

THE SHAMROCK LEAF
NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH CANADIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

109 Roy Ave.,

Newcastle, N.B.

E1V 3N8

Farrell McCarthy - President & Editor
#9

November, 1986

I hope that everyone had a beautiful and restful summer. Fall is the time to get back on schedule. Part of that schedule for many of us is the beginning of the fifth year in our "Irish" activities in New Brunswick.

This is our ninth newsletter. We will bring you up-to-date on the events that have taken place since June. Take special note of the happenings in different places in New Brunswick that are being organized by some of our Chapters this fall.

We ask you also to take special note of the short article on dues. The Association has been very generous to those who have joined or renewed their dues since Dec. '85. However, our generosity has almost depleted our funds. I am sure your response will rectify the situation.

This Newsletter will also include a variety of short happenings and News Tips that may be of interest to many of you. It will also include a survey form which we would ask you to respond to. This is a grass roots organization and we want you to make sure we keep it that way.

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A meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, November 15th at 10 A.M. at St. Thomas University - Fredericton, N.B.

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Celtic Fall Fest - Fredericton, N.B.

Nov. 14, 15, 16 - 1986

The Fredericton Chapter of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick is sponsoring a very interesting and entertaining Irish Cultural Weekend. It is being hosted by St. Thomas University. Take special note of the following program. All events are being held at St. Thomas University.

Friday - Nov. 14 - 8 P.M. - "Here Are Ladies" - \$5.00 per person - A Play - Women Seen Through The Eyes of Irish Writers.
A reception will follow in the faculty lounge.

Saturday - Nov. 15 - 2 P.M. - Lecture Series - Irish Echoes - Can-Irish Lectures in honour of the late Alden Nowlan
- Prof. Fred Cogswell - Alden Nowlan - Irish Maricimer
- Harold Wright - Irish Immigrants and Partridge Island
- Dr. Diarmuid O'Muirithe - The Two Traditions of South-East Wexford

The lectures are short and they will be followed by a reception in the faculty lounge -

9 P.M. - Barley Bree Pub - St. Thomas University - \$7.00 per person - Cafeteria

Sunday - Nov. 16 - 11 A.M. - Church Service - Holy Cross House - St. Thomas University - Followed by lunch in the Cafeteria

1 P.M. - A Presentation of a cheque of \$500 by Farrell McCarthy, President of ICCA of N.B. to Monsignor George Martin, President of St. Thomas University. The money will help the University to buy a number of Irish Books.

Continuation of Lectures

Dr. Stewart Donovan - S.T.U. - Two Traditions of Irish Humour

Dr. Russ Hunt - S.T.U. - Jonathan Swift "In Ireland, On Ireland, For Ireland"

Dr. John & Bernadette Meagher - "Ireland as Seen Through Its Writers"

Reception to follow in Faculty Lounge.

For those attending some or all of the events, the Condor Motel, Fredericton, has a special rate of \$30 + tax per night.

A great Irish Cultural weekend is being planned by a dedicated group of people in Fredericton. Guy Rsoidon, Fredericton is the President of the Fredericton Chapter. His telephone number is 454-9117 re ticket information.

You may also notice that the program is structured in such a way that time is given to "meet and chat" with each other after each event - A great idea!

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"Airs of the Isles" - Saint John, N.B.

The Saint John Chapter of the ICCA of N.B. is putting on "A Musical Treat For All Tastes". The Irish Harpist Eithne Heffernan of Toronto, and formally of County Kilkenny, Ireland will be the featured performer. Her voice and playing will captivate you as the 1000 people who saw her in Saint John in March '86 know.

The Award Winning St. Vincent's High School Choral will be giving their first local performance since their international competition in Europe.

Jim Stewart, a well known local musician, will perform Irish and Scottish numbers on the Irish Tin Whistle.

Ron Maloney (pianist), a Saint Johner, who leads the Maloney Family Group will accompany Eithne Heffernan for some of her numbers. She will give "A Tour of Ireland" by song.

Friday - November 21 - 8 P.M. St. Vincent's High School, Cliff Street - Saint John, N.B. Tickets - \$10

Tickets from any director or Dr. Danny Britt, 10 Prince Edward St., Saint John, N.B., E2L 4M5 634-7421 or 847-8408

Dr. Danny Britt was re-elected President of the Saint John Chapter of the ICCA of N.B. at their annual meeting held in Saint John on Oct. 5th. They are beginning to make plans for ten or eleven days of activities for their 3rd Annual St. Patrick's Week Celebrations in March. A complete detail of events in next Newsletter plus list of directors.

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Frank Patterson - Chatham, N.B.

"Ireland's Greatest Tenor....a major artist" - New York Times. Frank Patterson will be appearing in concert at James M. Hill Shool Theatre Auditorium, Chatham on Friday, Oct. 24th at 8 P.M.

"Patterson is masterfully accompanied on the piano and Irish harp by his beautiful blonde wife, Eily O'Grady. Together they present a most artistic and charming picture indeed" - New York Daily News, June '82.

Tickets - \$15.00 advance - \$18.00 at door. It looks like a sell out before curtain time - It is being sponsored by the Miramichi Folksong Festival under the capable leadership of its director - Susan Butler - Proceeds to the Dr. Louise Manny Monument Fund.

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D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies

Dr. Diarmaid O'Muirithe of University College, Dublin has just recently been appointed the first head of the Chair of Irish Studies at St. Mary's University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 3C3. He is a well-known scholar in the Irish language and in Folklore. He is the editor of "The English Language in Ireland" (Mercier Press-1977) and has taught classes in the Irish Language for Radio Telefis Eireann. He is now teaching the Introductory course in Irish at St. Mary's.

In her correspondence with me, Dr. Margaret Harry, Ph. D. Assistant to the Chair of Irish Studies, states that "In addition to the provision of courses for undergraduates, the Chair is also intended to be a centre for research and publication. Among our future plans, we hope to establish a computerized data base on Irish Immigration to the Atlantic Provinces which will become, in the course of time, an invaluable source of information for researchers. We also hope to begin a series of publications on various aspects of the Irish heritage in Atlantic Canada.

Very exciting times for Irish research, etc. in Atlantic Canada. If possible, we would like to assist the Chair in some small way in the future. Dr. O'Muirithe will be one of those involved in the "Celtic Fall Fest" in Fredericton.

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Irish Books

I had a number of requests for a list of Irish Books, prices, etc. Some want them for their own reading, Christmas gifts, etc. I will list the title of book, author, number of pages, price (which includes postage and handling), HB (hard cover), PB (soft cover). I will also include a very short description of some - Make cheques out to Farrell McCarthy.

1. Paddy's Lament - Thomas Gallagher - \$24.95 - HB - 345 pages. A best selling book on The Irish Famine and the trip across the Atlantic on the Mersey
2. Talamh An Eisc - Canadian and Irish Essays - edited by Dr. Cyril Byrne and Dr. Margaret Harry - \$15.95 - PB - 255 pages. Includes 14 different essays on The Irish Heritage and The Irish in Canada.
3. Grosse Ile - Gateway to Canada - 1832 - 1937 - Marianna O'Gallagher - \$15.95 - PB - 184 pages. It includes chapters on The Famine Immigrant on Grosse Ile and, among other things, list 619 orphan Irish Famine Children.
4. The Churches and Abbeys of Ireland - Brian de Breffory - \$16.95 - PB - 208 pages. It gives a first hand account of some 300 surviving old churches and abbeys - Many pictures.
5. The Course of Irish History - Moody & Martin - \$21.95 - PB - 490 pages. Twenty-Two top scholars write on all aspects of Irish History.
6. The Aspect of Ireland Series - 1. Early Irish Art - 2. Irish Art from 1600 - 3. Irish Sculpture from 1600 - 4. Anglo-Irish Literature - 5. The Irish Language 6. Sports in Ireland - \$6.95 each - PB - 70 pages. Each one written by an expert. Lots of coloured pictures - Set of six for \$36.00.
7. The Voice of The People - Songs and History of Ireland - Mulcahy & FitzGibbon - \$13.95 - 200 pages - PB - Some 100 Irish Songs, many with the music to them - What is so interesting about this book it also has the history behind most of the songs.
8. Buntus Foclora - A Children's Irish Picture - Dictionary - \$12.95 - 60 pages - HB - A large book - Over 1000 words and full of coloured pictures.
9. Falls Memories - Gerry Adams - \$8.95 - PB - "A lovely read nicely illustrated... I would recommend it to anyone with or without a knowledge of Belfast local history - and that goes for the Shankill Road and Sandy Row as much as the Falls." - The Irish Times.

- 10. Facts About Ireland - Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Dublin - \$13.95 - 260 pages - PB - A glossy type of book that has hundreds of colourful pictures on all aspects of Irish Life - past and present Will make you proud of the country of your ancestors.
- 11. The Surnames of Ireland - MacLysaght - \$12.95 - 315 pages - PB - Has brief information on some 3000 Irish family names.
- 12. My Fight For Irish Freedom - Dan Breen; Guerilla Days In Ireland - Tom Barry - \$5.95 each - paperback - 200 pages - The story of two young Irishmen who took part in the fight for Irish freedom in early part of this century.
- 13. A Prose and Verse Anthology of Modern Irish Writers - Edited by Grattan Freyer - \$15.95 - 309 pages - PB - It has prose, drama and poetry by 28 Irish writers.
- 14. Learner's Irish - English - English-Irish Dictionary - O'Siochfhradha - \$8.95 - 319 pages - PB.
- 15. T.P.P. Splinter and Friends Tape - Some 12 Irish jigs and reels and Irish Traditional music. You heard them all at the Irish Festival for three years and at St. Patrick's Week Celebrations-Saint John - They are the best Irish Traditional music group in Canada - \$10.00 + \$1.00 mailing cost.

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Is It New Brunswick or Canada

In the June Newsletter I covered the "agony" that I experienced in the dropping "of New Brunswick" as a part of the name title of our Association. I received about thirty comments on renewals and letters on the topic. It was about 30 to 1 in favour of keeping New Brunswick.

I must take part of the responsibility for it since I allowed it to go through without proper study by both the board and the members. Two things, among many, seem to come through in the comments. (1) We would lose our identity as a Provincial Association, (2) It would take a few hundred thousand dollars and a full time staff to carry on a National Association. We would love to see other provinces start similar Associations as ours, and we would be willing to help them, but the work, etc. must be done by them. A federation of provincial Associations would be the result of this.

Our Association was incorporated in July as The Irish Cultural Association of Canada. Shawn O'Toole, a member of our board, and a member of a Fredericton law firm, did the work. During our board meeting in Fredericton I will check into the possibility of having New Brunswick brought back as part of name. Shawn is also looking into the possibility of getting a Charitable # for the Association.

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Dues

I stated at the beginning of this Newsletter that we were a little too generous in the package that we sent out to those who renewed or joined for the first time since December '85. We must always be considerate to our members because they are "the association". However, the cost of the package has almost depleted our funds to run the association.

The 600 mailings have included the following: "A Little History of Ireland" book - \$5.00; a lapel pin - \$2.00; An Irish Tourist Board Magazine - free; cost of mailing - \$2.00 - Total cost of package - \$9.00. It cost \$1.00 to print and mail each newsletter. Members receive three a year - \$3.00. During the past year if you joined as an Individual (most do), then you received at least \$12.00 worth of material for the \$15.00 Individual dues. Chapters in Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton and St. Stephen received \$2.00 assessment out of the \$15.00 dues.

I do not apologize for our generosity to these 800 members (about 30% join as Family members). We have some 600 homes where there is "A Little History of Ireland" book, some 60 pages, with a glossy attractive cover. However, we cannot send anymore if we wanted to. Irish Books and Media we cannot get anymore. I did receive another 100 copies of "Ireland - The Unexpected Pleasures", that is put out by The Irish Tourist Board. It is a very attractive and colourful magazine and has lots of information on Ireland in it (46 pages). These will be sent along with your membership card to those who join or renew in the future.

We have quite a number of members whose dues are due. A red checkmark on the membership form on the last page will indicate if yours are due. A number of people who joined in 1984 have not paid their dues. If you do pay now, you will not be charged for back dues. Your dues expired one year later from the month that you pay. This system seems to work quite well and I must thank you for your good response in the past.

I have ordered 500 more lapel pins - The bill will be around \$800. Those who join as individuals will receive one, family member - two.

I must thank those who have been very generous in sending extra stamps in the past - Helene Kummer of Cambridge, Ont. and Bill Brennan of Saint John, N.B.

Early Irish History Poster Map of New Brunswick

New members will also receive this map, which was the first project that we undertook in 1983. It was done by Peter Rafferty, Riverview and Rev. Leo Hynes, Moncton. We made the final payment last month. The Association owed \$6000 of the \$11,000 bill. We have been paying \$200 every two months or so. We were awarded a \$5,000 Bicentennial grant. Your dues again at work plus the sale of the maps.

As a special Christmas offer we will mail the maps to you for \$3.95. We have a number of laminated ones, which will cost \$6.95. Ordinarily it would cost about \$8.00 to get one laminated. We got them much cheaper because we got 100 laminated. We will have an Association booth at the Celtic Fall Fest and you may buy maps, Irish books, renew or join, etc. at that time. If you order maps or renew etc., make the cheques payable to the Irish Canadian Cultural Association (of New Brunswick).

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Bits and Pieces

In late May, I was asked to write an article for "The Atlantic Advocate", a monthly magazine, that has a readership of 150,000 in the Atlantic Provinces plus subscribers in every province and most states. Although, very busy at the time, I found this an opportune time to describe Irish Festival '86 and to more or less record the founding of the Association. The editor wanted a 2000 word article based on these two premises.

The article, along with pictures, appeared in the July '86 issue of the magazine. The magazine sells for \$1.95 on the newsstand and if interested the address is "The Atlantic Advocate", P.O. Box 3370, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 5A2.

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"Man without a cultural past is like a piece of floating debris" Carl Jung.

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"Irish Summer Schools Directory" published by Inside Ireland, Rockwood, Stocking Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16, Ireland. They also publish "Property Ireland" which consists of four quarterly digests of interesting real estate for sale in Ireland.

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On the address label this time you will notice that it also has the month/day/year when you last paid your dues. They expired one year later; e.g. 2/25/85 - would expire 2/25/86. This person's dues would have expired 10 months ago. If you renew we will start the renewal when you pay until one year later.

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Fred Hazel, Editor-in-Chief of the Telegraph Journal and Evening Globe, Saint John did a seven part series of articles on the Trip to Ireland that was taken in August by 41 people, mainly from the Saint John area. We all enjoyed the well written and informative series. The title of the final article caught my attention. "Ireland: It's Ready When You Are". This pretty well sums up anyone's trip to Ireland: You have to see it to believe it, then you will say I see what you mean.

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Joseph A. King, a Genealogist and Irish Historian from 1161 Nogales St., Lafayette, California 94549, telephone # 415-934-8196 did a series of articles in the Times - Transcript, Moncton. It tells the story of a group of Irish Methodists and Irish Catholics who settled side by side in the small community of Williamstown, on the Miramichi in the 1820's. Ellen Harrigan Lucey, Bing Crosby's great-grand aunt, lived on the Miramichi briefly in the 1840's. Joe King's ancestors are from this small community, Williamstown, N.B. - Very interesting reading.

Joe will send you the article for \$2.50, the cost of reproduction. He states that "Canadian currency is O.K." Maybe Brian Mulroney (P.M. of Canada) should get Joe King to talk to Ronald Reagan (Pres. of U.S.) concerning the 15% duty that the Americans are imposing on Canadian softwood.

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Members of the McGrath Family assembled in Moncton, N.B. on July 26, 1986 for their second re-union. They are the descendants of Edward McGrath (a twin) James McGrath and Bridget MacMahon of Ballynahon, Co. Langford and Dublin who arrived in Bedford, N.S. about 1868 from Ireland. For further information contact Dr. Constance MacGrath Baird - Apt 515, 310 Woodward Ave., Saint John, N.B., E2K 2L1.

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The American Committee of Irish Studies has approximately 1500 members in United States, Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Members receive the following: the twice yearly ACIS Newsletter; a subscription to the twice-yearly Irish Literary Supplement (50 pages) and "A Guide to Irish Studies", a catalogue of Irish Studies in the United States, membership \$15 in U.S. funds - Mail to James Donnelly, Jr., History Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI 53706.

The ACIS will hold its 25th Anniversary annual Meeting in Dublin - June 28 - July 4 - 1987.

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Urgent Need for New Members - The Canadian Association of Irish Studies (CAIS) puts out a Canadian Journal of Irish Studies (biannually) - a CAIS Newsletter (biannually). Its 20th Annual Conference will convene at University of Saskatchewan, February 18 - 21, 1986. The theme will be "Irish Poetry: Regional and International Concepts". Details from Ronald Marken, University of Saskatchewan, Dept. of English, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0.

Membership - 1 year - \$25 - Student/Senior - \$15. Dr. Deirdre Edward - Secretary - Treasurer, CAIS, 51 Chesterfield Avenue, Montreal, Que. H3Y 2M4

I want to thank Michael Kenneally, English Dept., Marrisonopolis College, 3880 Cote des Neiges, Montreal, Que., H3H 1W1 for mentioning our Association in his recent Newsletter. Mr. Kenneally looks after Canadian subscription for the Irish Literary Supplement - \$7.00 per year. The magazine is A Review of Irish Books.

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Gerald F. McDonald, 1347 Rivermist Drive, Lilburn, GA 30247 recently sent me a copy of his recently completed Family Tree of "The Ancestors and Descendants of Josephine M. Donovan (Walsh), Frank J. Donovan, Monica A. Donovan (McDonald), Sister Sarah P. Donovan (CND), Sister Alvera C. Donovan (CND), and Aaron B. Donovan of Renous, New Brunswick. It consists of 100 typewritten pages and is well organized. People like Mr. McDonald must be complimented for gathering such material for future generations. There are many of you out there who are doing the same thing. Let me know and I will mention your Family Tree in future Newsletters.

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Did an Irish monk discover America? An exhibition touring the Netherlands called "Brendan - The Irish Odysseus" explores the possibility that Irish monks may indeed have sailed to America in the leathe-hulled boats along a "stepping stone" northern route via Scotland, the Shetland Islands, the Faroes, Iceland and Greenland. This voyage may have taken place some 1000 years before Columbus discovered America in 1492.

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Treoir - A magazine of Irish Traditional Music, Song and Dance - Usually about 50 pages - 4 times a year - orders in Canada to be forwarded to: Ms. Sally Carroll, 891 Copwell Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4C 3G1 - \$10 per year.

I noticed in the latest edition of Treoir an article heading Canadian Dance Champion. It states that "A 13 year old East York (Toronto) boy, was placed third in the World Championships of Irish Dancing held in Ireland during Easter Week. The article caught my interest when I noticed that it went on to say that "Ryan Carroll, who is the son of Sally Carroll, Treoir Manager in Canada, also came first as the best overseas dancer has held the title of Canadian Champion for three years in a row."

Congratulations Ryan!

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Hilarion and Patricia O'Leary Coughlan, Fredericton were the lucky winners of a Trip for Two to Ireland drawn on the last day of The Irish Festival - July 21st. The trip was the compliments of Centennial Travel, Newcastle and Air Canada. Times-Transcript, Moncton donated \$500 and four nights accommodations at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. Patricia and Hilarion spent two weeks in Ireland during September. We look forward to their many slides and comments.

As President of Irish Festival Inc. '86 and on behalf of the Committee I would like to publicly thank Centennial Travel, Air Canada and Times-Transcript. Times-Transcript ran a three-quarters of a page ad on the trip for about three weeks. By doing this, they advertised the festival also and the free type of advertising came to several thousand dollars. We sold tickets (\$2 each) on the trip and all proceeds went to the festival.

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We are planning an "Irish Afternoon" in Dalhousie on November 23rd. We hope this will be an opportunity to become a little more active in the North-Eastern part of the province. Our director; Dave Furlotte, Dalhousie will organize it. More details by local paper later.

We would also like to have an "Irish Gathering" in North-Western part of the province sometime in the future.

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Our Association has a membership of approximately 1163.

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A group in the Carleton County have been working for over a year on the history of the Catholic Church in that area. Leo Campbell, a member of our board, Alice Culbert and Alice Gullivan have done much progress. Research is being done on St. Leo's, Florenceville; St. Bartholomeu's, Clearview (River-de-Chute); St. Bonaventure's Williamstown (Lakeville) and St. Joseph's, Newburg. Leo is especially interested in the "Irish Catholic community which began to grow in that area about 1810." Research on the Irish Community at Florenceville and Clearview is proving to be a little difficult. If you have any information contact Leo Campbell, P.O. Box 1636, Woodstock, N.B., E0J 2N0.

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I attended the regular meeting Oct. 26th of the Moncton area Chapter of the Association that meets on the last Sunday evening of each month. I was able to have a very good discussion with the members of the Chapter present on the pros and cons of a provincial or national Association. I must thank Frank Corcoran, Q.C. President, and the members for the way things evolved. The Moncton area Chapter, which covers Westmoreland, Albert, and Kent County also had a very successful booth at Women's World '86 at the Coliseum.

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The Canadian Irish

Picking shamrocks along the Miramachi

by Aileen Carroll

Circling Northeastern New Brunswick's Acadian Peninsula in rain and fog, we might still have been in Quebec, for every road sign and shopfront's message was in French. But that Cead Mile Fáilte banner stretched above the road just outside Chatham must have marked a boundary. From it to the Lord Beaverbrook Arena, site of the Can-Irish Festival, I'm sure I counted enough green ribbons, shamrocks, and Irish flags to deck South Boston on St. Patrick's Day.

As for the crowd inside the arena, for them, it was Patrick's Day in July. Jimmy Carton's devoted followers, and he had several hundred in the audience, sat at the tables, eating, drinking, and clapping. Meanwhile, the serious shoppers traveled the booth circuit, acquiring the weekend's uniform of green tee shirt and cap, or browsing at the book stands, sampling potato fudge, and talking family history with the New Brunswick Genealogical Society representative.

I was contented to watch the crowds in their "forty shades of green." My favorite sights were a small boy with the brightest of red hair and the greenest of shirt and shorts, and a round man across whose ample tee-shirt front was emblazoned, "I'm Irish, what's your excuse?"

But the decorations were eye-catching too. I admired the committee members' aerial artistry, hanging the Canadian Maple Leaf and the Irish flag, draping miles of green, white, and orange bunting 20 feet overhead, and placing golden harps and whistles or glistening green shamrocks high on the walls. But the placards with local family names in Irish and English and the beautifully lettered posters with quotations from Yeats, Connolly, and other famous Irishmen forged a strong link with Ireland's cultural past.

And in a way, that link is what this festival is all about, for its president, Farrell McCarthy, is also president of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association, a four-year-old organization dedicated to collecting and preserving the records of the Irish experience in Canada. To date, members have to their credit a handsome historical map of Irish settlements in New Brunswick, and an Irish-Canadian history of the province, written by Professor Peter Toner of the University of New Brunswick at Saint John and soon to be published.

McCarthy himself is a veritable dynamo. On Friday, he was busy with the myriad details of an undertaking which involved ten bands, several thousand listeners, and such ancillary activities as a parade,

road race, concert, films, and lectures. Yet he took time to explain how the festival, a first in New Brunswick, came into being three years ago. His Cultural Association, already involved in its Canadian-Irish history projects, decided that the best way to showcase Irish culture—music, literature, crafts and food—was through a festival.

They went ahead bravely with plans for first-class entertainment, recognizing that the necessary \$45,000 budget was quite a bit for a town of approximately 7,000 people to underwrite, if the festival did not succeed.

Of course, it did, and it is growing fast. This year, McCarthy estimates, 10,000 people will have taken part in the merry-making on the Miramachi.

But not all of them will be "from away." Chatham and its sister town of Newcastle are Irish towns and have been since the early 1800's. Some of the immigrants, having landed first in Newfoundland, were drawn to this land along the Miramachi River where work was to be had, fishing, lumbering, or boat building. Others came to this area directly, landing first at the Middle Island quarantine station nearby. But some of the Irish who first settled here, moved on, in slack times, to the "Boston States." Many of their descendants come back to Chatham for the festival.

For them and other tourists, historic St. Michael's Church museum and family-history archives were open all day throughout the festival so that they could renew old associations.

By the time Farrell had filled me in on the festival's background, Jimmy Carton had given way to another Toronto band, Molly Maguire. The crowd was getting larger and even more enthusiastic as people began coming in after work.

And speaking of music, the committee had planned something for everyone—traditional airs, poignant emigrant ballads, pub favorites, and stirring patriotic songs.

Some of the liveliest applause, it seemed to me, was earned by the County Tyrone Pipe Band and Irish Dancers, here from New York for their third appearance at the Can-Irish Festival. Musicians from this group and the local Miramachi Celtic Pipes and Drums gave the audience a sampling of the most haunting of Irish music, and the dancers in their jewel-toned velvet costumes embroidered with the Celtic designs added to the beauty and pageantry.

My own shopping spree in the booths along the perimeter of the arena turned out well. I bought a hand-knitted tam in a heathery shade of green, fashioned by Lilly Keating who, with her sister Marnie, presided over Ceilian Crafts, and just about everything the girls sold, from fudge to caibins was their own handwork—except the whiskey-laced Irish fruit cakes, of course; those were imports from Dublin.

I passed up the jewelry and the shamrocks in every form, though the ones in the wooden-deer planters were certainly flourishing, but I spent a pleasant half hour examining the book offerings at several stalls. They had everything from an Irish joke book to the history of Irish art and a translation from the original Latin of the voyage of St. Brendan.

Since we had been traveling for days, we decided to skip the first evening's pub session although we'd be missing both Paddy Noonan and Pat Roper, but we needed to save our energy for Saturday's activities.

They began with a full Irish breakfast served by the willing workers of St. Michael's Church. Never mind that the potatoes were gone before our plates came around. Someone had had too heavy a hand feeding the early arrivals, and frying eggs, bacon and sausage for 500 is no mean feat for amateurs!

The parade, a first this year, began about 10 a.m., and though we were "small in numbers," I'm sure it was "the finest in the land." Families marched behind their respective banners, and onlookers of the same name were urged to fall in. The lively Saint John contingent carried a handsome banner proclaiming theirs as "Canada's most Irish city." Another of their signs advised us that we had only 225 days to St. Patrick's.

In memory of John Vondy, the young doctor who volunteered to care for the Irish Famine victims quarantined at Middle Island and who died of the same infection that killed many of his patients, one parade float carried a replica of the roughly-built quarantine house and a Celtic cross set in a tiny grove of New Brunswick fir trees.

Bringing up in the rear was a sleamhan drawn by two big draft horses. In earlier days, I was told, it would have been provided for those too old or young to walk the route, but everybody aboard seemed pretty lively.

Although music played all afternoon at the arena, we opted

for Professor John Meagher's lecture held at the junior high school. With his wife Bernadette, he gave a literary history of Ireland from the mythological past to the present. The Meagher's recitations, complete with props, delighted the audience. I liked best the anecdote he used to illustrate the Irish way with words. This one was a classic among putdowns ... Poet Patrick Kavanagh found a garrulous woman in his group a great source of annoyance, and when he passed the drink, he skipped her.

Herself: Can't you see I have a mouth on me?

P.K.: How could anyone miss it, and it like a skipping rope between your ears?

By pub time, we were ready to make up for what we'd missed the night before. In no time at all, Paddy Noonan had the crowd clapping, tapping, dancing, and singing; and where he left off, Pat Roper took over. All in all, it was a grand, friendly evening.

Perhaps that word friendly would describe the festival as well as any, for we came as strangers and immediately found friends—and as a seventy-seven-year-old lady confided in me, as we clapped along with Pat Roper, "It's a place where an unescorted woman can come and feel at home." So can everyone else!

The festival lasted three full days, but we did not. Sunday morning was hot, but my husband took part in the 10k "Run for the Green" along the Miramachi from Newcastle to Chatham.

At 1 p.m. I joined the crowds filing into St. Michael's Church while the County Tyrone Pipe Band played outside. The beautiful old church, the Mass itself, the choir, and the boys and girls singing "Suffer Little Children," the Irish and the Canadian National Anthem with which we closed, all were, for me, a part of Can-Irish Harmony, a festival which lived up to its name and its heritage.

For Prospective Festival-Goers:
This year's festival was held July 18, 19, and 20. For information about next year's program, contact Farrell McCarthy, Irish Festival, Inc., Chatham, New Brunswick. The Chatham-Newcastle area has several motels. Accommodations in private homes are also available for the three-day weekend, but it is important to make reservations early, for groups or for individuals. Full Irish breakfasts are served at St. Michael's Church. Festival-goers can also buy Irish Stew or Corned Beef and Cabbage throughout the afternoon and early evening. The area has enough restaurants to accommodate the overflow. Parking is never a problem, nor is the weather, for all events are held indoors.

Are you interested in getting The Irish Times or any other daily or weekly paper from Ireland. The Saturday edition has a new magazine section also. It sells for about 90¢ in Ireland. Stanley Plitt, 230 East 44th St., New York, N.Y. 10017 has begun to make this paper or any other available. If interested contact him. In talking to him, he states that for 13 weeks it would cost \$45 in U.S. funds. Price subject to change. Air mail postage is high. He may check into surface mail rates. It should be noted that this is one paper per week.

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NOLLAIG SHONA DUIT...
(or, Merry Christmas to you!)

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Most of this Newsletter was given to the typist before the Frank Patterson Concert that I mentioned earlier. Edna and I, along with about 600 others, were certainly "uplifted" by one of the greatest voices to come to New Brunswick - Frank Patterson. He was accompanied on the piano and harp by his wife Eily O'Grady. What made the concert even more gratifying was the warmth and pleasant "jibs" that develop between the performers and the audience early in the evening and grew in intensity as the concert progressed. A bus load of forty-five were there from Saint John. I am sure that we will see Frank Patterson in a number of places in New Brunswick in the future.

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Eileen Carroll, Portland, Maine attended this year's Irish Festival and wrote a full page article on it for the Boston Irish Echo. It is printed in the Newsletter. It is good to see how someone from outside looks at the event, and we are indeed pleased with the article. Not only does this article show that we are on the right track, but it is helping to make it so well known in both Canada in the United States.

We held our annual meeting in September and the executive was returned for another year - Farrell McCarthy - President; Teresa McEachern, Vice-President; Lynn Trevors, Secretary; and Margaret Bowes - Treasurer. Some twenty committees are being formed to plan the big event. Some one hundred volunteers were involved in the '86 event.

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Our lapel pins are becoming very popular. The third order (500) is on its way. They are \$2.00 each.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

THE IRISH CANADIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK,

109 Roy Ave., Newcastle, N.B., E1V 3N8

NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

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Please include your thoughts and comments as this is "your" Irish Organization and it is important to know everyone's interests and concerns:

Enclosed, you will find my cheque money order covering Annual Membership for myself our family.

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Please state clearly how you want your name typed on your membership card.