

**ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL**

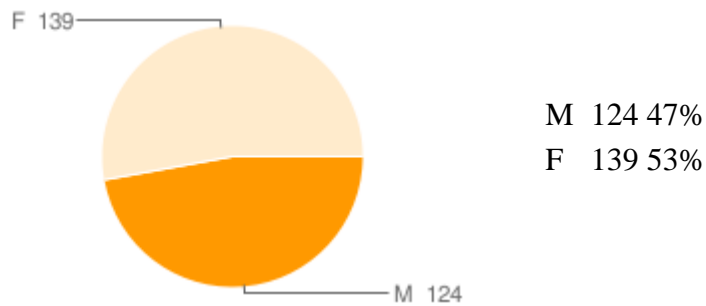
**COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

**JUNE 2009**

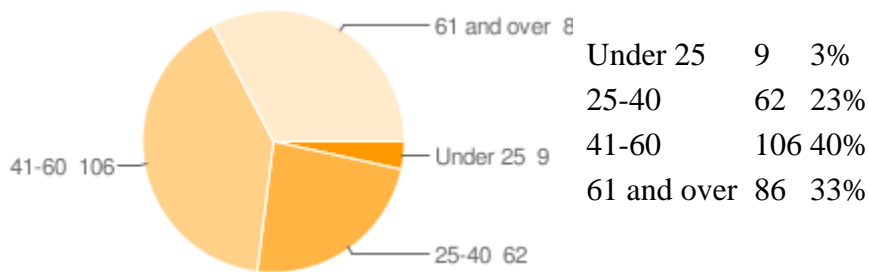
269 responses

Summary See complete responses

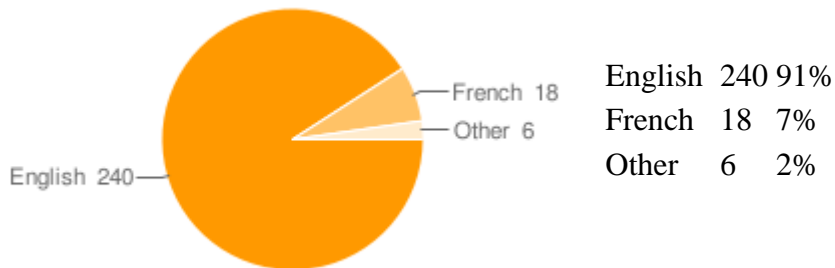
### GENDER



### AGE GROUP



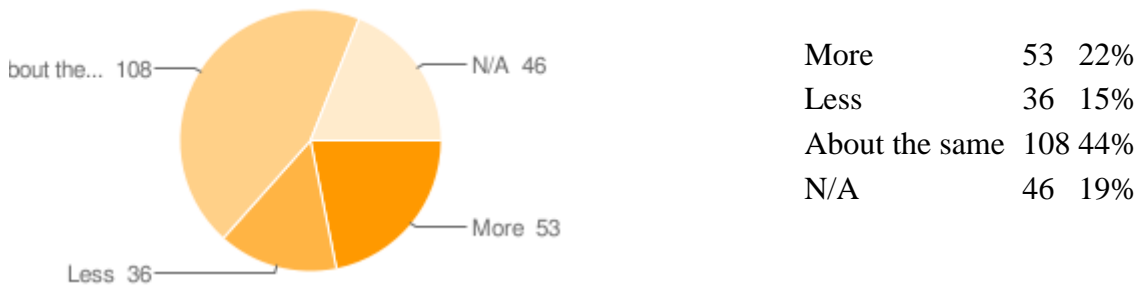
### PRIMARY LANGUAGE



### ARE YOU?

|                                |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Irish born                     | 37  | 14% |
| Parent(s) born in Ireland      | 24  | 9%  |
| Grandparent(s) born in Ireland | 57  | 22% |
| Other Irish ancestry           | 126 | 48% |
| Not of Irish ancestry          | 12  | 5%  |

IF YOU ARE OF IRISH DESCENT, DO YOU FEEL MORE OR LESS “IRISH” THAN YOUR IRISH-BORN OR IRISH-DESCENDED PARENTS?



MEMBERSHIP OF IRISH SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN MONTREAL.

|                                     |    |     |
|-------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Ancient Order of Hibernians         | 4  | 2%  |
| Cine Gael                           | 62 | 32% |
| Comhra                              | 14 | 7%  |
| Erin Sports Association             | 1  | 1%  |
| Gaelic Athletic Association         | 10 | 5%  |
| Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce  | 21 | 11% |
| Irish Protestant Benevolent Society | 2  | 1%  |
| Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club  | 9  | 5%  |
| Siamsa                              | 30 | 16% |
| St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal   | 77 | 40% |
| Tara Golf Association               | 3  | 2%  |
| United Irish Societies              | 32 | 17% |
| Other                               | 45 | 24% |

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

CULTURAL INTERESTS

|                                |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Architecture                   | 59  | 23% |
| Celtic culture in general      | 158 | 61% |
| Contemporary Irish music       | 104 | 40% |
| Craic                          | 55  | 21% |
| Genealogy                      | 101 | 39% |
| History of the Irish in Canada | 168 | 64% |
| History of Ireland             | 143 | 55% |
| Irish business                 | 37  | 14% |
| Irish cinema                   | 125 | 48% |
| Irish current affairs          | 69  | 26% |

|                         |     |     |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Irish dance             | 104 | 40% |
| Irish language          | 89  | 34% |
| Irish literature        | 120 | 46% |
| Irish newspapers        | 52  | 20% |
| Irish politics          | 62  | 24% |
| Irish pubs              | 134 | 51% |
| Irish religion          | 51  | 20% |
| Irish television        | 47  | 18% |
| Northern Ireland        | 61  | 23% |
| Sports - GAA            | 21  | 8%  |
| Sports - Golf           | 32  | 12% |
| Sports - Rugby          | 27  | 10% |
| Sports – Soccer         | 33  | 13% |
| Storytelling            | 72  | 28% |
| Traditional Irish music | 167 | 64% |
| Travel to Ireland       | 191 | 73% |
| Other                   | 27  | 10% |

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

#### WHAT CURRENTLY ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES FACING THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN MONTREAL?

|   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| Lack of interest of youth in things Irish | 120 | 54% |
| Lack of innovation                        | 59  | 26% |
| Lack of community solidarity              | 92  | 41% |
| Too many events                           | 6   | 3%  |
| Too few events                            | 48  | 21% |
| Wrong types of events                     | 28  | 13% |
| No relevance to modern Ireland            | 42  | 19% |
| Too Anglophone                            | 35  | 16% |
| Negative public stereotype                | 42  | 19% |
| Declining number of Irish Montrealers     | 128 | 57% |
| Too many Irish organizations              | 31  | 14% |
| Too few Irish organizations               | 13  | 6%  |
| Poor communications                       | 79  | 35% |
| Other                                     | 33  | 15% |

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

**WHAT ARE THE MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN MONTREAL?**

|                                   |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| "Irish brand" visibility          | 119 | 47% |
| Community solidarity              | 95  | 37% |
| Positive public image             | 141 | 55% |
| Successful events                 | 149 | 58% |
| St. Patrick's Day                 | 214 | 84% |
| Participation of youth            | 34  | 13% |
| The number of Irish organizations | 93  | 36% |
| Other                             | 24  | 9%  |

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

**PLEASE TICK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS YOU THINK APPLY TO THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY**

|  |    |     |
|--|----|-----|
| Mysterious. I don't know what it does. | 68 | 37% |
| Exclusive                              | 57 | 31% |
| For the older generation               | 80 | 43% |
| Not for Irish-born                     | 14 | 8%  |
| Anglophone                             | 61 | 33% |
| Catholic                               | 61 | 33% |
| Influential                            | 38 | 20% |
| Innovative                             | 13 | 7%  |
| Staid                                  | 38 | 20% |
| Positive image                         | 56 | 30% |
| Negative image                         | 4  | 2%  |
| Neutral image                          | 43 | 23% |
| Other                                  | 10 | 5%  |

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

**HOW SHOULD THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN MONTREAL CHANGE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE 21ST CENTURY?  
(Responses from <40 age group in bold)**

Construct a comprehensive "welcome mat" for incoming Irish immigrants, and publicize it well and widely;

Make effective use of Facebook like social networks to enlarge the number of participants in community activities;

Develop a "phone network" to remain connected to community members who aren't active internet users.

The Irish Community must do more to wake up the Irish Community to the fact that our youth are not involved in the various societies. The youth are our future and they are not interested in sitting at meetings listening to society business from basically seniors. They need to be somehow encouraged to participate in events and activities that attract and interest our youth. One of these events already exists with the "Queen's Selection Evening" where 18-25 year olds are encouraged to participate. More events and activities that welcome our youth is definitely needed.

Involve younger age groups (25 to 40) with marketing that appeals to a younger audience. The events are very good but need to take into account the aging of the Irish Montreal population that are members of societies now and start to attract younger people.

**Embrace technology to bridge the gap between old and young.**

**Young people are online, chat, YouTube and engage in their own activities on that level.**

**For Irish identity to flourish with the young, indeed to survive in the next 40 years in Canada, I believe it is essential that communications, activities, language and culture be promoted in THAT medium used most by youngsters.**

The Irish community, and societies devoted to the Irish in Montreal, could benefit from "public awareness" initiatives to enlighten those who know little about Montreal's rich Irish heritage. There was, apparently, a time some years ago when "Irish Pride" was strong and vibrant in major cosmopolitan cities, like Montreal (New York, Chicago, Boston, and Montreal!!). It seems like a concerted campaign to inform, educate, and enlighten communities of the many strengths of the Irish that came to this great city before us, of the Irish Diaspora in Montreal, could bring a renewed 'life' to what it means to be Irish or least "Irish-descended"!

Reach out to school children by being more visible in all areas of Montreal, not just traditionally Irish ones like the Point.

Perhaps find a way to offer Irish music, story-telling, dance to schools.

## **Embrace technological tools. Engage youth.**

Always be ready to advance and promote Irish things and people. Be more "In Your Face"

Should try and adapt to the changing needs of the Irish population in Montreal, try to encompass the newer generation who will be running the organization, eventually. Try to also realize that being Irish means different things to different people. Some of my roots are in Ireland, but some are also elsewhere, I have multiple identities- Irish, English and Scottish. I cannot be the only one.

The Irish community is now concentrated in the West-end and West-Island - while in the past there was large numbers in the East-end - St Al's - St Dominic's - St Michaels - St Agnes - St Augustine's has disappeared - The Ascension and the Annunciation for all intents and interest is Dormant.

All the young have moved on and many have moved out.

The "older" generation hesitate to go out at night to community events.

## **More events needed that appeal to younger members of Irish immigrant community in Montreal.**

More support available to newly-arrived immigrants.

Social nights, job-hunt resources, accommodation resources etc.

A meeting of all Irish societies in Montreal should be arranged to see what common goals could be achieved - i.e. to see if we could hold common fundraisers, help organise events with common interest - and expand the network.

Ethnic communities are being featured in Quebec society. Because the Irish Community has been here so long we are considered "integrated". We, as a community, have contributed, developed, designed and built the Canadian, Québec and Montréal way of life.

We should be doing more to get that message out.

Canada, Québec, Montréal would not be what they are today if it was for the full participation of the Irish Community in the way of life...if 40% of French Quebecers have a connection to Irish Heritage, why should they not have 40% of visibility.

MORE visibility programs about how the Irish helped in the molding of Canada.

The McCord Museum exhibit is the best start...I loved it but as we say in French..."ça m'a laissé sur mon appétit.

Every Irish Organization is doing a super JOB and we should continue but must evolve.

This survey initiative is the beginning of GREAT things to come and I congratulate you for this.

I hope that my comments will help and you may contact me for more clarification if you feel the need.

Focus on a more positive image of the Irish; work harder to erase the image of the Irish as being brawling, two-fisted drinking Irish who use St. Patrick's Day as an excuse to get rowdy and drunk, rather than to celebrate their roots and heritage. Discourage the people who attend the Parade and sit on the sidelines, drinks in hand, decorated with tacky facial press-on tattoos, green paint on their face, green hair spray and draped in Irish flags. This is not how people in Ireland dress nor did their ancestors. There is a need to discourage today's young people from using the Parade as an excuse to drink and look ridiculous and to educate them to be proud of their roots.

An Irish cultural and sports centre would lead to a major improvement in realizing the cross-organization potential.

Common goals could be realized in a far easier fashion.

Reach out to the Irish Canadians in the rest of Canada and build some programs to pull everyone together. Try to include people who aren't catholic - ones who have drifted from the church and feel okay about it.

Increase communications and relationship with Ireland

We need to be more active on the francophone side, find more ways of sharing cultural history and future challenges.

**Wider range of activities would be good; more language retreats might be a thought?**

Continue to strengthen and grow the Irish Studies program at Concordia.

Be all encompassing. Be one group encouraging all groups to come together.

Refuse to accept a Famine occurred in Ireland. The Irish people were starved to death. The Penal Laws brought about the death of the Irish people. The potato blight occurred in other European countries but people did not die in numbers like they died in Ireland. The Aristocracy or the foreign army didn't die in Ireland during the years 1845-1848. Famine it wasn't.

More connections with current Irish youth and their culture. Establish links with Ireland's youth and awareness of current cultural currents and this will lead to a greater interest in Ireland. That could include cultural exchanges, youth work experiences between our two countries, more study opportunities between our two countries. I've been to Ireland twice and my two eldest daughters have been there once when young, but my two younger sons have not and it might be interesting if there were more opportunities for them.

Also, emphasizing the opportunities that exist with Irish citizenship, such as access to the EU for travel and work opportunities. I am looking into the process of getting Irish

passports for myself and my children especially while my Irish born parents are still alive.

I joined the Irish student group at Concordia and didn't hear anything until St. Patrick's Day came around! This is symbolic of over-emphasis - at least to my mind - on partying and drinking.

Years ago there used to be an amateur theatre group. I remember very much enjoying their productions of *The Shadow of a Gunman* and *The Sanctuary Light*. I DO wish (without any desire to act myself) that a theatre group could start up again.

**Outreach throughout Montreal and not only in the typical ghetto areas where there have been people of Irish descent in the past (e.g. people have inter-married and moved around to different neighbourhoods). The people involved in the Irish organizations (as far as I have witnessed) tend to know each other x many years, have been involved in the same organizations and neighbourhoods and it is difficult for others to integrate. Strategies to be more open to involvement of new members must be attempted.**

Inform the public of different aspects of Irish culture

Be more welcoming of francophones of Irish descent.

**Engage the Youth, because that's where the future lies. Create Community solidarity, based on Common grounds of Irish Identity. Surpass the English/French Cleavages that exist here, by creating an Inclusive Identity respecting both Cultures. Accessible and Visible Projects, supported by a Network a Media based initiatives predominately On-line Website/Montreal Irish Magazine similar to what they have in the States. This would incorporate Pub Life/Food/Sport/Cultural Events including Music/ Language, and this would be avenue of reaching the Montreal Irish Community.**

**Marketing and Merchandising is Key to what ever event takes Place, because for example a T-shirt worn by one person can be seen by Hundreds of People in one Day. Visibility is the key supported by accessibility.**

**A Cultural Center would have to come into play at some point, without this it's hard to base a center for Irish Life in Montreal today. "Sense of Community" and Grass roots Community efforts are also key.**

**The Irish community should get in step with modern times, after all it is 2009. They should drop the anti-gay rights stance, drop the white bread, right wing conservative attitudes and include other cultures. Embrace socialist ideology over capitalistic groups within using our Irish heritage to promote individual exclusive societies. Include all classes in such celebrations as the St Patrick's ball and Parade Queen functions. Drop the high price of tickets for these events and stop the**

**exclusivity of these snobby functions. Also change the music at these events the "Danny Boy" "Take you home again Kathleen" entertainment is good for the blue rinse brigade but younger people feel alienated by this stuffiness .Kelly green Mickdom is a part of the last century. There are plenty of good Irish musicians in Montreal that can play contemporary and traditional Irish music. Hire them for a change and you may interest the junior Irish descendants in their forefathers and mothers culture. Finally for God's sake remember Hurley's pub is not the epicenter of Irish culture in Montreal, it's just another grotty bar, like the thousands of drinking holes found in Dublin.**

The Irish Community has a lot going for it especially if you compare it to many other communities. There are many activities, Organizations, purposes of each organization as well as events that are produced by each of these organizations. Going forward there is a need to Co-Ordinate the aspirations of each organization to ensure that all are pulling in the same direction. There is strength amongst numbers but only if all are pulling in the same direction or cause. You don't want to have a situation like the 100 Yd dash for people with no sense of direction and when the gun goes off all are running in different directions never to cross the finish line.

**Enough of the ritual stereotyping of Irish culture, and by that, i don't just mean the drink; i mean the literature, the films, and the Irisher-than-thou attitude of Irish montrealers. Discussions lead to contests about who is more "Irish" than who, we are NOT Irish; we are Canadians and Irish-Canadians. We need to think more about what it means to be Irish-Canadian, or Irish-Québécois, less about what it means to be Irish.**

Get more involved with the francophone community and a lot less with the "Brits".  
Be visible - sports - cinema- Concordia's Irish department attracts young Francophones who can tell the story in their communities.

I am really not sure. I identify with my Irish ancestry but seem to be too busy to participate in many activities

Come together in Annual festival as many other cultural celebrations, the parade is a demonstration and celebration for all Montrealers to enjoy but there is no time for social and sharing info

Be active in their communities - one project at a time

By being aware of their Irish heritage while maintaining an open attitude towards other cultures, especially the Québécois one. There was much inter-marriage between the Irish and the French-Canadians as the Québécois used to be called. This created a rich mix of traditions, as in my own family.

Get more youth involved in the activities

Too many organizations with too few members who carry the load of keeping the organizations going.

Trying to reach more Irish Montrealers with Irish descendance (a too small Percentage seems to participate in Irish related activities.

Trying to reach more French-Canadian with Irish background (they are so numerous), in advertising in the French Medias the Irish cultural activities.

Making more contemporary Irish activities (such as arts, music, cinema etc...).

I don't know.

Meet the young community in Montreal. That would mean Celtic games and integration of culture within the major/minor studies within Concordia, regardless of students minoring or majoring within the program. Aim for the young and integrate the older, traditional community.

**Even though I am not Irish, I have felt, through studying the culture and literature, a connection to Ireland's unique heritage. I am happy to have been included in the many events it has planned (thanks to Concordia's Irish Studies program), but prior to attending Concordia, I had no idea of the expanse of this community in Montreal.**

Irish are well integrated people and they also have a very positive image in the public. We all have, up to a certain point, a connection with Ireland. It explain why the St Patrick's Parade is so popular. Who doesn't have an Irish ancestor. An effort should be made, though, to reach out for the French speaking people who, like me, have an interest in language and culture. You would be surprised to see how many French Canadian has an Irish grand mother or grandfather. My ancestor left Ireland during the Great famine, two O'Dea died at Grosse Ile. I feel disconnected with the Irish community, may be because I speak French. I don't know if this is the kind of information you are looking for, but I will always be glad to give you feedback.

I have always assumed that the community organizations in Montreal are really for those of Irish ancestry. I currently live on the west island, am working and rearing a family. I informally meet some Irish women every Monday morning for breakfast and I love that contact with my friends.

I would probably be a little more involved if I had more time and perceived the organizations to be more relevant to my world

I experience "community" at the Cine Gael gatherings and am often intellectually stimulated by the guest lecturers sponsored by the Irish Studies program. I am turned off by the tone of "we need to prove something" at general meetings of St Patrick society - (I have not renewed my membership) and I'm not sure how to meet challenges etc. I wonder if there could be more contact with the Ireland of today and the local community - some way of keeping us in touch with Ireland as it is - e.g. Seamus Heaney just celebrated his 70th birthday - I guess I am wondering if we could figure out together what it means to be Irish today.

For communications bring all organizations under a central umbrella - website, email, literature all branded.

Constant email campaigns targeting people - particularly young people who have Irish heritage. Monthly email from central organization listing events for all organizations.-

**Raise the age for reduced-priced tickets to the St-Patrick's Ball to 35 years old. This is a key demographic who like to attend but needs the initial motivation to go for the first time. After this they are more likely to become involved in the community and you can hit them for membership into the various organizations.**

**You could also organize a few "young professional" nights for 25-35 year olds.**

More emphasis on the School of Irish Studies at Concordia. There is good communication with them now but the community must continue to encourage interchange. Try to get the teen population more interested in their Irish heritage; maybe, if doesn't already, the St Pat's Society should have a young people's sub-committee run by youths for youths. This was successfully done by the University Club some years ago; an intermediate membership category was introduced and it attracted many young business & professional people. The future of this very traditional club depended on attracting younger people and getting them involved. For the Irish community I am talking about a much younger group, 15 - 21.

Promote a unified image.

We need to get the young adults involved somehow in the organizations. If we have any chance of survival it is with them.

Educate and encourage the young people of today perhaps by setting up after school discussion groups with guest speakers. Topics could be Irish History, Culture and Irish Canadian history and culture.

Make an effort to dispel negative stereotypes.

Nothing they need to keep it old due to the strength in the heritage of the Montreal Irish Given the Francophone majority I believe the Irish community needs to promote the number of Quebecois with Irish ancestry. Get them involved more in the various events etc.

**The Irish Community need to hold more events that will attract the younger Irish community.**

I think the organizations are evolving, which is needed and good. Awareness of the history of the Irish in Quebec is broadening by virtue of the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia and the current exhibition regarding the Irish in Quebec at the McCord Museum. More Quebecois are recognizing the significant contribution of the Irish community. I think the significant changes of bilingualism and integration into both

the Anglophone and francophone business, political and cultural communities has already happened.

We need to communicate more about today's Ireland as well as continuing traditional events.

Many people are interested in Irish music and language because they find these cultural offerings inherently appealing. Concordia Irish Studies attracts people of many cultural origins with an interest in all things Irish. Irish music crosses the French/English divide and the Montreal music groups, many of whose members are not Irish, are authentic transmitters of the culture. The Irish community in Montreal is changing as it is more open to other cultures. Young Canadian Irish people are also more likely to be of mixed ancestry (French, First Nations, and so on) than those in the past. Furthermore modern Irish immigration and, again, the presence of Concordia Irish Studies has introduced many to a more nuanced view of the country. The shameful shamroguery and paddy-whackery, so often purporting to be an example of Irish culture, is, thank God, mainly a thing of the past. I think the community is already changing, and for the better.

I think that the variety and scope of the many organizations are filling the needs of Irish Canadians very nicely. For example, there is hardly any space on the dance floor when Siamsa has a monthly Ceili at the N.D.G. Legion and the hall is packed with mostly young people. (Many Francophones too!) Innisfail, on the other hand, seems to attract an older membership which could present a problem as their members' age and are no longer able to attend events.

Include historical background of Irish in Quebec history courses, and have special guests go into classrooms. In places like the Old Port, Griffintown, and other neighbourhoods set up guided tours and relate stories, myths, and facts of early Irish arrivals---using costumes of period. Encourage return of ships like the Jenny Johnston. Encourage participation in Concordia's Irish Studies Department. Have Celtic music festivals---like what happened previously on Douglas grounds. Collect stories from elder Irish here, to be passed on to youth.

I believe that most societies count on women to protect the culture. Maybe a more sustained effort to include women?

Support the Concordia Canadian Irish Studies Program. Education and communication are the areas which should be pursued and improved. Perhaps try to collapse the number of Irish organizations into one umbrella organization - but this will be resisted because traditions die hard.

I would put more emphasis on the Irish/French connection in Canada and involve the French community more in events.

I would attempt to find a more modern approach to reaching the youth in Montreal.

I've already completed the questionnaire but I forgot to mention that it might now be a good time for St. Patrick's Society and the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society to join forces. They have the same aims and the reasons for the division are now obsolete. The other sister societies do not have this embarrassing division. Thank you. Patricia Burns  
Combine resources and abilities, increase membership and visibility.

Have a membership drive, and provide them with services which may be offered online to anyone of Irish descent, including genealogy search, learning to speak Irish, a calendar of Irish events in Montreal, etc.

Challenge (Membership)

More visibility at non-Irish locations/activities: perhaps a publicity/info. Kiosk at Cegeps/Colleges/Universities around the month of March. More elaboration on SPS Logo/Slogan.

The SPS seems to be a "word-of-mouth" only Organization. Perhaps that all it is suppose to be?

As an Irish American, I think there is tourist attraction possibilities for those who want to learn Irish, yet can't get over to the Gaeltachts in Ireland on a regular basis. Immersion weekends, cultural events, should be a draw, especially with the Irish community history in Nova Scotia and other parts of Canada.

I cannot answer many of the questions. I have always known about the existence of the St. Patrick's Society but nothing else. I am surrounded by Irish people in my family but have yet to find an actual direct link for myself. I usually say that I am Irish by osmosis.

I will find out more about the St. Patrick Society from now on.

Make sure Peggy Curran writes about everything and anything Irish in The Gazette. She writes very well and has a faithful readership.

**Attract more young people - same faces at the same events, year after year. More fun rather than everything seeming to focus on Concordia and some sort of academic event, which is fine for Canadians looking to learn about Irish culture but "ice to Eskimos" as far as a native Irish person would be concerned**

Have the organizations work closely together. Continue the work on Griffintown as a suitable focus for Irish history in Montreal.

Surveys such as this one are a great start. We would attract more people to Irish events if we had a more wide spread venue, and were able to get the word out to more people in the community - aside from the people who are already 'in the loop' for the Irish community. Perhaps take more advantage of the media that is available (Twitter, Internet, local newspapers, etc.). I have found (and joined) a few Irish groups through Facebook for example.

Send a flyer in the mail to everyone in the Montreal phone book whose name is obviously Irish. Build up the numbers in the SPS and then copy much of what the Jewish community does to foster solidarity.

Continue the great work you are already doing. Events like the History of Irish in Montreal at the McCord Museum are particularly good as it raises the profile by linking it to a known entity like the McCord. Suggest using radio advertising more for this and other events, and including the French media.

This is a good start, asking the question. But actions are probably less important than social evolution: who would have predicted the collapse of the Catholic Church, so closely related to Irish identity? You couldn't have predicted that in 1946 when I was born.

Teaching about immigration to Montreal

A very good question, no answer.

This is my second entry as I wish to correct an impression I may have left that the St. Patrick's Society is staid. I don't think it is. In fact I know that it has inspired, launched and funded many successful ventures. I simply meant that, off the top of my head, if the society name came up I first thought of an old-fashioned fraternal association. Organize trips to Ireland for people living here and trips to Quebec for people living in Ireland

To do more to put modern Ireland in the fore front and to have more things on around St. Patrick's week such as films, information on Ireland, business, cultural, history, literature, etc.

I think Cine Gael does a good job of bringing current Irish cinema to Montreal. I think this could be extended to theatre and art, but it would take a great deal of organization. Cine Gael is now established and has unusual continuity in that the same organizers are involved - this keeps them right up to date. The young students involved in Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia are very keen and would no doubt be willing to undertake projects or exchanges.

We need to find a way to get the youth interested in their heritage and also find ways to make them interested enough to participate in events all year round - not just St Patrick's Day or the parade

Discourage the presentation of sentimental music, for example, 'Mother Machree', as the epitome of Irish culture.

Encourage the presentation of more contemporary theatre from or about Ireland  
I do not see a need for change as such. To me it is a vibrant community which helps me keep in touch with my roots. The cultural events are especially worthwhile as are the guest speakers from Ireland at Irish Studies at Concordia. One change I think could be considered would be for the Irish Community to become involved in a major philanthropic project such as committing to fundraising for a specific organization such as the M.U.H.C. I would be a nice way for the community to give back to the city. I think that the Community could rise to that. I would be happy to discuss this at a committee meeting.

An Irish Community Centre for Irish happenings would be an asset.

I again ask... what do you mean by community? Interacting with other Irish on a daily, weekly monthly basis???

Participating in groups such as Cine Gael?

Being aware of and sometimes attending Irish sponsored events, lectures, etc. Etc...

- 1) Find a way to encourage more young people to join the various "Irish organizations".
- 2) Develop a communications program to show the contributions made by the various organizations.
- 3) Develop a communications program to show the historical and current contribution of the Irish community to the business and cultural life of Montreal. The recent exhibit at the McCord museum is an excellent start. This communications program should be aimed at all Montrealers.

I think that there needs to be a shift in culture and in focus. The history of the Irish in Montreal is multi-layered and is reflected in a number of significant migration periods. The survival of the community was once guaranteed by the constitution of 1867 through a control of its educational system... that has now been lost. There is still much to celebrate through music, song, dance, storytelling etc. It is what will keep the community vibrant and together. How to foster that development is a challenge that we can only encourage by helping ourselves.

There should be more affordable public events with a focus on good traditional music, storytelling.

Greater visibility in the media--radio ads and newspaper articles would. More courses in the Irish study program at Concordia and McGill would help

**Certain organizations in the Montreal whose primary achievement has been to either promote or claim to be ' a musical diversion' do not in my humble opinion, live up to their motto/name. This entity (not St. Pat's Society) secludes/segregates itself from those who would otherwise be a revenue generating stream and to promote and enhance Irish musicality.**

**At which point has the 'Irish' culture in Montreal claim to be diverse and exclude at the same token?**

**My 2 cents**

IRISH IS NOT JUST A SEASONAL WORD. Events etc. should be all year not only in March.

Perhaps one could create an archival center for Irish music in the form of a library/museum?

The community needs to co-ordinate the different society events better so there are no (or VERY few) overlaps.

We need to better include younger generation people in organizational things so they will take over future positions of responsibility.

A "BUY IRISH" programme along with support events for different products, could be introduced on a monthly basis, in order to keep "IRISH-ness" to the front in people's eyes.

The Irish Community of Montreal is overwhelmingly Anglophone. To meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century the community, in my opinion, needs to embrace its francophone neighbours.

**Increase their visibility/involvement in charitable activities, both Irish and other, in order to increase visibility and promote a positive image of the Irish community.**

Again, I just don't have the information necessary to answer this question.

While the communication is good and frequent, it is one-way only. There is no attempt to engage the recipients, i.e. the Irish population. I have lived in Montreal for almost 30 years and the only time that I felt that I was valued as an Irish person was when there was a UCD society and we met socially. While it was a bit exclusive, the organizations that do exist have to create an excitement and openness about their activities. When an activity takes place, the organization responsible should be very visible amongst the people, speaking with them and making them welcome.

One senses rivalry between Irish organizations when they should work together and support each other.

**Reach out to Irish Francophones in Québec.**

**Build on already successful traditional events with innovative ideas.**

The rest of the world, including Ireland, recognized that the 21st century would bring opportunity for change. Irish Montreal, however, is still running the same meeting and event agenda created by previous generations. Granted, we have 'stepped up' on particular occasions: The Grosse Ile crisis, necessary restoration support to maintain our historical presence in Montreal, etc. However, our surface solidarity does not allow us to move as one community to be innovative and produce a 21st century Irish identity in

Quebec. To change for the better, for the future, is not to deny the history of which we are all, rightfully, proud - but is it necessary to repeat it all, indefinitely, in similar formats?

**Challenge the romantic image of Ireland that has been created and communicated within the Irish community of Montreal, and to the larger community, in order open doors to modern Ireland.**

I think it should continue to plan and publicize events that take place and invite everyone that wants to, to come out. The youth should be focused upon to ensure continuity in the interests, traditions and cultural activities of the Irish in Montreal.

More active promotion of "Irish-ness" through organization of and support for "genuine" Irish cultural events. Promotion of more Irish music events which have been especially lacking since the demise of the Montreal International Celtic Festival (see Albany's Irish 2000 Music & Arts Festival for example). Establish an Irish Cultural Center in Montreal similar to those in Chicago (<http://www.chicagogaelpark.org/>) and Boston (<http://www.irishculture.org>).  
Participation of more youth.

Siamsa School of Irish Music of which I am Director, has many Québécois musicians taking our courses. Many of our teachers are also French-speaking. It shows us how the traditional music scene in Montreal can be shared among all of us. A great way to feel closer to Québécois culture as well. I think the Irish community does an incredible amount for Montreal. The older generation is perhaps better at organizing events and the youth participation needs to be sought out.

The Irish community is changing and I believe it is on the right path.

**Unlike some of the other immigrant communities the Irish community seems to have dissipated to various parts of the city (or worse out of the province). If there were a way for the community to come together for more than just St Patrick's day that would be great.**

I feel the community should form one main group. There are too many sub societies which I feel divide the Irish community rather than solidify it. The younger members from Irish families should be included. There is not enough interest for younger kids to get involved in Irish community events. A more modern and fresh approach to youth culture may change this. Introduce the younger folk to Irish music, not the older style which I feel is still back in the 1920s. A new look at Irish music and culture in the year 2009 may open some young eyes. They need more modern programs to teach them to get involved and learn our cultural music.

They should make sure the next generation of Irish, their children, and or grandchildren, become more involved in as many activities as possible, and learn to be proud of their heritage, so as to ensure that our Irish organizations and societies do not become extinct

here in Quebec. As a long time member of the United Irish Societies, I have noticed a sharp decline in youth membership, which I find is sad. We are lucky to find intelligent young women to represent us every year in our Parade, as our Queen and Court, but unfortunately, they do not join the Society as a member the following year. We need the youth today, to survive tomorrow!

Unite

Show the importance of influence of Irish culture on Québec culture (dance, music, history...).

Show that the Irish community is a big part of Québec history.

People in Montreal should try to reconnect more with the past, the traditions. Irish is part should be part of that tradition.

Provide income tax receipts for membership fees, for starters. This would encourage membership. Merge St Pats with United Irish Society which would increase membership. Increase visibility by sponsoring Irish-ness at summer Montreal festivals - e.g.: amazing success of Irish humorists participating in Just for Laughs festival.

**We need fabulous cohesive website and or publication to bring us all together via Irish related ideas and events ~ also a presence on Facebook and twitter could be useful. An Irish festival each year would be good too ~ not on St. Patrick's Day though. A festival involving all things Irish - not just music - i.e. the lesser known things about Irish culture as well as the popular aspects of it. Volunteers for the festival could get perks like free admission to events, etc.**

**I'm in the dark as far as what's available in Montreal with regards to Irish community and I'd like to know more but don't know where to start.**

**Maybe hold a call for volunteers or a forum where those interested in Irish culture could come and plan events - especially youth.**

More public awareness work throughout the year, not just around the parade. Greater media visibility, newspapers, magazine, TV, radio throughout the year. More recruitment drives in the suburbs.

Push the culture and vibrance that helped form Montreal. Also attempt to block the Griffintown project.

**Inclusion of some smaller less demanding events, not everyone has the time for larger commitments with work and family life demands but people still want to be involved. Also I find that unless you know someone it's very hard to get involved or get to meet others within.**

**Consolidate all interest in a center.**

Getting the younger generation participating more would greatly help the Irish.

Coordinated fund raising for Community Projects.

A joint community project to permanently commemorate the Irish famine impact on Montreal and the historical contribution of the Irish to Montreal should be considered, along similar lines of those in Toronto, New York, Philadelphia etc...

**Perhaps focus on the direct relationship to Ireland in terms of cultural exchange in sports, the arts, academia. Many Irish here, first generation onward have never been, and their 'cultural identity' is merely Paddywackery, and under researched, explored and understood.**

**I'm lucky, my parents live in Clare, and I've been visiting since I was five.  
Funding for trips, exchanges and encouragement to do so.**

Promotion of Cultural and Linguistic activities amongst French Quebecers - with or without Irish heritage.  
Celtic art.

Parents to encourage their children to learn about their ancestors, visit Irish historic places (black rock, etc.) Generally try to get / keep them interested in their heritage. Ideally, I would like to see the various organizations working together more or supporting events of the various associations.

Through focusing on the contributions that Irish Montrealers have made and continue to make to the business and cultural community of the city. Irish Montrealers such as the late Dr. Sean Moore and his brother Brian should be celebrated. The history of families eg. The Ahern, Quinlan, O'Neill/Gallery and Macaksey families should be commemorated.

Modernize and be more connected to Ireland's changes, bring out specifically geared events - like youth event, or women's event, or music festival  
Active support for St Patrick's Soc and Can Irish Studies Foundation

**CAN YOU SUGGEST SPECIFIC WAYS THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY CAN MAKE CHANGES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN MONTREAL?**

[Aren't now; have been in the past and was a director and executive committee secretary]

Create a "Nuacht Breaking news" vehicle at the SPS website to provide more frequent publication of news items. Perhaps make it a passive receptacle for community event information to supplement the information going out from Irish Studies weekly (which can sometimes be like drinking from a fire hydrant), and from other lists like Cine Gael ...UIS? ...Comhra? Communications is an area that offers multiple directions for improvement.

St. Patrick's Society does a good job but not enough to encourage "young" Irish people.

Support content creation on the Internet by Irish contributors, immigrants, and, for anyone interested in Irish culture, music, language, and history.

The next barrier is technological, and the Society could help cross it.

At Comhra we have tried, with limited funding and limited success to do so, and we plan to continue in 2009 by creating online learning activities for language and culture on our site to reach a younger audience that would not otherwise come to class.

Surely other, similar initiatives could be imagined.

Not really sure, maybe more targeted advertising.

Be visible and prepared at all times to assist where it's called for.

First off...the survey could be easier to read...the initiative is BRILLIANT...but very hard to read.

Second...more visibility between March 31 and February 15...More small activities throughout the year...more media exposure (such as: An Irish Canadian who received an award or position in June)...More connection with the French Media... (Such as: statistics, Irish-Canadian positive impact on the full Quebec Society or highlight French/Irish family successes).

Get a grant from Heritage Canada to do a Montreal History of the Irish involvement in the past, the present and the future.

I know that my ideas are GRANDIOSTE...but let's try to get the BRANDING of the Irish in Montreal YEAR-LONG and not just Feb 15 - March 31.

I hope this helps and does not hurt!

Assist with the establishment of an Irish cultural centre is an area that all Irish organizations should strive towards in order to strengthen our community as a whole.

Get some programs going for people of all ages to visit Ireland and have exchanges the way France and Canada do. Get kids spending months or years in the other countries - like the Kinsmen do for students/

Have programs where anyone can do exchanges and experience the real Irish culture or sponsor people to visit for awhile in the homes of Irish people.

Be more involved in cross cultural activities with other communities; using Irish Studies at Concordia to expand contact within the francophone university milieu; encourage all organizations, like Cine Gael and others, to expand their horizons and create opportunities to showcase Quebec artists, filmmakers, etc.

Consider building the Ireland Monument in the City of Montreal.

Beannact Dé le gach duine i Montreal.

Tiocfaidh ár lá !

Better communication. Currently my only connection with Irish in Montreal is through the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia. Much of that is good but it is somewhat intellectual and would not interest the majority including my children.

My feeling - of course I may be wrong - is that the Society is not 'downtownacetric' and that its events are not appropriate for me - a single woman, living on a very fixed income, reliant on public transport, and rather studious.

I think my not being from a Catholic background is a disqualification. But I've never really considered joining the Protestant association since I'm very much a republican (!).

I think this survey is a very good idea. Thanks for the opportunity.  
As stated previously.

In essence create a Learning Organizational approach in way the Society is organized. Incorporate all that is entailed in this Process, and create a strong Culture in which the Key values are deeply held and widely shared.

Work within its External Environment and instead of allowing it to shape the Society. Use it resources and influence to shape and rebuild the Environment. Because by engaging People to be involved in the Future Irish Community, then its sustainability will be ensured.

Get younger people involved. Include other members of the Irish community even if they look a bit bohemian with piercings and tattoos. Women should have more say in local cultural events also. Religion should not be a factor and the society should cut the links to

the overpowering influence of the church of Rome and be open to members of other religious groups with Irish descent .Members of Irish political groups should also be invited to speak at St Patrick society functions while visiting Quebec. No more bloody "Corned beef & cabbage" dinners, we are not 19th century Irish peasants. Our gastronomic tastes have evolved in 150 years, and we do live in Montreal after all, a city which offers a cornucopia of fantastic cuisine from all over the world.

I have personally benefited from the generosity of the Society in many projects that I have been involved in. With the utmost respect, I get the impression that the organization is somewhat of an elitist organization. Very little grass root, blue collar membership and initiatives. I feel that the Society must make inroads to the grass root in its community. To many great things happening at the grass root level of the Irish Community that should not go unnoticed.

The general problem is that the society is old and old-Irish, and exclusionary and enjoys the whole Irisher-than-thouness of its membership. The society (like all Irish organizations here) does nothing to engage the younger generation, other than through patronization. This, however, is an age-old problem for the society, as in the same problems existed 100 years ago.

Encouraging younger members would require events that are not costly and welcoming to all IRISH not only the financially sound or religiously educated.

The UIS was created to act as a bridge between sister societies, this only happens through the parade. The UIS should be asked to do more in this are on behalf and with the support of these same societies.

I think you are doing a pretty good job.

Reach out at the parish level for all ages

Have an agenda for all ages

Work to help the communities you live in, where the young can meet others

For the older people have them meet during the daytime and work on their own projects

I think it's important for all people to do and not just sit and talk - keep active

I don't know

Like I explained above, reach out for the French Canadian. Up until now, for me at least, the St Patrick's society was associated to the Parade, I don't know much about you. I hope my comments are what you are looking for and that it will be useful.

Fell free to communicate with me anytime; I might be interested in joining the St. Patrick's Society.

I have no idea what the current mandate of the St. Patrick's Society is. In order to reach me, I would need current updates on activities and outings of a historical nature that are fun and not necessarily always connected to the church

I don't know what it does.

Hold "open house" events and information evenings in which you can invite the community to interact with SPS members. Then explain your mandate and some of the activities you organize, and more importantly, where a new member would fit in to this society and what they could do as a member.

Doing a good job as it is, in my estimation  
See suggestion above  
Continue in the leadership role as the first Irish society of Montreal.

Make more of an effort to recruit new members

Be inclusive of all levels of the Irish social economic community.  
Bring in a few board members that are young and fresh of mind to help balance the group.

Without any real knowledge of the organization and its goals I cannot offer any suggestions.

Attract the Irish Youth and maybe have a sub committee of younger Irish executive members.

As I have not heard too much about the St. Pat's Society activities. I have heard about various Irish events, and other Irish societies, not what events pertain to what group.

Would it help some of the societies join together.

I think they could use more publicity. I will forward you "The Canadian Irish Studies" newsletter that I receive through a friend. I do not recall reading much on St, Patrick's Society of Montreal, but various other Irish groups in M0ntreal do have activities!!  
Have ten things that any member can say about what the society is and what it does to any person not familiar with the organization.

Have more accessible events (i.e. not just Golf and a \$200 dinner)

I suddenly realized that I am one of those older, staid people and might now be ready, in my 60s, to join. But I feel far too young.

I associate the St. Pat's society with those businessmen's organizations founded to protect the commercial interests of certain groups. For some reason I always thought it was mainly there to raise money and encourage old-fashioned Catholics to patronize Catholic businesses. I only recently realized that it published Nuacht and has many interesting and vibrant people

Open up the membership by inviting people who show an interest in things Irish to join. I am not a member, however, I was in the past, so not sure if I should answer, but I will.

1} I would plan a Festival in a place like the Old Port.

Modern music, modern dance, modern films, sporting demonstrations, genealogy booths, food booths, gift booths, pub, with an emphasis on the cross culture of French Canadian and Irish Canadian.

The committee could be formed by representatives of all the Irish and French Organizations in the Montreal area.

Hopefully more young blood would join St. Pat's and other orgs.

2} On a smaller scale, I would be tempted to hold similar festivals within the major universities, again - French and English.

3} Within St. Patrick's'- I would elect a committee of young members who would focus on brainstorming innovative events and ideas, in order to keep members interested, as well as hopefully attract new members. These would not be high profile fund-raising events, but would hopefully pay for themselves.

Hold joint activities throughout the year, not just in March.

Advertise your meetings

See Irish Language and literature comments above.

Be the leader of the Irish organizations in Montreal. The McCord exhibit was very informative. Need a permanent and ever changing display of the Irish in Montreal. Have walking tours of "Irish" areas. Align yourselves even more with Concordia School of Irish Studies and its events.

Present some information on what the society and who and what to do to join

Perhaps having a ball that isn't so expensive so that more of the Irish community can partake. If prices went down then a more diverse audience could participate. Perhaps there are already other dances happening during the year, but if so, I haven't heard of them.

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More activities

As I said, the society seems to be behind many excellent ventures but the best is, I think, the McCord exhibition in which it was involved. It was well-publicized (huge ads in the metro), involved a wide variety of people and had a pub night (a nice alternative to the society balls with which St. Pat's society seems to be associated). McCord's shop also sold books and CDs produced by members of Montreal's Irish community.

I think the future of the Irish community in Montreal must include all those hyphenated Irish. Some of the younger people I meet seem to be of mixed descent (Japanese Irish, Cree Irish, and so on) but retain an interest in Irish culture.

Continued involvement in charitable work - also help organize working trips to Ireland for young Canadians wanting to live and work in Ireland temporarily or long term.

To put a more forceful view of Ireland and its people. Not still old stereotypes that most Canadians know. Yours tom Conway.

I used to be a member of the SPS, but my membership has lapsed and I have no immediate desire to renew it, even though I am a strong supporter of the Irish community in Montreal. I must say I get more fun and camaraderie out of going to Cine Gael than I ever did attending SPS meetings. I found that there were many SPS events that didn't really interest me, but felt if I didn't participate I wasn't being supportive. It seems as though all the fundraising events include the Society's members and very few others, so that being a member requires an outlay of several hundred dollars a year to attend these events, without receiving a tax receipt for charitable donations. Is SPS a charitable organization or not? If so, why not give out tax receipts? The Ball draws in other participants, but it is rather exclusive by virtue of its cost, and again not really a fundraiser but requiring SPS support and \$\$\$\$. Take a look at how influential businessmen with Irish heritage have come together to create the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation - it's pretty impressive. You need a couple of people with a vision and arm-twisting to make it happen. And you need to provide an alternative way of participating in SPS without going to events. Plain old donation and tax receipt would do the trick for me. As an aside, the meetings held at St Patrick's Square are very inconvenient if one relies on public transport to get around.

What community - still my question. I don't think there is only ONE community.

I don't feel part of a community. I'm just someone who has Irish roots and enjoy some activities and friends who identify as Irish.

I know that the St. Patrick's society does the ball, which is fantastic. We also go to the Golf tournament however I am not sure if this is St. Patrick's society or the United Irish Society.

I am not sure what other things that you do. I also do not know what the mandate differences are between the various societies. There are so many

I think that the Society has done a good job in helping smaller Irish organizations survive. It would be a good thing if there could be more exchange and inter-association awareness developed. Rather than working in isolation, it may permit the different organizations to grow outward and help develop a pride in what can be shared.

From what I know, the society makes many efforts to meet these challenges. Not sure if there is enough interest, however. Always seems to be the same people who attend, organize events.

Perhaps reaching out to communities outside those already approached, not sure.

Get more visible--come to the highland games, Celtic games etc. etc. and actively push for new members....or you risk dying out.

Yes, I can. Be more open to the youth in ways that procreate and spawn interests of Irish culture. Encourage ideas, and promote a more balanced approach to the challenges and opportunities of the Irish community.

Is it possible for the St. Patrick's society to act as the link with the different organizations?

#### SUMMERTIME GET TOGETHERS.

See above re: museum/ archival center.

I realize the society does wonderful work behind the scenes, but perhaps people need to be told that good news; brag a wee bit so good works can be seen to be done!!

Try to bring younger people into the organizational side of things and push THEM forward to do even better!!

Not knowing the inner workings of the SPS, I cannot really make suggestions. I can say that your collaboration with the IPBS on the McCord project projects a positive image for all Irish Montrealers

Active recruiting of the youth demographic

They need to create a welcoming atmosphere. They need to be more assertive in inviting Irish to a welcoming evening, particularly for new Irish. A census should be available (and indeed it may be) so that when there are events of note, everyone is not only advised but invited to participate where appropriate. There is a lack of real organization, e.g. I have been receiving 'NUAHT' for many years. At one time I sent in a subscription but have never been asked for one nor have I any idea if there is still a subscription required. Now that the information is online, is it necessary to send paper copies also? The information contained in the Nuacht is often past-dated. Reminders for events are now coming timelier than in the past which is a step in the right direction.

Communicate better what the society is, its purpose and goals - what it does (apart from organizing the parade) - and what role people can play in it.

Manage to communicate Irish culture to the larger Montreal community more efficiently, with cultural and social outreach activities and media initiatives in places other than the usual pubs and such, as only the usual public is reach over and over again. Building partnerships with other cultural communities in Montreal could be a way to do it.

The youth could reach out to other youth. Try to get the older and younger generations working together in social and cultural initiatives without having one alienating the other.

For reflection : The St-Patrick's Day Parade being the most visible event of the Irish community of Montreal, what does the community want it to communicate and show about Ireland and about the Irish in Montreal to its very diverse audience?

Necessary changes should be made based on what the goal is.

I must say I do not know very much about the St. Patrick's Society except for what I have learned when attending the luncheon on several occasions. There could be openness to all, much like the parade is touted as an event for all and all cultures, languages. The philosophy of everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day should be extended to all events involving the Irish community.

Organise an annual Irish Dancing Feis in Montreal (in addition to Ville-Marie Feis). Organise an annual Irish Music & Arts Festival. Update mission statement to place more emphasis on promotion and organization of Irish cultural, educational, sporting and social events. Establish an Irish Cultural Center in Montreal, similar to those in Chicago (<http://www.chicagogaelpark.org/>) and Boston (<http://www.irishculture.org/>), where current and future generations of the Montreal Irish community can participate in activities that promote Irish culture and heritage.

Send out information via Concordia Newsletters.

Get younger people on the board with less conservative attitudes. Make grants more available to people with avant garde projects. An Irish cultural centre is needed in Montreal. Other communities have their own centres, Italian, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish etc..... The Quebec culture have the SPDTQ to promote the French Canadian arts & music, in a great building with a fantastic auditorium. We have SIAMSA who meet once a week in a moldy old presbytery in NDG. Not one of the teachers is from Ireland, few if any of Irish descent yet they claim the title 'Irish school of music' a bit presumptuous no? The Irish in Montreal tend to meet in "An Irish Pub" or damp church basements a wee bit clichéd me thinks. We really need a decent Irish centre. Get the millionaires among us to ding deep into their pockets; they brag enough about their success and wealth.

A few years ago, my husband and I joined the Society, which, we believe does wonderful work, with fundraising and scholarships etc.; however, we felt that their social skills left much to be desired. While most organizations introduce new members to their societies, like the United Irish Society does, by giving a membership pin, and mentioning the new member's name, we were left to fend for ourselves the night we joined the St. Patrick's

Society, and no one came to speak with us to make us feel welcome. Our final thoughts that night were, to put it bluntly, that the majority of the St. Patrick's Society's members were quite a snobbish lot, and did not give the impression that they wanted, or for that matter needed any new members or outsiders. If they really want to meet the challenges and opportunities of our Irish community, then let them learn graciousness and acceptance first.

Organize more activities. The exposition Irlande O'Québec is a good example. There should be events like music festival, dance show; Siamsa should have a bigger visibility and a better financial support from the government. For the other organization I can't tell because I don't even know them.

Irish community should also come out of the Anglophone side of the town and reach out to the francophone community.

Become better known via a kind of hip website and publication?

Get someone local to make a documentary about the history of the Irish in Montreal?

Have a comedy festival with Irish comedians coming straight from Ireland?

Have guest speakers give a talk about the history of Irish mysticism?

Profile your notable Irish, wave the flag more. Organize student exchange programs with schools in Ireland. St Thomas High School on the west island for example sends a group of students to Spain every year. Offer Irish music and dancing lessons in primary and high schools over lunch period.

Meetings for interested new members, examples of how to get involved, gradual scale, point of contacts for interested new members, a buddy system to introduce new interested parties who have never had any contact or family/friend member involved can be quite intimidating and appear very closed to "outsiders"

I would like to receive newsletters for this Society.

Increase visibility

Engage new forms of media. I.e. Facebook etc.

Merge a little closer with other Irish societies in Montreal. Coordinate your upcoming events so that they do not overlap with other Irish events.

The society should advertise the role it plays in supporting different groups and organizations. In general, the society doesn't promote itself - make a float at the parade listing the charities and groups it gives money to. Hand out leaflets at the parade advertising this and push for new membership.

Sponsoring traditional music groups from Ireland to hold concerts in Montreal would be great or encouraging the Centaur theatre to produce Irish plays would be great. There is no modern Irish drama or popular Irish entertainer coming to Montreal these days.

I think they are doing a very good job.

Perhaps it could reach out more to younger Montrealers both in the French and Anglo community.