



The Shamrock Leaf

newsletter of the irish canadian cultural
association of new brunswick

VOL. 1, NO. 1

October, 1983

I hope that this will be the first of many newsletters that will be put out on a regular basis. Since we are scattered throughout the province, and even much further, it is necessary to have a means to communicate with each other.

I hope to have a correspondent in each of the six regions of New Brunswick. Anyone of course can keep us informed on any aspect or anything relating to Irish culture, etc. in New Brunswick and even beyond.

I will edit the first newsletter. If possible, I would hope to have a person who would look after the succeeding newsletters.

* * *

I am very pleased with the growth of our association. We now have 150 members. The great majority of our members are from New Brunswick, although we do have a few from Ontario, Quebec, New York, and California.

Mr. John Murphy, one of our Vice-Presidents, and his family have moved to Windsor, Ontario. John was one of the original organizers. He helped in every way possible to get us started and will continue to support us in Ontario.

* * *

I would like to publicly thank the St. Patrick Society of Saint John, and the St. Patrick's Society of Bathurst for the financial help that they have given to us. The Society in St. John gave us \$200.00, and the Bathurst Society donated \$100.00. We will approach the other Irish Organizations in the province for a donation. I think that everyone realizes that the Irish Organizations that exist in the province serve a great function for arranging St. Patrick's Day events.

Since we are a Cultural Organization, whose main function will be to revive, and promote all aspects of Irish Culture, then other Irish Organizations may want to help us financially.

* * *

Please read front pages of newsletter first. The back pages are mainly concerned with books, etc. and late items that came in after the newsletter was run off (one side of page only.)

I am mentioning a few books, etc. since you may want to order some for yourself and as Christmas gifts.

On Wed. Oct. 12 I was appointed to the Bicentennial Commission. Below is the announcement from the Premier's office that was in The Daily Gleaner, Fredericton on Thursday. I am very pleased with this appointment, and I am confident that interesting things are possible for 1984.

Commission Member Appointed

Premier Richard Hatfield announced Wednesday the appointment of Farrell McCarthy of Newcastle as the ninth member of the New Brunswick Bicentennial Commission.

"The Miramichi area has played a major role in the history of our province, and therefore it is essential the area be represented on the commission," the premier said.

"I am confident, with the appointment of Mr. McCarthy, the bicentennial commission will be in a better position still to fulfill its mandate."

Vice-principal at the Harkins Junior High School and a social studies teacher, Mr. McCarthy received a bachelor of arts (1964) and a bachelor of education (1970) from St. Thomas University.


A Grand Falls native, Mr. McCarthy began his career as a teacher at the Westfield School in 1964. A year later, he became principal at the Douglastown School before accepting his



Farrell McCarthy

current position in 1967. Mr. McCarthy is president of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick. He is a member of the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation and the Canadian Association of Irish Studies.

He is married to the former Edna Daley of Barnaby River.

 **ACADEMIC PRESS CANADA**

PADDY'S LAMENT: Ireland 1846-47: Prelude to Hatred by Thomas Gallagher. A powerful, important account of the great famine, which will shock and move the reader, evoke compassion and fury, and add substance to Ireland's bitter, undying hatred for England. **\$19.50**

IRISH IS AS IRISH DOES

On the last census, almost 45,000,000 people claimed to be Irish.

If your pride in rare parents/grandparents lasts longer than the 24 hours of March 17, send a (tax-deductible) check for \$25 for membership in the most effective Irish organization in the U.S. — and the only one for which the President of Ireland is the official patron.

You will receive not only *Ducas* and other publications but you also earn the blessing of being an important part of the largest Irish educational effort in the country. As a special mark of appreciation we'll send you by return mail a **FREE** copy of the handy *LITTLE HISTORY OF IRELAND*.

IRISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE
683 Osceola Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

According to the 1981 Census of the United States, almost 45,000,000 Americans stated they were of Irish descent. Millions of these have ancestors who came through the Port of Saint John, N.B. Along with honouring our ancestors with an Irish Historical Memorial Park on Partridge Island, the tourist potential for N.B. would be immense.

THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE...

It changed the history of three countries and the lives of eight million people

This is a journey of the Irish to America during The Irish Famine. You will not really understand the significance of Partridge Island until you read it.

Dept. BJR
 **HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH**
1250 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Please send me _____ copies of PADDY'S LAMENT at \$14.95 (170618-2). Include \$1.50 postage and handling with each copy ordered. Please add sales tax where applicable. Orders will be accepted on a pre-paid basis only.

The Association regrets the passing of Mr. Alden Nowlan in June. Mr. Nowlan was a member of our Board Of Directors from the Fredericton area. He was Writer - In - Residence at the University of New Brunswick. He was a poet and the author of a number of books. Mr. Nowlan was also a regular contributor to a number of magazines and newspapers.

Mr. Nowlan attended our Board Of Directors meeting in Fredericton on April 30th. We were invited over to the Nowlan's residence for a light lunch after our meeting.

On behalf of the Association, I wish to express our condolence to Mrs. Nowlan and their son John.

We will try to honour Alden's memory in an appropriate way in the future.

* * *

MEETING THE PREMIER

I received a surprising and pleasant call from Premier Richard Hatfield on Tuesday, September 27th. He invited me to come to Fredericton the next day for a meeting with him. The discussion dealt with the possibility of my becoming a member of the New Brunswick Bicentennial Commission. I had the honour of spending one and a half hours with the Premier. It gave me an opportunity to discuss some of the things that our Association hopes to do concerning the ways to honour the Irish in New Brunswick during our Bicentennial year and beyond.

The position on the Bicentennial Commission was offered with the understanding that I would represent all the people of the Miramichi area, and of New Brunswick. The Commission will take the part in the planning of different events to celebrate New Brunswick's 200th birthday in 1984.

The Premier certainly realizes that the Irish make up a sizable minority of our population, and that they should be honored in a proper way.

I wish to publicly thank the Premier for the honour of meeting with him. I will do my best to be an effective member of the Commission. I will also make sure that the Irish play an important role in New Brunswick's Bicentennial.

* * *

PARTRIDGE ISLAND IRISH HISTORICAL PARK

A meeting of this Committee was held at Dr. Danny Britt's home in Saint John during July. Dr. Britt is the Chairman of this Committee. Members present - Dr. Britt, William Griffith, Dr. Norman Garey, Hugh McLellan, Harold Wright, all from Saint John, Gerry McCarthy, from Moncton, and Farrell McCarthy from Newcastle.

The Celtic Cross on Partridge Island is being repaired with the aid of a \$500.00 grant from St. Patrick's Society of Saint John. Plans are being made to re-dedicate the cross sometime during our bicentennial in 1984. If possible, we will try to

have the President of Ireland pay our Country a state visit in 1984, and he would do the honour of visiting our province and re-dedicating the Celtic Cross. Let us hope that this would be the beginning of the development of an Irish Historical Park.

* * *

106th JOHNVILLE PICNIC

I would not have probably met with Premier on September 28th if it were not for the Johnville Picnic. I will explain what I mean later on.

The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick was very pleased to be able to have a booth at the Johnville Picnic on August 6th. Johnville is a country parish in Carleton County, New Brunswick. It is almost entirely settled by people of Irish descent. It's name originates from Bishop John Sweeney of Saint John, New Brunswick. Bishop Sweeney moved a group of Irish immigrants to the area from Saint John around 1860.

A Mr. Kilfoil has written a history of the area, and copies were available at our booth. Anyone interested could probably obtain a copy from St. John The Evangelist Parish, Johnville, New Brunswick.

The Johnville Picnic Committee gave the largest booth on the grounds to our Association. We had a large Irish and Canadian flag flying above the booth. The wind was quite brisk that day, and the flags really looked great. We had a large Irish Families Map on display, many Irish books, a stereo playing Irish music, and a petition that people could sign which stated their desire to have Partridge Island developed as an Irish Historical Park. Of course, we passed out brochures, and answered questions concerning our Association. The Premier and the Honorable Charles Gallagher visited our booth.

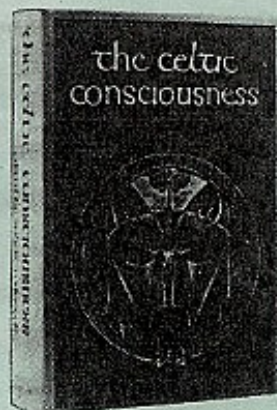
The Premier mentioned to me during my meeting with him on September 28th, that he was very impressed with our booth at the Johnville Picnic. Thus the Johnville Picnic certainly was the go between to my meeting with the Premier.

Our booth was maned by Cathy Byran of Douglstown, Farrell McCarthy of Newcastle, Benny Kilfoil of Fredericton, and Dr. Danny Britt of Saint John.

We also had two seperate showings of slides and a film strip. Farrell McCarthy showed a 15 minute film strip on the Famine Immigrants. Dr. Britt showed a slide presentation on Partridge Island.

We would like to thank Father Roy MacLean for the use of the Rectory for the showings. We would also like to thank Brian Richard - Chairman of the Johnville Picnic for the opportunity to use the facilities. The visit was made enjoyable by the help given to us by Benny Kilfoil, Edward McCullough, and Ann Brennan, all from Johnville and members of our Association.

* * *



THE CELTIC CONSCIOUSNESS

Robert O' Driscoll, Editor

Over fifty scholars contributed to this vast exploration of all aspects of Celtic civilization, from the ancient migrations to the Irish political and literary revival. An important work of scholarship, "initiating a new epoch in the history of the Celtic consciousness."

Joseph Campbell

\$40.00

Irish Literary Supplement, Spring 1983

At book stores or order direct from the publisher

George Braziller

ONE PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

This article appeared in The Globe and Mail, Toronto on Sept. 19/83 about the above book.

University of Toronto Professor gets book honor

A book by an University of Toronto Professor has been chosen outstanding Academic book of 1983 by The American Library Association.

Robert O'Driscoll's "The Celtic Consciousness", an exploration of Celtic Culture from 800 B.C. to the present day has become a steady seller in the U.S. and Australia. Originally printed in a \$125 per copy edition limited edition of 500 by McClelland & Stewart, it was re issued in the U.S. in a less expensive edition and promptly received critical acclaim.

NOW AVAILABLE: *The Crane Bag Book of Irish Studies*, volumes 1-5 complete. Over 1000 pages of Ireland's best literary journal. Introduction by Seamus Heaney (in this issue of the ILS). Hardcover with dust-jacket: \$37.50 (libraries and Canadian orders, \$40.00). See page 31 for ordering details.

Subscriptions:

U.S. (individuals) \$12

Canada and all libraries \$15

Make checks payable to *Irish Studies* and mail to:

Irish Studies

P.O. Box 333

Holbrook, N.Y. 11741

Copies of *The Crane Bag Book of Irish Studies* (a hardbound collection of the first ten issues, 1977-1981 with a preface by Seamus Heaney) can also be ordered from the same address.

Price: U.S. (individuals) \$37.50
Canada and all libraries \$40.00

PARTRIDGE ISLAND RESEARCH PROJECT

HAROLD E. WRIGHT
Co-ordinator

PO Box 6326 Stn. A
Saint John, N. B.
Canada E2L 4R7



DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING PARTRIDGE ISLAND (or Canada's
Emerald Isle)

Established in 1830 as a quarantine station (the first in British North America) this island is intimately tied to the immigration of the Irish into New Brunswick from 1830 until well into the 20th century. Many of the members are undoubtedly aware of some of this Irish connection.

The Partridge Island Research Project has been working with the Saint John Bicentennial Inc. in requesting the Government of Canada provide funding for a park on this island. Present development proposals call for a summer operated park only but on the long term it would be possible to have a year round facility.

The discussions are nearing the final stages so a decision and announcement are expected soon. Should you wish to add your voice to those already expressing support for an island park, please write your M.P. or Saint John MP, Mike Landers.

In addition to the above, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada met in June to decide whether Parks Canada should establish a National Historic Park on the island with relationship to the immigration theme and specifically detailing the Irish immigration. That announcement is also expected this fall.

If you are able to provide ANY informatin at all about any Irish immigrant into this province, please contact Harold Wright at the above address.

Dr. Danny Britt states that Mike Landers, M.P. has been very supportive of this project. I also have found that Mr. Landers is very supportive of our efforts. Please write to Mr. Landers, your M.P. and Hon. John Roberts to support this project. It does not require a stamp to write to any M.P.

Address:
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Also, please write to Premier Richard Hatfield about this project. The Premier is supportive of our efforts. Remember letters to Provincial Politicians require a stamp; Federal M.P.'s do not.

BOOK PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Book Publishing Committee was held in the Savage Room of St. Bernard's Parish, Moncton, On September 10th.

Members present were Kevin Mann Jr., Bathurst Chairman, Linda Evans, Claudia Richards, Father Leo Hynes, all from Moncton, John Collins, Jack Layden and Peter Rafferty, all from Riverview. Also present were Danny Fitzgerald, from Salisbury, Gail Walsh, from Dalhousie, Cathy Bryan, from Douglastown, and Farrell McCarthy, from Newcastle. Gerry McCarthy dropped in to let us know that he could not stay due to other commitments. Dr. Danny Britt, from Saint John, and Ann Brennan from Johnville also sent their regrets.

It was certainly a very productive meeting. Kevin mentioned a number of possible projects we could undertake. It was strongly felt by a number present that there was not enough time, etc. to write a series of pamphlets.

It was finally decided to produce an Irish Historical Poster Map of New Brunswick. Peter Rafferty is the Chariman of the Poster Committee and he has started to work on the project. This poster will be a excellent begining to show the "Irish Presence" in New Brunswick. It will be made available to school children, etc.

I have written to the Bicentennial Commission to see if they will fund such a project. The Commission will pay 50% of the cost, up to a maximum fo \$3000.00 for special projects.

Below are two reports from Peter Rafferty:

As Chairman of the Poster Committee, I am presently having a Graphic Layout made depicting the early history of the Irish in New Brunswick. We have a great deal of info but will be searching for more. You will be seeing a letter to the editor in most news papers in New Brunswick, both daily and weekly, requesting authentic information. We feel this poster is the best way at present to depict the story of the Irish. We are all aware of the distortion of early facts. This poster will definitely help to make the New Brunswick Irish people aware of their coming to North America, thus contributing to the Irish CDN Culture Association. You will like what we are planning.

Peter Rafferty
122 Torwood Ct.,
Riverview, N.B. E1B 2K5

The following letter was sent to a number of newspapers in N.B.:

LETTER TO THE EDITOR....

Sir:

Please submit this letter to your newspaper for publication. Thanks.

Irish to New Brunswick.

As Chairman of the Poster Committee for the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick, I am gathering

additional and precise information to be included on a poster, to be published during New Brunswick's Bi-Centennial year. Do you have any information about the early Irish in New Brunswick. From the Foundation of New Brunswick, Irish Immigrants and their decendants have formed a major component of our population. Even before 1784, there were Irish in New Brunswick. New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada become the premanent home for some, but for others a stepping stone in the future movement of the Irish into North America. We would like to know what you know.....Failte

Peter Rafferty.,
122 Torwood Ct.,
Riverview, N.B. E1B 2K5

If your town, village, etc., is one of the original Irish settlements in New Brunswick, please try to do the research yourself or contact someone who may be able to do it. You may know someone in other provinces or states who has information on your area.

If this letter has not appeared in your local paper, please send them a copy to be published in "The Letter To The Editor" section.

* * *

REGIONAL MEETINGS - THE MIRAMICHI AREA

We have divided the province into six regions. I plan to have a general meeting in each region.

We held the first meeting in the Miramichi area on September 22nd at the Loggie Cultural Centre, Chatham. We advertised it by means of the local papers, cable T.V., radio and by telephone. In all cases it was free advertisement.

We had a good turn out. In fact the majority of the people there were not members. We had invited anyone to attend.

I gave a brief summary of our progress to date. A 15 minute film strip on the Irish Famine was shown. After we had a general discussion that centered on a bicentennial product for the area. A group is willing to research, and possibly write a small pamphlet on "Middle Island". Margaret Bowes, Cathy Byran, Frank Keane and John Connell are willing to give the project a good try.

At this time I would like to challenge each region to do something in their area.

The Miramichi group is also very interested in getting a small Irish Cultural Centre on the Miramichi. A place where Irish books, records etc., can be made available to the public. It could also be a meeting place for the Miramichi Irish.

Plans are being made to see if it is possible to get a Winter Works or Historical Grant to fix up a small, but historical building in Chatham. I would like to thank Lillian Barry for the work that she has done on this project so far.

* * *

"MONCTON'S CATHOLIC ROOTS"

This is the title of a new book by Rev. Leo J. Hynes. It is the history of St. Bernard's Parish, Moncton. However, since this Parish was known as "The Irish Parish" in Moncton, then alot of the book deals with the Irish in the Moncton Area. Chapter Two is entitled " A Wave of Irish " - 1819. This book covers 240 pages. If anyone is interested, contact Father Hynes, 43 Botsford Street, Moncton, New Brunswick. E1C 4W9

* * *

"THE IRISH LUMBERMAN -FARMER"

This is the title of a book by Joe King of Lafayette, California. While researching his family tree a few years ago, Joe realized that his ancestors once lived on the Miramichi. Joe has written a very good book on the journey of his ancestors from Ireland to the Miramichi, and after a number of years, the journey to Maine, and Westward to Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The chapter on New Brunswick covers about 70 pages. My wife and I spent an enjoyable few days with Joe and his wife Betty when they visited the Miramichi in July of 1982, to launch his book.

This past summer Joe and Betty spent time in Ireland, especially the area where his ancestors came from. While researching the book a few years ago on the Miramichi, Joe discovered the name of the small village in Ireland where his ancestors originated.

Joe wrote a couple of articles for the Cork Examiner during the past summer. The articles mention the Miramichi, Bing Crosby's connections with New Brunswick, etc.. I will try to get the local and/or provincial papers to publish at least one of them.

"The Irish Lumberman-Farmer", by Joe King makes us realize that in many cases, we all have relatives who at one time or another, because of a variety of reasons, left New Brunswick and other parts of Canada to settle in the United States.

"The Irish Lumberman-Farmer"

By J.A. King
254 pp., 75 photos, \$15 + \$1. Mailing
1161 Nogales Street,
Lafayette, CA 94549

* * *

OTHER REGIONAL MEETINGS

October 21st - 8 P.M. - Fredericton

Centennial Building - Room G-12
Enter by St. John Street parking lot

Contact Person - Gerry O'Brien
250 Wright Street,
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 2E4
Telephone - 454-3651

If possible, members in the area will be telephoned. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please give them a call. The meeting in Chatham was a success because people were invited. Everyone Welcomed Meeting will be advertised on radio, cable T.V., news items in paper, posters etc.. Take advantage of all free advertisements.

* * *

REGIONAL MEETING - BATHURST AREA

October 28th - 8 P.M.

Contact Person - Mary Jane (O'Neill) Losier
930 Edgewood Drive
Bathurst, N.B.
E2A 3T3
Telephone - 546-9493

* * *

REGIONAL MEETING - MONCTON AREA

November 4th - 8 P.M.

Contact Person - Gerry McCarthy
6 Stanley Crescent,
Moncton, N.B.
E1A 4Z4
Telephone - 855-9152

St. Bernard's Parish Hall
43 Botsford Street,
Moncton, N.B.

* * *

Meetings will consist of :

- Progress Report from President of Association
Farrell McCarthy
- A short Irish Film
- Possible Bicentennial project for area
- General discussion
- Irish books, magazines etc., will be on display
- Coffee and donuts

* * *

Note - Meetings in Upper St. John River Valley area
and in St. John area will be held at a later date.

UPDATE REPORT - IRISH HISTORICAL
POSTER OF NEW BRUNSWICK

I received a reply from Mr. Winfield Hackett, the Executive Director of New Brunswick Bicentennial. Mr. Hackett states that "The idea of a poster map of New Brunswick pinpointing the different places where the Irish first settled would be a good project".

I also mentioned the possibility of a recording of Irish-New Brunswick songs. If anyone is interested in taking on this project, the Commission can consider funding up to a maximum of 50%.

Address - The New Brunswick Bicentennial Commission
P.O. Box 1984,
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1
Telephone - 506- 472-1984

* * *

CULTURAL GRANT

I have contacted different Federal Politicians again, including the Honorable David Collenette, the new Minister of Multiculturalism, concerning the possibility of getting a grant. I will give a report on the progress of this and other things at our Regional Meetings.

* * *

I hope that this Newsletter will give you an idea of what the Association has done, and is attempting to do, since we officially began in March, 1983. The success of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick will depend on your support. Enclosed is an application form. If each of our 150 members recruits one more member, then we will have 300 members. Show us that you can do it.

In closing, let me know what we should, or should not be doing.

Farrell McCarthy
President - The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of
New Brunswick
109 Roy Avenue,
Newcastle, N.B.
E1V 3N8
Telephone - 622- 4007