



NAME:

The name of the society shall be “The Irish Society of Western Manitoba Incorporated” and shall be incorporated under the laws of Manitoba.

PHILOSOPHY:

In order to show the Community at large that all Irish people, regardless of their economic, religious or geographical background, have the ability to live together in peace and harmony, the Society shall in all its public pronouncements and activities of all kinds, be non-sectarian, non-political and non-profit.

FULL HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY FROM 1990 TO 2008

- 1990** The Irish Society of Western Manitoba was founded by Richard (Dick) McIntyre and the late William (Bill) Moore. Initially a Steering Committee was formed with Richard (President), Bill (Vice President), Olga McIntyre (Treasurer), Phil Baldaro (Secretary) with Bill Hamilton and Donal Fehilly as directors.
- 1991** - 1st St. Patrick’s Day Celebration was held at Rob Roy’s Restaurant, Brandon
34 First generation Irish were in attendance
Entertainment: Dr. Owen O’Shea - Penny Whistle
- 1992** - 2nd Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration was held at Rob Roy’s Restaurant, Brandon
64 in attendance
Entertainment: Jeff Butler and his wife, Louise - Accordion and Bodhran Drum
- 1993** - 3rd Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration was held at the Richmond Restaurant, Brandon
140 in attendance
Entertainment: Dust Rhinos from Winnipeg (their first gig outside of Winnipeg)
- A Constitution was drawn up so that we could apply for cultural grants. The first grant was used to participate in the First Brandon Regional Heritage Fair held in the Manitoba Room, the former Keystone Centre. An Irish Villa was on display with entertainment provided by Jeff Butler (accordion) and the McConnell School of Dance under the direction of Pearl McConnell, Winnipeg.
- 1994** - 4th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration was held at the Richmond Restaurant, Brandon
136 in attendance
Entertainment: The Kerry Minstrels - Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
Colleen Funk - Vocalist
Ann Germani - Harpist
Seamus (Bill Moore) and Liam (Richard McIntyre) - Comedy Act
- 2nd Brandon Regional Heritage Fair - McConnell School of Dance, Winnipeg
- Spring Fashion Show for Multiple Sclerosis with Seamus and Liam - fundraiser

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- 1995** - 5th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Richmond Restaurant, Brandon
140 in attendance
Entertainment: Ann Germani - Harpist
Milliken Maguire - Trio
- Dinner Theatre - "Family Planning" by the Tara Players, Winnipeg performed at the Victoria Inn. A donation of \$1,000.00 was made to the Canadian Cancer Society
- 1996** - 6th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Victoria Inn, Brandon
180 in attendance
Entertainment: Ann Germani - Harpist
Colleen Funk - Vocalist
Kim and Dan Leskiw, Souris - Penny Whistle and Bodhran Drum
- Dinner Theatre - "Two" performed by the Tara Players at the Victoria Inn, Brandon
A donation of \$500.00 was made to Brandon WATCH
- Brandon Regional Heritage Fair - Irish Villa sale of Celtic items as a fundraiser
- 1997** - 7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Brandon
Guest of Honour: Hon. Jim McCrae, Minister of Education
Entertainment: Ard-Ri - Instrumentals and Vocal Quartet, Winnipeg
Fantasy Fiddlers
Donation of table wine was made by Guild Insurance
- 1998** - 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Brandon
- The passing of Bill Moore in October 1998 was a sad blow for the Irish Society
- 1999** - 9th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Brandon
246 were in attendance
- Fundraising - our first garage sale
- An advertisement was placed in the Brandon Sun for our Irish Dance Classes
- Under the auspices of the Westman Multicultural Council ethnic cooking classes were held in Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School. Eileen Douglas and Esther Finlay demonstrated Irish Cooking with 20 attending the class.
- 2000** - 10th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Royal Oak Inn
296 were in attendance
- Irish Newsletter - 1st edition prepared by Earl McNutt
- Irish Dancing was taught by Nicole Hutton in Central Community Centre on Saturdays
Nicole was a senior dancer with the McDonnell School of Dance, Winnipeg





2000 (cont) - By 2000, the Society had grown substantially and could no longer operate with a small Steering Committee made up of volunteers. At the 10th Annual General Meeting, the committee decided to become more formal and the following members were elected:

Richard McIntyre - President
Drew Mills - Vice President
Rebie O'Donohoe - Secretary / Treasurer
Esther Finlay - Irish Dance Coordinator
Betty Brooking - St Patrick's Day Decorating Chairperson

2001 - Executive Committee

Richard McIntyre - President
Drew Mills - Vice President
Rebie O'Donohoe - Secretary/Treasurer
Betty Brooking - Decorating Chairperson
Esther Finlay - Irish Dance Coordinator and Liaison
Walter Haslett - Membership Chairperson
Earl McNutt - Newsletter Editor
Rose Horan and Aldwyn Taggart - Board Members

- 11th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Royal Oak Inn & Suites, Brandon
312 guests attended - 297 adults and 15 children

Entertainment: Megan Mossop - Flautist
Pat Doohan - Fiddler
Wayne Tingey - Cowboy Comedian from Lyleton
Maggie-Kas Murphy and Gillian Mossop - Westman Irish Dancers
Westman Access 12 Television video taped the program (Gord Sweeney)
Complimentary wine from Guild Insurance (Neil and Darryl Andrews)

- Westman Irish Dance Recitals - April 29 and December 16 - 17 students performed
Coordinators: Nicole Hutton, Instructor and Esther Finlay, Board Liaison

- Four students competed in Virden Music and Arts Festival.

Elizabeth Stoop won the Silver Plate for Individual Dancer with the highest mark at the festival.

Sarah-Jayne Stoop won a scholarship to attend a Dance Camp at the International Peace Gardens

- Celtic Scots/Irish Social and Ceilidhe held at the Sokol Hall, April 24, to raise funds for the Masonic Temple, Helen Hodge, Coordinator

- Garage Sale - June 16/17

- The Irish Society's Grant Application was rewarded with a \$2,500.00 grant payable in two equal amounts of \$1,250.00. The grant was to be used to promote Irish Heritage and Culture in the Westman region as well as to subsidise the Irish Dancing program and preparing a newsletter for the members.





- 2002** - 12th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Royal Oak Inn & Suites, Brandon
Entertainment Chairpersons - Eileen Douglas, Jean Ryall and Betty Brooking
Entertainment: Celtic Vocal Trio - Colleen, Jordan and Lyndon Funk
Ann Germani - Harpist
Mitchell Grobb - World Class Fiddler originally from Carberry
Westman Irish Dancers - Nicole Hutton, Instructor
- Brandon Festival of the Arts scholarships were won by Maggie-Kas Murphy and Gillian Mossop.
 - Video and oral presentations were made by Richard and Olga McIntyre at:
Fleming Early Years Heritage Day in May 2002
Seniors for Seniors Heritage Day in July 2002
 - The Executive Board decided there was no longer any justification in applying for any more government cultural grants because of the existing healthy financial standing of the Irish Society of Western Manitoba.
- 2003** - 13th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at the Royal Oak Inn & Suites, Brandon
232 guests attended - 227 adults and 5 children
Entertainment: Kate Ferris - Singer, Song Writer and Story Teller with CBC TV
Hutton Academy of Irish Dance, Nicole Hutton - Dance Instructor, Winnipeg
Impressive Dance with Crystal Scott, Minnedosa - Philip Brady - Dance Instructor, Winnipeg
Brandon University Sextet
- **COMHALTAS** - Irish National Music Champions composed of musicians, singers and dancers touring North America. "ECHOES OF ERIN" was billed as, "A Celtic Experience Direct from Ireland".
The group was sponsored by the Irish Society of Western Manitoba and they entertained over 200 patrons in The Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium on October 3, 2003.
 - On March 25, 2003 a 5 year PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT was signed between The Irish Society of Western Manitoba and The Royal Oak Inn & Suites
- 2004** - 14th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at The Royal Oak Inn and Suites, Brandon
243 guests attended - 228 adults and 15 children
Entertainment: Ashley and Amberley Abey - Fiddlers
Hutton Academy of Irish Dance, Nicole Hutton - Dance Instructor, Winnipeg
Fyre in the Byre Irish Dancers, Minnedosa
Crystal Scott - Dance Instructor, Minnedosa
- Esther Finlay retired and Eileen Douglas replaced her on the Executive Board
 - The First Lieutenant Governor's Winter Festival was held with The Irish Society having it's Irish Pavilion located at the Park Community Centre





2005 - 15th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at The Royal Oak Inn & Suites, Brandon
276 guests attended - 274 adults and 2 children
Entertainment: Fyre in the Byre Irish Dancers, Minnedosa
Prairie Blend Male Voice Choir
Fingal's Last Pint - Celtic group with Bruce White playing the Uilleann Pipes

- Membership BBQ on Sunday, June 5

- At the Annual General Meeting the following officers were elected to the Executive Board:

Drew Mills - President
John Arrell - Vice President
Rebie O'Donohoe - Secretary/Treasurer
Richard McIntyre - Past President
Board Members: Eileen Douglas
Betty Brooking
Lynn Mills
Marlene Campbell
Grant McDonald
Jean Ryall
Rose Horan
Jim and Mary Deveraux

2006 - 16th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at The Royal Oak Inn & Suites, Brandon
295 guests attended
Entertainment: Milliken Maguire Trio
Fingal's Last Pint - Celtic Instrumental and Vocal Group
Neelin Choir - Carolyn Gwyer, Choir Director
The Celts - Choral Group, Virden
Hutton Academy of Irish Dance, Winnipeg

2007 - 17th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at The Royal Oak Inn & Suites, Brandon
272 guests attended
Entertainment: Scotty McIntosh and his band
Trent Turner and Evan Citulsky - Fiddlers
The McDonnell School of Dance, Winnipeg with
Gillian Mossop and Maggie-Kas Murphy

- The Irish Society sponsored Maggie-Kas to compete in a Feis in Saskatoon, May 18-20

2008 - 18th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held at The Royal Oak Inn & Suites, Brandon
Entertainment: Ard-Ri - Instrumental and vocal quartet with Tom McDermott, vocals,
Penny Whistle and Bodhran Drum
Trent Turner - Fiddler
The McDonnell School of Dance, Winnipeg with
Gillian Mossop and Maggie-Kas Murphy

- On March 15, 2008 The Irish Society of Western Manitoba renewed the 5 year
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT with The Royal Oak Inn and Suites from 2008 to 2012.

Stay tuned for the rest of our story....

