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Cover Photo:

Autumn colours at Fitzgerald Park, Cork Ireland



Autumn offers a vibrant array of colours cooler weather to enjoy a comfort stroll and exploring natural spaces. The best time to see the leaves change colour is usually from late September to mid-October.

Walking around a city is one of the best ways to admire and explore its features. A stroll around the Old Port for a side of scenic St. Lawrence views along cobblestone streets outlining the many shops and boutiques is the perfect way to spend the afternoon. Alongside a little shopping on pedestrian street of Saint-Paul in Old Montreal, one of the oldest and most historic streets in the city filled with charm, shops and restaurants. One of the most popular murals in Montreal Leonard Cohen mural, a tribute to a Montréal icon rising 10,000 square feet and 21 stories above the city. As the weather begins to get colder take advantage of Montreal's Underground City (officially known as RÉSO) is a collection of tunnels and interconnected office towers, shopping centres, residential and commercial complexes, hotels, convention halls, universities and performing arts venues that form the heart of Montreal's downtown core. Combined, there are more than 33km (20 mi) of passageways with 500,000 daily users during the winter months, making it the biggest

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PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Excerpt

“Towards an Understanding and Learning from An Gorta Mór” Keynote Address at the 2025 National Famine Commemoration



A Aire,
A Mhéara,
Oireachtas members,
Councillors,
His Excellency, The Most Reverend Luis Mariano Montemayor, Apostolic Nuncio and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Representatives of the National Famine Commemoration Committee,

A cháirde,

Today, designated as National Famine Commemoration Day, is a solemn opportunity for the people of this island to reflect on, and recall, those who perished, recall too the suffering and loss experienced by our Irish people in that cataclysmic period in our history to which we refer as, An Gorta Mór.

No other event in our history can be likened to the Great Famine, either for its immediate, tragic impact, or its role is a massive increase in a desperate involuntary emigration, the cultural loss, its increased pressure for the decline of the Irish language, and demoralisation.

The founding of a commemorative event for the Great Famine was a significant milestone, and it owes a great deal to those activists who advocated for it, such as Pete St John, Michael and Olivia Blanch, Kieran Tuohy, and many others who campaigned for it.

As we gather in the Famine Memorial Park within the historic Kilmallock Union Workhouse complex, this is the first time that the State Commemoration has taken place in County Limerick. May I say that this site offers a most appropriate backdrop for reflecting on one of the most pivotal and painful chapters of our nation's history. The basic facts of An Gorta Mór are:

- The population of Ireland was reduced from 8.5 million in 1845 to 6.6 million by 1851;
- Over 1 million people died of starvation and disease;
- Over 2 million people emigrated on approximately 5,000 ship sailings;
- Life expectancy fell from over 38 years in 1845 to below 21 years in the second half of the decade.

We have, thanks to an ever-expanding historiography, a number of established and accepted facts pertaining to An Gorta Mór. It was a cataclysmic event experienced by the Irish people then part of the British Empire. An apology for the British response was issued on behalf of the British Government and read at a commemoration event in Millstreet in 1997, the 150th anniversary of “Black ’47”.

Having given the keynote address at the National Famine Commemoration on six occasions, I do so in 2025 for what will be my final time as Uachtarán na hÉireann. Doing so presents me with the greatest difficulties.

Famine is a horrific reality in so many parts of the world, repeated again and again, accepted by too many with indifference. The occurrence of repeat famines is a great human failure.

We are now also seeing starvation being used as an instrument of war. As peoples in countries such as Yemen and Sudan suffer hunger and famine created by conflict, so many additional deaths are caused by blockages to the food and medical aid they need. The consequences of a forced starvation in Gaza, for example, are daily on our television screens. In relation to Gaza, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres stated with passion and despair recently,

“As aid dries up, the floodgates of horror have re-opened. [...] Gaza is a killing field – and civilians are in an endless death loop”.

The Secretary General went on to draw the world’s attention to the breaches of international law involved, the Fourth Geneva Convention, which outlines the duty of Occupying Powers to ensure food and medical supplies for the population, as well as ensuring and maintaining medical and hospital establishments and services, public health and hygiene.

The Irish Government with others is asking all of the members of the European Union to act together to avoid a massive loss of life.

The collapse in humanitarian aid and assistance across the globe has left a significantly reduced humanitarian capacity, and where it does exist, access to those affected is impacted by conflict and often civil strife. As I speak, trucks with vital food, medicine and water are blocked at three entry points to Gaza. Two sets of aid from Ireland are waiting in Amman, Jordan.

Hunger and displacement are among the greatest challenges facing the world. At their root, of course, is the impact of climate change, which is contributing not only to immediate conditions of famine, but also to the ability of breaking a limiting food dependence in the future.

It is when we acknowledge the assumptions, and the related indifference, that stands behind the facts that are the experience of those we see dying on our television screens, and it is when we speculate on the full impact of the ideological context that is coming to dominate, and its influence on policy, that we are best prepared to understand, and to use, our own Famine experience in such a way as might generate an appropriately ethical response to the obscenity of recurring famines in our own time in different parts of our shared, vulnerable planet and the assumptions that are responsible for an insufficiency of response.

The historiography of the Irish Famine, like that of the War of Independence and the Civil War, is one for which there was, for a period, pressure to pass over it, move on to contemporary constitutional issues – indeed it was marginalised until the mid-1990s when scholars such as James Donnelly, Kerby Miller, Patrick O’Sullivan, Cormac Ó Gráda, Christine Kinealy, Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Thomas Keneally and others helped to give the Famine its thorough and appropriate treatment in Irish historiography.

Most importantly, the most serious scholarship on the Irish Famine has now agreed that the primary contextual features that influenced the response to the Famine were based on ideological and political assumptions, assumptions that carried a particular view of emerging modernity and rationality, an inevitable view of the future which was perceived as being beyond the Irish people and on which they needed instruction. This is reflected not just in the writings of politicians of the period, but, for example, in the campaigns of Archbishop Richard Whately and Nassau Senior.

We are all indebted to scholars such as Professor Tom Boylan and Dr Ciara Boylan who have produced invaluable work on the Whately project. The ideological assumptions of Whately and those such as Nassau Senior have also been critiqued in the excellent entry to the Famine Folios series of Quinnipiac University, *Death by Discourse? Political Economy and the Great Irish Famine*, by Tadhg Foley, who offered us examples of Whately’s Easy Lessons on Money Matters for the Use of Young People.

Such work exposes the iron fist barely concealed by the invisible hand of the market. For example, economist Nassau Senior, speculating on whether the act of Providence he saw in the Famine would be sufficient to change the Irish in the direction of a necessary and altered rationality that accepted the marketplace, stated that, “the death of only one million people in Ireland [...] would scarcely be enough to do much good”.




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As Tadhg Foley puts it, English establishment during the time of the Famine attributed the catastrophe it constituted to moral flaws in the Irish character such as “improvidence”, “backwardness”, “indolence”, “a tendency towards disorder and lawlessness”, “over-population”, factors considered to be barriers to economic progress, modernisation – “in effect to Anglicisation” –, the causes and effects of a “flawed people”. It demonstrated a perceived widespread ignorance of *laissez faire* economics, which by the mid-19th century had attained a scientific supremacy in the hegemonic discourse.

Recent work on philanthropic donations during the Famine continue to be ever better-documented. Such donations included those that came from, among others, the convicts on the prison hulks, the Choctaw and Cherokee Peoples on their reservations, the newly freed slaves in the Caribbean, the Quakers, and the Anishinaabee, Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat indigenous communities in Canada.

Recent research from Dr Jason King and Professor Mark McGowan of the University of Toronto has unearthed writings from individuals in the First Nations in West Canada which included handwritten notes from the mid-1840s in which they write of how very sorry they are that the children of the Great Mother, who they consider their brothers and sisters in Ireland, are suffering.

Universally, they are distressed and empathetic, writing of how they would have given more money but they themselves are poor. These are people who had virtually nothing and yet were willing to forgo what little they had, having borne similar pain themselves in their own past. They share a sense of the collective, of a shared ancient hospitality in their culture.

The Famine in Ireland, and indeed those famines elsewhere, including India, can therefore be seen as a collision between the assumptions of an ancient human hospitality of snared necessities and a late 19th-century extreme individualism. It is a contest of the universalising ambitions, of an individualism versus diverse version of a shared humanistic collective.

Before the Famine, and for long after, land, its ownership, and its use was a basic issue. It needs to be recognised that large-scale evictions preceded the Famine, continued during the Famine, and succeeded it. In *The Great Famine: Ireland's Agony*, Ciarán Ó

Murchadha gives us an example appropriate for the setting in which I give this paper.

Giving evidence later to a British parliament select committee inquiring into the Famine, Francis Spaight a Limerick merchant and ship owner stated:

“I found so great an advantage of getting rid of the pauper population upon my own property that I made every possible exertion to remove them. [...] I consider the failure of the potato crop to be the greatest possible value in one respect in enabling us to carry out the emigration system”.

Spaight, who had purchased a 4,200-acre North Tipperary estate called Derrycastle, was the owner of six small vessels which would carry a high proportion of those sent out of Ireland on the high seas. Spaight was a well-known proponent of so-called ‘landlord-sponsored emigration’, attracted by the large profits to be made “by replacing the ballast on the outward journey with paying emigrants”, as Ciaran Ó Murchadha has written. During 1847, 85,000 were recorded as having experienced emigration in this fashion.

There is of course a deeper layer of history associated with the contest for land and what it might produce.

Spaight was one of about 10,000 landlords whose ancestors had been the beneficiaries of a 17th-century confiscation of lands that transferred almost the entire land-stock of Ireland from Irish Catholics to British Protestants.

When we assess the causes of the Famine, the word “rotten” is one that is omnipresent – the rotten potatoes that resulted from *phytophthora infestans*, the blight that ravaged Europe’s potatoes from 1845, starting in Belgium, having been imported in 1843 from the United States as tubers for planting as seed in 1844; the rotten policies that, as far as Ireland was concerned, were Westminster’s disastrous response to it; and the rot before the rot – the socio-economic, political and ideological systems that, by the 1840s, had made the poor vulnerable to disaster.

The Irish Famine was but one of the 19th-century British Empire’s many famines. Imperialism itself – imposing demands upon a society, disrupting the natural indigenous development of that society, expanding beyond its strength and understanding – is inextricably linked with famine around the colonised world, perhaps most notably in India and Ireland.

We must acknowledge, the imperialist forces predating the Famine which gave rise to economic catastrophe, over-dependence on potatoes, poor living standards, land tenure insecurity – all of which helped precipitate the calamity that is the Famine.

Just under 4,000 people owned nearly 80 percent of Irish land. Under 2,000 owned 93 percent of Scotland, approximately 5,000 owned more than half of England, and just 700 owned 60 percent of Wales.

The consequences of the Famine fell most severely on the landless labourers as a class. The class of cottier and conacre farmer shrank from 134,000 in 1841 to 36,000 a decade later, and the number of holdings of under five acres fell from 440,000 to 124,000.

The number of evictions proceedings grew during the Famine years: 11,166 in 1847, 16,349 in 1848, and 16,979 in 1849. It is estimated that as many as 500,000 people were evicted between 1845 and 1850, while many others were ‘unroofed’ and Martial law imposed.

The local impact of the Great Famine on Irish rural communities is well worthy of documentation. Every parish, every townland has a Famine graveyard.

The population of County Limerick declined from 330,000 in 1841 to 262,000 a decade later, and just 146,000 by the time of the 1901 Census. The drop in the rural population was particularly brutal – Kilmallock experienced a fall of almost a quarter of its 1841 population.

During this time of blight and hunger, the Limerick City quaysides were used to transport produce from one of the most fertile parts of Ireland, the Golden Vale, to the English ports. Francis Spaight, the Limerick merchant, landlord and ship owner to whom I referred earlier, recorded 386,909 barrels of oats and 46,288 barrels of wheat being shipped out of Limerick between June 1846 and May 1847.

These same Limerick quaysides were the departure point for many who attempted to flee the Famine, sailing across the Atlantic. One week in April 1850 saw four ships, the Marie Brennan, the Congress, the Triumph, and Hannah, the smallest emigrant ship, sail down the Shannon towards the Americas, mostly comprising young people, depriving Ireland of their vigour and contribution which they would bring to other nations instead. The Hannah, at 18 metres long, could barely hold 60 passengers and eight crew, yet made eight trans-Atlantic voyages.

Many of those sailing to the New World were desperately sick. As many as 40,000 people – 20 percent of all emigrants during 1847 – died on the voyage.

We should recall too that some 5,500 of those leaving were political activists forced into exile, many to Australia’s penal colonies, leaving behind families and wives – the “transportation-widowed women” – who developed often desperate survival methods, as depicted in Thomas Keneally’s *The Great Shame*.

We are witnessing dangerous breaches and challenges to human rights around the world – be it in the plight of those enduring the horrific consequences of avoidable war and conflict, including food insecurity, the reappearance of old hatreds and the arrival of new forms of the scourges of hatred, racism and intolerance.

If responding to violence with violence comes to be viewed as the natural condition of humanity, that surely constitutes little less than a great species failure.

The existential challenges that face us today – global hunger, malnutrition, poverty, sustainability, war and preparations for wars – require us to accept the challenge of seeking a new enhanced consciousness, a new point of balance, resonance, agreement as to giving primacy, managing and sustaining the means to survival itself. Such any new beginning must be one that seeks to build the mind and the experience of peace, recognises the interdependence of a shared humanity, aspires towards achieving a recognition that war must never be an option that a global peaceful co-existence is our best expression of our shared humanity. When the Security Council fails us we must return to the exceptional measures that are available to the General Assembly.

This is my final Famine Commemoration address as President of Ireland. In memory of all those who died during An Gorta Mór, may I repeat my plea, that we all work together for a lasting peace which gives us our best, even sole prospect for an end to global hunger and famine.

Beir beannacht

22 August 2025

‘Teeing up’ Ireland at the British Masters

Tourism Ireland is swinging into action this week, at the British Masters at The Belfry Hotel & Resort – showcasing the island of Ireland as a world-class golf destination to thousands of spectators.

Joined by three golf and tourism partners from Ireland, Tourism Ireland is using the high-profile DP World Tour event to highlight Ireland’s superb golf courses and great visitor experiences. Tourism Ireland is reminding golfers that the Irish Open will take place at The K Club next month and that Adare Manor will host the Ryder Cup in 2027.

Judith Cassidy, Tourism Ireland’s Acting Head of Great Britain, said: *“Our presence at this year’s British Masters is an excellent opportunity to remind golfers that the island of Ireland offers some of the very best golf in the world, as well as spectacular scenery, fantastic experiences and warm hospitality. Our aim is to inspire them to choose Ireland for their next golf holiday.*

“Golf is the world’s largest sports-related travel market and Tourism Ireland’s message is that a golfing holiday in Ireland is about much more than a round of 18 holes – the combination of our world-class golf and our unique brand of hospitality plays a key role in attracting golfers from Britain and elsewhere around the world.”

Joseph Cruise, Tourism Ireland;
Ann Donaghy, The Causeway
Hotel; John Keegan, Druids Glen
Hotel & Golf Resort; Gearoid
Dolan, Tourism Ireland; and Sean
McDermott, The Heights Hotel,
Killarney, at the British Masters at
The Belfry in Birmingham.





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Bob Geldof Enters the Irish Presidential Election Race

Bob Geldof, the Boomtown Rats singer and Live Aid organiser is the latest name to enter the race to become President of Ireland with the Presidential election being held on Friday, 24 October.

He's told the Irish Independent it would be an 'enormous privilege' to succeed Michael D. Higgins.

The paper reports Geldof is seeking the backing of local councils after learning in a phone call with Michael Martin last

week that the Fianna Fail leader was supporting Jim Gavin GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) Dublin Manager



Meanwhile, Heather Humpreys will be confirmed as the Fine Gael candidate for the Presidential Election.

The former Social Protection Minister is the only contender still in the race to represent the party after MEP and former GAA President Sean Kelly 'reluctantly' withdrew.

A sore spot for Sinn Féin endorsing Geldof, was that he was previously the recipient of an honorary knighthood from the late Queen Elizabeth II and the Dubliner Geldof has also previously criticised the 1916 Rising, describing it as a "delusional enterprise".

Asked about this, Mr Ó Broin of Sinn Féin responded saying: "They are clearly both points of strong disagreement with Bob, although they are only two of many." The TD said the presidency was "a serious question for us". "We want to support the candidate that reflects the progressive republican values of our party," he said.

Sinn Féin is considering whether to run its own candidate or to join other Opposition parties in backing Independent candidate Catherine Connolly, however there has been scrutiny of Ms Connolly's record including foreign policy views, her nomination of Gemma O'Doherty to enter the presidential race in 2018 and a "fact-finding" trip she took to Syria in 2018 when dictator Bashar al-Assad was in power.

Bob Geldof who conceived and co-wrote Band Aid's tune "Do They Know It's Christmas?" with his friend, musician Midge Ure of Ultravox, which became the 1984 Christmas number one in the UK and the best-selling British pop single until that time. Band Aid later evolved into Live Aid (1985), the first international real-time concert, broadcast across the globe for two days. Band Aid and Live Aid (1985) were created to bring relief to the starving in Ethiopia. Geldof was knighted by the British Conservative government in 1986 for his achievement. Although he was awarded a K.B.E. (Knight of the order of the British Empire) by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, as he is an Irish citizen the award was honorary and he cannot be referred to as 'Sir'. Instead he is more correctly addressed as Robert (or Bob) Geldof K.B.E.

Geldof and the Boomtown Rats are renowned for songs like Rat Trap and I Don't Like Mondays in fact "Rat Trap" released in October 1978 reached No. 1 on the UK Singles Chart for two weeks in November 1978, the first single by a punk or new wave act to do so. The song was written by Bob Geldof and produced by Robert John "Mutt" Lange who produced various songs for Shania Twain, his ex-wifeme including her 1997 album Come On Over, which became the best-selling country music album. "Rat Trap" by the Boomtown Rats replaced "Summer Nights", a hit single for John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John from the soundtrack of Grease, at number one on the UK chart

Following Live Aid Bob Geldof commented: We need finally to move from charity (Band Aid, Live Aid) to political and economic justice. Charity deals with the pain of poverty, the hunger, disease and conflict, but to finally end these things one must focus not on the symptoms of poverty but on its structures. Why does it exist? How does it exist? What can we do to stop it and its awful symptoms? That can only be addressed by political change.

Sabrina Carpenter Becomes new Face of Scots Whisky Giant

The popstar has announced a global partnership with Johnnie Walker timed to the release of her new album *Man's Best Friend*.



The Grammy award winner has announced a global partnership with Johnnie Walker, timing it with the release of her album *Man's Best Friend*.

The multi-year partnership represents a “bold, transformative era for whisky and music”, and will offer fans of legal drinking age Sabrina’s take on her favourite classic whisky cocktails.

The campaign debuts globally alongside the final leg of her Short n’ Sweet Tour, with cocktails including a Manhattan, a whisky sour, and a whisky highball on offer at select shows.

The Espresso and Please Please Please star performed at Glasgow’s OVO Hydro in March.

She said: “Stepping into this next chapter of my music has been such a thrill.

“It feels more confident and a lot more unapologetic. This partnership is about celebrating boldly, pushing boundaries, and moving forward with purpose.”

John Williams, global head of whiskeys at Diageo, said: “Music plays such a meaningful role in everyone’s life journey, and it has always been a way of connecting people to Johnnie Walker’s ‘Keep Walking’ mantra, which is aimed at inspiring personal progress.

“We are thrilled to welcome Sabrina Carpenter as the newest voice in our story.

“Her fearless creativity and deep connection with a new generation make her a powerhouse addition to our Johnnie Walker family.

“Together, we’ll harness the power of music to bring a bold, new energy to the whisky experience.”

JJ Stratford, director and video artist, added: “Johnnie Walker has evolved through generations to become the modern icon it is today, and Sabrina is on a similar path with *Man's Best Friend*, stepping into a more confident, self-assured chapter while keeping her signature charm.

“In developing this campaign, we nodded to the golden age of spirits advertising, then layered in Sabrina’s bold yet timeless aesthetic, clever humour and a modern wink to make it unmistakably her own.”

Sabrina, an American singer, songwriter, and actress. She first gained prominence starring on the Disney Channel series *Girl Meets World* (2014–2017). She signed with the Disney-owned Hollywood Records and released her debut single, “Can’t Blame a Girl for Trying” in 2014, followed by her debut studio album *Eyes Wide Open* in 2015, which peaked at number 43 on the US *Billboard* 200. She then released the following dance-pop oriented albums *Evolution* (2016), *Singular: Act I* (2018), and *Singular: Act II* (2019). she also appeared in films, including *Adventures in Babysitting* (2016), *The Hate U Give* (2018), *The Short History of the Long Road* (2019), *Clouds* (2020), and *Emergency* (2022). She has also starred in the Netflix films *Tall Girl* (2019), *Tall Girl 2* (2022), and *Work It* (2020), the latter of which she executive-produced. On Broadway, she played Cady Heron in the musical *Mean Girls* (2020)



New courses must be the luck of the Irish

by Kelly Wilton

James Joyce, William Butler Yeats and Daniel O'Connell are coming to Concordia.

History student Kevin Gillan has won his four-year battle to get them across the Atlantic.

This fall, Concordia is offering four Irish history, and two Irish literature courses.

Gillan's crusade began four years ago when he founded Concordia's Friends of Ireland Society, a group which promotes Montreal's Irish community.

But he didn't stop at that.

He was convinced that Irish studies at Concordia would be a hit.

"I've been sending letters to the History, English and Political Science departments for the past few years," said Gillan, who was born in Canada, but spent most of his childhood in Northern Ireland.

"There are about 100,000 people of Irish background in Montreal," he said. "Until now there were no courses available to teach these people about their culture and heritage. I am stubborn, I just kept pushing and

pushing."

Courses being offered this year are: the Irish Literary Revival, Yeats and Joyce, History of Ireland, History of Ireland - to 1900, History of Ireland 1900 - Present and Irish Home Rule 1867-1922. Five of the six courses (which weren't listed in the schedule), still have spaces available.

Most of the history courses will be taught by Allan O'Day, a professor from England. O'Day was brought to Concordia through a one year professor exchange scheme.

The history department was pleased to introduce the courses into the department but History Department Chair, Graeme Decarie, says most of the leg work was done by Gillan. "He is a real worker, he is energetic and he get things done." Gillan is enrolled in four courses and says he can hardly wait for the them to start.

"This was one of my biggest ambitions in life," he said. "The shamrock is on Montreal's municipal flag. Now we have courses to teach young people what it symbolizes."

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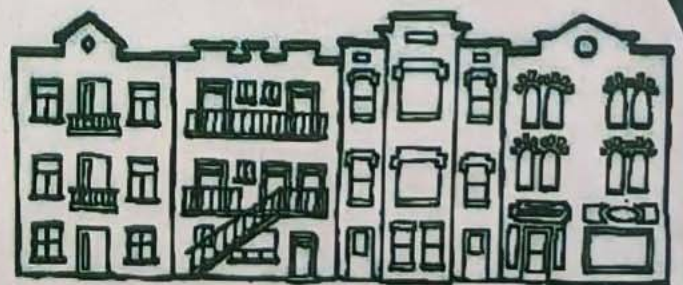
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- To make new friends
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The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Youth Auxiliary works with other youth organizations in the community to ensure youth safety and that proper protocol's are met to enable they receive the best quality instruction possible. It was first initiated by Chomedey Branch President Howard Tyers and Leadership and Youth Officer Kevin Gillan and was given the green light by both Quebec Command and Dominion Command in Ottawa to work in conjunction with our local School Commissions, the Canadian Armed Forces Cadet Corps and our Executives.

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 - The Poppy Program
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**
 - Hospital and Hospice Volunteer Program
 - Field and Home Service Programs
 - Volunteers
- **Sports**
 - Participate in activities that promote health and friendly competitiveness

**Get The Youth Involved
Support Veteran Causes!**

Right now, Ireland's housing system is not meeting the needs of enough of our people.

- There are not enough houses to buy or rent in the private sector.
- There are not enough houses being built by the State for those who need social housing.
- Housing has become increasingly unaffordable for the 'squeezed middle' who would once have expected to be able to purchase their own home.
- Too many people are experiencing homelessness or are unable to access appropriate housing.
- The cost of building housing is too high.
- Too much vacant housing stock remains unused.
- Our housing stock needs to be more environmentally friendly.

Underpinned by commitments in the Programme for Government, over the last year the Government has taken ambitious action to address these issues while developing the **Housing for All** Plan. These measures have ranged from new affordability measures to enhancing social housing delivery.

This year saw the largest housing budget on record. To increase affordability, the Government passed the first ever comprehensive Affordable Housing Act and reformed the LDA's remit whilst placing it on a statutory footing. The Help to Buy incentive was extended and increased to €30,000. Ireland's first ever Cost Rental homes were opened.

We are focused on protecting society's most vulnerable. We signed the Lisbon Declaration on ending Homelessness by 2030. To assist older people and people with a disability, we have increased funding for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability. We have also increased funding under the Disabled Person Grant Scheme and Improvement Works in Lieu of Local Authority Housing Scheme.

For renters, the Government extended Rent Pressure Zones and limited rent increases to general inflation. It also limited deposits and extended protections for student renters. Co-living has been banned and five separate pieces of legislation have strengthened tenant protections. We also legislated to protect traditional family homes from bulk purchases. To combat vacancy, we have brought back over 3,600 vacant social homes into use; streamlined the Buy and Renew scheme; and extended the Repair and Lease Scheme to €60,000.

To stimulate more housing, we invested in an Irish Water Stimulus package and slashed red tape on developing new social housing by extending the single stage approval process to €6m. The regeneration of our cities and towns is being underlined by an additional €1.3 billion in Urban Regeneration and Development Fund investment.



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News Bulletin

Scotland bans arms companies that supply Israel Defense Forces from receiving financial aid

The Scottish government has banned arms companies which supply the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) from getting grants and investment support, and will freeze support for trade with Israel.

John Swinney, the first minister (R), said any defence contractors who wanted financial help in Scotland would have to prove their products would not be used by the IDF.

He said governments around the world needed to take urgent action in response to the humanitarian “catastrophe” in Gaza, where there was now plausible evidence of genocide.

“The scale of suffering [in Gaza] is unimaginable,” he told the Scottish parliament. “Nobody can ignore it. We must confront this crisis with urgency, compassion and an unwavering commitment to accountability.”

After urging the UK government to support the genocide case against Israel at the international court of justice, Swinney said his devolved government in Edinburgh had decided to change its rules on financial support for defence companies.

It would now pause any new grants or financing for products going to countries justifiably accused of genocide, he said. Swinney had told his officials, the business agency Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish National Investment Bank not to offer any new financial support to non-compliant firms, starting with those that supply Israel.

Research by the Ferret website has found since January 2022, Scottish Enterprise has given at least £2.75m to the defence firms Raytheon, Thales and Leonardo, all of which have products used by the IDF, including drones, the F-35 fighter and guided missiles.

Scottish Enterprise had also been told not to facilitate any new non-military export deals with Israel by companies based in Scotland, Swinney said, before urging the UK government to abandon its trade pact with Israel.

“Trying to do two different things at once is foolish,” they said.

On Sunday, the UK government announced BAE’s shipyards on the Clyde would play a key role in a record £10bn deal with Norway to build at least five new Type 26 frigates, securing 2,000 jobs on the Clyde.

In June, Kate Forbes, the deputy first minister

In June, Kate Forbes, the deputy first minister, announced Scottish Enterprise would give BAE Systems £9.22m for a new skills and training academy being set up as part of a new shipbuilding facility on the Clyde, which would help create 300 new jobs

BAE Systems has been criticised by pro-Palestinian activists because it supplies parts for the F-35 fighter programme from its plants in other parts of the UK.

Swinney appeared to accept there were tensions within this new policy by also pledging none of the Scottish government-funded apprenticeship programmes at defence firms would be affected.

His announcement was intended to placate critics on the left including the Scottish Greens, which has urged Scottish ministers to boycott firms supplying the IDF.

Jamie Livingston, the head of the anti-poverty charity Oxfam, said the UK government should follow Swinney’s lead. “Gaza is being turned into a graveyard before our eyes: history will ask if leaders did everything they could to stop it. The first minister has committed to act; Westminster must do the same,” Livingston said.





MONTREAL — Congratulations to both Verdun Vikings teams for winning their respective Summer Superleagues! And congrats as well to all the players and teams for their hard work throughout the season.

The Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Club was established in 1948 to promote Ireland's national sports – Gaelic Football, Camogie and Hurling, to the community of Montreal.



Today, with approximately 200 active members, we are one of the oldest GAA Clubs in North America (and Canada). Our members include people from all walks of life, nationalities and skill levels.

Whether you're Irish, with lots of GAA experience, coming from another sports background, or just looking for a way to be active, the Shamrocks have a spot for you! No matter your age, skills, or fitness level, you're welcome to join.



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 Wed 10 Sept **MONTREAL** Beanfield
 Thu 11 Sept **TORONTO** Danforth
 Fri 12 Sept **COLUMBUS** Athenaeum Theatre
 Sun 14 Sept **LOUISVILLE** Bourbon & Beyond*
 Mon 15 Sept **NASHVILLE** Basement East
 Tue 16 Sept **CHICAGO** Thalia Hall
 Wed 17 Sept **MINNEAPOLIS** Uptown Theater

Sat 20 Sept **VANCOUVER** Commodore
 Sun 21 Sept **SEATTLE** Neptune
 Tue 23 Sept **PORTLAND** Aladdin
 Thu 25 Sept **SAN FRANCISCO** Fillmore
 Fri 26 Sept **LOS ANGELES** Bellwether
 Sat 27 Sept **SOLANA BEACH, CA** Belly Up
 Sun 28 Sept **PHOENIX** Crescent Ballroom
 Tue 30 Sept **SANTA FE** Lensic
 Thu 2 Oct **AUSTIN** Paramount Theatre
 Fri 3 Oct **DALLAS** Longhorn Ballroom
 Sat 4 Oct **OKLAHOMA CITY** Tower Theatre



The Montreal Irish Monument Foundation is dedicated to preserving the memory of the Irish immigrants who perished during the Great Famine. Our mission is to create a commemorative site that honors their legacy and educates the public about this significant historical event. Established in 2015, our foundation has worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life, collaborating with historians, architects, and the local community to ensure an accurate and respectful tribute.

The Foundation undertook extensive consultations between 2017 and 2020 with the Ville de Montreal, Hydro-Quebec, the Southwest Borough, consulting firms, and other interested parties to arrive at a preliminary design for the memorial park that was unanimously accepted by all. More recently in 2024, the Foundation engaged the services of award-winning architectural firm Lemay to create comprehensive plans for the site. These plans will be released by the end of the year, subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated.

The Irish Monument Park will commemorate the Irish who lost their lives at the fever sheds of Point-Saint-Charles in Montreal in the aftermath of the Famine. It will be a sanctuary to protect the sacred ground and the 6,000 souls who lie there and will pay tribute to the many Montrealers who came to their aid.

A place of profound significance, the park will provide a gathering place for the local Irish community, a site of pilgrimage for the global Irish diaspora and an important memorial to visit for those interested in this chapter of Montreal's and Quebec's history.

Construction on the park will begin in 2027 once the Hydro-Quebec sub-station is completed (2024) and the Ville de Montreal redirects Bridge Street and repurposes la rue des Irlandais (2027).

SAVE THE DATE

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Montreal Shamrocks

Stanley Cup Winners 1899, 1900

On March 14, 1899, and again on March 7, 1900, three Loyola pioneers starred with the Montreal Shamrocks as the team won the Stanley Cup in two consecutive years.

In 1893-4 Harry Trihey (Captain), Arthur Farrell and Jack Brannen were a force on the hockey team at Collège Ste-Marie, out of which came Loyola College, one of the founding institutions of Concordia University.



The Shamrocks hockey team grew out of the Shamrocks Lacrosse team, world champions at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. It was an era of religious prejudice and Catholics did not play on the wasp-dominated teams of the Amateur Hockey Association (AHA). The Shamrocks hockey team was started with support from pastor John Quinlivan of St. Patrick's Church (now basilica). The Shamrocks joined the AHA in 1895 and the newly-formed Canadian Amateur Hockey League in 1898.

The Shamrocks won the Stanley Cup on March 1, 1899 by defeating the Montreal Victorias 1-0 before 8,000 people in the new Montreal arena at the corner of Wood and Ste-Catherine streets. On March 14 they defended the cup 6-2 in a challenge from Queen's University. In a February 4 lead-up game the Shamrocks beat Quebec City 13-4, with team captain Trihey scoring 10 goals--a truly amazing record for Stanley Cup play.



The Shamrocks won the Cup again in 1900 when they defeated the Winnipeg Victorias on February 16, and successfully defended the title against Halifax on March 7, 1900.

In 1899 goal nets were used for the first time and later that year the rules of hockey were modified by Farrell and Trihey. Players could no longer lift the puck and there was greater emphasis on stick-handling.

As hockey moved into the 20th century, the coveted Stanley Cup occupied a prominent place in the Montreal Shamrocks' clubhouse.

Jack Brannen, known as the fastest skater of his day, went on to fight in World War I and became a physician. Team captain Harry Trihey was the principal organizer of the 55th regiment of the Irish Rangers, and later became a prominent Montreal lawyer and businessman. Arthur Farrell died a young man. Besides the power line of forwards Trihey, Brannen and Farrell, the team included Charles Hoerner, Jim McKenna, Fred Scanlan, Frank Tansey, Frank Wall. Barney Dunphy was coach.

Sources: Alan Hustak; Charles Coleman, *The Trail of the Stanley Cup*; Brian McFarlane, *Stanley Cup Fever*.

Note: In 1909, John Ambrose O'Brien founded the National Hockey Association and the Montreal Canadiens, the Canadiens are the oldest continuously operating professional ice hockey team worldwide, and the only existing NHL club to predate the founding of the league. O'Brien later transferred the team to George Kennedy of Montreal and won its first Stanley Cup championship in the 1915-16 season. In 1917, with four other NHA teams, the Canadiens formed the NHL and they won their first NHL Stanley Cup during the 1923-24 season, led by Howie Morenz.



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Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club

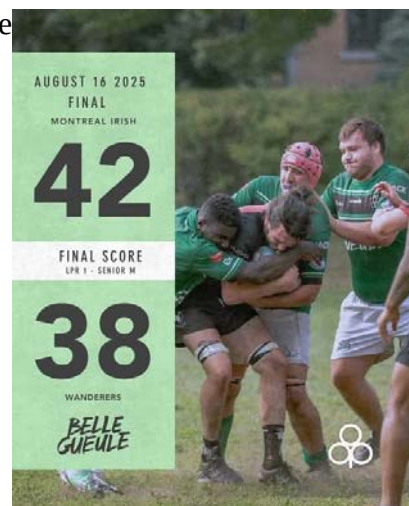
The Montreal Irish Rugby team senior men's team and senior reserve team made it to the finals with both teams having played with dedication and conviction. The Irish P1 defeated the Wanderers 42 – 38 team winning the Championship and hoisting the trophy high.



Unfortunately, the Irish Reserve team fell to XV De Montreal.

The Montreal Irish RFC (Rugby Football Club) is a longstanding amateur rugby union club in the greater Montreal area, established in 1957. The Irish RFC has consistently been a strong force in Quebec rugby and has been instrumental in the development of rugby in the province, with a winning tradition, the club has won multiple championships over the decades.

The are located with their Home Field & Clubhouse situated at 707 Rang de la Vallée in Sainte-Julie, QC and their Senior Men Training Field located at Parc Arthur-Therrien in Verdun, QC.





Rock Legends Ready to Swing on the St Andrews fairways

A 'super group' of celebrated rock stars, past and present, are among the amateur golfers playing in this year's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews in October.



Keane's Tom Chaplin, Linkin Park's Dave Farrell (L), music giant Ronan Keating (R) and Mike Rutherford of Genesis and Mike and the Mechanics, will be sharing the fairways with cult US rock legends Huey Lewis and Bon Jovi's Tico Torres, who both played in the very first Dunhill Links back in 2001.

Joining them, and swapping the film set for three of the greatest Links courses in the world, are actors Matthew Goode, who appeared in *Downton Abbey*, and Hollywood star Kathryn Newton.

With a prize fund of US\$5 million, the Alfred Dunhill Links incorporates two separate competitions - an Individual Professional tournament for the world's leading golfers and the Team Championship in which the professionals are paired with amateur golfers which creates a unique atmosphere.

Tico Torres said: "It's a family, really, and I treasure all the friendships I've made over the years. Getting to meet all the top professional golfers has been great. I remember the first time I played here I was paired with Ernie Els."

Tom Chaplin, singer-songwriter and lead vocalist of British rock band Keane, which has sold more than 13 million records, began to play when his grandfather, who was a golf mad headmaster, designed a course in the grounds of the school.

This is his eighth Alfred Dunhill Links and he says: "Playing St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns is the greatest honour any amateur golfer can have. Three very different tests at stunning and historic venues. I can perform at Wembley without a problem, but I've

never felt as frightened as when I teed up on the 1st at St Andrews in 2015 and hit the ball so far right it nearly went into the sea."

As a talented high school golfer, Kathryn Newton from Miami, Florida, was eyeing a career in the sport. She initially wanted to play as an amateur in the 2012 US Women's Open, but had to withdraw from the qualifier after getting her first ever lead in the film *Paranormal Activity 4* which set her on a totally different path.

Since then her starring roles have included HBO mystery drama *Big Little Lies* and Netflix drama *The Society*. She also starred as Marvel's newest superhero in *Ant-Man and the Wasp* *Quantumania* and appeared in *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri*, *Blockers* and *Freaky*. Last year she starred in Universal Pictures *Abigail* and Focus Features *Lisa Frankenstein*, and coming up she will star in *Ready Or Not 2* and Lionsgate *The Devil's Mouth*.

"As an ambassador for the R&A I also want to grow the game and it makes me more determined to encourage more people to play, especially girls."

England's Tyrrell Hatton will be back at St Andrews to defend his Alfred Dunhill Links title, with the goal of becoming the first ever golfer to win the Championship four times. Hatton sank a four-foot putt for a birdie three on the 18th to beat Belgium's Nicolas Colsaerts last year, adding another victory to his back-to-back Dunhill successes in 2016 and 2017.

Among many celebrated golf stars who have graced the fairways over the years are Rory McIlroy, Padraig Harrington, Brooks Koepka, Shane Lowry, Matt Fitzpatrick, Ernie Els, Justin Rose, Sir Nick Faldo, Louis Oosthuizen, Martin Kaymer, Lee Westwood, Colin Montgomerie, Paul Lawrie, Ryan Fox, Billy Horschel and Tony Finau.

The Alfred Dunhill Links Championship is a celebration of Links golf, played over the Old Course St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns, three of the greatest Links courses in the world, from October 2 - 5, culminating in the final day on the Old Course.

This is the 40th year that Alfred Dunhill has supported golf at St Andrews - first in the Alfred Dunhill Cup from 1985, then in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship from 2001. During that time, many millions have been raised for charity.



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Victor Wanyama Return to British football at Scottish Championship side Dunfermline Athletic To Join ex-boss Neil Lennon

The 33-year-old had spent the last five seasons playing in Major League Soccer having joined CF Montreal from Tottenham Hotspur in 2020.



After leaving Canada following the 2024 campaign in January, the Kenya international had been on the lookout for his next adventure.

His brief time as a free agent has come to an end, where he has reunited with ex-boss Neil Lennon with the pair previously working together at Celtic.

Lennon was appointed in charge of Scottish second-tier side Dunfermline on a deal until the end of the season.

And the former Bolton manager has immediately wrapped up his first signing in Wanyama.

Confirming the news, a club statement read: "DAFC are delighted to announce the signing of Kenyan international, Victor Wanyama, on a deal until the end of the season, subject to international clearance."

Fans will be hoping for some inspiration from the 2019 Champions League finalist as Dunfermline languish ninth in the table and are in danger of relegation.

As it stands, Dunfermline sit six points clear of bottom club Airdrieonians and are at risk of competing in the Championship play-offs.

Though they do have a game in hand over eighth-placed Hamilton, who are two points ahead.

For Lennon, he knows all too well the quality that Wanyama possesses having coached him for two years in Glasgow.

Wanyama played under Lennon at Celtic between 2011-2013, where he scooped back-to-back league titles, as well as the Scottish Cup.

His dazzling displays earned him a £12.5million move to Southampton a then-record sale for a Scottish side.

Wanyama and Lennon will now be hoping their brilliant relationship continues at Dunfermline. Having been registered in time, he could now make his debut against Ayr United on Saturday.

Should he feature this weekend, he would be reunited with ex-Celtic teammate Scott Brown, who is Ayr's head coach. Brown recently named Wanyama in his all-time XI made up of teammates from his career.

He said of the midfielder: "The first few days in training... jeez... nobody wanted to fight the big man. "There were arms everywhere - he was chucking everyone out the road."

Victor Wanyama went to CF Montréal primarily because he admired former player and manager, Thierry Henry, convinced him to join the team in March 2020. Wanyama also saw the move as a chance to contribute to an exciting project in Montreal and help build a successful MLS team under a strict but developmental coach.

Wanyama had a high opinion of Henry as a player and was eager to work with him as a manager. Henry's reputation for pushing players to progress was a significant draw.

During the last three seasons, he has been an important player on the field and in the locker room. His personality, his experience, and his qualities as a player will notably help us with the stability of the group for the season to come."

"I'm excited to stay at the club and the city where I have been so happy for the past three years," said Victor Wanyama.(R) "When I arrived here, I believed in the Club's project. As we continue to grow, this is even more true. I am eager to continue bringing my best for my teammates, the coaching staff, and the Montreal supporters. "



‘It’s go-time’: Caoimhín Kelleher urges Ireland to push for winning start to World Cup bid

Caoimhín Kelleher an Irish professional footballer who plays as a goalkeeper for the English Premier League club Brentford and the Republic of Ireland national team, stemming from Cork, Ireland, feels the time has now also come for this Ireland squad to get a move on in terms of qualifying for major tournaments.

After 10 years with Liverpool, having joined the club’s academy from Ringmahon Rangers in 2015, Kelleher signed for Brentford in June on a five year football contract.

The 26-year-old left Anfield having won two Premier League titles, a Champions League, one FA Cup, two Carabao Cups and a Uefa Super Cup. He made 67 appearances for Liverpool and earned the respect of supporters for his performances when deputising for Alisson Becker.

The move to London sees Kelleher link up with international team-mate Nathan Collins, who is the Brentford captain.

“I’ve known Keith for a lot of years now and I was really excited when he did get the job,” says Kelleher. “I think he’s done excellent so far and we’re going in the right direction. It’s really enjoyable with all the Irish lads there.

The luxury of settling in is not really an option for Ireland for their upcoming World Cup qualifying campaign because their programme of matches will be wrapped up on November 16th. It starts against Hungary in Dublin

Ireland’s six games to qualify will take place over 10 weeks and across three international windows. It’s a sprint, not a marathon.

However, it has been a slog for Ireland to get out of qualification groups for many years now. Indeed, Ireland’s last appearance at a World Cup remains 2002.

“The next thing for us is to put the pressure on ourselves and to try and go and qualify.

“I think it’s like [the manager] said, it’s go-time for us now. This is it. We’re just all eyes on Saturday, looking to start with a win.”

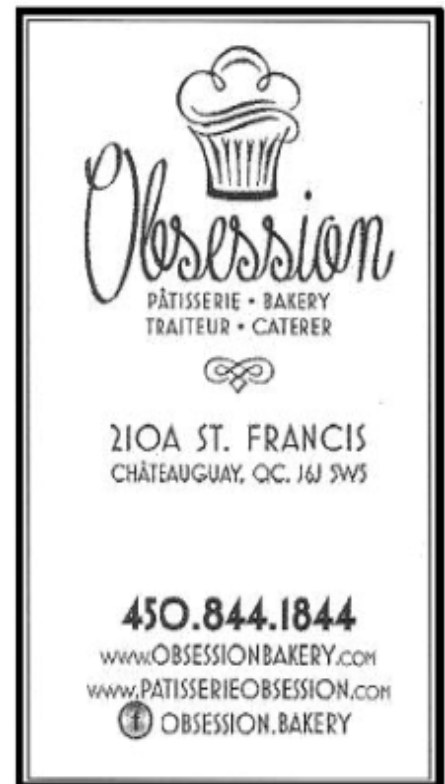
As Ireland’s last line of defence, Kelleher enters Saturday’s Aviva showdown with Hungary at a positive period of his career as he is now a first-choice Premier League goalkeeper.

“It’s a nice position to be in, knowing you’re going to be playing. The pressure’s there to perform every week, so I think definitely it’s a change of mindset for me, but you know it’s been one I’ve wanted for a while and it’s definitely a positive one for me.”

If Ireland are to come out on top this Saturday, chances are they will need to curtail the threat of Caoimhín’s ex-Liverpool teammate Dominik Szoboszlai, who produced a stunning free against Arsenal to earn Liverpool a 1-0 win.

“I know him quite well from Liverpool,” says Kelleher. “One of his biggest threats is his shooting ability. So, for sure, I think we need to limit that on Saturday.”

“It would be ideal to start off with a victory,” says Kelleher. “Obviously, it’s one of our bigger rivals in the group, so I think definitely the target for us is to probably start off with a win.



SQUAD ANNOUNCEMENT



SAT 6 SEPT



TUE 9 SEPT

GOALKEEPERS

Caoimhín Kelleher **Brentford**
Gavin Bazunu **Southampton**
Mark Travers **Everton**

DEFENDERS

Matt Doherty **Wolverhampton**
Jake O'Brien **Everton**
Jimmy Dunne **Queens Park**
Dara O'Shea **Ipswich Town**
Nathan Collins **Brentford**
Bosun Lawal **Stoke City**
Liam Scales **Glasgow Celtic**
Ryan Manning **Southampton**

MIDFIELDERS

Jason Knight **Bristol City**
Josh Cullen **Burnley**
Jack Taylor **Ipswich Town**
Killian Phillips **St. Mirren**

ATTACKERS

Evan Ferguson **AS Roma**
Adam Idah **Glasgow Celtic**
Johnny Kenny **Glasgow Celtic**
Kasey McAteer **Ipswich Town**
Finn Azaz **Southampton**
Mikey Johnston **West Bromwich**
Chiedozie Ogbene **Ipswich Town**
Sammie Szmodics **Ipswich Town**





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SCOTLAND KICK OFF OUR BID TO RETURN TO THE FIFA WORLD CUP WITH A QUALIFIERS AGAINST DENMARK AND BELARUS EARLY NEXT MONTH, AND HEAD COACH STEVE CLARKE HAS TODAY NAMED HIS SQUAD AHEAD OF THE CRUCIAL AWAY DOUBLE HEADER.

There is a welcome return for Aaron Hickey, with the versatile defender having now recovered from a series of injury problems that have left him unable to represent his country since October 2023.

Ben Gannon Doak and Lyndon Dykes are also back to boost Scotland's attacking options after missing the last two international windows with respective injuries.

Midfielders Kenny McLean and Ryan Christie also return after being forced to sit down the recent matches against Iceland and Liechtenstein, while it's all change in the goalkeeping department with Zander Clark, Angus Gunn and Liam Kelly all fit again after absences in June.

Exciting young midfielder Lennon Miller – who turns 19 today – is back in after impressing in his first two outings for the national side at the start of the summer. Kieron Bowie also made his international debut in June against Liechtenstein, and he retains his place as he is rewarded for a fine start to the season with Hibernian.

Scotland Squad

Goalkeepers

Zander Clark **Heart of Midlothian**
Angus Gunn **Nottingham Forest**
Liam Kelly **Glasgow Rangers**

Defenders

Grant Hanley **Hibernian**
Jack Hendry **Al-Ettifaq**
Aaron Hickey **Brentford**
Dom Hyam **Blackburn Rovers**
Max Johnston* **SK Sturm Graz**
Scott McKenna **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
Anthony Ralston **Celtic**
Andy Robertson **Liverpool**
John Souttar **Glasgow Rangers**
Kieran Tierney **Glasgow Celtic**

Ryan Christie **AFC Bournemouth**
Lewis Ferguson **Bologna**
Ben Gannon Doak **AFC Bournemouth**
Billy Gilmour* **SSC Napoli**
John McGinn **Aston Villa**
Kenny McLean **Norwich City**
Scott McTominay **SSC Napoli**
Lennon Miller **Udinese**

Forwards

Che Adams **Torino**
Kieron Bowie **Hibernian**
Lyndon Dykes **Birmingham City**
George Hirst **Ipswich Town**

Upcoming World Cup Qualifying Matches

- Denmark (A) – SEPTEMBER 5.
- Belarus (A) – September 8.
- Greece (H) – October 9.

- Belarus (H) - October 12.
- Greece (A) – November 15.
- Denmark (H) – November 18



Canada books spot at FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Morocco 2025™ with perfect run in Qualifiers

Canada qualifies for its eighth U-17 Women's World Cup

Canada Soccer's Women's U-17 National Team (canw17) has secured its place at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Morocco 2025™ after winning all three matches at the Concacaf qualifying tournament in Nicaragua.

Canada opened Group B with a strong 5-0 win over host nation Nicaragua followed by a 2-0 victory over Panama then Canada sealed their qualification with a hard-fought 3-2 win against Puerto Rico. Canada's 10 goals throughout the tournament came from seven different players, with Olivia Chisholm, Kaylee Hunter, and Melisa Kekic leading the charge with two goals each.

With three wins in three matches, Canada topped its group and earned one of the four available World Cup berths for Concacaf nations. They join the other two group winners, the United States and Mexico, and the best second-place finisher, Costa Rica. at the upcoming World Cup, which will be held in Morocco from 17 October to 8 November 2025.

This qualification marks Canada's eighth appearance at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup since its inaugural edition. Canada's best finish came in 2018, when they reached the semi-finals in Uruguay before losing to Mexico in the third-place match.

Led by Interim Head Coach **Gary Moody**, canw17 entered the Qualifiers with strong momentum following a European preparation tour in February. The team travelled to San Pedro del Pinatar, Spain, for the Costa Cálida MIMA Cup, where they faced England, Scotland and Sweden. Canada will now shift its focus to preparing for Morocco, where the team will aim to build on its legacy at the U-17 level and continue developing players for future tournaments and the senior national team.



FIFA U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP MOROCCO 2025™		MATCH SCHEDULE																							
		Group Matches												Round of Sixteen				Quarter-Finals		Semi-Finals		3 rd Place & Final			
		FRIDAY 17 October	SATURDAY 18 October	SUNDAY 19 October	MONDAY 20 October	TUESDAY 21 October	WEDNESDAY 22 October	THURSDAY 23 October	FRIDAY 24 October	SATURDAY 25 October	SUNDAY 26 October	MONDAY 27 October	TUESDAY 28 October	WEDNESDAY 29 October	THURSDAY 30 October	FRIDAY 31 October	SATURDAY 1 November	SUNDAY 2 November	MONDAY 3 November	TUESDAY 4 November	WEDNESDAY 5 November	THURSDAY 6 November	FRIDAY 7 November	SATURDAY 8 November	
Football Academy Mohammed VI (Pitch 1)			2 14:00 ITA CRC							53 14:00 CIV ESP															
			8 17:00 FRA SAM			14 17:00 CRC BRA	20 17:00 SAM CAN			32 17:00 CAN FRA															
Football Academy Mohammed VI (Pitch 2)			3 20:00 MEX COL	10 20:00 ESP COL		15 14:00 PRK CMR	22 14:00 ESP KOR		26 20:00 BRA ITA	34 14:00 COL KOR															
			6 14:00 KOR CIV		16 20:00 CMR NGA	23 20:00 CIV MEX		28 20:00 MEX CAN	35 20:00 NZL ZAM																
Football Academy Mohammed VI (Pitch 3)			4 20:00 CHN HON	7 20:00 HON CAN	5 14:00 JPN NZL	11 14:00 USA NZL	18 20:00 JPN ZAM	25 20:00 CAN NZL		28 20:00 CAN ZAM	31 20:00 USA NGA														
			9 20:00 USA ECU	12 20:00 ZAM PAR		17 17:00 USA CHN	23 17:00 JPN ZAM		27 20:00 HON PRK	31 20:00 PAR JPN															
Sports Complex Prince Heritier Moulay el Hassan																									
Al Barid Stadium																									
Olympic Stadium Annex Sports Complex Prince Moulay Abdellah																									
		1 20:00 MAR BRA							25 20:00 CRC MAR																

Dublin is getting its first professional ice hockey arena in €190m Development deal

Claire Hyland

Dublin's [sports scene](#) has scored a major win, as plans for a major new arena were announced on Friday.

The planned new facility will serve as a winter sports and entertainment centre as well as being the home of Ireland's first professional ice hockey franchise.

Over €190m is set to be poured into the development which will be located on an eight-acre site in Cherrywood in Dublin.

The proposed development will be Ireland's first dedicated winter sports and entertainment arena. The proposed plans will see the arena house two Olympic-sized ice rinks when finished. There will also be a 5,000-capacity indoor arena as well as a training centre for athletes.

A number of high-profile investors are involved in getting the project off the ground, including MCD founder Denis Desmond.



Also involved are Micky O'Rourke, who founded Setanta and Premier Sports, former commercial head of sport for RTÉ, Dermot Rigley and Hostelworld co-founder Tom Kennedy.

The investment group behind the project, Prime Arena Holdings Limited, has reached an agreement to purchase the site from the current owners, US real estate firm Hines, who are creating a 1,300-apartment development in Cherrywood, reports the Irish Times.

One of the main focuses of the arena will be to serve as the home for Dublin's first professional ice hockey team that will compete alongside the Belfast Giants in the UK Elite Ice Hockey League.

'This is a defining moment for Ireland - a bold statement of what we can achieve when ambition meets collaboration.

'Since 2021, we've been working quietly but relentlessly with an incredible team to bring this vision to life - and today, we're proud to finally share it with the Irish public,' said Prime Arena Holdings chief executive Dermot Rigley.

Belfast Giants Sign a few more Canadians for this Elite Hockey Season

From Chateauguay, Quebec, the 25-year-old re-joins the Giants from ECHL's Trois-Rivières Lions. Boudrias made a strong impression during his first stint in Belfast, playing a key role throughout the 2024/25 season, recording five goals and five assists in 39 regular season games, along with a solid performance in the Challenge Cup-winning campaign.

Adam Keefe, head coach of the Belfast Giants, said: "Karl came in last year and proved himself to be a dependable defenceman, so we're excited to bring him back to Belfast. He's a great skater and competitor who has the ability to play forward as well as his natural role on defence, which is a great asset for the team." Keefe also signed Nicolas Guayalso of Québec, where he made a name for himself in the QMJHL with the Drummondville Voltigeurs and Charlottetown Islanders. A consistent point producer, he amassed 244 points in 301 major junior appearances, including an 87-point season in 2018/19 where he served as captain of the Voltigeurs. The 26-year-old right-shot forward joins the Giants from HC Nové Zámky of the Slovak Extraliga, where he iced during the 2024/25 season before returning to North America to re-join the ECHL's Trois-Rivières Lions. The Belfast Giants have also signed Ottawa native Jake Gaudet for the 2025/26 season. The 29-year-old Canadian forward arrives in Belfast from the Cleveland Monsters of the AHL making a total of 8 Canadian players on the team.



WHEN NORTHERN IRELAND BEGIN THEIR EFFORTS TO MAKE IT TO THE 2026 WORLD CUP AGAINST LUXEMBOURG ON THURSDAY IT WILL BE THEIR FIRST QUALIFYING GAME IN ALMOST TWO YEARS

Jonathan Bradley

A 2-0 win over Denmark at Windsor Park in October 2023 was the last time Michael O'Neill's side faced such a fixture with their success over the Euro 2024-bound side proving to be something of an outlier in recent times.

Since that last qualifying fixture, Steven Davis, Stuart Dallas, Craig Cathcart and the Evans's brothers Johnny and Corry have all retired from football.



In their place, an exciting young core centred around Conor Bradley (L), Isaac Price, Shea Charles and Trai Hume has emerged to lead the side into a campaign that will see them take on Germany and Slovakia as well as Luxembourg.

"That game against Denmark was probably the start of it," said manager Michael O'Neill.

"It was quite a young team that played that night and it was a really positive result for us after a challenging campaign for 2024 which brought a closure on a lot of players' careers at international level.

"Over the last two years, we've had to develop and grow a team. We've maybe put young players in at times when maybe it was a little bit early, but we felt that was the right thing to do.

"Over the two years, I think that's proven to be the right thing to do and we have a group of players now that are still very young, still got a lot to

achieve."

Having taken charge of the side on 96 occasions across his two spells, O'Neill is preparing for his fifth qualifying campaign as boss after an eight-year international career as a player.

"I think any football situation, whether it's club or international, benefits from stability. I think that's an important thing," he said.

"Obviously, the IFA, when I left, I'd been in position for eight years. Then to come back and commit myself for five years again is creating that stability.

"For a number of these players, they've had that consistency coming into international football. I think that's what gives us success."

Away to Luxembourg on Thursday brings them to the lowest-ranked side in the group but back to a ground where they threw away a two-goal lead to draw in November's Nations League meeting.

Just three days later they will face four-time World Cup winners Germany in Cologne, a fixture that will be used as a yardstick to measure how far they have come since those tough outings against Spain and Sweden.

"Our aim is to make sure we're as competitive as possible.

"We obviously know that Germany are massive favourites to win the group, but we have to believe whatever route there is to get to a World Cup in 2026, we try and do whatever we can through whatever route to make sure that we give ourselves the best chance."



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 LA CHIC RÉGAL MONTREAL

MOM WINS!!

By Cindy Newson
Service Administrator/Dispatcher Vancouver

My son came home from
school one day,
A smirk was on his face.
He'd decided he was smart enough
To put me in my place.

HE SAID:

Guess what I learned in Civics
Two,
That's taught by Mr. Wright?
It's all about the laws today:
**THE CHILDREN'S BILL OF
RIGHTS.**

IT SAYS:

I don't have to clean my room,
Don't have to cut my hair.
No one can tell me what to think,
How to speak, or what to wear.

I have freedom FROM religion,
And regardless what you say,
I don't have to bow my head,
And I sure **DON'T HAVE TO
PRAY.**

I can wear earrings if I want,
And pierce my tongue & nose.
I can read & watch just what I like,
Be tattooed from head to toes.

AND if you ever spank me,
I'll charge you with the crime,
I'll back up all my charges,
With the marks on my behind.

HE SAID:

Don't you ever touch me,
This body's for MY use,
Not for your hugs and kisses,
That's just more child abuse.

HE CONTINUED WITH:

Don't preach about your morals,
Like your mama did to you.
That's nothing but your mind
control,
And it's illegal too!

Mom, I have these children's
rights,
So you can't influence me,
Or I'll call Children's Services,
Better known as C.S.D.

MY TURN!

Well, of course, my natural instinct
Was to toss him out the door.
But the chance to teach a lesson,
Made me think a little more.

I mulled it over carefully,
I couldn't let this go.
A little smile crept to my face...
He was messing with a pro!

AND AWAY WE GO!

Next day I took him shopping,
At the local Good Will store,
I told him, pick out all you want!
There are shirts & pants galore.

I've called and checked with
C.S.D.,
They said they didn't care,
If I bought you K-Mart shoes,
Instead of Nike Airs.

OH! And...

I've canceled that appointment
To take your driver's test.
The C.S.D. is unconcerned,
So I'll decide what's best.

I SAID:

No time to stop and eat,
Or pick up stuff to munch,
And tomorrow you can start to
learn
To make your own sack lunch.

Just save that raging appetite,
And wait 'til dinner time.
We're having liver and onions.
It's a favorite dish of mine.

He ASKED:

Can we stop to rent a movie,
So I can watch the DVD?
Sorry, I said, I sold your TV,
For new tires on my car.

I also rented out your room,
You can take the couch instead.
The C.S.D. requires just a roof
above your head.

Your clothing won't be trendy
now,
I'll choose the food we eat,
That allowance that you used to
get
Will buy me something neat.

I'm selling off your jet ski,
Dirt-bike & roller blades.
Check out the **PARENTS' BILL
OF RIGHTS,**
It's in effect today!

Hey, Hot Shot, are you crying?
Why are you on your knees?
Are you asking God to help you?
.....GO CALL THE C.S.D

Share this one with some moms (& dads) you know....or better yet some kids!!



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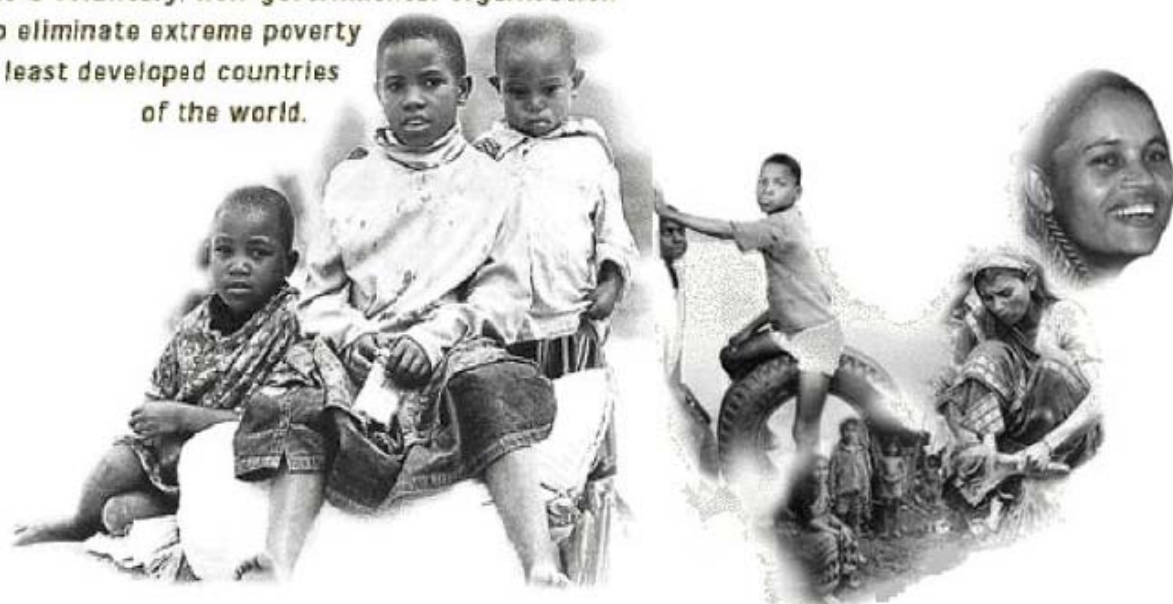


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