

A Message from the Ambassador

Firstly New Years greetings to all and hopefully 2014 will be as good a year as 2013. It has been an exciting and action packed autumn and the Embassy has been involved in a large number of events, too numerous to recount here. Some of the more noteworthy are outlined below.

On a personal level, I am absolutely delighted that we have passed the \$1m target which I had set for Charity fund raising at the Residence. Charity fundraising started in a small way when I was approached by the group “The 3Cs Foundation,” which raises funds for sufferers of Crohn’s Disease, Colitis and Colorectal cancer. We held the first event in October 2010 and it was very successful. The whole process just snowballed from there. Over the last 3 years, a large number of groups, including some local Irish groups and those raising money for medical charities, have used the great facility we have here in the Embassy residence to hold events and raise money for charity. Apart from the great causes which have been served, it has been tremendous fun. I am very proud of the work that the Residence staff have done to make this initiative such a success.



Pictured: Ambassador Ray Bassett presenting Prime Minister Stephen Harper with a sample of Guinness brewed during the Prime Minister’s visit to the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin

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Ambassador for Ireland



AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

Another highlight of the autumn was visiting New Brunswick with my wife Patricia. I had been to the Miramichi Irish Festival previously, but on this occasion I was privileged to spend a week in that beautiful corner of Canada. I met with business groups, Irish community organisations and political figures. I was in three of the main urban centres, Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John. In all three areas there are thriving Irish societies. I even met with Chris Collins MLA in Moncton who is related to the legendary Irish leader Michael Collins. There is a striking resemblance to

Collins, see the above photo. The connections between New Brunswick and Ireland are phenomenal, especially with Saint John. The poignant famine burial site at Partridge Island stands testimony to that great wave of migrants which swept into Canada in 1847.

Things also moved along on the economic front. The long awaited and much anticipated free trade agreement between Canada and the EU (CETA) was finally settled after 4 long years of negotiation. Ireland is a very strong supporter of this agreement which it is estimated will add €250m per annum alone to our exports to

Canada. In particular, we hope to see much better access for Irish dairy products under CETA. Now that the politicians have agreed the overall framework, it is up to individual commercial concerns to grasp the opportunity that CETA represents. I hope that many Irish companies will be beating a path to Canada and with the assistance of Enterprise Ireland will be making inroads in the Canadian market. Also Canadian companies will hopefully be looking to Ireland as a base to operate from to the whole of the massive EU single market of 550m people.

I also visited

Newfoundland for the Festival of the Sea as a guest of St John's Mayor, Denis O'Keefe, which links the province with County Waterford. I was amazed at the number of young Irish people now living in Newfoundland. The local GAA club, the Avalon Harps is thriving under the excellent stewardship of Ian Farrell. The visit of the Mayor of Waterford, John Cummins for the Festival further strengthened the links between south east Ireland and the "Rock". The Newfoundland immigration mission to Waterford in November was further evidence of this connection.



Pictured Left to Right: Chris Collins MLA and Ambassador Ray Bassett



AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

Montreal and Toronto Irish scenes continue to buzz with the 85th anniversary of the founding of the United Irish Societies in Montreal and the annual Toronto GAA dinner at the Hot House cafe. I was honoured to be a guest on both occasions.

The Montreal Centre also witnessed a gala dinner to celebrate the contribution of one of the most charismatic leaders of Irish Canada, Dr Brian O'Neill Gallery, to the School of Irish Studies in Concordia University. Brian's was an amazing fund raiser for the Foundation which underpins the school. During his period with the Foundation, Brian raised \$8m. I was delighted to present Brian with a Certificate of Irish heritage and also a letter of thanks from the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins.

In Toronto, the visit of my old friend Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, now Lord Mayor of Belfast was a personal delight. I have known Máirtín for many years through some of the most difficult periods in Belfast's history. It is tremendous to see him now occupy the highest position in the city. He



Pictured: Ambassador and Mrs. Bassett with Irish workers at Nova Scotia Crystal

gave a very warm and convincing promotion of his native city at a lunch co-hosted by Tourism Ireland and the Ireland Fund. Máirtín used the occasion to bestow the title of Belfast Ambassador on Hugo Straney and John Speers, two of the best known members of the Irish community in Toronto.

I had the opportunity of meeting again with the Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, in Ottawa who accepted a presentation of Guinness from Diageo Ireland. As usual the PM was very interested in discussing the economic situation in Ireland and also in the Irish heritage of his wife Laureen. He had a batch of Guinness named after him in commemoration of his visit to Dublin earlier this year.

And what about the Westjet announcement of direct flights from St John's to Dublin. It was brilliant and now there are 4 airline companies offering flights from Canada direct to Ireland and two of them, Rouge and Aer Lingus doing so on a year round basis. Also Air Transat will continue to operate out of Montreal and Toronto. I know it



Pictured Left to Right: Ambassador Bassett presenting a Certificate of Irish Heritage to Brian O'Neill-Gallery



AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

was the chief objective of Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Loyola Hearn to strengthen air links. Well done to Loyola. We should now get a clearer picture of the number of visitors to Ireland from Canada if more are coming direct rather than through third countries. All we need now is a direct flight from Western Canada, Calgary, Edmonton or Vancouver. It is certainly a much rosier picture than 3 years ago.

I should also mention the fantastic Innisfil Celtic Festival which takes place every year in



Pictured: Ambassador and Mrs. Bassett at the Innisfil Celtic Festival

September. This year was even bigger and better. The massed pipe bands are a great sight and it is very gratifying to see people of Celtic backgrounds in this part of Ontario celebrating their heritage - Full marks to Angie, Sam, Renee and all the gang for a job extremely well done. It is an event well worth experiencing.

The one bad news was the untimely death of Ireland's greatest living poet, Seamus Heaney. He was an outstanding person who was loved by the people of Ireland. Seamus never let the fame and ballyhoo, associated with being a Nobel Prize



Members of a group from County Longford who attended the "Communities in Bloom" event in Ottawa, pictured with local Longford woman Jackie Gilna

Laureate, go to his head. The standing ovation at the Dublin Kerry All Ireland semi final was ample testimony to the affection that the people of Ireland held for him. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a ainm.

I know we had lots more activity such as the visits by the Longford Council; the Irish trade delegation to the Marine Renewables conference; the British Isles family genealogy conference on Ireland and the Ottawa valley; a visit to Halifax and the Holy Cross Cemetery project. It has been an extraordinary period and I am so grateful to the countless thousands of Irish and Canadians who give of their own time to promote Ireland and Irish culture. We are so fortunate in having such a resource.



Members of the Irish Scouting Association at the Irish Residence



ECONOMICS CORNER

Business Gathering, Dublin

The Ireland Canada Chambers of Commerce here in Canada answered the Gathering call and together with their sister organisation, the Ireland Canada Business Association (ICBA) in Dublin, organised a Business Gathering in Dublin at the end of September last. 45 individuals travelled from Canada to participate in the event and on the day of event, the conference room at the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin was packed to over 200 capacity. The Gathering focussed on trade and business links between Ireland and Canada and was in effect an Ireland Canada Business Summit. On the eve of the Summit, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Oisín Quinn, kindly hosted a reception for the travelling delegates from Canada in the historic Mansion House.

The Summit was officially opened by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Dr Leo Varadkar T.D. who spoke of the strong and historic links between Ireland and Canada and the potential these presented. The day was packed with speeches and panel discussions focussing on the Ireland Canada business relationship. The Honourable John Manley, Chair of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada delivered the keynote address at the Summit, highlighting the benefits to both Ireland and Canada of the EU Canada free



The Wonderful Organising Committee

trade agreement (CETA) then under negotiation. Danny McCoy, CEO of the Irish Business and Employers Confederation gave a fascinating speech in which he outlined the many successes that Irish businesses were experiencing and the strong fundamentals in the Irish business

environment today. Other elements of the Summit included panel discussions by Irish company representatives with operations in Canada and by Canadian company representatives with



Pictured Left to Right: Danny McCoy CEO of IBEC, Minister Varadkar, and the Hon John Manley



Pictured Speaking: Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Dr. Leo Varadkar T.D.



ECONOMICS CORNER



Pictured Left to Right: The Hon John Manley, Malachy Smith (ICBA) and H.E. Loyola Hearn, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland



Minister Varadkar in conversation with Mr. Manley

operations in Ireland, all of whom spoke frankly and positively about their experiences of investment and trade with the other country.

The event was a great success and received coverage in both the Irish and Canadian media. Hats off to the organising committee of the Ireland-Canada Chambers here in Canada, and the Ireland Canada Business Association in Dublin, for a wonderful initiative and a great event which has helped to highlight once again the many positives of trade and investment



Pictured Left to Right: Laureen Regan, Chair Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce Calgary, Ambassador Hearn, and Hilary Reilly, Deputy Head of Mission Irish Embassy Ottawa



Panel Discussion Oliver Murray, CEO Brandes Investment, Kieron Dowling, Conach International Bill Kyle, CEO of Irish Life Insurance

between our two countries, and the opportunities that are there. A particular mention must go to the past president of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce in Toronto Cormac Monahan and Malachy Smith of the ICBA in Dublin for driving this event forward, together with their able committee

A detailed report of the full Business Summit may be found on the website of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce in Toronto www.icccto.com.



ECONOMICS CORNER



Pictured Left to Right: Prime Minister Stephen Harper and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso

EU And Canada Announce Agreement On Free Trade Deal

In October 2013, after almost 4 years of negotiation, the EU and Canada reached political agreement on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). On the basis of the political breakthrough, the negotiators will continue the process and will work to settle all outstanding issues.

The CETA is the first free trade agreement between the European Union and a G8 country. It will remove 99% of tariffs between both entities, and will create sizeable market access opportunities in services and investment.

The agreement is very good news for Irish exporters. Goods exports from Ireland to Canada have more than doubled since 2006 and the CETA will help to expand our already sizeable trade with Canada. As the most westerly country in Europe, and the closest geographically to Canada with similar values and culture, Ireland is well placed to take advantage of the opportunities

the CETA will present. Speaking on the day of the announcement, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Richard Bruton TD noted that the agreement has the potential to add over €200m in our bilateral trade with Canada.

Some technical work remains to be completed on an agreement of this size but it is expected to come into effect by the end of 2015–early 2016.

Kobo Announces Investment In Ireland

Kobo, the leading international e-reader company headquartered in Toronto, announced in November that it is to establish a software development centre in Dublin with the expected creation of over 30 highly skilled jobs. The new Dublin technology centre will provide software development support for all worldwide Kobo partners, as well as localisation and feature enhancements for all local markets. The investment is supported by IDA Ireland, Ireland's inward investment agency. Further information is available on www.idaireland.com



Pictured: Kobo CEO Michael Serbinis



ECONOMICS CORNER

Bailout Exit

On 15 December 2013, Ireland formally exited the EU/IMF bailout programme. This means that Ireland will meet its funding needs independently on the international financial markets again. As the Taoiseach Enda Kenny stated in his address to the nation on the evening of December 15th, this is a very important step that sends out a powerful signal internationally. The Taoiseach stated that this important step required difficult decisions at home and tough negotiations abroad. As he put it “We had to act decisively to show investors and markets that we were serious about fixing our economic problems. This was tough – wages and services were cut and many families have had to face the devastating consequences of unemployment and emigration”. The Taoiseach and his colleague the Minister for Finance thanked the Irish people for their forbearance throughout.

On the 17 December 2013 the Government launched a medium term strategy for economic recovery. At the launch of the document, the Minister for Finance Michael Noonan T.D. noted that while the end is now in sight, we are not there yet and must not dissipate hard won progress. The aims of the Government’s Medium Term Economic Strategy will be to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated; to set out a path for economic growth and employment and to identify new strategic priorities that will have the biggest impact on increasing the economy’s potential growth.

On 7 January, the National Treasury Management Agency sold 10 year debt for the first time since exiting the bailout at close to historic lows. Minister Noonan noted that the yield of 3.54% “illustrated the strength of Ireland’s international reputation and brings us far closer to the borrowing rates of the strongest European economies.”

While unemployment still remains high at 12.4%, there have also been some positive indicators on the job creation front, with 1200 jobs being created per week. Job creation remains a major priority for the Government.

Third Global Irish Economic Forum

The third Global Irish Economic Forum took place in Dublin Castle on 4-5 October 2013. In May 2013, the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste had issued invitations to members of the Global Irish Network which consists of 300 of the most influential Irish and Irish-connected individuals abroad, all of whom have demonstrated a strong affiliation with Ireland and have a record of high achievement in international business or in assisting in the promotion of Ireland.



The Forum in Session



ECONOMICS CORNER



Pictured Left to Right: Robert Kearns and Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore

The Forum was attended by Global Irish Network members, members of the Government, Ministers of State, senior officials, presidents of third level institutions, members of the opposition, and domestic business leaders for two days of intensive discussions.

The format of the Forum consisted of a mixture of plenary sessions, panel discussions, and working groups. Two new initiatives for the 2013 Forum were the hosting of regional roundtables in Cork, Galway and Belfast and a major networking event during which a number of Network members held a series of round table meetings with over 70 Irish SMEs.

Participants were asked to consider how the Forum can make significant contributions towards Government, Irish business and diaspora working together to deliver jobs and recovery and growing exports. Working groups were the central element of the Forum with 18 working groups meeting for a combined 90 hours over the two days. Under the chairmanship of a Global Irish Network member, each group was asked to

produce 2-3 specific proposals for innovative ideas linked to priority challenges in the Government's Action Plan for Job. In total 63 recommendations arose from the

working groups. In closing the Forum, the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste undertook to examine by the end of November all the outcomes that came out of the Forum and to report back to participants on those deliberations.

A full report on the third Global Irish Economic Forum was issued on 17 December 2013. The report and further information on the Forum is available on the website:

www.globalirishforum.ie

Membership of the Global Irish Network is by invitation from the Taoiseach.



Tim McTiernan moderating a panel discussion



Pictured Left to Right at the Forum: Peter Murphy, Jackie Gilna, Colm O'Carroll, Laureen Regan, Robert Kearns, Gabriel McCaffrey



ECONOMICS CORNER

Edmonton Delegation Visits Ottawa

The Embassy hosted an event for representatives of the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation and the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce at the residence in November. The groups were taking part in a joint mission to Ottawa. The Embassy had a working lunch with the group, which was also attended by our Honorary Consul General in Edmonton, Mrs. Doodie Cahill, head of Enterprise Ireland Canada office Ross O'Colmáin and local members of the Global Irish Network. We were honoured to be joined by the Hon Mike Lake MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Industry.

As Brad Ferguson, CEO of Edmonton Economic Development Corporation pointed out during an address to the Economic Club of Canada, the city of Edmonton is booming and has outperformed every other Canadian city in recent times. Edmonton generated \$81bn in GDP last year, up 4.9% on the previous year and over 100,000 jobs have been added to the local economy per annum. Edmonton is also seeking to become a hub for entrepreneurship.



Ambassador Bassett, Deputy Head of Mission Hilary Reilly, Irish Honorary Consul General in Alberta Doodie Cahill, and EI Canada head Ross O'Colmáin pictured with members of the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation, the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and invited guests

The ties between Ireland and Edmonton (and Alberta in general) are very strong. Over 17% of Alberta's population have Irish heritage. The province is currently the number one destination for migration from Ireland and many Irish people work in the trades and business professions there. Minister of State Joe Costello led a trade delegation of 15 Irish companies there last June.



Pictured Left to Right: Ambassador Ray Bassett, Brad Ferguson CEO of EEDC, and the Honourable Mike Lake MP



CULTURAL CORNER

IN MEMORIAM

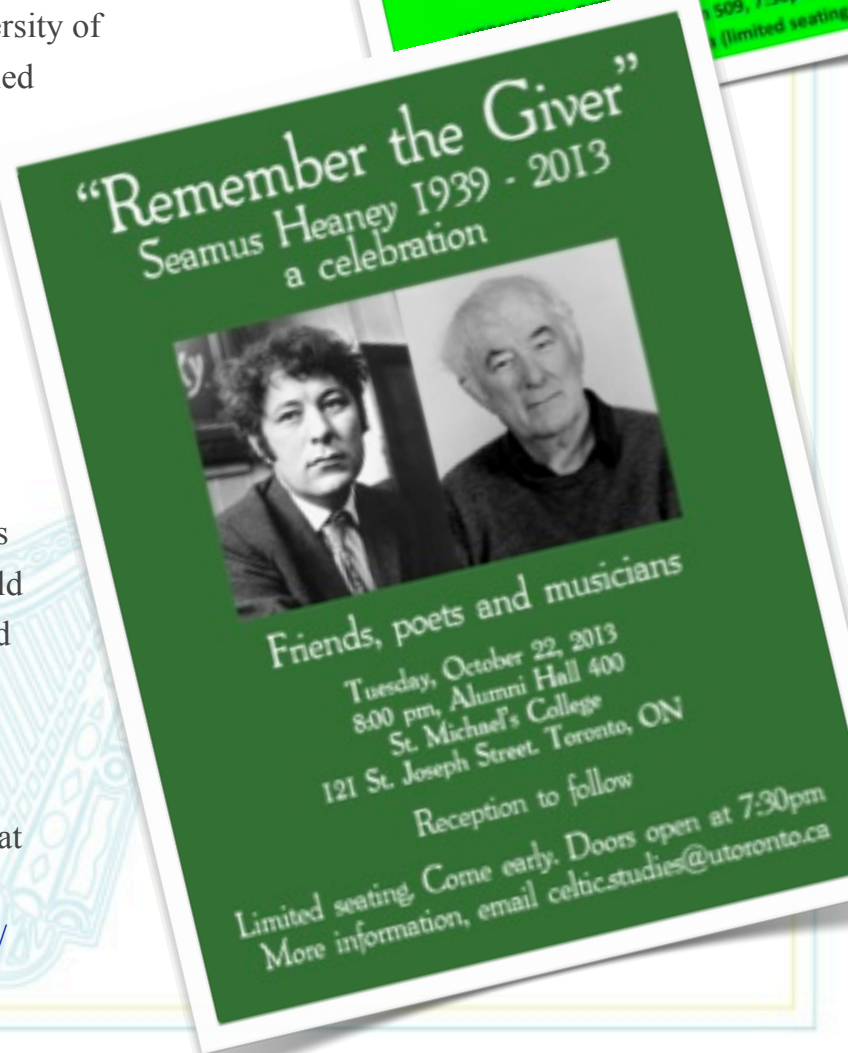
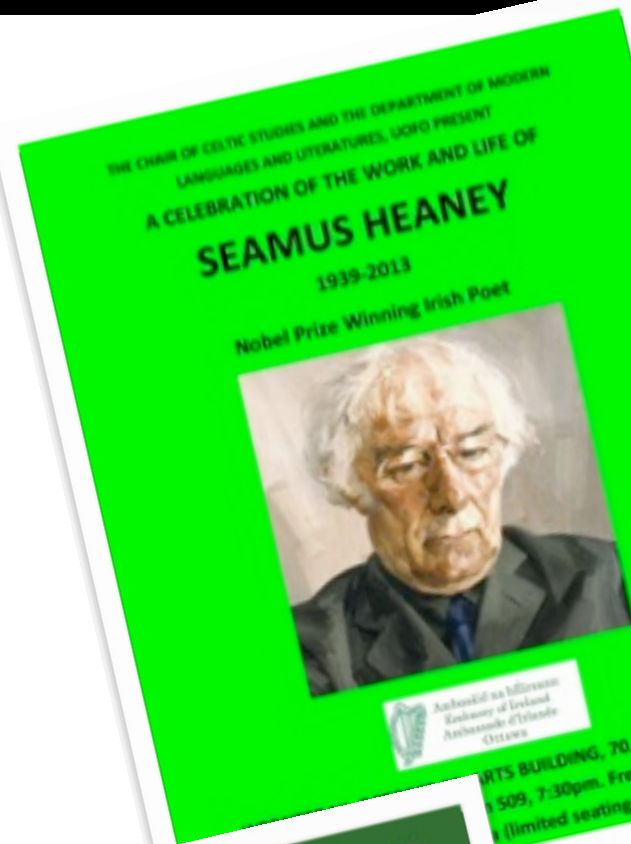
SEAMUS HEANEY 1939–2013

Nobel Prize Winning Irish Poet



Seamus Heaney was fondly remembered at two memorable events in October to celebrate his life and work, at the University of Toronto and the University of Ottawa. On both occasions, Ambassador Bassett spoke of Seamus Heaney's humanity and the great amount of public affection for him – he is universally mourned, as demonstrated by tributes such as the two minutes of clapping in appreciation for him at the All Ireland Gaelic football semi-final in Croke Park. The Celtic Studies Program at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, hosted their evening on 22 October called "Remember the Giver" after a phrase from one of Seamus Heaney's poems. The audience was moved by the poetry readings, traditional music and personal tributes. The Chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa interspersed poetry readings and depictions of events from Seamus Heaney's life in their enjoyable tribute on 23 October. Both evenings were full to capacity. The Embassy was very happy to support these two events and would like to thank the organisers. Both events received support from the Embassy of Ireland's cultural budget. The Ambassador took part in a tribute to Seamus Heaney with Michael Enright on CBC Radio's *The Sunday Edition*, you can listen to that recording here:

<http://www.cbc.ca/remembering-seamus-heaney/>





CULTURAL CORNER

EU Film Festival and the Irish Film *Natural Grace*

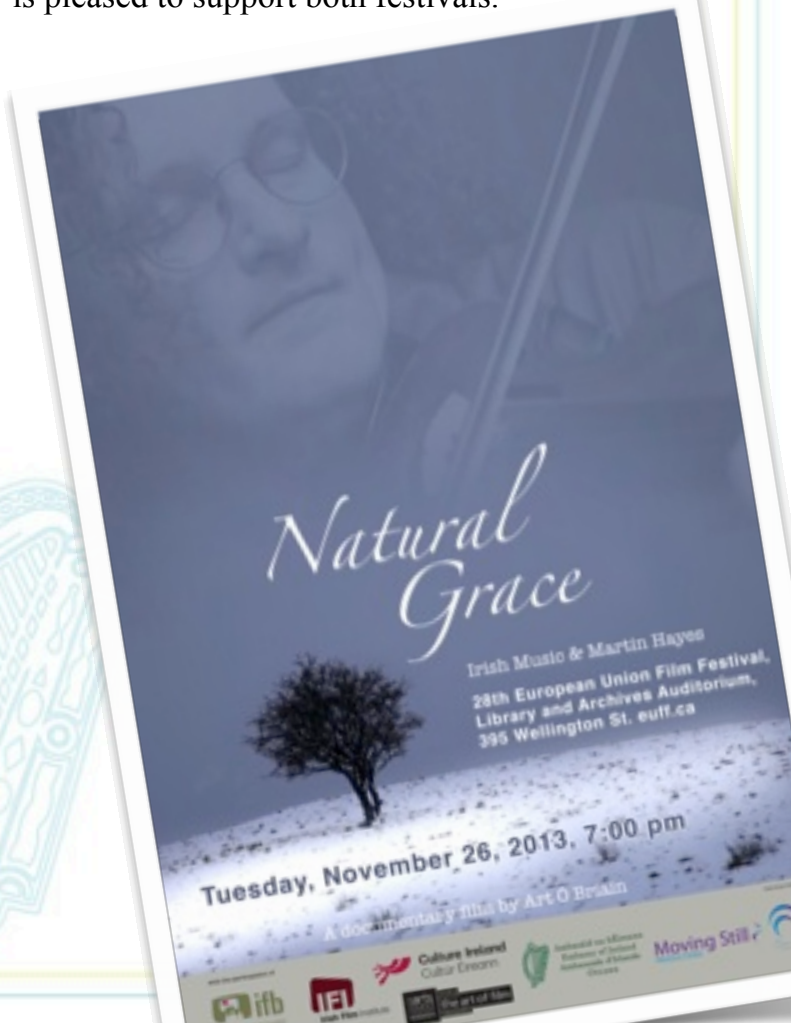
The Embassy arranged for “Natural Grace”, a documentary about the world of Irish music as lived and played by Martin Hayes, to be shown in the EU Film Festival in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver with the support of the Irish Film Institute. The film, directed by Art O’Briain, is an up close and personal portrait of a fascinating and important figure in the evolution of Irish culture. Hayes, from East Clare, is widely regarded as the finest fiddle player of his generation and has brought a new audience, worldwide and in Ireland, to this music. “Natural Grace” reveals how Hayes’ understanding of melody in Irish tunes has opened up the very nature and character of this music. “Natural Grace” was awarded Best Irish Feature Documentary at the Galway Film Fleadh 2012. More details about the EU Film Festival can be found at www.euff.ca



Pictured: Martin Hayes

Upcoming Irish Film Festivals

The Toronto Irish Film Festival and Cine Gael Montreal are continuing their tradition of celebrating Irish cinema in Toronto and Montreal in 2014. The Toronto Irish Film Festival (TIRFF), now in its fourth year, will take place 28 February – 2 March 2014 in the TIFF Bell Lightbox - keep an eye on the website, torontoirishfilmfest.com, for the 2014 schedule. Cine Gael opened its 22nd season in Montreal on Saturday 25 January with a screening of Lance Daly's *Life's A Breeze*- see www.cinega尔蒙real.com for the full schedule of films, which are screened in the DeSeve Cinema of Concordia University. The Embassy is pleased to support both festivals.





CULTURAL CORNER

Rejigged Festival Nova Scotia

The Embassy supported the participation of two sean-nós dancers, Brian Cunningham and Kieran Jordan, in the Re-Jigged festival in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, on 25-26 October 2013. Brian's sean-nós workshop attracted both new and experienced dancers, and he also collaborated with a modern Irish and an Acadian step dancer for Trading Steps where they compared and contrasted their various styles. Kieran worked with renowned arranger/ composer Scott Macmillan and the Re-Jigged Musical Ensemble to produce an original choreography, and offered a master class to the local sean-nós dancers. Both dancers took to the stage with fellow dancers, musicians and singers for the Gala Concert. More information about Re-Jigged: A Celebration of New Celtic Music & Dance can be found at: www.rejiggedfestival.com



Sean-nós Dancers Photo Credit: Jeff Harper



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland
Ambassade d'Irlande
Ottawa

The Embassy has a small budget to support non-commercial cultural events in Canada. If you would like to make an application for 2014 please contact Elizabeth Keogh, Second Secretary, for more details at elizabeth.keogh@dfa.ie

Culture Ireland promotes Irish arts worldwide. The next deadline for grant applications is 15 April 2014. This round will cover events from July 2014 onwards. For more details see www.cultureireland.ie



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann



PROVINCIAL PROFILE

Provincial Profile: New Brunswick

Ambassador Ray Bassett made a recent visit to the Maritime province of New Brunswick, which is home to a vibrant and enthusiastic Irish

community. In this month's newsletter, we will take a look at the Irish connection between Ireland and beautiful New Brunswick.

The Ambassador was thrilled with the wonderful reception he received in New Brunswick, and was delighted to visit the province after being invited by numerous Irish community groups. Dr Bassett met with prominent members of the New Brunswick political and business community, along with some companies who have strong Irish links. He honoured those pioneering Irish families who were among the first arrivals to the province in a wreath-laying ceremony, and had talks with members of the French-Acadian community as regards the teaching of a minority language, and how to promote such endeavours. The Ambassador also took the opportunity to visit the beautiful St. Thomas University Campus, where the Irish language is being taught under the auspices of the Ireland-Canada University Foundation. It is hoped that the strengthening of



relationships between this university and Irish institutions will continue.

Irish Immigration And Settlement In New Brunswick.

During the middle of the 19th century, the Irish had reached the peak of their population group in Canada, and were numerically the largest ethnic group

outside of Québec. This was true especially for New Brunswick, where in 1871, Irish numbered 100,000 out of a total population of 285,000. The beginning of the timber trade brought the Irish to New Brunswick in large numbers, and both Protestant and Catholics alike made their new

homes throughout the province. The Great Famine of the "Hungry Forties" undoubtedly contributed to their influx. Major strongholds of Irish settlement include the main



Pictured Ambassador and Mrs. Bassett with historian Denis Noel at a memorial to St. Dunstan's Irish at Fredericton's Old Hermitage cemetery

city of Saint John, the Miramichi, and scatterings throughout the province such as the capital Fredericton.

Quarantine hospitals were located on islands at the mouth of the colony's two major ports, Saint John (Partridge Island) and Chatham-Newcastle



PROVINCIAL PROFILE

(Middle Island), where many would ultimately die. Those who survived settled on marginal agricultural lands in the Miramichi River valley and in the Saint John River and Kennebecasis River valleys, however, the difficulty of farming these regions saw many Irish immigrant families moving to the colony's major cities within a generation or to Portland, Maine or Boston.

Prominent Irish-Canadian Figures Of New Brunswick:

Stompin' Tom Connors:

The beloved father of Canadian country, “Stompin’” Tom Connors was born in Saint John, New Brunswick. He quickly became the subject of Canadian folklore and a much-revered character in public knowledge. Romeo Dallaire affectionately remembers playing some of Connors’ music to raise troops’ morale in Rwanda, 1994. Connors passed away in March of 2013.

Noël A. Kinsella:

Noël A. Kinsella is a Canadian politician and Speaker of the Senate. Mr. Kinsella was born in Saint John, New Brunswick. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from University College in Dublin, Ireland. Mr. Kinsella was appointed to the Canadian Senate on the recommendation of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on September 12, 1990, as a Senator for New Brunswick. On February 8,

2006, he was named Speaker of the Senate by the Governor General on the advice of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Mr. Kinsella is an honorary captain (N) of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Irish Culture In New Brunswick

The province of New Brunswick has a rich Irish

tradition and was almost called New Ireland, as a sister province to Nova Scotia. In recent years, Irish culture has flourished, and over 135,000 (19%) of the province claim Irish heritage. The province has an active Irish association, the Irish

Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick with chapters in a number of cities, the Irish Festival on the Miramichi has consistently drawn



Ambassador Bassett addresses the crowd at Moncton's Celtic cross memorial



Ambassador Bassett pictured with dignitaries in attendance at Moncton's Celtic cross memorial



PROVINCIAL PROFILE

large crowds and is one of the top tourism events in North America.

The Middle Island National Park commemorates those lost while travelling to Canada during the Great Famine. Middle Island is located in the

Miramichi River, approximately 2 km (1.2 mi.) east of downtown Chatham.

The 6-hectare (15-acre) island lies between Beaubear's Island to the west and Sheldrake Island to the east. It is accessible by car via a causeway from Water Street, in Chatham.

The island was a quarantine station for immigrants to Canada in the mid-19th century, specifically for Irish immigrants fleeing the Irish Potato Famine. In 1847 it was declared a permanent quarantine station by the Federal Government and remained so until 1948. Many perished while on the island. Every year, thousands of people gather on the Miramichi for jam-packed entertainment, while celebrating Irish culture. There is plenty of Irish music, dance, cultural and musical workshops, family reunions and storytelling, and a true appreciation of Irish culture and heritage. A special mention should be afforded to St. Thomas' University, which was Founded by Irish Diocesan priests in the early part of the 20th century, in Chatham, New Brunswick. St.

Thomas University has had a long standing spiritual, intellectual and emotional connection with a vital, unique and living Irish cultural tradition. Today, St. Thomas University both acknowledges and honours the sacrifice and

contribution of these early Irish migrants through many of its university programmes. The Irish Studies Programme seeks to complement the concerns of these programmes while, at the same time, it acknowledges the voices, past and present,

of the Irish who first sought to bring this education to their own displaced people as well as to the citizens of the wider world.

The Irish Studies Programme is an interdisciplinary liberal arts programme. It is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore the heritage, culture, history, religion, politics, literature, fine art, and film of both the people of Ireland, and the communities of its Diaspora.



Ambassador Bassett chats with guests and ICCA members at Moncton's Old Triangle Pub

With thanks to Bruce and Marilyn Driscoll of the Irish Canadian Cultural Assoc. of New Brunswick and the Shamrock Leaf for the images and Eoin O'Catháin for his contribution on the text.



FEATURED: Emigrant Support Programme



Emigrant Support Programme Grant Round OPEN

Background

The Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) was established by the Irish Government in 2004. The Programme provides funding to not-for-profit organisations and projects to support Irish communities overseas and to facilitate the development of more strategic links between Ireland and the global Irish. The focus of the ESP is on initiatives that: address the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable Irish emigrants; enhance access for Irish community organisations to local statutory and voluntary services; foster a more vibrant sense of community and Irish identity amongst the Irish abroad and encourage closer links between Irish communities abroad and Ireland, to the benefit of both.

The Emigrant Support Programme is operated by the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin, as well as our Embassies in a number of countries across the world. In the year 2012 for example, €11.6m in funding was disbursed to 187 organisations in 15 countries around the world.

A number of examples of projects funded are pictured in the article on the following page

Emigrant Support Programme in Canada

The ESP has operated in Canada since 2006. To date, over \$1m in funding has been awarded in grants to community organisations here. A full list of projects funded around the world, including Canada is available on the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin.

<https://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=291>

There Are Five Categories Under Which You Can Apply For A Grant:

- Capital: This is for applications for construction or refurbishment of a premises.
- Heritage: Projects involving the promotion of Irish heritage and identity abroad.
- Welfare Services for the Elderly: Projects supporting elderly emigrants, such as Irish Seniors Groups,
- Welfare Services for others, such as new emigrants. Our biggest project here in Canada in the past 2-3 years has been the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre in Toronto, which has received ESP funding in the amount of \$215,000 over the past three years.
- Business Networks- Projects to support Irish business networks overseas.

Over the past two years, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in conjunction with GAA HQ in Dublin, have also operated a separate open call for applications from GAA clubs in Canada in support of global games development.



FEATURED: Emigrant Support Programme

How do I apply?

All applications must be made online. Hard copy applications will not be accepted. Applicants should consult all relevant documentation below, including the overview of the programme and the online application user guide, and check their eligibility to apply, prior to making an application. To apply you must be a registered not for profit organisation. Please ensure to have the organisation's accounts to hand as you will be required to upload these at a certain stage of the application process.

The application process opens in mid-January each year. **The application process for 2014 opened on Wednesday 15th January and will close on Wednesday 19th February 2014. Applications cannot be accepted after that date.** [Click here](#) to access the online application form and further information on the ESP.

Related Information:

[Overview of the Emigrant Support Programme](#)

[ESP Online Grant Application System User Guide](#)

[Online application](#)



Edmonton Irish Centre which has received capital funding under the ESP



Cathy Murphy, Charles Sousa, Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore, Minister Jason Kenney and the late Eamon O'Loughlin at the opening of the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre in 2012



Information Event for newly arrived Irish emigrants to Vancouver, hosted by the Irish Womens Network of British Colombia and funded with the assistance of the ESP



Irish Seniors groups in Ottawa and Toronto have received support under the ESP. Photo Credit: Pat Cassidy



Leathanach Gaeilge

An Leathanach Gaeilge

Tá a lán ar siúl anseo i gCeanada maidir lenár dteanga náisiúnta. Tá suim mór ag a lán daoine i bhfoghlaim na dteanga agus múintear an Ghaeilge ar fud na tíre. Sa bhliain 2011, is sa Ghaeltacht Thuaisceart an Oileáin Úir, gar do Kingston, Ontario, ar tharla an chéad Oireachtas Gaeilge taobh amuigh d'Éirinn. Tá sé ar intinn again leathanach nua a chur isteach sa nuachtlitir as Gaeilge don chuid is mó, inar thaispeántar an réimse mór eachtracha atá ar siúl maidir leis an nGaeilge i gCeanada.

There is a lot going on in terms of the promotion of our native language, Irish, here in Canada. There is great interest in learning the language and it is taught all over the country. In 2011, the first ever Oireachtas na Gaeilge festival outside the island of Ireland took place in Gaeltacht Thuaisceart an Oileáin Úir, near Kingston, Ontario. We see including a new page in our newsletter in the Irish language, and highlighting the vast range of activities which are taking place in terms of the promotion of Irish in Canada.

For those who do not have the language, there will be a section with new terms in each edition to facilitate easy learning, should you wish to do so. As always, if you have any ideas to contribute to this new page, let us know.

Tóstal na hÉireann 2013

A number of Canadian Gaeilgóirí recently visited Castlebar in Co Mayo as part of the Gathering celebrations. See how they got on with this fascinating video [link](#):



 [Canadian Gaeilgóirí visit to Castlebar in Co Mayo as part of the Gathering](#)



Canadian Gaeilgóirí visiting Ireland for the Gathering

Scoláireachtaí Gaeilge an ICUF i gCeanada

Ón mbliain 2009 ar aghaidh, agus le tacaíocht agus cistiú ón gCrannchur Náisiúnta agus ó Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, tá múinteoirí Gaeilge á seoladh chun Ceanada ag an bhFondúireacht Ollscoile Éire-Cheanada (Ireland-Canada University Foundation) leis an teanga náisiúnta a mhúineadh ag an triú leibhéal in ollscoileanna ar fud na tíre. Sa bhliain 2012, bunaíodh an ionad ICUF in Ottawa, Ceanada agus



Leathanach Gaeilge

i mbliana, táthar ag súil le go múinfí an Ghaeilge in Charlottetown, Oileán Phrionsa Éaidbheard. Ar an iomlán, beidh an Ghaeilge á múineadh i seacht ionad triú leibhéal ar fud Cheanada sa bhliain 2014 agus tabharfaidh cúpla cead mac léinn ollscoile faoinár dteanga dhúchais.

Ní amháin múineadh na Gaeilge a bhíonn i gceist leis an bpost, áfach, ach cur chun cinn an chultúir, an spóirt agus na n-áiseanna oideachaisiúla a fhaightear in Éirinn. Mar chuid den obair, bíonn malartú i gceist: tugtar deis do bheirt ó ghach ollscoil mí a chaitheamh i nGaeltacht Chonamara, Contae na Gaillimhe, agus cúrsa Gaeilge a dhéanamh faoi bhráid Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh. Íocann an ICUF as an gcúrsa, agus cuirtear Éire mar ionad scolaíochta chur cinn leis an gclár seo.

Scríobhann **Eoin Ó Catháin**, duine de na múinteoirí ICUF, atá lonnaithe in Ottawa, príomhchathair Cheanada, faoin obair atá ar siúl aige ó tháinig sé mí Lúnasa 2012:

“Faoi láthair, táim ag druidim deireadh mo thriú seimeastar in Ottawa, agus chuir muid fáilte roimh os cionn seachtó mac léinn an seimeastar seo gur mian leo blaiseadh de Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim. Don dara bhliain as a chéile, leanfar ar aghaidh leis an nGaeilge mar theanga nua-aimseartha a mhúintear in Ottawa. Díritear ach go

háirithe ar an teanga labhartha, ach ina theannta sin, déantar staidéar ar scannánaíocht, ar spórt, ar chultúr agus ar stair na hÉireann. Ba mhaith linn oideachas iomlán agus spéisiúil a thairiscint do na mic léinn, agus is amhlaidh go mbaintear amach an aidhm sin.

Bhí rímead an domhain orainn beirt a sheoladh ón rang Gaeilge anuraidh, Oscar Mou agus Nick Bridges, chun na hÉireann chun cúrsa Gaeilge a dhéanamh ar an gCeathrú Rua, i gcoilár na Gaeltachta, an samhradh seo caite. Bhain an bheirt taitneamh agus tairbhe as an

gcúrsa agus tá líofacht sa teanga bainte amach ar an mbeirt, rud a chuireann bród agus mórtas ar an Roinn anseo san ollscoil. Táthar ag súil is go n-éireoidh linn an deis iontach seo a chur ar fáil do bheirt eile an bhliain seo chugainn, agus tá an-éileamh ar an scolaireacht

cheana féin. Is mór an onóir do Roinn an Léinn Cheiltigh, Ottawa, an ciste Triskell a thairiscint do dhuine amháin chomh maith chun cabhrú leo maidir le costais taistil.

Ó thaobh an phobail de, bhí áthas orm glacadh leis an bpost mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge de chuid Chomhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, atá ag dul ó neart go neart sa chathair seo. Faoi láthair, múintear ranganna Gaeilge do cheithre leibhéal difriúla, agus bhí Ottawa ar cheann de na dá áiteanna ina rinneadh an scrúdú TEG- Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge in éineacht le hOllscoil Má



2012 Recipients of ICUF Irish Language Scholarships



Leathanach Gaeilge

Nuad- i Meiriceá Thuaidh. Tá baint mhór againn leis an nGaeltacht nua-bhunaithe i mBaile na hÉireann, Ontario, agus déanfar gach iarracht láidreacht na gluaiseachta anseo a fheabhsú amach anseo.”

Má tá ceist ar bith agaibh, nó más mian libh tuilleadh eolais a fháil maidir le hÉirinn mar shuíomh staidéir, ná bíodh drogall ar bith dul i dteagmháil leis an ionadaí ICUF i bhúr gcathair. Má tá tuilleadh eolais uait maidir le cúrsaí in Ottawa, is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh le hEoin ar an seoladh ríomhphoist:

eoinocathain101@gmail.com

Is iad na hionaid ina múintear an Ghaeilge atá againn faoi láthair ná:
University of St. Michael's College,
University of Toronto, Ontario
Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec
St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB
Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland
University of Ottawa, Ontario
University of Prince Edward Island,
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

*Go raibh míle maith agat a Eoin!
With thanks to visiting Irish Language teacher at
University of Ottawa Eoin O'Catháin for this
Irish Language contribution to the newsletter.*

Agus Tú Ag Múineadh Gaeilge I GCeanada, Ní Teanga Amháin A Mhúineann Tú/ You're Not Just Teaching A Language In Canada.

Is í an cheist is coitianta a chuirtear orm ó bhog mé anseo ná “Why do the Canadians want to learn Irish?” Caithfidh mé a rá go raibh mé féin fiosrach mar gheall air seo chomh maith. Mar sin, chuir mé an cheist ar mo rang ag deireadh an tseimeastair. Seo iad cuid de na freagraí a fuair mé:

“Learning Irish has allowed me to tap into my heritage. It is what makes me different or unique from the typical Canadian. When I said before that I was “Irish-Canadian”, I was often asked “Oh, do you dance? Do you play an instrument?” I can now say “No, but I speak some Gaelic/Irish.”

“I think that learning a language makes you a more intelligent person overall, no matter what it is.”

“Learning Irish has allowed me to become a true member of Ottawa's Irish community”

“I honestly thought this was a history course. I didn't know there was an Irish language, and I didn't know that I was going to study it. It has really opened my eyes to the Irish culture.”

Is léir nach teanga amháin a mhúineann muid anseo i gCeanada. Tugann muid an deis do na Ceanadaigh ról a ghlacadh i bpobal na Gaeilge agus sa phobal Éireannach anseo. Éiríonn linn difríocht a dhéanamh i saol na mac léinn seo, agus is é seo an rud is tábhachtaí atá déanta agam i mo shaol go dtí seo, dar liom féin. Is í seo an chúis gur mhaith liom a bheith i mo mhúinteoir Gaeilge, agus cé a cheapfá riamh go n-éireódh liom an sprioc seo a bhaint amach in Ottawa, Ontario?



Leathanach Gaeilge

Proverbs in the Irish Language

Many Irish sayings or “*seanfhocail*” are used in the English vernacular, yet have very particular meanings in Irish. For example:

Níl aon thinteán mar do thinteán féin

Theres no place like home, or for a more literal translation

Theres no fireside like your own fireside

Tús maith leath na hoibre

A Good Beginning is half the work

Is fear an tsláinte ná an táinte

Health is better than wealth

Aithníonn ciaróg, ciaróg eile

It takes one to know one, or as the more literal translation goes,

One beetle recognises another

Ní neart go cur le chéile

Many hands make light work



CONSULAR SERVICES

New Irish Passport Design

The newly-designed Irish passport features images of iconic Irish landmarks including Croagh Patrick, Kylemore Abbey and Croke Park, in addition to drawings depicting Irish music and dance and Gaelic games.

At its launch on 30 September 2013, the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore T.D., said: “We have combined the latest security technology with selected imagery in order to produce a passport which represents Ireland – our culture, our history, and our people.

“The images used range from a stunning perspective of the Cliffs of Moher to the new landscape along the river Liffey, with the Dublin Convention Centre to the foreground and the Custom House and Liberty Hall peering through the harp strings of the Samuel Beckett Bridge.



A combination of photographs and drawings, commissioned solely for use on the Irish passport, are reproduced with specialist printing techniques to ensure that the Irish passport is highly-secure. The book was designed and produced in Ireland, by a consortium led by DLRS of Bray, HID Ireland of Baile na hAbhainn, and the Central Bank. All Irish passports issued from 3rd October 2013 have this new design.



Tánaiste: “We have combined the latest security technology with selected imagery in order to produce a passport which represents Ireland”



CONSULAR SERVICES

Passport by numbers:

More than 630,000 passports issued in 2012, of which about 350,000 issued to adults.

67% of all passport applications were received through the Passport Express channel.

Over 40,000 applications were received through the Northern Ireland Passport Express channel.

Almost 53,000 applications were received through the London Passport Office, the highest number outside the State.

After London, the highest number was issued in Canberra - 5,600 passports, followed by 5,300 by the Consulate General in New York.

July was the busiest month in 2012 with 78,000 passports issued, while December was the quietest with just over 20,000 issued.

Consular Assistance

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provided consular assistance to more than 1,500 Irish nationals abroad in 2013. This represents an increase of 6.5 percent on 2012, continuing the upward trend of recent years.

Our Embassy here in Canada dealt with the 5th largest number of cases around the world in 2013. The Embassy also processed the 6th largest number of passport applications in the system, with just under 2600 passports issued by the Embassy in 2013.

Consular services are a very important component of the role of our Embassy here in Canada. Details of what consular assistance we can provide may be found on the Department's website at the following link

<https://www.dfa.ie/travel/assistance-abroad/>





NEWS ROUNDUP

Chris Hadfield As Tourism Ambassador

The famous Canadian astronaut and former Commander of the International Space Station, Chris Hadfield, has agreed to help promote Ireland as a tourist destination.

Niall Gibbons, the CEO of Tourism Ireland, the body which markets the island of Ireland as a tourist destination overseas, reached out to Commander Hadfield through Twitter last December. Commander Hadfield undertook a series of engagements when visiting



Satellite Image of Ireland

Ireland recently and Tourism Ireland is creating three short films of his 5 day visit.

Commander Hadfield put Ireland on the map with the first-ever tweet from space in the Irish language

last year - "Tá Éire fíorálainn! Land of green hills and dark beer. With Dublin glowing in the Irish night."

He also signaled his interest in Irish music last February when duetting with The Chieftains from space and sang Danny Boy on St Patrick's Day. His daughter Kristin is currently completing a PhD in Trinity College Dublin.

When he visited Ireland last month, all

bookshops in Dublin sold out of his book "An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth."

Ireland's Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar T.D. said: "Having seen Ireland from space, it's great to be able to give Chris Hadfield a closer look at what Ireland has to offer on the ground. His enthusiasm and energy make him a great ambassador for Irish tourism and should help to persuade many more to come and see Ireland up close in 2014. I'm really delighted he has agreed to help us out".

Watch out for Tourism Ireland's videos of Chris Hadfield in Ireland on Tourism Ireland's website:

www.ireland.com



Pictured Left: Commander Hadfield playing hurling and jamming in a traditional Irish music session in a pub in Co. Donegal.

Photo credit: Tourism Ireland



NEWS ROUNDUP CONTINUED

Westjet Announces New Direct Flight Service To Dublin

In November 2013, Canadian airline Westjet announced that it will commence a new seasonal service in June 2014 between St John's Newfoundland and Dublin. As Westjet

themselves point out on their website, St John's is geographically closer to Dublin than it is to Calgary. This will

be the first time that Westjet will fly to Europe.

This exciting news is a welcome addition to the greatly enhanced direct air access between Ireland and Canada in 2014. Last year, Irish airline Aer Lingus announced that it would commence a year round direct service between Toronto and Dublin from this Spring. Air Canada Rouge also announced that it would expand its seasonal Toronto-Dublin direct flight to a year round service. Air Transat already operates a seasonal direct service between Montreal and Dublin and Toronto and Dublin. Exciting times and lots of options to visit the Emerald Isle this year.



The Gathering

As most of you are well aware at this stage, 2013 was the year of the Gathering. Figures published by the Central Statistics Office in December showed that 2013 was an outstanding year for Irish tourism, with the number of overseas visits up by 7.1% compared to the corresponding period of 2012. Visits from North America were up by 13.8% for the eleven month period to the end of November.

The official Gathering website recorded in the region of 5000 Gatherings throughout the country in 2013. Hundreds of local volunteers in Ireland and communities got involved and the Gathering success is great credit to them as well as to all those abroad who travelled to be part of it. This video clip highlights what the Gathering was about:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNEw7p5DMUQ>



donegal diaspora
pobal domhanda

Donegal Diaspora Project

Local authorities in Co Donegal have set up an diaspora project in which they wish to reach out to Donegal people living around the world. Check out their website for more details

<http://www.donegaldiaspora.ie/project>



Notice from the Ireland Canada University Foundation



**IRELAND CANADA
UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION**



DOBBIN SCHOLARSHIPS 2014

Since its establishment in 1993, The Ireland Canada University Foundation has awarded Dobbin Scholarships to Irish and Canadian scholars and academics whose research contributes to the rich academic and cultural links between Canada and Ireland.

These awards are open to applicants from all disciplines, but are designed principally for scholars and academics who are either beginning or are currently engaged at graduate level research in a discipline which is, or has potential to be, related to both Ireland and Canada.

To find out more information on these awards, and to download an application form, please visit the ICUF website by clicking the link below:
<http://www.icuf.ie/dobbin-scholarship/>

To download a poster for Irish based applicants please click the link below:
<http://www.icuf.ie/dobbin-scholarship/>

To download a poster for Canadian based applicants please click the link below:

<http://www.icuf.ie/dobbin-scholarship/apply/>

Irish applications and supporting documents must be received before 5.00pm, Irish time, on Friday 7th March 2014.

Canadian applications and supporting documents must be received before 5.00pm, Toronto time, on Friday 21st March 2014.

These scholarships are awarded with the assistance of the Government of Canada / avec l'appui du Gouvernement du Canada and the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, and are also kindly supported by our corporate sponsors as noted below.

https://twitter.com/ICUF_Awards

Dobbin Scholarships are supported by

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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA NA hÉIREANN
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND



EMBASSY INFORMATION

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 (Head of Consular
Services/Cultural Affairs/Administration)
Ms. Elizabeth Keogh

Consular Services Officers and Administrative Officers:

Ms. Siobhan Doran
Ms. Debbie Earwaker
Ms. Gurpreet Bajwa
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Telephone lines are open from
9AM–1PM & 2PM–5PM EST Mon–Fri

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

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list, send your email address to:*
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