and guidance.

In ancient Celtic societies fathers were the protectors, providers as well as the keepers of wisdom and traditions. One such tradition was the sharing of tales of heroism, folklore, and family history through storytelling. These were opportunities to instill values and preserve cultural heritage.

The date of the first Father's Day is unclear but in 1966 US President Lyndon B. Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as the official day to honour our fathers and to be known as Father's Day. Sunday was selected to give families a chance to celebrate without the constraints of a workday.

No matter how you celebrate your day may it be an amazing one with wonderful memories!



"A father is someone who walks in front of you when you need footsteps to follow, behind you when you need encouragement, and beside you when you need a friend." ~ Unknown

