



MIM *Newsletter*

As the year draws to a close and the holiday season approaches, our **Fall 2025 Newsletter** offers a moment to reflect on a meaningful and active period for the **Montreal Irish Monument**. Over the past months, we have marked important milestones — from a **renewed identity** and **powerful public events** to **strengthened international connections** and **successful fundraising efforts**.

A New Chapter for the Montreal Irish Monument

We are *proud* to share

Montreal
Irish Monument



1847

Monument Irlandais
de Montréal

Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation

At the beginning of September, the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation proudly announced an important milestone: a new name.

From now on, we will be known simply as the **Montreal Irish Monument**.

This new identity comes with a **fresh logo and visual look**, symbolizing our ongoing evolution and renewed commitment to building a permanent place of memory and gathering. We're excited to continue this journey together — preserving history, fostering education, and ensuring the story of the Irish in Montreal remains alive for generations to come.

👉 Follow our new Facebook page and social media channels below to stay up to date on events and developments!



Le Typhus and the Irish Famine:

Memorial, Memory, and the Science of Remembrance



On September 6 & 7 , 2025, the Montreal Irish Monument hosted a historical panel and commemorative mass at the iconic **Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Chapel** in collaboration with the **Site Historique Marguerite Bourgeoys**. The event sold out, with guests in attendance including descendants, supporters, and experts who offered moving presentations on the tragedy of the Great Famine of 1847 in Montreal.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated — and to our panel of historians, scientists, and community members who made the event so meaningful.

We also gratefully acknowledge the **Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN)** and the **SHARE grant program** for providing partial funding for this event and for supporting our ongoing DNA research into the recovered remains.

 **Read the full reflection by Secretary Kelley O'Rourke on our website:**

[Read Article →](#)





WATCH A SHORT VIDEO RECAP OF THE EVENT



First Annual *Charity* Golf Tournament 🏌️



On Monday, September 29, we held our First Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the beautiful Kanawaki Golf Club.

Thanks to the incredible support of our sponsors, participants, and volunteers, this first edition was a huge success. The funds raised will directly support the Montreal Irish Monument's mission to create a **world-class park commemorating the 6,000 Irish famine victims** buried beneath the Black Rock.

A special thank you to our generous sponsors.

We can't wait to see you all again next year for the **Second Annual MIM Charity Golf Tournament September 28th 2026!**

Ancient *DNA* Research Moves Forward



Our latest **ancient DNA feasibility study** is now officially underway with **Paleo-DNA Services** at **Lakehead University** in Thunder Bay.

We sincerely thank Dr. Milot and his team at the Université de Montréal à Trois-Rivières for their valuable early work with the recovered remains. As our research progressed, it became clear that the next phase required the highly specialized methods used for ancient and degraded DNA, and the facility at Lakehead is particularly well-equipped for this type of sensitive analysis.

This new study represents an important next step in our ongoing effort to learn more about the 14 individuals from 1847 whose remains were discovered near the Black Rock in 2019 during REM construction. Above all, this work is being carried out with the utmost respect and care for those we are seeking to honour.

While results are expected in the coming months, this stage marks a meaningful moment in our shared journey of discovery and remembrance—deepening our understanding of Montreal's history and the lives of the Irish Famine victims who became part of it.

For more information, please visit www.montrealirishmonument.com

JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 6th, 2026

Goose Village ***Remembered:*** **History & Archaeology**



Join us **Thursday, February 6, 2026**, for an evening of discovery as we unveil never-before-seen artifacts unearthed during the Poste-des-Irlandais construction and decontamination of the future commemorative site. **Hydro-Québec archaeologist Martin Perron** will present findings, while **Professor Marisa Portolese** shares her photographic research into this lost Montreal neighbourhood.

These archaeological treasures from Hydro-Québec's reserves offer a rare glimpse into Goose Village's rich past, bringing forgotten stories back to light through objects that survived beneath the surface.

[Register Now](#)

VISITS TO THE BLACK ROCK

Delegation from Cork



On Tuesday, September 30, the Black Rock welcomed a distinguished delegation from Cork, hosted by **President Fergus Keyes**, **Vice-President Scott Phelan**, **Secretary Kelley O'Rourke** and **Executive Manager Esmé Cavanaugh**. The delegation included leaders from local government, business, education, and tourism, among them **Valerie O'Sullivan from Cork City Council**, **Moira Murrell from Cork County Council**, and **Conor Healy from Cork Chamber**. Their visit celebrated the historic and cultural ties between Cork and Montreal, reinforcing a shared commitment to remembrance and exchange while reflecting on the enduring heritage represented by the Black Rock.

European Union



Michael McGrath, European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law, and Consumer Protection, visited Montreal and the Black Rock, marking an important moment of recognition. Members of the Board of Directors of the Montreal Irish Monument attended an evening hosted by the Embassy of Ireland and the **Delegation of the European Union** in his honour.

The visit highlighted the enduring heritage and shared commitment to remembrance between Ireland and Montreal, strengthening cultural and historical connections.

Glór Na Móna



Last week the MIM was honoured to welcome **Feargal Mac Ionnrachtaigh** from Belfast's **Glór Na Móna** to the Black Rock. We shared our plans to commemorate the Famine

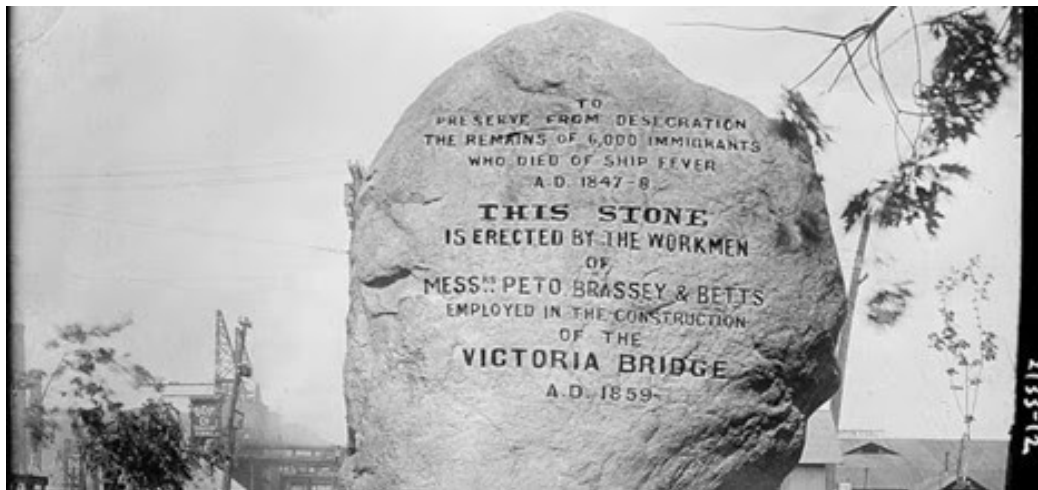
refugees who arrived in Montréal in 1847-1848, many of whom were Irish-speaking.

The Great Famine profoundly shaped the Irish diaspora, including here in Montréal. While it contributed to the decline of Irish in Ireland, it also carried the language around the world—where it continues to be learned and spoken today.

The Irish language is already included in the early designs of the future memorial site, and it was a pleasure to discuss shared commitments to language, culture, and historical memory with Glór na Móna.

📺 Vice-President Scott Phelan with Feargal at the Black Rock.

In the *News* 📰



On **September 6**, *Journal de Montréal* journalist **Mathieu-Robert Sauvé** published an article titled “6000 Irlandais reposent près du pont Victoria dans la plus grande fosse commune du pays.”

The article explores the **history of the Black Rock**, the tragedy of the Great Famine, and the Montreal Irish Monument’s ongoing project to create a permanent commemorative park.

We are deeply grateful for this coverage, which brings wider attention to the story we are working to preserve.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERED

Irish Night on the *Hill*



The Irish Night on the Hill was held on **Wednesday, November 19**, in Ottawa at the historic Sir John A. Macdonald Building, located across from Parliament. Approximately **700 guests** attended the event, hosted by the **Embassy of Ireland** and the **Government of Canada**.

The evening was expertly emceed by **James Maloney**, MP for Etobicoke–Lakeshore, who recently committed to supporting the Montreal Irish Monument through participation on our **Government Advisory Committee**.

During the evening, we had the opportunity to speak with Irish Ambassador **John Concannon**, **Steven Guilbeault**, then Minister of Canadian Heritage and **Peter Burke**, Irish Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment. We discussed the Montreal Irish Monument project, with the Ambassador emphasizing its importance to both Canada and Ireland.



Many leaders from the Montreal Irish community were also in attendance, including **Lori Morrison**, President of the United Irish Societies, and her husband **Gregg**, **Danny Doyle Sr.**, President of the Erin Sports Association, and his wife **Cathy** and **Bryan O’Gallagher**, Honorary Irish Consul for Quebec. Bryan has recently agreed to support the Montreal Irish Monument by joining our newly convened **Steering Committee** in preparation for our fundraising campaign, set to launch in **May 2026**.

Notably, the Montreal Irish Monument was the **only specific project in Canada** mentioned by both Minister Burke and MP Maloney during their remarks — making it

a particularly strong evening of recognition for our Foundation.

We look forward to next year.



Join the *Movement*

If you would like to support the Montreal Irish Monument in creating a commemorative park to honour the 6,000 victims resting beneath the Black Rock, you can make a donation here:

[Donate](#)

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The governments, corporations, and individuals who have lent their financial support to the foundation during its initial years of fundraising are indispensable to the project's success. Without their contributions, this long-awaited commemoration would remain a mere aspiration within the Irish community, rather than the tangible site it is evolving into.



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



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

Secrétariat aux relations
avec les Québécois
d'expression anglaise

Québec



Ville de Montréal



Let's stay in touch!

