

Pandemic Diary



Volume 1, Second Edition
March 2021



St Patrick's CWL, Mississauga



An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

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Cead mile fáilte ,

We are pleased to bring you the second edition of the 'Pandemic Diary' and since we're going to be celebrating St Patrick's Day, I thought it would be nice to infuse some Irish tones into it. This Newsletter is an evolving expression of our ideas and I invite you to keep sending us your input.

Thanks to Cathy Cerasani, we now have a "Puzzle Corner" and Gayle Dzis starts off our "Buy Nothing" section with a donation of some very interesting autobiographies. Liz McCallion takes us down memory lane, into her childhood days in Ireland on the 'Armchair Travelogues' and Cathy Taylor shares her beautiful Irish dance costumes with us. Nancy Macera has some interesting Irish Trivia that you must try your hand at guessing and our "Cook & Bake" segment features Mary Fuller with Colcannon

President's Message

and Agnes Carbonelli with her recipe for traditional Irish Soda Bread. Diane Ouellette is back with some more humour in the "Pundemic" segment.

Please check YouTube links included in the Newsletter for a more in depth experience. You may have to COPY and PASTE the link in your browser.

Our Food Fundraiser last month was a huge success so we thought we'd rename it "Don't skip these dishes" !!! I'd like to thank everyone for their staunch support and a special thanks to Cathy Taylor and Barbara Azzopardi for preparing the sale items and to Peggy Kennedy for taking in all the orders over the phone.

This month, we thought it befitting to host this event on St Patrick's Day with net proceeds going to St Patrick's Church. And yes, in case you were wondering, it's going to be something Irish!! Details on the last page.



We would appreciate your help with:

- preparing the sale items (we plan to have 2 to 3 people working separately on each item at home)
- supporting our Church by sponsoring this fundraiser.

Lastly, please check out and direct people to the CWL section on St.Patrick's website recently updated by Andrea Tjioe at <https://stpatricksmi.archtoronto.org/Ministries/catholic-womens-league>

God Bless!!

Ramona

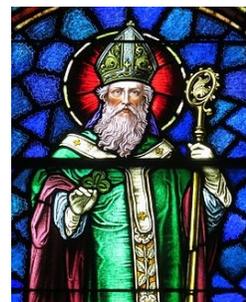
About St Patrick

- Born in Britain, around 385 A.D.
- Captured by seafaring raiders, taken to Ireland, and sold into slavery at 16 years of age.
- Was a shepherd there until he escaped to England , became a priest and returned to Ireland
- Spent his last 30 years in Ireland, baptizing people, ordaining priests

and founding churches and monasteries.
Check out this beautiful hymn "Hail Glorious St Patrick" on



<https://youtu.be/2BG4V93NnOg>



Stained glass window
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Junction City, Ohio

Armchair Travelogues with Barbara Azzopardi—featuring Liz McCallion



St. Patrick's statue on Hill of Tara

Liz was born in **Tara, County Meath, Ireland** with three brothers and two sisters and loving parents and thanks God for all the wonderful experiences in her life.

Tara is where St. Patrick first used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan king back in 432AD. The kids used to ride their bikes to the Hill during Lent and pray the Rosary at St. Patrick's statue. Another special day was in May when the men would carry the statue of Our Lady around their parish, the children would wear their special communion outfits and they would all pray the Rosary and sing special hymns. During the war almost everything was rationed as so much had

to be imported. Liz's family was blessed with a wonderful garden of fruits, vegetables and flowers. They had many farm animals which all had names. Liz remembers singing to the chickens until they laid an egg. The town's children helped out to bring in the hay and the corn. Moms would prepare picnics to celebrate when the job was done.

Homes were heated by wood, coal or peat. Electricity was first turned on only in 1953 and it was magic! Before then light was provided by oil lamps and candles. Liz's brother saved up money and bought the first black/white TV. They also had a radio and an old gramophone. School was strict and children were

disciplined with branches if they didn't know their lessons. Most children only went to school up to age 14 as everything had to be paid for. Liz was able to go to a local technical school about 8 miles away from home and rode the bus every day. The weekly fare was '10 shillings, 6 pence'. She moved to Canada in 1967 where she met Frank, her husband. Their 52nd anniversary is April 12th so congratulations to you both. They have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Please watch the YouTube link for the full interview with Liz and thank you Liz for sharing your wonderful memories with us.

<https://youtu.be/LAWREUImz5M>



The **Stone of Destiny** or the Lia Fáil was the coronation stone for the High Kings of Ireland until 500 AD. This stone is thought to be magical, because when the rightful king puts his hand on it, the stone would roar in joy for all of the countryside to hear.



Liz holding up a picture of her home in Tara

Check out this Rick Steeves YouTube video on the "Hill of Tara"
<https://youtu.be/g6TGiY8jVkJ0>



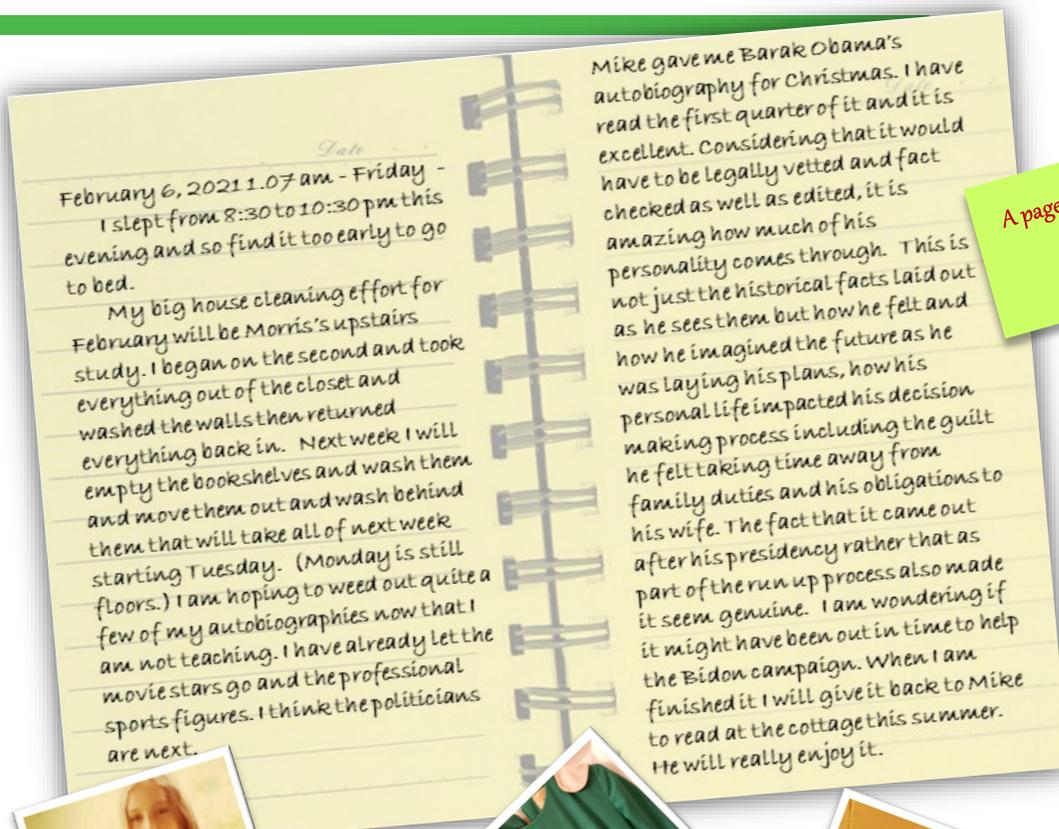
The **Hill of Tara Fairy Tree** is a tree full of colourful ribbons which serves as a place for humans to make wishes for the fairies or wee folk to grant if they see fit...

A Little Trivia From The Green Island... By Nancy Macera



How many can you guess ? (Answers on last page)

1. What does the circle at the very centre of a Celtic cross represent?
2. Which Irish saint is said to have visited America 1000 years before Columbus?
3. A popular Irish ring which depicts two hands holding a crowned heart.
4. Which city is also named 'the city of the tribes'?
5. What is a bodhran?
6. Which John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara film was shot in County Mayo?
7. Name the famous Irish author whose best-selling books include "Tara Road", "Light a Penny Candle", "Circle of Friends" and "Nights of Rain and Stars." (Nancy's favourite author)
8. What did St Patrick chase out of Ireland? You better know this one!
9. Which traditional musical instrument was adopted as a logo by Guinness Stout?
10. Name the famous Irish actor who played James Bond.
11. How many leaves does a shamrock have?
12. Name the famous kind of glass made in southern Ireland.
13. Which well known drink comes from the Old Middleton Distillery in County Cork?
14. If you were eating a boxty, what would this be?
15. Dublin's Rotunda Hospital pioneered the training of which kind of nurse?
16. What are the Twelve Bens?



A page from Gayle's
Journal

Be sure to
checkout the
YouTube video
link below.



[https://youtu.be/
PDUph1b4Bwg](https://youtu.be/PDUph1b4Bwg)



From Left to Right

- ◆ Cathy's first costume at age 9
- ◆ Cathy's solo championship costume designed by her and her mother
- ◆ Costume from Ron Plummer School in East Toronto
- ◆ Laura Masters Dance school costume

Colcannon by Mary Fuller and Irish Soda Bread by Agnes Carbonelli



Colcannon

Irish mashed potatoes and cabbage
from County Mayo

Ingredients

1 pound cabbage (substitute kale)
1 pound potatoes
2 leeks
1 cup milk

salt and pepper to taste
1 pinch ground mace or nutmeg
1/2 cup butter

In a large saucepan, boil cabbage until tender; remove and chop or blend well. Set aside and keep warm. Boil potatoes until tender. Remove from heat and drain.

- ◆ Chop leeks, green parts as well as white, and simmer them in just enough milk to cover, until they are soft.
- ◆ Season and mash potatoes well. Stir in cooked leeks and milk. Blend in the kale or cabbage and heat until the whole is a pale green fluff. Make a well in the center and pour in the melted butter. Mix well.

Ingredients

1 Cup whole wheat flour
1 cup of wheat germ (Rogers 100% Natural Wheat Germ 375g)
1 cup of wheat bran (Rogers 100% Natural Wheat Bran 450g)
1 cup of Ground Golden Flax Seed
2 tablespoons of sugar (if you like it sweet)
1 teaspoon Soda
1 teaspoon Baking Powder
1/2 teaspoon salt

- ◆ Grease and flour 8 to 9 inch round tin
- ◆ Preheat oven to 375 degrees
- ◆ Mix all dry ingredients together
- ◆ Stir in Buttermilk (Sour Cream or Yogurt) as well if you have it.

- ◆ Mix well. Mixture should be soft and able to mix with your hands.
- ◆ Place in oven and bake for 45 - 60 minutes
- ◆ Toothpick test shows you are done if the toothpick is dry.



Irish Soda Bread

DIANE'S PUNDEMIC CORNER

You have \$400. Your daughter texts you needing \$200 and your son needs \$150. How much do you have left??

Me: \$400 and 2 UNREAD messages!

A quiet man is usually a "thinking" man.

A quiet woman...is usually mad!!

I MADE A HUGE TO DO LIST FOR TODAY. I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHO'S GOING TO DO IT.



BUY NOTHING (YOURS FOR THE ASKING)

Contact Gayle Dzis at 905-270-2159)

Barlow, Maud. The Fight of My Life, Confessions of an Unrepentant Canadian. 1998. Activist for the environment and for women's rights.

Ogle, Fr. Bob. North/South Calling. 1987. Canadian Priest.

Thomas Gordon W., MD From Sled to Satellite, My Years with the Grenfell Mission, 1998

Wallin, Pamela. Since You Asked, 1998. Canadian Media Figure

Wilson, Lois. Turning the World Upside Down; 1989. Moderator of the United Church

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

Don't Skip these Dishes for the St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser

We are organizing another fundraiser, this time on St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, March 17th 2021. All net proceeds will be going entirely to St. Patrick's Church.

It's going to be a "**BLARNEY BRUNCH**" with "**Churchside**" (a.k.a church parking lot) pick up between 11.30 am to 1pm. The Brunch includes;

- Potato and cabbage soup
- Egg bites
- Ham
- Scones
- Cookies

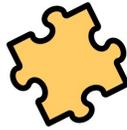
Priced at 15 (shamrocks a.k.a dollars) for the combo.

Should you wish to order, please contact **Peggy** at 905-279-5608 between 11am and 1pm or **Nina** at 905-277-5002 between 5pm to 7 pm. Further details will be provided upon placing your orders

Deadline for ALL orders is 7pm on Sunday, March 14th 2021.

Let's celebrate St. Patrick's Day and make this fundraiser a success through your sponsorship!!!

Tapadh leat !!!
(Thank you)



CATHY CERASANI'S PUZZLE CORNER

Unscramble the letters of "St. Patrick's Day" to create other words. Use the letters in the columns to help you. There are 6,617 possibilities!! Try it!!! Remember to drop Cathy (ccerasani@rogers.com) a note on how many words you create and earn bragging rights in the next Newsletter if you find the most words!

St. Patrick's Day

Score

aa c d i k p r ss tt y Total

Blooming Boulevards



Is a not-for-profit organization in Mississauga that works towards providing food and habitat for native pollinators by promoting the growth of native plants in urban boulevards. If your home has a boulevard, you can plant a pollinator garden by joining this organization (\$10/year) and applying for the same. You get 50 hardy, native plants and the opportunity to avail of several workshops.

Check out the website below or contact Ramona da Cunha 647-739-0005 for more information. The deadline for application of a garden is May 15th 2021. Let's all do a bit more for the environment!!

<http://www.bloomingboulevards.org>



Trivia Answers

1. The sun
2. Saint Brendan
3. Claddagh
4. Galway
5. A drum, shaped similarly to a tambourine
6. The Quiet Man
7. Maeve Binchy
8. All the snakes
9. Harp
10. Pierce Brosnan
11. Three
12. Waterford Glass
13. Jameson Whiskey
14. An Irish potato cake
15. Midwives
16. Mountains