

Annual Report

2005-06



Ireland
Business
Partnerships



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MESSAGE FROM Trevor Taylor

Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, Chair of the Ireland Business Partnerships



2005 was an exciting year for the Ireland Business Partnerships (IBP). It was IBP's first year as part of the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (INTRD), operating with a new administration and a significant budget increase.

The IBP's increased profile, budget and status reflects the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to further strengthening our relationship with our neighbour across the Atlantic Ocean – a neighbour that for many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians is so much more, as over 50 per cent of us can trace our roots back to Ireland.

This family connection and this shared history, makes the IBP extraordinary. Since our two governments signed the first Memorandum of Understanding in 1996, our relationship with Ireland has grown significantly and led to the creation of the IBP in 1997. These days our writers, musicians, artists, academic institutions and, increasingly, our entrepreneurs are benefiting from this connection.

2005 was a milestone year for the IBP, and was marked by another significant first - the first official visit to Newfoundland and Labrador by Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. The Irish Prime Minister travelled to the province following Premier Danny Williams' visit to Ireland in 2004, when both leaders immediately recognized there was tremendous opportunity to

forge stronger business ties between our province and Ireland.

That recognition is one of the reasons we have moved the IBP into the Department of INTRD, where it has access to government resources and expertise, and can focus on developing those economic and business connections.

You can read about our year of firsts in this, our first annual report. We highlight exciting business, cultural and educational initiatives now underway - initiatives that put the spotlight on our expertise in ocean and marine technology, enhance our trade opportunities, and preserve and celebrate our culture and heritage.

I would like to thank our Board of dedicated volunteers, our executive director and staff at IBP for their continued hard work. I would also like to thank our Irish partners for their support.

I see a tremendous future ahead, where opportunities exist for Irish and Newfoundland and Labrador people can learn from each other, build on our strengths, and work together for our mutual benefit.

INTRODUCTION TO THE Ireland Business Partnerships

The Ireland Business Partnerships (IBP) is a partnership between Newfoundland and Labrador and Ireland that fosters and promotes trade and partnership opportunities in business, culture and education. The IBP is based in the provincial department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (INTRD).

The roots of the IBP go back to 1996, when a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two governments. It is a unique initiative between an independent country and a Canadian province, and underscores the historic ties between Ireland and Newfoundland and Labrador. Over 50 per cent of the population in Newfoundland and Labrador can trace its roots to Ireland, southeast Ireland in particular. One Irish scholar has called Newfoundland the “most Irish place outside of Ireland.”

The IBP was set up in 1997 as a public/private partnership and jointly funded by the provincial government and private investment. In the early days, the IBP built awareness and researched areas for collaboration.

Almost 10 years have passed since the signing of that original MOU. The IBP was moved to the Department of INTRD in the fall of 2004, and its budget tripled from \$100,000 to \$300,000 annually.

An executive director runs the day-to-day operations, and a volunteer board advises on policy and strategic directions.

These changes came about after Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams visited Ireland in 2004. He recognized the potential for stronger business ties with the country and, during the visit, Premier Williams and Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Bertie Ahern re-signed the MOU between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Ireland.

The IBP now more closely mirrors its sister organization in Dublin, the Ireland Newfoundland Partnership (INP), established in 2001 by the Irish government. The INP is charged with a similar mandate: to foster collaboration in business, culture and education.

Cultural endeavours will continue, with the IBP focusing more on commercial benefits of the Irish-Newfoundland and Labrador cultural connection. The IBP can achieve this, for example, by promoting Irish partnerships for Newfoundland and Labrador poets, writers, artists, filmmakers and musicians.

Locating the IBP in a department that focuses on business and economic development is no accident. The partnership initiative now places a greater emphasis on building stronger business and economic ties with Ireland.

Read more about the IBP at www.ibp.nl.ca.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE Executive Director, Cathy Duke

Cathy Duke, the executive director of Ireland Business Partnerships, has worked in private industry and business development for many years. This combination of experience, and an eye for spotting a good business opportunity, puts Ms. Duke in the ideal position to further develop the IBP.

While continuing to develop the historic and cultural ties linking Newfoundland and Labrador and Ireland, Ms. Duke will work to strengthen business and economic ties with Ireland.

"The IBP is well positioned to assist companies in Newfoundland and Labrador explore business opportunities in Ireland and the greater European Union," says Ms. Duke. "I am



confident that we will build new relationships and sign new business deals in the future."

In Ms. Duke's most recent position she was president of Sports Villas Resorts Inc., which owns and operates the Terra Nova Golf Resort. In her previous roles she was executive director of Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador, vice president of Coastal Associates and Consultants Ltd., executive director of the Economic Recovery Commission and account manager with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Ms. Duke holds a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master in Business Administration from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

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ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson: Hon. Trevor Taylor, Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development
Vice-Chair: Shawn Skinner, MHA

Members of the Board: Dr. John Ashton, Brian Dobbin, Dr. John FitzGerald, Maureen Foley, Susan Knight, Bill Mahoney, Patrick O'Callaghan, Dr. Pat Parfrey, Adele Poynter, D. Gail Ryan, Keith Stoodley, Hon. Andy Wells (Mayor of St. John's), Patty Wells, Brent Meade (Ex-officio), Leslie Galway (Ex-officio), Cathy Duke (Ex-officio)

Ms. Duke and her staff work with a volunteer advisory board appointed by Premier Danny Williams in the fall of 2005. The board provides strategic direction and policy advice to the IBP, and consists of 18 individuals with a variety of backgrounds. They are business leaders, members of the academic community, cultural sector representatives and government leaders who come from various regions of the province. They share a love for Newfoundland and Labrador and a particular interest in building closer ties with Ireland. The board meets quarterly, with various sub-committees meeting regularly to work on specific priority areas.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2005

2005 was an exciting and busy year for the Ireland Business Partnerships. Many events from the past year highlight Newfoundland and Labrador's growing relationship with Ireland. Some key ones include:

- The official visit of Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern to Newfoundland and Labrador
- Visit of John O'Donoghue, Irish Minister of Art, Sport and Tourism
- Visit of City of Waterford officials to St. John's
- 150th anniversary of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist
- 200th anniversary of the Benevolent Irish Society/Visit of Michael Ahern, Irish Minister of Trade and Commerce, Chair of the Ireland Newfoundland Partnership (INP)
- Irish Newfoundland Association Irish Week
- Vickers Vimy Transatlantic Flight
- Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) visit to Ireland

Specific projects and other cultural, educational and business initiatives are detailed in this report.

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IRISH TAOISEACH VISITS NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



Taoiseach Bertie Ahern made his first visit to Newfoundland and Labrador in September 2005. His stay in the province included a meeting with Premier Danny Williams, a news conference to highlight new and ongoing business ventures between the province and Ireland, and a tour of St. John's.

A major highlight of the Taoiseach's visit was a gala reception hosted by Premier Williams at The Rooms on the evening of his arrival. He was introduced to members of provincial and municipal governments and Irish organizations such as the Benevolent Irish Society and the Irish Newfoundland Association.

"I want you to know in the clearest terms that we want to continue to develop the economic, cultural and business links between our two parts of the world in the common interest of our citizens," Taoiseach Ahern told his large audience of about 500 people. He also emphasized the value Ireland places on its relationship with the province.

During his stay in St. John's, Taoiseach Ahern also visited the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, which marked its 150th anniversary in 2005. Archbishop Brendan O'Brien, along with a number of Newfoundland and Labrador clergy, gave him a warm reception. The clergy were former students at All Hallows College at Drumcondra, Ireland. The Taoiseach recalled meeting many students from this province when his father worked at the college.



IRISH MINISTER ATTENDS OPENING OF THE ROOMS

John O'Donoghue, Ireland's Minister of Art, Sport and Tourism, visited Newfoundland and Labrador in June 2005 on the occasion of the opening of The Rooms in St. John's. At The Rooms, he opened an exhibition of contemporary Irish art called Comharsana Beal Dorais (Next Door Neighbours) to celebrate the opening of the building.

The Irish minister and several officials spent five days in the region. They met with government, industry and community leaders, and visited the Irish Loop area, where many Irish immigrants settled in the 1700s.



WATERFORD OFFICIALS VISIT ST. JOHN'S

Waterford Mayor Seamus Ryan and City Manager Conn Murphy visited St. John's in April 2005 to further build on the twinning of both cities that was established in 2002. They met provincial and municipal officials, including St. John's Mayor Andy Wells, to talk about opportunities for economic development between Waterford and St. John's.

Mayor Wells hosted a reception in honour of the delegation.

Since 2002, the twinning of the two cities has led to a number of exchanges, meetings and linkages between various organizations. The primary focus, to date, has been on cultural and historic connections.



BASILICA OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Basilica of St. John the Baptist in St. John's celebrated its 150th anniversary on September 9, 2005. Construction of the Basilica began in 1855 under the leadership of Irish Bishop Michael Anthony Fleming. The Bishop visited London five times to secure a land grant for the cathedral and related buildings, and obtained nine acres for the project.

Local quarries at Signal Hill, Kelly's Island, Mundy Pond, Long Pond and the Southside Hills provided stone for the structure, in what was to be the largest construction job in Newfoundland and Labrador's history to date. Irish workers, and even Bishop Fleming himself, hewed stone at Kelly's Island and loaded it onto boats. Galway limestone and Dublin granite were also used to construct the building.

The Basilica was named a National Historic Site in 1984, and designated a National Heritage Structure by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1988.

To mark the 150th anniversary, the Basilica Historical Society organized twelve months of celebrations under the theme "We Remember, We Celebrate, We Go Forth". The formal recognition of Bishop Fleming as a "Person of National Historical Significance" by the Canadian government was a key event during the celebrations, with the unveiling of a plaque by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board on the Basilica grounds.

BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY MARKS 200 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Benevolent Irish Society (BIS) celebrated its 200th anniversary in February 2006. Special guests from Ireland, including the Irish Minister of Trade, Michael Ahern, helped mark the occasion. Minister Ahern, who also chairs the Ireland Newfoundland Partnership, visited the province along with its director Agnes Aylward.

The BIS was created in February 1806 as a charitable organization founded on the principles of benevolence and philanthropy. It was dedicated to helping the growing number of poor in St. John's

and to providing for members' families in need. The BIS was open to adult male residents of Irish birth or ancestry, regardless of religious persuasion.

Anniversary celebrations included an Irish Ball, as well as a number of other special activities and legacy projects.

During their visit, Minister Ahern and Ms. Aylward met with several provincial cabinet ministers and members of the Ireland Business Partnerships. They also toured The Rooms in St. John's.

IRISH WEEK HONOURS RICH CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The Irish Newfoundland Association's weeklong celebration in March focuses on the province's rich Irish heritage and features a number of events and lectures, ending with a St. Patrick's Day Ball. 2006 marked the association's 29th anniversary, and highlights this year included presentations from two Irish guests, lecturer and scholar Anthony Roche and actress Joan Sheehy. They

focused on the work of renowned Irish playwright J.M. Synge, and the Tramore Theatre Troupe from Placentia Bay's Cape Shore performed Synge's *Riders to the Sea*. Tramore is a community-based arts organization dedicated to the promotion of oral history and cultural traditions of the Placentia Bay region.

ADVENTURERS RE-ENACT VIMY VICKERS TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT

John Alcock and Arthur Whitten-Brown made the record books on June 15, 1919 when they flew from St. John's to Ireland and completed the first transatlantic flight. On July 3 and 4, 2005 adventurers and airplane enthusiasts Steve Fossett and Mark Rebolz re-enacted the historic flight in a replica Vimy Vickers twin-engine bomber. The

two wanted to honour that great achievement so many years earlier. Despite some initial weather difficulties, they left St. John's and made it safely across the Atlantic. They landed at the Connemara Golf Course in Clifden, Ireland where they were treated to a warm welcome.





FORCES EXCHANGE POLICE COLOURS DURING HISTORIC VISIT

In May 2005, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) Historical Society visited Ireland on a weeklong visit to mark the constabulary's historic and cultural links with the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), which later became An Garda Síochána. The Irish force became An Garda Síochána or The Guardians of the Peace when the Republic of Ireland was formed in 1922.

When the RNC was established in the early 1800s, it was organized and structured based on the RIC model. The constabulary even adopted the RIC uniform and purchased the garments from a Dublin company until the 1920s. Four of the first five commanding officers of the RNC came from the RIC.

During the May 2005 visit, these two forces exchanged police colours in a ceremony that marked the first time An Garda has exchanged colours with any other police force in the world. The RNC police chief and his counterpart, the Garda commissioner, signed a Memorandum of Understanding of Mutual Cooperation and Exchange of Historical Information, Police Science and Related Matters through Networking.

To recognize the occasion, the Ireland Newfoundland Partnership hosted a joint reception with the RNC Historical Society.



The Newfoundland and Labrador Division of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters represented nine apparel producers from the province on a market intelligence mission to Ireland in March 2006. One of the companies represented on the mission was Abbyshot Clothiers of Mount Pearl.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS IN 2005

TRADE STRATEGY FOCUSES ON BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS APPROACH

The Ireland Business Partnerships (IBP) is working closely with the trade and investment division of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (INTRD) in the implementation of a trade strategy for Ireland.

The new trade strategy is centered on a business-to-business approach that focuses on working closely with export-ready companies and carrying out significant preparation work before entering the marketplace.

In late March 2006, representatives from the IBP, INTRD's trade and investment division, and three Newfoundland and Labrador companies and organizations visited Ireland on a trade and fact-finding mission.

The mission included pre-arranged meetings between firms and business organizations from Newfoundland and Labrador and Ireland. Officials also met with contacts made through the ongoing work of the IBP and the trade and investment division, in relation to the development of its Ireland Trade Strategy. These contacts included the Ireland Newfoundland Partnership, the Irish



Exporters Association, the Dublin and South Dublin Chambers of Commerce, Enterprise Ireland and the Irish Craft Council.

Ireland is seen as both a market for Newfoundland and Labrador companies and a gateway into the European Union.

SEABED MAPPING STUDY UNDERWAY

When Ireland was interested in mapping its seabed a few years ago, it sought expertise from Newfoundland and Labrador. The Canadian Centre for Marine Communications in St. John's was a natural choice to manage the project, develop the implementation plan and provide scientific advisors.

Given Ireland's experience in seabed mapping and Newfoundland and Labrador's skill in the interpretation of real-time ocean data, a partnership between the two jurisdictions to pursue international seabed mapping contracts

became the natural next step. The Irish and Newfoundland and Labrador governments have recently partnered on a market study and business plan to pursue international seabed mapping contracts in the marine and geosciences sectors. The CSA Group of Ireland will assess the market demand for seabed mapping for large marine ecosystems, the marine electric highway and the geosciences sector. They will also develop a business plan for pursuit of these business opportunities by Irish and Newfoundland and Labrador partners.

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEANS OBSERVATORY

With the ever-growing demand for information about ocean environments, the Ireland Business Partnership commissioned a study in March 2005 to analyze the possibility of creating a North Atlantic Ocean Observatory led by Newfoundland and Labrador. Information collected through the observing system could include data on climate change, ecosystem life and evolution and geo-hazards.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the province and Government of Ireland presents an opportunity to bring partners together for

deployment of marine observatories on both sides of the Atlantic. There is potential for the province, working in collaboration with its Irish partners, to design and develop the core technologies required for the emerging ocean observatory market.

The Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development is currently exploring opportunities in this area and is basing future investigations, discussions and recommendations on the results of the study.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY MISSION TO NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

A group of five seafood-processing companies visited Newfoundland and Labrador in September 2005 as part of the Irish government's Strategic Seafood Management Development Program. The companies were seeking potential opportunities in the areas of new processing technology, new product development and raw material supply.

Enterprise Ireland and the Irish Seafood Marketing Board, working with the departments of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association, coordinated this successful visit. The companies toured the Marine Institute in St. John's and a local shellfish production facility in Conception Bay North and attended meetings with local industry representatives.

BUTLER MANUFACTURING SERVICES NORTH AMERICA WINS MAJOR CONTRACT

Butler Manufacturing Services North America (BMSNA) is a joint venture between Aloysius and Derek Ducey of Mount Pearl, NL, and Seamus Butler of Longford, Ireland.

The roots of this partnership trace back to when the Duceys visited Ireland as part of a trade mission sponsored by the Ireland Business Partnership. The brothers were keen to expand their business of designing septic systems into the growing environmental protection market.

BMSNA manufactures the Blivet™ Sewage Treatment System, a compact, pre-fabricated, all-in-one sewage treatment plant that meets tough environmental protection standards. BMSNA has established a manufacturing plant in Branch, NL, and recently won a contract through the U.S. military to develop and deliver the compact sewage treatment systems to Afghanistan.

As environmental industries continue to grow, the Duceys are also hoping to sell to South American and other U.S. markets.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2005

Newfoundland and Labrador has a rich cultural tradition expressed through music, art, literature, storytelling and filmmaking. Cultural initiatives have featured prominently in the Ireland Business Partnerships.

ISLANDS OF SONG PROMOTES CONTEMPORARY SINGERS/SONGWRTIERS

The Islands of Song initiative set out to promote contemporary Irish and Newfoundland and Labrador singers and songwriters, and brought the artists together to share ideas and material. The project had two phases:

- Newfoundland and Labrador singers/songwriters travelled to Cork for the St. Patrick's Day Festival in March, 2005. They took part in a series of workshops, collaborations and performances with their Irish counterparts.
- Irish singers/songwriters travelled to St. John's in late June 2005 and performed in a variety of downtown venues, where they were very well received.

The finale for Islands of Song was a sold-out gala performance at the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's. The two-hour show featured all the artists who had been part of the project. The group hopes to produce a joint CD in the future.

YOUNG IRISH MUSICIANS PERFORM AT PEACE-A-CHORD

During summer 2005, young musicians from Ireland had the chance to perform in St. John's. The Gentlemen, an up-and-coming band from Waterford, played the Peace-A-Chord Festival in

August. The young musicians had a great time on their trip abroad, and called the event a real bonding experience.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ART EXHIBITIONS HIGHLIGHT SIMILARITIES

Twinning Lines - St. John's photographer Sheilagh O'Leary's show, *Twinning Lines*, compares the similarities between people with the same family names who live in St. John's and the Irish Loop (on the southern Avalon Peninsula), with those from County Waterford, Ireland. Ms. O'Leary's images cross reference age and gender, and show amazing facial similarities. The exhibition has found a permanent home at City Hall in St. John's in June 2005.

Comharsana Beal Dorais (Next Door Neighbours) - John O'Donoghue, Ireland's Minister of Art, Sport and Tourism, opened an exhibition of contemporary Irish art called *Comharsana Beal Dorais (Next Door Neighbours)*, to celebrate the opening of The Rooms in June 2005. Drawn from the collection of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the exhibition was put together in response to an invitation from the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation to mark the opening of The Rooms with a significant Irish contribution. Members of Ireland's arts community were also in attendance for the opening of the exhibition.



Alex Brennan
(Ireland)



Tina Brennan
(Newfoundland and
Labrador)

TILTING TOURS IRELAND

A delegation from the town of Tilting on Fogo Island visited Ireland in May and June, 2005 to explore how Ireland has used its history and culture to develop tourism and generate economic activity.

In 1752, Thomas Burke from Dungarvan settled in Tilting, and may have been the first Irish person to settle in what became a predominantly Irish migratory fishing community. Many of the stages, stores and houses in the community have been restored and provide the infrastructure necessary to draw tourists to the area. Tilting is also home to one of the oldest Catholic cemeteries in the province.

Tilting was designated a Provincial Heritage District in 2003 for its collection of buildings and landscape

features related to the inshore fishery. In September 2004, the federal government declared the town a National Heritage Site because of its cultural landscape based on its strong Irish connection.

"Tilting is unique. It's the only Irish community on the Kittiwake Coast, and people who visit are surprised by how Irish it is," says Maureen Foley, a town councillor and member of the Ireland Business Partnership's volunteer advisory board. "From the accents of the people, to the gardens, to the architecture – it's like a little piece of Ireland."

People of Tilting are proud of their Irish roots and honoured to be the recipients of provincial and national recognition.

FESTIVAL OF THE SEA PROMOTES CONNECTIONS

The Festival of the Sea is a new event designed to promote the cultural, historical and community ties between Ireland and Newfoundland and Labrador. It alternates each year between Ireland and the province. The inaugural festival was held from May 27 – June 6, 2005 in counties Waterford and Wexford, Ireland.

About 20 participants from the Southern and Cape Shores took part in the inaugural eight-day festival that included art exhibitions, street carnivals, concerts, theatre productions, symposiums, demonstrations and workshops held in communities throughout the county. The event featured a broad range of activities in areas such as arts and entertainment, wildlife, heritage, boat building, fisheries and community development. Finance

Minister Loyola Sullivan represented Premier Williams at the event.

The second annual event is set for the southern Avalon Peninsula in September, 2006. For more information, visit www.newfoundlandireland.com





TRAMORE THEATRE TROUPE PERFORMS AT INAUGURAL FESTIVAL

Newfoundland and Labrador's contribution to the Festival of the Sea's core cultural component was the performance by the **Tramore Theatre Troupe** from Cuslett, Placentia Bay. Tramore is a community-based arts organization dedicated to the promotion of oral history and cultural traditions of the Placentia Bay region. Under the direction of Agnes Walsh, the company of actors, singers and musicians performed in several venues including the Coastal Station in Tramore, County Waterford.

The Tramore Theatre Troupe is named after "Tramore" Foley, one of the first Irish settlers on the Cape Shore. Every year Tramore mounts SYNGEfest, a celebration of the life and works of John Millington Synge, one of Ireland's greatest playwrights, and performs plays written by other playwrights from Newfoundland and Labrador.



BATTERED COD DOCUMENTS FISHERY DECLINE

Battered Cod, docu-artistic drama by filmmaker Libby Seward of Waterford, working with Gordon Pittman of My Dog Productions in St. John's, examines the fishing industries of Newfoundland and Labrador and Ireland. *Battered Cod* mixes dance, poetry, music, storytelling, archive footage and location filming. The project won favourable reviews when it was screened at the 2005 St. John's International Women's Film Festival.

SPIRIT OF NEWFOUNDLAND PRODUCTIONS WOWS FESTIVAL WITH NUNSENSE

The Spirit of Newfoundland's *Nunsense* was the only Canadian entry accepted to compete at the 2005 Waterford Festival of Light Opera, an internationally recognized festival since 1959. The troupe won the Adjudicator's Award for a performance regarded as one of the most entertaining in recent years. Judge Gillian Humphreys called the Spirit of Newfoundland "...a really exciting company, with five amazing artists..." Performers included Shelley Neville, Kelly Ann Evans, Sheila Williams, Petrina Bromley and Cheri Carroll. The group has been invited back to Ireland for future tours.



EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS IN 2005

CONSERVATION CORPS LEADS YOUTH EXCHANGE

The Conservation Corps of Newfoundland and Labrador (CCNL) is leading a youth exchange program between the province and Ireland. The initiative will give youth field experience in each other's jurisdictions in natural resource management, and in the environmental and cultural industries sectors. The exchange is aimed at helping young people and communities build a range of skills needed to participate more fully in environmental and cultural conservation and enhancement projects in the two regions.

CCNL is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing youth with training and employment in environmental and cultural heritage conservation. It was created in 1992 to increase quality employment, training and career-development opportunities for youth. CCNL's founders believed that the programs and activities of the new organization should focus on forging partnerships with the environment and cultural heritage sectors in a manner that would benefit all partners, youth, communities and business.

SIR WILFRED GRENFELL COLLEGE SETS UP LEARNING VACATIONS FOR IRISH STUDENTS

Beginning in 2006, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook, in partnership with the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Dublin, will offer learning vacations for Irish tourists. Visitors will travel to Corner Brook to participate in a learning vacation that offers courses in a variety of topics such as visual and performing arts, natural wonders and human history, and wildlife and wilderness. They may also take part in

adventure sports such as kayaking and caving in the summer, or skiing and snowmobiling as the program expands to the winter season.

The 2006 pilot year will emphasize landscape painting and landscape photography.

POETRY COMPETITION CONNECTS STUDENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC

The Ireland Business Partnerships sponsored a poetry contest for grade nine students in Newfoundland and Labrador to help them learn about the historic connection between Ireland and the province, and to encourage them to explore poetry as a form of creative expression. Students were asked to write a poem about how the Atlantic Ocean influences and connects the culture and lives of people living in Newfoundland and Labrador and Ireland, either past, present or future.

A young poet from Tilting won first place for her poem, *Connections*. Maria Foley of Fogo Island Academy wrote about the sacrifice and courage her ancestors made when they left Ireland to carve out a new life in a new land.

"Connections was chosen for first place because it combines the historical and contemporary realities of the relationship between Newfoundland and Ireland," wrote adjudicator Tom Henihan, an Irish poet now living in this province. "The poem also takes the position that the cultural ties between the two islands are not just a celebration of a shared past but they can also be a source of inspiration as we move forward."

The contest generated 131 entries from across the province. The Ireland Newfoundland Partnership in Dublin holds a similar contest in Ireland, which received over 500 submissions in 2005, and helped educate Irish youth about Newfoundland and Labrador.



CONNECTIONS

BY MARIA FOLEY

I stand among the weather beaten headstones
of the Irish cemetery
On the barren hills of Tilting
nestled by the sea.

I picture all the people as they crossed
that treacherous sea

Hoping for a better life and a place
where they could be free.

They brought so very little but their faith
in God above

And through hard toil and labor
carved out this place I love.

I think of all the stories that have
been told to me

Of the hardships and the dangers of
the ocean fishery.

So many men have lost their lives
and women left alone

But still we are so very proud to call this
place our home.

This ocean that connects us to Ireland from
where we came
Has been raped of all its bounty and our lives
will never be the same.

The spirits whisper to me the wheels of
life have turned

For hope and new direction turn to the land
for which we've yearned.

The sinking sun is being engulfed by
the oceans mighty waves

But my mind it is at peace, as a soft wind
gently stirs the flowers on the graves.

IRELAND NEWFOUNDLAND PARTNERSHIP

The Ireland Newfoundland Partnership (INP), based in Dublin, Ireland is the sister organization to the Ireland Business Partnerships. The INP's mission is to promote and encourage business, cultural and educational links between Ireland and Newfoundland and Labrador. INP was created in 2001 by the Government of Ireland under the historic Memorandum of Understanding it signed with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The INP operates under the auspices of the Department of the Taoiseach, and takes direction from a volunteer advisory board chaired by Michael Ahern, Ireland's Minister for Trade and Commerce. The INP director is Agnes Aylward, and Andrea Thompson, a graduate of Memorial University, is the INP's assistant director. For more information about the INP, visit www.inp.ie.



BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

The financial allocation to the Ireland Business Partnerships (IBP) for the 2005 Fiscal Year was \$300,000. The table below outlines the 2005/2006 expenses. IBP is pleased to report the budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year will be increased to \$500,000.

	Budgets	Actual YTD
Salaries	\$120,000.00	\$121,278.00
Travel	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 16,540.00
Supplies		\$ 1,680.00
Professional Services	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 27,968.00
Sponsorships	\$125,000.00	\$ 74,000.00
Total	\$300,000.00	\$241,466.00

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