

In Recognition of the Contribution of the Irish people to Canada.

Monumental News -November 16<sup>th</sup> 2009- Issue #17

<http://www.irelandmonumentvancouver.com>



1. The stone from Grosse Ile will be incorporated in the Ireland Monument. The following dedication is proposed for inclusion below the stone.

Granite from the Eastern Townships of Quebec:  
this small stone that makes the Celtic Cross at Grosse Ile  
honouring the Irish who died there in the 1840's and 50's.  
This small piece symbolises the kinship of the Irish  
in all regions of Canada  
and in all generations through the centuries.

2. The committee is delighted to announce that on we have been invited to submit a proposal to locate the Ireland Monument-Canada in the City of Coquitlam. We understand that when the proposal is received that the City will identify various sites within the City of Coquitlam to locate the Monument. If a suitable site is identified a process will be outlined wherein City Council can consider the matter. The committee submitted a full proposal to the City of Coquitlam on 16<sup>th</sup> of November. We will update supporters regarding progress in further editions of the Newsletter.
3. As the site for the Ireland Monument-Canada project has not yet been confirmed, we were unable to access funding from the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme this year. However, the Committee intends to make a subsequent application for a grant in 2010. We extend our thanks to the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin for their assistance to date.
4. On the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Brendan Flynn and Al McCabe met with the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation regarding the recent decision by the City of Vancouver Review Arts Committee not to approve The Ireland Monument – Canada at Vanier Park in Vancouver. The meeting took place at the Roundhouse Community Centre located on the former Expo 1986 site in Vancouver B.C. and was attended by representatives of the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Parks Board. Both Mr. Flynn and Mr. McCabe noted the frustration of the committee regarding the time and process of the Vancouver Parks Board in dealing with the Ireland Monument –Canada project which has taken a period of four years without any progress. An offer to place the artwork of the Monument on a wall within the City was cordially declined. A similar suggestion made to the committee in 2006 by the Vancouver Parks Board was also declined at that time. The committee understands a letter maybe forthcoming from the City of Vancouver in the near future in response to today's meeting.
5. Should a decision be required to make a selection on one or more possible sites for the location of The Ireland Monument-Canada, those persons or groups who have made a financial contribution or pledge to

the project to date will be invited to vote on the final location. Each vote will be a percentage of the contribution or pledge as a percentage of the total contributions to date.

6. We extend our gratitude to Tri-Cities Community Television, including Mr. Geoff Scott, Board Chairman, Ms. Marianne Ciok, Reporter and Mr. Dan Dove Camera Operator for their assistance in covering the recent events at Mackin House Museum and Place des Arts Coquitlam on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2009.
7. The name Tony O'Loughlin will be included in the Ireland Monument Canada. Tony who was born in Belfast and now resides in Kingston Ontario completed extensive work to ensure recognition was given to the many Irish Canadians that built the Rideau Canal in 1832. Located on the Rideau Canal - at the first lock - near the Bytown Museum, this memorial to the canal workers and their families who died building the Rideau Canal between 1826-32 was unveiled on June 27th, 2004. Erected in Ottawa by the Rideau Canal Celtic Cross Committee, the Monument complements others erected recently by Kingston Irish Folk Club in memory of the estimated 1,000 Irish labourers and their co-workers who died building the Rideau Canal: a Celtic Cross erected in Kingston in 2002 (at Doug Fluher Park – Wellington St. and proposed site of the new multi-purpose sports complex); and a memorial Drinking Fountain erected in 2000 near Kingston City Hall.
8. The name Claude Ryan will be added to Side 3 of the Ireland Monument. Born in Montreal, January 26, 1925, son of Henry Albert and Ryan Blandine Dorion. National Secretary of the French-language section of Catholic Action Canada from 1945 to 1962. President of the Canadian Institute of Adult Education from 1955 to 1961. Chairman of the Study Committee on Adult Education, Ministry of Education of Quebec in 1962 and 1963. Columnist for *Le Devoir* from 1962 to 1978. *Duty* of Director and General Manager of Printing People (society editor of *Le Devoir*) from May 1964 to January 1978. Member of the Board of Directors of The Canadian Press from 1964 to 1971. Elected leader of the Liberal Party of Quebec April 15, 1978. Elected Liberal MP for Argenteuil in the election on April 30, 1979. Reelected in 1981, 1985 and 1989. Leader of the Opposition of May 9, 1979 to August 10, 1982, the date of his resignation as leader of the Opposition and Liberal leader in Quebec. Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of March 15, 1984 to October 23, 1985. Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Science in the Bourassa Cabinet of December 12, 1985 to October 5, 1990. Minister responsible for the implementation of the Charter of the French Language March 3, 1989 to January 11, 1994. Minister of Public Security on 5 October 1990 to January 11, 1994. Minister of Municipal Affairs in the cabinets Bourassa and Johnson (son Daniel) of October 5, 1990 to September 26, 1994. Did not represent in 1994. Was a professor at McGill University in Catholic Studies in 2002. Member of the Board of Directors of the Caisse populaire Saint-Louis-de-France in Montreal from October 23, 1956 to May 13, 1968 and Vice President of September 18, 1963 to May 3, 1968. Member of the Canadian Section of the Canadian-American Committee. Winner of several awards, including many in the field of journalism: price of the editorial of the National Newspaper Award (1964), price of the National Press Club (1965), price of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, or Human Relations Award ( 1966), prices of the Jewish Labor Committee of Canada for his defense of human rights (1969), price Quill Press Club of Windsor (1971) Price Career Employers Council of Quebec (1996), Medal of Merit Office of Social Communications (1997). Appointed to the Canadian News Hall of Fame in 1968. Created a Companion of the Order of Canada November 16, 1995. Became a partner of Compagnie des Cent-Associés Francophone August 9, 1997. Received an *honorary* doctorate in theology from the Dominican College of Philosophy and Theology November 12, 2000. Was posthumously awarded the insignia of Commander of the Order of the Pleiade March 17, 2004. Also posthumously became a grand officer of the National Order of Quebec on <sup>1</sup> June 2006. Publications include *The middle classes in French Canada* (1950), *Adult education, modern reality* (1957), *the contact in the Apostolate* (1959), *hard spirits, soft hearts, the intellectual life of Christian activists* (1959) , *Committees: spirit and methods* (1962) *A new type of secular* (1966), *Le Devoir and the crisis of October 70* (1971), *Quebec which is* (1971), *a stable society* (1978), *Regards Federalism*

(1995), and *my spiritual testament* (2004). Died in Montreal, February 9, 2004 at the age of 79 years. Buried in the cemetery of St. Philippe d'Argenteuil.

9. The name Rosemary O'Sullivan will be added to Side 3 of the Ireland Monument. Rosemary Sullivan was born in the town of Valois on Lac St. Louis just outside Montreal. Her paternal grandfather arrived from Ireland around 1916. On her mother's side, Rosemary's family stretches back to 1847 in County Sligo. Her ancestors settled on a farm in Smiths Falls, Ontario. A chance meeting with Beatrice Roethke led Rosemary to write and later publish *The Garden Master*. In 1972, with a PhD, she headed to France to teach, first at the University of Dijon and then the University of Bordeaux. After two years, she was hired at the University of Victoria, BC. In 1977, Rosemary got a job at the University of Toronto, and has been teaching there since. In 1978, after taking leave of academia to devote herself to writing, Rosemary lived in London where she befriended Elizabeth Smart.

She then joined Amnesty International and later founded the Toronto Arts Group for Human Rights and conceived and organized an International Congress called *The Writer and Human Rights* in aid of Amnesty International. In 1982, Rosemary joined the editorial board of *This Magazine*, where, having become fascinated by Latin American culture and politics, she wrote articles about her travels to Chile, Mexico, Cuba, and Nicaragua. She met her present husband, Chilean actor-musician Juan Opitz. Her first collection of poems, *The Space a Name Makes* (1986) won the Gerald Lampert Award for the Best First Book of Poetry. In 1987, she was commissioned by Penguin Books to write a biography of Elizabeth Smart. Falling in love with the genre of biography, Rosemary wrote *Shadow Maker: The Life of Gwendolyn MacEwen* (1995) and *The Red Shoes: Margaret Atwood Starting Out* (1998). In her mind, these works formed a trilogy about the creative lives of women artists. In collaboration with photographer Malcolm Batty, Rosemary wrote *Cuba: Grace Under Pressure*. At the University of Toronto, Rosemary was awarded a Canada Research Chair in Literature, and in 2003, founded the new MA program in English in the field of Creative Writing, whose young writers are beginning to assert themselves on the national scene. From 2003-2006, Rosemary held the Maclean Hunter Chair in Literary Journalism at the Banff Centre. A profound encounter with the Mexican painter Leonora Carrington in 1995 planted the early seeds for the book that she would publish in 2006 called *Villa Air-Bel: World War II, Escape, and A House in Marseille*. The book is an experiment in biographical history and offers multiple portraits of refugee artists trapped in Vichy France during World War II. Four years of intense research involved trips to France, the U.S., and Mexico. In the fall of 2005, Rosemary and Juan spent three months at the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France, where she completed her book and he worked on his first film, *The Road Out*, a 15-minute documentary about the residents of *Villa Air-Bel*. *Villa Air-Bel* came out simultaneously in Canada, the U.S., and England and, so far, is scheduled for publication in four other countries. Rosemary traveled across Canada and into the US, attending international book festivals and giving readings in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Seattle, Toronto, Miami and New York, and speaking at venues like the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Miami Book Fair and the 92nd Street Y. In June 2007, *Villa Air-Bel* was awarded The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Award in Holocaust History by the Helen and Stan Vine Annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards.

10. Twenty three (23) names still remain to be confirmed. We continue to welcome the submission of names of other Irish Canadians across Canada for inclusion on Side 3.
11. Previous issues of Ireland Monumental News can now be reviewed at <http://www.irelandmonumentvancouver.com/welcome-failte/newsletters>
12. A review of all 100 names for side 3 will be made prior to the Construction of the Ireland Monument-Canada.



13.



14.

**The Base of the Monument has been modified to allow inclusion of the Grosse Ile Stone.**

***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.

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