

The Ireland Monument–Canada Séadchomhartha Na hÉireann–Ceanada
In Recognition of the contribution of the Irish people to Canada.
Monumental News –September 23rd 2009- Issue #14

<http://www.irelandmonumentvancouver.com>



1. 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 1845-52. 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 15th August 2009, the centenary celebrations organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians 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.

Of those pieces one sits on a table near the Brian Boru harp, in a museum-like corridor in Áras an Uachtaráin in the Phoenix Park in Dublin Ireland (official residence of the President of 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 British Coquitlam on October 5th 2009. The committee wishes to extend our thanks and gratitude to Marianna O’Gallagher for this wonderful gesture to The Ireland Monument-Canada.

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 and others in the Lower Mainland of Vancouver to view the stone.



AOH cross Grosse Ile

2. The Ireland Monument Committee looks forward to our event at Place des Arts and Mackin House Coquitlam on October 5th 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. At this time we also look forward to the attendance of Mayor Richard Stewart and the City of Coquitlam Councilors.

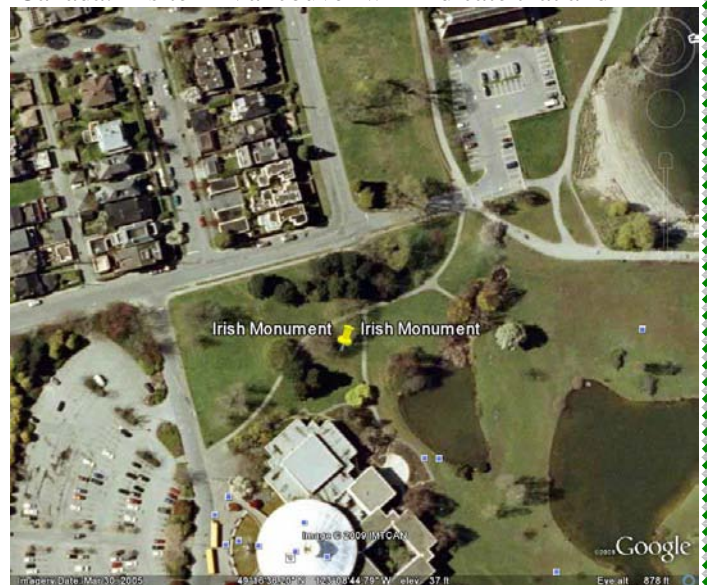
3. To help fund the event the committee welcomes the participation of all those groups and individuals interested in supporting the event with sponsorship. We are working towards a closure date of September 30th 2009 to finalize our drive for sponsorship. We are very grateful to the following for their generous commitment of sponsorship to this event. The organization logos will be included on the Oct 5th event program.

- 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.
- Place des Arts Society
- Société Francophone de Maillardville
- Knead Some Dough
- Carraig Books, Quebec. QC.

4. The committee presented the Ireland Monument design to the City of Vancouver Review Arts Committee on September 14th at City Hall Vancouver. Present were Mr. Brendan Flynn, Mr. Al McCabe and Mrs. Sharon Schick of the Committee. The committee noted that Vanier Park was the preferred location of the Ireland Monument in the City of Vancouver. A question to the committee asked why a site in the Vancouver area was being selected. Our response noted that Irish Canadians began their arrival on the eastern seaboard over 200 years ago and since that time we (Irish) have been influential throughout all the Provinces and Territories of Canada. A site in Vancouver will indicate that and compliment those memorials already erected in the eastern provinces.

The Review Arts Committee will review the Ireland Monument submission documents at their next committee meeting scheduled for the 19th October 2009.

We understand the decision of the Review Arts committee will be forwarded to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and then to the Ireland Monument Committee. The following site location at Vanier Park was included in the submission documents to the City of Vancouver Review Arts committee.



5. Scoil Gaelige Vancouver began the 2009 fall session with a total of 24 students registered to learning the Irish language in the Vancouver area. We believe this may be a historical event for the learning of the Irish language in Western Canada. In addition, The Irish Heritage Society of Canada has recently loaned the school over Irish books which may be of interest to the teachers and students of Scoil Gaelige. We convey our thanks to Mr. George McDonnell of The Irish Heritage Society for providing temporary access to the books (all are written in Gaelic) to the students of Scoil Gaelige.
6. We are pleased to include the following letter from Arts Portal Inc. in Kelowna B.C. The committee recently met with Mr. and Mrs. Hildebrand in Kelowna and look forward to the completion of the Brian Boru harp by Jock Hildebrand.

Jock Hildebrand Arts Portal Inc.

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Phone: + 250-768-3408 / + 250-470-9586
www.jockhildebrand.com
info@jockhildebrand.com

Jock and I are very excited to have been chosen by the Irish Monument Project Committee to create a bronze replica of the Brian Boru Harp. (Actually when I use the word 'we' it means Jock is the creative force in the studio while I mostly stick to what I do best in the office).

As some of you may know, Jock is known both locally and internationally for his large-scale sculptures in both stone and bronze. Locally his works include the DANCING PEDESTRIANS in Kelowna, as well as the CHILDREN OF PEACE in West Kelowna. Internationally his pieces can be found in Europe, Asia and Central America.

Some of Jock's smaller works are exhibited in our newly re-opened RASA GALLERY located on our property in West Kelowna along Powers Creek.

We maintain our own bronze foundry on the property, which gives us complete control over quality and timelines, so the harp will be completed in one location from start to finish. For an explanation of the complete bronze-casting process, please visit us at www.jockhildebrand.com and click on 'the bronze foundry'. You can also see a video of the casting process by clicking on 'videos' and then 'a bronze pour'. We hope to meet some of you here to witness a bronze pour for the Irish harp.

With a passion for form and our best wishes,

Jock and Carmen Hildebrand

Finally, the following provides information regarding Jock Hildebrand's Gallery in West Kelowna B.C.



Jock Hildebrand's
Rasa Gallery
At the new location on Powers Creek,
West Kelowna.
www.jockhildebrand.com By Appointment. Phone 250 768-3408

The Ireland Monument—Canada-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.