

# Nuachtlir CCÉ Craobh Ottawa Branch Newsletter

December 2012

Nollaig 2012

## Ellen MacIsaac Interview

Branch member Ellen MacIsaac was interviewed by branch webmaster Patricia Avendano on competing in seán-nós singing at the Oireachtas na Samhna in Letterkenny, Ireland in November.



The interview text is available for reading on the Comhaltas Ottawa blog [ottawacomhaltas.blogspot.ca](http://ottawacomhaltas.blogspot.ca) (direct link: [ottawacomhaltas.blogspot.ca/2012/11/interview-with-ellen-macisaac-on.html](http://ottawacomhaltas.blogspot.ca/2012/11/interview-with-ellen-macisaac-on.html))

Ellen, and Aralt Mac Giolla Chainnigh, also appear on the evening news for Nov. 1st on TG4 – the Irish Language television station in Ireland. At the end of the blog posting, there is a link to this news program. Ellen and Aralt appear around the 7 and half minute mark of the 3rd part of it. Note that the entire news program is in Irish. Also, Ellen was kind enough to provide us with the actual audio clip of her competition; you can hear it on the Comhaltas Ottawa webpage: [www.ottawacomhaltas.com/whats-new.php](http://www.ottawacomhaltas.com/whats-new.php)

*Your Comhaltas membership needs to be renewed each year. Renewal notices have been sent out to all current members and we would appreciate receiving your form and payment as soon as possible.*

*If you do not receive the renewal notice, please contact Pat at:  
819-778-2827 or [p\\_cassidy@sympatico.ca](mailto:p_cassidy@sympatico.ca)*

*Forms for new memberships are available from Pat or on-line at: [www.ottawacomhaltas.com](http://www.ottawacomhaltas.com)*

## December Céilí

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 pm to 11:30 pm  
Blessed Sacrament  
Church Hall  
194 Fourth Ave.

Cost:  
CCÉ members – \$10,  
Guests – \$12,  
Students – \$5,  
Children under 12 – free

The entertainment for the December céilí is Mary Comerton with accompanying band.

### 2012/2013 Céilís

November 17<sup>th</sup>  
December 15<sup>th</sup>  
January 19<sup>th</sup>  
February 16<sup>th</sup>  
March 16<sup>th</sup>  
Dinner and Céilí  
April 20<sup>th</sup>  
May 18<sup>th</sup>

**If you are interested in providing soda bread or other baked goods for the céilí, please contact Carol Ann:**

819-595-1094 or [cabowers@videotron.ca](mailto:cabowers@videotron.ca)

## Toques and Toes Drive

During this Christmas season, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Ottawa Branch and the Heart and Crown are accepting donations of new warm outer winter wear – toques, socks, mittens, gloves and scarves for men, women and children. These items will be distributed to people in need in the area. Donations will be accepted at the December céilí.

*Have information for the newsletter, contact the PRO: 613-722-3620 or [criostoir.seoirse@gmail.com](mailto:criostoir.seoirse@gmail.com)*

## Other CCÉ Events

### Irish Language and Set/Céilí Dance Classes

All classes will run on **Monday evenings from: September 10<sup>th</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup>**

All classes will take place at:  
Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 194 Fourth Ave.  
Contact: [Sheila.Scott@uottawa.ca](mailto:Sheila.Scott@uottawa.ca)

#### Beginner Irish Language classes:

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
CCÉ members – \$80, Non-members – \$90

#### Intermediate/Advanced Irish Language classes:

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
CCÉ members – \$105, Non-members – \$120

#### Set/Céilí Dance class:

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
\$7.00 per night,  
CCÉ members – \$75, Non-members – \$90

#### Irish Solo Dance class:

8:00 pm – 9:30 pm  
For more information, contact Caitlin Crockard:  
[cscrockard@hotmail.com](mailto:cscrockard@hotmail.com)

If people are interested in sean-nós dancing, we will run a class from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

### Irish Language Conversation Group

**Every Friday at 5:30 pm at the Heart and Crown in the Byward Market**

**Gach Aoine ag 5.30 ag an Heart and Crown sa Mhargadh Byward**

Organized by Eoin Keane, the ICUF scholar teaching Irish this year at the University of Ottawa, and who is the Irish Officer of the Comhaltas Ottawa Branch.

Come out and practice your Irish!

*For general information on Comhaltas and Ottawa Comhaltas, the various Ottawa Comhaltas events, links to other Comhaltas branches and more, check out our website at:*

<http://www.ottawacomhaltas.com>

Also, check out: <http://comhaltas.ie>

Check out the new blog for the Ottawa Branch:  
<http://ottawacomhaltas.blogspot.ca/>

Also, follow us on Facebook and Twitter:  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/193752260177>  
<http://twitter.com/@OttawaCCE>

### Branch Musical Instruments For Loan

The following instruments are available on a loan basis to CCE Ottawa members for learning Irish music on these instruments at the beginner level:

- Two 3/4 size fiddles
- One half-set of uilleann pipes

Interested people should contact the Branch Vice-Chair via the CCÉ Ottawa Branch website for further details.

### New Comhaltas Ottawa Blog

CCÉ Ottawa Branch now has a blog at:  
<http://ottawacomhaltas.blogspot.ca/>

What is a blog? A blog is a 'web log' (thus, 'blog') which logs, or captures the stories and news of the blog author, or its various contributors. Normally you just read the blog online just like any other website. The latest news is nearer the top of the blog, and the older news is towards the bottom. The new CCÉ blog can also be easily read on your mobile device, such as the many 'smart phones' that now exist. You can also subscribe to the blog so you can receive the latest posts via email.

The purpose of the new blog is to post topics of interest to the CCÉ Ottawa Branch membership and greater community. For this we need your help. We strongly encourage your direct

submissions on topics that you want us to post. Examples are: your favourite or heirloom Irish soda bread recipe, poems, short stories, reminiscences, or event news that are related to the CCÉ Ottawa Branch mission.

Direct submissions (you write the content, we post it for you) can be sent to the CCÉ Ottawa Branch webmaster at:

[webmaster.ottawacomhantas@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.ottawacomhantas@gmail.com),

or you can submit your post at:

[webmaster8617.comhantas@blogger.com](mailto:webmaster8617.comhantas@blogger.com)

## Other Irish Community Events

### Saint Brigid's Pancake Breakfast

Come one, come all. The next breakfast will be held on **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to noon** at **Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts**. This is always a lively event. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and includes a great breakfast plus musical entertainment by very talented musicians from the local Irish community.

Address: 310 St. Patrick St (entrance on Cumberland Street)

Information: 613-244-7373

<http://saintbrigidcentre.com/Events.htm>

### Our Lady of the Annunciation Christmas Concert

**Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**  
**189 Archambault St., Gatineau (Hull Sector)**

Performers: Acacia Lyra, Don McHale, Don Kavanagh, Tom McSwiggan, Kristina Da Costa, Mary Comerton, The O.L.A. Singers, St. Bridget's Session.

Tickets: \$10 (until Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>), \$15 afterwards  
Information: 819-778-2827

*Celtic Cross is a new performance group made up of adult dancers from the disciplines of Irish, Highland, and Ottawa Valley step dance.*

*The group has a roster of over 20 dancers with decades of experience as teachers, choreographers, performers and competitors. They perform traditional dances, and original contemporary choreographies that blend all three dance styles.*

*Celtic Cross is available for performances at concerts, festivals, parties, weddings and more.*



*Contact them if you'd like some lively dancing at your event!*

*For more information, e-mail:*

[celticcrossottawa@gmail.com](mailto:celticcrossottawa@gmail.com)

<http://celticcrossdancers.com/>



**THE GAELIC HOUR**  
**Sunday 8:00am - 10:00am**  
**cjll 97.9fm**



Streaming: [www.thegaelichour.ca](http://www.thegaelichour.ca) e-mail: [austin@thegaelichour.ca](mailto:austin@thegaelichour.ca)

### Irish Seniors Drop-in Centre

*Tuesdays 11a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

*St. Margaret Mary's Church Hall, Fairbairn at Sunnyside.*

*Join the gang for pot-luck lunch, stories, music and great craic!*

*Kay 613-829-8467 or Margo 613-837-4164*

*The Ottawa Celtic Choir is a community choir whose mandate is to sing the songs of the Celtic nations and the Celtic diaspora in English and in the six Celtic languages.*

*Ellen MacIsaac*

*613-552-3964 or [ellen@laughingbrook.ca](mailto:ellen@laughingbrook.ca)*

*Blog: <http://ottawacelticchoir.blogspot.ca/>*

## A Celtic Christmas Concert

A joint concert by the Ottawa Celtic Choir and the Welsh Men's Choir of Montreal.

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**  
**(Doors open at 6:30 pm)**  
**St. John the Evangelist Church (on Somerset and Elgin)**  
**154 Somerset St. West, Ottawa**

Tickets: \$15 – adults, \$10 – seniors and students  
Information: Contact Ellen MacIsaac at 613-552-3964 or [ellen@laughingbrook.ca](mailto:ellen@laughingbrook.ca)

Choir websites:

<http://ottawacelticchoir.blogspot.ca/>  
<http://www.welshmalechoir.montreal.qc.ca/>

## “We Need a Little Christmas” Concert

Performed by the Village Voices Women's Choir with guest performers, The Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble under the direction of Mary Muckle.

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm**  
**Winchester United Church**  
**519 St. Lawrence St., Winchester**

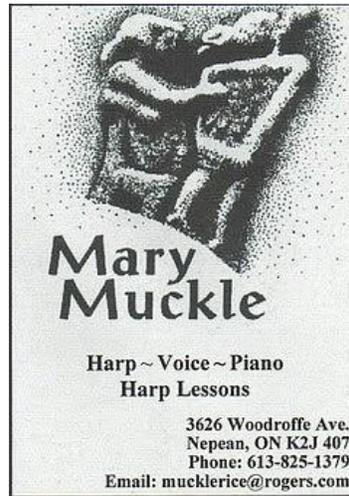
Tickets: \$10. Children under 12 are free.  
Information: [www.freewebs.com/villagevoices](http://www.freewebs.com/villagevoices)

## Ottawa Celtic Choir's New Season

The Ottawa Celtic Choir has started its new season and it's shaping up to be a great one! The choir will be performing with two guest choirs this year, the Montreal Welsh Men's Choir in December, and Ar n-Oran, Ottawa's Scots Gaelic choir.

New members are welcome. If you are interested, contact the director, Ellen MacIsaac: 613-552-3964 or [ellen@laughingbrook.ca](mailto:ellen@laughingbrook.ca)

**Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7 pm to 9 pm**  
**Location: St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Somerset and Elgin**



Anyone interested in music classes, contact:  
Rita Walker  
[jantarborzoi@sympatico.ca](mailto:jantarborzoi@sympatico.ca)

Ottawa Valley Step Dancing Lessons:

Contact Dawn Dewar  
(613) 794-3296

Interested in hosting a house concert?  
Contact Craig: [ballyfingers@gmail.com](mailto:ballyfingers@gmail.com)

<http://www.irishmusicottawa.ca/>  
<http://irishmusicottawa.blogspot.com/>

Sessions in Ottawa and the Valley!  
Contact Janice Parton or Craig Hamm for info on music, workshops and concerts in your area!

<http://www.irishmusicottawa.ca/>  
<http://irishmusicottawa.blogspot.com/>

**ATTENTION MUSICIANS!**  
Videos, sheet music and more at:  
<http://comhaltas.ie/music/>  
Also, check out the ComhaltasLive Programme Listing:  
<http://comhaltas.ie/music/programmes>

Check out the Comhaltas Archive as well:  
<http://comhaltasarchive.ie/>

## Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce Ottawa Monthly Networking Socials

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in every month at 5:30 pm**  
Peter Devine's Pub  
67 Clarence St., Byward Market

All are welcome! More information:  
<http://www.iccott.org/>

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## **Fiddle and Flute Immersion Weekend and House Concert**

**January 25 – 27, 2013**  
**202 Main Street, Barriefield**

**House Concert: Saturday, Jan. 26 at 8:00 pm**

Private classes Friday night, all day workshop, house concert and session on Saturday, half-day workshop on Sunday. Potluck dinner, BYOB .

Immersion Weekend: \$125 advance registration (until January 15), \$150 late registration.

House Concert: \$20 advance (till January 20), \$25 at the door

More information available at:  
[www.srayner.ca/comhaltas/M\\_SpecialEvents.htm](http://www.srayner.ca/comhaltas/M_SpecialEvents.htm)

To reserve a seat, please e-mail  
[rmacdiarmid@cogeco.ca](mailto:rmacdiarmid@cogeco.ca)

## **Book About Irish Immigrant Couple in Belleville**

**New book – “Mary Aylward” by Paul Kirby,  
and set in Belleville, about Mary and Richard  
Aylward.**

**Book signing on December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm, at  
the Belleville Public Library**

One hundred fifty years ago this December 8<sup>th</sup>, young Irish Catholic immigrants Mary and Richard Aylward were hanged side-by-side in Belleville, Ontario for the murder of a fellow settler at Maynooth, in the north part of Hastings County.

The hanging of this young couple, which left three small children orphaned, not only shocked the county but it shook the country. Were they found guilty because they were Catholic? Why did the Quebec press come to their defence?

In this new book by Bancroft author Paul Kirby, now on sale, the true story of the life of Mary is traced from her childhood in County Limerick, to her voyage on a 'coffin ship' to North America,

her marriage to Richard, their new lives in a new land, and their sad tragic deaths.

The story is also about the Catholic priests who she meets in Canada West and who stuck by her during her life and supported her in death: Father Lawlor, Father Michael Brennan and Father John Brennan.

The book retails for \$18.00 with a 10% discount for purchases of five or more copies. For more information you are invited to go to:  
[www.paulkirby.ca](http://www.paulkirby.ca).

## **Rose of Tralee Ottawa Centre**

Following the 2012 Ottawa Rose selection last March, Avaleigh Eastman traveled to Portlaoise, Co. Laois, Ireland for the Regionals of the Rose of Tralee International Festival in May. In total, there was a record 54 young women who participated as Regional Roses from Europe, Australia, England, Ireland, Canada, United States and even the United Arab Emirates (as Dubai has a Rose Centre). All four Canadian Centres were present - Edmonton and Western Canada; Toronto; Newfoundland and Labrador; and of course, Ottawa. Avaleigh was one of the two Canadians selected to return to Ireland in August.

Avaleigh returned to Ireland as one of the 32 International Roses. Together, they took part in gala events, visits to heritage and community sites, and excursions to Irish tourist destinations like Croke Park and Leinster House as part of the 10-day 'Rose Tour' from Dublin to Tralee. The last five days were spent in Tralee, Co. Kerry itself for the official Festival. In addition to having an individual interview with judges beforehand, Avaleigh's on-stage interview with RTE Broadcast host Daithi O'Se took place on the first night of the Festival's two-evening finale. With the grace and that humble 'country girl' charm seen in her interview with CTV's Michael O'Byrne at the Ottawa Selection; Avaleigh made her way through her interview with ease, poise, and humour. Daithi brought up her Tyrone roots, the Eastman family in Ottawa, Avaleigh's farming background -

including her role as the Queen of the Furrow, and some of the similarities she had with her escort, a fellow farmer!

This year, Luxembourg Rose Nicola McEvoy was selected to be the 2012 Rose of Tralee. Avaleigh represented our Centre marvellously well during her time in Ireland as the 2012 Ottawa Rose, and certainly helped to bring more awareness in Ireland about the Canadian Centres participating in the Rose of Tralee.

For more information, articles, and photos, please visit: [www.roseoftralee.ca](http://www.roseoftralee.ca).

If you are interested in volunteering for the Centre or applying to be the 2013 Ottawa Rose, please contact Rose of Tralee Ottawa Centre at: [info@roseoftralee.ca](mailto:info@roseoftralee.ca).

Here is a photo of the 2012 Ottawa Rose Avaleigh Eastman in Tralee Co. Kerry with her escort Pat O'Connor and two supporters for the Rose of Tralee International Festival in August:

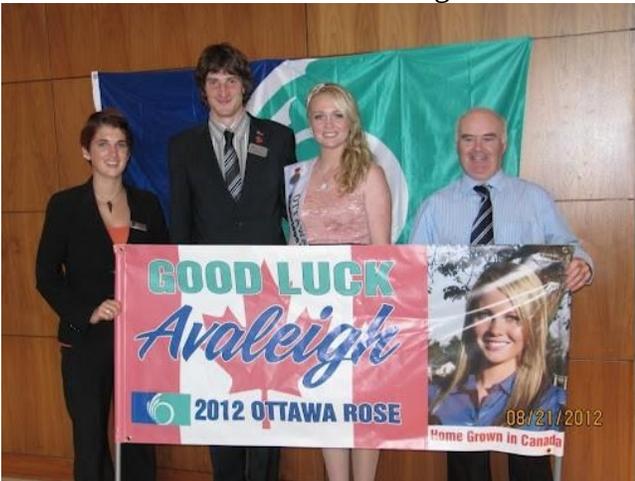


Photo: Courtesy of the Rose of Tralee Ottawa Centre

## News and Announcements

### More Thank You's From the Echoes of Erin Performers

I just want to say a sincere thank you to you especially and all the committee etc who worked along with you for all your wonderful work in making arrangements for the Tour.

You really put on a fantastic reception for us and you had all preparations well in place so that everything went so smoothly on the night.

We have been left with such fantastic, unforgettable memories of a beautiful place around Ottawa.

Our Tour was a fantastic success ...Canada has set the bar very high now...which is tribute to all of you and the local committee for all your hard work.

The group still talk about the audience response to them on the night of the concert and regard it as one of the best.

Can you say a big thank you to all the host families, and all the lovely people we met, on behalf of the entire group, their hospitality and care for all was greatly appreciated by all and still remembered fondly.

Thanks again  
Eddie



COMHALTAS

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann is a registered cultural non-profit organization