

# Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society

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**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO MAKE A DESIGNATED CHRISTMAS DONATION TO  
THE SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH RESTORATION SOCIETY TO EITHER  
THE FURNACE LEASE FUND OR THE FURNACE FUEL FUND -  
WHICH ARE OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN AND NEED**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2007, the Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society was incorporated, separate and apart from the Parish, with the purpose of restoring a beautiful, valuable, historic church building, with the alternative of the church being torn down. In June 2009, the Restoration Society, a registered charity, assumed responsibility for paying substantial non-liturgical operating costs as well as for the maintenance and restoration of Saint Patrick's Church. By accepting this responsibility, Saint Patrick's Church was saved from closure and almost certain destruction.

In November 2009, the weekly oil bills for Saint Patrick's averaged \$4,000.00 or \$12,000.00 a month. At the end of November, during a furnace cleaning, 2 of the 3 boilers disintegrated. This required a complete overhaul of the sub basement which included a hazardous waste audit and removal of waste that dated back to the old coal furnace, an electrical, mechanical and architectural study and completion of the recommended work, and the installation of the new gas furnace, pipes, etc. The Society paid significant costs up front and took a lease for \$100,000.00 on the remainder of the costs. To date, by paying on average \$2,300.00 a month, we have paid down the lease by \$50,000.00 and have \$50,000.00 left to pay. We pay \$1,500.00 a month on our yearly gas bill. This is a substantial saving over the cost of oil and the furnace has a life of at least 50 years. If the Restoration Society had not installed the furnace and done the required work in the sub basement, Saint Patrick's Church would have closed forever.

The Board of the Restoration Society would like to pay off the remaining \$50,000.00 of the furnace lease as soon as possible so they can focus on the necessary repair of the bell tower, and other parts of the building that are absolutely necessary if the building is to survive. This Christmas season, the Restoration Society is asking Nova Scotians to consider making a donation to assist with either the payments for the furnace lease or the monthly fuel bill to help us maintain and preserve one of the most beautiful and historically significant buildings in the province.

**No gift is too large or too small and will be gratefully received.**

Within 72 hours of receiving a donation to the furnace fund or the fuel fund, the money will be deposited in the Restoration Society's bank account, as designated for the furnace lease or the gas contract, and a tax receipt for the full amount will be sent to the donor. You can follow our progress on our website at [www.givesaintpatrickahand.com](http://www.givesaintpatrickahand.com) or call us at 429-4170.

Thank you for considering this request as part of your Christmas gift giving. Donations can be made by VISA or Mastercard by calling 429-4170 or mailed directly in the enclosed envelope.

# Quarterly Report

Volume 3 Number 1

December 2012

On Friday, October 12, 2012 at the World Trade and Convention Center in Halifax, the 6th annual Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society's Annual Dinner was held. At that time, Reverend Monsignor Gerald Murphy and all the descendants of Mary Anne (Minnie Cronan) and John Murphy were inducted into the Restoration Society's Hall of Honor. More than 475 people attended this event and \$40,000.00 was raised. The Board of the Restoration Society is extremely grateful to every person who donated their time, talents and treasures to allow our dinner to be such a success. Thank you one and all!!



Reverend Monsignor Gerald Murphy



The Board of the Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society wishes all parishioners of Saint Patrick's, our donors, supporters and benefactors a joyous and happy Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and fulfillment. May God bless you all.

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. PATRICK'S

Dec. 24 Carols 7:30pm Mass 8:00pm  
Dec. 25 Carols 9:30 am Mass 10:00am  
Jan. 1 Mass at 10:00am  
Jan. 6 Mass at 10:00am  
Jan. 6 Evening Prayers 4:00pm

Please join our vibrant faith community as we celebrate the Christmas season.  
Everyone is welcome.

## The Board of Directors of the Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society

Co Chair Merlin Nunn  
Co Chair Ken MacInnis  
Vice Chair Janice Flinn Nourry  
Treasurer Patrick O'Neil  
Secretary Kay Ross  
Member Donna Meagher Stewart  
Member Bryson Wilson  
Member Michael Convey  
Member Terry Gallagher



# 6 th Annual Dinner

Our 6th Annual dinner was a wonderful celebration of all that is good. Members of the Murphy family came from across Canada and the United States to celebrate the contributions their family have made to our Church, our city, province and country. In particular, we recognized the outstanding contribution made by Monsignor Gerald Murphy (1857-1931). Monsignor Gerald spent half of his life at Saint Patrick's and we can thank him for having the foresight to ensure our Church would be a place of peace and beauty. He installed the main marble altar and surrounding stairs and pulpit, the 2 side altars which have a marble skim, purchased the organ once the women of the Parish raised the necessary money at a week long bake sale and fair on the grounds of what will be our new Halifax Library, had the stained glass windows installed and then replaced after the Halifax Explosion, purchased the Stations of the Cross, had the pews made of all the scrap lumber left over from the building of the Church but ensured that the Irish harp symbol was placed at each end of every pew, had shamrocks, lilies and roses hand made and placed at the top of the pillars of the Church and when the Church was damaged by the Halifax Explosion, he started all over again and restored the Church to its original splendour.

Monsignor Murphy was a champion of immigration issues, social justice and education. He raised the money to purchase the land and was involved in the building of Saint Patrick's Girls and Boys elementary schools and the Saint Patrick's Girls High School. Check on the Society's website for more information on the contributions of the Murphy family to Saint Patrick's.

At the end of the evening, this wonderful poem was recited and sums up the pride of the Murphy family. We are indeed blessed to have the "Murphy's" as members of our Hall of Honour.



And they're good folks to know  
Are the Murphy's:  
Ev'ryone tells you so  
Of the Murphy's  
The Lord knows they are good  
So he made all he could  
Of the Murphy's.

There are places that wait  
For the Murphy's:  
Straight through St. Peter's Gate  
Go the Murphy's  
I'll be glad when I go  
If I stay in a row  
With the Murphy's.



# Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society's Commitment to Community Involvement

The donor base of the Restoration Society is extremely diverse. More than 60% of our donors are not Catholics!! The Restoration Society is a non-denominational organization whose mandate is to restore and maintain our beautiful and historic Saint Patrick's Church. The Restoration Society promotes and salutes whenever possible the work and dedication of our Irish ancestors. The Restoration Society is strongly supported by many of the 1200 families whose homes were expropriated in the 1960's to make way for the Cogswell Street Interchange and for Uniacke Square. Many of these families were of Irish descent. Saint Patrick's Church serves as a strong and positive link to their past. If you would like to receive information by email of our upcoming events, please contact us at [givesaintpatrickahand@ns.alianzinc.ca](mailto:givesaintpatrickahand@ns.alianzinc.ca) and we will put you on our list.

For the past 2 years, The Restoration Society has given the youth of our community space in our parking lot for their green house. The green house is used for many projects for their community garden which is located on the grounds of the old Saint Patrick's School. The following is an end of season wrap up note written by Sarina Piercy, the coordinator of this project.

"This year's growing season in the North End Community Garden was full of community growth, learning as well as a bountiful harvest. With more than 40 youth participating in the garden, we produced more food than ever! With this food, youth fed their families, sold fresh salads to the community, participated in food preserving workshops and prepared healthy meals for community suppers. From May to the end of September, youth came to the garden twice a week to plant, weed, water and harvest together, while also participating in various sport, art and music based activities as well as a few field trips.

This year we started up a JR leader program for 5 of our oldest youth. These youth took on a lot of responsibility including helping to plan and facilitate youth activities, acting as positive role models for the younger youth and maintaining the greenhouse.

We plan to continue growing cool season crops in the greenhouse through the fall and are just starting up our 3rd year of organic salad dressing production and sales.

Thanks to the continued support from the community, we have had another fantastic year of growing with 'Hope Blooms.' "

On December 2, 2012, Elsie and Frank Flinn were recognized by the Restoration Society as our 'Volunteers of the Year' for their outstanding support, guidance and participation in the work of the Society. In the Spring of 2007, Frank and Elsie attended every meeting held weekly from May until August when planning was being done to set up an organization to try to save Saint Patrick's Church. Their guidance, wisdom and love of all things Irish (and French!) have served us well during the past 5 years. Thank you Elsie and Frank for all that you have done and for all that you will continue to do to allow us to restore the #1 Irish Icon in Nova Scotia, Saint Patrick's Church.

The supporters of the Restoration Society have a history of giving. So many people are quietly involved in so many different and diverse activities and give back to their community by sharing their gifts and talents. One unsung hero is our own Bob Tapper. For years, Bob has supported the Twin City Boxing Club in the North end of Dartmouth, it provides a safe and secure place for young people to grow and develop. Each year Bob has a great auction in the Spring and this helps to provide a secure funding base for the boxing club. Bob is a very unassuming man and wants no recognition but we wish to salute him for the wonderful work he does and encourage you to attend his auction. Congratulations Bob.

One of the largest community events the Restoration Society promotes is the Saint Patrick's Day weekend. Mark your calendars for this fun and exciting event. We are always looking for volunteers for the parade and the Irish lunch. This might involve sitting on the planning committees, working at the event or participating in the activities of the weekend. Send us an email if you wish to receive some more information.

## The March 16th and 17th Saint Patrick's Day Events Include:

### Saturday March 16th

11:00 am Saint Patrick's Day Parade We need participants, decorators for floats, and lots of people to cheer us on.  
12:00 noon Irish lunch at Saint Patrick's Church Hall. Includes lunch, cash bar, children's room with hotdogs and face painting, a silent auction, a 50/50 draw and great Irish music with our own Alan Hemphill.

6:30 pm The Charitable Irish Dinner sponsored by the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax..a Halifax Irish tradition started in the eighteenth century and continues to this day.

### Sunday March 17th

10:00 am Mass at Saint Patrick's Church

2:00 pm Irish concert at Saint Patrick's Church featuring the Halifax Concert Band