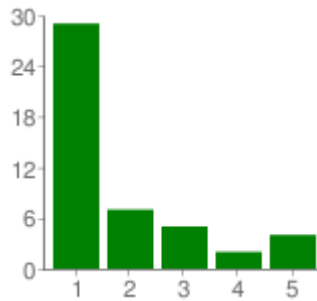


ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

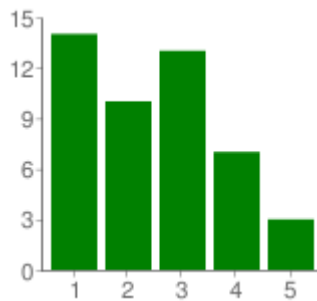
JUNE 2009

SCORE THE FOLLOWING THREE ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION IN TERMS OF THEIR IMPORTANCE TO THE SPS TODAY (1 - EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, 5 - COMPLETELY IRRELEVANT)



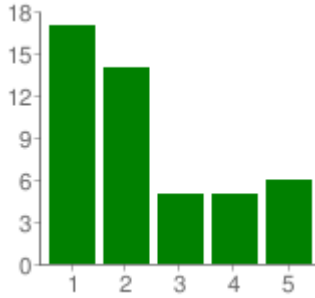
a) To promote and foster Irish tradition

1 - a) To promote and foster Irish tradition	29	62%
2	7	15%
3	5	11%
4	2	4%
5	4	9%



b) To aid whenever possible persons of Irish birth or origin, and particularly, Irish immigrants.

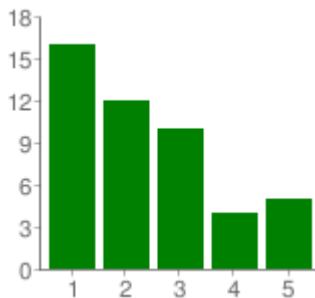
1 b) To aid whenever possible persons of Irish birth or origin, and particularly, Irish immigrants.	14	30%
2	10	21%
3	13	28%
4	7	15%
5	3	6%



c) To speak, when necessary, on behalf of the Irish Canadian Community

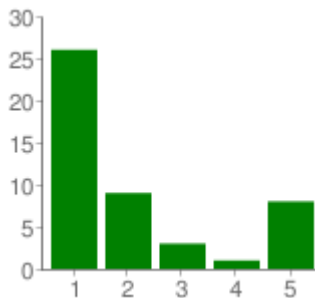
1	c) To speak, when necessary, on behalf of the Irish Canadian Community	17	36%
2		14	30%
3		5	11%
4		5	11%
5		6	13%

HOW RELEVANT ARE THE FOLLOWING SPS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES TO THE CURRENT MISSION (1- EXTREMELY RELEVANT TO 5- EXTREMELY IRRELEVANT)?



i) The annual charity ball

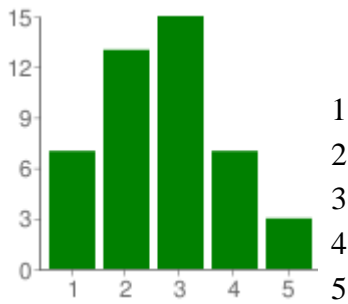
1	- i) The annual charity ball	16	34%
2		12	26%
3		10	21%
4		4	9%
5		5	11%



ii) The annual St. Patrick's

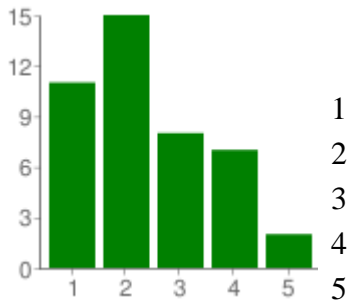
1	- ii) The annual St. Patrick's Day lunch	26	55%
2		9	19%
3		3	6%
4		1	2%
5		8	17%

Day  
lunch



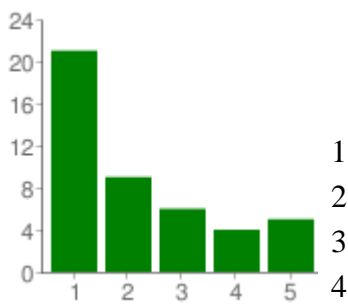
1 - iii) The annual Golf Tournament	7	16%
2	13	29%
3	15	33%
4	7	16%
5	3	7%

iii) The  
annual Golf  
Tournament



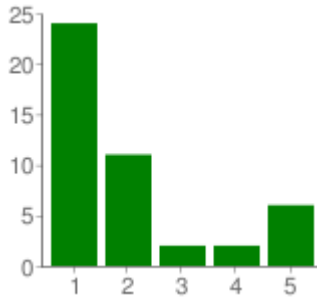
1 - iv) The Christmas Concert	11	26%
2	15	35%
3	8	19%
4	7	16%
5	2	5%

iv) The  
Christmas  
Concert



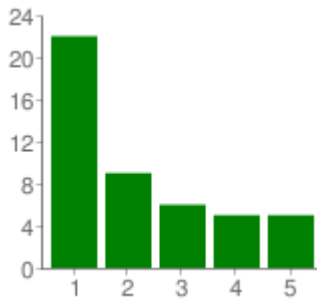
1 - v) Financial support of Irish charities	21	47%
2	9	20%
3	6	13%
4	4	9%
5	5	11%

v)  
Financial  
support  
of Irish  
charities



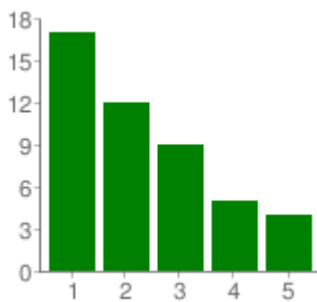
vi)  
Financial support of Irish cultural activity

1 - vi) Financial support of Irish cultural activity	24	53%
2	11	24%
3	2	4%
4	2	4%
5	6	13%



vii)  
Financial support of Irish educational activity

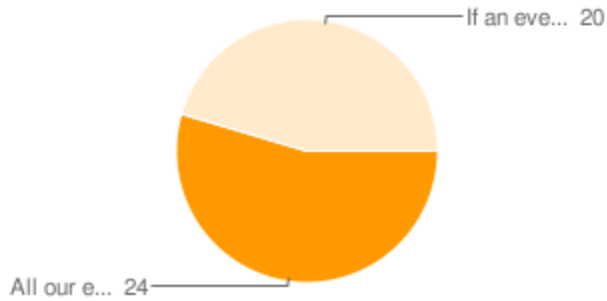
1 - vii) Financial support of Irish educational activity	22	47%
2	9	19%
3	6	13%
4	5	11%
5	5	11%



viii)  
Financial support of other Irish community organizations

1 - viii) Financial support of other Irish community organizations	17	36%
2	12	26%
3	9	19%
4	5	11%
5	4	9%

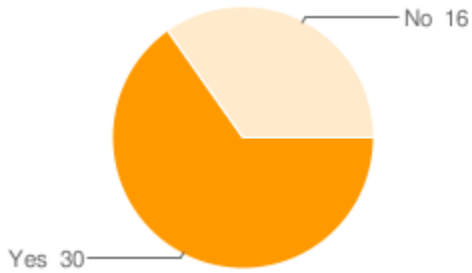
HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO YOU THAT THE EVENTS WE ORGANIZE PROMOTE IRISH CULTURE AND TRADITION?



All our events should promote Irish tradition and culture 24 55%

If an event raises funds for the causes we support, an Irish connection is not important 20 45%

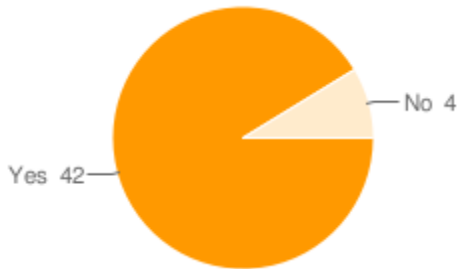
WOULD YOU SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS WHICH WOULD PERMIT NON-IRISH TO BECOME FULL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY?



Yes 30 65%

No 16 35%

WOULD YOU SUPPORT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND POTENTIAL MODERNIZATION OF THE EXISTING SPS BY-LAWS?



Yes 42 91%

No 4 9%

**THE FOLLOWING SPACE IS FOR YOU TO SUGGEST NEW IDEAS FOR THE SPS OF THE FUTURE.**

Favor travel to Ireland; career networking; pub nights.

Perhaps open small SPS locals in Ottawa and Quebec City to do the same type of work in those cities and have annual get together there with the Board and interested members.

See above. Also more talks, speakers from Ireland.

Perhaps once a year a "Books and Breakfast" type happening featuring authors from Ireland or who write about it.

Blogs, Facebook, etc.

I have a problem with what are called Irish charities and Irish educational activities above. There is no such thing any more, except for Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia. For an organization to benefit from our grants, though, there must be some kind of Irish link even if it is only the person working on their behalf who requests it.

Exchange programmes (students/vacation home exchanges)

Make it larger. More active in areas not now the case. For instance, start a fund that will bankroll members with a good business plan to go ahead and start an enterprise. It would be great if we could develop some sort of musical/arts festival here, something similar to what they do in Durham, in the Catskills (New York). It is a great festival of musicians, artisans and people who want to learn. There are rock carving courses, musical workshops, set dancing, and all sorts of related activities, and there are booths selling magazines, jewelry, garments, etc. It is a great event, and it would be wonderful to see something like that here in Montreal.

Important to regain status as a charitable organization to have dues and donations tax deductible. If not the SPS will lose members.

Not so much new ideas as reversion to some older values. SPS started out as an Irish organization and after 25 years or so the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society was formed. Since then SPS was an Irish Catholic brand. I have the sense that we are gradually losing touch with the "Catholic" roots, and becoming more secular. There should be some serious reflection on this trend; should the SPS become more or less identified with promotion and demonstration of Catholic values? While my personal view is an affirmative response to the question, I am simply advocating here that the question be addressed.

**ALREADY MENTIONED HEREIN**

Help organize and lead an Irish community wide campaign to build a permanent memorial to the Irish famine which would also be a visual testimony of the contribution of the Irish to Montreal and Quebec.

Is it time to look at combining the United Irish Society and SPS?

Provide less formal events that include more people and not just VIP events - and not at bars. In conjunction with Cine Gael, SPS could show Videos of recent important sporting, political and news events from Ireland @ de Sève theatre.- include re-runs of 6-Nation, World Cup , All Irelands, Irish Derby, Grand National events

### **WHAT CHANGES COULD BE MADE TO SPS WHICH MIGHT ENGAGE AND INTEREST YOUNGER PEOPLE?**

Youth friendly events: Pub Nights, Family events, etc.

Junior membership fees (do we have this already?)

Periodic pub nights (with traditional music) that are specifically for younger members.

A charity fund-raiser for a cause which is oriented towards younger people and which involves a sponsored bike-a-thon, or walk, etc.

Blogs, Facebook, etc.

Promote new memberships from amongst the female professionals (lawyer, doctors, teachers)

More visibility at non-Irish locations/activities: perhaps a publicity/info. Kiosk at Cegeps/Colleges/Universities.

Some non-formal activities at a low cost. A fun relaxing time for little money will interest youth.

More low-cost casual events such as pub nights, film nights, etc.

Events targeted to younger people (other than the ball which already draws in a large junior contingent)... Maybe a junior branch of the society?

I don't know, but I suspect there are many. This question is probably best answered by the youth who are now members.

Perhaps set up a "youth" division of the SPS - for ages 16 - 25 or so. You could coordinate with the Canadian Irish Studies foundation and/or Concordia Irish studies Student group for example. Set up a small sub committee to oversee their activities, and let them develop some ideas of what they would like to see SPS promote.

Get involved in pushing for a Cultural and sports center where all the above activities can find a home and grow. Examples that come to mind; Italians, Poles, Vietnamese, Greeks, Hungarians, Jews, Philopinos.

Are we so new comers that we have nothing? Give Leo Delaney some positive support before we miss the boat again!

- 1) First ask the SPS members to ask their own children their views on joining organizations such as SPS
- 2) The internet is now the medium of choice for information and this applies to the full spectrum of age groups. Can the SPS web site be redesigned to appeal to younger audiences?
- 3) Increased focus on university/college audiences to build interest in SPS.

It is a trial and error process. I support the attempts to find new solutions; and the efforts in conjunction with education are probably the most fruitful so far. I wish I had some creative ideas to add.

I am a parishioner of St Patrick's Parish, Montreal. The Church bulletin last week listed 70 children for confirmation - four of them had an Irish family name.

I have met a couple of Irish Immigrants who have come to Canada in the last few years - They have met and married French Canadian ladies. Some of the children of these marriages come to St Patrick's for Religious instructions other than that they cleave to the French culture.

My children, with the exception of one, my nieces and nephews have all left this Province. Some to other parts of Canada and several to the U.S.A.

"St Patrick's Day" "The Parade" "Irish Concerts etc.," is just another day to them. The Irish culture and Traditions don't mean very much to our Grand-children who live in other parts of Canada, in particular.

Welcome them on all event committees.

More music, concerts, and whenever possible, some free events. More advertisement in free newspapers like the Mirror, Voir. Increase visibility at McGill, in addition to Concordia. Also consider some visibility at Universite de Montreal and Universite du Quebec (UQAM).

Events for younger people only, where they could display their leadership in the Irish Community.

- IRISH EXCHANGE PROGRAMS
- COMMUNITY FUND RAISING PROGRAMS
- ARTS AND MUSIC PROGRAMS... NOT NECESSARILY IRISH

Something to dampen the notion that the SPS is an 'Old Boys Club'.

Individuals under the age of 25 (whatever the youth cut off age is), if they join a committee and actively participate, their annual fees would be waived. Continue promotion of youth involvement in Annual Ball and Lunch

Create an on-campus presence @ Concordia, McGill and CEGEPS to get students to join an SPS Student club when they make choices at beginning of school year.

Hold youth evenings @ de Sève theatre showing videos of youth music/rock groups from Ireland

Majority of parade participants should be under 30.

**IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE YOUR VISION OF SPS IN THE YEAR 2014 IN A SINGLE SENTENCE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

That the SPS has maintained its traditional focus and events but has more than doubled its membership, increased its local profile and increased its donations to relevant causes.

I'd like to see an organization which gives equal weight to a wide variety of cultural activities as well as to charitable endeavors.

More modern, more youth, more community involvement, increased awareness of SPS by the community.

The Tribe is strong, cohesive and relevant.

Keeping the Irish presence alive in Montreal and inclusive of the large Francophone population that also claims Irish heritage.

A sophisticated-historic Organization with newly infused energy and optimism.

A member-supported and member-lead organization that plays the leading role in the Montreal Irish community.

An organization committed to promoting Irish heritage and tradition through charitable, cultural and educational activities.

Bigger. More dynamic in areas that don't exist today. Work closer with Concordia Irish Studies. Be less cliqueish. New members, rightly or wrongly, feel that there is a small group of members at the "top" of the organization that unilaterally make all the decisions with respect to the composition of the board and many other important issues.

The SPS should be a vibrant and dynamic member of the Montreal community in general, with a focus on Irish culture and a widespread membership.

The SPS may no longer be in existence in Quebec as most Anglos will probably have been forced out of Quebec and the English language hardly ever spoken. As the rights of English-speaking Quebecers keep being eroded, future generations of Irish Anglos will be forced out of the province to seek employment. Montreal's economy will continue to decline as anti-Anglo policies continue to resonate with the Quebecois. Someone must speak out to decry this subtle form of ethnic cleansing. The SPS, along with other similar

groups representing the major founding peoples of Quebec, should speak out now before it is too late. The use of democracy to remove the acquired rights of those that have toiled hard to build this province should be decried. Similarly, on the federal front, our Bill of Rights and its infamous "notwithstanding" clause is not worth the paper it is written on. As Clifford Lincoln said: "rights are rights are rights". This issue is current and essential to our cultural future. The SPS should consider this their priority. It is a sure way to make the Society more relevant and attract new members including youth.

Probably the same as it is now!

Much broader base. More contact with other societies, etc.

Its members and activities energize a guiding beacon for all Montrealers to live, work, play and pray in harmony and peace, rooted in Irish Catholic traditions and values. (This sort of statement is not my forte.... but I tried!)

In 5 to 10 years from now, if the present trends continue, and I can't see any reversal - SPS will be similar to the Irish Community in Quebec City.

I know an Irish couple who came to Canada a few years ago (not many). They have two children, they are teaching them French - they will have to go to the French educational system.

To promote Irish tradition, while assisting community needs.

Full of people who are active and interested in the Society and it's goals

The present mission statement says it all.

**A HIGHER PROFILE OUTSIDE OF THE IRISH COMMUNIT IN DEALING WITH COMMUNITY ISSUES.**

To be the leading (pre-eminent) Irish organization in Montreal.

A vibrant organization open to anyone who is of (or wishes he were of) Irish origin whose objective is to promote Irish Culture and comradery.

Highest visibility possible Essence of Ireland in Montreal

A membership that has enrolled all of the next generation as active members