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Megan Leslie, MP

For information or assistance contact:

Megan Leslie, MP Phone - 426.8691
1-2207 Gottingen Street Fax - 426.8693
Halifax, NS, B3K 3B5 Email - leslim1@parl.gc.ca
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www.givesaintpatrickahand.com

givesaintpatrickahand@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Quarterly Report

Volume 1 Number 2

December 2010

Come Celebrate the 125th birthday of our beautiful Church this Christmas Season



As we approach this Christmas season, it is important that we take time to think of and give thanks for the wonderful gifts our Irish ancestors gave us. Their love of education, books, history, music, storytelling, politics, business, religion and their excellent and superb craftsmanship are all part of the Irish heritage that has played a major role in the evolution of our city, Halifax and our province, Nova Scotia.

Our Saint Patrick's Church was built by Irish labourers over a 2 year period from 1883-1885 to stand as a tribute to the strength and endurance of the Irish people and their culture. First time visitors to the Church are constantly amazed at

the peace and beauty of our Church. People returning to their old neighbourhood and their Church seek out the things that they remembered from their childhood. Their faces light up with brilliant smiles as they tell stories of singing in the choir, serving mass at 7:00 am during the war when a couple decided they wanted to get married before the husband was shipped overseas, the good times they had under the watchful eye of Father Joe Mills, and so many more interesting and important stories from the past. Any time you want a tour of the Church, please knock on the Rectory door and we will be glad to share with you the treasures of our Church.

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Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24
Carols 7:30 pm
Mass 8:00 pm
With Choir & Casavant Organ

December 25
Mass 10:00 am Contemporary Choir

December 26
Mass 10:00 am African Choir

Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society Board Members December 2010

Penny Doherty, Janice Flinn Nourry, Michele O'Neil, Ruth Crowley, Michael Convey, Bryson Wilson and Ken MacMillan. Ken serves as an ex officio member representing our Pastor, Father Paul Morris.

Upcoming Events

For tickets or information on our upcoming events, please call the office at 429-4170, or e-mail givesaintpatrickahand@ns.aliantzinc.ca. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, Visa or MasterCard. Cheques should be payable: Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society.

The 2011 Restoration Society calendars are on sale NOW. The calendar features 12 beautiful scenes from Ireland and a weekly draw for \$100.00 each Sunday in 2011. Cost: \$20.00

December 1 An Irish Christmas Concert 7:00 pm Cost \$15.00

December 4 Christmas Open House at Saint Patrick's 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tours of the Church, Hot Apple Cider, and unique Christmas gifts for sale

December 5 Les Voix D'Acadie Concert 2:00 pm

December 12 King Island Christmas with Quick as a Wink Theatre 7:00 pm Cost \$15.00

January 2 Classical Sacred Performance by Lyric Soprano Amy Gasparetto. Amy was one of Luciano Pavarotti's last students. 2:00 pm Cost \$20.00

January 30 Fuel Fund Concert - Call the office or check the website for more details.

Feb 1 Feast of Saint Brigid We are in the process of planning a celebration to mark this special day of one of the patron saints of Ireland. Please check our website for further details in the New Year.

February 7 Fuel Fund Bingo Halifax Forum Multipurpose room

February 13 Fuel Fund Concert - Call the office or check the website for more details.

March 4 An exciting and innovative guitar concert featuring Scott Macmillan, Brian Doyle, Dalhousie Music Department Guitar Faculty and the Student Guitar Ensemble. 7:00 pm

March 12 Saint Patrick's Day Parade Everyone is welcome Please consider decorating a car, bus, yourself! in an Irish theme and joining in the parade. This is a great chance to advertise your business. Check our website for more details.

March 12 Irish Stew Lunch Saint Patrick's Church Hall 12:30 \$10.00 per person

March 17 Saint Patrick's Day Mass 7:00pm Saint Patrick's Church

March 20 Fuel Fund Concert - Call the office or check the website for more details.

March 26 Camerata Singers Concert 7:30 pm

April 17 2:00-4:00 Easter Bonnet Tea Tickets \$10.00 A perfect chance to relax in the beauty of Saint Patrick's Church, listen to the music from our grand piano, enjoy delicious sandwiches and sweets, use our special china tea cups and wear your Easter hat!

May 28 Camerata Singers Concert 7:30 pm

September 29 Anthony Kearns Concert 7:30 pm Cost \$25.00

October 22, 2011 Restoration Society's Annual Dinner at the World Trade and Convention Center. This year Monsignor Donahoe will be inducted into our Saint Patrick's Church Builder's Hall of Honor. Tickets \$100

Sponsors & Ads

Lots and Lots of Value Priced gifts Available at the back of the Church each Sunday or from the Society Office Candy Centrepieces etc

The Restoration Society can make \$10,000.00 if we sell the 1,000 Calendars. Please Order your Calendar today!!!

2011 "YEAR OF THE IMMIGRANT" Lottery Calendars for sale. \$20.00 each. 1000 were printed. \$5,200.00 total prize payout. \$100.00 cash prize will be drawn every Sunday of 2011. The winner's name is posted weekly on our web site. **There is a tear off stub on the back of the calendar that must be filled in and given to the Restoration Society to enter your name in the weekly draw.**

Call In, Write In, Email Campaign We NEED Your Help!

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH IS 125 YEARS OLD ON DECEMBER 27TH, 2010. PLEASE JOIN IN OUR "CALL IN, WRITE IN, E MAIL CAMPAIGN" TODAY!

Our Church and our heritage have extremely strong foundations. For many, many reasons Saint Patrick's Church deserves to continue to grow and flourish. Times have changed though. When the Cogswell interchange was built in the 1960's, many of the then 5000 parishioners of Saint Patrick's were forced to leave the neighbourhood. Slowly over time, the area of Brunswick, Gottingen and Agricola Streets are once again coming back to life. Our Parish has grown significantly during the past 3 years and is a vital link in that growth process,

In April 2007, the closure of Saint Patrick's Church was announced. Several months later, the Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society was formed and in June 2009 we were given a 30 year lease on the Church. Since 2007, we have worked to raise funds and put in place a long term plan that will allow our Church to remain open for years to come. **We have raised and spent locally more than \$600,000.** During that time we have had all the necessary architectural, mechanical, electrical, hazardous waste and cost studies completed so that the restoration of the Church and Hall can begin immediately once funds are in place. We have also completed some major repairs, installed a new gas furnace, hired 2 full time staff, and we have worked to build a recognition province wide of the importance of saving our heritage Church.

We have come about as far as we can on the big projects without an influx of money to restore our Church Hall (\$1.2 million) and the Bell Tower (\$1.3 million). Both need to be done as soon as possible. (A good quote to use on our behalf if you choose to contact the politicians listed below.) We had hoped to begin replacing the front doors and front windows to the Church this Fall but because the brick is crumbling in this area due to problems with the past repairs, we couldn't remove the frames of the doors and windows to replace them. That can only happen now once the work on the Bell Tower begins.

The Restoration Society has operated since 2007 and is completely self sufficient due to the generosity of our donors and volunteers. **We do not need operational money but we do need some help from Government or a Foundation to fix our Hall and Tower.** Once our Hall is completed, we will be able to start our dinner theatres, open our gift shop full time, have an interpretation center on the Halifax Explosion and hire between 10 to 20 people full time. We have asked all three levels of government several times to assist us on a one time basis to complete these two projects. We have not met with success to date. Government needs to hear that it is important that our Church be restored and we need them to partner with us. Tourists are interested in our Church. Several hundred booked private tours this summer...and we didn't advertise our tours anywhere. Marie's Garden is used by many people on a daily basis. The concert space of the Church has some of the best acoustics in the City and we encourage local artists to use this venue. We have had thousands of people attend the concerts at Saint Patrick's Church during the past 3 years. Our local community needs to have accessible spaces that have meaning to who and what we are. We need to celebrate what we have, not tear it down or let it go into decay. We have a proven track record of success.

For all these reasons, effective immediately, we are starting a "call in, write in, email in campaign" to the three levels of government to let them know that Saint Patrick's Church is an integral part of the history and culture of our city and province and that we deserve and should receive the funds needed to restore our Church and Hall. Every cent of that money will be spent locally and will support local companies. It would take us 6 months to complete all of the necessary work on the Hall and the Bell Tower.

Enclosed is the contact information for government leaders. Would you please "Call, Write or Email" the elected politicians listed below if you wish to add your voice of support on behalf of the restoration process of the Hall and Bell Tower of Saint Patrick's Church. Your support would be greatly appreciated. if you require any additional information, please call our office.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, PMO, 80 Wellington St, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A2 pm@pm.gc.ca F: 613.941.6900

Hon. Peter MacKay, HOC, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6 mackay.p@parl.gc.ca T: 613.992.6022

Megan Leslie MP, HOC, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6 leslie.m@parl.gc.ca T: 613.995.7614 F: 613.992.8569

Premier Darrell Dexter, Office of the Premier, PO Box 726, Halifax, NS B3J 2T3 premier@gov.ns.ca T: 902.424.6600

Hon. Maureen MacDonald, PO Box 486, Halifax, NS B3J 2R8 health,minister@gov.ns.ca T: 902.424.3377

Hon. Percy Paris, PO Box 2311, Halifax, NS B3J 3C8 econmin@gov.ns.ca T: 902.424.5790

Stephen McNeil, leader of the Liberal Party, PO Box 1420, Middleton, NS B0S 1P0 mcneilsr@gov.ns.ca T: 902.825.2093

Jamie Baillie, leader of the PC Party, 6 McFarlane St., Springhill, NS B0M 1X0 jamiebaillie@bellaliant.com T: 902.597.1998

Mayor Peter Kelly, Office of the Mayor, PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5 kellyp@halifax.ca T: 902.490.4010

Councilor Dawn Sloane, PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5 sloaned@halifax.ca T: 902.490.4050

Year of the Irish Immigrant

2011 HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED THE YEAR OF THE IRISH IMMIGRANT AT SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH IN HALIFAX BY THE RESTORATION SOCIETY

2011 has been dedicated to our ancestors and we are calling it the "YEAR OF THE IRISH IMMIGRANT." **We are asking people to send us copies of any pictures they have of themselves or their relatives who have been baptised at Saint Patrick's by the end of February.** They can be pictures taken during the Baptism ceremony or of the person as a child or adult. The pictures will be displayed in the Church during the month of March.

We are also inviting people to send us their favourite story about their Irish relatives or family. If we get enough, these stories will be compiled into a book and sold in our gift shop. Please would you send us copies of your pictures and your stories by the end of February. Spread the word. The more we get, the more of our Irish heritage will be compiled for future generations.

We were inspired by Gerald Francis Kelly to begin this project. He sent us a wonderful booklet of his family history. It contains invaluable information about Ireland, immigration and the lives of his family and ancestors. He included the obituary of his brother Bill Kelly because he feels it tells the story of the Bill's life. Bill was brought up in Saint Patrick's Parish in Halifax. Bill wrote his own obituary as he wanted to remind people to be grateful for all that they have. Included are excerpts of Robert William Kelly's obituary.

...I thank God for the 77 years He has given me...

I thank Him for the gift of my parents, Frank and Emma (Smith) Kelly.

I thank Him for the gift of brothers and sisters who made up the family. Ray, Don, Hal, Earl, Ed, Frank, Irene, Claire, Ruth.

I thank God for a loving wife, Jean (Bauer) of 45 years.

I thank God for healthy children, Mike, Shane and grandchildren, Sara, Julian and Caylyn.

I thank Him for the gift of life for Rick whom he gave me for 27 years and for Robby Wade who died as an infant.

I thank God for sending Gerry Mitchell into my life after my great loss.

I thank God for the clergy and teachers of Saint Patrick's Church and Saint Patrick's Boys' School on Brunswick St. in Halifax.

I thank God that I always had work.

I thank Him for the gift of good health which enabled my wife and I to start "The Kelly Co-op Housing Co. Ltd" in the mid 1950's, so that 20 couples were able to build homes on Memorial Drive, Halifax.

I thank God for the gift of people whom I met while in Halifax Minor Football for 10 years.

I thank God for the 35 years of work with the Post Office and all the people I worked with.

I also thank Him for the years I spent with the "Northwood Players" under the direction of Shirley Burnstein.

I thank Him for allowing me to be a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society for 10 years, Saint Patrick's Parish and also a member of the Irish Society of Nova Scotia.

So as I start my journey to meet my Maker, I bid you 'take care, say a prayer.'

Robert William "Bill" Kelly

Children's Greenhouse

WE HAVE SOME NEW NEIGHBOURS AT SAINT PATRICK'S

Tucked away at the back of the south side of our parking lot is a green house. This is not just any green house. It is a very special one and belongs to the North End Community Health Clinic. It is part of a project involving the youth of the community and the dietician at the Clinic, Jessie Jollimore.

Several years ago, with the full support of the Clinic, Jessie started a community garden with a group of local children and some of their families. Initially this project introduced the children to the joys of gardening and having a fresh supply of good vegetables. It quickly blossomed into a micro entrepreneurial project. The children decided as a group, under the guidance of the staff at the Clinic, that they would sell their extra produce in the neighbourhood. They set up a stand by their garden on Brunswick Street, took a cart around the neighbourhood, sold their produce door to door and also sold their wares at the local library on certain days. The money that was raised was put in a common pool and some of it was reinvested in materials, some was put away for a rainy day and each of the workers received a percentage of the profits. About 30 children participate in the project.

Two years ago, they had a surplus of herbs. They began experimenting with the dill and developed a delicious salad dressing. They learned how to make pesto with their basil and developed a method to bottle this. Suddenly their micro business was expanding and they went to the local Farmer's Market to test the response to these two products. They were an immediate hit and demand grew weekly. Jessie found someone to develop a label for them and someone else to donate glass bottles. Now Saturday's at the new Halifax Farmer's Market you can find Jessie and her gardeners selling their pesto and salad dressings under the label "Hope Blooms" for \$6.00 a bottle. They cannot keep up with the demand.

Jessie's next step was to raise funds for a green house and find a home for it in the neighbourhood. The goal is to start all their herbs and veggies in the early spring and then transplant them outdoors. They also want to extend their growing season in the Fall. After much work, the funds became available for the greenhouse and Jessie approached the Restoration Society to see if the greenhouse could be put at the end of our parking lot. It is a nice sunny spot and our Board agreed that the parking spaces that we gave up were not nearly as important as having a safe place for the neighbourhood children to grow their business.

In October, through the United Way's 'Day of Caring', a team of very capable and willing members of the Armed Forces under the direction of two very competent engineers, assembled the greenhouse. The greenhouse will become fully operational in March 2011 and the Restoration Society hopes that this will be one of many community based projects that will find a home at Saint Patrick's once we get our Hall restored.

In the meantime, check out the Farmer's Market and get yourself a bottle of fabulous pesto or salad dressing!!

Thank You

At our October 2010 Annual Dinner we raised \$45,000.00

Volunteers

Kurt Ahlblad
Margaret Ahlblad
Paul Anderson
Frank Arab
Aline Bourgeois
Owen Caldwell
Trudy Cann-Fournier
Helen Cassidy
Genna Chisholm
Ruth Crowley
Tim Crowley
Holly Dacey-Joudrey
Bob Doherty
Penny Doherty
Cindy Eastman
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Frank Flinn
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Mark your calendars - October 22, 2011 - WTCC
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