



The Irish Connection

The Irish American Society of Tidewater News

July 2016

The Irish American Society of Tidewater, Virginia, was established in 1980 to promote and preserve Irish culture, and all things distinctly Irish. Membership is open to persons of Irish birth or ancestry, as well as those persons who have an interest in Irish history and culture.

**OUR NEXT MEETING:
JULY 7 2016**

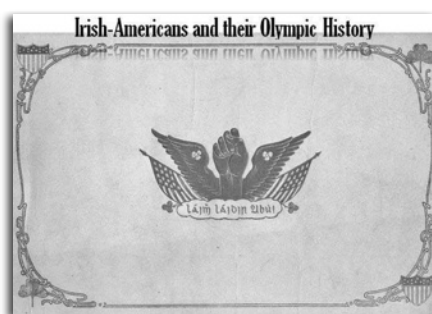
Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at the Church of the Ascension Community Center 4853 Princess Anne Rd Virginia Beach, VA. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the meeting usually gets underway at 7:00 p.m., ending at 9:00 p.m.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Summer to my fellow Irish American Society members!

Our June meeting was a good one with lots of discussion and event announcements. I also had a lot of fun researching the Irish American Athletic Club and their Olympic history. As we all watch the Summer Olympics next month, remember and take pride in how Irish immigrants and Irish-Americans shaped the modern U.S. Olympic Team.



One issue discussed was the membership's desire to choose a charity for the IAS to support on an ongoing basis. For many years, the society supported Project Children, a wonderful organization that is no longer in existence. My hope is to select a local organization or a national organization with strong ties to the Tidewater area that we can support with volunteerism as well as monetary donations. I anticipate more member involvement as we research and choose a new charity, so please be open to sharing your ideas.

Thank you to **Skip Hunter, Bronson Conlin, and Jennifer Shafer** who attended the June meeting and discussed the upcoming **Coastal Virginia Cup (CVC)**. The **2nd Annual CVC** will be held **Saturday July 23, 9AM** at the **Princess Anne Athletic Complex**. The IAS had a great showing at the inaugural CVC last year, and I would love to see just as many (if not more) members attend this year! The **IAS Color Guard** has once again been asked to participate in the opening ceremonies, and I encourage all **IAS Princesses** to attend and wear their sashes at the opening ceremonies, as well.

Unfortunately, the city did not grant Guinness permission to serve beer at the tournament, BUT the IAS will still have a fundraising opportunity. **Volunteers are needed to man the Hospitality Tent and sell IAS hats/shirts, baked goods, drinks, and other items throughout the day.** To volunteer, please contact me (katymegh@gmail.com / 757-581-6476).

Another fun event on the horizon is our first ever **IAS Variety Show!** In lieu of our August business meeting, we will be holding a Variety Show on **August 4th at 7PM** at the Church of the Ascension. All acts and ages are welcome, and the performances do NOT have to be Irish/Celtic in nature. Please encourage your friends and family to sign-up to perform. This is a great opportunity to share your talents and grow even closer as a group! Please contact me (katymegh@gmail.com / 757-581-6476) if you would like to sign-up.

Plans are also in the works for an **IAS Breakfast and Silent Auction** on a Sunday in early fall. We will be working with Murphy's Irish Pub to provide a date soon. If you have anything to contribute to the silent auction, please let a board member know.



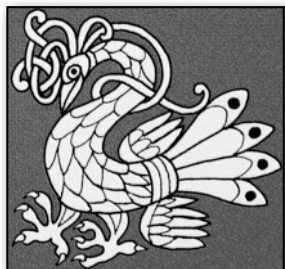
I look forward to seeing everyone on **July 7th** at our monthly meeting and Summer Ice Cream Party. There will be activities for the kids, so bring them along! And, as always, we welcome all visitors!



Sláinte,
Katie McCrory

The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



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Volunteers Needed

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Sunshine Bulletin

email Lori Shea

INTERNET NEWS

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look for us on Facebook!



... AT THE MEETING - JUNE 2016



The new Officers of the Society



Bronson Conlin, Jennifer Shafer, and Skip Hunter attended the meeting and told the members about the Coastal Virginia Cup in July.



Mary Ann Bromley presented Katie with the proceeds check from Finnegan's Wake.





SOCIETY SHOUT-OUT



The Irish American Society of Tidewater volunteered in Chesapeake for the 28th Clean the Bay Day on June 4th, 2016. Big thanks to **Michael Hagerty, Caroline Morse, Jim Hagerty, Esther Shook, and Katie McCrory** for coming out for Clean the Bay Day! What a fun morning and a beautiful trail!

CELTIC KIDS' CORNER

COLOR ME IRISH!

DESIGN YOUR OWN IRISH DANCE DRESS...

... and LEARN IRISH GAELIC

Feis: (pronounced "fesh") A traditional Irish arts and culture festival, commonly used referring to Irish dance competitions

Ceol: (pronounced "key-ol") Music





THE COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP PRESENTS

COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP 16

JULY 23RD, 2016
9:30AM TO 5:00PM
PRINCESS ANNE
ATHLETIC COMPLEX
VIRGINIA BEACH
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

GUINNESS

MURPHY'S
a grand irish pub

VIRGINIA BEACH
LIVE THE LIFE

ONEILLS

TOPGOLF SYNOGN

IRRHURLING.COM | CAMOGIE757VA.ORG | FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CVC EMAIL: COASTAL.VIRGINIA.CUP@GMAIL.COM



HURLEY HAPPENINGS



Submitted by Jackie Trudell

On June 4th our local **Cumann Na mBan Camogie** ladies traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to proudly represented the Tidewater Area at the **Atlanta Peach Cup Tournament**.

The ladies endured extremely high temperatures to compete in 3 games. It was a hard fought game against the Atlanta A team, whom are former National Champions. We also played the Atlanta B team and the ladies from Nashville, Tennessee.

After all the competition was over we all celebrated at **Ri Ra Irish Pub** in downtown Atlanta! A great time was had by all and we look forward to upping our game when they come to face us in July on our home turf!



COMING NEXT MONTH –
AT THE
AUGUST MEETING!!

The IAS Variety Show

Thursday, August 4, 2016 @ 7PM

The Irish American Society of Tidewater has **TALENT!**

We are looking for IAS members and potential members who would like to share their talents! **Children, Teens, and Adults are ALL welcome to perform and join in the fun!**

Singers
Dancers
Musicians
Magicians
Comedians
... and More!

For more information or to sign-up to perform,
please contact Katie McCrory
(katymegh@gmail.com / 757-581-6476)

Go on, give us a Smile!!!

A bus full of politicians was speeding down a country road outside of Belfast. Suddenly it swerved into a field and crashed into a tree. Pat who owned the field went to see what the noise was about. After investigating he dug a hole and buried the politicians. A few days later the police drove by and saw the bus. They knocked on the door and asked what had happened to the politicians?



Pat (born in July, a cancer) had been a compulsive worrier for years until he found a way to overcome his problem. Murphy, O'Brian and the rest of the boys noticed the change. What happened asked Murphy? You don't seem to worry anymore. Oh says Pat, I've hired a professional worrier for \$1000 a week and I haven't had a single quam since. "A thousand a week, how are you going to pay him?" sure now, isn't that his problem?!!!

Pat and Murphy are sitting on the porch at a very famous nudist colony in Country Donegal watching the sun set!!! Pat asked Murphy who was taking classes in psychology, "Have you read Marx?" To which Murphy replies "yes I think it's the wicker chairs"!!! (Now think about it!!)



... from the "Tom Porter Archives"



IRISH ABROAD



In May, **Lynnette Fitch Brash** and **Edward Brash** had a two-week visit from Edward's parents, **Shirley** and **Ed Brash**. During the two-weeks, the four made a fabulous trip by ferry over to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland! Here are some highlights from their time on the Emerald Isle.

In **Belfast**, a local steered them to what is supposedly the only **CANADIAN** pub on the entire island, **Rockies Sports Bar**, just a quick walk from the amazing **Titanic Museum**! Here are Edward and his parents with the Canadian owner of Rockies, **Jim Graves**! Jim was playing hockey in the British Hockey League (yes, they have one!), fell in love with a Belfast girl, and never left! He helped found the **Belfast Giants** hockey team (named in honor of **Finn McCool**) there. Jim has an **ENORMOUS** collection of sports jerseys hanging in Rockies, and you can look soon for a **Cumann na mBan Camogie Club** one to be displayed there as well! (1)



After leaving Belfast, it was time to explore **Co. Antrim**, from whence one branch of Lynnette's family emigrated. After a quick castle stop in **Carrickfergus**, it was on to **Scullion Hurls** in **Loughguile** and -- for you *Game of Thrones* fans -- **The Dark Hedges**! Scullion Hurls, in addition to making gorgeous hurleys, also has built a relationship with the **Dark Hedges Preservation Trust**, which gives them branches that have to be culled from the ancient beech trees that make up The Dark Hedges. Scullion Hurls uses these to craft candleholders and other decorative objects, and a percentage of the sales from these items goes back to the Trust. (2-3)



Speaking of **Finn McCool**, the Brashmobile stopped to visit his handiwork at the famous **Giant's Causeway**! One of the most iconic sites anywhere in Ireland, it is a sight that doesn't disappoint, no matter what the weather. It's well worth the stop and the admission. By the way, they honored our **National Trust for Scotland** membership there, so it is worth a try if you have one from elsewhere in the UK or Ireland. It's also close striking distance to **Bushmills Distillery** and **Dunluce Castle**, which are great stops as well. (4)





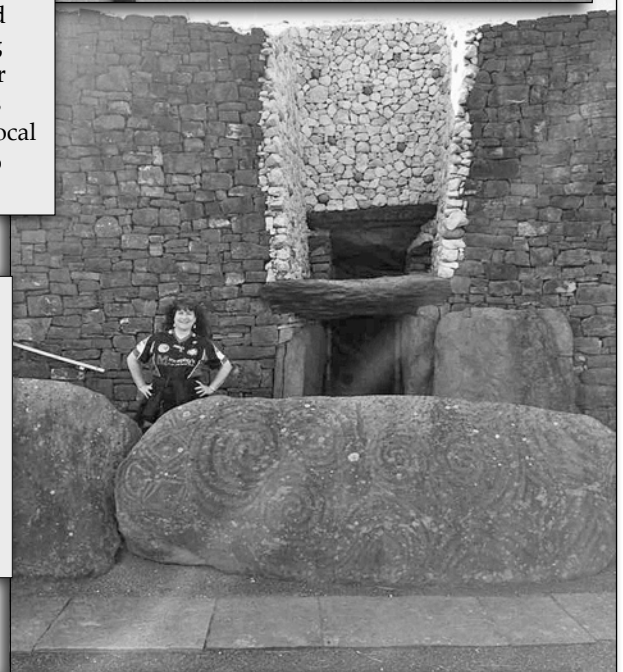
After a really wonderful stay in **Derry City**, the Brashes headed on to the Republic, via **Co. Tyrone**, where they made a stop at the **O'Neills Sportswear** production plant in Strabane. This is where our CnamB camogie and HRHC hurling jerseys are made! Edward's grandmother was an O'Neill -- too bad we can't get a special discount! :) (5)

IRISH ABROAD



We spent Dad Brash's birthday weekend in **Co. Sligo**, which is where his mother's people were from. Here are Edward and his parents in front of **Donagh Tighe's Pub** in Ballymote, Co. Sligo, the actual town Edward's Tighe relatives came from! Donagh Tighe could be a cousin - we must go back and meet him! There's also a microbrewery in Ballymote named **The White Hag Irish Brewing Company** that we need to go back to visit. I tried two of their beers while we were in Sligo, and both were excellent. They give their beers names from Irish mythology, and they use ancient recipes that incorporate local ingredients like heather and oats. Some other highlights of our time in Sligo were Dad Brash's birthday dinner at the fantastic **Eala Bhan** (white swan)

After a stop to see Lynnette's buddy from UCD grad school, **Orla**, in **Mullingar**, it was on to **Meath** to see the **Hill of Tara** complex and **Brú na Bóinne**! No matter how many times you visit **Newgrange**, it still blows your mind! Here is Lynnette in front of the entrance to this world heritage site Neolithic passage tomb; she's standing next to the iconic Newgrange triple spiral which is represented on the back collar of the CnamB camogie jersey! (7)



After a night in **Drogheda**, it was back to the north for a visit to Virginia Beach's sister city, **Bangor**, in **Co. Down**! We visited **Bangor Castle**, where we had a lovely meeting with the Mayor of the **Ards & North Down** borough council, **Alan Graham**. He gave us a lovely reception with tea and scones, took pictures with us, gave us some mementos, and had me sign the guest book! Afterwards, we visited the excellent **North Down Museum** and then drove the gorgeous **Ards Peninsula** coastline. Camogie and hurling are very strong on the Ards Peninsula, and the **Bangor Marina** is the largest in Northern Ireland, second largest on the entire island. They also have a yacht club with sailing, diving, and sea swimming lessons. Something tells me we will be going back! :) (8)



CALLING ALL IRISH PRINCESSES!

Show your Irish Pride and dust off your Sash and Tiara!

Please come out to support the Irish Community at the 2nd Annual Coastal Virginia Hurling & Camogie Tournament on July 23rd at the Princess Anne Sports Complex.

We will be kicking off Opening Ceremonies with a Parade at 10:00am . There will be teams coming from Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Atlanta , Richmond, Raleigh and Pennsylvania.

So let's show how the Tidewater Irish do it !

For more information or questions contact : Jackie Trudell at 757-353-1447 or jackielynn@cox.net

THE 2ND ANNUAL COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP



SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2016

9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Princess Anne Athletic Complex
4001 Dam Neck Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23456

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Refreshments & Merchandise Available For Sale

IAS Members –
Contact a board member
to volunteer at the
hospitality tent!

THE COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP PRESENTS

COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP 16

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ATHLETIC COMPLEX
VIRGINIA BEACH
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MURPHY'S
a grand Irish pub

VIRGINIA BEACH
LIVE THE LIFE

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