



FOUNDED 1856

The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society

1195 SHERBROOKE St. WEST, MONTREAL, QUEBEC

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

A note from the President

It has been an active year for the IPBS. The move to The MacDonald Stewart Foundation premises was arduous but, well worth it. The locale is just what a long-standing, non-profit organization needed. The fit could not be any better and is part of our renewal. As well, many of our historical photos and other memorabilia are on display at the MSF (and on our website).

We continue to quietly support those in need and participate in many Irish events in Montreal. From individual welfare, grass roots benevolent work, education, cultural and social we are present in Montreal.

As with many organizations, the membership renewal is a work in progress, and it is one which we feel positive about. At the AGM in May we were pleased to welcome Chad Spannaus and Bill Killfoyle to Council, and that is part of our ongoing renewal. Very sincere thanks were given to retiring council members Tony Waite, Dr. Bob Faith and David Hannaford, and reiterated here.

You can find more info here or on the website, or speak to us at your convenience.

We wish you a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**, may you have health and comfort in the new year, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Slainte,

Michael Nelson
IPBS President

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **IPBS Christmas Luncheon** will be held in Montreal, on **Friday, December 16, 2016**, at 12:00pm, at the **3 Brasseurs Crescent**, 1356 Rue Sainte-Catherine West (514) 788-9788. Please advise the IPBS office no later than Wednesday December 14, if you plan to attend. As this is the holiday season, we need to make reservations in advance. Members attending will be responsible for paying for their meals and refreshments directly to the restaurant.

2016 EVENTS IN REVIEW

FEBRUARY

New Premises

We are pleased to be settled in the head office of The MacDonald Stewart Foundation. Kitty corner from the Ritz, the building is also known as the Forget House. This magnificent golden square mile historic mansion features multiple meeting rooms, archives, offices and reception areas. Our many photos and artifacts are now displayed on the ground floor. Our office is on the third floor. A special thanks to Bruce Bolton, executive director of the MSF for the warm welcome, elegant service and efficient staff.



New Website

Thanks to council member David Clendenning for yeoman work putting together our website with all you need to know about the IPBS, with historical information, and photos. As well, the demanding task of updating the website and communicating with members through the website is being handled with aplomb by David.

The website is the main communication avenue for the IPBS. Thank you sir!

www.irishpbs.ca

MARCH

St-Pat's Parade Queen Selection

The annual parade queen selection evening took place in February. There were a remarkable number of brilliant young women again. The candidates presented researched Irish topics and in a further demonstration of public speaking delivered speeches on topics chosen at random. The IPBS president, Michael Nelson, was one of the judges for the evening. The Queen and her court were selected a few hours later to a rousing reception.



St. Patrick's Society Ball - March 1, 2016

Mayor Coderre was omnipresent this year, and welcome indeed. The St-Pat's ball was a party like none other with high energy and loud laughter throughout, and seen on the dance floor were past-president & current treasurer/council member Rob Ouellette with his favourite Irish lass, and new member Tierney Ness.

Erin Sports Irishman of the Year Breakfast - March 9, 2016

Council member and avid sportsman Chad Spannaus led a contingent of IPBS members to the breakfast.

St. Patrick's Society Luncheon - March 15, 2016

The luncheon featured Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, who entertained the crowd, and worked the room like the man of the people that he is portrayed as. Having met him a few times now, we agree, and he rightfully enjoys playing up his Irish roots.

St. Patrick's Day Parade - March 17, 2016

IPBS members marched with the Ancient Order of Hibernians again this year on a glorious day for a parade, witnessed by over 100,000 people.

APRIL

Old Brewery Mission

The IPBS once again sponsored a dinner at the **Old Brewery Mission**. This year the dinner was held on April 20. Over 450 meals were served by the IPBS and other volunteers. The Old Brewery continues to serve the needy and stretches every donation with the most possible efficiency. If you have not participated, we can assure you that it was a very rewarding experience, and eye-opening. We encourage you to join us in spring 2017 for the next one.

MAY

160th IPBS Annual Meeting and Dinner

Our dinner was held at our new premises, The MacDonald Stewart Foundation on Tuesday May 10, 2016. We were fortunate and very pleased to have **Michael Goldbloom** as our guest speaker. Mr. Goldbloom is the Principal of Bishop's University, former President and Publisher of the Montreal Gazette, former President of the YMCA of Montreal and member of the Order of Canada. He presented a history of Montreal through the life experiences of his father, Dr. Victor Goldbloom. It was an enlightening, engaging and entertaining presentation that had the audience completely enthralled.



AUGUST

A trip to the Grosse-Ile was organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. IPBS was represented Rob Ouellette.



SEPTEMBER

Several members of the IPBS attended the Irish famine exhibit at the Centaur Theatre put on by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and The Jeanie Johnston Foundation.

New Irish ambassador

Michael Kenneally herded reps of all the various Irish groups in Montreal to Concordia, including the IPBS, for a breakfast meet and greet with the new ambassador, Jim Kelly, a fine fellow indeed.

OCTOBER

The Trial of Padraig Pearse

A play concerning the Easter Rebellion and one of its participants, Padraig Pearse, featuring the character of D'Arcy McGee as the prosecuting attorney was brought to Montreal by several Irish organizations. Several members of the IPBS attended and were delighted by the enthusiastic performances of the touring Irish production, with a topnotch script and presentation. Local lawyer Brent Tyler, joined the cast as the judge, and performed like a pro.



NOVEMBER

The 9th Annual Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Lecture

On November 16, 2016, the Annual Irish Protestant Benevolent Society lecture was held on the topic of: *Class, Ethnicity and Financial Confraternity in the British and Irish Worlds before 1914*.

The lecture provided a wide-ranging overview of the ethnic dimension of benevolent mutualism, exploring in particular how ethnically Irish and British organizations were developed to provide their own safety net for when the fit and healthy sought felt their luck turned, or as time passed. Drawing upon evidence from the English-speaking world more widely, argues that, even in the sphere of mutualism and collective self-help, sectarian filters were applied to the idea of confraternal togetherness, so that Irishmen looked after Irishmen, Britons looked after their own, and the tenets of class often were stifled by the imperatives of nation or church.

Donald MacRaidl is Professor of British and Irish History at the University of Ulster, having previously held chairs of History at the Northumbria University and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Prior to that, he held lectureships at the universities of Northumbria and Sunderland. He is a leading authority on the Irish Diaspora and has produced ten books or pamphlets and over forty articles and chapters.



DECEMBER

St-Andrews Society Ball

On December 2, 2016 IPBS shall be an honoured guest along with some of the other sister societies at an evening of pomp & ceremony featuring pipers, debutantes and a lively night of Scottish reels as well.

IPBS Christmas luncheon

Friday, December 16, 2016, at 12:00pm, at the **3 Brasseurs Crescent**, 1356 Rue Sainte-Catherine West (514) 788-9788.

MAJOR PROJECTS

McGill University Health Centre and The New Shriners Hospitals for Children

At the time of writing this newsletter, we have written the final cheques to complete the last tranches for our capital campaign commitments to the McGill University Health Centre and the adjacent facility of the new Shriners Hospital for Children.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome David Cameron, Tierney Ness and Helen Meredith as members. Membership application forms are available from the IPBS office or online at www.irishpbs.ca . Please consider inviting a family member or a friend to join!

It's also that time again, please take a moment and mail in your \$25 dues payment. If you didn't pay your dues for 2016, kindly include it in your payment. Cheques should be made to the order of "IPBS" or "The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society".

2017

Irish season is around the corner, including the new line-up of films for Cine Gael

See our website www.irishpbs.ca for updates and details.