

**The Ireland Monument – Canada *Séadcomrtha na hÉireann – Ceanada***  
**In Recognition of the contribution of the Irish people to Canada.**  
**Monumental News – May 8<sup>th</sup> 2009**



- 1 A warm thanks to all who have made a financial contribution and to those who have allowed their names or that of a family member to be included on Side three of The Ireland Monument – Canada. The committee recognizes the opportunity to complete The Ireland Monument – Canada and thus provide due recognition for Canadians of Irish descent is dependent on the support of both groups remaining with the project until completion.
- 2 The Committee would like to bring everyone up to date on several significant matters.
- 3 All funds received to date for the project have been deposited to the Royal Bank of Canada, Renfrew and 1<sup>st</sup> Branch Vancouver. No withdrawal has or will be made until sufficient funds are in place and a site has been secured to construct the Monument. Presently, we do not possess the requisite funds at this time. We have postponed seeking further financial support until a proper and suitable site is deemed available.
- 4 When the account was originally opened, three persons were required as co-signers to withdraw funds from the account. In late April, Teresa McDonnell left the committee to focus her energies with the Irish Heritage Society and the account was modified to allow Brendan Flynn and Al McCabe to act as co-signers.
- 5 Our efforts to date have focused on sites at John Hendry Park Vancouver, Stanley Park Vancouver and Rocky Point Park Port Moody. Each application has brought success with Parks and City officials in these Municipalities. At no time in any discussion or correspondence with any official was any criticism received by the committee on a design aspect of the Ireland Monument. We were invited by Vancouver Parks Board to consider sites at Queen Elizabeth Park, Killamey Park and Gastown in Vancouver. The committee declined Killamey Park and Gastown locations as inappropriate for the historical nature of The Monument. The Queen Elizabeth Park location was withdrawn later by Parks Board official after the committee was notified that our application was not approved.
- 6 No legitimate reason has been provided to the committee in not permitting the Monument to be completed in either Municipality. The response from The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation simply states that the application was not approved without any notable or helpful clarification. The committee was later requested by Commissioner Chair Raj Hundal to provide "a direct relevant connection" of the Ireland Monument to Stanley Park. We responded to Mr. Hundal with a letter outlining that highly correlated connection. The committee has to date received no response to our letter.
- 7 We were informed by The City of Port Moody that our application at Rocky Point was not approved as some councilors felt the Monument was too high at 12'-0" while other councilors felt that the Monument application would only encourage further submissions to the City if our Proposal was approved at Rocky Point Park. We will forward a letter to The City of Port Moody addressing these issues in the hope that a reversal of their decision might be made.
- 8 It would appear neither Municipality appears interested in approving the historic Ireland Monument – Canada.
- 9 The committee continues to diligently search for an appropriate site for The Ireland Monument – Canada which would be accessible to the public at all times with no cost to visitors. Parking for cars and buses should be available. The Monument will be a recognized tourist venue and will attract visitors on a year round basis. If a serious proposal is received including a proposal outside of British Columbia, all contributors and Named persons will be notified and the details will be relayed to all. A meeting would be organized to review and assess the proposal.
- 10 The Map of Ireland on Side one has been kindly donated by Ordnance Survey Ireland in Dublin. The artwork on Side two and four has been commissioned and purchased by Brendan Flynn and Al McCabe and will be donated to the project. We are very grateful to Dr. Gath Vaughan and artist David Preston Smith for their constant help.
- 11 The Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa is continuously updated regarding the Project. We are very grateful to Embassy staff for their assistance to the committee including assistance with the committee's recent application for a grant to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin to cover a portion of the Ireland Monument cost of \$200,000.00. The committee is available at all times should you have any questions or concerns on the above.
- 12 *Go raibh míle maith le gach duine.* (Thanks to Everyone)