

A Message from the Ambassador

The first edition of the Embassy newsletter evoked a much bigger response than I had expected. Everywhere I went in Canada over the last two months, I received very positive feedback both on the idea of producing a regular newsletter and also on the actual content of the first edition. We will definitely aim to produce one every two months, although it will be a challenge during the March period. Don't forget to give us some feedback, good or bad. We welcome constructive comment.

We are including a small number of information pieces; this edition has an article on the return of the Golden and White tailed eagles to the Irish countryside and a number of other short features.

On the international front, the continued problems with the debt crisis in the Eurozone dominated the international media. Despite the gloomy background, Ireland got increasingly more positive economic reviews in the Canadian media, although most commentaries rightly point out there is still some way to go before we are completely out of the woods. However, at least most indicators are pointing in a positive direction.

It has been a very exciting autumn period otherwise, with the announcement of Irish government support for a number of Canadian organisations; the holding of the second meeting of the Global Irish Network in Dublin Castle, with a much strengthened Canadian presence. The establishment of an Irish immigration support centre in Toronto is inching ever closer. There were welcome nights in a number of cities, organised by Irish societies, for new Irish arrivals. We have also seen the launch of the new Irish Certificate of Heritage with a posthumous award of the first cert to an Irish American fire fighter in New York who died on 9/11.

On the cultural front, things have also been hectic, this includes the holding of a conference on the future of the Irish language in North America for the next 20 years at the University of Ottawa. The South Armagh artist, Paddy McCann, had a very successful exhibition of his paintings in Vancouver. A further exhibition of 4 Irish artists in Toronto is planned shortly. The Enterprise Ireland Office in Toronto remains very busy assisting Irish export companies and in addition, there was a trade mission from the Irish midlands under the umbrella of the Atlantic Corridor and also a strong Irish presence at the GTEC IT forum in Ottawa. However the best news of the autumn, apart from Hilary Reilly's baby, was the victory of the Dublin team in the All Ireland final (I am completely biased on this subject).



Dr. Ray Bassett,
Ambassador of Ireland,

IN THIS EDITION

- Economics Corner
- Irish Cultural Events
- Features
- Provincial Profile
- Notice Board
- Out and About with the - Ambassador
- Consular Services

To be added to our Newsletter mailing list, send your email address to: ottawaembassy@dfa.ie

Michael D. Higgins is a poet and former Labour minister



I also wish to extend a sincere welcome to Ireland's newly elected President Michael D. Higgins, and acknowledge the tremendous achievements of his predecessor President Mary McAlesse.

As he graciously accepted the position, the president-elect stated, "I want to be a president too for those who didn't vote, whose trust in public institutions I will encourage and work to recover. And always in my mind, too, will be those who have gone away and I will be their president too"



ECONOMICS CORNER

Global Irish Economic Forum

The forum took place in Dublin Castle at the beginning of October. The Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Cabinet Ministers and senior representatives from Government Departments and State Agencies took part in the event along with 270 members of the Global Irish Network representing 37 countries. President McAleese was the guest of honour at a formal dinner for participants and a special address was given by President Bill Clinton.

The first Global Irish Economic Forum, was held at the Farmleigh Estate in Dublin in September 2009. 130 globally connected Irish business leaders came together to, “explore how the Irish at home and abroad, and those with a strong interest in Ireland, could work together and contribute to Ireland’s economic recovery.” The success of the forum necessitated the establishment of a permanent global network which would include those who had attended the Farmleigh Forum as well as other influential members of the Diaspora.

The Global Irish Network was launched in 2010 and now comprises over 300 of the most influential Irish and Irish-connected individuals abroad, who are based in almost 40 countries. The Network continues to work towards promoting Ireland’s economic, cultural and tourism messages in key markets. Speaking to the Forum, the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Eamon Gilmore T.D. said, “the scale of the challenge facing Ireland today is matched by the scale of our effort and our ambition. What matters now, is that we take away the thoughts and ideas of yesterday and today, and turn them into action tomorrow.”

President Clinton announced that he intends to convene a special summit for Ireland in New York which will, bring together senior business leaders and economic experts aimed at promoting foreign direct investment in Ireland.

At the 2009 meeting, there was only one Canadian member present. The total number of Canadian members of the Global Irish network is now 20. Membership is by invitation from the Taoiseach.



John Murphy, Vice-President, CIBC World Markets and US President Bill Clinton

For further information on the Forum or the Global Irish Network, visit:

www.globalirishforum.ie



Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore, U2’s Bono, US President Bill Clinton, and Taoiseach Enda Kenney

This year’s participants included:

Eddie CARROLL, Chairman, Chieftain Ventures (based in Canada), **Jacqueline GILNA**, CEO, Workshift Systems, Corporation (based in Canada), **Paul JACOBS**, Business person, Vancouver, **Robert G. KEARNS**, President, Kearns Insurance Corporation (based in Canada), **Gabriel MCCAFFREY**, Vice President, Sales and Business, Development 4Point Solutions Limited (based in Canada), **Tim MCTIERNAN**, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Ontario Institute of Technology (based in Canada), **John MURPHY**, Vice President, CIBC World Markets (based in Canada), **Peter MURPHY**, Co-Principal, Murphy’s Food Sales (based in Canada), **Oliver MURRAY**, CEO, Brandes Investment Partners (Canada) (based in Canada), **Colm O’CARROLL**, President, Epsilon Chemicals and Advance Laboratories Inc. (based in Canada), **Laureen REGAN**, President, Regan Productions and SCDL Calgary (based in Canada), **Donough TIERNEY**, Vice President, EADS Northern/Western Europe & Canada (based in France), **Hilary M. WESTON**, Former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, (based in Canada), **W. Galen WESTON**, Executive Chairman, George Weston Ltd (based in Canada)



ECONOMICS CORNER

-The Gathering- Minister Varadkar proposes Ireland's biggest ever tourism initiative

Tourism Minister Leo Varadkar presented proposals in October, for the biggest tourism initiative ever staged in Ireland. 'The Gathering' will be a year-long event in 2013 where people at home and abroad can play a part in the country's recovery, potentially bringing 325,000 extra visitors and providing a major economic stimulus.

Speaking to members gathered at the Global Irish Economic Forum, the Minister revealed that the initiative: "will grow out of existing festivals, and foster many more spin-off events. Everyone has a chance to get involved, whether at local level or among members of Ireland's diaspora. Tourism and the tourism experience have always been a key strength of Ireland and I'm excited about the potential of this project to harness that and take it to a new level."

The Gathering will focus on a series of flagship festivals throughout the year, along with special interest spin-off events, and a community-led programme. It will showcase Irish arts, sports, food, learning, genealogy and family heritage, science and hospitality.

Varadkar plans a family reunion on national scale

by **Mary Regan**
Political
Correspondent

TOURISM

EVERYONE in the country has been urged to invite friends or family home for a massive Irish reunion in 2013, aimed at boosting the economy.

Tourism Minister Leo Varadkar said he will arrange his own reunion of relatives from India, Britain and America, and he wants others to do the same.

Mr Varadkar was unveiling The Gathering 2013, a tourism initiative which he expects will bring 350,000 visitors and 220 million or more to the country.

The initiative will require a marketing budget of between €12m and €16m but it is hoped it will be mainly driven by individuals organising reunions or communities inviting emigrants back to their home towns.

Mr Varadkar said people always ask what they can do to help their country and The Gathering is an answer.

"It's an opportunity for communities, local authorities, sporting associations, county associations, individuals, families and businesses to do something positive to lift the national morale and help the economy," he said.

"The goal is that the Irish economy recovers. We went through the anger phase and there's a steely determination that we are going to get out of the economic crisis and not let it happen again."

The Irish Hotels Federation said The Gathering will enable tourism bodies to harness the connection people of Irish descent living abroad have with Ireland.

"Our members are fully behind this initiative and we look forward to working closely with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland to ensure The Gathering is the enormous success it deserves to be," said chief executive Tim Fenn.

IRISH EXAMINER

To subscribe and to receive information and updates visit:

<http://www.gatheringireland.com/>

The full press release may be found at:

<http://www.merrionstreet.ie/index.php/2011/10/minister-varadkar-proposes-irelands-biggest-ever-tourism-initiative-2/>

Tim Fenn of the Irish Hotels Federation welcomes Leo Varadkar's proposal at the GIEF





ECONOMICS CORNER

Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty gives positive feedback in Washington

Speaking to the International Monetary and Financial Committee on September 24, 2011 in Washington the Minister stated: “the Irish economy continues to exhibit strong signs of stabilization, despite the continuing turmoil in international financial markets.

The Irish authorities have shown a resolute determination to set the economy back on track and to meet, and in some cases exceed, the challenging benchmarks set out in the IMF program”.

The full statement may be found on the IMF’s website:
<http://www.imf.org/External/AM/2011/imfc/statement/eng/can.pdf>

The Irish Economy October 2011

The most recent monthly economic bulletin produced by the Department of Finance in Dublin (for October 2011) highlighted a number of developments in the Irish economy during the second quarter of 2011.

The full bulletin may be found on the Department of Finance website: <http://www.finance.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=-1&CatID=2&UserLang=EN&m=19>

Key Upcoming Dates

As of October 2011, Ireland had drawn down just over 40 per cent of the 67.5 billion euros in loans it is taking from the EU and the IMF as part of its 85-billion-euro bailout package. It has received 8.9 billion euros from the IMF and 18.1 billion from Europe’s bailout funds.

EARLY NOV. – Government to set out a medium-term fiscal consolidation plan for 2012 to 2015 outlining revenue and expenditure adjustments for each year.

Dec. 6 – Government will propose a budget for 2012 with a budget adjustment of at least 3.6 billion euros.

Follow the budget at Oireachtas Live Webcasting:
<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?fn=/documents/livewebcast/Web-Live.htm>

End Q4 2011 – The Irish authorities will implement the strategy to underpin the solvency and viability of the credit union sectors.

End Q4 2011 – Government will propose a draft program for the disposal of state assets and discuss it with EU/IMF.

Troika determines Ireland is meeting targets

Staff teams from the European Commission (EC), European Central Bank (ECB), and International Monetary Fund (IMF) visited Dublin during October 11–20 for the regular quarterly review of the government’s economic programme. The review determined that Ireland was meeting its targets.

According to the review:

- Programme implementation continues to be strong
- In a welcome sign of Ireland’s strengthened competitiveness, economic growth in the first half of 2011 was stronger than expected
- Irish authorities are firmly committed to fiscal consolidation to put the country’s debt on a downward path, by bringing the general government deficit to below 3 percent of GDP by 2015.
- The key initial phase of the comprehensive financial sector reforms launched last March has been implemented

- The authorities are implementing structural reforms to support job creation and growth

The EU-IMF supported programme includes loans from the European Union and EU member states amounting to €45.0 billion and a €22.5 billion [Extended Fund Facility](#) with the IMF. Ireland’s contribution is €17.5 billion.

The mission for the next programme review is scheduled for January 2012

While Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan was pleased with the results of the review, he emphasized that major challenges still lay ahead. In a speech to the Leinster Society of Chartered Accountants, the Minister stated: “of course, we cannot – and we will not – be complacent. I want to assure you that the Government will continue to act decisively. Difficult but necessary changes will be made in order to help drive Ireland’s economy forward...there are challenges ahead; significant challenges, all of which are inter-related... (but) we have the strengths to deal with these challenges”

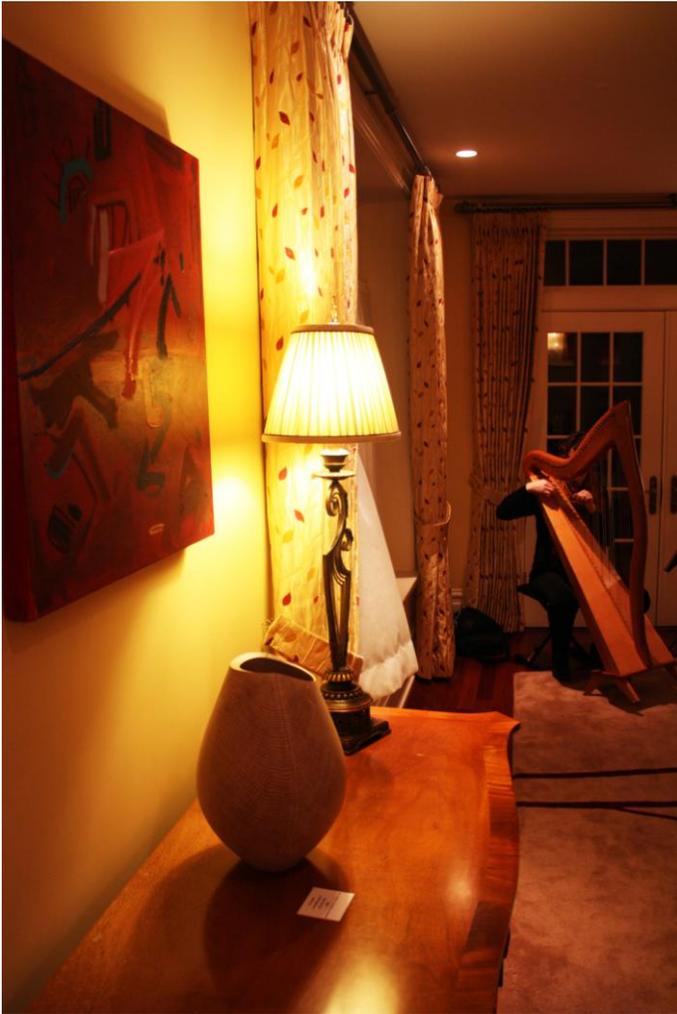
Full statements by the EC, ECB, and IMF may be found on the website of the European Commission and the website of the Department of Finance:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/720>

<http://www.finance.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=7033>



IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS



Art and a Harp

The long and spacious hallways, elegant windows and exquisite Irish fixtures of the residence were complimented by the fine art, music, and camaraderie of those who enjoyed the inaugural *Art and a Harp* event, organized by the Irish Society of the National Capital Region. The cool fall winds failed to deter guests from arriving to admire the art pieces from local artists while supporting the ISNCR's endeavours to promote a more visible position within the greater Ottawa community. As a backdrop, local musician Róisín Philippe filled the residence with Irish music played gracefully on her Celtic harp.



ISNCR Vice President and 2010 Ottawa Rose of Tralee Laura Hay was delighted with the turn-out, “it’s wonderful to see the overall spirit and support of the Ottawa community. We’ve been able to forge some fantastic links with other members of the community who share the common goal of developing cultural endeavours.”

ISNCR Membership consists of immigrants from the various waves (1950s, 1980s, and recent immigrants following the economic downturn) while also being a society for individuals and families in the Ottawa Valley who are fourth, fifth, and sixth generation Canadian, but who take pride in the fact that they are of Irish descent.

<http://www.irishsocietyncr.com/>

Each year, various clubs and organizations within the Ottawa Irish community organize a collection of events that help to create a diverse programme for the Ottawa Irish Festival which takes place in March. The ISNCR promoted the event not only as a fundraiser for the 2012 Festival, but also with the goal in mind of bringing together the Irish community and the people of the greater Ottawa area who are interested in art and culture.

Propelled by the immense efforts of board member Denise Trottier, the ISNCR sought out local artists whose works have been seen at prominent galleries throughout the area including, The National Art Gallery. Works by Tamaya Garner, Leslie Reid, Pat Durr, Marcia Lea, Bruce Garner, the late James Henderson Boyd, Gerald Trottier, and Robert Théberge Trépanier were included. The artists, or family members who represented their works, were on hand for discussions and presentations. The exhibits were for sale, with part of the proceeds going to support the endeavours of the ISNCR.



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As the saying goes, “what a small world”

-Sarah Thorenton

In a world where travel and technology continue to make the impossible, possible, the search for long-lost family roots has become even more accessible.

In an age wrought with confusion, turmoil and uncertainty, a growing movement has emerged, propelled by a thirst for knowledge, to trace the journey of our ancestors. In many cases, these investigations unearth compelling stories of triumph in the face of great adversity.

Many Canadians continue to share a great affinity with their ancestral homeland across the Atlantic. Irish Ambassadors to Canada boast that they could easily write several novels about the Irish connections which they stumbled upon or which were brought to their attention by proud Canadians wishing to share their stories.

The connections are everywhere. The pride is overwhelming. The contributions are many.



Pat's uncle Jack (left) and father Daniel (right)



Pat Maloney, Kemptville Ontario

One such happenstance occurred in the small community of Kemptville, Ontario. Pat Maloney, an unassuming member of the Keltic Knights - a music group who every Sunday delights parishioners with their melodic hymns - was the proprietor of one such inspiring story of courage, pride and unbelievable connections.

Pat's father, Daniel was born in the parish of Timoleague of Craigeann, Clonakilty, West Cork. By the age of 7, Daniel had lost both of his parents, and along with his five other siblings, was raised by his 14 year old sister. At 18, Daniel, his brother John often called “Jack”, and his two cousins, Daniel Edward Maloney and John McGuire joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The Easter Rising of 1916 was organised by the Supreme Council of the IRB, and following the collapse of the Rising, Michael Collins reorganised the IRB once again.

While Pat reveals that his father chose not to speak much about this period in his life, he did, in later years, reveal that he, along with his cousins and brother were imprisoned during this tumultuous time in Irish history.



FEATURED

Since interviewing Pat, and with the help of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum, records of the detention of his uncle Jack were discovered. Jack's name was found etched in the roll book of Camp 2, Ballykinlar Internment Camp, Co. Down. Ballykinlar, a British army base, functioned as an internment camp during the Irish War of Independence, 1919- 1921. The roll book was used to keep a record of those who attended classes while at Ballykinlar. The internees organised the classes themselves, with the most educated internees teaching the classes. Irish was believed to have been strongly featured.

Detainees were released following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Life in the camp is vividly described in former prisoner Louis J. Walsh's account; *On My Keeping and In Theirs: A Record of Experiences on the Run, In Derry Gaol, and in Ballykinlar Internment Camp.*

Pat also reveals that his father, uncle, and cousins were later among the convoy in 1922 in which Michael Collins was ambushed and assassinated.

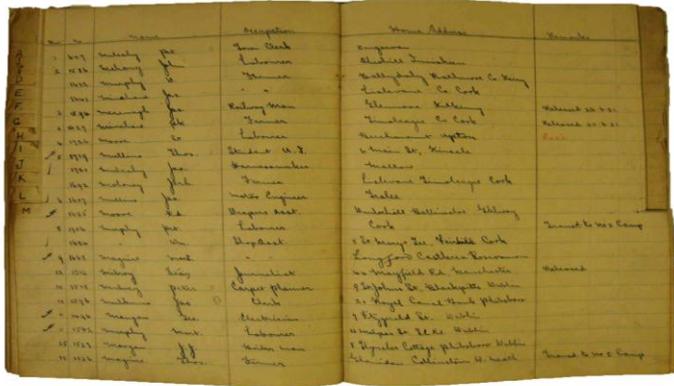
(The newly restored, specially armoured Rolls Royce, known as Sliabh na mBan, that carried Collin's mortally wounded body was unveiled at the Curragh Camp in Co Kildare in September) :

http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Government_Press_Office/Taoiseach's_Speeches_2011/Speech_by_the_Taoiseach_at_Cavalry_Corps_Day_Defence_Forces_Training_Centre_Curragh_Camp_on_3_September_2011.html

Irish revolutionary leader, soldier and politician, Michael Collins. Permission to use this image is provided courtesy of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service



Ballykinlar Internment Camp, courtesy of Kilmainham Gaol Museum



Ballykinlar roll book, courtesy of Kilmainham Gaol Museum



Disenchanted by their experiences and hoping for a better future, Daniel's brothers and cousins left their homeland with no thoughts of when they would ever be able to return. They headed for Wales where they worked in agriculture. Daniel worked in the horse stables at large estate. Pat is currently researching his father's detainment in Wales as it is alleged that he was involved in gun-running back to Ireland.

In this new country they all met their future wives. Daniel married Edith Davies, who had been a nursing sister in the First World War. In 1927, all four couples left on a boat for Canada. Part of their passage was paid for by the Canadian authorities in order to fill a shortage of labour in the agricultural sector. Edith and Daniel left with one suitcase and 37 dollars. When they landed in Quebec, the families dispersed throughout the country. Edith and Daniel headed for Alberta but after two years, and suffering the effects of the Great Depression, moved to Kemptville to join John who was working for the railway.



FEATURED

Through hard work and determination and by being “tough as a whalebone” as Pat describes him, Daniel went on to become an entrepreneur, starting up his own delivery service. Edith furthered her skills in the health sector and became a midwife. They cemented themselves in the community and in the Holy Cross Parish – which was built in the late 19th century by 100 early settler families who were primarily Irish. Edith sang in the choir for over 50 years. The couple had 6 children. While Daniel never returned to Ireland, he always maintained a deep affection for his homeland. He was also extremely proud to be Canadian.

In search of further stories and to relive his father’s history, Pat has visited Ireland on several occasions. He visited the remnants of his father’s old farmhouse. The stone walls remained preserved in time even though they battled against nature’s vines and overgrowth. He met the O’Donnells who now own the farmland. Mr. O’Donnell took Pat to the salmon stream his father always remembered so fondly. The fish swam on as Pat stood for a photo. Pat remembers feeling overwhelmed as he walked in the footsteps of his father.

Pat was able to locate the butcher shop where his father worked as a young lad. He discovered that the Harte family now owned the shop and as he posed for a picture with them, they revealed that one of their daughters had emigrated to Canada.

When Pat returned home to Canada, he proudly recounted the stories of his travels to his sister Peggy. When she looked at the picture of the Hartes and heard their story, she began to cry as she realized that their daughter was none other than her colleague at the Queensway Carleton Hospital.

Pat continues to show immense pride in his Irish heritage through the work of the Keltic Knights. In addition to providing the accompaniment at the masses at Holy Cross Church, the Knights perform throughout the community. Each year, they host an event at the Legion Hall to honour and support breast cancer survivors. Pat and his wife Anita have three daughters; Colleen, Sarah and Kerry.

Pat’s daughter Colleen married Bob Daly. They all returned to Ireland together for a wedding and to trace the roots of Bob’s family.

Pat’s granddaughter Ellen recently finished third in the Fleadh Cheoil in Tullemore, Co. Offaly. In 2009, she finished first among 25 fiddlers in the Eastern North American Irish Fiddling championships held in New York City.

The story of Pat Maloney. Irish Canadian. A small world indeed.

To learn more about your family’s history, visit the geneology links on the Certificate of Irish Heritage website described in the newsletter Feature that follows: <http://www.heritagecertificate.ie/genealogy-resources/> or investigate through: <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/>



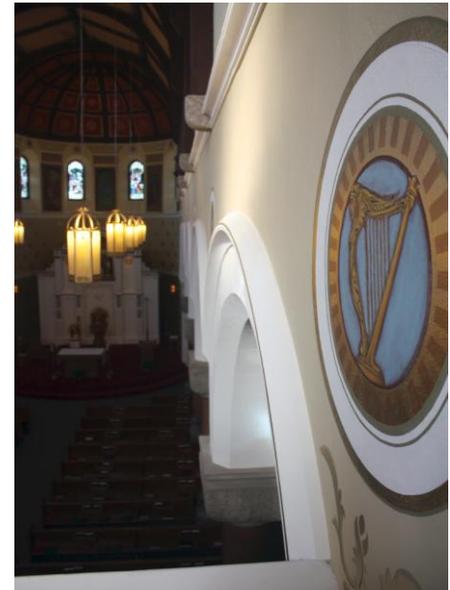
Pat and Mr. O'Donnell, Co. Cork



Harte's Butcher Shop, Co. Cork



Pat's Granddaughter Ellen (above right), Holy Cross Church, Kemptonville, Ontario (right)





FEATURED



CERTIFICATE OF IRISH HERITAGE

Over seventy million people across the world can be linked to their Irish roots. Over four million Canadians claim Irish ancestry.

Irish emigrants and their descendants have continued to contribute to the cultural, social and economic fabric of communities across the globe.

With this in mind, the Government of Ireland has developed the Certificate of Irish Heritage in order to officially recognize those who are proud of their Irish ancestor and of their own Irish heritage.

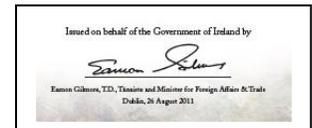
The first Certificate of Irish Heritage was presented to the family of Joseph Hunter, a New York Fireman, who was very proud of his Irish roots. Joseph lost his life in the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre. Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore T.D., acknowledged the long links between Irish emigrants and the emergency services, particularly the Fire Service.

The Certificate is a way to promote the strong ties and interconnectedness that exist between Canada and Ireland in a time that is more relevant and significant than ever.

Eligibility criteria and the application process can be found on the Certificate of Irish Heritage website: www.heritagecertificate.ie

The site provides a step-by-step approach to identifying Irish connections.

It also includes helpful links to genealogy resources which can assist in conducting further research into family history.



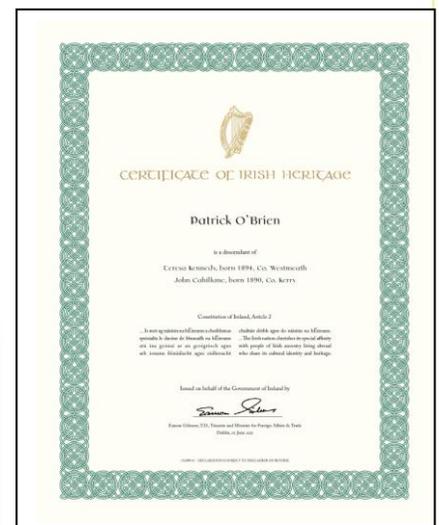
Issued on behalf of the Government by An Tánaiste (dep. Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Eamon Gilmore



West of Ireland Design



Emigrant Ship Design



Celtic Knot Design



FEATURED

Return of the Eagles to Ireland

The 5th annual release of Norwegian White tailed Eagles (23 young eagles) in County Kerry in October is another welcome step in the return of Ireland's majestic birds of prey. For thousands of years, these magnificent birds populated the country's uplands and coasts. They are depicted strongly in illustrations in Book of Kells and in many Irish place names.

The White tailed Eagles lasted in Ireland until the end of the 19th century when a combination of habit loss and arrival of accurate firearms heralded their demise. Victorian gentlemen, using their flint lock rifles, had an immensely destructive effect of Ireland's wildlife. While earlier generations had managed to eliminate Ireland's native wolves and bears, the Victorian era saw the destruction of much of the country's birds of prey. The White tailed Eagle, the Golden Eagle, the Osprey, the Buzzard, the Red Kite, the Goshawk and a number of other species were killed in an orgy of destruction which rendered them extinct throughout the island. Ireland was reduced to having the smallest variety of birds of prey of any European country. The recovery has been slow but has gathered pace in recent times. The rapid re-forestation of Ireland has been a major plus in this regard.

The first major bird of prey to re-establish itself in Ireland was the Buzzard. This occurred as numbers increased in Scotland and some of the Scottish buzzards made it across from the Mull of Kintyre to the north Antrim coast. Sightings were first observed in the 1950s and this large bird of prey has been moving south and west ever since. It is estimated that there are over 100 pairs nesting in Donegal alone. The Buzzard is now established in all 4 Provinces. This very large bird of prey is often mistaken for an Eagle. However, Buzzards are regularly seen close to human habitation while Eagles are much more wary. If you see a large raptor sitting on a telephone pole, it is almost certainly a Buzzard and not an Eagle.

There was great hope that the natural re-establishment of the Buzzard would be followed by the Golden Eagle. This species actually survived on the west coast of Ireland until the second decade of the 20th century. Some Scottish Eagles did occasionally arrive on the Irish mainland or on Rathlin Island but the local population in the south west of Scotland is weak and in decline so an expansionary move across the Irish Sea was not deemed feasible. Agreement was reached between the Irish and Scottish authorities to bring over up to 75 Eagles from the Highlands to Donegal's Glenveigh National Park to begin the nucleus of a native Irish breeding population. The project began as a Millennium one and has been ongoing ever since.

Eagles are now breeding and there is a small number of Irish born Eagles in the skies above Donegal. There was great sadness when "Conall", the first Irish born and bred Eagle two years ago, was found poisoned this year, but on the other hand two pairs of Golden Eagles did manage to successfully rear new chicks in 2010. This re-introduction format was followed by agreement with the Norwegian authorities to bring back Ireland's largest Eagle, the White tailed. The Kerry group are part of that programme. The Red Kite has also been successfully re-introduced in counties Wicklow and Down from a breeding stock in the Welsh Valleys. The return of these birds of prey can be followed on the website www.goldeneagle.ie

Another exciting development has been the confirmation that woodpeckers are again breeding in eastern Ireland for the first time in several hundred years. Juvenile birds were recorded at feeding tables in a number of locations in Wexford, Antrim, and Wicklow. How this rather sedentary species managed to cross the sea and re-colonise Ireland remains a mystery. Ireland is slowly but surely regaining its old ornithological heritage. We are very grateful to the authorities in Scotland, Norway, and Wales for their assistance in these environmentally important projects.



White-Tailed Eagle



Golden Eagle





PROVINCIAL PROFILE



Known for its majestic shore lines, rich copper coloured earth and its warm and welcoming east coast hospitality, Prince Edward Island shares a deep connection with the Emerald Isle. Canada's smallest province was populated by Irish immigrants well before the Potato Famine in the 1840's. By 1850, Irish settlers comprised about a quarter of the Island's population. Current estimates reveal that approximately 40 per cent of the population is of Irish descent.

Steeped in Irish history, the island holds a strong traditional music scene and is populated by numerous Irish clubs and associations. Many a pub on the island follow the familiar creed: C ad Mile F ailte.

As you tour along the coast you may see Islanders of the area gathering Irish Moss, often with traditional horse-drawn carts. The story of the Moss is told at the Interpretive Centre in Miminegash. Irish Moss gathering is also included in the province's Authentic PEI Experiential Tourism initiative:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/index.php3?number=1030137>

Major organizations which actively promote Irish culture and heritage include the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts Canada, the Benevolent Irish Society, and the Celtic Heritage Association.

College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada

Beginning with only 30 students in 1990, the College's student body has grown to over 350 year-round students and 200 summer school and workshop participants. It is also a premiere cultural tourism destination on Prince Edward Island, attracting travelers to the summer long Celtic Festival. A 600-seat outdoor amphitheatre has become an extension of the classroom. <http://www.collegeofpiping.com/>

Twinning

In the early 1990's PEI was officially twinned with Co. Monaghan, Ireland. It is estimated that 40 per cent of PEI's Irish population immigrated to the province from the county. Many trips between the two destinations have occurred in order to develop social, cultural and economic links. The **Port Augustus Irish Descendants Association** works hard to maintain these important historical links.

Benevolent Irish Society

The Society was founded in 1825 by the original Irish settlers of the island. According to the Archives Council of PEI (<http://www.archives.pe.ca/>), in 1982 and 1983, the B.I.S embarked on an extensive oral history project. The project, contains 54 audio cassette tapes of oral history interviews conducted by a group of students. The interviews cover a wide range of topics, including genealogical information, social activities, courting and marriage practices, Irish/Scottish relations, customs and traditions, forerunners, superstitions, and information about local communities. The B.I.S. continues to remain very active. Recent activities include weekly Friday night ceilis featuring traditional Irish musicians, singers, and dancers as well as lectures and workshops on Irish dance, language, traditional music and fiddling, genealogy and other subjects of interest. The annual Irish Heritage Lecture Series is one of the B.I.S.'s major ongoing projects and has been presented for over 20 years. During the winter, the B.I.S. also offers 4-8 week courses on subjects including Irish language and literature:

Honourable Edward Whalen Irish Cultural Centre
582 North River Road
Charlottetown, PE
902-368-7083

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 34
Charlottetown, PE
goconnor@pei.sympatico.ca





PROVINCIAL PROFILE

The Celtic Heritage Association

The Association was formed by a group of dedicated islanders with the goal of achieving several key heritage projects. With agreement from the wider Benevolent Irish Society, the CHA embarked on a mission to bring a copy of the Book of Kells as well as an Irish Settlers Memorial to the province. Both projects proved to be widely successful.

Book of Kells

According to the University of New Brunswick, the facsimile edition of the Book of Kells is the culmination of a project between the Fine Art Facsimile Publisher of Switzerland and Trinity College, Dublin. Faksimile-Verlag Luzern produced the first colour reproduction of the manuscript in its entirety. 1480 limited edition copies were eventually made available for \$15,000 each.

Through fundraising efforts, the CHA purchased a copy of the Book which was repositied in Robertson Library of the University of Prince Edward Island. A page is turned each day for viewing.

Irish Settlers Memorial

With the help of all levels of government and the immense fundraising efforts of the CHA, the Irish Settlers Memorial was erected in Charlottetown on Canada Day, 2001. The memorial, which honours over ten thousand early immigrants to the island, is composed of a tall Celtic cross which is the exact proportions and shape of the Cross of Moone in Co. Kildare, and a granite bench with outstretched, welcoming arms which embrace the circular terrace composed of thirty-two distinctive flagstones imported from each of the counties in Ireland. As described on the commemorative plaque, the Memorial faces the harbour at three tides where, "the immigrants entered upon their new lives".

Brendan O'Grady, past president of the CHA and author of *Exile and Islanders – The Irish Settlers of Prince Edward Island*, reveals that each stone has a special history. One of his fondest memories of the project is the support it received from Ireland. According to O'Grady, the project architect travelled to quarries in each county to collect the stones for the terrace. When he faced difficulties finding a source in Sligo, he visited a local pub where two enthusiastic Irishmen volunteered on their tractors to head up the great Ben Bulbin Mountain – which was a great inspiration for Yeats - to collect a specimen. This was just one of the many stories.

With the immense success of their projects, the Association is planning to disband and turn over the legacy items to the local civil authorities, while maintaining a passive presence through guidance and through the promotion of the island's heritage.



Tignish Irish Folk Festival Committee

In July, 2011, Ambassador Bassett attended the unveiling of a Celtic cross to commemorate those who settled in the north-west of the province beginning in 1811. The wording on the monument, erected by the Tignish Irish Folk Festival Committee (<http://www.tignishirishfolkfestival.com/>) reads, "...their descendants have cherished their Irish heritage, lived in harmony with their neighbours and faithfully served their God and Community". Monaghan Mayor Seamus Coyle and Fr. Paul Reilly, great-grandson of Edward Reilly who arrived in 1811, were also present.

(<http://www.journalpioneer.com/News/Local/2011-07-30/article-2684363/Irish-heritage-celebrated-in-Tignish/1>)

Historical Figure

The intriguing Father of Confederation Edward Whelan adopted Prince Edward Island as his province. He emigrated from Co. Mayo, Ireland. Whelan was also a gifted journalist and orator and was past president of the Benevolent Irish Society

Edward Whelan - Smith, Alley collection, Acc2702/S2 3/108, Public Archives and Records Office of Prince Edward Island





OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Bassett's schedule has been as busy as ever during recent months as he continues his commitment to visiting as many regions of Canada as possible, in order to meet with members of the country's many Irish community groups as well as provincial politicians and officials.

August saw the Ambassador visit Grosse-Île at the invitation of Irish Heritage Quebec (<http://pages.videotron.com/irishhqc/>), who organised an excursion to the island for a commemoration ceremony. Ambassador Bassett and fellow guest US Consul General Peter O'Donohue spoke at the event in remembrance of the over 6,000 Irish immigrants who are buried on in 1847, as well as the thousands more who passed through its quarantine stations over the years. While the Ambassador was in Quebec City, the civic authorities also organised a reception at Maison O'Neill, an event hosted by Deputy Mayor Doyle. Maison O'Neill is a 19th century house of an Irish immigrant family and is regarded as representing an important part of Quebec City's heritage.

In September, Ambassador Bassett was again in the province of Quebec, this time forming part of the Irish delegation to the International Civil Aviation Authority conference in Montreal, where international passport standards were discussed. Soon afterwards, he flew to Vancouver where he attended the opening of a very successful exhibition of the work of Irish artist Paddy McCann. More information about Paddy's work and the exhibition itself can be found on the website of the Petley Jones Gallery in Vancouver: <http://www.petleyjones.com/dynamic/artist.asp?ArtistID=158>.

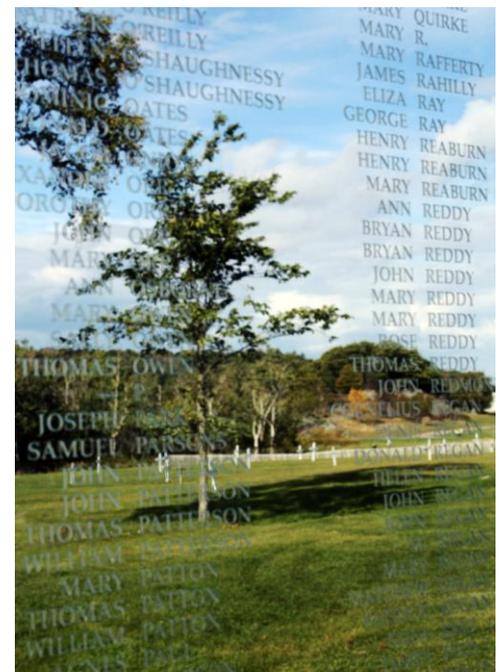
While in Vancouver, the Ambassador also attended a lunch held by the Irish Benevolent Society of B.C. for local Irish seniors. Here, he presented a grant cheque from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) to the organisation, to support similar events in the future. The trip to Vancouver was wrapped up with a visit to the Irish Women's Network B.C., who held a networking event giving recently arrived Irish immigrants to the city an opportunity to meet with fellow Irish community members. The Ambassador presented an ESP grant to the Irish Women's Network to support their efforts to assist the new arrivals.



*Celtic Cross at Grosse-Île, Quebec
The 50 foot high Celtic Cross was erected by the Ancient Order of Hibernians on August 15th, 1909*



Fever sheds at Grosse-Île, Quebec, built in 1847



Looking out from the glass panels at the names of those who lie in the mass grave, marked by white crosses, Grosse-Île, Quebec. The memorial was erected in 1997 for the 150th commemoration of the Famine



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE AMBASSADOR

Later in September, the Ambassador was in Toronto where the Atlantic Corridor were in town. The Atlantic Corridor is a business group based in the midlands of Ireland which aims to help local companies set up international linkages with North America. It is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ambassador Bassett met with the group's member companies and attended a networking event hosted by the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce Toronto branch in their honour. He also returned to Montreal in late September to address integration and networking event organised by the St Patrick's Society of Montreal and attended by a large number of new immigrants, potential employers and established members of the Irish community.

October has been a busy month in Ottawa with a variety of events being held at the Ambassador's residence in Rockcliffe, including the "Art and a Harp" art-gallery style fundraiser organised by the Irish Society of the National Capital Region. The month also saw the Ambassador host a reception for the Ottawa University conference on "The Future of the Irish Language in North America", which saw participants come from all over Canada, the U.S. and Ireland to discuss the potential for expanding and improving the teaching of Irish on this side of the Atlantic. And on the economic side, the Embassy and Enterprise Ireland co-hosted a networking reception for six Irish software companies who came to Ottawa to take part in the high-profile GTEC conference. Irish whiskey was also promoted at the major fund raising event for the 3C medical foundation which took place at the residence on 28 October.

Amid all of this activity, Ambassador Bassett escaped Ottawa to be at the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann Eastern Region's AGM in Kingston, Ontario, where he paid tribute to the great work being done by the organisation in promoting and celebrating Irish music and heritage.

The Ambassador also attended the 80th anniversary celebrations for the Erin Sports Association in Montreal on 22 October. The Erin group have been raising money for 8 decades to help underprivileged groups in Verdun area of the city.

Embassy announces grant assistance to Irish organisations in Canada

The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provides financial support through its Emigrant Support Programme to organisations which are engaged in the delivery of services to members of Irish communities overseas.

The majority of funding from the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) goes to support organisations which provide welfare information and advisory services to Irish citizens living abroad, particularly those who are most vulnerable and marginalised, including the elderly. In recent years, the Programme has expanded to support capital, community and heritage projects which foster a greater sense of identity and belonging within Irish communities and strengthen their links with Ireland.

This autumn the Embassy informed the following organisations that they would be receiving assistance from the ESP of just under \$200,000. The individual allocations were:

- Charitable Irish Society of Halifax; \$9,300
- Oral History Project, Concordia Montreal; \$5,200
- Emerald isle Seniors Toronto; \$25,000
- Holy Cross Cemetery Halifax; \$4,500
- Irish Sports and Social Society Edmonton; \$30,000
- Irish women's Network of BC Vancouver; \$3,000
- Lar na nGeal (Brampton) Seniors; \$5,150
- Lar na nGeal (Brampton) Upgrade of facilities; \$25,000
- St Brigid's Centre Ottawa; \$10,000
- Ottawa Irish Society Seniors Drop in Centre; \$12,000
- St Patrick's Society Montreal (new arrivals); \$4,500
- The Irish Benevolent Society of BC Vancouver; \$7,500
- Irish Canadian Immigration Centre Toronto; \$50,000



NOTICE BOARD

Qualifying for Canadian and Irish Benefits: Social Security Agreement between Canada and Ireland

On January 1st 1992 an agreement between Canada and Ireland came into force which protects the pension rights of people who have worked and paid reckonable social security contributions in both Ireland and Canada. The Agreement may help you qualify for Canadian and Irish old age, disability or survivor benefits.

Who is covered?

The Agreement covers you if you have been subject to the social security laws of both Ireland and Canada. Self-employed contributors are also covered by the Agreement. It also extends to your dependents and survivors, for example Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) and Guardian (Contributory) Pensions.

Payments covered?

The Irish payments covered under the Agreement are:

- State Pension (Contributory) (payable at age 66)
- State Pension (Transition) (payable at age 65)
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension,
- Guardian's Payment (Contributory),
- Invalidity Pension
- Bereavement Grant.

The Canadian payments covered under the Agreement are:

Under the Old Age Security Act:

- basic Old Age Security Pension,
- Guaranteed Income Supplement,

and

— Allowance for the survivor.

Under the Canada Pension Plan:

- Retirement Pension,
- Disability Benefits,

and

— Survivor's Benefits.

For more information on the agreement, visit:

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/isp/pub/ibfa/ireland-i.shtml>

Or contact Service Canada:

By phone:

From Canada or the United States:

1 800 277-9914

1 800 255-4786 (TTY)

Applying for certificates: Births, Deaths, Marriages, Stillbirths and Adoptions in Ireland - Now Available Online

The General Register Office (Oifig An Ard-Chláraitheora) is the central civil repository for records relating to Births, Deaths and Marriages in Ireland. It is concerned with civil registration matters only and does not provide further Genealogical/Family History research.

Records of marriages other than Roman Catholic marriages date back to 1st April 1845. Records of Births, Deaths and Roman Catholic Marriages date back to 1st January 1864 (for the period before 1864, parish registers recording details of baptisms, marriages and burials provide the only source of information relating to births, marriages and deaths. For more information on obtaining church records, visit:

http://www.groireland.ie/about_us.htm

The Register Office will supply a Certified Copy or a photocopy of an entry in the Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages provided sufficient information is furnished by an applicant to enable the records to be identified. A photocopy is not suitable for administrative or legal purposes but is ideal for genealogical purposes. Applications can be made in writing, by fax, in person or now **online** to the office. It is important to give as many details of the event in question as you can, i.e. full name/s, date and location of event, names and occupations of parents and mother's maiden names. The more information that can be given, the more likely the records will be located.

For further information regarding online applications, contact:
00353-1-8638200

Or visit: www.certificates.ie

For further information regarding the General Register Office, contact:

General Register Office, Government Offices,

Convent Road, Roscommon.

Tel: +353 (0) 90 6632900

LoCall: 1890 252076

Fax: +353 (0) 90 6632999

Fax: +353 (0) 90 6632988

Or visit: <http://www.groireland.ie/>



CONSULAR SERVICES

Honorary Consulates

Honorary Consuls assist the Embassy by providing a consular service to Irish citizens within their consular area. Consuls serve a variety of functions including providing passport applications and updates (fee, processing time, etc.), emergency services and information about visas. While the Honorary Consuls will endeavour to assist you with your enquiry, you should be aware that they may not be in a position to provide the full range of services that the Embassy in Ottawa provides (e.g.

Honorary Consuls do not issue visas for travelling to Ireland)

Please also note that as Honorary Consuls act in an honorary capacity, there may be times during normal office hours when the Honorary Consul may not be available to provide immediate assistance. If this occurs and the matter is urgent, you should contact the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa immediately for assistance. Also, if, in cases of genuine emergency outside normal office hours or at the weekend, the Honorary Consul is unavailable, you may contact the Embassy directly.

The Embassy's after-hours service is contactable at all times outside normal business hours +1 613 233 6281. Leave a message on the answering machine and the Embassy's Duty Officer will contact you as soon as possible.

The Embassy has Honorary Consulate Offices in the following 6 locations:

***Please note that the position of Honorary Consul in Toronto is at present vacant. Please refer all queries to the Embassy in Ottawa**

British Columbia (Vancouver)

Mr. John P. Cheevers
Honorary Consulate of Ireland
Suite 210-837 Beatty Street,
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
V6B 2M6
Tel: 604-683-9233
Fax: 604-683-8402
email: IrishConsul@telus.net

Alberta (Calgary)

Mr. Cameron Millikin
Honorary Consul General of Ireland
3803-8A Street S.W.
Calgary, AB T2T 3B6
Tel: 403-243-2970
Fax: 403-287-1023

Alberta (Edmonton)

Ms. Doodie Cahill
Honorary Consul of Ireland
13 Glenmeadow Crescent
St. Albert, AB, T8N 3A2
Tel: 780-458-0810
Fax: 780-458-6483
email: gtcahill@shaw.ca

Quebec (Montreal)

Dr. Michael Kenneally
Honorary Consul General of Ireland
School of Canadian Irish Studies
Concordia University, Hall Building, 1001-11
1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest
Montreal, QC H3G 1M8
Tel: 514-848-2424 ext 7389
Fax: 514-848-2866

Newfoundland and Labrador (St. John's)

Mr. Mark Dobbin
Honorary Consul of Ireland
95 Water Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 5383, Stn. C
St. John's, NL A1C 5W2
Tel: 709-738-6280
Fax: 709-738-5578
Email: irishhonoraryconsul@killickcapital.com

Manitoba

Mr Aidan O'Brien
Honorary Consul of Ireland
1139 Grosvenor Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3M 0M9
Tel: 204-452-9301



Irish citizens travelling or living overseas – Register with the Department of Foreign Affairs

Citizens who are outside the Common Travel Area, Ireland/Great Britain are encouraged to register their contact details with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Registration is voluntary. It is a facility available to all Irish citizens and is intended for use by people travelling on holidays, and also for business travellers and Irish citizens living overseas. While we encourage everyone to register, the facility is particularly useful for people travelling to remote destinations or locations where they may be at risk. The registration system records the dates on which people expect to be abroad, so it is worth registering, even for short trips. When you register your details with the Department, it means that we can contact you if there is an unforeseen crisis such as a natural disaster or civil unrest or if you have a family emergency while you are overseas. If there is a major crisis abroad, the Department already has a record of your details, so we can contact you at an early stage in a crisis. Your registration will assist us to locate you and, if necessary, provide assistance to you and your family in Ireland.

You can find out more about the registration facility and fill out the registration form on our website:
<http://www.embassyofireland.ca/home/index.aspx?id=87262>

Embassy Team



Ambassador

Dr. Ray Bassett

Deputy Head of Mission

(Political/Economic/Irish Community/Press)

Ms. Hilary Reilly



Second Secretary

(Consular Services/Cultural/Administration)

Ms. Paula Molloy



Passport Officer: Ms. Siobhán Doran

Visa Officer/Accounts: Ms. Gurpreet Bajwa

Foreign Birth Registration/Protocol/Office of the Ambassador

Ms. Virginie Proskurniak

Foreign Birth Registration/General Enquiries:

Ms. Debbie Earwaker



Stagiaire- Ms. Sarah Thorenton

(With political and cultural experience in both Canada & Ireland Sarah has joined our team while Hilary Reilly is on maternity leave)

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10a.m.-12.30 p.m and 2p.m. -4 p.m.

Telephone lines are open between 9 am and 5 pm
Eastern Standard Time Monday –Friday.

An out of hours emergency service is available by
dialing 613-233 6281-only genuine emergency
situations will receive a response outside normal
office hours.

The Embassy is not responsible for external services and events or for the content of external websites, information on which is provided in good faith for information purposes only.

The Embassy is very grateful to Mr Daniel Reilly for his graphic design services in creating our original newsletter design. Anyone interested in Daniel's work can contact him at danielpreilly77@gmail.com