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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Boston Irish Honors award winner Jim Hunt congratulates Mrs. Mary (Cruise) Kennedy as state Sen. Tom Kennedy looks on.  
Photo by Margaret Brett Hastings

## Boston Irish Honors hails Irish heritage

Some 400 well-wishers gathered at the Seaport Hotel on Oct. 20 to celebrate with the awardees at the second annual Boston Irish Honors event sponsored by the *Boston Irish Reporter*.

Dick Flavin was the master of ceremonies who, after a vigorous rendition of "Casey at the Bat," with Ted Williams playing the part of Casey, introduced the honorees:

State Sen. Tom Kennedy of Brockton; Kathleen O'Toole, who has served in law-enforcement posts locally and is now finishing up a stint as Chief Inspector of the Garda Force in Ireland; and three local families, the Corcorans, the Hunts, and the Mulvoys.

The sentiment receiving the most attention from the speakers was that the honorees all have a clear heritage that binds them; in this case, a sense of the values that those families who made their way quietly to America brought with them.

Dick Flavin's welcoming words are on Page 5. A look at the luncheon scene, and the program highlights, begins on Page 16 and runs to Page 27.

Boston Irish Reporter



Boston Irish Honors

2011

State Senator Thomas P. Kennedy  
Kathleen M. O'Toole  
The Corcoran Family  
The Hunt Family  
The Mulvoy Family  
October 20, 2011

## Higgins visit to Hub recalled

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN – Michael D. Higgins, a veteran left-wing politician, poet and human rights activist, has been declared the winner of Ireland's presidential election with nearly 57 percent of votes. His first order of business was a pledge to lift the spirits of a struggling nation.

Higgins said he wanted to help revive the public's faith in politicians at a time when Ireland faces record debts, a property market collapse, 15 percent unemployment and a fourth straight year of severe spending cuts.

The diminutive Higgins, 70, beamed with pride as he received congratulations inside Dublin Castle from government leaders and most rival candidates. He announced he would resign immediately as president and member of the Labour Party, the junior member of Ireland's coalition government, because his new role as ceremonial head of state meant he must be "a president for all the people."

Higgins received more than 1 million votes of the nearly 1.8 million cast in last Thursday's election. Referring to the 43 percent of registered voters who didn't cast a ballot, he said, "I want to be a president, too, for those who didn't vote, whose trust in public institutions I will encourage and work to recover. ... I dedicate my abilities to the service and welfare of the people of Ireland."

*Boston Irish Reporter* columnist Bill O'Donnell recalls meeting the new president some 20 years ago on the floor of Boston's World Trade Center when Higgins was shamelessly talking up Galway to a handful of enthralled Bostonians. At the time, he was a member



Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina, right, react on Sat., Oct. 29, after Higgins was declared the ninth President of Ireland at Dublin Castle. Saturday's result capped a two-day count of ballots to determine who would succeed Mary McAleese as Ireland's ceremonial head of state.  
AP Photo/Peter Morrison

of the Irish parliament and a university political science lecturer and he was traveling with his Galway delegation to the Irish Trade Festival, one of a series of annual events that featured products, services, tourism, and investment opportunities from Galway in the Irish Republic and Derry in Northern Ireland.

"While many of the civic/political types from Ireland were rarely in evidence when they were not involved in speeches or on-stage presentations," said O'Connell, "Galway's 'Michael O'D' was joyously ubiquitous, a cross between an unofficial ambassador of good will and a dauntless cheerleader for the growing links between his city and county and Boston. He would do anything we asked to advance the festival agenda: meet and greet, explain how the Irish parliamentary system worked, to making colorful, impromptu speeches on a moment's notice.

(Continued on page 6)

## A Whale Of A Tale

### Gare St. Lazare Players Ireland presents 'Moby Dick' at ArtsEmerson

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" has long ranked as one of the great novels of English literature. Written in 1851, the classic tale follows the tyrannical Captain Ahab in his relentless pursuit of the great white whale Moby Dick. Despite having already lost a ship and a leg to the illusive sea monster, Ahab is hell-bent on revenge at any cost. The story is narrated by Ishmael, a sailor who unwittingly signs on to Ahab's ship, the Pequod, departing from Nantucket. The state of Massachusetts has so long been associated with the tale that in 2008,

our House of Representatives named Moby Dick as the state's official epic novel.

It's also of interest that Melville had a local connection to Boston via his grandfather, Thomas, a member of the Sons of Liberty and a participant in the Boston Tea Party. As well, Melville himself once sailed out of New Bedford on a whaling ship and later settled with his family in Pittsfield.

Renowned for its prolific and stylized prose, the iconic Moby Dick is now coming to the Boston stage. From November 7 to 12, ArtsEmerson will present a stunning stage adaptation of the work by the award-winning Gare St.

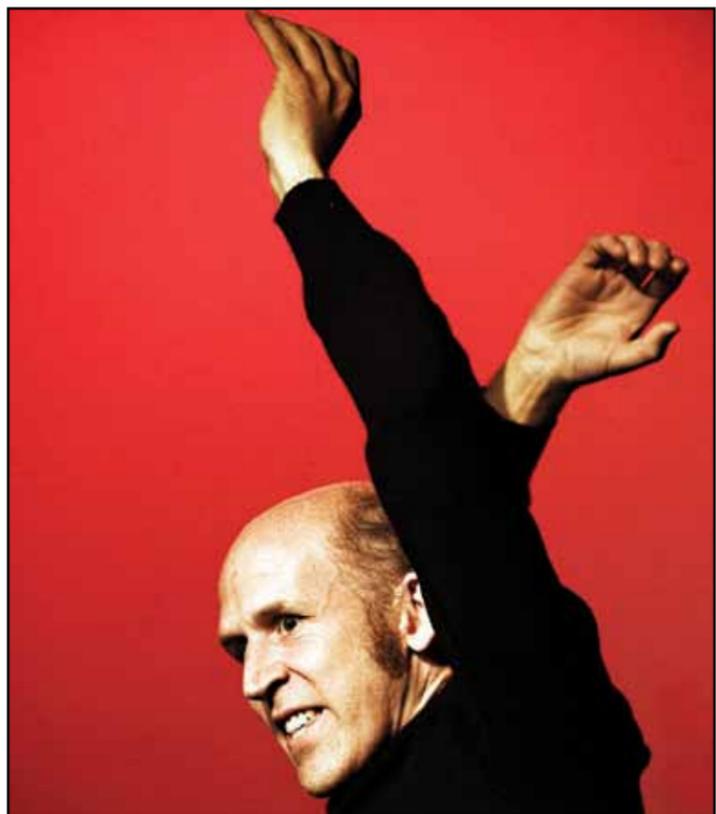
Lazare Players Ireland.

The masterful one-man show will be performed at the Paramount Center by Conor Lovett, who adapted the novel with his wife Judy Hegarty Lovett, who in turn directed the production. The Lovetts, who've been together for 20 years, are the Artistic Directors of the Dublin-based Gare St. Lazare Players.

(Continued on page 11)

Conor Lovett stars in the masterly one-man production of "Moby Dick" from Gare St. Lazare Players Ireland at ArtsEmerson, November 7 - 12.

Photo by Ros Kavanagh



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On Saturday, October 1, the Boston Consulate General of Ireland partnered with the Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICCNE) to host the 1st annual conference of Irish organizations in New England. The six hour event on the ICCNE's Canton campus attracted a score of Irish American activists from the six state region, and was followed by a cocktail reception at the Consulate office downtown, and a dinner reception in Boston.

Topics discussed included: social media, and internet presences, fundraising, event and program management, migration and audience identification and community issues.

*Photos courtesy Irish Consulate*



Pictured, clockwise (l-r) Lena Deevy, Irish International Immigration Centre and Catherine Shannon of the Charitable Irish Society; Mike O'Connor of the Irish Cultural Centre speaks with Irish Consul General Michael Loneragan; Attorney John P. Foley; Evelyn Fennessy of the County Mayo Association; Dan Sullivan of the Irish Heritage Society of Milford.



## ICCNE names interim head

Eamonn McGrath has been named interim Executive Director of the Irish Cultural Centre of New England, replacing Vanessa Leite, who resigned her post in October. "We thank Vanessa for her dedicated hard work and wish her well in her future career," ICC president Tom Gallagher said in a letter announcing the changes. "A search process is underway for a permanent replacement."

Gallagher said McGrath will serve until a permanent replacement is found. "Eamonn is a long serving active board member who has held leadership positions in high technology companies both here and in Ireland," he said. "Mr. McGrath will step down from his current position on the board of directors to lead the Centre. He is delighted to accept this opportunity to help the centre's mission of promoting and organizing Irish cultural, educational, sporting and social events. He has a rich understanding of Irish culture and is passionate about Irish music. Originally from Co. Cork, Ireland, he has lived in Massachusetts for the past 15 years. Eamonn looks forward to hearing from old and new members and discussing ways to improve the centre."

## TIARA EVENTS

TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association) will host a workshop on creating family scrapbooks on Sat., Nov. 5, at 10:30 a.m. at 2120 Commonwealth Ave., Auburndale. At press time, a limited number of openings remained. Registration and details by email at [recsecl@tiara.ie](mailto:recsecl@tiara.ie).

The group will hold its December meeting on the 9th at 7 p.m. at Fulton Hall, Boston College with a program entitled "Finding Your Ancestors Who Fought as Union Soldiers in Civil War." That talk will feature David Allen Lambert, a staff member of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.



Legendary Irish Gaelic Games sports commentator Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh visited Boston in October, serving as the star attraction at a Dorchester event in support of the Irish Pastoral Center. The 81 year old County Kerry native has spent six decades as the "voice of the Gaelic games." Born Michael Moriarty in Dún Síon just outside Dingle, he worked part-time in radio while maintaining a career as a school teacher, becoming a full time broadcaster with RTE in the 1980s. While in Boston, Ó Muircheartaigh spoke at a luncheon hosted by Ireland Consul General Michael Loneragan, where he is pictured with Back Bay Hotel GM Mark Roche-Garland (left.) Ed Forry photo



Pictured at an October 20 Irish American Partnership luncheon are (l-r): Joe Leary, Consul General Michael Loneragan, Dr Larry Shields, Dublin City University president Dr. Brian MacCraith, Jim Brett, Mary McAleer and Bill Reilly. For a report on Dr. McCraith's Boston visit, see Publisher's Notes, next page. *Ed Forry photo*



## Irish International Immigrant Center *Solas Awards Celebration*

Each year, the Solas Awards, Gaelic for *light*, is given to distinguished individuals who serve as beacons in our community and who touch the lives of many.

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## A vision for 'Ireland's University of Enterprise'

By ED FORRY

The president of Dublin City University, Brian MacCraith, visited Boston on Oct. 17 to develop academic and technology partnerships. The holder of a PhD from NUI Galway, Dr. MacCraith, who began his ten-year presidential term in last year, has been



Ed Forry

a professor of physics and director of DCU's Biomedical Diagnostics Institute.

Last month, he was guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by Joe Leary's Irish American Partnership, which has been supporting educational programs across the island of Ireland. At the luncheon, Dr. MacCraith told a story of his rapidly growing university, now 22 years old with 12,000 students, which specializes in

science and math.

"My strong focus is on enterprise," he told the gathering. "We are not a traditional university, but very much focused on the sciences, technology, engineering, math." He called DCU "Ireland's University of Enterprise." He said that Martin McAleese had recently been appointed university chancellor. "He agreed to take on the role for the next five years. That's hugely important for us and a very strong endorsement of the sort of university that we are."

"My vision of the university is one that focuses on the region of Ireland that is north of Dublin, all along the Eastern corridor across the border to Belfast," said MacCraith. "That zone by 2020 will have in it over 60 percent of Ireland's population, and will generate close to 70 percent of Ireland's GDP. It's a really burgeoning region. We're the only university in that region, and working with our colleagues across the border, development of that region will be crucial to the future, making sure that our kids get into the university and making sure that we translate the knowledge we discover at the university into jobs. There's only one thing Ireland needs at the moment, and that's jobs, so we align very closely the national priorities with the university agenda. I would call it a pragmatic form of patriotism."

MacCraith's description of the region along Ireland's east coast is similar to the high population density of the American east coast, from Boston to Washington, DC. There are "a lot of similarities" to the Northeast corridor, he said. "In Ireland that's where people are coming to in terms of economic opportunity. At the moment the highest density of employment in the country is within a ten-mile radius of Dublin airport. All along that zone you're going to find people gravitating to there. Effectively, the Dublin suburbs are going to stretch to Newry and down into Wicklow. There are unique opportunities to develop in that region."

MacCraith cited a proposal to build a clean technology center adjacent to DCU, "a five-minute walk from our campus, to bring in clusters of companies, a bit like the medical devices [on Ireland's west coast]. He said he envisions establishing a research triangle park (RTP) near the campus, similar to the biomedical RTP park in North Carolina "You can do that right along that corridor to the north," he mused.

During his brief Boston stay, MacCraith, who was named one of the "Top 10 Educators in Ireland" in a recent *Irish Times* survey, visited with officials at Northeastern University, and with UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan at the Center for Irish Partnerships. After Boston he flew west to meet with colleagues at Arizona State University.

## Harsh financial measures are succeeding in Ireland

By JOE LEARY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

European and American business leaders are praising Ireland's government for setting a courageous course to return the Irish economy to financial prosperity in the years ahead. A balanced mix of increased taxes and reduced spending has both European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) leaders pointing to Ireland as a superb example of fiscal prudence as the country fights to restore its economic health.



Joe Leary

As reported in the *Irish Times*, the president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, said, "I was happy to report that Ireland is indeed headed in the right direction, that confidence is returning, and that commentary internationally from business, economics and from a political perspective see a country that imposed

discipline on itself and is meeting the conditions by the Government working with the people." Barroso went on to say that "interest rates have come down and growth has returned."

The European Director of the IMF, Antonio Borges, said, "Ireland was performing surprisingly well and that conditions now were much better than they were before. I think the Irish economy has been positive. Ireland's performance is exemplary but the situation remains challenging."

And American businessmen are investing significant capital in Ireland—building plants, hiring new employees, and creating research centers. Ireland is still looked upon as a favorable place to invest for the future.

The only dark cloud here is the possibility that Europe may go back into recession as a result of the

inability of countries like Greece to pay the European banks what they owe them. And as our own stock market reflects almost every day, this brings great uncertainty to investing and many businesses are holding on to what cash they have to protect themselves from the economic disasters we experienced in 2007 and 2008.

According to the *New York Times* the first European large bank to come close to failing is the Belgian-French Bank Dexia, which received tens of billions of iBailout Euros in late October to keep them solvent and be able to pay two American companies Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley what they owe them. It can be seen that this is not simply an Irish problem. The entire world borrows from each other to have the funds necessary to loan at higher interest rates. Unfortunately both the borrowing and lending decisions are made by imperfect human beings that have occasionally compromised themselves and their companies by forgetting sound business principles.

But congratulations to Ireland's leadership. Though sacrifices are being made by most all in Ireland, the country appears to be facing its problems with courage and toughness as salaries have been reduced, taxes have been increased, pensions have been decreased, and many social services have been curtailed.

Ironically, many of these decisions were made by the government leaders who were voted out during the last election. Fianna Fail's finance minister during that time, the late Brian Lenihan, put in place many of the austerity measures that the people reacted negatively against. Today, the moves rate praise in Europe.

Boston's Consul General of Ireland Michael Loneragan, while optimistic, warns, "There is, of course a lot of uncertainty and considerable risks, not least signs of slowing activity in our main trading partners in recent months."

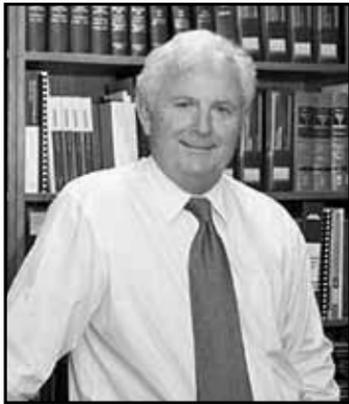
So, while it may not be time to send the marching band down Grafton Street, there are positive things happening in Ireland.

### Off the Bench

## Forgive us our trespasses

By JAMES W. DOLAN  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The most distressing aspect of a career adjudicating and mediating disputes is the animosity that too often develops within families. Grievances over money, insults and misunderstandings can split a family apart.



James W. Dolan

What was once a loving relationship can become a battleground as one side and then the other engage in the most pernicious attacks with both professing to be the victim. Otherwise good people set about destroying a brother, sister, parent, or child. Other family members often get caught up in the maelstrom even as they try to remain neutral.

This sad phenomenon is evident on a national scale in the political dysfunction now paralyzing our political process. There is little common ground as one party accuses the other of the most sinister motives from greed, ignorance, and opportunism to class warfare, duplicity, and undermining democracy.

Are Republican leaders more intent on having President Obama fail than on achieving sensible compromises that would benefit the country but, at the same time, might diminish their chances of regaining the White House?

Common to these conflicts is the absence of good will. Instead, one side questions the motives of the other. Evil intent is frequently assumed to be the motivation of the other side. It sometimes is, but more often than not it is something less culpable. Human beings, in my experience, have an enormous capacity to exercise bad judgment. They can be selfish, rude, stupid, annoying, mean, thoughtless, and antagonistic; the list goes on.

Such behavior is harmful and hurtful but does not necessarily suggest an evil intent. If we can see these weaknesses in ourselves, we hopefully will be more inclined to forgive them in others; particularly in family members who have offended us.

What I find troubling is how good, God-fearing,

church-going people can cling to a grievance. They see no conflict in being angry at, resentful of, or even hating a family member and being a good Christian.

Some regularly say the Lord's Prayer which in part states: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Could it be any clearer? We appeal for forgiveness in the same measure as we forgive others.

I read that as applying to everyone, including those with evil intent who have intentionally harmed us. That may not be easy but we are not expected to become best friends. Fortunately, we occasionally see extraordinary, uplifting examples of forgiveness.

More than a few times while trying to resolve family disputes, I have invoked that phrase and another from the Beatitudes—"Blessed are the peacemakers"—in an effort to make the parties see the larger issue at stake in their conflict: the need to begin the healing process.

Lawyers sometimes contribute to a conflict by failing to see that in family matters, there is a larger issue. It is not the same as an arms-length dispute between unrelated parties. The undercurrents in those cases are rarely as intense as those that swirl within families.

I tell lawyers that, like doctors, they should be mindful of the admonition "Do no harm" as they try to resolve intra-family conflicts. To the extent possible, they should try to craft a resolution that at least does not further damage what remains of the family fabric and, if they can, try to mend it.

For reasons that are hard to understand, family disputes are more contentious. Perhaps because there is no anger or hate as intense as that directed against someone who was once loved. We swing from one extreme to the other, feeling the hurt as a painful betrayal of our affection.

Some find it hard to move beyond the belief that they have been victimized. Instead, they nurture a grudge that manifests itself in a desire for retribution, or in its less toxic form, refusal to communicate, the latter often for the most petty of real or imagined grievances.

Rarely have I been successful in persuading either or both sides to refuse to engage at a level of recrimination that diminishes both of them. Forgiveness is perceived as weakness or capitulation. They fail to see it as an act of compassion, mercy, and love, three virtues the world could use a lot more of.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.



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# A welcome from Dick Flavin, our Master of Ceremonies



an instant everything changed. His dream of being a priest was dashed but, using his wheelchair, he could not be stopped from fulfilling his vocation of reaching out to those around him who need help.

These are great Irish-American stories. They represent the best that is in us. We should savor them.

All of us here have our own stories, of course. The truth is that everyone else does too, but we Irish like to think we have a corner on the market. All of our stories bear telling and retelling, perhaps with a dash of blarney thrown into the mix; not so as to distort them, understand, but enough to enhance the flavor.

After all, even the tastiest Irish story is best served with a bit of garnish.

Following is the introduction to the Boston Irish Honors luncheon program as delivered by Dick Flavin at the Seaport Hotel on Oct. 20.

Stories are a fundamental part of the Irish existence. They are ingrained in us all and have been since that long ago time when occupiers deemed that literacy in Ireland would be illegal. Fat chance. All they managed to do was awaken an appreciation and a love for words, first spoken, and then written. The traditional Irish love of stories holds as true in America as it does in "that dear land across the Irish Sea."

The Boston Irish Reporter is filled each month with grand Irish stories, but this luncheon edition is especially rich. It tells the stories of three great Irish-American families, all of Dorchester as it happens, and of two individuals whose accomplishments have been many and who have set the bar high for the rest of us.

There is the story of the Mulvoy family: mother, father, four brothers, and a sister, from St. Mark's parish. They spread their wings and went on to achieve great things, both here and across the country. But always in their bones there is the old neighborhood, its rhythms and its lure. For all their accomplishments, they are still the Mulvoys of Dorchester.

There are the Hunts from Pope's Hill who, faced with an unspeakable tragedy in the family, found the strength not just to endure but to inspire. They have spent their professional lives dedicated to health care and their personal lives radiating love for their family and for those around them.

The Corcorans of Uphams Corner, raised in humble beginnings, achieved wondrous success in real estate that stretches all the way from Dorchester to Belfast. And they have become major philanthropists along the way.

A young girl from Pittsfield committed herself to a career in law enforcement; "police service" as she terms it. She began as a patrol officer in the Boston Police Department, broke through glass ceiling after glass ceiling here and across the sea. She is now Kathleen O'Toole, Ireland's chief law enforcement officer, a woman with an international reputation.

State Senator Tom Kennedy has his own story. Forty years ago he was a young seminarian when he fell from a ladder and in

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# NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

**Pat on the back for Ireland** – Ireland has been told that it is, for the most part, achieving the goals linked to the 8-billion euro EU/ECB/IMF loan deal. Later, at last month's EU summit, French President Nicolas Sarkozy cited the success of Ireland in tackling its economic problems. He seemed to be saying that the euro crisis would have been resolved by now if other countries had acted as decisively as Ireland.

During the week a delegation from the EU, ECB and IMF completed its quarterly review of Irish progress in meeting the conditions of the loan deal.

**Mother recovers abducted child from Syria** – Dubliner Louise Monaghan, 36, who had been living in Cyprus, has returned to Ireland with her six-year-old daughter May Assad who had been abducted by her father and taken to his home in Syria on September 7. Ms Monaghan is divorced from her Syrian-born husband but he was given access to his daughter while all three continued to live in Cyprus. He collected May as scheduled in Limassol on September 7 but failed to return. Instead he made his way to Syria using an out-of-date passport to bring May with him. On the Monday after May was abducted Louise left Cyprus for Syria and last Saturday mother and daughter arrived back in Ireland.

**Weather caused a range of problems** – Wind and rain in the middle of last month caused problems in different parts of the country, ranging from flooding in the North to disrupted flights at Dublin Airport and cancelled ferry services on the Irish Sea. Snow lay on some Donegal roads for a time.

The worst of the flooding appears to have been in Co. Fermanagh, with Ballinamallard hardest hit. Flooding was also reported in Antrim town, Omagh, Cookstown and Newtown Stewart, Co. Tyrone.

In addition to forcing flights to divert from Dublin Airport to Shannon and Belfast, the strong winds ripped lead from the roof of the National Museum in Dublin, damaging the cars of some members of the Oireachtas. It was only the Irish Ferries high speed vessel that was unable to go to sea.

The wind brought a tree down on the car of Fr John McEvoy, curate in the parish of Mucklagh, Co. Offaly. His Toyota Prius was written off but he escaped uninjured.

**Dispute over cable car for cattle** – Farmers on Dursey Island, off the Beara Peninsula in west Cork, are extremely angry with Cork County Council over its arbitrary decision to reduce the weight of animals that it will allow on the cable car which links the island with the

mainland. Until now cattle weighing up to 540kg have been permitted but the council has reduced this to 440kg, although the official specifications of the cable car indicate that it can carry up to 1,000kg.

The council has also placed restrictions on the times that sheep and cattle can use the service. The staff who operate the cable car have been told that they will face disciplinary procedures if they decide to facilitate farmers outside the designated times without first obtaining management approval.

**Occupy Wall Street spawns Irish branches** – A small number of protesters have followed the example of the group calling itself Occupy Wall Street by setting up camp outside the Central Bank. A number of tents are thought to house about 40 people who call themselves Occupy Dame Street. Different people come and go but the core claims to be there for the long haul.

With nowhere to peg their tents to the ground last month's gales caused problems for them but they reinstated the tents when the wind abated. On Sat., Oct. 22, the group organized a protest march from the Garden of Remembrance to the Central Bank. Estimates of the number talking part were as high as 2,000.

A group called Occupy

Galway has also set up at the top of Eyre Square with ten tents and a communal marquee.

**Crosaire's successor is 'terrified'** – Roy Earle, a Dubliner living in California who is taking over the Irish Times crossword from the late Derek Crozier, says he is 'terrified' at the prospect. Crozier left two and a half years' worth of crosswords when he died at the age of 92 and the final one appeared in Saturday's paper. Earle says he hopes to continue in his predecessor's tradition but will also introduce a 'contemporary flavor'.

**Hutchinson elected leader of PUP** – Billy Hutchinson, a former UVF prisoner who received a life sentence for the murder of two Catholics in 1974, has been elected as the new leader of the Progressive Unionist Party. He will succeed Brian Ervine, who decided to step down when the party failed to win a seat in East Belfast in the assembly elections.

**Final Northern visit for President** – President Mary McAleese paid her final visit to the North as President last month when she attended a farewell event in her honor at Hillsborough Castle, hosted by Secretary of State Owen Paterson. The president thanked people for their "courage" and willingness "to change" and said that the fact that the Northern Secretary was hosting the reception at Hillsborough Castle "is surely a testimony to the changed times".

The Courts  
**Four years for four lives** – A drunk driver who killed three people and an unborn child has been sent to jail for four years. Kevin McArdle, 29, of Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, pleaded

guilty to dangerous driving causing death on the N2 Dublin to Derry road about 2km from Carrickmacross on December 27 last year. Those who died were Paul Carroll, 27, from Kingscourt, Co. Cavan, and Glenn Curtis, 27, from Nobber, Co. Meath, who were travelling with McArdle, and Róisín Connolly and her unborn baby, from Drumcondra in Dublin who were traveling in the opposite direction in a car being driven by Ms. Connolly's husband, Stephen. McArdle had drunk nine pints of beer and five glasses of brandy prior to the crash.

**Liam Adams to be extradited to North** – Liam Adams, the brother of Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, has lost his appeal against extradition to the North and will now face charges that he raped and sexually abused his daughter, Ann Tyrell. Adams will be held for 15 days, until early this month, after which the extradition order will take effect, and he will then be handed over to the PSNI during the following ten days. In granting the extradition Justice John Edwards said he would not allow an appeal to the Supreme Court.

**Supreme Court rules in 'proper provision' case for ex-spouse** – A businessman has successfully appealed an award, made to his ex-wife on their divorce in 2009, which was significantly more generous than the figures agreed when they formally separated 20 years earlier. In the original agreement the wife was provided with a house, a lump sum, and a monthly maintenance payment which stood at 2,400 euro in 2007.

By the time the wife sought a divorce her former husband had accumu-

lated considerable wealth and he was ordered to pay her one-million euro so that she could buy a second home; a further 900,000 euro in two installments; 54,000 euro per year in maintenance payments; and the cost of her health insurance.

The Supreme Court ruled that wealth garnered by the husband after their separation should not have been considered, and 'substantial weight' should be given to the original separation agreement, which included a 'full and final settlement' clause. The matter has been returned to the High Court, which will reconsider the settlement terms in light of the Supreme Court ruling.

**Business News**

**Important job win for Limerick** - Glass, Lewis & Co., a leading independent governance services firm, is opening an office in Limerick that will focus primarily on serving institutional investors throughout Europe. The new office, the fifth in Glass Lewis's global network, will recruit 15 staff in its first year with the expectation that it will grow thereafter.

Founded in 2003, Glass, Lewis is headquartered in San Francisco with offices in New York, Washington, D.C., Ireland and Australia.

**MSD makes 40 redundant in Wicklow** – Pharmaceutical company MSD, formerly Merck Sharp and Dohme, is seeking 40 voluntary redundancies at its plant in Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, reducing the once 400-strong workforce to 280 by December of next year. The company, which produces pharmaceutical ingredients for the global market, has been in the area for the past 50 years.

## Higgins visit to Hub recalled

(Continued from page 1)

"His energy level was astonishing and continued often into the night, when most of the festival organizers sought only sleep. He had come to Boston to have some serious fun and spread the word about his Galway. And that he did."

Higgins may have had the occasional slip-up with American foreign policy of the era, added

O'Donnell, "but he passionately loved Boston, the next parish over, and our Galway-like waterfront, and took an instant liking to Boston's Irish Mayor, Ray Flynn. It would not be overstating his impact on the festival organizers and the attending public to say Michael D was the most unforgettable character of the event and left a lasting impression on

many of us that endures to this day.

"What further endeared him to those of us working to make the trade festival a success," said O'Donnell, "was his total absence of pretentiousness, a character trait that has already endeared this accomplished, caring poet-patriot to the people of Ireland. They have chosen well."



### IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2011

Here in the west we escaped the worst of the wind and rain that hit the east on Monday. Over the course of the week, however, we had more than our share of rain, although nothing like that experienced elsewhere. We also enjoyed a few sunny spells and temperatures were, for the most part, above normal.

Conditions should improve during the coming week with only Monday and Wednesday bringing significant rainfall. We could be affected by the odd shower on other days.

**Latest Temperatures**  
Day 16C (61F).....Night 13C (56F)



## County Donegal Association of Greater Boston

### ANNUAL BANQUET

*Saturday, November 5, 2011*

**Join the Donegal Association  
for an evening of fun, food  
and entertainment  
by Erin's Melody**

*at Florian Hall, Hallet Street, Dorchester, MA*

**Tickets: JP Doherty, 617-825-8769  
Colm McDaid, 617-698-7112 or any board member.**

Tickets: \$45



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## "President's Choice"

### Serving Lunch & Dinner Every day, 7 days a week

# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**Irish Look Into Facebook Complaints**—The popular social network Facebook has 600 million users across Europe but that hasn't stopped an Irish agency from auditing the internet phenomenon. The Irish Data Protection Commission has agreed to audit Facebook following complaints about privacy issues from the tiny Europe-v-Facebook group. The complaints stem from an investigation begun by a concerned Facebook user, **Max Schrems**, an Austrian law student who believes that Facebook is collecting and misusing his personal information.



**Bill O'Donnell**

In a press account appearing in the *Irish Times* last month, Schrems asked Facebook for access to the data it had on him. Facebook replied with a CD containing over 1,200 pages of information that the social network had retained on Schrems, who was surprised by what the personal data contained. It had posts, messages, lists of friends, etc. that Schrems had deleted and should not have been retained by Facebook. He also found instant messages with personal information about him and his friends that should not have been in his file. Schrems was additionally concerned that other types of data which should have been there were missing from his Facebook file.

To cut to the chase, our law student Schrems, 24, created Europe-v-Facebook to get to the bottom of serious defects in the Facebook privacy guidelines. Setting out on a David versus Goliath mission, Schrems and his friends want Facebook to define their parameters regarding personal information and the rules on transparency. Because Facebook's European headquarters are in Dublin, the Irish agency has jurisdiction over the social network's users outside the US and Canada.

Ireland has been highly successful in recent years in its quest to have a number of digital and social network companies establish operations in the country. Today, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn and Twitter all are well represented in Ireland and contribute to the economic revival ongoing there.

There is, however, some growing concern that in having the Irish Data Protection Commission judge the dispute between Facebook and Europe-v-Facebook, Ireland runs the risk of alienating the social network companies and prompting their departure from what they might consider unfriendly surroundings. Stay tuned.

**Pat Has Overstayed His Welcome**—As a fairly regular viewer of MSNBC's **Joe Scarborough** and **Chris Matthews**, I have been collaterally subjected to the racist xenophobia of **Patrick Buchanan**. Most always I switch to another TV station or click mute but I have seen and read enough of Buchanan since his Nixon White House years to recognize a "Gangplank Irishman" poster boy when I see one. That metaphorical title, of course, is borne by those Irish who were happy enough to use the gangplank to come to America but were quick to pull up that same gangplank for immigrants who might try to follow, especially if the immigrants didn't quite look like them.

A quick aside: During the **Ray Flynn** years I sometimes found myself at the City's elegant Parkman House for a holiday gathering or the odd reception. Once I was in a four-way holiday chat with, among others, a very high-placed, well-known, famously Irish law enforcement official who stunned me with his outburst of "gangplank" racism. His vehement intolerance towards the new comers of all shades and nationalities loudly uttered almost prompted me to ask about his native American roots. Instead I fled and found more comfortable company elsewhere.

But getting back to Buchanan. He recently appeared on a conservative radio program where he attacked America's diversity (multi-racial, of course) and warned that the US would soon face numerous problems. He said that student test scores will decline because, increasingly, test-takers will be African American and Hispanic. He ended his racist ramble by asserting that blacks and whites were more "unified" during segregation than today. In a 1989 newspaper column he implored the Republican party to "take a hard look at former KKK leader **David Duke's** portfolio of winning issues." The Buchanan history on issues like the above is long, dark and destructive.

The Anti-Defamation League has called Buchanan an "unrepentant bigot" and I agree. Shame on MSNBC for providing a forum for this blatant, longtime, nativist bigot.

**More Moola For McColgan**—Riverdance Supremo **John McColgan** has a fresh idea that he believes will allow him to make a new fortune, possibly overtaking the hundreds of millions he and his wife Moya Doherty made producing and directing the fabulously profitable "Riverdance." His newest project is an innovative Irish social networking site that aims to connect millions of Irish people around the world who share a common affinity with Ireland.

McColgan says the site works by harnessing the power of existing social networks (Facebook, Twitter, et al.) to strengthen people's relationship with Irish culture, arts, sports, and business and, while doing that, attracting investment to Ireland.

As the *Irish Independent* noted "no other country has developed a similar social media portal for national content." The McColgan approach, if done right, would,

it seems to this observer, play off the strengths of the "Irish Brand," which despite the current economic crisis in Ireland continues to hold a unique and welcome place within the international community.

McColgan is scheduled to meet with US investors soon. That site again: [WorldIrish.com](http://WorldIrish.com)

**Tense Times for Cowen & Lenihan Family**—**Mary O'Rourke** is a tough old lady. She is a veteran member of the Irish Dail, a former Fianna Fail minister, and also the sister of former Taniste **Brian Lenihan Sr.**, and the aunt of the late Finance minister **Brian Lenihan, Jr.** She has done her grieving for her nephew and is not reluctant, especially since her defeat in the last election, to speak truthfully about the former Fianna Fail Taoiseach, **Brian Cowen**.

A recent book by award-winning journalist **Bruce Arnold** and **Jason O'Toole** on the collapse of Fianna Fail and the Cowen-Lenihan government paints a sad picture of a once highly respected finance minister, Brian Cowen, his problems with "the pint," and his leadership shortcomings. Mary O'Rourke, quoted in the Arnold-O'Toole book, says she didn't think "Cowen went on benders; I just think he drank steadily." (Ouch!) O'Rourke, when asked by the media, has not been reluctant to weigh in on Cowen's leadership skills, or the lack thereof. She and others continue to believe that Cowen too often dismissed Lenihan's ideas and proposals and in the end that reality contributed to Ireland being forced to accept a draconian IMF bailout.

**Catholic Church Hierarchy 'Immunity' Cracked**—For the first time since 2002 when the clerical abuse scandal surfaced in Boston, law enforcement has targeted someone other than a priest for indictment. The bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese, **Robert Finn**, has been charged, along with the diocese he heads, with "failing to report suspected child abuse." The specifics of the indictment relate to accusations that the bishop waited five months to inform police about hundreds of images of child pornography discovered on a priest's computer.

On another front, Amnesty International Ireland flayed the Irish Catholic Church, saying, "The abuse of tens of thousands of Irish children is perhaps the greatest human rights failure in the history of the state... Children were tortured. They were brutalized, beaten, starved and abused."

**Colm O'Gorman**, a clerical abuse victim and executive director of AI Ireland, based his findings in part on four state reports from the Ferns, Ryan, Murphy and Cloyne dioceses.

**No New Michelin Stars for Ireland**—There are six restaurants in the Irish Republic with Michelin stars. They are Dublin's famed Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud, with two stars, and the one-star restaurants: Waterford's Cliff House, Thornton's, Chapter One, L'Ecrivain, and Bon Appetit in Dublin. No new stars were awarded this year. There are currently no Michelin-starred restaurants in Northern Ireland; Deane's in Belfast lost the star it had held for 14 years in January.

In an interesting aside, there are 13 British pubs, not dining rooms, that have won Michelin stars in the current guide. "This," said Guide editor **Rebecca Burr**, "confirms our view that pubs serving good food are the ones that continue to thrive."

**Finucane family 'Angry & Insulted'**—As most readers know, Belfast defense lawyer **Pat Finucane** was assassinated as he was having dinner in his home with his wife and children in 1989. Some 22 years later his wife **Geraldine** and his children are still waiting for an open investigation and justice.

In early October the Finucane family was invited to Downing Street by Prime Minister **David Cameron**. Their hopes were elevated and all things seemed possible. Their aim since the first days after the young lawyer's murder has been for a "full independent inquiry." The prime minister offered the Finucane family a "review" conducted by a Queen's Counsel. The review—not a full-fledged open investigation—would have the QC, a British government lawyer, look over the papers related to the Finucane case and report back to Cameron. Speaking after the Downing Street meeting, Mrs. Finucane said: "He [David Cameron] is offering a review. He wants a QC to read the papers in my husband's case and that is how he expects to reach the truth."

The Finucane's disappointment with the Cameron meeting prompted a Dail discussion and a pledge from the Fine Gael-led coalition that the Irish government would support the Finucane family and its goals.

**One Man's opinion**—The *Boston Globe* doesn't bat a thousand or close to it, but they were right, it says here, to identify publicly the Icelandic tipster who turned in **Whitey Bulger** and collected the \$2 million reward. There was enough doubt about the specifics of the Bulger arrest and the details leading up to the California grab to make an open identification almost a pro forma necessity.

Certainly information released by the FBI in recent years regarding criminal matters has, how to say it, not always been totally reliable. In the first hours after Whitey's grab there were a number of skeptics willing to raise questions about the FBI public spin on events. I thought it might be a convoluted way to protect someone or a process that the FBI wanted to keep secret and I expressed my personal doubts.

Boston attorney **Harvey Silverglate**, writing in his Phoenix blog, expressed considerable doubt about the FBI scenario, suggesting that the FBI might be protecting an informant who was a friend or family member. As Silverglate said (from experience, I presume) "nothing is straightforward when it comes to the FBI."

Well, Harvey was wrong in this instance and so was yours truly. I wish the former Miss Iceland a grand time with her two million.

**Discretion Leaves Most Memories Undisturbed**—The all-party British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly meets regularly in rotating venues to discuss Northern Ireland and related issues. This year the site selected was the Grand Hotel in Brighton, England. But this assembly meeting late last month came with some heavy duty memories. Twenty-seven years ago, in October, 1984, the Grand was the target of an IRA bomb that killed five people, including a Conservative MP, and wounded 34. But it missed its chief target, who was in the hotel: Prime minister **Margaret Thatcher**.

The venue that some Irish and British members wanted changed was not changed. No one sought to have it changed. Though they usually attending Assembly meetings, this year there were no Sinn Fein members of the Dail or Seanad present. Sinn Fein Deputy **Padraig MacLochlainn** told the Assembly that all Sinn Fein representatives in the Republic were needed for the final days of the presidential election.

**A Point of Order**—The October issue of *Boston Magazine* had a lengthy article titled "Fast Times at Marina Bay" and it focused on two members of the O'Connell family, Quincy developers of the marina and other high profile projects. The principal targets of alleged criminal behavior were **Bill O'Connell** of O'Connell Development and his nephew, 40-year-old **Robert O'Connell**, the son of O'Connell Development's principal owner, **Peter O'Connell**. Beyond his relationship to his brother and his son, Peter O'Connell was not relevant in any meaningful way to the article.

In the first half of the 1990s, **Peter O'Connell** and **Arthur Casey**, working with a group in Derry, Northern Ireland, and Boston Ireland Ventures, a nonprofit in Boston working with leaders in Derry—and with the good graces of Mayor Raymond Flynn—put a proposal together to build a large shopping center in Derry City. Derry, long a troubled focus of the violent Troubles needed a commercial spark and Peter O'Connell and Arthur Casey agreed to plan and build a large retail shopping center along the Foyle River.

Arthur was on site in Derry almost continuously for two years supervising the shopping center build-out. At the other end of the development team was Peter O'Connell, the man who made it happen from Boston as Casey led on the ground in Derry. During the long months of construction Peter was a passionate and determined player in the drama unfolding along the river in Derry. He and Arthur made things happen on the ground in the North that integrity and professionalism.

In 1995, I joined Peter and Arthur at Derry's Druid Hall ceremonies and into the finished gleaming glass atrium cover of the Foyleside Shopping Center, Northern Ireland's largest and most successful shopping center. Peter O'Connell and O'Connell Development had pulled off a miracle, and when all was said and done, the winners were peace and the people of Derry.

Thank you, Peter O'Connell, for your steadfast loyalty to an idea and to a new beginning for a city and its people who will never forget you.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Irish Folks who have the odd drink and travel over the border could be in trouble. The Northern Ireland alcohol limit is .08., which is the same as most states in New England. However the Irish Republic has just changed its acceptable alcohol level to .05, so legal in the North means trouble down South. ... Good luck to good guy **Tom O'Brien**, a former BRA director, with his plans for turning the inconvenient Government Center Garage into a modern, massive mixed-use complex. ... Iconic postcard company John Hinde, Ltd, is sadly in big financial trouble and hopes to survive through restructuring. ... Google is investing more than \$100 million in a new energy-efficient data center in west Dublin. ... Moving in the right direction is an Indian financial services company shifting its headquarters from Bangalore to Tralee. ... Adding to the good news on jobs and investments, Twitter is opening an international office in Dublin, where PayPal, Google, and Facebook have bases in Ireland. ... It won't be this year or next, but in 2013 there will be a reunion of the 12 Tribes of Galway.

Derry can be a dangerous place. The city's Peace and Reconciliation Group is reporting that 38 residents are currently under death threat from the Real IRA and Republicans Against Drugs. ... **Gerry Adams's** brother **Liam** has been extradited to the North to answer charges that he molested his daughter over a long period. ... The Irish writer **Brian O'Nolan** (aka Flann O'Brien and Miles na Copaleen) is being honored by a commemorative stamp on his 2011 centenary. ... Anglo Irish Bank is conceded to be the trigger for the Irish economic crisis, yet nearly half of the old Anglo bosses are still in their \$230,000 PA old jobs and some are due \$65,000 bonuses. ... **Bill Clinton** was in Dublin early last month with words of hope and creative encouragement for the people of Ireland; he is as popular as ever. ... Aer Araan is scheduled to pull the plug on flights in November out of troubled Galway Airport, which is also battling a loss of government subsidy. ... The tab for just five months of policing for parades and related security in the North is almost \$10 million. ... Ryanair is way down at the bottom of the pile as a favorite airline for travelers but is planning to expand its service next year throughout Europe.

**Michael Quinlin** and *The Boston Globe* said it all in their farewells to **Mike Cummings**, but I want to say that he was as decent a man as you could meet and an unselfish Galway-Boston Irish patriot. RIP.

## IMMIGRATION Q &amp; A

## Naturalized US citizen hiring: Know your rights

**Q.** I recently became a naturalized US citizen. I've been looking for a new job, and it seems to me that some of the prospective employers have been hassling me unfairly about my immigration status. This may be because of my accent or the country I originally came from. Is there anything that I can do?

**A.** In the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice there is an Office of Special Counsel (OSC) for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices. This office investigates situations like yours, as well as those involving other people authorized to work in the US, such as legal permanent residents or employment visa holders. In appropriate cases, OSC will sue employers who discriminate against people based on their immigration status or national origin.

OSC has published the following guidance on this topic: **Citizenship/immigration status:** Generally, an employer may not treat you differently because you are, or are not, a US citizen. [Note: one exception would be a job with the government or a government contractor requiring US citizenship for a security clearance.]

**National origin:** An employer may not treat you differently because of your place of birth, native language, accent, or appearance.

**Document abuse:** An employer may not, on the basis of your citizenship status or national origin, demand more or different documents than necessary for completing the I-9 Form, reject reasonably genuine-looking documents, or treat you differently when using E-Verify.

**Retaliation:** An employer may not retaliate against anyone who files a complaint with OSC or cooperates with an OSC investigation, or who asserts his or her rights under the anti-discrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

A person who believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination for any of these reasons can call OSC at 1-800-255-7688 or visit the agency's web site at [usdoj.gov/crt/osc](http://usdoj.gov/crt/osc).

Of course there are other avenues to relief from various types of employment discrimination, including filing a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the relevant state agency. Choosing the right course in a particular case generally will require the advice of a lawyer specializing in employment discrimination issues, particularly as they relate to immigration status or national origin. IIIC can make a referral to such a lawyer in appropriate cases.

Visit one of our regular legal clinics for a free, confidential consultation on any immigration law-related issue.

**Disclaimer:** These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of an IIIC immigration specialist or an immigration lawyer.

### IMMIGRATION LAW

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Irish International Immigrant Center

100 Franklin St., Lower Level 1, Boston, Massachusetts 02110  
Enter at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street  
Tel: (617)542-7654 • Fax: (617)542-7655 • [www.iiicenter.org](http://www.iiicenter.org)

### Immigration and Citizenship Services - Free Legal Clinics:

**November 7th, 6:30pm:** The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton

**November 30th, 6:30pm:** St. Mark's Parish (Church Basement) 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester

## IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice



100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iiicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iiicenter.org)

### Solas Awards honor local community leaders

*Celebrating 22 years of finding the will and the way, the Irish International Immigrant Center will pay an Irish tribute to successful immigrants and their families.*

Named from the Gaelic word for "light," the Solas Awards are presented to leaders whose work in their communities touch and inspire. We are pleased to honor Rev. Daniel J. Finn, Ralph de la Torre, M.D., and Eva A. Millona, Esq. at the Solas Awards Celebration on Fri., Dec. 2, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Dorchester.

Father Finn hails from County Cork and is pastor of Saint Ambrose and Saint Mark's parishes in Dorchester. He is a co-founder of the Irish Pastoral Centre and works tirelessly for immigrants from Ireland and from all over the world.

Dr. de la Torre is chairman and chief executive officer of Steward Health Care System, a network of 10 community hospitals in Massachusetts that provides care to more than one million patients. He also is the founder of the Cardiovascular Institute at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Cardiovascular Management Associates. The son of Cuban immigrants, Dr. de la Torre has become a role model who is living the American dream with hard work, perseverance, and ambition.

Eva Millona is executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition and serves as co-chair of Governor Patrick's Advisory Council on Refugees and Immigrants. A strong



Father Finn

advocate for immigrant rights, Ms. Millona previously directed a resettlement program in central Massachusetts and served as a district court judge in her homeland of Albania.

"It is a privilege to honor such successful and deeply caring leaders" said IIIC executive director Sister Lena Deevy LSA. "We are deeply grateful for all their contributions to our communities and the support of all our donors and sponsors."

Proceeds from the Solas Awards Celebration allows IIIC to assist people from all nations with access to free immigration legal services, social services, citizenship assistance, ESOL classes, job readiness programs and learning exchange programs between the United States and Ireland.

We invite you to join us and enjoy an evening of music and celebration. Your seat purchase includes access to the Library at 5:30 p.m. For further details please contact Mary Kerr at 617-695-1554.

### 'Fighting the Good Fight' - Eoin Reilly Honored by Supreme Judicial Court

Long after most of us have gone home on a Monday evening, IIIC volunteer attorney Eoin Reilly lingers in the Green



Doctor De la Torre

Briar Pub in Brighton, not for a drink, but to offer free legal consultation to Boston's immigrant community. Eoin was integral in helping the IIIC establish drop-in legal clinics that provide pro bono services to hundreds of low-income immigrants from all over the world.

His 15 years of commitment and outstanding work with the IIIC had earned him the 2011 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Adams Pro Bono Publico Award.

An attorney at Iandoli and Desai, PC, Eoin's interest in immigration law began with helping refugees fleeing the civil wars in Central America. His second impetus was more personal. When he was working as a house painter while in law school, his co-workers were mainly immigrants. At a party one night the police arrived and arrested everyone. A number of his friends were deported. His frustration led him to specialize in immigration law.

"I have always felt that fighting for immigrant rights is fighting the 'good fight'... people have the undeniable right to migrate," says Eoin. "The IIIC is what Sister Lena [Deevy] and I always dreamed it would be: a multi-cultural immigrant rights organization where being a world



Attorney Millona

citizen is really what it is about." *Congratulations to Eoin, Kerry, and the Mintz Levin team from all the staff, board members and volunteers of the Irish International Immigrant Center.*

### -ALLY TZOVARAS PROGRAM UPDATE

Free Immigration and Citizenship Clinics

**Nov 1, 4 p.m.:** At the Center, 100 Franklin St. Boston (enter 60 Arch Street). ... **Nov 7, 6:30 p.m.:** The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton. ... **Nov 30, 6:30 p.m.:** St. Mark's Parish (Basement) 1725 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester.

**Citizenship Classes:** We will soon be announcing dates for our next session. Please call Ally at 617-542-7654 to register and for more information.

**Free Health Screening:** Wed, Nov. 2, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at 100 Franklin St. Boston (downtown crossing): Cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure, dentist screenings and Q&A on health insurance and access issues. Open to all, please make an appointment; walk-ins welcome.

Please "Like" our new Facebook page and follow us on Twitter ([iiicenter](http://iiicenter)) for daily updates on news stories, events, important issues, and community building activities.

## Matters Of Substance

### Quitting smoking helps recovery

BY DANIELLE OWEN  
IIIC DIRECTOR  
OF WELLNESS  
AND EDUCATION

For many people whom I have worked with on their alcohol or drug problems, quitting smoking was usually the last thing they wanted to let go of. "It's all I have left," they would say. For others in recovery, quitting the smokes was usually only considered when the person had a solid two or three years in recovery. They would then feel ready to try. Recent research, however, has prompted me to rethink how I work with people around this issue.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reports that people who abuse drugs and alcohol are also likely to be cigarette smokers, which is no surprise to anyone in recovery. Just watch how many chat with a smoke and a coffee outside a fellowship meeting, like AA

or NA. However, as counselors, we generally focus on supporting a client who wants to quit their more "serious" drug(s), usually alcohol, cocaine, or heroin. Smoking cigarettes could be addressed later. That activity causes the feel-good, chemical dopamine to flood our brain, giving us intense feelings of pleasure, which is very similar to what happens when people use drugs or alcohol.

When someone stops using drugs and alcohol after using them in a harmful way, the brain misses the high levels of dopamine that these drugs produced. Adding smoking withdrawals to this mix seems like adding fuel to a fire.

However NIDA researchers found that the craving for nicotine appears to increase the craving for illicit drugs among drug abusers who smoke. In another study, scien-

tists found that patients in drug treatment programs may be less likely to successfully stay off drugs if they are cigarette smokers. One of these researchers, Dr. Heishman, believes these findings suggest that treatment for heroin, cocaine, or alcohol addiction might be more effective if it also included concurrent treatment of tobacco addiction.

So, in recovery, a brain has to remember how to produce its own dopamine levels again, the way it did before a person ever began to use alcohol, nicotine or other drugs. Perhaps the extra recovery tool we need to consider is to let go of everything that makes these false, unnaturally high levels of dopamine. If continuing to smoke increases a person's chance of relapsing with alcohol, cocaine or heroin - bringing back all the pain an addiction brought before, maybe it's worth the short-



Danielle Owen

term pain for long-term recovery.

Nicotine patches and other products can help with cravings, and talking with others in a support group can help us learn new ways to cope without cigarettes. If you are ready, the IIIC is presently running a series of six-week Smoking Cessation Support groups and will do so again in 2012, thanks to BPHC. They're free and open to all. Interested? Call 617.542.7654 for more information. Also see [nida.nih.gov](http://nida.nih.gov) for more resources.

# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

BOSTON IRISH ARTS,  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
TRAVEL & MORE

## Doug Lamey's heart – and his music – are now set firmly in Cape Breton

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

On one recent early autumn evening, a severe rainstorm with winds of up to 70 mph battered the 150-year-old house in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, that Boston-area fiddler Doug Lamey now calls home. In a couple of months, the rain will be replaced by an even more generous helping of snow, ushering in what is likely to be a long, cold winter – one that in comparison will make Massachusetts resemble a Caribbean idyll.

And for Lamey, there's no place he'd rather be.

"I love it here," he said, speaking by phone, with the occasional howl of wind and a bark or two from the family dog Angus in the background. "I've spent a lot of time in Cape Breton during my life, but ultimately, I'd always go back home to Boston. But this feels like home now."

For Lamey, 28, the last few years have been a period in which he has fully embraced his musical and familial roots – which are inextricably linked – like never before. The result? A change of address that has turned out to be long term and, not so incidentally, his recently released first solo recording, "A Step Back in Time."

Recorded at the Celtic Music Center in Judique,



Boston area native Doug Lamey in his "new" home of Cape Breton: "I feel I am living life to the fullest."

on the western end of Cape Breton, "A Step Back in Time" is first and foremost a tour-de-force of the classic Cape Breton fiddling that made Lamey a fixture in Boston's Celtic music scene for years, whether playing at major area venues like Club Passim, the Irish Connections Festival, and BCMFest, innumerable ceilidhs at Watertown's Canadian-American Club and in various kitchens and parlors from one end of Greater Boston to another where

he earned the friendship and respect of many local Irish musicians along the way.

But the album also stands as a loving musical memoir of Lamey's family, especially one of the most influential people in Lamey's life: his late grandfather Bill Lamey, a fiddling legend himself who during the 1950s and 60s was a central figure in Boston's Cape Breton community and its ties to the local Irish. Appropriately enough, audio excerpts

of Bill Lamey's reminiscences on Cape Breton life and music are interspersed among some of the CD tracks, underscoring the reverence with which Doug Lamey regards the tradition personified by his grandfather.

Lamey's childhood memories of his grandfather carry a certain poignancy. Arthritis and the toll of past injuries had ended Bill Lamey's fiddle-playing by the time his grandson was born. But Doug's parents made

sure he knew about his grandfather's achievements: "When we were in the car, my father would always put on a compilation of my grandfather's old 78 records, so I heard him constantly." At age six, Doug happily told his grandfather over the phone that he had started taking fiddle lessons, and looked forward to getting some tips during the next visit to Cape Breton, where Bill Lamey had retired.

"But the next time I came," Lamey recalled, "it was for his funeral."

Yet over the years, and in particular during the period he recorded the CD, Lamey's musical, and personal, appreciation for his grandfather has deepened. "I have listened to him more than any other musician," he said. "I still get tips from him."

Lamey acknowledges an inescapable subjectivity in his assessment of Bill Lamey's playing ("It seems very familiar to me, obviously") but feels his grandfather's exalted status is well deserved. "He was very intricate. His playing – the ornamentation, the double-stops – was just so correct. You listen to different kinds of fiddlers, and you hear what the world now sees as 'correct' playing, and there's no question he was at that standard."

Other family connections on the CD include the presence of Lamey's cousins, guitarist Sandy MacDonald and pianist Johnny MacDonald, who accompany him on many of the tracks, and Jeff MacDonald, who sings two songs in Gaelic that, like much of the material on the album, has special relevance to Lamey and his family. A recent addition to the family, Lamey's fiancé Kaitlin MacDonald, plays piano on two tracks.

"Even the title of the CD has a special meaning," explained Lamey, who was seven when his grandfather died. "Coming up here to Cape Breton and living in a 150-year-old house, I've 'stepped back in time' to the place where my family came from. But there's more to it than that: There's the actual timing of the music and how the newer generation plays much faster than the old. I don't consider myself part of that category, so I'd be more 'A Step Back in Time' as opposed to 'Too Fast.'"

And intermittently throughout the CD is the voice, and spirit, of Bill Lamey, acting as an interlocutor of sorts. "You have to realize: There was nothing else to do in those days. There was no television, no radio... The music had a better (Continued on page 11)

## Back in Davis Square: Burren's 'Backroom' series

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

One of Greater Boston's most popular Irish pubs, The Burren in Somerville's Davis Square, has relaunched its "Backroom" series of concerts featuring top-notch Irish/Celtic performers from the Boston area and elsewhere.

Fiddler Winifred Horan and accordionist Mick McAuley, members of Solas, kicked off the monthly series on Oct. 19, along with Maeve Gilchrist, a Scottish harpist living in Boston. At press time, plans were in the works for a Nov. 11 performance by Frankie Gavin & De Dannan, a reboot of one of the most acclaimed traditional Irish music bands. An appearance by Irish "super group" Dervish is envisioned for March 7, according to the series organizers, WGBH radio host Brian O'Donovan and Burren owner Tommy McCarthy.

If the October event is any indication, the "Backroom" series would seem to have a promising future, as a spirited and supportive near-capacity crowd filled the venue. In

her opening set, a demure yet personable Gilchrist displayed her deft, graceful touch on the harp, whether playing tunes or as an accompaniment to her singing, which demonstrated a considerable range. In addition to a pair of traditional songs, she sang a masterfully sensitive version of Richard Thompson's lost-love lament, "Beeswing."

Horan and McAuley, with guitarist/vocalist Colm O'Caomh, unleashed set after set of fervently played jigs and reels, along with the occasional high-octane polka and stately waltz, all embellished by those "we do this because we can" flourishes on their respective instruments. McAuley and O'Caomh showed their considerable singing skills, both solo and in harmony, with McAuley taking the lead on the anti-war ballad "The King's Shilling" and O'Caomh on a surprising but well-delivered rendition of the Tom Paxton classic "The Last Thing on My Mind."

There will be plenty more of such evenings to come, if O'Donovan and

McCarthy have anything to say about it. They see the "Backroom" series – hatched by the two during a bicycle ride around Galway, according to O'Donovan – as a means to satisfy eminent touring Celtic performers looking for a medium-sized local venue, and as an opportunity to give exposure to local musicians.

"Tommy has been dedicated to traditional music for so many years, and has done a lot for the area's music scene in that regard," says O'Donovan, who will emcee the series. "The Burren has a very impressive reputation, as a place for concerts as well as sessions, and what we're trying to do is create a particular vibe based on that. We hope people will trust us as curators for musical experiences that are compelling, interesting and fun."

Adds McCarthy: "From our standpoint, we're very happy to have The Burren hosting traditional music concerts again. It's something that takes a lot of effort, so having Brian, with all his experience as an organizer and host, take it into his hands is



(L-R) Colm O'Caomh, Maeve Gilchrist, Win Horan and Mick McAuley joined forces for a grand finale to close the first concert in the new Burren "Backroom" series last month. An appearance by Frankie Gavin & De Dannan on November 11 is next.

wonderful."

The series format also will include a little time for conversations between O'Donovan and the performers, so audiences can get to know more about them and their music. "The idea is to create an intimate listening room, a kind of salon-type experience," he explains. "It just makes the whole thing a little more accessible and educational, especially for people who may not be that familiar with the music."

O'Donovan says there will be every attempt to inject variety into each

concert. "We'll definitely shoot for balance. Take the first concert, for instance: With Maeve and then with Win, Mick, and Colm, you had two acts with very different sounds, each enjoyable in their own way. That's the kind of diversity we want to have."

If the music isn't necessarily always low-key, the atmosphere for the "Backroom" events is definitely intended to be genteel: The bar in the room is even closed during the times when the performers are on stage.

"We just want this to be a nice night out for people,"

says McCarthy. "They can come in the early evening, have a bite to eat, enjoy the show – which, because it starts at 8 p.m., won't keep them out too late on a weeknight. And, of course, there's a T stop right down the street, so you don't even need to bring a car."

O'Donovan and McCarthy also hint at the potential for après-concert sessions to spring up. "It's The Burren," quips McCarthy. "No one's going to stop anyone from playing an instrument."

The Burren website is [burren.com](http://burren.com)

# CD ROUNDUP

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Celtic Tenors, "Feels Like Home"; Paul Byrom, "This Is the Moment"; Phil Coulter, "Heartland: The Composer's Salute to Celtic Thunder"; The City of Prague Symphonic Orchestra, "The Symphonic Celtic Album" – These four new or recent releases are all examples of what could



be categorized as Celtic Music(tm): basically, very commercial, hyper-produced, ultra-lushly orchestrated pop or light classical stuff that claims some kind of connection to "Celtic," whether because of the performers' nationality and/or ethnic heritage, a repertoire that includes a few songs associated with Irish/Scottish/Celtic folk traditions, and a cameo appearance or two by traditional musical instruments – typically a plaintive, distant tin whistle.

It's not that Celtic music is the exclusive province

of pubs, old guys with fiddles and accordions, or super-talented bands that offer up exquisitely performed tune sets and songs from folk traditions. So-called "high culture" has frequently taken folk/traditional music into its well-appointed parlor, viz. Vaughan Williams, John McCormack, and Bela Bartok, to name a few. But what we have here, essentially, is "Celtic" as a brand that can be grafted onto a performance-entertainment concept and marketed accordingly.

OK, maybe that's cynical, maybe even harsh, but it's hard to observe the proliferation of "Celtic" these days on TV specials and CDs/DVDs or in swank venues and not envision PR squads working overtime to engineer the next Celtic Music(tm) phenomenon. Of course, there are plenty of people who are perfectly happy to watch or listen to an elegantly coifed and costumed Colleen or Colum give full-throated voice to the likes of "Carrickfergus" or "Whiskey in the Jar" while the strings, brass and woodwinds swell (oh yes, don't forget the tin whistle). These four CDs may indeed represent an eagerly anticipated mother lode for them; for some of us, though, it's a taste that adamantly refuses to be acquired.

The Celtic Tenors' "Feels Like Home" has a few things going for it. The three singers, Matthew Gilsean, James Nelson, and Daryl Simpson, represent a Catholic/Protestant, Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland mix of backgrounds, a collaboration that Simpson avers "would have been unheard of" a generation ago. Underscoring this harmony-and-hope theme, the album features an appearance by the Omagh Community Youth Choir, which Simpson founded in response to the devastating 1998 bombing in that town. The choice of material also shows a certain imaginativeness, including both

a traditional song in Welsh ("Suo Gan") and a recent composition ("Silent Sunlight") by Yusef Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens.

Yet for all those considerations, once you actually listen to the CD, you're faced with the question of how much you enjoy a musical genre that renders the material in arch, dramatic tones. To be fair, they dial it down in places: for instance, "She Moved Through the Fair" is a cappella, impressively harmonized, yet muted and suitably funereal; "Suo Gan" relies mostly on voices and spare instrumentation; and Richard Thompson's "Dimming of the Day" retains most of its simple intimacy as a song of quiet comfort for lover and loved, buttressed by the ascending melody line in the latter half of each verse. But overall there's just too much in the way of booming operatic voices with tinkly piano and sweeping orchestral accompaniment.

Paul Byrom is a former member of Celtic Thunder, which presumably needs little or no introduction by now, thanks to their appearances on PBS and live performances around the world. A classically trained singer with previous recording experience prior to CT, Byrom is now launching a solo career with this CD – titling it "This Is the Moment" might appear a bit self-referential in that respect, but oh well.

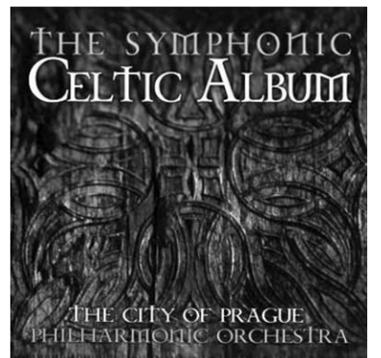


According to the publicity material, Byrom decided to skip out on his own so he could do material "that was not necessarily appropriate for Celtic Thunder." But if you're looking for covers of Metallica, Black Sabbath or Wyclef Jean, sorry. In fact, two songs are by none other than Celtic Thunder mastermind Phil Coulter (more on him in a minute), including "Scorn Not His Simplicity." Also making an appearance are The Beatles' "All My Loving," Julie Gold's "From a Distance," and – in Spanish – Eric Carmen's "All by Myself," among others. If you're looking to do some comparison-shopping, both Byrom and The Celtic Tenors offer up the Declan O'Rourke hit "Galileo (Someone Like You)" on their respective releases – the sound and arrangements on Byrom's take are far more formulaic, as is the case throughout the album.

Phil Coulter has a well-deserved lofty reputation as a composer, songwriter, producer and arranger, with a vast body of work that is well nigh impervious to criticism, if nothing else for longevity alone. His most recent success has been serving as music director and composer for the above-mentioned Celtic Thunder. Does he have every right to bask in his latest achievement? Of course. But recording a CD that is a tribute to his own creation seems, well, a little opportunistic, perhaps? Yet that's what "Heartland" is: instrumental versions of songs and other music he composed or adapted for Celtic Thunder, performed by a full concert orchestra along with Coulter on piano. In addition to Coulter creations like the title track, "A Bird Without Wings," Noreen, "That's a Woman" and "Ireland's Call," Paul Brady's "The Island" and Jimmy McCarthy's "Ride On" (popularized by Christy Moore) get the symphonic treatment. If you're a Celtic Thunder aficionado, you can probably just fill in the lyrics yourself.

Of these four releases, "The Symphonic Celtic Album" represents the biggest stretch, concept-wise, in Celtic Music(tm).

It's 14 tracks of instrumental themes from film and stage "influenced by the folk music of the Celtic lands." Some, admittedly, have considerable pedigree: "The Donnybrook" from "The Quiet Man"; "Women of Ireland (Mna na heireann)" from "Barry Lyndon" (it is a traditional air, and don't forget, The Chieftains recorded it for the film's original soundtrack); and the redoubtable "Riverdance." Others are fairly obvious inclusions, like "My Heart Will Go On" from "Titanic" or "For the Love of a Princess" from "Braveheart" (great to listen to while putting on your kilt and applying blue warpaint). But then there are selections from, for instance, "Gladiator," "Miller's Crossing," "Highlander" and two from "Lord of the Rings." It might be one thing if these were performed by an orchestra from Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow or even the Isle of Man, and thus add even a smidgeon of "Celtic" authenticity, however dubious – but Prague? This globalization thing is getting out of hand.



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## Gare St. Lazare Players Ireland presents 'Moby Dick' at ArtsEmerson

(Continued from page 1)

Robert J. Orchard, ArtsEmerson's executive director, felt that having the critically acclaimed Lovett interpret a seminal American novel offered a wonderful opportunity for his second season of international programming.

"The joy for audiences," Orchard said, "will be Melville's language exquisitely articulated by one of Ireland's most distinctive actors. The power of the story-telling in an intimate space should be memorable."

The Lovetts were initially drawn to the novel for the sheer beauty of its language. "It is incredibly rich while at the same time very direct and immediate," Conor said. "Then there are the main themes of greed, power, man and nature, the questioning of an interventionist God, (and) Ahab's defiance of a higher power."

Quoting the novel, he continued, "I'd strike the sun if it insulted me. For if the sun can do that then can I do the other, there being a sort of fair play

therein, jealousy presiding over all creation. But not even my master, man, is that fair play. Who's over me? Death hath no confines.' (pausing) There is drama dripping from every syllable."

The job of adapting the massive novel for the stage meant judicious editing, with Judy initially selecting the scenes that were essential to the transfer and Conor preserving as much of Melville's original language as possible.

"We wanted to make Ishmael the center of it," he said, "and to have him speak the story directly to the audience just as, in the novel, he addresses the reader directly. Of course the hardest part was having to cut out scenes or even lines. But we're very pleased that we've managed to give a great flavor of Ishmael, of the story, and of the amazing language."

While the piece is a drama, it will feature Caoimhin O'Raghallaigh's original music, performed live on fiddle, viola and uilleann pipes to provide a poetic counterpoint to

Ahab's fanatical quest.

"Caoimhin is a wonderful fiddle player," Conor said, "but more than that he is a very sensitive artist. He wants to serve the work and to allow it to breathe and to have space. He's often more interested in the space between the words and between the notes. He's a great man to have on stage beside you."

In an interesting side note, Gare St. Lazare Players Ireland premiered their stage version of "Moby Dick" at Youghal, County Cork, which is where the film version of the novel was shot in 1956.

"Everyone remembers that time," Conor said of the film shoot. "Judy's mother recalls going down to Youghal on the train from Cork and queuing to get Gregory Peck's autograph." He continued, "We found out, during our time premiering there, that the Town Hall auditorium had served as the Wardrobe Department. That was great. Anyone going to Youghal should stop in to Moby Dick's



Conor Lovett stars in the masterly one-man production of "Moby Dick." Photo by Ros Kavanagh

bar which is featured in the film and is now full of amazing paraphernalia and photographs from the filming."

Working so intimately with Melville's writings has understandably affected the lives of the Lovetts. "It's true that you forge a very personal connection to the story and to the characters," Conor said. "I have certainly become hugely interested in the sea since I started on this show and have read several novels about round-the-world sailing. Joshua Slocome, Captain Cook ... I'd relish the chance

to go on a whaler or even a Tall Ship. Last year I visited Mystic and stood on the decks of the Charles W. Morgan, the last remaining Whaler. That was a very special moment for me."

"Moby Dick" is presented at ArtsEmerson with the support of "Imagine Ireland: A Year Of Irish Arts In America," an initiative of Culture Ireland, which was established in 2005 by Ireland's Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism as the state agency for the promotion of Irish arts worldwide. "Imagine Ireland" has been instrumental in assisting with four projects so far during ArtsEmerson's first two seasons.

Pleased with the initial collaborations with "Imagine Ireland," Orchard is hopeful for a solid, long-term partnership that will allow him "to present Irish culture regularly for years to come."

From the artist's perspective, Conor is equally appreciative. He said, "We think [Culture Ireland] is a brilliant idea

as it encourages Irish artists to travel with their work, and allows audiences to experience that work first hand . . . For our company, working with Culture Ireland has allowed us to bring work to India, China, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Germany, Argentina and to over 20 theaters in the United States. Irish culture is perhaps our greatest export and people everywhere react to it."

Honored to be a part of the ArtsEmerson season, Conor said he's "looking forward to bringing our Gare St. Lazare take on a novel that is close to every American, but should resonate even more when performed by an Irishman in Boston."

\*\*\*\*\*  
Gare St. Lazare Players Ireland's "Moby Dick" from ArtsEmerson, November 7 - 12, at The Paramount Center, 559 Washington Street in Boston. Tickets: 617-824-8400 or [artsemerson.org](http://artsemerson.org).

R. J. Donovan is publisher of *OnStageBoston.com*.

## Doug Lamey's heart – and his music – are now set firmly in Cape Breton

(Continued from page 9) chance to live," he says, preceding the first track, a set of pipe jigs that begins with the formidable "Pipe Major Donald MacLean of Lewis" – when Doug's fiddle enters, you can practically see the image of a wind-swept Cape Breton coast.

In the most haunting, and enlightening, excerpt, Bill describes how isolated early Scots émigrés to Cape Breton were from their native country, relatives and friends back home seldom knowing where they had landed. But as Scottish culture, including the music, languished for several generations under English suppression, he explains, it was the Cape Bretoners on the other side of the world who kept the musical traditions alive. "We took [the music] with us; we sort of took it away from them," he says, as Doug introduces the pensive, sad air "Gloomy Winter's Now Away."

"A Step Back in Time" is full of many stories, and Lamey's experience in planning and recording it is a chapter unto itself, with both disappointments and happy surprises. "Everything kind of came in waves," he said. "Some details would all fall into place, and then there'd be a change of plans, and a succession of other events would happen."

When he originally conceived of the album a few years ago, Lamey, who recorded a CD in 2009 as a member of the band Tri, knew he wanted to make a traditional Cape Breton fiddle album, and he knew he wanted his cousins on it: "I've played with them since I was a kid." And serendipitously, Alan Dewar, the Celtic Music Center director, expressed interest in recording Lamey.

"It completely fit in with

the plan," said Lamey. "Recording in Cape Breton made perfect logistical sense, because then people wouldn't have to travel down to Boston to do the work – I'd just go up there."

Lamey envisioned a CD that included tracks on which he would play alongside old recordings of his grandfather, but had to scuttle the idea because obtaining the rights to them proved to be too difficult. Fortunately, says Lamey, "we came across these tapes of him giving a lecture. They were of good enough quality to be usable, and more importantly, there were fascinating to listen to – I'd never heard him speak like that. So we decided to use those as 'introductions' to some of the tracks."

Another important element in the recording process was cellist Natalie Haas, a good friend of Lamey's for some years. The cello is not uncommon in the Scottish tradition to which Cape Breton music is closely related; Haas, in fact, is one-half of a renowned duo with Scots fiddler Alasdair Fraser. But, with a few exceptions, the instrument doesn't appear much in the fiddle-piano-guitar dynamic that has come to typify Cape Breton music.

However, Lamey points out, "the older tunes actually have a cello line in them, written intentionally. So having Natalie play on the album really falls under the category of traditional."

Historical accuracy aside, Haas's cello adds a different voice, and an often soulful one, to the tune sets on the CD, bringing extra thrust to the driving reels and strathspeys – including "Bill and Father John," a set originally recorded by Bill Lamey and Fr. John

A. Rankin – or grace to the slower, dignified marches and airs, notably "Gloomy Winter's Now Away." "Natalie came up here and worked really hard," said Lamey. "She definitely wanted to be part of this, and it was a pleasure to have her involved."

What's more, Haas contributed an on-the-spot brainstorm that led to one of the album's high points, Lamey reveals. The moment came one afternoon in the recording studio as Lamey and Haas were faced with an unexpected hitch: The pianist Lamey had wanted to play with them that day couldn't make it because he was recovering from an injury. So Haas suggested they ask Dewar, who has toured frequently with fiddle great Natalie MacMaster, to sit in.

"Alan wasn't sure about the idea at first. Playing on an album that you're recording is a lot of multitasking; you really have to use different parts of your brain," said Lamey.

The set Lamey wanted to record, "Dear Jerry," began with a tune composed by the late Jerry Holland, one of Cape Breton's most celebrated musical personalities and a mentor

and friend to Lamey and many other musicians, including Dewar.

"It's a very upbeat march, but when we sat down to run through it, and the first notes hit, the whole thing just transferred into this lament," recalled Lamey. "While we played, I had chills going up and down my spine, and by the end there were tears coming down my cheeks. When we were done, Alan said, 'I guess we'll give it a try.' It was an amazing afternoon. Having Alan on the album was a complete surprise, but he added so much."

As the album progressed, Lamey found himself thinking more and more about staying in Cape Breton. He had always thought of it as a second home, what with his family ties to the region and his many visits there. But now there were significant considerations keeping him here, namely a fiancé finishing up her studies and the abundance of opportunities to play with so many Cape Breton musicians who have been good friends and valued mentors. Since his father is a native of Nova Scotia, Lamey

was able to obtain dual citizenship status, further cementing his ties to the island.

Don't get the idea that Boston has seen the last of Lamey, though: He hopes to visit whenever he can – his parents continue to reside in the area – and is planning a local CD release event for sometime in the spring. But his heart, like his music, is firmly in Cape Breton now.

"Being up here, in this old house, with Kaitlin and family and friends," he said, as the storm outside continued, "I feel I am living life to the fullest."



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## Traveling People

## Dromoland special: a hawk perched on your head

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Travel writers usually go out of their way to experience as many unique and varied activities as possible so that they can tell their readers about them.

I've been fortunate enough to enjoy a few interesting adventures over the years, but one of the best was a hawk walk last spring at Dromoland Castle in Co. Clare. I had been on a similar walk some years ago at Ashford Castle, Dromoland's sister castle, which claims the honor of having the oldest established Falconry School in Ireland. But never before had I experienced having a young and very vocal Harris Hawk sit on top of my head.

TJ, as Dromoland's young hawk is known, was supposed to land on the heavy leather glove that encased my lower arm – and stay there. He landed on the glove as predicted, but then he hopped up my jacket sleeve to perch in my hair. Could you ask for better photo op?

## DROMOLAND

There are some well-known and truly superior accommodations in Ireland – both for amenities and location – and Dromoland is certainly right up there with the best of them. The castle and its beautiful and extensive grounds are just minutes from Shannon Airport, which makes it a perfect place to stay whether you're coming or going.

If you decide to stay at Dromoland, be sure to arrive early enough to partake of some of the many activities offered there and, if you have a chance, a hawk walk is highly recommended. It's a learning experience, a nice walk through magnificent grounds and a lot of fun.

The School of Falconry is one of Dromoland's newer offerings and what an interesting activity it is. We were introduced to TJ, the then 10-month-old Harris hawk, by falconer Jim Hennigar. The head falconer at Dromoland is Dave Atkinson, who owns the school and has worked at the castle for many years. The day we visited, he was busy leading another hawk walk nearby, explaining the history of Dromoland and falconry.



Falconer Jim Hennigar with TJ, a Harris Hawk, at Dromoland Castle's School of Falconry. (Judy Enright photos)

Atkinson has long been interested in birds of prey and, according to Hennigar, flew his first bird when he was nine years old.

Hennigar said Harris hawks are native to Central and South America and the Southwest US and are social raptors that hunt in packs. Hawks are extremely intelligent, he said, and have eyesight eight times better than ours. They have an ultraviolet spectrum that enables them to see trails of urine that lead to their prey.

After we walked around the property and put TJ through his paces, Hennigar showed us the falconry's collection of owls and other birds of prey and explained a little about each one. It was a fun, edu-

cational, and most worthwhile afternoon.

The Falconry School is open to the public and more information may be obtained by emailing: [Sales@dromoland.ie](mailto:Sales@dromoland.ie) or by visiting the Dromoland website: [dromoland.ie](http://dromoland.ie).

By the way, there are many, many other activities to recommend Dromoland, including fishing on Lough Dromoland, tennis on two all-weather courts, golf, a spa and much more. And, if you can, be sure to experience a meal by executive head chef David McCann in the Earl of Thomond restaurant, where the food is excellent and service is exceptional.

Dromoland was a lot of fun, very comfortable with beautifully-appointed rooms and was well worth a visit.

## TRAVEL

When I travel around Ireland, I rent a car from Dooley Car Rentals ([dan-dooley.ie](http://dan-dooley.ie)) and have for many years. I've always been pleased with the cars provided and convenience of collecting my car at Shannon. But, some travelers are uncomfortable driving on "the wrong side" of the road and they need not worry, because there are many other modes of travel.

There are many, many tour companies that specialize in Ireland and taking a tour is a really good way for a first-time traveler to see the country's many attractions and decide where they'd like to return to spend more time. Taking a city tour is also a great way to see Dublin as well as Ireland's other cities.

Ireland also has an excellent rail system ([irishrail.ie](http://irishrail.ie)) that offers a series of day trips all over the country as well as Dublin tours that visit the zoo, Croke Park Museum and Stadium, Phoenix Park, Kilmainham Gaol, and the Guinness Storehouse. There are also trips to Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Galway, Mayo, Sligo and you can take a train up to Belfast and see many of Northern Ireland's attractions.

You can also travel on Ireland's excellent bus system, Bus Éireann. Service links Dublin Airport with Galway, for instance, and there's service from Shannon to many towns and cities.

For more information about traveling around Ireland, visit Tourism Ireland's website ([discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com)). It has lots of good information about all things Irish.

## ACTIVITIES

Summer 2011 is history but that doesn't mean the activities in Ireland have ended. There is still a lot to do and see:

- The Drogheda Traditional Music Weekend is Nov. 25-27 in cafes, bars, and restaurants around Drogheda Town in Co. Louth. Visit the website [drogheda.ie](http://drogheda.ie) for more details and names of artists who will be performing. It sounds like a great time.

- The 59th annual Wexford Fringe Festival ([wexfordfringe.ie](http://wexfordfringe.ie)) runs concurrently with the Wexford Opera Festival through Nov. 6. Fringe Festival includes drama productions, historical tours, classical recitals, jazz, musicals, light opera, antique and secondhand book fairs, an Open Festival Golf Cup, the



Oops. No, TJ, you're supposed to land on my arm not on my head.

Wexford Races, and art and photography exhibitions squeezed into every inch of Wexford. Festival Opera has been running since 1951 and runs through Nov. 5. For details, visit [wexfordopera.com](http://wexfordopera.com).

- The 12th Annual Kerry Film Festival (KFF) runs this year through Nov. 5 with a focus on young up-and-coming filmmakers. Prizes are awarded in a number of different categories, including Best Irish Film, Best International Film, Best Documentary Film and Best Animated Film. KFF also presents a Maureen O'Hara award to a woman who has excelled in film. Last year's winner was the Oscar-winning actress Juliette Binoche. The festival has screenings in Tralee, Killarney, Dingle, Listowel, Waterville, and Kenmare. Visit [kerryfilmfestival.com](http://kerryfilmfestival.com) for more.

- The 17th annual Listowel Food Fair is set for Nov. 2-6 in the Co. Kerry town. This year's launch night celebrity chef is Catherine Fulvio of Ballyknocken House & Cookery School in Co. Wicklow. Visit [listowelfoodfair.com](http://listowelfoodfair.com) for details.

- The Ennis Trad Festival is scheduled from Nov. 11-14 in that Co. Clare town. There are many musical groups – including Dervish – scheduled and there will also be CD launches, a ceili band competition and fun things to do like taking a Sean Nos dance class. For details, visit [ennistradfestival.com](http://ennistradfestival.com).

- The first ever Galway Continental Christmas Market will be held in Eyre Square from Nov. 25 to Dec. 18 and sounds like a lot of fun. For more information, visit [galwaychristmasmarket.ie](http://galwaychristmasmarket.ie).

## TRAVEL PLANS

Enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever you go and be sure to check the internet for the latest airfare and ground travel specials. And, as we mentioned above, there is lots of great information about Ireland on Tourism Ireland's website, [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com).

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*Arrupe Division (Grade Seven)*  
Thursday, November 17, 2011 6:15 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 6, 2011 6:15 p.m.

*High School (Grade Nine)*  
Tuesday, November 29, 2011 6:15 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 13, 2011 6:15 p.m.

All Curriculum Nights will begin with a family social at 6:15 p.m.  
The program will begin at 7:00 p.m.  
Please visit [www.bchigh.edu/admissions](http://www.bchigh.edu/admissions) to reserve a spot for your family.

## The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Do you remember how to **lenite** (aspirate) a **verb** to form the **definite past tense**? First, if the **verb** begins with a **consonant** – except **l-, n-,** or **r-**, simply insert an

**-h-** behind it. Also, be careful to add a **subject noun** or **pronoun**:

**Tóg na cártaí!**  
/TOok nuh KART-ee/ “Take the cards!”

**Thóg Liam na cártaí.**  
/HOOK LEE-uhm nuh KART-ee/  
“Liam took the cards.”

**Thóg sé na cártaí.**  
/HOOK shey nuh KART-ee/  
“He took the cards.”

Second, if the **verb** begins with a **vowel** then prefix **d’**:

**Imir na cártaí!**  
/IM-ur nuh KART-ee/  
“Play the cards!”

**D’imir Liam a chártaí.**  
/DIM-ur LEE-uhm uh HART-ee/  
“Liam played his cards.”

**D’imir sé a chártaí.**  
/DIM-ur shey uh HART-ee/  
“He played the cards.”

Third, if the vowel begins with **f-**, first insert the **-h-**. **Fh-** is always silent so the **verb** effectively begins with a **vowel** sound. You then must prefix the **d’**.

**Fág an cluife!**  
/FAHK uhn KLEEF-uh/  
“Leave the game!”

**D’fhág Liam an cluife.**  
/DAHK LEE-uhm uhn KLEEF-uh/  
“Liam left the game.”

**D’fhág sé an cluife.**  
/DAHK shey uhn KLEEF-uh/  
“He left the game.”

Got it? Good! Now the same thing happens with the **habitual past tense** except that endings are attached. Recall those endings? There is an easier alternative.

If the verb is a “Class I” verb – a verb of only one syllable – then the suffix (ending) is **-(e)adh**. No need to remind you that the **(e)** is only for “balance” in case the vowel of the verb is “slender” (**-e-** or **-i-**). This letter is not pronounced **-(e)adh** is pronounced /uhk/.

**D’fhág sí an séipéal.**  
/DAHK shee uhn SHEY-puhl/  
“She left the church building”.

**D’fhágadh sí an séipéal ar a cuig a chlog.**  
/DAHK-uhk shee uhn SHEY-puhl ahr uh KOOK uh HLOK/  
“She used to leave the church building at five o’clock.”

**Mhuineadh sí léamh** /VOON-uhk shee LEYV/ “She used to teach reading.”

If the **verb** is “Class II” – two syllables – there is an extra step. You delete the **vowel** or **vowel letters** of the second syllable and then add the ending **-(a)íodh**, pronounced /eek/. Of course if the **verb** ends in **-i** then you omit the second **-(i)**.

(Linguists mark an artificial or wrong form with a preceding asterisk.)

For examples, **imir** is not **\*d’imíriodh** but **d’imríodh**;

**D’imríodh Liam cártaí** / DIM-reek LEE-uhm KART-ee/  
“Liam used to play cards”

**Oscail** “to shut” is not **\*d’oscaíodh** but **d’oscláíodh**

**D’oscláíodh Nóra an doras.**  
/DOS-kleek NOH-ruh uhn DOH-rus/  
“Nora used to close the door.”

If any verb ends in **-igh**, or **-aigh** then remove the whole ending and add the appropriate suffix:

**Léigh** /ley/ “read” a one syllable verb becomes **Léadh** /LEY-uhk/ “used to read”

**Salaigh** /SAHL-ee/ “to soil”, a two syllable verb becomes **shalaíodh** /HAHL-eeek/  
**Shalaíodh na gasuir a éadaí.**

“The children used to soil their clothes.”

**Nígh** “wash” is **Níodh** since if you drop the **-igh** you would be left with only the **N-**.

**Níodh Nóra na éadaí.**

“Nora used to wash the clothes.”

Last month we left off with the sentence, “She used to get up at six o’clock.” The answer is **D’éiríodh sí ar a sé a chlog.**

But enough of this – we can go on for at least two more tenses or aspects, the **conditional** and the **present subjunctive**. But we won’t.

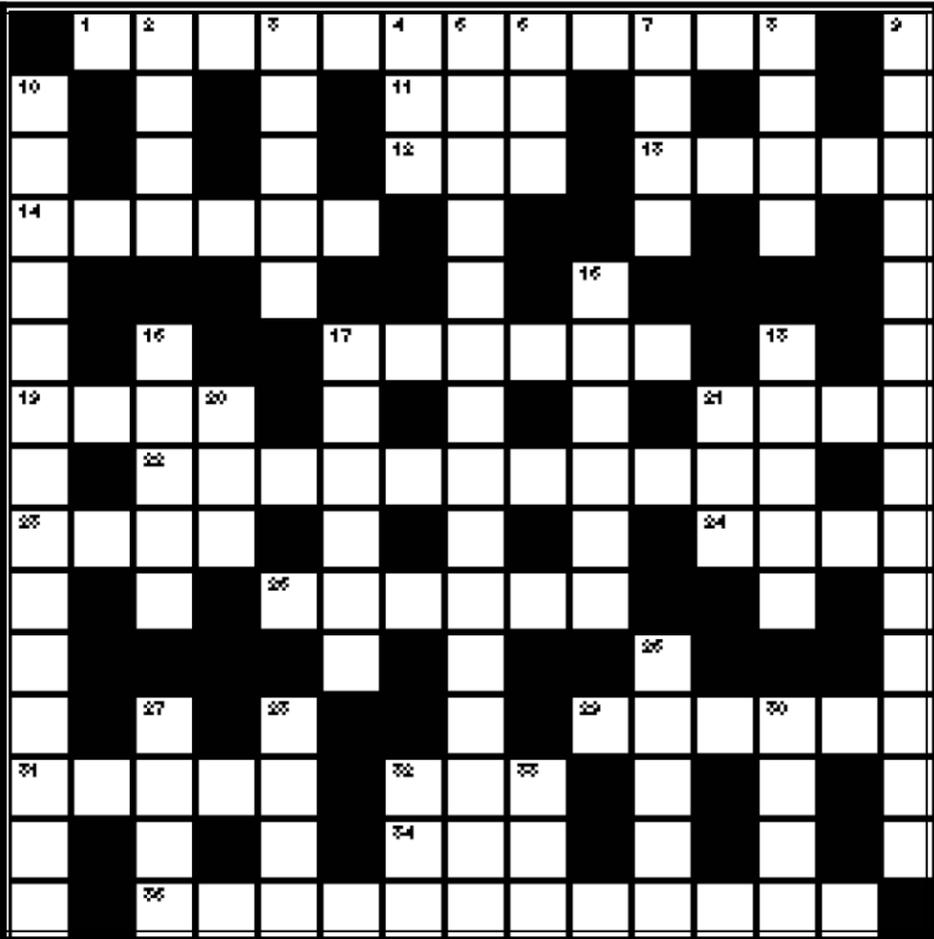
However, there is one more form to learn – and it occurs in every tense but we will not bother with most of them. It is called the autonomous. The one phrase that you will need to know is **Deirtear Gaelge Anseo** /JEER-tuhr GAHYL-guh UHN-sho/ “Irish is spoken here.”

Now see if you can translate these in to Irish – and be careful, tenses are mixed up: 1.) “He used to take cards.” 2.) “Kevin ate potatoes every day.” 3.) How much is it?” 4.) “The train will be at the station at seven o’clock.” 5.) “What time is it?” 6.) “Bridget used to drink tea.” 7.) “Do you like tea or coffee?” 8.) “Do you play cards?” 9.) “I used to.” 10.) “Where is Daddy?” 11.) “I don’t know.” 12.) “You soiled your dress.” 13.) “Kate went to Cork yesterday?” 14.) “Did she?” 15.) “I used to wash clothes.”

Answers: 1.) **Thógadh sé cártaí.** 2.) **Itheadh Caoimhín prataí gach lá.** 3.) **Cá mhéad é?** 4.) **Beidh an traein ag an stáisiún ar a seacht a chlog.** 5.) **Cén t-am é?** 6.) **Oladh Brid tae.** 7.) **Is maith leat tae nó caife?** 8.) **An imir tú cártaí?** 9.) **D’imireadh mé.** 10.) **Cá bhfuil daidí?** 11.) **Níl a fhios sin agam.** 12.) **Shaligh túsa do ghunna.** 13.) **Chuaigh Céit go Coraigh inné.** 14.) **An chuaigh sí?** 15.) **Níodh mé éadaí.**

## CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit [www.bigwood.com/heraldry](http://www.bigwood.com/heraldry)



## IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

### ACROSS

1. A cell dustbin goes astray in Irish capital stronghold wherein is St. Patrick’s Hall used for many state functions. (6,6)
11. Electron deficient learner fails to start jungle king. (3)
12. Conditional return of plant container. (3)
13. Wants to be born a detective sergeant. (5)
14. I moult badly in the last month in beautiful Timoleague. (6)
17. Did the cow sound colourful when the boat was tied up? (6)
19. “You write with ease, to show — breeding. But easy writing’s vile hard reading.” Sheridan. (4)
21. Ardferit rekindling involves long migratory march. (4)
22. All one’s bail (anag.) Galway horse town with a well-known castle adjoining Garbally park. (11)
23. “There was — ground where a man might linger. For a week or two for time was not our master.” Ewan McColl -The Travelling People. (4)
24. Noble but not quite on time. (4)
25. Cut back and see where the zloty goes round. (6)
29. This do suit, up in workplace. (6)
31. “Where fierce indignation can no longer tear his —.” Epitaph of Jonathan Swift. (5)
32. Drunkard returns to south. (3)
34. Soft approach by United Nations initially is a wordy joke. (3)
35. Wants west tor. (anag.) Tyrone village near Coal-island and seat of Viscount Charlemont. (12)

### DOWN

2. One nut I cracked. (4)
3. Peruvian pack animal seen coming back through Tuam all alone. (5)
4. Upset trash can to find the means of writing. (3)
5. Oh, R.U.C. tour ban row. (anag.) North Wexford seaside resort near Gorey with a 2 mile sandy beach. (8,7)
6. “Go to the — thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.” Proverbs Chap. 6 verse 6 (3)
7. Sound of Ireland’s first republican? (4)

8. “Nothing is — done in this world until men are prepared to kill one another if it is not done.” Shaw (4)
9. Elf room passkey. (anag.) Galway beauty spot near Letterfrack with 3 lakes and a famous abbey. (4,2,8)
10. No, tough, many can be broken in Ulster region of many lakes, known as the MacMahon country, . (6,8)
15. Engaged in banter seated around. (6)
16. Brute dug up the root crop. (5)
17. Grand let in prosperous Cork town, known as the ‘Bath of Ireland’ where Thomas Davies was born. (6)
18. “No, there’s nothing half so sweet in life As love’s young —.” Moore. (5)
20. Made haste along in Maghera navigation. (3)
21. Tip of the separate legend! (3)
26. A contrived event will put a stop to growth. (5)
27. Sam’s coming over for the celebration. (4)
28. Southern, yet upset about what’s causing a pain in the eye. (4)
30. Tie in the back room of the hospital. (4)
32. Sap rising in Kerry resort four miles west of Tralee, with mineral springs. (3)
33. Take us out of 26 down with explosive result initially. (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 15

## Irish Sayings ...

“People live in each other’s shelter.”  
“The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey.”  
“You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail,” “and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner.”  
“There is no strength without unity.”  
“You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me.”  
“Praise the young and they will blossom”  
“The raggy colt often made a powerful horse.”  
“Age is honorable and youth is noble.”  
“Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”  
“Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”

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# BCMFest

A column of news and updates of BCMFest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest), which celebrates the Boston area's rich heritage of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton music and dance with a grassroots, musician-run winter music festival and other events during the year.

— Sean Smith

There's plenty of BCMFest news to share this month. First of all, performers have been announced for the ninth annual BCMFest, which takes place on January 6 and 7 at venues in Harvard Square.

BCMFest 2012 will kick off Fri., Jan. 6, with an evening concert in Club Passim and another edition of the Boston Urban Ceilidh — BCMFest's exciting Celtic "dance party" with live music and social dancing from Celtic traditions — at The Atrium (fourth floor of 50 Church Street). The festival continues on Sat., Jan. 7, with performances during the day at Club Passim and First Parish Church (Massachusetts Avenue and Church Street), and concludes with a grand finale concert at 8 p.m. in First Parish Church.

BCMFest organizers say the festival will hold true to form in presenting Celtic music across the spectrum of sounds, from solidly traditional to uniquely contemporary. The Friday evening concert, "Roots and Branches," will give a fun, fresh take on styles

and influences in Celtic music from North America to Europe, with a diverse roster of musicians and singers. At the Boston Urban Ceilidh, festival-goers can find a similar cross-section of dance music: New England contra (The Reiner Brothers), Breton (Triple Spiral) and Scottish (Neil Pearlman and Friends); all dances will be taught, so newcomers as well as more experienced participants can enjoy them.

Performers at Saturday's "Dayfest" include: Hannah Sanders & Liz Simmons; Flynn Cohen and The Deadstring Ensemble; Katie McNally & Eric McDonald; Kyle Carey; Highland Soles; Ken Perlman & Jim Prendergast; Bob Bradshaw; Corvus; Chasing Redbird; Fellswater; Neil Pearlman's Scottish Infusion; Amanda Cavanaugh & Nic Gareiss; NØIR; The Whiskey Boys; Dylan Courville, Wells Burrell & Bob Jennings; and Adrienne Howard & Emily Peterson.

The Saturday finale concert will be masterminded by the duo of Matt Heaton and Flynn Cohen, virtuosos on guitar, mandolin and bouzouki, who will be joined by some of Greater Boston's most notable Celtic musicians, singers and dancers.

BCMFest 2012 also includes participatory events, such as music sessions open to all — including a Scottish session led by The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club — and a demonstration by The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Boston branch that will offer members of the audience a chance to join in.

Last but hardly least, the BCMFest schedule as always carries special items, like a tribute to influential folksinger Nic Jones, a "Kitchen Ceilidh" of Cape Breton song and dance led by Kye MacKillop, a "Bawdy Breakfast" that will present a more cheeky, risqué side of Celtic music, and a set of performances and events oriented toward families and children. And then there's "McThriller," in which the music of pop star legend Michael Jackson will be given the Celtic treatment.

Information about BCMFest 2012, including ticket prices and performance schedules, will be posted and updated on [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com).

**BCMFest Goes West(ford)** — Of course, BCMFest isn't just a once-a-year happening. There are other events during the year, such as the Nov. 4 "BCMFest Goes West(ford)" concert at the Westford Museum. The annual performance, which first took place in 2007, celebrates the abundance of talented young Celtic musicians living in Greater Boston.

Appearing this year will be: concert founder and organizer Katie McNally, the 2009 New England Scottish Fiddle Champion and a two-time runner-up Junior National Scottish Fiddle Champion, who has played



Kyle Carey and the "deadstring duo" of Flynn Cohen and Matt Heaton will be among the performers at BCMFest 2012 in January.

in various concerts and festivals in New England and toured with the distinguished fiddle ensemble Childsplay; Neil Pearlman, who blends exciting, innovative, contemporary influences with more traditional Cape Breton/Scottish styles of piano accompaniment; Jenna Moynihan, who incorporates other traditions into her Scottish/Cape Breton fiddle-playing as a solo performer and as a member of the groundbreaking Folks Arts Quartet; Galen Fraser, son of widely acclaimed Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and firmly established as a brilliant musician and composer in his own right; and Rachel Reed, a former member of the Wellesley College Fiddleheads who has embraced the Cape Breton style and is a regular at area sessions and the Canadian-American Club in Watertown.

BCMFest Goes West(ford) will take place at 8 p.m. in the Westford Museum (directions are available at [westford.com/museum](http://westford.com/museum)). Admission: Westford Museum adult members \$12; adult non-members \$15; teens \$5; 12 and under free. Proceeds benefit BCMFest.

**November Celtic Music Monday** — On Nov. 14, BCMFest's monthly "Celtic Music Monday" series at Club Passim will present a concert by three talented young musicians whose arrival over the past few years has helped invigorate the local Irish music scene, Joey Abarta, Armand Aromin, and Lindsay Straw.

Abarta is a former All-Ireland Champion Uilleann piper who also plays whistle and bodhran with equal musicality and skill. He has performed throughout the US, Canada, Europe, and Asia, including in the recent "Roots of American Music" tour with Mick Moloney.

Aromin, who plays fiddle, tin whistle and five-string banjo, has been a student of such renowned musicians as Jimmy Devine and Patrick Hutchinson, who helped instill in him an avid interest in older styles of Irish music. His influences include Bobby Casey, Lucy Farr, Tommy Reck, Dennis Murphy, Julia Clifford, Johnny Connolly, Patrick Kelly, Andy McGann, and John Kelly, among many others. Aromin has performed at several BCMFest events and is a teacher at the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Boston branch music school.

Montana native Straw came to Boston as a student at the Berklee College of Music, and made an impression at area sessions with her bouzouki and guitar accompaniment. A gifted singer, she deeply honors the tradition in her interpretations, yet brings something subtly youthful and personal to the music. Straw and Aromin play as part of the Boston-based group The Ivy Leaf.

Tickets for the Nov. 14 show, which begins at 8 p.m., are \$12, \$6 for members of Passim, WGBH and WUMB. For more information, go to [passim.org](http://passim.org). The concert also will be streamed over the Internet at Concert Window [[concertwindow.com](http://concertwindow.com)].

For more information on BCMFest, see [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com)

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# Andy Irvine on life on the road, soloing, composing

Second of two parts

Andy Irvine – a member of groundbreaking Irish music bands like *Sweeney's Men*, *Planxty* and *Patrick Street*, and a well-traveled, popular solo performer – played last month at *Four Green Fields* in downtown Boston, as part of a typically busy tour schedule. This is the second part of an interview with Irvine by the *Boston Irish Reporter's* Sean Smith, in which Irvine talked about his nearly five decades as a foremost interpreter of Irish traditional music, and his songwriting style that frequently draws on historical events and figures. [Part one of the interview is available at <http://bit.ly/mXHFbJJ>]

Q. One of the hallmarks of your songwriting, in fact, has been what one might call musical biographies: Wallenberg; the Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata; American labor activist Mother Jones; the Antarctic explorer Douglas Mawson; and Michael Dwyer, a hero in the 1798 Irish uprising,

to name a few. You're able to capture the essence of their lives and deeds, yet not sacrificing emotion or drama for historical detail. How did this aspect of your work come about?

A. It was probably in the mid-1980s, when I suddenly had this desire to let people know about persons who I thought were wonderful and heroic, but perhaps not all that familiar to the general public. I mean, you read about what someone like a Douglas Mawson or a Raoul Wallenberg did, and you think, "That's just beyond anything I could do. I'd never have the courage."

Q. It's really a kind of basic human trait, isn't it: the fascination, the hunger for heroes?

A. Absolutely! Think about all that's going on – where are these people when we need them?

One of the greatest satisfactions I've had is when somebody's come up to me and said, "I'd never heard of that person before I listened to your song." When that happens, I figure that I've done my job.

Q. Of all the threads that run through your life, that time you spent in Eastern Europe in the late 1960s really seems to be among the most persistent. It's not just that you integrated the rhythms and other characteristics of Balkan music into your playing; you've written a number of songs – like "Time Will Cure Me," "Baneasa's Green Glades," "Autumn Gold" – that refer to or draw upon that period. The experience must have had such a major impact on you, musically and personally.

A. That was definitely a watershed in my musical life. I didn't understand Bulgarian music at all, but once I got the hang of it, I tried to impress it upon other people in Ireland, some of whom would cross to the other side of the street when they saw me coming. I was always a little afraid to ask Liam [O'Flynn] to play outside the Irish tradition, but he was always willing – he and Matt Molloy. If you listen to them on "Smeceno Horo" when we were in Planxty, technically they're not playing it "correctly." But they just take it in and disgorge it, and the tune's got a whole new, incredible feel to it.



Andy Irvine with bouzouki. Brian Hartigan photo

It wasn't as if I hadn't traveled outside of Ireland before. Joe Dolan [who would play in Sweeney's Men with Irvine] and I went far and wide across Europe. But the trip to the Balkans was something different. It was my girlfriend and me, and although I certainly played music along the way, it wasn't a "tour" in the usual sense. So much happened. I never really got over that time.

Even now, with all the traveling I've done, I can still get enthusiastic about going to a new and different place. I was talking with someone in Argentine a little while back about playing there at some point in the future, and found myself getting pretty excited. If and when I do go, I know that part of it will be for the music, of course, but part of it also will be the opportunity for exploration.

## No 'homestead exemption' for Drumm Cape home

A Boston court has decided that the luxury Cape Cod home owned by former Anglo Irish Bank CEO David Drumm was not his principal residence and has therefore denied his claim to retain \$500,000 of the proceeds of the sale under the "homestead exemption" rule. Drumm paid \$4.6 million for the house in 2008 and

it is now expected to sell for \$3.88m with furnishings and fittings realizing a further \$150,000.

The sale is being conducted by independent trustee Kathleen Dwyer who is handling Drumm's bankruptcy. The proceeds will go to Irish Bank Resolution Corporation (formerly Anglo Irish Bank) and his other debtors.



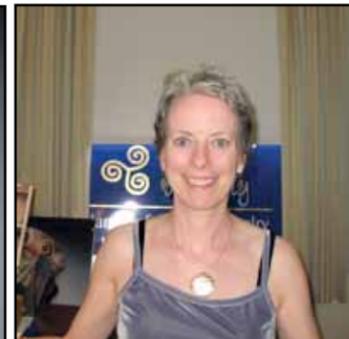
University photographer and Dorchester native Harry Brett (left) poses with management student Ryan Godfrey after being inducted into the University of Massachusetts Boston's Golden Key International Honour Society as an honorary member at a reception on Monday, October 24. Brett has worked at UMass Boston for the last 25 years capturing campus history through his lens.

## Eire Society Notebook

# Artisan Marketplace set for Nov. 13 at the Aisling Gallery

The Eire Society of Boston will be holding an Irish Artisan Marketplace – Pottery, Celtic Jewelry, Paintings, Photography and More! – at the Aisling Gallery & Framing at 229 Lincoln St. (Rt. 3A) in Hingham on Sun., Nov. 13, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Among the visiting artists: **Deirdre Donnelly** is a studio jeweler whose Celtic upbringing is reflected in her uniquely symbolic hand-crafted fine jewelry. These powerful images and influences from her Irish heritage have shaped and guided her work.



Deirdre creates her pieces in high karat (24k, 22k and 18k) gold and silver, incorporating a variety of techniques including forging, forming, stamping, lamination and granulation. She also makes her own sheet and wire in gold. Most of the stones have historical significance and mythology associated with but one of Deirdre's favorite is the Moonstone.

Deirdre's Jewelry Art Studio is at Quechee Gorge Village, Rte. 4, 5573 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VT 05059. [deirdredonnelly.com](http://deirdredonnelly.com)

**Jack Gannon** is a "street photographer" with an eye for the beautiful and unusual. He travels the globe photographing the people, the culture and the beauty within each big city and small villages. He often finds himself in areas where tourists are rarely seen.

Jack is an anchor artist at The Artist's Studio & Gallery at Patriot Place (overlooking Gillette Stadium) where you can view his photographic art each and every weekend. His e-mail is [College.Handbook@gmail.com](mailto:College.Handbook@gmail.com).

**Ann Mullan-Karakatsanis**, a native of Derry, Northern Ireland, traveled to America to attend a program designed for Irish entrepreneurs at Boston College. Adopting the American "can do" attitude, she then embarked on designing a line of pottery that would reflect her Irish heritage. Ann used the traditional interlacing knitting patterns of the Aran sweaters as inspiration for her Kara Irish Pottery Aranware collection, launched in 1996. She was thrilled when the QVC home-shopping network invited her to feature her products.

**Karen Ann Thornton** takes pictures for the Eire Society of Boston, for friends, and family.

Every year she goes to Ireland and travels around the Emerald Island taking pictures. Karen's Irish photographs will be on display at the Aisling Gallery.

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### PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 13

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# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Margaret Brett Hastings  
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Boston Irish Reporter celebrated 21 years of publishing with a gala "Boston Irish Honors" luncheon on October 20 at the grand ballroom of the Seaport Hotel. Some 400 guests joined in honoring three families and two individuals for their exemplary life work in Boston. Pictured at right are photos of family members and friends with the honorees, including the Corcoran, Mulvoy and Hunt families, and honorees former Boston Police Superintendent Kathleen O'Toole and Brockton State Senator Tom Kennedy. The honorees each were presented with a piece of artwork created by noted Boston Irish artist Vincent Crotty, as well as an original Irish license plate with the family name and county of each family's roots in Ireland.



Comhaltas' Larry Reynolds played for the gathering



Honoree Kathy O'Toole with BIR managing editor Bill Forry



SBLI president Bob Sheridan and Mary Beth Leary were among the 400 guests



Event chairman Matthew Power, CEO of Lexington Insurance with BIR publisher Ed Forry and program emcee Dick Flavin.



Mary Swanton, ML Greenidge, Russ Wilson, all from Pope John Paul II Academy, Dorchester, and Winnie Henry, Patrick "Doc" Walsh and Monica Henry, organizers of the annual "Irish Hearts for Haiti" fundraiser.



# The Boston Irish Honors 2011



The scene on Thurs., Oct. 20, at the Seaport Hotel in Boston.

Margaret Brett Hastings photos

**By Ed Forry  
Publisher**

The *Boston Irish Reporter*, our own chronicler of all things Irish- American, is pleased to host this second annual "Boston Irish Honors" celebratory luncheon.

Now in its 21st year, the BIR is one of the region's few remaining family-owned and family-operated publications and in keeping with our heritage, we have gathered you all here today to help us salute two Irish-American individuals for their special achievements in public service and three exemplary local families who share our common roots in Boston and in Ireland.

The inaugural event last October attracted more than 300 Boston business and civic leaders and

members of Boston's many Irish social and cultural organizations. Today's luncheon attendance exceeds 400, and we tell the stories of our honorees in the pages of today's program book.

In each instance, the spirit of today is well-captured in the poetic words of a member of my own family, 12-year-old Tess Meisel, whose life ended suddenly and tragically on an August morning this summer in a horrific traffic accident. Following are Tess's words:

*Look to your God,  
Look to your Spirits,  
But most of all  
Look to your Family,  
Because that's where the love begins.*

- TESS MEISEL



Boston Irish Honors event chairman Matt Power and BIR publisher Ed Forry.

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## The Boston Irish Honors 2011 for Distinguished Public Service

# Sen. Tom Kennedy: Ever true to his roots

By Peter F. Stevens  
Reporter Staff

Massachusetts State Sen. Thomas P. Kennedy has a reputation as a politician who has always remained true to his self-professed “working-class Democrat” roots. Through both geography – Brockton’s blue-collar Ward 2 – and his own triumph over adversity, Kennedy has proven to be one of Beacon Hill’s staunchest and most effective advocates for the poor, the mentally and physically challenged, the elderly, and all whose voices are too often neglected or ignored, especially when budget-cuts rule the day.

That Tom Kennedy works his politics from his wheelchair is a well-known fact, the result of a 1971 accident that left him a quadriplegic. Still, to speak with Kennedy for even a short time reveals that the man who started out to become a Catholic priest but ended up in the State Senate would have proven a fighter for society’s neediest in either vocation.

Tom Kennedy was born in Ward 2, the same neighborhood that legendary boxer Rocky Marciano called home. Today, he lives in the house that his Irish immigrant grandparents bought before World War I with his 101-year-old mother, Mary Cruise Kennedy. Educated by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth at St. Patrick’s Grammar School, he graduated in 1969 from Cardinal Spellman High School, which was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Determined to become a priest, Kennedy then entered the missionary order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, but the 1971 accident intervened. After grueling months of rehabilitation in hospital settings where he adapted to using a wheelchair, he finally returned to the family home on Winthrop Street in 1973.

Left to wonder what he would do, Kennedy’s life was changed through the persuasive powers of family friend and Brockton Mayor David Crosby, who convinced the former seminarian that he could thrive on Crosby’s staff as Brockton’s ombudsman, or citizen representative. From 1974 to 1978, Kennedy flourished in the post. His political ascent began in earnest that last year when he was elected as a City Councillor from Ward 2, a position he held onto for eight years, proving himself one of the board’s most popular, effective, and toughest members on behalf of his neighbors. Then, Congressman Brian Donnelly persuaded the councillor to take on a new and expanded position as congressional legislative aide in Donnelly’s Brockton district office. Kennedy’s acumen in constituent services was invaluable to the congressman and the people of Brockton. In 1983, Kennedy ran against and defeated ten other Democratic candidates for the state representative seat in the 9th Plymouth District. To this day, he evinces pride that all of his opponents in the Democratic primary field heartily endorsed him in the general election.

Over the next 20 years, Kennedy carved out legislative successes marked by care and compassion as well as toughness on behalf of the neediest people not only in his own district, but also throughout the commonwealth. He held such influential positions as chairman of the House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, vice-chairman of the powerful Committee on Ways and Means and assistant majority leader.

After moving to the Senate in the 2008 election, his constituency expanded to include the city of Brockton, parts of East Bridgewater and Easton, and the towns of Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, and Whitman, Kennedy has had an impact much like the one in the House, serving as co-chair of the Election Laws Committee, Ways and Means, the Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee, among others.

A graduate of Stonehill College, the senator later earned a master’s degree from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. His numerous civic and community awards include



### Salutes his ‘working class Democrat’ roots

the Jefferson Cup Award 2004 from the American Association of People with Disabilities, the Providers’ Council 2010 *Legislator of the Year*, and The Better Life Award from the Massachusetts Senior Care Association “for his outstanding leadership in promoting quality long term care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities in Massachusetts.”

With such a packed legislative agenda, one might think that Kennedy has scant time left over, but he remains deeply immersed in his hometown’s civic and community boards and programs. His local posts include seats on the Board of Directors of the New England Sinai Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, the New England Board of Higher Education, and the Fuller Craft Museum, along with membership in the Knights of Columbus and the Brockton Area Arc. All of these help him stay in tune with his neighborhood and constituents.

**BIR:** Have your Brockton and Irish roots always been cornerstones for you personally and politically?

**Kennedy:** There’s no doubt that they help define me. My mom, Mary, is the eldest of nine children. Her mom, Maggie, came from Co. Mayo, and her dad, Peter Cruise, hailed from Co. Roscommon. As with so many young women in the Irish families of the day, she had to help take care of her siblings, and she didn’t marry until 1941, late for the era. My dad’s family, the Kennedys, came from Nova Scotia – earlier by way of Ireland – in 1925, and his family spoke Gaelic. When we were kids, we went to my granddad’s farm in Nova Scotia in the summer.

Our upbringing was deeply Irish. The men all belonged to the AOH, and people were defined in many ways by where in Ireland they’d come from – my babysitter Mrs. Martin from across the street was always described as “from the North,” for example.

My Mom and three other family members went to Ireland in 1965 to visit – the first of the “American cousins” to “go back” – and got a huge welcome. She’s been over six times, and I’ve gone nine times. Her correspondence with relatives there over the years has featured letters from Ireland with real shamrocks in the envelopes. No doubt that she’s the Irish matriarch of the family. Our house in Brockton still serves as a way station for family members from all over the place. In Ireland, my mom’s knowledge of farm life surprised and delighted her relatives there. Those summer days on my grandfather’s farm in Nova Scotia taught all of us where to step when there’s livestock around.

**BIR:** After your accident, in 1971, what prompted your decision to enter politics?

**Kennedy:** I could not continue as a priest, but I always intended to go back to college. In 1973, I was accepted at Wright College, Ohio, the only school at the time able to fully handle disabled

students east of the Mississippi. They had a special dorm, with nursing and premed students to assist the disabled, but I had to wait until the second semester, in January, before I could start. I was in a real rut. Then, in November, Mayor David Crosby came to see me and offered me a job on his staff.

I said, “I can barely write my name – how can I do this job?”

He was insistent and talked me into it. He was a terrific guy, and for me, that visit has turned out to be truly divine Providence. It’s no exaggeration to say that he gave me my big break – I admired him so much.

As Brockton’s ombudsman, I found I had a real knack for problem-solving. I learned the ropes and learned that politics was a way in which I could help, could make a difference.

Another key thing I learned was that people you helped *never* forgot it and gave you their friendship and their support in return, which are so key to any public servant who wants to make a difference. In my years as ombudsman, I was working to help neighbors and constituents, and the people were so good to me.

**BIR:** How has the economic downturn that began in 2008 affected your own area, but also the Legislature?

**Kennedy:** It has been nothing short of brutal. In hard times – and these are the hardest, in my view – the poor, the handicapped, the elderly, and everyone else who can least afford it get hit the hardest. Their voices are the weakest, drowned out by those with more influence. Those are the people I’m fighting for, and while the reality is that there will be programs and budgets slashed, you still fight for the key programs, still fight for those who can’t always fight for themselves. That’s where my working-class Democrat, working-class Irish-American roots kick in.

**BIR:** How has your move from the House to the Senate changed your approach?

**Kennedy:** Being a state senator was always a long-time dream of mine. There’s little question that there’s a difference between the two chambers. The adage about being a bigger fish in the legislative pond holds true in the Senate. The caucus system works marvelously in the Senate – that’s due in great part to President [Theresa] Murray. She listens and lets *everyone* have his or her say. She has reversed herself several times when the consensus from the rest of the body is a bit different. That’s been an eye-opener for me and speaks volumes about the Senate. Simply put, I have more voice in the Senate.

As a senator, Kennedy asserts, “My priorities have always focused on being an open, accessible, and dependable legislator. I pledge to be earnest, diligent and conscientious in serving the people of the 2nd Plymouth and Bristol District. My constituency will always have my undivided commitment and utmost attention. I have a dedicated and experienced staff that assists me in working on issues that are important to the good people of the district and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

That approach is the same that made him a force in the House.

**BIR:** What goals/priorities are piled highest on your plate now and in the years to come?

**Kennedy:** They unquestionably remain my commitment to social programs that work, that deliver all or most of what they should. In hard times, these programs become too vulnerable, prey for those preaching the mantra of “cuts” and reduced government. The word “entitlements” is linked to government waste, and it’s so unfair to those who simply can’t survive without help.

I’m not afraid to say that social programs are my thing. Government not only has a role to play in people’s lives, but also a responsibility to those who are hurting through no fault of their own. The crux of my philosophy, my life, is that the neediest need a voice. I try to be one of those voices.



## The Boston Irish Honors 2011 for Distinguished Public Service

# Her passions: Law enforcement, community

By Peter F. Stevens  
BIR Staff

Kathleen M. O'Toole is an unabashed proponent of "police service." She not only employs the phrase, but she also lives it. The former Boston police commissioner has carved out an international reputation as a law-enforcement officer and official who understands the notion of service from a seat in a patrol car to a chair in the highest administrative offices. In her current post as Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, the governance and oversight body responsible for bringing reform, best practices, and accountability to the Republic of Ireland's approximately 17,000-member national police service, O'Toole has used her immense abilities to help strengthen the department itself and its ties to the community – as she did in Boston.

Born in 1954, Kathleen Horton grew up in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in a family whose bloodlines stretched to Co. Roscommon. "There are hundreds of us there," she related, "so family members always kid that if I want to go home, all I have to do is to go to Roscommon."

After graduating from Boston College with a B.A. in 1976, she pursued a career in law enforcement, becoming a Boston Police Department patrol officer in 1979 and also studying at New England School of Law. She received her JD in 1982 and soon passed the bar.

She worked in many patrol, investigative, and administrative assignments while moving among law enforcement departments. She rose to become Superintendent/Chief of the old Metropolitan District Police force and also served as a lieutenant colonel overseeing Special Operations in the Massachusetts State Police. Her blend of policing and administrative skills came to the fore when Massachusetts Governor William Weld appointed her as the state's secretary of public safety, where she managed twenty agencies, more than 10,000 employees, and an annual budget that topped \$1 billion.

In 2004, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino named her the city's police commissioner, the first woman to hold the department's top slot. While overseeing a huge budget and more than 3,000 uniformed and civilian personnel, she emphasized collaboration among the police, the community, the Legislature, and political administrations. Her avowed mission was – and remains – a commitment to grassroots approaches that rely upon trust and cooperation between police and the community.

O'Toole was offered a unique opportunity in May 2006, when she was invited to serve with Ireland's Garda Inspectorate, three topnotch law-enforcement professionals tasked with examining and reforming the department's operations, investigative techniques and policies as well as its management and policing strategies. The challenge was to bring about change in a force noted for problems with insubordination, sloppiness, and loose discipline, and she took it on.

Having served on the Patten Commission, which led to the formation of the reformed Police Service of Northern Ireland, she understood the law-enforcement landscape of both Northern Ireland and the Republic. At the end of this year, she will wrap up her tenure as Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, but will continue to serve as an advisor to the department.

Married to retired Boston Police Detective Dan O'Toole, founder of O'Toole Associates LLC, an international consulting firm with offices in Dublin and Boston, O'Toole spoke with the BIR in a recent telephone interview.

**BIR:** What were the major similarities and differences you found between the police departments in Boston and Ireland?

**O'Toole:** We do share a deep common heritage, but there are significant cultural differences that apply both to the Irish police and the Irish community. One of the biggest is the tradition of Irish police not carrying handguns or other arms. We wrestled with the possibility of arming them, but that did not change. ... Even though we do not have officers carrying arms, the use of bulletproof vests is now common. Officers now carry expandable modern



**Kathleen M. O'Toole: 'Lucky to find my vocation.'**

batons instead of the old, small-style ones, and carry pepper spray. The batons are much better and far more humane than nightsticks.

The unique ties between the Irish people and the police, especially in the rural areas, have led us to focus on utilizing improved technology and strengthening community ties. The cop on the beat is embedded in Irish life and remains so, again, especially in the rural regions. Over eighty percent of the Irish have a favorable view of the Garda.

**BIR:** How has your push for vastly improved technology improved the Garda?

**O'Toole:** We've accomplished a great deal on the technology front. The Irish police were lagging in technology a few years back. When I first arrived, we found that there had been slow recognition of technological advances for police work, but the Garda has made huge progress. In 2006, outside Dublin the police had no computerized dispatch system. Now, we've got it, and it works so efficiently. That's one aspect of Ireland that is so different from the U.S. – in Ireland, the police is basically one body. In America, there are close to 18,000 bodies, often competing.

**BIR:** When you accepted the Garda post, did you have any concerns or preconceptions as to how a department so used to doing things its own way, flaws included, would react to you?

**O'Toole:** I did think there would be resistance to both an outsider and woman, but I didn't have any. There was near-total acceptance from the start. That allowed me to hit the ground running in addressing long-standing issues of accountability in the Garda.

My background with the Patten Commission helped me a lot. During that process, cooperation between the Garda and the Northern Ireland forces got so much better, and I got to see how things worked and didn't work. It also gave me a good look at how the Garda operated *before* I took the inspector job in 2006.

What I saw was how increased trust brought genuine cooperation and change, even if it came slowly as first. Today, the dissident Republican issues remain a concern on both sides of the border, and my deep concern is that young people still buy into it. Of course, the economic problems in Ireland now make it worse. Young people are not only asking "what peace dividend" but also looking at an economy that looks bleak to them.

In Northern Ireland, I learned that The Troubles were, and are, rooted as much in the haves versus the have-nots as in political or religious ideology. For the Garda and the Northern Irish police force, we've benefited because most of the Republicans and Loyalists are working together. In the U.S., many in the Irish-American community still haven't completely realized that fact.

**BIR:** What were your first impressions when you first arrived in Ireland to assess and take on the Garda's situation?

**O'Toole:** I set foot in Ireland in the summer of 2006, just in time to find Dublin clearing out for holiday. There were 704 Garda facilities across

Ireland, so I used the lull in Dublin to visit a lot of the rural stations. At all of them, I'd hear something like "no one from Dublin has been here in thirty years." I talked in detail with cops in the outlying posts and quickly realized that they often knew best what did work in their areas, knew the people, and discussed what they thought the Garda brass in Dublin could do to improve everything from efficiency to morale. Their input was extraordinarily helpful.

Throughout my time in Ireland, most of my recommended reforms have emerged from suggestions by police in the field and the people in the communities, whether Dublin or the countryside. Again, it's something I had seen work in over forty community meetings in Northern Ireland with the Patten Commission. The police *need* to hear from the communities they serve. It works to build trust.

**BIR:** How did your years in Boston prepare you for your work in Northern Ireland and the Republic?

**O'Toole:** I learned, from my earliest days as a patrol officer and at every post I held in Boston, that police can't solve things alone. We need the community. Truth is, I loved being a beat/patrol cop. It was my favorite career point, and I've carried what I learned from those days to all I've worked for since both in Boston and in Ireland. In Boston, we learned that prevention, intervention, and the community are as important as actual law enforcement. All have to work together. On an administrative level, in the face of budget cutbacks, I learned that we had to find ways to do more with less.

**BIR:** On your watch, what has been the Garda's response to rising gang violence related especially to drugs, as well as the lingering presence of IRA dissidents?

**O'Toole:** The hardcore gangs, like in the U.S., pose a problem and danger for the police, more so in the larger cities. Here's one key area in which we've instituted necessary changes both to take on the gangs or dissidents and to protect Garda officers. I pushed through the creation of regional support teams armed with semi-automatic handguns and dispatched in "cross-over Volvos. These teams are our answer to armed gang members, dissidents, or situations in which a lone criminal or a disturbed individual is armed. These aren't SWAT teams, but they are highly trained rapid-response units. They wear different caps and jackets to distinguish themselves immediately from our unarmed officers – the community knows that when these teams are in action, the situation is serious. They are the Garda's compromise with traditional Irish police work and the public's perception of the police versus the need for more force against gangs and Republican dissidents or hostage situations.

I've also pushed for ongoing inter-agency cooperation. I've consistently recommended greater collaboration among agencies, and this approach has made a difference.

**BIR:** As the end of your term with the Garda approaches, what are some of your remaining goals for the force?

**O'Toole:** The child sexual-abuse issue concerns me because some of the Irish police were complicit in it years ago. There is no evidence that it happened recently regarding the Garda, but I want to close up *any* potential gaps that could ever allow it again – not just clerical, but in general. We'll be issuing a report on this soon.

We'll also be publishing a report on front-line supervision of police in the field, which is key to consistent, efficient police work.

I want to institute "best practices" techniques [O'Toole has studied business best practices as a master's candidate at Trinity, Dublin] for the Garda. What I've tried to do is "culture-proof" practices that can be fine-tuned for Ireland's police and the communities they serve. We need to bring better business practices to police work everywhere.

**BIR:** To young people mulling a career in law enforcement or even to veteran officers, what would be your advice?

**O'Toole:** I always tell cops or potential cops, "It's a vocation, not a job. Get out of it if you don't feel it." I've been so lucky to find my vocation.



## The Boston Irish Honors 2011 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

# The Corcoran Family learned early on that good, hard work led to opportunities

By Bill Forry

Like many of their first generation peers, the eight children of John and Mary Corcoran grew up with an identity that was far more American than Irish.

The Corcoran clan grew up playing stickball on the streets of Dorchester, a predominantly Irish, working class neighborhood of Uphams Corner where their emigrant parents from Roscommon — Mary and John — settled in 1921.

Within three years they had three children: Mary, John (Jack) and Leo, followed later by Theresa, Claire, Bernadette, Frances and, finally, Joe.

They cringed when relatives and friends from the old country gathered in the parlor to sing along to the strained sounds of an accordion. Still, they too would gather 'round the kitchen table to listen to the animated conversations of aunts and uncles, with their bittersweet stories about the land most had left behind forever.

"It was very much an old country existence," recalled Joe Corcoran in a 2000 interview with the Reporter. "One of my great joys was listening to the audio tape of Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*. It brought me back to that kitchen table. They had the same way of phrasing things, the same sense of humor that I heard when I was growing up. As conversationalists, they were terrific."

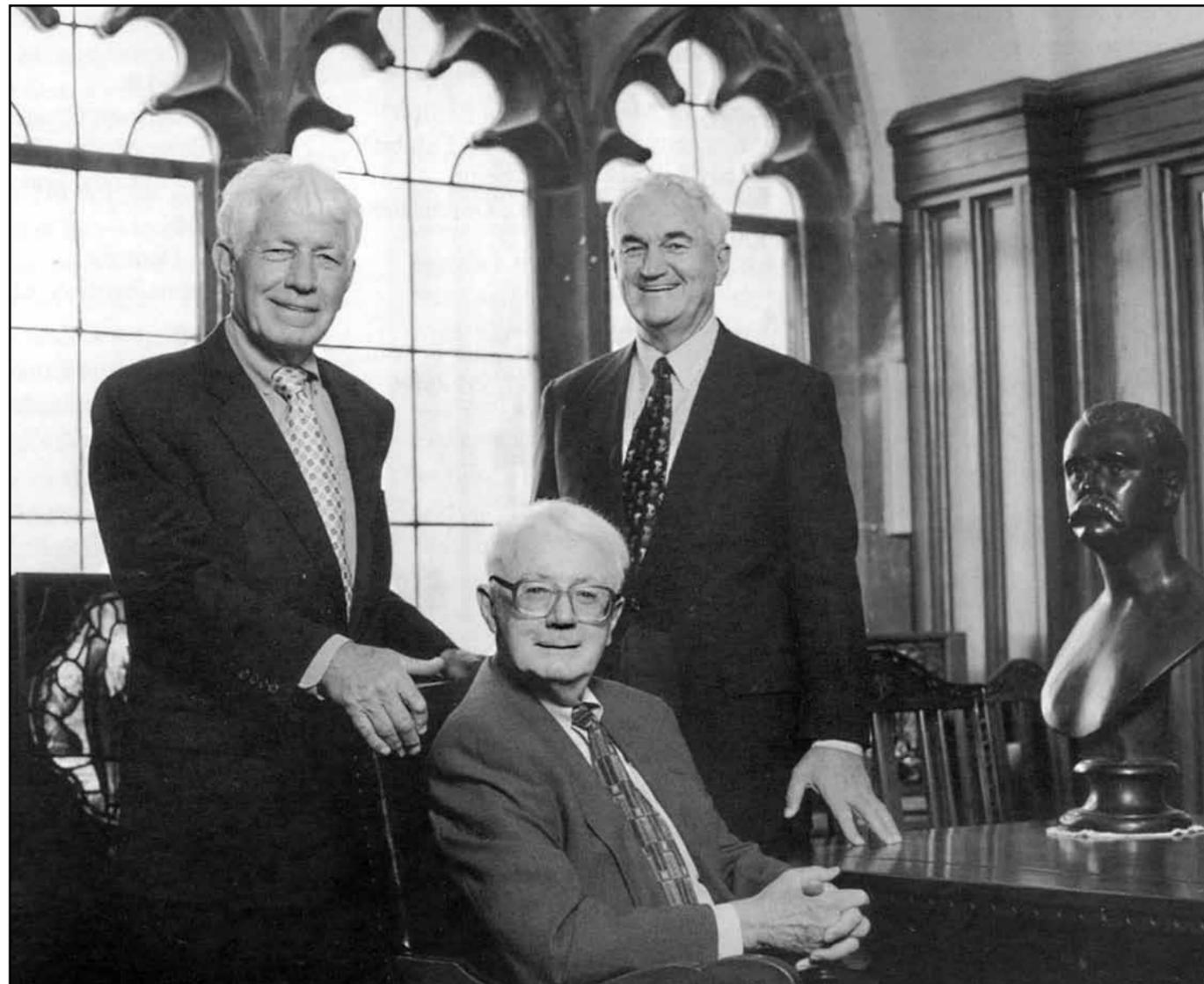
That's not to say that times weren't tough. Somehow, through a Great Depression and amid the constant threat of eviction from their three-decker outpost near St. Margaret's Hospital, the Corcorans found ways to make ends meet and survive. As Joe remembered in a poignant memoir published in 2008, "Our family memory is of my father keeping up the place, doing maintenances, collecting rent from other tenants, and taking the rents down to the bank in exchange for continuing to live in the house. We'll never know the details. But we do know that somehow the family stayed in the house for several years after the bank took it, and somehow there was always food on the table — three meals a day, every day, for 10 people."

At the outbreak of World War II, the Corcorans' eldest son John went off to fight in Europe, while Leo shipped out to the Pacific. At home in Boston, young Joe Corcoran and his five sisters would pray the rosary each night for their brothers' safe return. After several months with no word from John, a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne, anxiety turned to dread. "We didn't know if he was dead or alive," remembers Joe Corcoran.

Finally, his mother received a letter in the mail. John, who had spent a summer with relatives in Ireland as a young boy, began his letter by writing, "Mom, I smelled something today that I haven't smelled since I was seven years old — the sweet smell of turf burning on the fire." Joe recalls, "My mother gasped, 'He's alive! And he's in Ireland!'"

In fact, John was in Northern Ireland, preparing to parachute into Normandy, where he would be wounded in the D-Day invasion.

Both Corcoran brothers survived their tours and returned home to start their own families — and eventually — a wildly successful real estate business. Like millions of their comrades, all three brothers



The late John and Leo (seated), and Joseph Corcoran in the Burns Library at Boston College in 2000.

Patrick McNamara photo for the World of Hibernia.

found their whole direction altered by the opportunities of the G.I. Bill. Joe enlisted in the army and then followed his older brother John to Boston College, the Jesuit university which was the preferred route for thousands of Boston Irishmen in the middle of the last century.

Despite the real and perceived barriers that still presented themselves to young Irish-Americans, the Corcoran brothers were undaunted as they began to build their own careers in real estate development.

"We were a lot more confident than our parents were," said John in 2000. "We knew we were at least as smart as anyone else — if not smarter. And you knew you were an American and you had the right to try."

As his older brothers churned out new homes through the 1950s, Joe Corcoran began his career as an English teacher in the Boston Public Schools before embarking on a short-lived political campaign. Joe lost his first and only race for state representative in 1963, in part because he was more interested in talking issues than pandering to individual voters.

Instead, Joe Corcoran went on to build his own Boston-based real estate development empire. His company, Corcoran Jennison, which he still runs with his son Joseph J. Corcoran, has specialized in building and restoring mixed-income housing developments in urban areas. Only 25 years ago, skeptics mocked Corcoran's proposal to rehabilitate Columbia Point, once the city's most decrepit and dangerous housing project.

Today, the Harbor Point development is an international success story — and

Corcoran is hailed as a visionary for his persistence. The achievement — and others which have followed — make Corcoran's electoral shortfall all the easier to swallow.

"I could be in the legislature for 30 years and not have an accomplishment like that," says Corcoran.

Originally, Joe Corcoran says that he wanted to fund a non-profit organization in the North of Ireland to help target some of the social ills in the region. Instead, he has subscribed to the "peace through commerce" philosophy prescribed by fellow Boston-Irish entrepreneurs like John Cullinane.

"In some respects, we're a good compromise for Protestant and Catholics. They trust us. They know now that we don't have any axe to grind," says Corcoran.

The detente between the Boston Irish and Belfast has been eased along by gestures sanctioned by John and Joe Corcoran, who have both served on the Boston College Board of Trustees. BC helped set a conciliatory tone in Boston by awarding honorary degrees to such figures as Bertie Ahern, John Hume, and David Trimble.

"We knew it would be controversial," says Corcoran. "It was a unanimous feeling that it was an overture to the process by letting them know that we were sympathetic to their stance as well as the other point of view."

The Corcoran brothers were also among the first Boston businessmen to sign onto the efforts of the fledgling American Ireland Fund in the 1970s. Joe Corcoran, who sits on the AIF's board, says the organization has allowed him to



John Corcoran and Mary Merrigan at their wedding in 1921.

Corcoran family photo

direct his philanthropy where it matters most to him — in the North of Ireland.

"The AIF does a very good job of ferreting out where these programs are making a difference. In my view, there's a window of opportunity there that we really have to focus on," says Joe.

The Corcoran family's philanthropy has extended far beyond their parents; homeland and their impact locally has been profound. One of Leo Corcoran's

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## The Boston Irish Honors 2011



Joe Corcoran, fourth from right, front row, in his eighth-grade class picture from St. Peter's Grammar School in Dorchester.

# All roads led to St. Peter's Grammar School

All our family and our gang of friends went to St. Peter's School for the elementary grades. The girls' classes were in Ronan Hall; the boys' classes were in a larger building on Bowdoin Street, as were the mixed classes with boys and girls. For some reason I can't remember, only Leo and I ended up in the mixed classes. There were 45 to 50 children in each class, with three separate classes for each grade – in total, more than 1,000 kids.

The nuns at St. Peter's were big figures in our lives. Although my memories are very positive about the nuns, not everyone feels the same way. There's one story Frances tells that happened when

she was about seven years old.

**Frances:** "I was coasting on my sled and I hit the iceman's truck. I had to go in the hospital. I had a big cut in my head that had to be stitched and they kept me in hospital for two nights. I must have had a concussion. I remember Jack coming in to visit me. I remember the iceman coming in to visit me too, and I felt bad for him. He was a very nice man, Mr. Simpson. "I also remember the school nuns – the two nuns – were both going to come and visit me. I hated my first grade teacher and I disliked my second grade teacher. I remember pleading with my mother. Couldn't she just tell them I had died? Then I would never have to

go to school again. I had no idea that my mother wanted me to go to school; I thought these nuns were the ones."

The annual tuition was \$2 per student to go to St. Peter's School. If you had more than two kids, the older one paid full tuition, but the others only had to pay half. Some kids didn't go to St. Peter's because of the cost.

The Mather School was the alternative public school. Our neighborhood was mostly Catholic, so it was very unusual that you'd know a kid who went to the public school. But \$2 was a lot of money, so some parents would send their kids to the Mather. Parochial school kids considered Mather School

kids as somewhat inferior.

I remember with great fondness Sister Bernard Marie, Sister Joseph Bernadette, Sister Joseph Claire, Sister Helen Therese, and many others who were kind to all the students. There were a few I was not fond of, but being a good student and a conformist in those days, I have positive memories of St. Peter's and all the dedicated nuns who gave us a terrific education.

I also have great memories of all the kids. At a reunion in the 1990s, one of the guys had copies of photos of our eighth grade class of 47 kids. I could name all but three, even though I hadn't seen half of them since graduation.

## 'There's no place like America.'

In 2008, Joseph E. Corcoran and his siblings authored and published a memoir of their childhood (1925-1950) and entitled it "Wasn't That a Time!" The volume, which was dedicated to "the next generation" – includes dozens of poignant anecdotes about their parents and their loving, although often challenging upbringing in Dorchester's Uphams Corner neighborhood.

### Frances, on her Mother

"Although she did work very hard, somehow she didn't have a quick way about her – more a slow, comfortable posture all the time, a very gentle manner. And she always had time for her tea and a chat. She always seemed to be there. After school, she had that cup of tea with everyone as they came in – with real tea, no tea bags. For laughs she would often read the tea leaves at bottom of the cup and tell each of us what she saw in our future. And we would pay strict attention. Maybe we thought she brought those mystical powers of insight from the old country."

### Frances, on her Father

"My father was a very quiet man. I think he was always quiet by nature, but perhaps grew more so when he arrived in American because he was self-conscious about his thick brogue. Most people found him difficult to understand. I know we had a hard time understanding him, particularly when he was upset. Not that we would ever tell *him* that!

"He had a way about him that commanded respect. Not because he required it, but because you felt he



All for one, one for all: the Corcoran family from a long-ago time.

deserved it. I remember meeting one of the nurses he worked with many years before at St. Margaret's [hospital]. She said that while all of the men on the staff, regardless of their age, were 'Bill,' 'Tom,' or 'Patrick,' my father was always 'Mr. Corcoran.'"

### Theresa, on her Mother

My mother was very approachable – extremely warm, sympathetic. She let people talk and she listened. You never minded telling her anything. I think she was very well-liked by people in the neighborhood. I would say in those days if any of the neighborhood women confided in anybody, it would have been my mother."

### Joe, on his Mother

"Ma had a certain friendly, yet dignified, manner. As a Irish immigrant, she had worked for Yankee households for eight years. She admired their manners, and I think she tried to adopt some of those manners into our household. There was never a swear word of any kind uttered in our house by any of us, or anyone else.... She kept the parlor closed off from the rest of the house. When we had visitors they would be guided by her, or by one of us, directly from the front door to the parlor, which was right off the front hall. This isolated parlor was a feature of each house we lived in. I think it gave her a feeling of being able to maintain a place of privacy and

order in an otherwise fast-moving and turbulent household.

"She also spent a great deal of time with her lace curtains, washing them regularly and stretching them on wooden frames. I'm not sure what the qualifications for 'lace curtain Irish' were, but if it required anything material beyond those curtains and a separate parlor, the Corcoran family didn't qualify."

### Frances, on her Mother

"She would often refer to what she would call 'American nonsense.' She thought it was silly – people dressing up in green for St. Patrick's Day. She said, 'Oh, that's Irish-American; that's

(Continued on page 27)



## The Boston Irish Honors 2011 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

# For the busy Hunts of Dorchester, a death in the family helps keep life in perspective

By Jack Thomas  
Special to the BIR

For all the remarkable accomplishments of the Hunt Family of Dorchester – Jim’s success as head of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, his wife Jean’s career as a nurse practitioner, and the success of their three sons – James III as Boston’s chief of environmental-energy services, Peter as financial planner at New York Life Insurance Co., and Daniel as director of government affairs at the Department of Conservation and Recreation – for all that prosperity, the history of the Hunt family of Dorchester is marked by a monstrous illness that struck another son, 11-year-old Matthew Hunt, during a few moments of innocent play on Mother’s Day, 1984.

It was about 7:45, and following dinner, as his mom and dad went for a walk in their Pope’s Hill neighborhood, Matthew was playing in the back yard of his Tulesboro Street home when he suffered a brain aneurysm and fell to the ground, unconscious. Alerted by neighbors, Jim and Jean raced home, and as Jim telephoned for help, Jean knelt to nurse her son. In the ambulance to the Carney Hospital, Matthew regained consciousness and apologized to his mother for ruining Mother’s Day. Two days later, he lapsed into a coma again, and for weeks, the Hunt family maintained a vigil at Matthew’s bedside, holding his hand, grateful for the occasional squeeze back. They talked to him about baseball and Michael Jackson.

“What happens is that your faith, your family, and your fraternity – they all kick in,” recalls his father, “and you either keep hope or you don’t. We never lost hope and never questioned our faith. We spent lots of time trying to get him to respond, but you could never be sure whether responses were real or reflexive. People would say, ‘I don’t know how you do it,’ and I’d say, ‘Tell me how you don’t do it.’”

Searching for words that might penetrate Matthew’s coma, members of his family described the handmade cards from fifth-grade classmates at St. Ann’s School on Neponset Avenue. Weeks stretched into months, and they read to him from hundreds of letters from family, friends, and even strangers. From the Boston Home, he was wheeled to the curb for the passing-by of the Dorchester Day parade.

“I’ve never seen a family more devoted to a youngster,” close friend and former state senator Paul White said at the time. “They were always by his side, yet never neglected their other sons.”

As months stretched into years, and through major surgeries for Matthew, at hospitals and at rehabilitation centers, the Hunt family spent patient hours at his bedside, praying for his return. Three years later, on graduation day, while Matthew remained in a coma, St. Ann’s School awarded him an honorary elementary school degree. Determined to hold the family together on special occasions like Christmas, Thanksgiving and Mother’s Day, Jim and Jean would arrange for Matthew to be transported home, by ambulance,



L-r: Peter, Holly Hunt; Robin, Jim Hunt III; Jean, Jim Hunt, Jr; Daniel J. Hunt

for overnight visits.

Finally, after 18 years of struggle for Matthew, and 18 years of agony for his family, on Sun., Oct. 20, 2002, Matthew Hunt died. Or as *The Boston Globe* put it, Matthew Hunt died for the second time.”

“As tragic as it was,” says Matthew’s brother Jim, “in many respects, it brought our family closer together. My parents were extremely attentive to my brother’s needs, and they ensured that, despite being in an institutional setting, Matthew felt a part of our family. I am

awestruck that they were able to take care of us all, and at the same time, strengthen the family.”

At his office at the League of Community Health Centers on Court Street, overlooking City Hall Plaza, Jim Hunt arrives for an interview with a genial greeting, and – knowing there will be questions about Matthew and that awful moment 26 years ago – he is clutching a handful of tissues, in case he sheds more tears.

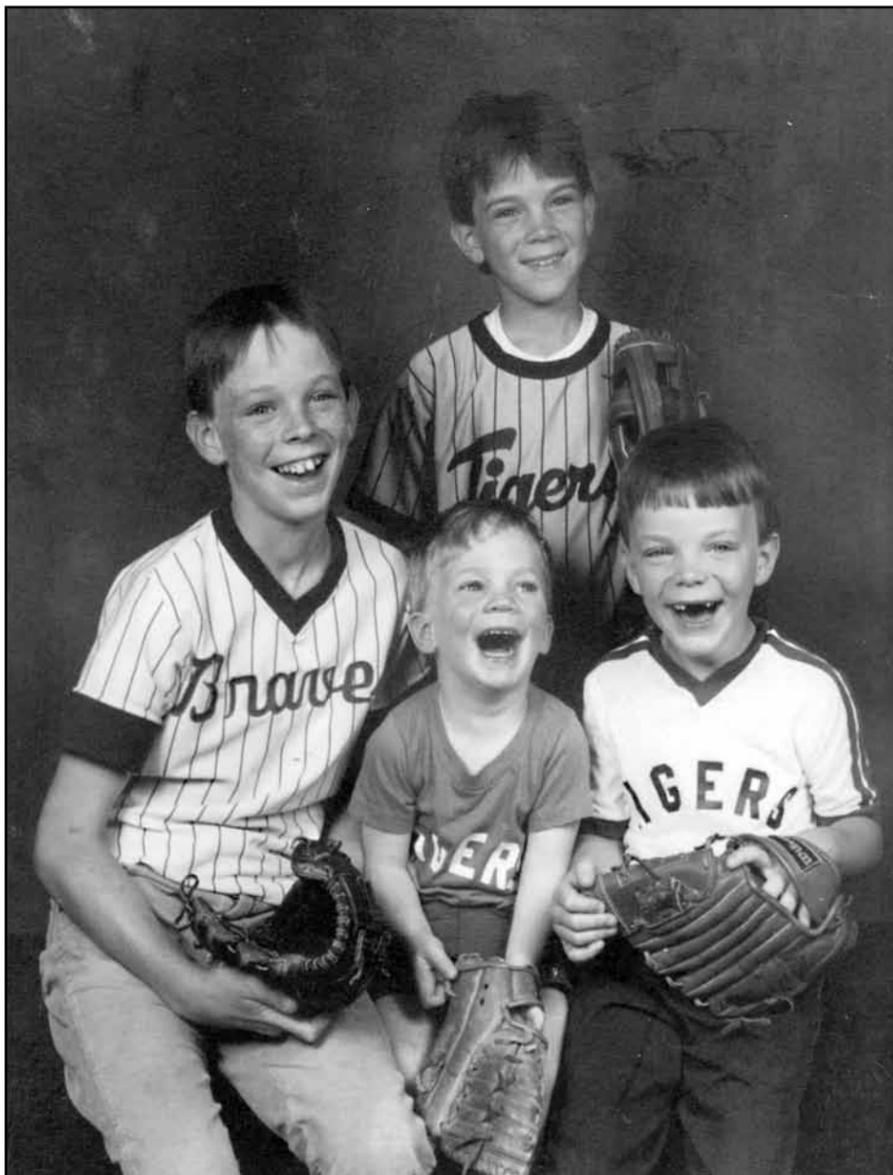
By all accounts, Matthew Hunt was a good boy. He pitched and played shortstop for his Little League team, the Tigers. He played basketball in the driveway, and he idolized Michael Jackson. He rode his bicycle everywhere, often with a baseball bat on his shoulder. His bedroom was a model of anarchy. He was a newsboy, hawking the *Globe* on Sunday mornings in front of Linda Mae’s on Morrissey Blvd., then rushing up the hill for Mass at St. Ann’s.

“Matthew was the ice cream man,” said his father. “Everybody loved him.”

The Irish in Boston take pride in their reputation for loyalty to one another, and especially within families, but in the care given to Matthew, the Hunts set a remarkable standard for love, for faith, and for family.

“We were all devastated, said brother Jim. “But my parents made sure Matthew got the best of medical care and was in settings that made him comfortable, and at the same time, they remained attentive to the needs of raising four boys, which is a handful by itself. They made sure they were involved in the lives of their other sons, in our athletics, in showing up at our baseball and basketball games, and making sure we got the necessary parenting.”

Coalescing in the care of Matthew were not just Jim and Jean, but other members of the family and neighbors



THE HUNT BOYS in April 1984: Jim III at left, Matthew in back, Daniel below, Peter at right.



## The Boston Irish Honors 2011

throughout Neponset and also members of St. Ann's parish, and even people they did not know.

"All of that speaks to the Irish culture, as well as to Dorchester neighborhoods," said Jim III. "To have that support – you don't even have to lean on them. They step forward to offer not only thoughts and prayers, but also a helping hand for the family."

Beyond Matthew's illness, says Paul White, the Hunt family has made an impressive contribution to Dorchester and to their Irish heritage.

"Matthew's illness is an aspect of their remarkable family journey," says White, "but if you step into the history of Jim and Jean, they are models of a close neighborhood and the best of Irish character. They come from Irish neighborhoods, Neponset and Mission Hill, and they exemplify their character of caring for others without being intrusive. Jim came from a modest background, but I have been in his house when Ted Kennedy called to talk about medical care. I have been with him when he's talked with members of Congress or the Senate about health care, or in Massachusetts with the House speaker or Senate president. He's a national spokesman for health care because he talks in layman's terms about complicated legislation and translates it into positive policy decisions.

"And Jean comes from several generations of people who have worked in health care, and she's a proficient, accomplished nurse with advanced training and education. So, health care is the energy that motivates this family on one level, and public service on the other, and now they have raised a generation of children also active in public affairs."

Jim Hunt's roots are in County Leitrim and County Mayo. His grandmother was a "domestic" in Boston's Back Bay. His grandfather, Thomas Hunt, was on his way to church one Sunday morning in 1955 when he was killed by a bus on Neponset Avenue. He was a builder of houses on Houghton St, in the Dorchester neighborhood where Jim grew up and now lives. "We have been a presence on Houghton Street for the past 125 years."

His father, James Sr. – my "service hero," as Jim Jr. describes him – was assistant to the postmaster of Boston. A union activist and treasurer of Local 51-100 of the Postal Clerks Union, he taught his children the importance of politics. He was a modest man, and it was not until after he died that young Jim learned his father had won a bronze star in the Battle of the Bulge. James Sr. demonstrated his commitment to public service by leading a fraternal association for postal clerks. "That meant he did things for people," says Jim, "from running Christmas parties, to helping the sick, to caring in time of bereavement."

For Jim, an odd incident in his senior year at Boston Technical High School launched him into a career in politics and community activism. He was head of a political club at school, and one day in 1967 Boston Mayor John Collins stopped by. He was so impressed with Jim and two other boys from Dorchester that he had the city hire them as engineering aides. "We were hired because Collins took a shine to us, and the promise was that we would work for the city and go to



**Children, grandchildren: From left, Ellen Hunt, Robin Hunt, Peter Hunt, holding Finn Hunt, Daniel Hunt, Matthew Hunt, on shoulders of dad Jim Hunt III, Holly Hunt, with Madison. Recently born, but not pictured: Nolan James Hunt.**

school at the city's expense," says Jim.

A month later, when Collins announced he would not run for reelection, thus jeopardizing the jobs of the three boys, they took the civil service examination, and thanks to their education at Boston Tech, they passed. "It's the only engineering exam I passed in my life," says Hunt.

Bitten by the political bug, Jim became active in Ward 16 politics. He served on parish committees at St. Ann's, was elected president of the powerful Pope's Hill Neighborhood Association, ran for state representative, and in a race for Governor's Council, he nearly knocked off the legendary and notorious Patrick J. (Sonny) McDonough.

In 1970, popping up across the state were community health centers, which now serve 20 million people nationwide. Jean was instrumental in organizing several, including one on the site of the old Minot School, near Neponset Circle. She induced Jim to volunteer, and in 1975, he began advising the League of Community Health Centers on political strategy.

He continued at his day job, as a city employee, and among his responsibilities was the hydrant program – deterring kids from turning on hydrants on hot days. "The police wanted to break their heads, but I hired multi-cultural crews to help negotiate and offer sprinklers for the neighborhoods if the kids would agree not to open the hydrants."

In 1977, Jim received an offer that changed the course of his life. Over dinner at a diner in Watertown, he was invited to work for the League full time. He hesitated, though, for it would mean a \$10,000 cut in pay and loss of his tenured job with the city.

"Do it," said Jean with enthusiasm. "I'll work an extra day at the hospital to make up the difference."

Civil engineering's loss proved to be a grand gain for public service and health care. As director of health resources for the League, a modest operation with



**GRACIE HUNT, summer 1995**

four employees working in a rundown office in Roxbury. Jim was responsible for analyzing legislation. A year later, when the director was let go, Jim was summoned to see the chairman. "I assumed I was going to be fired, but instead he asked me to apply for the job as director."

Jim found an organization deeply in debt and paralyzed by petty squabbling. "The city and the health centers statewide were at loggerheads over racial and financial issues, and two things occurred to me," he now recalls. "First, I remembered my father's training – that is, there was too much bonding these people for them to be fighting, so let's find what binds rather than what separates them. We'd have hours of meetings, and they'd be yelling and screaming at one other, and my strategy was to create a coalition and leave divisions in the parking lot."

Among the debts was a hefty loan that was taken to finance a shared laboratory among health centers, even though the centers had vetoed the idea.

"I had two choices," says Jim. "Fib or tell the truth. I decided to tell the truth. So, I went to the bank and said to the chairman, 'I'm a kid. I'm 28. Of the \$100,000 you gave us, we owe you



**JAMES W. HUNT Sr., circa 1962.**

\$55,000. The League is broke. I have to lay off staff. I have only \$14,000 in the checking account. I don't know how I can pay you back."

The banker surprised Jim, as he recalls, saying: "I appreciate that. We'll write off the loan. Have a nice day."

"I said to myself, 'Wow! Transparency works.' But still, I had to scale the staff down to zero."

To elevate the image of the League state-wide, he moved the office to Boylston Street, to the Colonial Theater office building, third floor, back room, no window, where the League remained for 25 years before moving to its Court Street location.

The organization Jim inherited, which had a no staff, a lackluster reputation, and overwhelming debt, today has a budget of \$10 million, 25 employees, and a reputation as one of the most respected primary care associations in the United States. Among several corporations under its umbrella, for example, is the Commonwealth Purchasing Group, which helps community centers save thousands of dollars a year on supplies, services, and equipment that they use every day.

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## The Boston Irish Honors 2011 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

# Love and stability marked daily life for the Mulvoys on Lonsdale Street

By Jack Thomas  
Special to the BIR

For the Irish boy from Dorchester, it was *the* dream job, managing editor of the *Boston Globe*. Originally from Dorchester, originally from St. Mark's Parish, and originally from the shared-by-four-boys back bedroom of a first-floor flat at 22 Lonsdale Street, he was, once upon a time and by the way, a nimble second baseman for the Shamrocks of Wainwright Park. As managing editor, he was responsible for every story on Page One, and indeed, to some extent, he shared responsibility for every story, every day in the *Globe*.

One Friday night in the mid-1980s, not long after he was promoted to managing editor, the first edition having been put to bed, Tom left the newsroom and, as he sometimes did before heading home, he drove up Ashmont Street to Sonny's, a pub on Adams Street, looking forward to a beer with buddies he'd known since grammar school.

Standing at the bar that night, one of the regulars at Sonny's turned to Mulvoy and asked a troubling question. "You're the managing editor of the *Globe*," he said. "Do you think you're slumming when you come in here?"

Mulvoy was puzzled.

"Do I look like I'm slumming?" he said. "I'm here with my friends. I have friends at the *Globe*. I have friends from school, and from my golf club, and I have friends here I grew up with," he said, pointing to Clutch Glendon, the O'Connell brothers, and others, "and these are friends who count."

Even now, decades later, the encounter haunts Mulvoy, for the question insinuated economic class, challenged the meaning of friendship, and wakened conflicts between the lure of suburbs and loyalty to old Irish neighborhoods.

"I always thought of myself as one of the guys, but at Sonny's that night, this guy couldn't believe that a *Globe* managing editor would go into a bar in Dorchester at midnight. Yes, I could have gone to a place like the Tavern Club, but Sonny's is where I belonged."

If a film director needed a typical Irish family from mid-20th Century Dorchester, the casting director would have sent the Mulvoys – Thomas F. Sr., who arrived from Galway in 1921, and his wife, Julia Harrington, who were married 51 years, and their four sons and one daughter, who include, in addition to Tom, Jr.:

- Mark, 70, retired as managing editor of *Sports Illustrated*, serves on the board of Adams Golf and as president of the National Senior Golf Association. He summers in Rye, NY, and winters in Vero Beach, FL.

- Bob, 67, of Abington, is a retired accountant who works part time for the Carney Family, owners of Raynham Park.

- Jim, 62, who recently moved from Michigan to Port St. Lucie, FL., and is now retired from his position as an attorney who specialized in trusts.

- Mary Elizabeth Mulvoy Lofty, 64, of Racine, WI, has been involved in early-childhood education and development for more than 30 years. She is now a consultant for YoungStar in Wisconsin, a state-wide quality improvement project for child care providers.

The story of the Mulvoy family is best told by Tom, however, because after retiring from the *Globe* in 2000, and after teaching journalism at Boston College for six years, he is working as an associate editor of *The Reporter* newspapers in Dorchester, which affords him the opportunity to write on their editorial pages about life on Lonsdale Street back in the day. Just as Irish writers of earlier generations celebrated Ireland's historic tradition and its Roman Catholic past, so, too, Mulvoy the columnist celebrates the historic traditions of Dorchester, its Irish culture, Catholic heritage, and fidelity to family life.

The Mulvoys were a living definition of stability. Immigrating from Ireland, Tom Senior, lived first in Somerville, then, after his marriage, in Dorchester for 35 years. Julia, who much preferred to be called Julie, was born in Quincy in 1912, one of seven Harringtons. She moved to Dorchester the next year, and lived there for 62 years, initially in her family's home on Allston Street, and then five blocks away, with her husband, on Lonsdale Street. Their five children gave them 17 grandchildren.

As noted by Jim and Mary, in a eulogy read at Julie's funeral in 2002, she loved her five children: (1) Mark, as her "take charge" guy; (2) Tommy, from the first days of his life when she held him, to the last days of her life when he held her; (3) Bobby, as her source of funny stories, which were never in short supply in the Mulvoy household, from the time Tabby, the cat, put a dead mouse in Julie's shoe, to the party at Jimmy's Harborside for her 60th birthday, when Bobby Orr leaned



Julie and Tom Mulvoy Sr. approaching 50 years of marriage.

down and kissed her; (4) Mary, as her Lizzie Tish, "my daughter with the biggest heart"; (5) Jim, as a successful attorney but to the end her "baby doll."

For kids like the Mulvoys, the mid-20th century was a grand time, and Lonsdale Street a great place to live, for much of Dorchester then was a concrete playground with urban amusements more delightful than the verdant setting that was Tom Sawyer's pastoral playland along the Mississippi.

"Hemenway Park was down one end of our street, and the Wainwright was a few blocks the other way," recalls Jim. "So if any of us skinned our knees, there were 15 houses where we could stop for a bandage before we got home. It was good because everybody watched out for everybody else. It was bad because you couldn't get away with anything."

Life on Lonsdale was not unlike life on blocks throughout the Irish neighborhoods of Dorchester. "As for kids," Tom Mulvoy once wrote, "the street and contiguous front and back yards constituted their playgrounds. During those quiet years under Truman and Eisenhower, our mothers would send us out to play along the street and tell us to come home for our PB&J sandwiches. Then it was out to the street again, and back for dinner at six ... we did get inside from time to time ... Eleanor Murphy and her husband Jack had the first television in the neighborhood, and kids were welcome to watch Howdy Doody on the 12-inch screen ..."

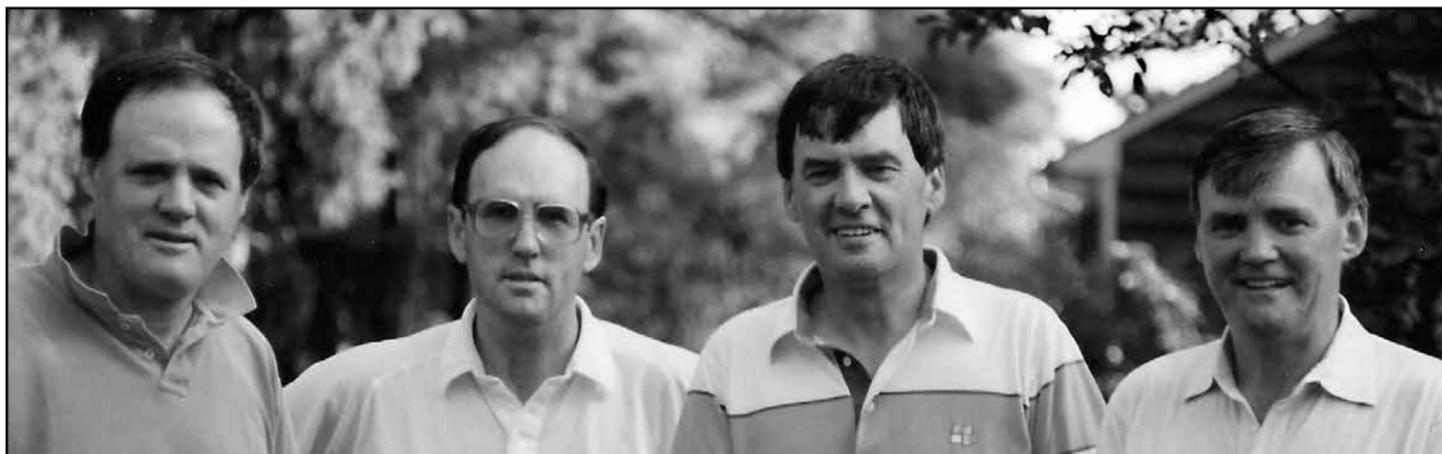
No stranger to travail, Tom was 12 when a doctor diagnosed the boy's knife-like stomach pangs as an ulcer. The pain became so debilitating that Tom was sometimes hospitalized, once

for two weeks. His years at Boston College High School were burdened by pain, pink pills, and missed classes. At Boston College, where he majored in politics and philosophy, the pain worsened, and soon after graduation, at age 21, while working at the Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course, Tom collapsed, went into shock the next day, and was rushed to Carney Hospital for surgery to remove 80 percent of his stomach. In two months, he went from a milk-fed 205 pounds to 145.

Through all of this, he never stopped fantasizing about working for a newspaper, especially the *Globe*.

"It's a cliché, but there were four newspapers in our house, and in the early mornings, Mark [then known as Skip] and I would steal our landlady's *Boston Post*, read it, and then fold it just right and put it back in the front hall before she knew it was gone. My mother wanted us to put an elastic on it, but I said that it didn't come with an elastic. I'm sure the landlady knew we did this, and I think that sometimes she waited to retrieve her paper so we could read it. As a teenager, I used to talk about reading A.J. Liebling, and so my godmother, Auntie Ann, gave me a subscription to the *New Yorker*, and I decided I wanted to be part of the newspaper world."

Through connections at B.C., Mark was hired by the layout department at the *Globe* in the early 1960s, and he hoped it would lead to a job in the sports department. Within a week, however, while driving a *Globe* car, he was involved in a fender-bender, and he was fired. As the boss put it, "We don't have time to invest in people who get into accidents."



Julie and Tom's team: Mark, Tom, Jim, Bob, and Mary.



## The Boston Irish Honors 2011

Mark's dream seemed dashed, but the Mulvoy boys were about to learn a lesson in power politics. As so often happens in Boston's Irish culture, a call was made, and although Mark was merely a sophomore at BC, he was summoned to the Globe for a meeting with William O. Taylor, whose family owned the newspaper and who later became publisher. Taylor agreed to hire Mark back, but not at his old job. Instead, Mark was told he would have to work as a copy boy in sports, if that was all right. Mark left the Globe grateful to the "jerk" who collided with the Globe vehicle.

In 1965, the week after Mark was recruited by Sports Illustrated, Tom applied for a job at the paper, ignoring a warning by his father, a product of the Depression, that the Post Office would be more secure. An editor judged Tom promising, but inexperienced, and farmed him to WPLM radio in Plymouth for two years, after which the Globe hired him as a copy editor.

Journalism proved a wise choice, however, for as years went by, Tom was well-liked, respected as an editor, and given additional responsibilities along the way.

"Tom had challenges in life," recalls former Globe Editor Matthew Storin, "but he never changed his values. He was always at work on time, never slacked off in his responsibilities, was polite and respectful to colleagues, and never left till the job was done."

As a reward, in 1982, the *Globe* granted Tom a year off, with salary, for a fellowship at Stanford.

"Colleagues there would say, you're a provincial character, but you have so many interests," Tom recalls, "and I never understood why they couldn't coexist. At Stanford, I was studying the world, so, why can't I do that in Boston? Why go to New York, as Mark did? He couldn't wait to get out, but I'm a Boston guy. You couldn't dynamite me out of Boston."

There were temptations, though.

"Mark knew a guy who might hire me for Time magazine, but I said I had no interest. I would not go if they doubled my salary. Then, in 1989, here I am, managing editor of the *Globe*, and there's Connie Bruck in the *New Yorker* telling me that managing editors at Time-Life all earned more than a million a year – and my older brother was managing editor of *Sports Illustrated*. But I didn't need a million dollars."



The widowed Barbara Mulvoy was a long way from her early-years cottage in Galway when she posed with 19 of her 23 grandchildren a short time before her death in 1960.

Returning from Stanford, Tom was introduced by Storin to a colleague, Anastasia Vakina Coulianos, and for the first time, Tom was in love. He was 42, and she was 25.

"Anastasia was a woman of take-no-prisoner beauty," recalls Storin. "She was dignified and reserved, and she smoked king-size cigarettes while transcribing news stories from reporters all over the world. For Tom, that was the meaningful change – the transition from bachelor who cared for aging parents and listened to "Madam Butterfly" on a record player to a husband and father and leader of his own brood."

After a two-year courtship, they married, bought a home in West Roxbury, and gave birth to four sons, Stephen in 1986, Michael in 1989, Nicholas in 1994, and Benjamin in 1999. For a while, life seemed nearly perfect, but lurking ahead was what Storin called "cruel fate."

In 1989, Anastasia contracted Hepatitis C, presumably the result of a transfusion of tainted blood during delivery of her second son. She developed cirrhosis, and after a long struggle, on June 19, 2006, she died,

with Tom at her bedside.

Six months later, Tom was diagnosed with a malignancy, and a kidney was removed. Meanwhile, his son, Nick, who had contracted hepatitis from birth through his mother, had been undergoing intensive treatment, although in 2006, Tom was able to report to the Mulvoy family: "After 48 needle shots of the drug Interferon and 2016 pills of the drug Ribavarin, 20 Wednesday morning visits to Children's Hospital, where he underwent 18 blood takings, one liver biopsy, and two liver scans, we were told today that Nick is free of the Hepatitis C virus that he had had since birth."

No one challenged Tom's observation: "God owed us one."

One day in the fall after Anastasia's death, at noon, under a sunny sky, Tom scattered her ashes across the waters off Cape Cod, as she had requested. As Tom wrote to his sons that night, "Our precious memories of a very loving wife and mother will never go away ..."

As he now says, "Emotionally, it's lonely, but I have a constant reminder in the four children she and I made, and that means you do your job in raising them. You don't set the sadness aside,

but you set it in context. She's not here, and she's not going to be here, and yet, the four boys are, and I owe it to her not to let anguish overtake practicality."

As a result, instead of dispatching reporters, and juggling news reports from around the world, and fine-tuning Page One, Tom sometimes spends his evenings at the kitchen stove, fine-tuning spaghetti and meatballs, or whipping up a batch of 60 chocolate chip cookies that disappear faster than the Red Sox pennant chances.

"We had a marriage that worked for 21 years," he says, "but I have no intention of marrying again unless I get smacked upside the head the way as I did with Anastasia. It would be too much of a complication. I've got these four sons – and Steve and Ben are both on the autistic spectrum. They're high performing – Steve's in grad school now – but autism brings special elements into a person's life. The boys fill my days."

Stephen, now 24, graduated from Mount Ida College and is now chasing a master's in elementary education at Lesley University. Michael, 22, is a senior at the University of New Hampshire, and he is looking to a career in law enforcement. Nick, 17, is a senior at Medfield High School, and Benjamin, 12, a seventh-grader at Blake Middle School in Medfield.

What takes the pressure off these days, for Tom, is golf. "My sons, Stephen, Michael, and Nick, understand that, and they volunteer – Stephen will say, 'Dad, you haven't played golf in a while. I'm free this afternoon. Why don't I take care of Ben, and you play golf.' To me, that's a big deal."

Often mentioned in the Mulvoy family is the benefit of Irish culture in Dorchester.

As Jim recalls, it was integral. "My father came from Ireland in 1921, and when I got into Notre Dame Law, he cried to hear his son would go to Notre Dame."

For 36 years on Lonsdale Street, the Mulvoys lived with a monthly reminder of Irish generosity to one another. In 1940, when Tom and Julia

### Living at Number 22 sixty years ago

**Skip:** God forbid one of us ever answered Talbot-5-7021 on the first or second ring. Somerville-to-Dorchester was a long distance call in the '40s and '50s, but Dorchester-to-Somerville wasn't, so Granny called every night at 7 and hung up after the second ring. Which, of course, was the signal for Dad to call his mother. ... At 6:45 every night, wherever we were, at home or in Dick Leen's car, we said the Rosary with Cardinal Cushing on WMEX. In 1967 I brought some Game 7 World Series tickets home to Mom and Dad and invited some *Sports Illustrated* colleagues home to say hello. Oops! On came the real Cardinal, not a St. Louis Cardinal, and we all went to the floor at Dad's command, including the two non-Catholics with me. The Cardinal asked us to pray for rain "so

Mr. Lonborg can get more rest." No luck. The Red Sox lost Game 7 in perfect Indian Summer weather.

**Bob:** Dinner every night was a true family affair. Dad would round the corner at Ogar's Drug Store at 5 p.m., and one or more of us would run to greet him. He would get a shot of "medicine" out of the kitchen cabinet while Mom prepared supper for sit down at 6, always 6. ... Dad certainly had a bit of a temper, which surfaced regularly when we were young and maybe unruly, but what I remember most about Dad was his extraordinary devotion to his mother. Never did a night go by without a call to Somerville to check on things with her. Mom certainly had the same devotion to her family especially with her three sisters. These early

examples of respect have definitely had an effect on my behavior toward my family, both the one I was born into and the one I helped to create with my wife Peg.

**Mary:** My grandmother died when I was 13. I remember her coming to our house to help with ironing and other chores after my little sister Patty Anne died in 1953. She lived in Somerville in a house she bought during the Depression with money she received when she sold the family land in Ireland after coming to America in 1921 with three of her four children. My grandfather had died in 1915, leaving her with three children and one on the way. Barbara Mulvoy was made of stern stuff and it showed as she managed her family affairs until her death at age 83.

# Life with Mary and Anna Ford at 22 Lonsdale Street

By Thomas F. Mulvoy, Jr.

From the *Dorchester Reporter*,  
July 2003

The other day, a young friend of mine, a journalist of promise whose focus is on Dorchester, told me that he and two pals were looking into renting a place on Lonsdale street, which runs east to west from Hemenway Park on Adams Street up to Dorchester Avenue, where the low numbers begin. "What kind of rent are you looking at?" I asked him. "\$450 plus utilities," he said, "for each of us."

As happens more and more these days, as I move halfway through age 60, any mention of Dorchester and St. Mark's Parish and Lonsdale Street transports my mind back two score years and ten or so to a time when all seemed right with the world, a time when all the family pictures, and all questions of right and wrong, were rendered in black and white.

But the mention of rent – in this case, \$1,350 plus utilities per month for a five-room flat – summoned up especially vivid memories of my life on that street where I lived in Mary and Anna Ford's two-family house at Number 22 from 1943 to 1976. Mary, to use the term of the time, "kept house" while Anna went off to work each day at the New England Telephone Co. where she was a supervisor. Neither married, but they had family: Their older brother Thomas was a priest in the Boston archdiocese (he was a pastor by the time I was born) and their younger sister Catherine, who was married to Martin Lerner of Waltham, lived in Forest Hills, New York. The Larners, who were childless, adopted the Mulvoys downstairs for several weeks each summer when they came to stay with Mary and Anna. The fact that they came by train, from Grand Central Station and Penn Station in New York to South Station in Boston, lent an air of the exotic to the couple, at least in the eyes of a young boy whose world was contained essentially in the blocks between the Ashmont and Fields Corner stations of the MTA.



Tom and Mark Mulvoy checked out 22 Lonsdale St. a few years ago.

Photo by Bill Brett

My parents, Tom and Julia (Harrington) Mulvoy, met Mary and Anna Ford several weeks before they were married, in September 1940 and were accepted as the new tenants of the five-room flat on the first floor, which comprised a 10-by-12 bedroom at front left, the living room and dining room at front right, a bathroom off the hallway, the kitchen, a walk-in pantry, a 10-by-12 bedroom at the back right, and a back porch where laundry could be set to dry.

The rent was \$36 a month, payable on the first. It was a goodly sum to the young couple; my father at the time had been a clerk at the South Postal Annex for three years and my mother, who had worked at Sears & Roebuck, was going to stay home and raise their family, which was not long in coming. Mark was born in August 1941: I first slept at 22 Lonsdale in February of '43; Bobby came along a year later, in February 1944; Mary arrived in June 1947; Jimmy kept it in the decade, joining the gang in February 1949; and in March 1953, Patty Anne completed the team, but only for a while. She died on the afternoon of June 3, a little doll in white turned blue in her carriage on the first-floor porch of Number 22.

Hindsight suggests strongly that the seven Mulvoys were cramped in that five-room flat, but what did we know? Our experience – up to a point, that is – was shared by countless families in the neighborhood. The difference was that we had Mary and Anna Ford as keepers of our house. As was the case with virtually all of our neighbors, pride of place marked the street, which was full of trees from the avenue to the park until the hurricanes of the 1950s blew down all but a few of them. Mary Ford tended to Number 22 with loving care. It was painted when it needed to be spiffed up, and from time to time a carpenter came by to fix this or that; the lawn, shrubs and two large trees were kept neat and trimmed, and the sidewalk and gutter received a sweeping most every day.

When they looked up in the mid-1950s and saw a bunch of teenagers in the house with them, my parents figured it was time to put a shower into the bathroom. I was standing behind my mother when Mary came downstairs to inspect the new deal, which she had, of course, approved. "How much did this cost, dear," Mary asked Julie. My mother told her and said that this was something she and my father had

already paid for. "This my house," said Mary, "and I'll take care of all improvements. I won't accept any rent from you until the bill is paid."

From 1941 on, as the kids kept coming along, each and every birth, baptism, birthday, First Communion, Confirmation, graduation, and wedding was noted by a card and a few dollars from Mary and Anna. When one of us got sick, soon enough there would be a knock on the back door and Mary would come in with a large tray of her delicious Spanish cream pie, a box of cookies, and maybe some ice cream. I still have the card Mary sent to me in 1974 when I was named assistant sports editor of *The Globe*. In it was a ten-dollar bill with the notation, "Treat yourself to a sundae."

Father Ford died in 1952, Anna Ford died in the late 1960s, and Catherine followed just a few years later. By 1976, Mary was dying, too. I still lived on the first floor, with occasional stayovers at my parents house in Braintree, and on the first of the month that she died I paid the last rent by a Mulvoy at 22 Lonsdale Street. It was a check for \$36 made out to Mary Ford.

Over 36 years, the Fords never raised the rent on the Mulvoys. As time went by, the situation became a source of private embarrassment to my folks and they would tell Mary they wanted to pay more. She had one response to their urgings, and she said it more than once over the years: "You take care of your babies bodies and minds, and I'll take care of the roof over their heads."

In her will, Mary left the house to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith of the Roman Catholic Church, which promptly sold it. Number 22 today in no way resembles the home where Mary Ford took care of the Mulvoys, but when I drive by these days, I don't see what's there now; it's once again a day in the 1950s and one of us is dressed in white, standing on the steps having a picture taken while Mary and Anna Ford stand at the door in the background, guardian angels on watch.

## Love, stability marked life at 22 Lonsdale

rented the five-room flat with one bath, rent was \$36 a month, and when Tom moved out 36 years later, it was still \$36 a month. The landladies who lived upstairs, two sisters, Mary and Anna Ford, refused the Mulvoys' offer to pay more rent. "You take care of your babies, bodies and minds," said Mary, "and I'll take care of the roof over their heads."

"We thought the world worked that way," says Tom, "that everybody had a couple of ladies upstairs who never raised the rent. The year before Mary Ford died, she sent me a birthday card with \$10 in it. I was 33 years old."

As happens in cities, however, the neighborhood changed, and in 1974, a time of racial tension in Boston, an incident took place on Lonsdale Street that had nothing to do with race but that nevertheless persuaded Tom it was time to move his parents to the safety of the suburbs, Braintree.

"New neighbors moved into the three-family next door. I never got their names, mainly because I was working nights, but one morning I came home from work after midnight, and there's my father, outside on the sidewalk arguing with two husky neighborhood galoots and yelling that his wife needs

her sleep and the neighborhood didn't need their yelling and obscenities. I said, 'Is everything all right, Dad?' And one galoot says, 'Yeah, just take the old man home.' Within a week, I had an agreement to buy a house for them in Braintree, because they didn't need that. I didn't want to come home and find my parents' home ransacked by the likes of these guys.

"Gradually, there were fewer of those stalwarts from the '30s to the '60s living on the street, and the fabric of the neighborhood loosened. The drugstore at the corner closed, and in the mid '70s, at Peabody Cleaners at Lonsdale and Welles, where people brought their baby clothes, all of a sudden the owner, Bob Goldstein, is firing shots at people trying to rob him. It just wasn't the same. It was subtle, gradual, and definitive, and you look back 15 years later and ask yourself, 'What happened here?'"

For that change in resiliency of urban neighborhoods, Jim Mulvoy cites two reasons. "First, the church is no longer the binding social force that it was, and second, there weren't many cars in our neighborhood when we were kids. To get somewhere, you took a bus or hitchhiked or, especially, you

walked. Today, everybody is in a car, and people are not as neighborhood-centric. That has changed life for our kids, too, because they don't have the same concept of neighbors and neighborhoods."

For the teenaged Tom, suffering from a boyhood of pain due to ulcers, the harmony of Lonsdale Street provided physical safety and emotional security. "You were with people who knew you, and knew your father and your friends, and so it was safe to be in that cocoon of a few city blocks in a big city. Friends I grew up with are friends today. I play poker with them once a month, and I play golf with them. The neighborhood may have changed, but the camaraderie didn't, and so we still go back to Sonny's and to Gerard's for lunch and such."

In his column, Mulvoy writes about St. Mark's, where his parents were married in 1940, and from where they were buried in 1992 and 2002. He writes about having 23 first cousins in his father's family, and 23 more on his mother's side. He writes about the morning he and Mark walked to church with cassock and surplice in suitcases, only to have them blown away by Hurricane Carol. He writes about life

as a caddie at Wollaston Golf Club in North Quincy, earning \$3 a bag, sometimes with one on each shoulder, which was enough to pool with scholarship money to pay tuition at BC High (\$240 a year) and at BC (\$960 a year). "With BC tuition, room and board now at \$50,000 plus," Mulvoy observed, "students need summer jobs as corporate lawyers to make a dent in that bill."

He has written, also, about his affection for his siblings, saying of Mark: My big brother never left me behind, never called me a pest, never let his mates tease me; he was always my protector, and my guide in our early years. As we grew up on city streets and in neighborhood parks, I was his acolyte, glove-carrier, and bat boy for the Panthers, his team."

Tom has written with devotion about the last hours of his father, when Thomas F. Mulvoy Sr., on his deathbed, gave his family one final gift, a reminder in raspy voice about the dignity of love and about the nobility of family. "I loved my mother and my sisters," he said. "I loved your mother. I love you and your sister and your brothers, and I love all your children. That's all that ever counted with me."

## Corcoran story begins around the kitchen table

lasting legacies is Caritas Communities, a nonprofit organization that helps pull people in Greater Boston up out of poverty and homelessness. The family have been stalwart supporters of myriad academic and nonprofit institutions including their beloved Dorchester's Elizabeth Seton Academy and St. Mary's Women's and Children.

All of their work— both in the United States and Ireland— would have made John and Mary Corcoran very proud, indeed, the brothers agree. John Corcoran in particular, who never returned to his native land, would be smiling.

"I remember dad being astounded at the success of the kids. He didn't know what the hell happened," said Leo Corcoran in an interview before his death in April 2010. "He loved Ireland very much. He had a great fondness when he talked about it. I believe he really missed it."

At right, the Corcorans gather in 1966.

Photo courtesy Corcoran Family



## Lessons that lasted a lifetime from Mary and John Corcoran

not Irish.' And I used to think, of course, I wouldn't do it, not knowing that I was American. I thought I was Irish. As I got older, I discovered I wasn't. Not that she was very Irish, in spite of her lovely brogue. My father was someone who always wanted to go back to Ireland, but my mother always said, 'There's no place like America.'

### Bernie, on her Father

"I was in the supermarket once and caught an older woman's eye. I smiled at her. She returned my smile and then continued to look at me and finally came over. I had no idea who she was, but she said, 'I bet I know who you are. You're John Corcoran's daughter.' Then she said she would never forget my father. She had worked with him 30 years earlier. One day she was carrying a tray of pies and the floor was wet and she slipped. Now in those days during the war where everything was short, such a mistake could have cost her her job. Apparently my father, who she had never really spoken to, stepped in and told the supervisor that he was to blame, that he had come out of nowhere

and bumped into her. She said she had almost cried. He had risked his job and saved hers and she would never forget that."

### Leo, on his Father

"My father was always getting us to work. He didn't believe in sports or anything like that. It was the last thing on his mind. He just wanted us to work because all he was thinking was earning money to support the family."

### Theresa, on life in the Depression

"It was not as we think of 'poor' today. It wasn't like *Angela's Ashes*, where there was nobody home and less than enough to eat, or there was trouble in the house, or any of that kind of thing. You know, my parents were always home when you came home. There was never a day that you went home from school at lunchtime and Mama wasn't there getting your lunch ready. And the same thing in the evening— they were both always there. So it was never that you were neglected or hungry or anything like that,

### Joe, on his Mother

"Ma had her own personal philosophy

regarding religion and discipline. Unlike the Church at the time, she wasn't going to make us afraid we would go to hell if we were bad, that's for sure. We were just going to be good for the sake of goodness, not out of the fear of God's wrath.

"That was Ma's gift to all of us — a model of how to be a caring person, to sympathize with the underdog. Her eyes were dark brown with black pupils, and she seemed to listen with her eyes. If you were talking to her, her eyes would take you in and she didn't need to say a word. Those wonderful eyes were enough to soothe."

### Claire, on her brother Jack, the eldest of the Corcoran boys, who died in 2003 at age 80

"I think all of us feel that we were blessed by having Jack as a brother. There wasn't another one like him. Although we had a very good father, Jack was a very knowing person. He always did everything for us, and he anticipated our needs before we almost knew them ourselves. I can truthfully say that I thought he was king of like

God, except he was better. He was right there! I'm sure he had a few flaws, but they were certainly overridden by everything else. We are so grateful that he lived as long as he did, because it would have been quite a different world without him.

"I think he made everybody else in the family— without ever saying it — follow his example... We have all stayed close to each other, pretty nearby, almost like we were on a farm or something. And to this day, we don't think of going any further. We like the proximity to each other."

### Joe Corcoran, on his home town

"Growing up in Dorchester, in my mind, was as good as it gets. I clearly remember being in Park Street Station as a young teenager waiting for a train to Andrew Station. I was watching these other kids across the track boarding a train going in a different direction to places like Arlington and Cambridge, and sincerely feeling sorry for them because they didn't live in Dorchester. In my opinion, there just wasn't a better place."

## Death in family keeps life in perspective

"We provide services to other states, too," he said. "I gave a presentation yesterday, and put a slide on the board that said we were suffering from Massachusetts-itis — going around the country telling everybody how successful we are."

The growth has been stunning. Introduced as a concept in the mid-1960s, the first two community health centers were located at Columbia Point, Dorchester, and at Mound Bayou, Miss. Today, nationwide, community health centers serve more than 20 million patients, and in some cases, says Hunt, they mean the difference between life and death. In Massachusetts, 50 community health centers with more than 250 sites serve 800,000 patients, and Jim has been credited with securing millions of

dollars for centers in Massachusetts,

Jim's birth in 1949 is verified in a letter of congratulations from Mayor James Michael Curley that hangs in Jim's office. Although Jim is an only child, the notion of family was instilled early. His father was one of seven, and his mother one of ten, which meant the Hunt home was busy with aunts and uncles, coming and going, many from Greater Boston, but others from Ireland, north and south.

"That's my memory, a big Irish family, meals and lots of relatives, and tales of Uncle Austie's trips back to Ireland with friends from St. Ann's. I remember as a young teen coming back to the family house, a vivid memory and maybe it's more figurative, but Aunt Annie died at the stove at 93, and the concoctions she'd cook on Friday

— creamed finnan haddie for dinner, and at the same time, corned beef for Saturday, and tapioca pudding in the oven — all those smells and tastes were not very appealing to a young man."

Jim met Jean, a cheerleader, at a Mission High school dance, and they were married in 1970 by her uncle, Rev. Francis Sweeney. Jim holds degrees in science from Boston State College and in urban studies from Boston University. Jean holds two degrees in nursing from Northeastern and another in public health from Boston University. They have five grandchildren. Now retired from the Carney Hospital and Massachusetts General, Jean is a docent, conducting historical tours for Boston By Foot. As Jim says, "We are people of the city."

Notwithstanding the fervor, hard work, success and joy of life in the Hunt family, the memory of Matthew is always close, and it has changed them all in some way.

"For me," says Matthew's brother Jim, "every day, it keeps things in perspective, particularly now that I have children of my own. And one of them is named Matthew."

When, at last, does a father get over the pain? "People say it takes a long time to get over it," says Jim. "Well, you never get over it. But when you have three other children, you have a duty there, too. Sure, it has changed me. I'm more thoughtful now." Speaking slowly, he adds, "I'm aware that life is not all business."



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