



Scéala

The Newsletter of An Cumann / The Irish Association of Nova Scotia * November 2012 Mí na Samhna

Irishtown—Downtown Halifax Cultural District

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>New Punch book</i> | 2 |
| <i>Pictou Co. Irish Day</i> | 2 |
| <i>NS Irish Open Golf</i> | 2 |
| <i>Christmas Party</i> | 3 |
| <i>Irishtown street signs</i> | 3 |
| <i>Re-Jigged Festival</i> | 3 |
| <i>Imeachtaí / Events</i> | 4 |

On Tuesday, November 13th, at 11:00 am, Ireland's Ambassador to Canada, Ray Bassett, and Halifax's new mayor, Mike Savage, will unveil an interpretive panel acknowledging Halifax's Irishtown. The panel is located on Lower Water Street, across from the Brewery Market. Troy Doyle, Past President of An Cumann, and Brian Doherty, President of CIS, will take part in the ceremony.

In the early years of Halifax and also for much of

the 1800s, the people living in several blocks along the southern part of Lower Water Street in Halifax were predominately Irish. Locals called the area Irishtown.

Early in the 20th century, the Irish began to move to other parts of the city. They were replaced by others who came to Halifax from around the Province. Eventually most of those newer arrivals also moved on, but no one replaced them. Irishtown was nearly forgotten.

One person who did not

forget was renowned Halifax genealogist and historian Terry Punch. When Terry spoke on the subject at an An Cumann AGM, Board member Tony O'Carroll was inspired to have Irishtown recognized once again. For several years, Tony and the Board pursued the idea.

Members of An Cumann and CIS are invited to The Old Triangle on Tuesday evening at 7:00 for a reception marking the occasion. Ambassador Bassett will take part in the festivities.

Notice of Annual General Meeting, December 6

An Cumann's Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday, December 6th, 2012, starting at 7:30 pm, in the Secunda Boardroom on the 4th Floor of the Sobey Building at Saint Mary's University. The Sobey Building is located

off Robie Street, at the southern end of the campus.

Besides reports for the past year and elections for the coming year, the AGM also provides members with a chance to talk with

old friends.

After the business meeting, there will be musical entertainment and refreshments. All members are encouraged to attend and to bring a friend.

AGM

Dec. 6, 7:30 pm

Secunda Boardroom

4th Floor

Sobey Building

Saint Mary's University

North America's Maritime Funnel:

The Ships that Brought the Irish

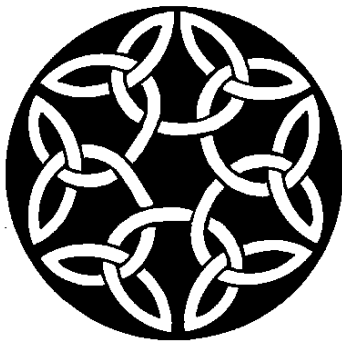
The latest book by Terrence M. Punch

Genealogist and historian Terry Punch has published the fourth in his series of books on Irish immigration to Atlantic Canada. The latest book, *North America's Maritime Funnel: The Ships that Brought the Irish*, was launched at the main branch of the Halifax Memorial Library on November 6th. Like the other books in this series, the latest was published by Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland—www.genealogical.com.

The book documents more than 1000 voyages from Ireland to the Maritimes between 1749 and 1852. Only 123 passenger lists have survived from those voyages, but, because of Terry's encyclopedic knowledge of the subject, many others are linked to the vessels from other sources.

By its nature, this book is less complete in form than those which preceded it. Nevertheless, for those of us continuing the quest to find our Irish ancestors, *North America's Maritime Funnel* is essential reading.

Pictou County Irish Day



An Cumann's "Pictou County Irish Day" was an artistic success.

The Celtic Circle, in New Glasgow, a former church converted into an impressive cultural performance space, was the

site this past summer of the Association's first venture into Pictou County.

The afternoon included a dance workshop led by Elizabeth MacDonald and music workshops

under the direction of Glen Coolen and friends.

There was a lively céilí in the evening, along with fine food.

With a little help from our new friends, we'll be back.

Nova Scotia's Irish Open Golf Tournament

Once again this year, Brian Doherty and The Old Triangle sponsored the Irish Open Golf Tournament at Glen Arbour Golf Course, just outside Halifax. This year's tournament drew over 80 players and, for once, they weren't treated to wintry winds. The putting contest was as challenging and popular as always. No one won the car at the hole in one contest, but An Cumann's President, Dave Moriarity, and Past President, Troy Doyle, enjoyed meeting all the players as they passed by talking about the one that got away.

For years now the Irish Open has been An Cumann's biggest source of funds. It has enabled An Cumann to support Irish cultural events and activities in Nova Scotia. We hope even more of our members will take part next October.

An Cumann's Christmas Party

Once again this year An Cumann's Christmas Party will take place at The Old Triangle in Halifax.

Each Sunday afternoon at The Triangle the (adult) Irish dancers get together for a couple of hours of fun. Music and singing follows. Adding a large contingent of An

Cumann members to the mix will make for a great time altogether.

C'mon down. Bring your kids: they always enjoy themselves. Bring your granny: she'll be able to make her own fun. It's a spot for all ages.

You'll enjoy the food, the entertainment, the

atmosphere and the chance to wish all your friends from An Cumann a Merry Christmas.

Nollaig shona duit.

Merry Christmas

Nollaig shona duit

Irishtown street signs

The historic Irishtown district in downtown Halifax will be commemorated by more than the interpretive panel on Lower Water Street across from the Brewery Market.

Several street signs on Lower Water and Hollis Streets will have the words "Historic Irishtown" added to them.

Irishtown was a popular name for an area which did not have official status in its day. It had the name because most of its residents were Irish. Many of the residents, Irish and otherwise, worked on the crowded wharves along the Harbour in the City's earlier days.

From now on, anyone walking on or near the waterfront will be reminded of Halifax's Irish heritage.

Re-Jigged Festival a hit once again

Re-Jigged, the little Celtic festival that could, continues to go from strength to strength.

This year's festival took place all day and all evening on Saturday,

October 20th, at Christ Church Hall and other venues on Ochterloney Street in Dartmouth.

Music, singing and dance workshops taught by the best around, fol-

lowed by great performers and a stellar céilí: what could be better?

Congratulations to Glen Coolen, Elizabeth MacDonald and everyone who helped them.

Would you like to be on An Cumann's Board of Directors for 2012-13?

Past President Troy Doyle, chair of the nomination committee, is looking for you.

Clár Imeachtaí / Schedule of Events

Tuesday, November 13, at 11:00 am—Lower Water Street, Halifax, across from Brewery Market—**Unveiling of Irishtown interpretive panel**—All welcome.

Tuesday, November 13, at 7:00 pm—The Old Triangle, corner of Bedford Row and Ptince Street—**Reception with Irish Ambassador Ray Bassett to mark the recognition of Irishtown**—All An Cumann members are welcome.

Thursday, December 6, at 7:30 pm—Secunda Boardroom, Sobey Building 4th Floor, Saint Mary's University, Robie Street, Halifax—**An Cumann's Annual General Meeting**, followed by entertainment and refreshments—All An Cumann members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, December 16, 2:00 to 5:00 pm—The Old Triangle, corner of Bedford Row and Ptince Street—**An Cumann's Christmas Party**, dancing, music, singing, munchies—All members welcome. Bring a friend.

SMU Irish Language Teaching Assistant

The Ireland Canada University Foundation Irish language teaching assistant at SMU's Chair of Irish Studies for 2012-13 is Sean "Shane" O Ruairc, a Dubliner with masters degrees in History and Irish from University College Dublin. Like his three predecessors, Shane has a good opinion of Halifax and Canada.

An Cumann Information

- "An Cumann's main object is to foster knowledge and enjoyment of Irish and Irish-Nova Scotian culture throughout the province."

An Cumann / The Irish Association of Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of Nova Scotia since 1990. An Cumann's main object is to foster knowledge and enjoyment of Irish and Irish-Nova Scotian culture throughout the province.

An Cumann holds Irish Heritage Evenings and occasional workshops

and special events from time to time throughout the year. Most of the activities take place at various locations in the Halifax Metro area, although special events are scheduled at times elsewhere in the province.

This newsletter, Scéala, is published two to four times each year.

Dues are \$15. per year, \$20. for a family membership.

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