

**In Recognition of the contribution of the Irish people to Canada.**

**Monumental News –September 11<sup>th</sup> 2009- Issue #13**

<http://www.irelandmonumentvancouver.com>



Lake Louise Alberta Canada



Glendalough County Wicklow Ireland

Scenic locations within Canada and Ireland

1. In the previous edition of this Newsletter, the name Geraldine Marshall was noted for inclusion on Side 3 of the Ireland Monument. In fact, the name to be included will be that of Dr. Geraldine Cunningham. Ph.D. Dr. Cunningham's biography will be added to the website in due course.

2. The name of General Arthur William Currie will be included on Side 3 of the Ireland Monument. Currie was largely responsible for the tactics and careful planning which led to an unexpected triumph by Canadian forces at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April, 1917. The victory at Vimy was the instrumental battle that brought an end to the war in 1918. Arthur's father was William Garner Currie, son of John Currie (nee Corrigan) and Jane Garner, from Killala, Co. Mayo, Ireland who moved to Adelaide Township in Canada in 1837.



Vimy Memorial France

3. The AOH Celtic cross on Grosse Ile was built in 1909 as a memorial to those that died on route to Canada from Ireland during the years of 1845-48. The original granite was extracted from the quarries at Beebe in Stanstead Plain in the Eastern Townships of Quebec in 1909. The Ancient Order of Hibernians has organized many of the visits to the Cross on Grosse Ile over the years.

In particular, on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2009, the centenary celebrations organized by the AOH were held there to celebrate its completion in 1909. In recent years, the late Dr. Larkin Kerwin and Dermot O'Gallagher Q.L.S., father of Marianna O'Gallagher supervised the repairs to the cross in 1952. A lightning strike had knocked out part of the halo of the cross in the 1940s-50's at a time when the island was off limits to visitors because of the high security under which it was guarded.



AOH cross Grosse Ile Quebec

Of those pieces one sits on a table near the Brian Boru harp, in a museum-like corridor in Aras an Uachtaráin in the Phoenix Park in Dublin Ireland. This piece was given to President Mary Robinson when President Robinson visited Grosse Ile in 1996.

Another piece was donated to St-Lawrence College in Québec City (Ste-Foy) and is mounted in the lobby of the college alongside a stone transferred from Glendalough Abbey in Co. Wicklow, where St-Lawrence O'Toole had been an abbot.

The committee is delighted to announce that a piece of stone of the cross at Grosse Ile Quebec donated by Marianna O'Gallagher of Quebec City will be brought to Vancouver by Ambassador Declan Kelly. The Stone will be presented by Ambassador Kelly to Most Rev. Archbishop J. Michael Miller C.S.B., Archbishop of Vancouver on behalf of the Ireland Monument -Canada at a reception organized by the Monument Committee at Place des Arts and Mackin House Museum in Coquitlam on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2009.

It is intended from there that the stone will go on display at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Coquitlam (Francophone) and St Patrick's Parish (Irish) in Vancouver till it can be transferred for inclusion to the Ireland Monument – Canada. The committee hopes this will provide the opportunity for those in the Irish and Francophone communities in the Lower Mainland of Vancouver to view the stone.

4. The Ireland Monument Committee looks forward to our event at Place des Arts and Mackin House Coquitlam on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2009 where the focal point of the event will be the official transfer of the AOH Celtic cross stone by His Excellency, Ambassador Declan Kelly to the Most Rev J. Michael Miller, Archbishop of Vancouver C.S.B. on behalf of the Ireland Monument Canada. The committee will be inviting local dignitaries and guests of the Irish and Francophone communities to attend this historic occasion.

To help fund the event the committee welcomes the participation of all those groups and individuals interested in supporting the event with sponsorship.

We are working towards a closure date of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 to finalize our drive for sponsorship. We are very grateful to the following for their generous commitment of sponsorship to this event.

- Scoil Gaeilge Vancouver
- The Canadian County Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association.
- The Irish Heather Gastro Pub Vancouver B.C.
- The Irish Heritage Society of Canada
- The Celtic Connection Newspaper
- The Coquitlam Heritage Society.

5. The committee will present the Ireland Monument design to the City of Vancouver Review Arts Committee on September 14<sup>th</sup> at City Hall Vancouver. The committee will include Vanier Park as the preferred location of the Ireland Monument in the City of Vancouver. Major General George Vanier, whose mother was Irish was Canada's war hero in World War 1 and later became Governor General of Canada. His biography can be found at [http://www.irelandmonumnetvancouver.com/the\\_100\\_names/the\\_100\\_names/george\\_vanier](http://www.irelandmonumnetvancouver.com/the_100_names/the_100_names/george_vanier)  
The decision of the Review Arts Committee will be included in a follow up of the Monument Newsletter.

## **The Ireland Monument – Canada - Organization Committee – Vancouver, B.C.**

**Brendan Flynn**, Project Coordinator-Canada / **Eddie Reynolds**, Project Coordinator-Dublin Ireland

**Gail Walsh** Project Coordinator Eastern Canada. Fredericton, N.B. **Jackie Mackin Byrn** Member at Large, Vancouver B.C.

**Al McCabe**, Construction Manager / Historical Consultant / **Sharon Schick**, Project Organization Vancouver B.C.