

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE  
SOCIETY TORONTO PRESENTS

# Le Chéile

## Paddy's Day 2018

Everything you need to know about 2018's St  
Patrick's Parade celebrations.

You are not going to want to miss out!

MARCH 2018 | 1ST EDITION



STPATRICKSTORONTO.COM



# *Thank You!*



A massive thank you to all of our volunteers, sponsors and of course the Irish community in Toronto for making 2017's parade possible. 2017 was the first year we hosted Celtic Island and we hope that you enjoyed the festivities. I am honored to be part of the 31st St Patrick's Parade in Toronto, as returning Chair. As a society, we would be unable to be marking the 31st anniversary of the parade without the ongoing dedication and support from our volunteers, sponsors and community groups in Toronto. I wish you all a happy St Patrick's Day!

*Shaun Ruddy*



## REMEMBERING THE IRISH OF 1847

The Irish have had a long history in Canada. Ever since the first European settlers began to arrive in the New World, the Irish were among the earliest groups to arrive. Legend tells of St. Brendan of County Kerry who was the first European to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean. He is believed to have set down foot in North America, quite possibly in what we now know as Canada. The first recorded Irish were fishermen from County Cork who settled with their families in Newfoundland.

The rich fishing ground off Canada's Atlantic coast were renowned, especially in Ireland. In fact, Newfoundland is the one of the few places outside of Ireland with a unique Gaelic name, "Talamh on Éisc" which translates as the "Land of the Fish".

By Sean O'Shea

The greatest influx of Irish to Canada emerged during the Great Famine. The blight of the potato crop in Ireland caused widespread starvation and poverty.



At the time, due to economic hardship and political disenfranchisement, a large percentage of the Irish population relied on the potato as their only source of food. Due to the reliance on this single crop, when it failed it had devastating effects. Hunger, disease and death from starvation were widespread. People across the island of Ireland looked for a way to escape. Canada was the land of opportunity, and thousands boarded ships to make the journey across the water, most knowing that they would never see home again.

During the summer of 1847, 40,000 Irish refugees arrived in Toronto. Most of them were poverty stricken or diseased. Canada was a choice for the poorest of Irish famine victims because the sailing fare was less than the fare to the United States. As a result, it was often the poorest of the Irish who arrived in Canada. In 1847, the population of Toronto was approximately, 20,000 people. Such a huge influx of Irish caused huge consternation. Local commentators stoked fears about the arrival of these refugees. One public figure said "Irish Papists came in swarms, on the whole to do us evil." However, there were also Toronto citizens who offered help and support to the newly arrived refugees. Local nurses and doctors came to aid of the suffering Irish, some of whom became infected with the diseases carried by the misery stricken arrivals. The grounds of St. Paul's Basilica hold the graves of some 800 Irish immigrants, many of whom did not survive long in their new home.

The impact of the Irish community caused serious tension in the years that followed. The sectarian divisions which existed back in Ireland were transferred to Toronto. This culminated with scenes of violence surrounding the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the city during the 19th century. Some Toronto elements who were militantly opposed to the expression of Irish identity tried to stop the parade. In 1878, the St. Patrick's Day Parade was banned.

Thankfully Toronto is a very different place today. It is now a city that is proud of its multicultural society. The population of the city is composed of people from every corner of the world. Each group brings its own colour and flavour. In 1988, the St. Patrick's Day Parade was restarted. It now represents a multicultural Toronto that is a far cry from the city of the past. However, we remember our history, and the sacrifices that those who made the perilous journey of 1847 made. In their honour, we endeavour to make our parade, and our city, an inclusive place for all.







IT'S HALF WAY TO

SEPTEMBER

**CIBOLA**  
*ISLAND*



ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

SAVE THE DATE  
MID-SEPTEMBER  
COMING SOON!

# Celtic Island 2017

On Saturday, September 16th, St Patrick's Parade Society of Toronto hosted their Celtic Island festival on Toronto's Centre Island.

The event was a celebration of music and dance. The day included face painting, games, competitions, music and dance.

It was an all inclusive community event, with the beautiful view of Toronto as the backdrop.

Save the date for mid-September. You are not going to want to miss out on 2018s celebration!





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

March 2018

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade and Grand Marshal Ball.

These events offer a wonderful opportunity to recognize the significant contributions Irish Canadians have made, and continue to make, to our country. I am certain that everyone in attendance will be inspired and entertained by the showcase of Irish culture offered at both the Grand Marshal Ball and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

I would like to commend the St. Patrick's Parade Society of Toronto and the many volunteers for bringing these celebrations of culture and tradition to the community.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a memorable experience.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada





Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

March 9 and 11, 2018

### **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the 31<sup>st</sup> Grand Marshal Ball of the St. Patrick's Parade Society of Toronto and the much-anticipated St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Today, we celebrate all things Irish as we remember the long history of the Irish in Ontario and honour the achievements of Irish people and their descendants.

Generations of Irish have been coming to Ontario to seek opportunities and build new lives. Through their skills, talents and hard work, they established themselves and helped build strong communities. Today, people of Irish descent like myself continue to serve and make their mark in public service, in the arts, in business, in trades and professions, and in all fields of endeavour.

Their contributions have helped shape our province's unique character — one that finds its strength, resilience and creativity in the many cultures that have flourished in this land.

Once again, I thank the St. Patrick's Parade Society of Toronto for staging these beloved annual events. Events such as these promote pride in Irish heritage and bring people from different cultural communities together.

On St Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish!

Best wishes for an enjoyable ball and a memorable parade.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

**Kathleen Wynne**  
Premier



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[www.toronto.ca/paramedic](http://www.toronto.ca/paramedic)

March 1, 2018

Shaun Ruddy  
Chair, St. Patrick's Parade Society  
65 Queen Street West, Suite 520  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2M5

Dear Mr. Ruddy:

On behalf of the women and men of Toronto Paramedic Services, I wish the Toronto St. Patrick's Day Parade Society the best of success during the upcoming St. Patrick's Day festivities. This annual celebration of all things Irish is a fun-filled weekend leading up to the parade on March 11.

Our service is proud to support the parade, and proud to say we have done so for the past 24 years. Celebrating the city of Toronto's many cultures and cultural events is something our service places regards with high value, and we wouldn't miss the opportunity to participate.

In particular, we are proud to partner with the St. Patrick's Day Parade Society and with Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank to collect donations of food and funds for those in need. We encourage everyone attending the parade to watch for the Toronto Paramedic Services ambulance and volunteers who will be walking in the parade and collecting donations from parade attendees. We are also encouraging everyone to make a donation in honour of St. Patrick's Day, using this link: <http://www.dailybread.ca/stpatrick>

Céad míle fáilte to our wonderful city. I look forward to seeing everyone at the parade!

Yours sincerely,



Gord McEachen  
Acting Chief, Toronto Paramedic Services  
GM/lc





## Toronto Police Service

40 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5G 2J3  
(416) 808-2222 FAX (416) 808-8202  
Website: [www.TorontoPolice.on.ca](http://www.TorontoPolice.on.ca)



Mark Saunders  
Chief of Police

File Number: .....



### Message from the Chief of Police

On behalf of the men and women of the Toronto Police Service, I would like to extend greetings to everyone attending the 31<sup>st</sup> Grand Marshal Ball hosted by the St. Patrick's Parade Society of Toronto.

The Irish community of Toronto is an important and vibrant component of our city and I commend the St. Patrick's Parade Society of Toronto for being the custodians of a tradition to celebrate everything Irish. The Grand Marshal Ball and the St. Patrick's Day Parade are community events that celebrate Irish culture, history and heritage and are recognized as the largest Irish themed events celebrated in the City of Toronto.

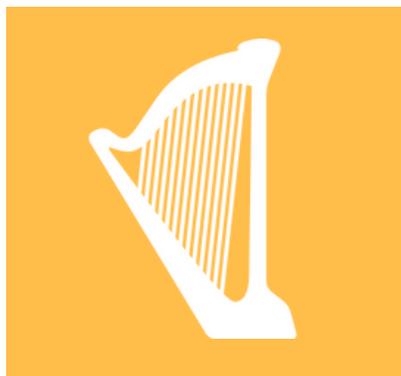
Congratulations to the Organizing Committee for creating such exciting and memorable events and for sharing the Irish community's heritage and culture with the citizens of our city.

Sincerely,

*Mark Saunders*

Mark Saunders, O.O.M  
Chief of Police

# The Grand Marshal's Ball



# GMB 2018 LINE UP

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE  
ENTERTAINMENT AT GMB  
2018

## RIPPLE EFFECT QUARTET

Ripple Effect is a Mixed Vocal Quartet singing all types of A Cappella music with a strong influence of the barbershop harmony style.

Winners of the 2017: MBHA Mixed Quartet Champions (London, ON)



Ripple  
Effect

2017 Mixed  
Champ

## CHEERY OS

The Cheery O's come from two different worlds but when the luck of the Irish brought them together last spring as flat mates, the music soon followed. Donna O'Regan hails from Cork, Ireland and Kimberly Ann O'Connor from Stouffville, Ontario. With their ukuleles in hand you can find them singing their songs with equal enthusiasm and at times eerily similar sounding voices. It is an honour and a privilege for The Cheery O's to play the Celtic Island 2017 stage and they hope you enjoy their charming mix of traditional Irish ditties, original songs and classic favourites.



## TORONTO BAGPIPER - IAN GOODTIMES

Ian has played weddings, parties, and special events across Canada and all over the world. His kilt and Highland pipes have traveled to Dubai, Japan, Cyprus, and all throughout Europe. Playing a mix of traditional and more modern music, Ian has piped for the Governor General and the Prime Minister.



## MICHAEL O'GRADY & THE CRAIC PIPES

"Craic" means "fun" in Ireland. The term was never more accurate than when describing the addictive sounds of The Craic Pipes. The Toronto based group is fronted by Michael O'Grady from The Mahones and features both Irish & Canadian players. Their insanely upbeat set list includes tracks from the Old World and the New. So if you ever wanted to hear your favourite St Patrick's Day song played right before "Purple Rain", this is the band for you.

## GRAHAM SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

The Graham School of Irish Dance has been in existence since 1986. New students are accepted any time of the school year from September to June. Dancers proceed at their own pace and are trained so that they can become involved in both performances and competitions.

Some of our dancers compete year round throughout eastern Canada, the United States, Ireland

and Great Britain. The Graham Irish Dancers are involved in all six levels of solo competition from Beginner to Open championship. They also compete in all facets of team competition.

## SHREEM

Hailing originally from Canada's East Coast, Andrews has taken his craft cross-country and back, performing both as a solo artist and accompanying other top musicians. Andrews' unique style has led him to perform and produce remixes for acclaimed fiddle legend Ashley Maclsaac. Most recently, he co-produced Maclsaac's latest release: FDLER. With his current project, Shreem - Celtic Remixing, Andrews' musical journey has come full circle and brought him back to his traditional East Coast roots. For Shreem, Andrews has developed a new sound, blending Celtic, electronic, and hip-hop music with hard-hitting drums and powerful, warm melodies. Shreem - Celtic Remixing breathes new life into traditional Celtic music, infusing it with a fresh, modern feel. In Shreem we hear the influence of Celtic artists such as Slainte, Mhath and Flook, paired with electronic and hip-hop artists like Diplo, Grandtheft, and Keys N Krates.



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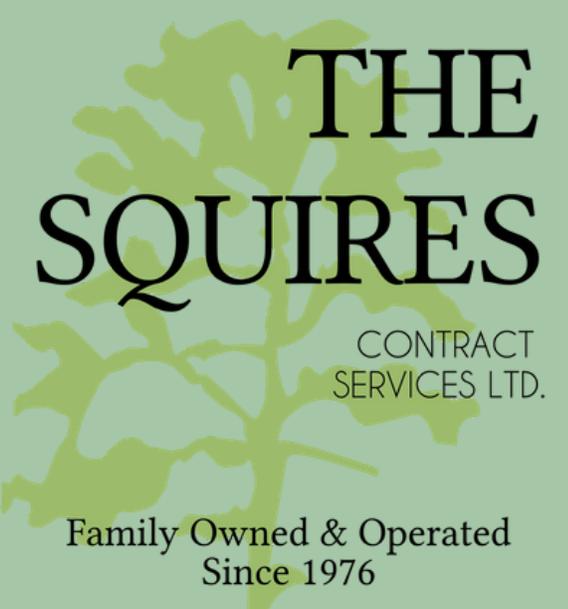
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