



CANADIAN CELTIC ARTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Beltain 2013

CANADIANCELTICARTS.CA EDITOR - Leah MORRIGAN: EDITOR@CANADIANCELTICARTS.CA

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Smaointean / Smaointe**

By Janice Chan, President

Smaointean / Smaointe**

Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth but unfortunately for the Canadian Celtic Arts Association (CCAA), it is looking like this spring will mark the beginning of the end.

The CCAA was founded in 1979 in close association with the Celtic Studies Program at St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto, acting as a forum to highlight and celebrate the art, literature, and culture of all the Celtic communities in Canada.

Although the CCAA endeavoured to represent all six Celtic nations, immigration demographics in Canada often meant that our focus was on the Irish, Scottish and Welsh communities, although there was a real effort to include our Cornish, Manx and Breton cousins in our activities.

Over the years, CCAA has hosted lectures on history and archaeology by academics from Canada and abroad, held film screenings and story-telling evenings, invited authors to speak about and read from their work, and highlighted the neighbourhoods where emigrants from Celtic nations settled in Toronto with historic walking tours. We've organised Celtic Fairs and theatre outings, and many Burns dinners (though perhaps not strictly a Celt, Robbie's heart was always in the Highlands).

Interests wax and wane and perhaps the current Celtic Twilight has run its course. We have experienced difficulties in attracting substantial numbers for our events, and the volunteers to help run them.

Drawing volunteers becomes increasingly difficult, leaving us with the same three or four individuals who volunteered their time for the past dozen years or more. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Jean Talman, Leah Morrigan and Maggie McGregor, without whose help, the CCAA would not have been able to continue to this point.



Event costs are another factor in our demise. We didn't have the expense of paying for university space or refreshments in the past, but that has changed and we are reluctant to charge more for membership to recover expenses for room rental, audio/visual equipment, set up fees and tea and honoria for guest speakers.

Finally, in order for any organisation to thrive, it needs to recruit younger members. Despite attempts to reach the younger immigrant community, we've been unable to draw enough interest from them, though perhaps understandably, these young people are more involved with the everyday minutiae of jobs and family.

For all of these reasons and more, the current organising committee is resigning in the autumn of 2013. This is the last newsletter that will be produced. We will endeavour to keep the website going to inform you of Celtic events throughout North America.

The CCAA will hold two more events before the end of 2013 to go out on a high note.

Thank you all for your past support, and we hope to see as many of you in the months ahead at the Celtic Speakers Series, occasional conferences and other events that will of course continue under the auspices of the Celtic Studies Program, St. Michael's College. CCAA members are always welcome, as the many of you who already attend know.

Janice Chan

President, Canadian Celtic Arts Association

** Smaointean/Smaointe is translated as "Thoughts" from Scottish and Irish Gaelic respectively.

News from Celtic Studies

By Jean Talman

Term is winding down as these notes go to press, and our students are scattering for the summer. Some will be attending their graduation in June; others will be choosing their courses for next year.



Several have been awarded scholarships for summer study: Jasmine Chorley Foster received the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto scholarship to attend Scottish Gaelic classes at Sabhail Mor Ostaig on the Isle of Skye; St. Michael's College scholarships were awarded to Michaela Jacques to study Welsh language in Harlech and to Lucas Stavro to study Irish language in Connemara. Megan McAtamney and Julia Fekete received joint St Michael's and Ireland Canada University Foundation scholarships also to study Irish language in Connemara. All well-deserved and we know they will benefit from the overseas experience. Ariana Malthaner has been awarded the McGovern In-course scholarship of \$5000 towards her tuition for next year.

Next year's courses are being planned, and in addition to the usual offerings, we hope to offer Celtic Archaeology, to be taught by Michael Ryan, Visiting Professor from Dublin. The literature of the Blasket Islands will be taught by Máirín Nic Dhiarmada. We are hoping to have Charles Foran back again to teach 20th century Irish literature and a new course on Irish-Canadian literature. We also plan to offer a half-course on Scottish Witchcraft, and a new course on the Scots in Cape Breton. Irish language will be taught by visiting instructor Colm



Duffin, provided by the Ireland Canada University Foundation.

We are extremely fortunate to have been able to hire Brent Miles as a new addition to the teaching staff. Brent is well-known to us as a student here, and has since been doing research and teaching in Ireland and in Poland. Brent's interests lie in both Irish and Welsh language and literature, and he will be teaching courses on Celtic Culture and on King Arthur in his first year here.

The annual conference of the Celtic Studies Association of North America took place April 18-21 and was well-attended by CSANA members and friends. There were many interesting talks on various aspects of Celtic culture. Saturday evening saw a reception to launch two new books: *Gablánach in Scélaigeacht: Celtic studies in honour of Ann Dooley* (ed. Sarah Sheehan, Joanne Findon, Westley Follett), a collection of articles by colleagues and former students of Ann's; and *Celts in the Americas* by Michael Newton of St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia.

The annual lecture funded by the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto will take place on May 7. The speaker will be Professor R. J. Morris of Edinburgh University, who will speak on the history of Edinburgh's Royal Mile. See the Calendar of Events on page 6 for details.

The annual Day at the Races organized by The Ireland Fund of Canada to provide funding for our Artist-in-Residence will take place on May 31 at Woodbine. Information in the Calendar of Events of this newsletter.

Next year's writer will be Glenn Patterson from Belfast, who will be on campus for a month in the Fall term. He will give two public readings, in addition to meeting with potential creative writers and visiting our classes.

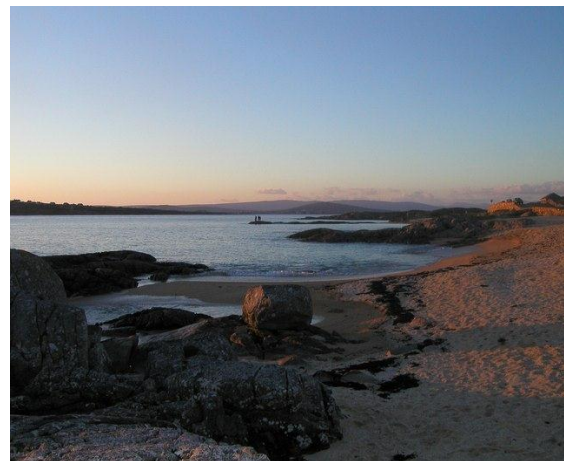
The Celtic Arts journal, *Garm Lu*, edited by the students in the Celtic Studies program, is now available. This is the 35th issue. Cost is \$10. Contact Celtic Studies at 416-926-7145 or celtic.studies@utoronto.ca if you would like to purchase a copy.

Best wishes to all Canadian Celtic Arts Association members for the summer. It is sad that the Association has to wind down its activities after so many years, but that seems to be the reality for many organizations these days. Not enough volunteers, together with the high cost of putting on events, have forced many groups into closing down. Celtic Studies will continue its Speakers Series and occasional conferences and other events and of course CCAA members are always welcome to attend (many already do).

FEATURE

My month in An Ceathru Rua, Co. Galway

By Erin Mealey



In July 2012, I had the pleasure of living in the small Gaeltacht of An Ceathru Rua on the West coast of Ireland. I had never been to Connemara, so this experience was particularly exciting. I was there on the



Ireland Canadian University Foundation scholarship through St. Michael's college at the University of Toronto. The point of my trip was to keep learning Irish and working towards fluency.

I stayed in a house with six other students (four of them were fellow Canadians, also on the ICUF scholarship) and our host family consisted of our Bean an Tí, Fear an Tí and their two sons. One of the sons would drive us out to do some hill walking and other, nature-filled activities that the program didn't offer. We were lucky to have such an amazing family to live with!

Our Bean an Tí, Bridy, was such a sweet woman. Whenever I felt homesick, she would make me a cup of tea, calm me down, and help me with my Irish. The food was amazing and the house was only a ten-minute walk from the school.

We went to school Monday to Saturday with a half-day on Wednesdays and Saturdays. I was in the Mean Rang (intermediate class) with some of my housemates and I made many new friends.

Our teacher, Sally Droighneain, was incredibly nice and made the learning experience fun and exciting! Having already taken two years of Irish at U of T, we went over stuff I had already learned but I also learned a lot of new material.

Some days we went on tours, seeing Teach an Phiarsaigh in Ros a Muc, a trip to Inis Oirr, and a very rainy, wet and miserable tour of Inis Ni (we were soaking wet from 12-5 p.m. and my cell phone broke due to water damage!)

In the evenings, we scheduled cultural activities (céilís, sean nos singing, and traditional music sessions) and lectures on the history of An Ceathru Rua, the Irish language and Irish folklore.

Having made friends with most of the students in the program, we spent a lot of our free time together, renting bikes, going to any of the several local beaches, and frequenting our favourite pubs, An Chistin and An Railte. We even organized a night out on the town in Galway city, renting some buses to transport us in from the Gaeltacht.

One of the most exciting parts of the month was hearing Irish spoken by everyone in the town. All of the signs were in Irish, children in the street asking me where I was from spoke in Irish, even my receipts from the local Eurospar were printed as Gaelige!

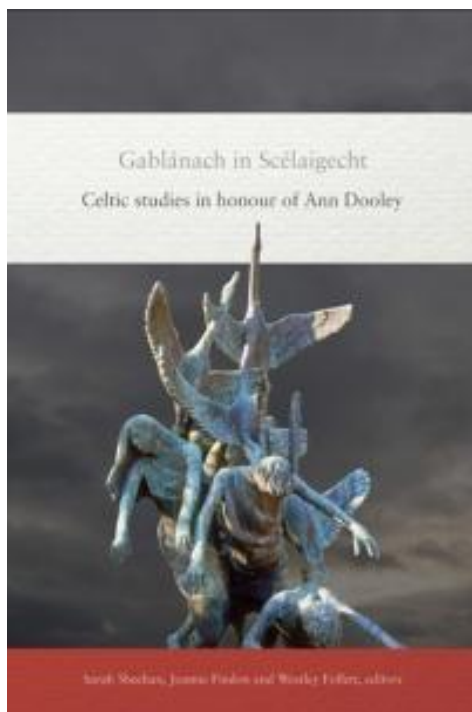
On a couple of occasions, I met up with my friend Vanessa, who has taken Irish classes with me at U of T for the past two years. Together, we met up with our teacher, Daithí Callaghan, who only lives a couple of towns over from where I was staying. It was a lot of fun to meet and catch up!

This trip improved my Irish speaking skills. I was able to talk to my fellow classmates, town locals, my host family and my teachers. It was definitely a summer to remember!



FEATURE

GABLÁNACH IN SCÉLAIGECHT: Celtic studies in honour of Ann Dooley



New book to celebrate the work of distinguished University of Toronto Professor, Ann Dooley, is now available.

GABLÁNACH IN SCÉLAIGECHT celebrates the career of Ann Dooley, one of Canada's most eminent Celtic medievalists. Dooley's colleagues at the University of Toronto, her former doctoral students, and some of the most prominent scholars in medieval Celtic studies, honour her work with 16 original essays reflecting her teaching and interests: early Irish and Welsh literature and history, literary theory, and feminist approaches to medieval Celtic literature.

The book was launched during the annual conference of the [Celtic Studies Association of North America](#), at St Michael's College, University of Toronto, April 18-21, 2013.

GABLÁNACH IN SCÉLAIGECHT: Celtic studies in honour of Ann Dooley
Sarah Sheehan, Joanne Findon & Westley Follett, editors.

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Pádraig Ó Riain (UCC)
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Available to order in North America via: [isbs.com.](#)

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Canadian Celtic Arts Association 2013 Events Calendar

May is Gaelic Awareness Month

Sunday May 5, 2013

Book Launch

[Escape from Eire: A Memoir of Love and Adventure in Ireland](#) by Jennylynd James
[McVeigh's Pub](#), 124 Church Street, Toronto, ON, 3pm - 5pm

Join us for an interactive session of book readings, and discussion of adventures in modern Ireland. Author, Jennylynd James will read lively passages from the book as well as show photos and videos of travels around Ireland. Get your signed copy at \$15. Finger food will be served. Please RSVP to jajames1_99@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto Lecture

Alumni Hall, Room 400, St. Michael's College, 121 St. Joseph Street, Toronto
6 p.m., All Welcome - free admission. No registration required. This lecture is made possible by the generosity of a grant from the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto.

Professor Emeritus R. J. Morris, Edinburgh University presents, "Reading the Street and the history of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, 1850 to 1914". Hosted by Celtic Studies
For more information: phone 416-926-7145 or email celtic.studies@utoronto.ca.

Saturday, May 11, 2013

Toronto Country Dancers Contradance

Barnabas Church Hall (E corner Hampton and Danforth Ave.), 7:30 pm. For more information about the Toronto Country Dancers, please contact Judy Greenhill at info@tcdance.org or 519-763-2494.

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Set Dancing Class

Corktown Irish Pub, 175 Young St., Hamilton ON
Set Dance Class every second Tuesday from 6:30 - 8:30 / session every Tuesday
For more information contact Ann Gorman-McKinney 905.549.9867 or email agormckinney@cogeco.ca.

Saturday, May 25, 2013

[Guelph Celtic Orchestra Season Wrap-up](#)

Canadian Legion. Branch 234, 57 Watson Parkway South, Guelph ON
Tickets: \$15 advance / \$ 20 at the door. Space is limited and door entry is not guaranteed unless tickets are reserved.
Performance and Ceilidh dance, directed by Fiona McCairley. Featuring Canadian Stepdancers followed by a Ceili called by Maureen Mulvey-O'Leary
For advance tickets: guelphceltic@gmail.com.

May 29 - June 1, 2013

North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers Annual Conference

Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute, University of Ottawa
Click for [information and registration](#).

Friday, May 31, 2013

A Fabulous Day at the Races

Woodbine Race Track, 555 Rexdale Blvd. Toronto ON
Lunch: 12 pm – 3 pm, races: 1 pm - 5:00 pm
Tickets: \$125 each

At this wonderful event, you will enjoy the camaraderie of clients, friends and family while savouring a fabulous buffet lunch at the Trackside Tent. As you place your bets you can look over the exquisite Silent Auction Table or purchase your winning raffle ticket. Perhaps you may even be the winner of the Best Dressed Couple, Best Hat or Best Tie. This is a fun filled day that you do not want to miss!



Proceeds from The Ireland Fund of Canada's Day at the Races will support the Celtic Studies Program at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Tickets are limited so order now. Phone 416.367.8311 or [order on-line](#).

Saturday, June 8

"The Gaelic in the Whisky" Talk and Whisky-Tasting.

The Caledonian, 856 College Street (near Ossington). Reservations are required and space is limited. Cost is approximately \$35. Full details will be available shortly.

The Canadian Celtic Arts Association will hold a talk by David Livingston-Lowe, on the making of whisky and Gaelic terminology associated with Scotland and Ireland's national beverage. Various whisky samples will be available for tasting.

June 8 - 10, 2013

Ciorcail Chomhrá Toronto Deireadh Seachtaine Lán-Gaeilge / Irish Language Immersion Weekend

379 Bouchier St., Keswick ON

Cost: \$200 Includes classes (3 levels), meals from Friday night to lunch Sunday, sweets at break, two nights' accommodation, movie night, socialising, stories, poetry, Irish music.

Due to the intimate setting, registration and payment are required as soon as possible to hold your spot. For more information or to register, email gaeltoronto@gmail.com.

June 19 - 23, 2013

Annual CAIS Conference

Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre, Vancouver, B.C.

On the Edge: Transitions, Transgressions, and Transformations in Irish and Scottish Studies.

Co-hosted by Canadian Association for Irish Studies (CAIS) / Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Aberdeen.

[Click here](#) for more information or call 416.926.7145.

July 1 - 5, 2013

Scottish Gaelic Immersion Week

[Ontario School of Piping and Drumming](#),

15800 Yonge Street (St. Andrew's College), Aurora ON.

Orientation is the evening of June 30, with the programme itself being July 1 - 5. The instructor is Angus McLeod of Cape Breton and it is for Advanced Beginners and above. There is no beginners programme. Complete information will be on the web page soon.

Executive Committee

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