

Scéala

The Newsletter of An Cumann / The Irish Association of Nova Scotia * July - August 2013 Iúil - Lúnasa

July 20th—an evening of Irish songs and stories

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Mossie Scanlon, sean nós singer, and **Cian Ó Móráin**, multi-instrumentalist and storyteller, return this month for their second Tour of the Maritimes.

Mossie and Cian are both from Dingle in County Kerry, and are native Irish speakers.

Mossie learned sean nós through the oral tradition. He emigrated to Australia, and sings songs of The Transportation as



well. Cian, a doctor by profession, is an accomplished musician and storyteller.

This year's Tour by Mossie and Cian includes concerts and storytelling workshops in Halifax, Fredericton, and

Charlottetown.

The Halifax concert, sponsored by An Cumann, will take place on **Saturday, July 20th**, starting at **8:00 pm**, at **The Music Room**, 6181 Lady

Hammond Road. Canadian harper **Alys Howe** will also perform.

Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the door, but seating is limited.

For advance tickets or further information, call 240-5278 or email lfeinstein72@hotmail.com.

Some Irish Language sources on the Web

- Beo.ie—monthly newsletter—partial glossary
- Foinse.ie—weekly newspaper—partial glossary
- Tg4.ie—Irish language television—some subtitles
- Rte.ie/rnag—Irish language radio

Feis Nova Scotia, August 4th

Irish dance performers from far and wide will display their talent at Feis (pronounced *fesh*) Nova Scotia 2013 on Sunday, August 4th.

The contest, held every second year, will take place at

the Homburg Centre (The Tower) at Saint Mary's University, starting at 9:00 am.

From 7:00 to 9:00 pm Sunday evening, the Feis will conclude with a Céilí at the Atlantica Hotel (by the



Willow Tree). Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Music will be provided by The Narrows (Jon Goodman, Colin Carrigan, and others) and dances called by Elizabeth MacDonald.

Halifax Gaels GAA Club - Bliain ambáin ag fás (one year and growing)

by Shane O'Ruairc and Pearse McCarron

The story of Irish settlement in Halifax is a long one stretching back centuries. While there has always been a steady stream of Irish crossing the Atlantic to work and live, recent years have witnessed a swell in numbers of young Irish people in many Canadian cities. Halifax and Dartmouth, one of the major urban centers in the Maritimes, has likewise seen a gradual increase in the amount of Irish residents. Early in 2012 a small group of young, and not so young, Irishmen and women came together with the idea of forming a club to play and promote Gaelic Games in the HRM and within the wider region of Nova Scotia. The club was named the Halifax Gaels, and commencing with a group of ten individuals has grown threefold within a year.



The club has led somewhat of a nomadic lifestyle around the city in the context of training arrangements. Numerous indoor and outdoor public facilities have been utilised; namely the Garrison Grounds, Halifax Commons, Graves-Oakley Memorial Park and the George Dixon Centre. Attendance at weekly sessions has been consistently good with numbers ranging from a summer- high of twenty to an average of ten hardy souls during the 'fresher' days of Canadian winter. One notable aspect of the first year has been the steady stream of Canadians attending training sessions, many of whom are now fully-fledged members of the organisation. The club feels strongly that this local participation will be a key element in its long-term success.

July the 7th 2012 was an historic day for the Gaels as it marked its first ever gaelic football and hurling matches. These were played against St. Johns Avalon Harps from Newfoundland at the Wanderers Grounds in Halifax and many of the community came out to enjoy the event. 2013 is already shaping up to be a busy year. The Gaels flew the flag for Nova Scotia by participating in Montreal's annual GAA tournament over the long weekend in May. At the event Halifax competed against well-established clubs from Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, Ottawa and the US, and used the opportunity to foster relationships with other GAA organisations. Moreover there are plans to play further games throughout the summer; firstly hosting teams from Quebec and Ontario here in the city, and following that with a possible trip to Newfoundland to continue the pleasant rivalry with friends in St. Johns.



Since its beginnings a little over a year ago a small but dedicated group has successfully laid foundations for what will hopefully be a major sporting HRM. This success has been due to generous funding and sponsorship from Old Triangle, Durty Nellys, Halifax, and An Cumann. The current crisis in Ireland showing no likely that Canada will be immune to the economic malaise. Further Irish interest from those in the region, means that the future there is optimism that the club will flourish over the coming years, and beyond.



and cultural organisation in the HRM. This success has been helped in no small part by generous funding and sponsorship from Admiral Insurance, The Charitable Irish Society of Halifax. With the current unemployment real signs of abating it seems promising for the Gaels and club will continue to grow and

In the words of an Irish language proverb: De réir a chéile a thógtar na caisleáin (Bit by bit the castles are built).

Saint Mary's Northern Ireland Conflict Resolution Project

by Erin McIntosh

In February 2014, Peaceful Schools International, Saint Mary's University and Barnardo's UK Children's Charity will be commemorating 10 years of collaboration in promoting peace education and conflict resolution in schools both in Halifax and in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Each year a group of Saint Mary's students have created and facilitated workshops in Halifax, while diligently fundraising to make their way to Belfast in order to work in Integrated, State, Catholic Maintained and Irish Language schools respectively. The notion that peace cannot come from merely wishing for it or mandating it is the fundamental principle behind peace education. By providing students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to resolve conflicts peacefully, Saint Mary's students hope to build a sustainable culture of peace within a wide range of schools in Northern Ireland.

As part of our 10 year celebration we will be coordinating and facilitating a distinctive peace education conference to be held in Belfast next February. Invited speakers will include Martin McGuinness, General John de Chastelain and noted academics representing Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster. In addition, we have invited Dr. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's and Dr. Pádraig Ó Siadhail of the Saint Mary's Irish Studies Department to attend this conference along with many other special guests – the most important of said guests however, remain the children and youth of Belfast who themselves will be delivering a variety of unique presentations underscoring the positive impact of our decade long endeavour to respectfully and humbly promote peace education in Northern Ireland.

This conference will certainly serve to further solidify the ties between Halifax and Belfast. It is also important to highlight the fact that over the past 10 years this project has greatly impacted the lives of over 100 Saint Mary's University student facilitators, many of whom continue to promote peace education long after they have graduated from the university. This project would not be possible without the support of many remarkable people and organizations, such as An Cumann and the Charitable Irish Society. Clearly, the past decade has been a great success for everyone involved in this extraordinary project and with continued support we look forward to another ten years of working closely with the people of Northern Ireland as they bravely move forward to achieve a more peaceful society.

2013 Old Triangle Irish Open Golf Tournament—New location

Many of the faces will be the same (if a year older) and the *craic* will be just as good, but this year's Old Triangle Irish Open will be played at a different golf course: **Granite Springs**, in Bayside, on the Prospect Road. The date will be **Friday, October 4th**. Players and volunteers are needed.

For registration and information, watch The Old Triangle's website: www.oldtriangle.com.

An Cumann Info

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.

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

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Email: info@ancumann.org

Web: www.ancumann.org and on Facebook.



Congratulations to Brian Doherty, Nova Scotia's first Honorary Consul of Ireland.

A Maritime Ramble

with
Muiris (Mossie) Ó Scanláin
and Cian Ó Móraín



*Come and join these native Irish speakers
from the heart of the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht
on the Dingle Peninsula
for an evening of Music, Song and Story*

Date and Time - Saturday, July 20th, at 8:00 pm
Place - The Music Room, 6181 Lady Hammond Road, Halifax
Sponsor - An Cumann / The Irish Association of Nova Scotia
Tickets - \$20 - available in advance by calling 240-5278 or at the door

For further information, write to lfeinstein72@hotmail.com

www.mossiescanlon.com