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Farrnell McCarthy - President & Editor
#8

June, 1986

We had a very successful annual Meeting in Saint John on March 15. As I begin my fourth year as your President, I want to thank the board and the members for the confidence and support that you have given to me, and especially the Association.

The Association has adopted a new constitution, that was written by Frank Concoran, Moncton. As you will notice in the heading of this Newsletter, it will now be known as The Irish Canadian Cultural Association. I must admit that I had mixed feelings about dropping the word "New Brunswick". I will try to present both sides of the story, because it is such a drastic change that all members must know the facts.

The proposal was made by Frank Concoran. He felt with good reasoning that we must go national and seek the formation of chapters across Canada. The Moncton Chapter was the first one formed in New Brunswick, and we also have Chapters in Saint John, St. Stephen and Fredericton.

Chapters can now be formed in Halifax, Ottawa, Calgary, etc. These chapters would abide by the rules of our new constitution and submit a part of their dues, around 65%, to the head office which at present is where the President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Association are located, which is Newcastle. This has not been approved by the Board, yet.

At present, we have approximately 1000 members mainly from New Brunswick. The workload of the Association involves 1000 hours a year from both the President and Secretary-Treasurer. By going national, unless the workload can be streamlined, we will probably eventually need a part-time, if not full-time executive director and secretary. The office could cost in the vicinity of \$100,000 a year. We would need to have a national publication.

The other side of the story would be a strong provincial organization in New Brunswick still known as The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick. This provincial association would also consist of a number of chapters throughout the province. Our Association could encourage the establishment of similar provincial Associations across the country, and chapters in each province. If we succeeded in establishing six or more provincial associations, then we could have a federation of a National Association for Canada.

On the other hand, Frank Concoran's proposal of Chapters across the country under our Association, could very likely lead to provincial associations. If a chapter is formed in Calgary, I don't think that these people would allow 65% of their dues to be sent to the head office in Newcastle, N.B. Their material for Newsletters, projects, etc., will be much different than ours. This Chapter would likely lead to the formation of a provincial Association and, of course, we would be very interested in what each other is doing.

I have mentioned the above things to generate good sensible discussion. At present, due to our new constitution, we are known as the Irish Canadian Cultural Association, instead of The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick. This is your organization. We are the first of its kind in Canada, the United States, and maybe in the world. We started out from scratch as a provincial organization and went to a national organization. The question I am asking for you to consider is: Should we continue as a National Organization and form Chapters across the country, OR Should we in a year's time, return as a provincial organization and encourage the formation of provincial Associations across the country?

This, of course, could lead to a federation known as the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of Canada.

Let's hear your thoughts on this. Write and let us know. Your Association exists because of you and can only continue because of you.

The Association is now being incorporated. Shaun O'Toole, a lawyer and a member of the board from Fredericton, is looking after this. He will also look into the possibility of getting a tax number for us. In the future, if successful, the Association would be open to donations and we could have the financial resource to do a number of challenging projects.

Canada's Irish Festival On The Miramichi
July 18, 19, 20 - 1986

Canada's Irish Festival on The Miramichi will be held for the third year beginning on Friday, July 18. The following is a brief outline of the program.

The Irish Festival will begin on both Friday and Saturday morning from 8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. with an Irish Breakfast at St. Michael's Church Center. The doors will open at the Lord Beaverbrook Arena at 10:00 A.M. The Grand Opening of the Festival will begin at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, July 18.

It may be unique and even unusual, but we are having two guest speakers this year. They are the Most Rev. J. Edward Troy; the Roman Catholic Bishop of Saint John and The Most Rev. Harold Nutter; the Anglican Bishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

Bishop Troy has given the homily for the past two years at The special Irish Mass at St. Michael's Church on the Sunday of the Festival. There were a number of requests from people who attended that mass from both Canada and the United States for copies of the homily. You would have to read it to see what I mean, and we will try to make copies of it available at this year's festival.

Bishop Nutter stated in his letter that, "it would be a great privilege to be present." We are extremely happy that they both can come. We will also be honouring the thousands of Irish Missionaries and lay people who have travelled to all parts of the world. Ireland, on a per capita basis, has probably sent more of these people to Third World Countries than anyone else.

The Official Opening will also involve two pipe bands, Irish dancers, singers, special guests, etc.

The booths will open at 12:00 in the Arena. There will be some twenty booths selling such things as Irish Linens, Irish books, Irish records and tapes, Irish jewellery, Irish dancing accessories, tin whistles, crafts, Irish Family Plaques, etc., etc. These booths will remain open to 1:00 A.M. each day.

The Irish Restaurant will be open on both Friday and Saturday from 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. The Irish Restaurant will be serving both Corn Beef and Cabbage and Irish Stew along with Irish Soda bread, etc. The decor of the restaurant received very favourable comments in the past, however, an Irish Art Gallery will enhance the Irish Restaurant setting this year. Joyce Murphy of Moncton has done some oil and watercolor paintings of places and things in Ireland. Some of the paintings show such things as "A Peat Field in County Mayo", "the Connemara Landscape", "A Home In Donegal", etc. These paintings will be on display in the school entrance way as you approach the cafeteria of Dr. Losier Jr. High, Chatham.

We have six top Irish bands coming to the festival this year. Four of these bands are new to the festival. If we are to keep the event interesting, then we always must try to add new ideas and events each year.

We are extremely pleased to have the Paddy Noonan Band from New York City. Paddy Noonan is synonymous with top class entertainment and his famous concert series delights thousands of listeners from Coast to Coast.

Paddy Noonan was born in Mallem County Cork, Ireland. He came to New York at the age of 12 with his parents. He has emerges as one of the most accomplished exponents of the piano accordion.

During his career, Paddy has appeared on U.S. and Canadian television. His television career has seen him work with Dennis Day, Skitch Henderson and Pat O'Brien. An occasion of great pride for Paddy was when asked to play at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C. for the late President John F. Kennedy on his first St. Patrick's Day in the White House. The Paddy Noonan Band consists of four talented musicians. Paddy Noonan is also the President of Rego Irish Records and Tapes Inc.

Coming back to the festival by popular demand is the Pat Roper Band from New York. This will be the third year for this group. His style and enthusiasm is one of the reasons why he is also booked to play the final two hours of the Irish Pub on Sunday evening.

Pat Roper has a Master's Degree in Latin and Greek and spent the first few years of his working life as a teacher "of exceptional children." Needless to say, his musical talents were an asset with such youngsters.

The Jimmy Carton Band will also be returning to the Irish Festival. The Toronto Band made the soundtrack for the American national television movie, "Childien of the Crossfire." Jimmy Carton's singing caught the attention of many people and they have requested to bring him back.