

Scéala

The Newsletter of An Cumann / The Irish Association of Nova Scotia * March 2010 Márta

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig

Lots of Activities during St. Patrick's Week

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- St. Patrick's Day Céilí
- Wednesday, March 17th
- 7:00 pm
- St. Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, Halifax
- Tickets \$15 for adults and \$5 for children
- Call 240-5278 or email us at irishns@chebucto.ns.ca
- Irish stew, Irish music and Irish dancing

St. Patrick's Day will soon be upon us, so let's get ready to celebrate.

Why not start things off at the annual Cyril Byrne Lecture at St. Mary's University, held in memory of the man who established the Darcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies. This year's lecture, to be held on Friday, March 12th, at 7:00 pm at the University's Theatre Auditorium, will be delivered by the celebrated author Alistair MacLeod.

Then on Saturday, March 13th, starting at 11:30 am, everyone is invited to take part in the third annual St.

Patrick's Day Parade sponsored by the St. Pat's Church Restoration Society. (Details on page 2.)

On the morning of the 17th itself, starting at 7:00 am, The Old Triangle will host its annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast (held in part for the benefit of An Cumann).

That evening An Cumann invites everyone to come to its St. Patrick's Day Céilí for Irish stew, music, dancing and singing. This year's location is St. Thomas Aquinas Church Hall on Cornwall Street in Halifax (near Oxford and Jubilee). The price is \$15 for

adults and \$5 for children.

Two other big events in Halifax that evening are the Charitable Irish Society's St. Patrick's Day Dinner (7:00 pm at the Marriott Harbourfront—\$70) and a 25th anniversary concert by Evans and Doherty at Casino Nova Scotia (8:00 pm—\$25).

The week's events will conclude on Friday evening, March 19th, at 7:30 pm, with a lecture at the SMU Art Gallery concerning the historians who first wrote about Ireland's "Wild Geese" in the French military.

Dinner With Irish Ambassador Declan Kelly, April 29th

Irish Ambassador Declan Kelly will be in Halifax on Thursday, April 29th, at 7:00 pm, for a dinner in aid of the Holy Cross Cemetery Trust.

The dinner will take place

at the Atlantica Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn) at the Willow Tree intersection.

There will also be a silent auction.

Tickets are \$100. Pur-

chasers will receive a tax receipt of \$60 per ticket.

To order tickets call Lorraine at 454-2488 or Helen at 850-2468.

Come for a fine evening and support a great cause.

An Cumann
Is
On
Facebook
Now

Cúntóra do Theagasc na Gaeilge / Irish Language Teaching Assistants

Thanks to the Irish government and the Ireland Canada University Foundation, there are Irish language teaching assistants at six Canadian universities this year, including both Saint Mary's and St. Francis Xavier in Nova Scotia.

Each of the teaching assistants has an Irish language degree, teacher

training and teaching experience.

Neasa Ní Chuaig, the assistant at Saint Mary's, is a native Irish speaker from the Conamara Gaeltacht, west of Galway City. In addition to teaching the introductory Irish course at SMU this year, Neasa also meets each week with An Cumann's Irish language

discussion group, led by Cork native Vera Dútin.

The assistantships last just one university year and are not renewable. Saint Mary's expects to have another assistant next year. Now that they've been spoiled by Neasa, An Cumann's Gaeilgeoirí will have high expectations of her successor.

Thall agus Abhus / Here and There

An Cumann has presented **Brian Doherty** with a framed certificate thanking him for his many contributions to the association over the years. **Kevin Evans** and Brian have been performing as **Evans and Doherty** for over 25 years and are still going strong, although Kevin commutes for gigs these days from Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

An Cumann's new President, **Troy Doyle**, a management consultant, brings a wealth of business experience and creative ideas to the position. Troy, along with new board member **Dave Moriarity**, an account executive, is looking to bring new life to An Cumann's website. Dave has already brought An Cumann to Facebook.

Don Sullivan, a founding member and director of An Cumann, did not reoffer for the Board of Directors this year. It would be impossible measure how much Don has done for An Cumann in the last 20 years. What can be said with certainty is that we owe him a great debt of gratitude. We wish him well in his new role as President of the Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia.

Dinner With
Ambassador Kelly
In Aid of Holy
Cross Cemetery
April 29 at 7:00 pm
Atlantica Hotel
For Tickets Call
454-2488 or
850-2468

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Congratulations to the St. Patrick's Church Restoration Society for sponsoring its third annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held this year on Saturday, March 13th, beginning at 11:30 pm.

The parade route will start

on Agricola Street, north of Young, then proceed south on Agricola and North Park, east on Cornwallis and north on Brunswick, finishing at St. Patrick's Church.

Come join us behind An Cumann's banner and help

the continued revival of this old Halifax tradition.

Following the parade there will be a lunch, complete with music and Irish stew, in the Church Hall. Price: \$10.

For more information, call 429-4170.

2010 Board of Directors

At the Annual General Meeting held December 3, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Select, Halifax Centre, An Cumann's membership elected its officers and directors at large for 2010.

OFFICERS:

President—Troy Doyle

Past President—Pauline Hingston

Secretary—Pat Curran

Treasurer—Mary Rose Poirier

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Paul Brennan, Kelly Curran, Helen Ferguson, Esther Lancaster, Sandra Low, Ron MacEachern, Dave Moriarity, Cynthia O'Reilly, Tony O'Carroll, and Colm Stockdale.

Cúinne na mBall / Members Corner

Scéala exists mainly for the members of An Cumann. We want to include items that interest you.

We plan to publish several issues this year.

Please pass along your comments and suggestions. We won't know unless you let us know.

The best way to reach us is to send us an email message at

St. Patrick's Day
Breakfast
The Old Triangle
March 17th
7:00—9:30 am

2010 Cyril Byrne Memorial Lecture at SMU

Alistair MacLeod, whose novel and short stories have portrayed Gaelic Cape Bretoners coming to grips with the non-Gaelic world around them, is a fitting person to deliver the annual lecture in honour of the late Cyril Byrne. In large measure, Cyril established the

Chair of Irish Studies at SMU so as to help preserve the Gaelic language traditions of Ireland, Scotland and Cape Breton.

MacLeod, author of the critically acclaimed novel "No Great Mischief", will read in its entirety his short

story "The Closing Down of Summer", long considered a masterpiece.

The event, described in Saint Mary's advertising poster as "One Night, One Story, Once in a Lifetime" will take place at the Theatre Auditorium in the Mc-

Nally Building on Friday, March 12th, starting at 7:30 pm.

There is no admission charge, but demand for seating is likely to exceed supply. "An Evening with Alistair MacLeod" should be an evening to remember.

2010 Canadian Association of Irish Studies Conference at SMU

"Ireland and its Discontents: Success and Failure in Modern Ireland" is the theme of this conference, which runs May 19-22 at SMU. The conference could be described as an Irish cultural festival. It will feature not only lively academic debate on a variety of topics, but also literary and cultural events sure to interest a wide audience. A highlight will be a performance by the young and highly regarded traditional *sean-nós* singer, **Lasairfhiona** (pronounced Lah-sah-reena), from the Aran Islands.

The C.A.I.S. Conference comes to Halifax about once in a decade, so this is an opportunity not to be missed. The registration fee for members of An Cumann and C.I.S., as well as students, is \$85.00, one half of the full fee to be paid by everyone else. The \$85 fee covers the entire three days of the conference, except for the closing banquet for which there is a separate \$50 charge.

For further information and a link to the registration form, go to <www.smu.ca/academic/arts/irish/>.

Clár Imeachtaí / Schedule of Events

Friday, March 12, at 7:30 pm—Saint Mary’s University Theatre Auditorium, McNally Building—The **Cyril J. Byrne** Annual Memorial Lecture—Renowned author **Alistair MacLeod** (“No Great Mischief”) will read his short story “**The Closing Down of Summer**”. Admission is free.

Saturday, March 13, at 11:30 pm—Starting at Agricola at Livingstone, south on Agricola and North Park to Cornwallis, east on Cornwallis to Brunswick, north on Brunswick to St. Patrick’s Church—The third annual **St. Patrick’s Day Parade**, sponsored by the **St. Patrick’s Church Restoration Society**. Music and Irish stew to follow in the Church hall. Walk the parade route behind An Cumann’s banner.

Wednesday, March 17, from 7:00 am—The Old Triangle, corner of Bedford Row and Prince Street, Halifax—**St. Partick’s Day Breakfast**—Start the big day right and greet all your friends at the Irish heart of downtown Halifax.

Wednesday, March 17, at 7:00pm—St. Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, 6350 Cornwall Street, Halifax (near Oxford and Jubilee)—**An Cumann’s St. Patrick’s Day Céilí**. Irish stew, Irish music, dancing and singing. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. For further information send us an email at irishns@chebucto.ca. or call 240-5278.

Friday, March 19, at 7:30 pm—Saint Mary’s University Art Gallery—**Irish historian Thomas Barrett** will present a Darcy McGee Irish Studies lecture entitled “**Early Historians of the ‘Wild Geese’ in French Service, 1830-1950**”. There is no admission charge.

Tuesday, March 23, at 7:30 pm—The Old Triangle (Snug), corner of Bedford Row and Prince Street, Halifax—“**Kitchen Theatre**” - Join friends from An Cumann in pleasant surroundings to read part of a Brendan Behan play and discuss the playwright’s life and writing.

Tuesday, March 30, at 7:00 pm—Room 255, Sobeys Building, Saint Mary’s University—Saint Mary’s **Irish Studies Film Club** presents the Irish film “**The Secret of Roan Inish**”. An Cumann members are welcome. No admission charge.

Friday to Monday, April 2-5—The Titanic House, 989 Young Avenue, Halifax—**Scaip na Cleití** Irish set dancers present their **Annual Easter Weekend Workshop**, led once again by **dance teacher extraordinaire Pat Murphy**. For further information check their website at www.setdancingns.com.

An Cumann Information

An Cumann / The Irish Association of Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of Nova Scotia. 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 in the fall, winter and spring and occasional workshops and special events throughout the year. At the present time, many of the activities take place at St. John The Baptist Church Hall, 26 Purcell’s Cove Road in Halifax, although some happen at other locations in the Halifax Metro area and elsewhere in the province.

This newsletter, Scéala, is published three or four times each year.

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

Address: P.O. Box 27153, Halifax, NS B3H 4M8

Phone: 902-240-5278

E-mail: irishns@chebucto.ns.ca

http:// ancumann.chebucto.org/

Thanks to new Board member Dave Moriarity, we’re now on Facebook.. Check us out.