



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Embassy of Ireland, Ottawa Newsletter

Vol. 2

Useful Links/ Resources

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

www.dfa.ie

Irish Canadian Immigration Centre

www.ican.org

+I 416 603 9549

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html>

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ceerb-application.html>

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Remembering Michael Hurley

Our dear friend and former colleague, Michael Hurley, passed away in Beijing on May 24th after a very short illness. Many of our community members will have already heard this very sad news, but I wanted to take the opportunity to remember him here.

Michael came from a public service family, and public service was in his nature. It was a commitment which

shone through his work all through the course of a long and distinguished career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which included overseas assignments at our Missions in Madrid, Brussels, The Hague, Ottawa and most recently Beijing.

We were very fortunate to have Michael as a valued colleague at the Embassy in Ottawa from 2014-2019. He was a talented diplomat and a dedicated professional who brought energy and enthusiasm to the work of promoting Ireland's interests and serving our community in Canada. Michael was always serious about his work but never took himself too seriously. His friends and colleagues soon came to know his keen sense of fun and mischief, his hearty laugh and that big grin that we will all miss so much. He was unfailingly kind, loyal and generous: in the words of a former colleague, he was "the nicest guy you could ever meet."

Michael's interests ranged far and wide: he was a talented musician who played bass here in Ottawa with the John Punch Band, and he was also a big sports fan - his lifelong support for the unfashionable London soccer side West Ham United was proof positive of his innate sense of loyalty! (cont. pg 2)



(cont. from pg. 1)

He was a family man, devoted to Anne Marie and their children James, Niamh and Ciara. One of our last messages from Michael included a picture of him looking proud as punch alongside his son James, who had just made the selection for the Beijing Warriors hockey team.

When we said farewell to Michael, Anne Marie and their family last summer as they departed for Beijing, I remarked that we were not losing just friends and colleagues, but part of our Canadian family. We mourn Michael's passing, gone too soon, and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Anne Marie, James, Niamh and Ciara; to Michael's parents and siblings; and to their extended family. So many of you in the community across Canada came to know Michael and Anne Marie as friends during their years with us in Canada: we know that our loss is yours too.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam, may he Rest in Peace.

Jim Kelly
Ambassador of Ireland



Mammy Breda's Golden Raisin Irish Soda Bread

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour (plus additional for sprinkling)
- 1/4 cup wheat bran (not bran cereal) OR toasted wheat germ
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 stick (1/4 cup) cold unsalted butter, cut into bits
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1 cup buttermilk OR plain yogurt

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 400 F.
- Sprinkle a baking sheet lightly with flour.
- In a large bowl whisk together flour, bran or wheat germ, baking soda, and salt.
- Add butter and toss to coat with flour. With fingertips rub in butter until mixture resembles coarse meal.
- Add raisins and toss until coated.
- Add buttermilk or plain yogurt and stir until dough is moistened evenly.
- On a floured surface knead dough for 1 minute, sprinkle lightly with additional flour to prevent sticking (dough should remain soft). Shape dough into a ball.
- On a prepared baking sheet, pat the dough out into a 6 inch round. Sprinkle round with additional flour and with fingertips spread lightly over round.
- With a sharp knife cut a shallow X in top of round.
- Bake bread in middle of oven 35 to 45 minutes, or until golden brown. Wrap bread in a kitchen towel and cool on a rack for 1 hour.
- Unwrap bread and cool for 1 hour more.

Enjoy! 🍀

This recipe comes to us from our Embassy colleague and Co. Galway native, Breda Kelly.

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Embassy LGBTQ Pride Event

In the early hours of June 28th, 1969, the Stonewall Inn (a well-known gay bar in New York) was raided and the patrons were either arrested or told to leave. This was a regular occurrence, but that night, unlike all the previous raids, the patrons refused to move off. People fought back for the first time. Coins, bottles, and then



bricks were thrown, and this led to two weeks of rioting and unrest. These riots were the match that sparked the global LGBTQ rights movement, and we celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month in June each year to commemorate the Stonewall Riots.

While these riots inspired a LGBTQ rights movement across the United States, they inspired no such movement in Ireland, where homosexuality was still criminalised, and the community had to live in the shadows. In the mid-1970s, David Norris founded the Campaign for Homosexual Law Reform, which began Ireland's movement towards equality for the LGBTQ community. In the almost 50 years since this campaign began, Ireland has positioned itself as one of the leaders on LGBTQ rights globally. We were the first country to bring in Marriage Equality by popular vote, and we have excellent gender recognition legislation which is based on self-determination. The government has also published a National LGBTI Inclusion Strategy, and an LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy, and so we have a lot to be proud of in this area.

To mark Pride Month in the Embassy, Judy Walsh, Head of Subject for Social Justice in the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work, and Social Justice, joined us for a live conversation on the development of LGBTQ rights in Ireland. Judy's background is discrimination law and she is the Irish expert on the European Equality Law Network. For the past two decades, she has been active in a wide range of social justice campaigns and human rights organisations, including Marriage Equality, the PPR Project, and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. She was therefore perfectly placed to discuss the development of LGBTQ rights in Ireland through the lens of the legal cases that led to decriminalisation, employment protections, gender recognition, marriage equality, etc. The event was live streamed on our YouTube channel, and we had great engagement and questions from our viewers.

While Pride Month is over, we still have Fierté Capital Pride Ottawa to look forward to! Over the past number of years, the Embassy, along with our Diplomatic colleagues, has marched in the Ottawa Pride Parade. While the parade can't happen this year due to the pandemic, we'll still be doing something to mark the occasion, so keep an eye on our social media channels in August!

Artwork from Kate McMaster, Toronto

Community Catch-Ups

St. Michael's Hurling & Football Club, Toronto

During the recent COVID hiatus from club activities and training, our club has still been very active in finding ways to come together. From virtual ZOOM trivia nights, paint nights or fitness challenges, our players have all been able to stay connected and socialize with teammates. Amidst all of this, we also wanted to find a way to also help to recognize an organization that was helping to make a difference in our community.

Pictured below: Ruairi O'Brien, Ultan Blee, and Canada GAA Chairman Sean Harte, collecting donations.



We teamed up with long time club members Ruairi O'Brien and Courtney Farquhar, who with their company, Keller Williams Neighbourhood Realty, had

chosen to give back to the Daily Bread Food Bank, as part of their annual 'Giving Back to the Community' Day! The Daily Bread Food Bank is more important than ever in these challenging times, as they collect donations to support those who have been greatly affected by COVID-19. To help make this happen, a few of us drove around the GTA to various pick up locations to collect the donations - at a distance of course! Within a day, we had filled an SUV with perishable items to donate! With a simple text to our players, it was amazing to see the immediate response



from players! We then met up with Ruairi who collected our haul to drop it off at the Daily Bread Food Bank. We are extremely proud of our club for pulling together to make this happen! Our club is very social, running events nearly every month for our club members, but it's the ones where we can find ways to give back which mean the most to us. Thank

you to Ruairi and Courtney for letting us participate, and to everyone who reached out with donations!

Stay connected, wherever you are!

Did you know that there are a number of Irish Community publications and radio programmes across Canada that are available online? Be sure to check these out for the latest local community news, music, interviews, laughs, and more!



Irish Radio Canada

with host Austin Comerton

Available online anytime at www.irishradio.ca



Ceol agus Craic

with hosts Mark O'Brien & Ken Treacy
Saturday mornings at 10am

Listen online at

www.mixlr.com/ceolaguscraic



Celtic Canada Magazine

<https://celticcanada.com/magazine/>



Hugo Straney Show

Sunday mornings at 10am on 1540AM in Toronto or online at www.chinradio.com



The Celtic Connection

<https://celtic-connection.com>

Bloomsday 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us all to find new ways to work, so while the work of an Embassy will always be centred upon face to face interactions, in this brave new world of Zoom calls, we're finding new ways to engage in public diplomacy, including our Bloomsday event last month...very imaginatively called 'Embassy Bloomsday', because 'Zoomsday' was already taken!

We celebrate Bloomsday on the 16th of June each year, which is the date in 1904 on which James Joyce's renowned novel Ulysses takes place. Joyce wrote Ulysses after emigrating from Ireland, but it remains to this day one of the most detailed and affectionate portraits of Dublin city in all of literature. Not everyone has braved the book itself, but the characters of Leopold Bloom, Stephen Dedalus, and Molly Bloom are woven into the collective Irish consciousness and have become beloved literary characters.

If 2020 was a normal year, we would have been hosting the Ottawa Bloomsday event in the Residence, but as this wasn't possible due to the pandemic, Ottawa Bloomsday instead generously agreed to co-present our online Bloomsday celebration with us, with the support of our colleagues in the Consulate General of Ireland in Vancouver. We were joined by special guests from Festival Bloomsday Montreal, and Toronto Bloomsday, as well as special guest readers from further afield in Newfoundland and Vancouver. The upside to doing an event like this online was that we were able to do a real coast to coast event, and even if we are all able to gather again in person next year, we should still do a similar event online.

Our event consisted of a series of live readings and performances, tracing the events of the book from Buck Mulligan at the Martello Tower that morning in 1904, all the way to Molly Bloom's bedroom that night! Some of the scenes were funny, some less so, but all combined to give our viewers a wonderful snapshot of Dublin life at the turn of the last century.

None of this would have been possible without the assistance of Rosemary O'Brien in Ottawa Bloomsday, so thank you Rosemary! We'd like to say a final word of thanks to our performers:

Newfoundland

Andy Jones

Montreal

Susan Gilmore Lombard.

Alan Lombard

Ottawa

Ian Ashe

Padraig Finlay

Niamh O'Brien

Phil O'Brien

Margaret Harvey O'Kelly

Toronto

Mary Durkan

Joe Allen

Des Ellis

Daniel Giverin

Richard Harte

Kevin Kennedy

David Mackett

Vancouver

Sharon Brown



Ireland and Canada – a COVID-19 Economic Snapshot

“These are extraordinary times. And we face an extraordinary challenge.”

U.S. President John F. Kennedy spoke those words in 1961 as a preface to declaring that the U.S. would send a man to the Moon before the decade was out. While the world grapples with the overwhelming effects of the COVID-19 virus, the Canadian and Irish economies face extraordinary challenges of their own. The economic impact of the pandemic has been stark, sudden and devastating, with widespread loss of revenue and jobs, across industries and across both countries.

Throughout the pandemic, uncertainty has abounded, particularly concerning the evolution of the virus and its economic effects. The Irish and Canadian governments initially moved to freeze their economies by introducing sweeping stimulus measures, hoping for a quick rebound. Both countries concluded that increasing public expenses, and levels of public debt, are preferable to the devastation of productive

capacity. As things stand, the big spending has tapered off and the focus now turns to kick-starting the economic recovery.

Canada and Ireland are of course not alone in this predicament. While this is certainly a difficult time for both countries, severe repercussions are being felt across the world, and the effects of the pandemic will be a tremendous blow to the global economy. International trade figures have plummeted, and the scramble to acquire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) across the globe have brought supply chains into stark focus. Canadian leaders have openly declared an interest in 'near-shoring' certain supply chains, especially with a view to ensuring PPE can be more easily acquired in future. Canada will likely not be alone in its desire to maintain the balance between an open, free trading economy and a truncation of supply chains closer to home.

Thankfully, there are already glimmers of hope beginning to emerge. Unemployment is believed to have peaked in both countries, and while the effects of the virus are reducing productive capacity on a lasting basis in many sectors, nearly 300,000 jobs were re-claimed in Canada in May. Retail sales also rebounded in May and more of the same is expected as the economy continues to reopen, with the same forecast for Ireland. This reopening is of course happening at different speeds across the various provinces and territories, but both countries are at least *beginning* to feel more like they used to.

The unprecedented spending by both governments means there will be increased deficits and debt-to-GDP ratios to deal with through significantly increased levels of borrowing. However, both countries have been down this road before, and the resilience of both sets of people should not be underestimated. We are all learning to adjust the way we live our day-to-day lives. The more we normalize these new ways of doing things, the more we reduce our collective risk, and the quicker the economy will begin to chug back into life.

These are indeed extraordinary times. While the unparalleled economic measures taken by both governments have laid the foundation, our respective recoveries depend on the capacity of our people to take on the extraordinary challenge: to adapt, and to overcome.

St. Patrick By Patrick Sullivan

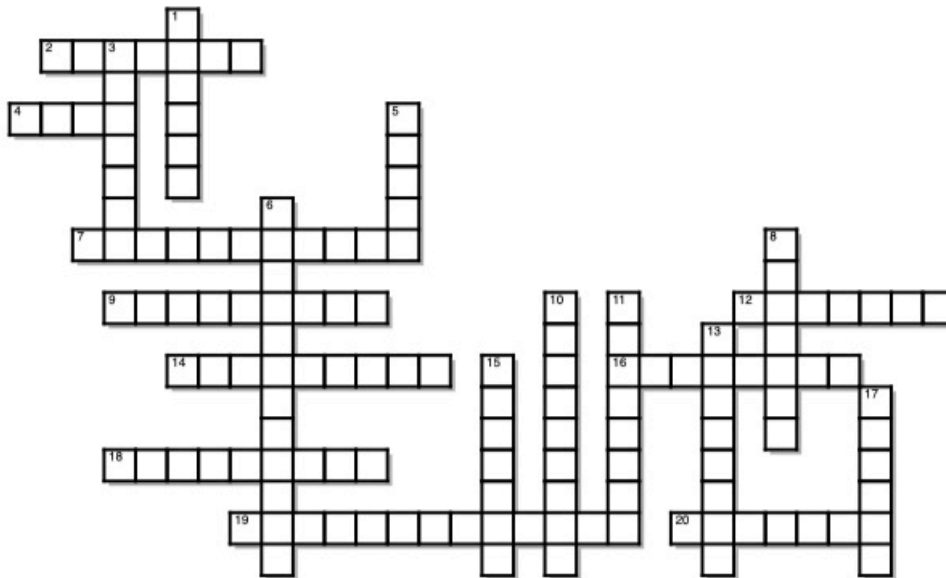


Once upon a Celtic time
 Captured in his youthful prime
 Taken from his home in Wales
 Made a shepherd slave in Eireann's dales
 There he mastered the Gaelic tongue
 Drew close to God while yet so young
 Met Druids and Bards in his Master's home
 Escaped and joined the Church of Rome
 Patrick studied under one Germain
 In time a priest of God became
 Travelled much with this Bishop teacher
 Grew into a practiced preacher
 In a dream he saw the Irish calling
 Heard them cry as sleep was falling
 "Oh Holy youth come back to Eireann"
 "Walk among us God's word sharing"
 On Easter Sunday four-thirty-three
 Atop Tara's hill to the great Ard-Ri
 Where once he lived as shepherd slave
 Patrick spoke and God's word gave

He preached to the king a God of Love
 And to help him understand thereof
 He stooped and plucked a three leafed flower
 A shamrock, Patrick's symbol of Triune power
 For thirty years he labored hard
 Converting Chieftain, Druid and Bard
 Travelling Eireann wide and far
 He made the Irish who we are
 Seventeenth of March four-sixty one
 His saintly life now almost done
 Patrick lay upon his bed
 By sunset this holy man was dead
 Sixteen hundred years have gone
 And still his good name carries on
 This man who lived without complaint
 Once our slave now our patron saint

Patrick Sullivan is originally from Waterville, Co. Kerry. He has been living in Thornhill, ON with his wife Patricia, since 1982.

All Things Ireland Crossword



ACROSS

- 2 "Waiting for Godot" playwright
- 4 Tipperary town, Carrick-on-_____
- 7 1952 John Wayne film (3 words)
- 9 Hometown of actor Liam Neeson
- 12 Town in which the GAA was founded
- 14 Largest of the Aran Islands
- 16 The Treaty County
- 18 Prehistoric monument in Co. Meath
- 19 "Power Over Me" singer (2 words)
- 20 Ancient festival which Halloween has its roots

DOWN

- 1 Current Dublin Senior Football Manager, _____ Farrell
- 3 Home of the Irish Defence Force camp, The _____
- 5 Two time Eurovision winner, Johnny _____
- 6 Winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature (2 words)
- 8 Former Ireland rugby head coach, Joe _____
- 10 "Derry Girls" creator (2 words)
- 11 2019 All Ireland Hurling Final runners up
- 13 Belfast built car popular in the 1980s
- 15 _____ pipes
- 17 Co. Down mountain

Sharing Some Laughs

- Maureen: "Don't you feel warm doing your painting all bundled up like that?"
Mary: "Well it says on the tin to be sure to put on three coats."
- Gerry decided he needed to read more books to educate himself. He went into the bookshop and said, "I'd like to buy a book by Shakespeare." "No problem sir," replied the shop assistant, "which one?" "Sure William of course," replied Gerry.

