



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Embassy of Ireland, Ottawa Newsletter

Useful Links/ Resources

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

www.dfa.ie

Irish Canadian Immigration Centre

www.ican.org

+1 416 603 9549

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html>

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ceerb-application.html>

Contact Us

www.dfa.ie/canada

+1 613 233 6281

Follow us:



@IrlEmbCanada



@irelandincanada



Message from Ambassador Jim Kelly

A chairde, dear friends,

I hope you are continuing to stay safe and well in these very different and challenging times.

For all of us, March – normally a joyous month filled with events celebrating St Patrick's Day – instead saw the days blur together, as we adjusted to a world in lockdown and counted the tragic cost in lives lost and livelihoods threatened by the spread of COVID-19. We have learnt new terms like physical distancing and adapted our lifestyles and habits to protect ourselves and each other. Two months on, we are finally seeing some hopeful signs as the growth in new cases begins to abate both here in Canada and at home in Ireland. Spring too has (finally!) arrived, with summer soon to follow. What better time to launch our new community newsletter, which will help us to keep in touch with you in the months ahead.

As we have worked over those busy months to step up our services and support for those affected by the pandemic, we at the Embassy have been hugely impressed by the selfless voluntary efforts of our Irish community organisations across Canada. It is so encouraging to see all that you are doing to support each other, particularly in looking out for the more vulnerable members of the community in this time of need, especially our senior diaspora. We are proud to have been able to support these efforts through the Government of Ireland's Covid-19 Response Fund for Irish Communities Abroad. (cont. on page 2)

(cont. from page 1)

We have recently hosted video conferences with many of our community groups across Canada to check in with you and see how the Embassy can best support your work. We will continue our outreach to partners across the country and look forward to discussing with you how we can continue to provide practical support for your collective efforts in the weeks and months ahead.

Positive mental health is an issue that is coming up time and again, particularly for younger & older community members. Feelings of loneliness and isolation, and general anxiety are being experienced everywhere, and so it is more important than ever to connect with each other, even if only virtually. I said in a previous message that social distancing doesn't have to mean social isolation: to paraphrase the words of An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, we need to come together as we stay apart.

That is why in this newsletter and on our social media, our focus is not just on COVID-19. We are sharing lots of great links on Twitter (@irlembcanda), including cultural updates, and videos of Ireland (so we can daydream about future travels!). The Embassy's Instagram has a quiz every Wednesday at 7pm (@irelandincanada). This newsletter includes recipes for you to try, as well as practical information on how to get assistance during these challenging times.

We look forward to sending you these regular updates and would welcome suggestions for items that we could cover in future issues.

Thank you for your continued support, and for all that you do to help your community. And remember, this too will pass. Stay safe, take care of yourselves and each other.

Le gach dea ghúí,

Jim Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland

Please Note:

The deadline for the Covid-19 Response Fund for Irish Communities Abroad is 26 May 2020.



Clodagh McKenna's Guinness Chocolate Cake

INGREDIENTS:

- 260g plus 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- 300ml Guinness
- 100g cocoa power
- 2 eggs
- 420g plus 2 tbsps caster/superfine sugar
- 2 tsps vanilla extract
- 180ml buttermilk
- 300g all purpose flour
- 2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp baking powder

For the Icing

- 100g unsalted butter, softened
- 300g sifted icing/confectioners sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 300g full-fat cream cheese

METHOD:

- Preheat oven to 325 F and line the base of a 30cm round spring form tin with baking parchment.
- To make the cake, heat the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat until melted. Stir in the Guinness, then remove from the heat and stir in the cocoa powder.
- In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, sugar, vanilla extract and buttermilk and then slowly add the Guinness mixture, whisking all the time.
- In a separate large bowl, sieve together the flour, bicarbonate of soda and baking powder. Using an electric whisk, slowly pour the wet mixture into the dry ingredients and keep whisking until it is all well combined.
- Transfer the mixture in to the cake tin and bake for approx. 45 minutes. Skewer test to make sure the cake is cooked through. Set aside to cool, and then remove from tin and allow to cool completely on a wire rack.
- Make the icing by blending all the ingredients together using an electric hand whisk until light and fluffy.
- Place the cooled cake on a plate and generously spread the icing on top. The cake will keep for 1 week in an airtight container.

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Passport Processing

Please note, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Passport Service has currently stopped all passport processing.

As such, the Embassy will no longer be accepting new passport applications at this time. This includes passport renewals, first time applications, or re-submissions of applications that were returned.

While you can still apply for your passport using Passport Online, we cannot guarantee the usual turnaround times. If you have already sent an application, your application is safe and will be processed once we resume services.

If you need a passport for travel in a genuine emergency (death or serious illness of a family member or for emergency medical treatment of the applicant), please contact us through our Webchat Service.

What We're Following

- Feeling Quizzical? Be sure to check out the Embassy's Instagram page for our weekly quiz! The questions are posted every Wednesday at 7pm EST. Give us a follow @irelandincanada
- Missing Ireland? Tourism Ireland has some incredible videos and virtual tours available online so you can explore Ireland while you stay home! Visit www.ireland.com
- Irish Canadian Immigration Centre are offering workouts throughout the week LIVE on their Facebook page. They have everything to keep you active from yoga to HIIT classes! Visit www.facebook.com/IrishCdn/
- The GAA have made their archive of All Ireland Finals available to the public online! Visit www.gaa.ie/gaa-now/archive

Marriage Equality 5 Year Anniversary



It's hard to believe, but it's already been 5 years since Ireland became the first country in the world to legalise marriage equality by a popular vote! On Saturday 23rd of May, Gay Community News have organised a lineup of special guests and performers to celebrate this special anniversary. The event will be streamed live on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/), and more info is available [here](#). You can also join the conversation and share your memories of that day in May using the hashtag #MarRefMemories!

Community Check-ins

Ottawa Irish Seniors Social Group

On March 10th our group had plans to host an author/musician as part of the St. Patrick's week festivities. We had also planned our annual fundraiser for March 15th- a play with Ottawa Little Theatre - everything was ready to go, with both theatre tickets and raffle tickets sold. Ottawa Public Health authorities gave the go ahead for the March 10th event (with the recommended precautions!). Some of our members were highly sceptical of what many called 'hype' and only about six out of forty five used the hand sanitation. At the end of the meeting, the status of the fundraiser was discussed and many were questioning our decision to cancel. As Irish Seniors, our initial reaction to warnings about our vulnerability to this virus is understandable. We had seen, heard, done and conquered everything - immigrants who raised our Canadian born children, far away from our own families back home all while keeping them in touch with their Irish heritage, sometimes wondering if Ireland had forgotten us.

Everything changed on March 12th when one of our members became ill with the symptoms of Covid-19, was hospitalized and we all awaited the results of her tests with much apprehension. Members were notified of this development and we were all very relieved that tests were negative for Covid-19. It was now a reality that we were in a pandemic and many began to express anxiety around the loss of our weekly meetings, their feelings of vulnerability as seniors, loneliness, isolation, concern for each other, concern for how long this would last, etc. (cont. on pg. 5)



Chairperson, Kay O'Hegarty, with Ambassador Kelly at a Christmas luncheon at the Ambassador's Residence.

Ireland Performs
Upcoming Livestream Performances

Wednesday 20 May 18:30
Laura Elizabeth Hughes
Songs from an isolated room
MUSIC (facebook.com/lauraehughesmusic)

Thursday 21 May 12:30
Artlink Members
Drawn from Borders, Guided Virtual Tour
MUSIC (facebook.com/artlinkmembers)

Thursday 21 May 15:30
David Donohue
The backwoods world of Wollongabri
MUSIC (facebook.com/daviddonohuemusic)

Thursday 21 May 18:30
Columbia Mills
Celtic and Irish Music Duo
MUSIC (facebook.com/columbiamills)

Friday 22 May 15:30
Kevin, Doireann & Siún Giackin
Exploring Traditional Irish Songs
MUSIC (facebook.com/kevinanddoireann)

Friday 22 May 18:30
Noel Hill
Concert from my Kitchen
MUSIC (facebook.com/noelhillmusic)

Saturday 23 May 12:30
Ryan McMullan
Live Stream Home Concert
MUSIC (facebook.com/ryanmcmullan)

Saturday 23 May 15:30
Lilla Vargen
Lilla Vargen Accoustic
MUSIC (facebook.com/lillavargen)

Saturday 23 May 18:30
Curtis Walsh
Resilience Concert
MUSIC (facebook.com/curtiswalshmusic)

Sunday 24 May 12:30
Eleanor Shanley
Journey in Song
MUSIC (facebook.com/eleanorshanley)

Sunday 24 May 15:30
Mairead Ni Mhaonáigh
Music and poetry from the Donegal Tradition
MUSIC (facebook.com/maireadnimaonigh)

Sunday 24 May 18:30
Laolise Kelly
Solo Traditional Irish performance
MUSIC (facebook.com/laolisekelly)

All performances are streamed on the artist's own social media page and can also be viewed on Culture Ireland's Facebook page
#IrelandPerforms | www.facebook.com/CultureIreland

The Final Weekend:
Thanks to the 120 artists who have taken part and audiences across the world for tuning in over the past six weeks.

“Ireland Performs”

Culture Ireland’s “Ireland Performs” online performance scheme has been a resounding success. Over the last six weeks the series has reached a total viewership of over 530,000 and hosted over 100 performances.

A wealth of Irish artists have been sharing their talent with global audiences from their homes across Ireland. Covering music (Traditional, Rock, Pop, Indie, Folk, Classical, Opera, Jazz), theatre, visual arts, spoken word, poetry, circus/street, family and storytelling. Artists have used the opportunity to launch their EPs, books and connect with audiences where tour dates have been lost.

The scheme is providing €120,000 in a short-term relief fund to pay professional Irish artists for the presentation of their work online. Featured artists are being paid €1,000 for their performance and the scheme has been running for four weeks.

The series concludes May 24th, with all previous, live, and upcoming performances available at <https://www.facebook.com/CultureIreland/>



(cont. from pg. 4)

As a Steering Committee, this confirmed for us that our Group was of special importance in people's lives, and we had to create new ways of answering that need. Our Phone Tree, already being used in cases of emergency (snow days, funerals etc.) has been active. Each member of the Steering Committee is responsible for keeping in touch with a specific number of members. Our Secretary puts out a daily communique with News, Views, Jokes, Creative Ideas etc. Every two weeks, a Newsletter is published with interesting articles, stories and recipes, all in an attempt to replicate our regular meetings as far as possible. With part of the rent

saved, we ordered face masks for all our members, which we delivered by mail and by a drive-through in St. George's parking lot. The joy at seeing each other, even for a short time, was palpable. As this pandemic progresses, we have met a new challenge and we are not alone. The support from our Irish Embassy here in Ottawa, the Government of Ireland, and the local GAA members gives us comfort as part of the larger Irish family.

Irish Sport & Social Club, Vancouver

We've been keeping our club members socially and mentally engaged with various events and activities. We hosted a trans-Canada relay with Vancouver GAA clubs where we raised over \$4000 for the Greater Vancouver Good Bank. The Club has arranged zoom fitness classes to keep the body and mind active. We



Pictured Above: ISSC Intermediate Ladies Football Team with Consul General Frank Flood, at Vancouver Finals Day, August 2019.

have weekly bootcamp classes with Marvill Fitness every Wednesday and yoga every Monday. For days when it's not raining, we can get outside and work on the fitness plans our coaches put together to whip us into shape for when we get back out on the field. And of course we wouldn't be the ISSC without a bit of messin' thrown in, so there are some toilet roll challenges and fun poker nights.

Pictured Right: ISSC Men's Senior and Junior Football teams at Vancouver Finals Day, August 2019



Irish Landmarks Word Search

Can you spot these twelve famous Irish Landmarks?

W U H T T C T I W K I C A X I V U T U H
 H M Q C X I L R A L U J H L Q C X O S V
 R N G B X D T I C U J D W Z Z B F Q K D
 T P I L X I Z A F M K Z F E F S I Y E C
 G M A A Y N Z F N F M D K K C C X B L R
 I D N R K G Y B C I S I D Q Q K F U L O
 J F T N H L B R N J C O S G Q A P L I K
 G J S E L E J X I M X Q F B N M Q Z G E
 R X C Y E P Z N J M Z T U M A I J W I P
 I E A S M E I P F I O F B A O N D E S A
 N Y U T J N E W G R A N G E R H R R L R
 G U S O M I N Y G L A H F B Z T E T A K
 O W E N Q N B G H D A A R Z Z U E R N H
 F I W E P S F M J Z G G L Y M E Y R D M
 K N A M F U B W A E C O Q F H K A F S Y
 E B Y E F L K I L M A I N H A M G O A L
 R Z H U F A R O C K O F C A S H E L U N
 R O Y Q Y N A U N M K C T V G J S N N B
 Y K E F S N I A B M S I V E P Y Q M L T
 V I U W W Z G P O D P T M Y Y A S L R R

Dingle Peninsula	Skellig Islands	Titanic Quarter	Giants Causeway
Kilmainham Goal	Cliffs of Moher	Newgrange	Blarney Stone
Rock of Cashel	GPO	Ring of Kerry	Croke Park

Sharing Some Laughs

- “I don’t think I can play today,” said the footballer, “I’ve got a bad back.” “Well you’re lucky,” replied the manager, “I’ve got two of them.”

- Woman: “Excuse me, but you look like Helen Green.”
Friend: “So I may - but I assure you I look a thousand times worse in yellow.”

