



As St. Patrick's Day approaches and we begin our fifth year as a very active Irish Cultural Association we must reflect on where we have come from and where we intend to go in the future.

One of the key reasons why we started the association was to show and live some of the positive things about our ancestral (Irish) background and to dispel some of the myths and even the almost "clown like image" connected with the Irish. We had come to the situation where the only time the Irish was being mentioned was in connection with the so called "Troubles" in Northern Ireland and/or events connected with St. Patrick's Day.

No one seemed to take the time to see what could be some causes and possible solutions to these "Troubles". They were looked upon as "bad events" that were made to reflect upon the Irish in Ireland and there descendants around the world.

St. Patrick's Day was becoming nothing more than a green beer and plastic shamrock day. Nothing was being done to answer a lot of questions connected with our ancestral background. Who were the Irish who came to New Brunswick? Why did they settle where they did in New Brunswick? How many of them spoke Irish? Why did they lose their language so quickly? What role did they play in opening up the pioneer lands of New Brunswick? Why did so many leave at different periods of our history, and where did they go? How well were they treated by the governing class in New Brunswick? Who are some of the "Irish Heroes" of New Brunswick? Who are some of the "Early Irish Women" of New Brunswick who played important roles in the development of this province?

These are a few of the hundreds of questions that have never even been asked, let alone answered. Fortunately, this association intends to pursue them. Our "Early Irish History Poster Map of New Brunswick" shows that a massive group of Irish came to New Brunswick during the latter part of the 18th century and all of the 19th century.

The book by Dr. Peter Toner, of the University of New Brunswick, Saint John, "The 19th century Irish in New Brunswick", will be a good beginning to show the extend of Irish Immigration from different parts of Ireland to different places in New Brunswick. Hopefully, others will continue answering some of the questions we all want answers too.

The Irish Festival and St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in New Brunswick are improving in quality in that we are rising about the celebration as an "Irish Jokes and green beer syndrome" only.

A good example of this is the effect the presentation of Dr. John and Bernadette Meagher's, "The History of Ireland as seen through its writers". When people left the presentation, many headed toward the booths that were selling Irish books at Irish Festival '86. They were looking for different Irish Poetry, book, etc. that they heard mentioned in the show. If we are never exposed to these things then we will never know about them.

Do not get the idea that I think that all events connected with our Festival should be cultural only. Nothing would destroy the events quicker if that were the case. We must have a good entertainment feature for these events. People will come to festivals if they are going to have a good time, and in the meantime some of the cultural activities will be absorbed also.

We must also remember that these events are for everyone. I have heard more than a number of times people say "I am not Irish, but I love the Irish people and enjoy attending these events". If our cultural is such that it cannot be shared with other people of different cultural background then it is not worth preserving. We can take pride in that our greatest resource is the immense musical background that we have. We must present a good selection of Irish music. We must have a good mixture of traditional, ballads and even the best of the so called American Irish music.

Our Irish Literature and Poetry has laid dormant for too long. We must get these books into our homes, libraries and especially our school textbooks. Of course, we must pursue genealogy much more. There is no better way to invite people than to see that there are "cousin lines" extending to all parts of North American and beyond.

So this St. Patrick's Day let's renew our ties and commitment to our ancestors let pick out the best St. Patrick's Day Card; insist that your radio station plays the best Irish music, and yes and even recite an Irish poem that you feel should be enjoyed and heard by everyone. You, and you alone can make it happen. It's the least that we can do for our ancestors.

THE 3rd ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S WEEK CELEBRATION

SAINT JOHN, N.B. - MARCH 7 - 17 - 1987.

"The Saint John Winter Experience"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday - March 7th - 11:00 A.M. - Brunswick Square -

procession, singers, dancers, special guests, etc.

12:00 Noon - Market Slip - Flag Raising Ceremony

Irish Buffet Luncheon - Delta Brunswick Hotel - Reception:

12:15 - 1:00 P.M. - Irish Buffet - 1:00 P.M. - \$15.00 each

7:30 P.M. - Holiday Inn - Irish dinner corn beef and cabbage or Irish Stew with Irish Entertainment, etc. - \$7.95 per person.

Sunday, March 8, 2:00 P.M. Monday, March 9, 8:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 10, 8:00 P.M.

"Son of Erin" - 3 Act Comedy Play
Directed by J. E. Maloney
St. Peter's Auditorium - \$5.00 each

"Step Into Ireland" by Photographic Artist Patti Livingston ., Saint John Regional Library - Market Square - Exhibition and sale (ongoing) - Official Opening - Mayor Elsie Wayne - 8:00 P.M. - March 11th

Thursday - March 12th - Senior Appreciation Night 7:00 P.M.

Over 100 entertainers will put on Irish Shows at 6 nursing homes as well as the Resource Centre for Extended Care and Geriatrics at the Saint John General Hospital.

Friday, March 13th - Irish Memories Concert

Bayside Jr. High School, Bayside Drive at 8:00 P.M.

Featuring: Brian Grant - World Champion Irish Dancer plus other musical groups - Special price of double ticket purchased for Saturday's Concert "I am Ireland" as well - Double Ticket \$10.00 for both - until March 1st. Tickets can also be purchased for \$6.00 each. After March 1st the special price offer is over and concert tickets are \$6.00 each.

Saturday, March 14th - I Am Ireland Concert

St. Malachy's Auditorium, Leinster Street at 8:00 P.M.

Featuring: Dr. John and Bernadette Meagher - natives of Ireland and Barbara Ann Quigley - Moncton. The special ticket price for this concert is the same as "Irish Memories Concert"

Sunday, March 15th - 12:00 Noon Market Square

Full Concert - bands, dancers, singers, etc. - **Parade** to St. Patrick's Square for Memorial Service at 1:30 P.M. - **Church Service** - 2:30 P.M. at St. James Anglican Church, Broad Street

Gala Dinner - Trade and Convention Centre

\$22.00 per person - Reserved tables for 10
Reception : 6:30 P.M. - Dinner and Opening 7:30 P.M.

Monday - March 16th - A Day to get ready for St. Patrick's Day

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

10:00 A.M. - Memorial Service on Partridge Island
11:30 A.M. - St. Pius X St. Patrick's Luncheon
5:00 P.M. - St. Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral
7:30 P.M. - St. Patrick's Society Dinner at the Delta
