

# O'Connor Irish Heritage House

Teach Oldhreacht Eireannach Uí Chonchubhair



Home of Culture, Heritage and Learning

Winter 2007/08

Volume 3 Issue 3

## 2007 Annual Report

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### Objectives

The objectives of O'CIHH were furthered by reaching out far and wide through a variety of Events; Newsletters; Website updates: [www.irishheritagehouse.com](http://www.irishheritagehouse.com); Mailings/emails/Phone calls; Articles-Toronto Irish News/Shamrock Leaf/Nuacht/TAIN; etc. We participated w/Toronto-Irish groups including entering an award-winning Float in the St. Patrick Parade; Media: TV-CFTO, Rogers 10/Radio-Irish Shows; CBC,/Newspapers: Toronto Star, Toronto Sun, North York Mirror; Book Readings; and Celtic Sunday afternoons.

### Members

Members are persons having an interest in furthering the objects of the O'Connor Irish Heritage House as our home for Culture, Heritage and Learning.

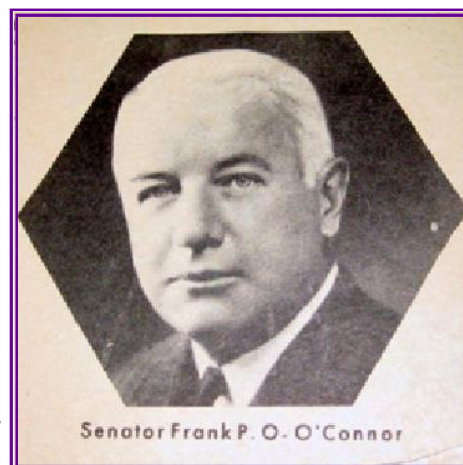
Memberships available are: \$100 to be a Founder, of whom we have over 250 since 2005. For 2008 an Annual Member contributes \$50; this gives one a voting right at member meetings and a copy of our 2008 *Share the Vision* Calendar.

### Meetings of Members ...

Meetings of Members: - the 2006 and very first Annual Meeting of Members was January 8, 2007 at which the Incorporating Directors were the only Members.

The then Founding members were voted to be General Members. It is to those members we sent invitations to renew as an Annual General Member for 2008 at \$50 per person for one vote per person.

A Founder's Gathering was held in February 2007 at Senator O'Connor school's Auditorium. We presented the Annual Report of 2006, provided a forum for Questions and Answers, and unveiled the first display of our Scale Model O'Connor House – exquisitely built by Bernie Fay.



Portrait of Senator Frank O'Connor



### O'Connor Irish Heritage House (location)

60 Rowena Drive  
Toronto, Ontario  
M3A 3R2

### Mailing Address:

27 Crowland Drive  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9W 2S5



## Board of Directors 2007

The Board of Directors for 2007: Christine Doyle (*Vice Chair*), Paul Farrelly (*Programmes*); Mary Fay (*Chair*); Michael Gregg (*Historian*); Leslie Hennessey; Colman McSweeney (*Secretary*) and Maura Walsh (*Treasurer*). We are very grateful to volunteer, Diane Black who has been our able *recording secretary*. We acknowledge with gratitude, two 2006 Board members: Raymund Domian and Cormac Monaghan who dedicated much time and enthusiasm to this important O'Connor House project.

Board of Director's meetings throughout 2007 were held every three weeks throughout the year. All directors attended the required minimum four meetings per year— in fact exceeded that expectation – a testimony to their interest, commitment and dedication.

**The Chair's** work is the general and active management / carrying out orders, resolutions and overseeing all business of O'CIHH. In three years this project has moved along in leaps and bounds—Mary is ever grateful to all who have contributed, worked and supported us along the way.

**The Vice Chair** supports the general and active management – undertaking nitty gritty of event planning, communications and all business of O'CIHH. In three years this project has been enriched by Christine O'Dea-Doyle's committed, loyal participation.

**The Treasurer** keeps custody of our funds and securities / full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements / deposit of monies and donations / and providing updates at our meetings. An important, time-consuming and oft-difficult job, deserving of grateful recognition for Maura's time and energy spent.

**The Secretary** is caretaker of votes and minutes and records. This role has been ably supported by a volunteer recording secretary, Diane Black. We are ever-grateful for Diane's stellar work and recognize the many personal hours she has dedicated to this work.



**Generous Volunteers - consider becoming a Volunteer with us**

## Board of Directors 2007 - Work of the Organization

The work of the organization has been led by the Directors and it has been Volunteer work that has helped move this organization along this far. With the time, talent and dedication of Volunteers the following was all made possible:

St. Patrick Parade Float Building & Marchers, City Hall Display of the O'Connor House Float, O'Connor House display at Brampton's Carabram, our Garden Party held at the O'Connor House & School Courtyard, not to mention our regular Celtic Sunday hospitality and Performing artists. A number of volunteers are also paying members. As volunteers it is to be noted that oft-times it actually costs not only time but personal expense. We are so grateful for the complete generosity of everyone.

It is important to note that the participation of volunteers demonstrates the value each person puts on the project, enough to spend their time. Equally important to note is that when we submit our Report to Revenue Canada and make our application for various Grants/Sponsorships etc. it is always a question "what is the percentage of volunteer work?" Obviously this factor is key to those who are giving away their own valued and hard-earned/ or taxpayer dollars.

The Financial Statements for our March 31/2007 year end and our Charitable Return for Revenue Canada were prepared by Accountant/External Auditor, Dennis O'Dwyer. We thank Dennis for his work on all our behalf. Assistance for our legal, architect and web, is overseen by professionals who have generously given their time and talent gratis. We are very grateful.



**Children helping Christine choose a winning ticket for a Prize at our Celtic Family Sunday**



## Duties of O'CIHH Board of Directors

- Mary – Organization & Outreach
- Christine – Events/Culture
- Maura – Treasury
- Colman – Building, Lease
- Paul – Fundraising & Programmes/Learning
- Michael – Historian/Heritage
- Leslie – O'Connor College School liaison (Staff, CSAC, Alumni)



**Organization** - official reports: Ontario Corporation, Revenue Canada, Trillium, Funding applications & other correspondence; Meetings and Office Management.

**Outreach** – Quarterly newsletter, Regular updating emails, Toronto Irish News articles, Volunteer pool, arranging Displays, Community participation & meetings etc.

**Events** – Celtic Family Sunday (5/times per year); Irish Night (annual); Race day (Spring & Fall); St. Patrick Parade (March); Easter Parade (April 2007); Carabram (Summer 2007); Toronto City Hall (June); Irish Heritage Night w/Toronto Blue Jays (Sep); Garden Party (annual), Book Readings (3/times 2007).....reflects approximately one significant event each month.

**Culture** – music, dance, literature, sport, costume, hospitality – steeped in these activities.

**Treasury** – takes care of Operating and Capital accounts; GIC savings; obtaining pledges and donations. Financial Report as of year-ends March 31 2006 and 2007 are:

Revenue:	2006 (10 mths)	\$27,368	2007	\$40,822
Expense:	2006	\$11,080	2007	\$15,746
Net Income:	2006	\$16,288	2007	\$25,076
Y/E Balance:	2006	\$18,163	2007	\$44,725

**Books and CDs available**  
416-745-2906 or by the web



**Fundraising** – Four sources of funds are presently on the table: (i) O'CIHH \$60,000 – with a continued goal to raise \$150,000..... in order to (ii) claim Ontario Trillium @ \$100,000 specified for use for mechanical repairs; (iii) re-allocated TCDSB demolition money \$130,000 and (iv) a recently proposed Section 37 building funds, \$200,000 - for a community project through local Councillor, Denzil Minnan-Wong. Additional capital funds are desired for which various Foundations/ Sponsors / Donors, we look forward to being a resource. During the course of the calendar year of 2007 we received generous donations in numbers ranging \$500 to \$10,000 – to one and all we are extremely grateful.



**Programmes** – Cultural, Heritage and Learning, including Ontario Provincial-guided programmes will be developed in cooperation with the local Toronto and Heritage and Irish and local school community.

The scope and success of these will enable us to raise the funds to cover operating and on-going costs – as well as instil in people's lives activities to educate and edify. In the long run, our vision not only saves an historic property and provides a home for Irish culture, heritage and learning but also has the potential to transform society to be rich, loving and sharing in its relationships between all peoples, generations and cultures.





## Building...

**Building** – a 1933 listed (heritage) building; on its original foundation and location; surrounded by rich history, both local and national, and a far-reaching legacy; good bones – in need of repair (to building and fire codes) and restoration in keeping with the integrity of an Estate of this stature.

Work to date includes engineering, project management and construction assessments and recommendations; estimates for the roof, windows, mechanical, plumbing and electrical etc; this work is on-going. Work is also necessary regarding drawings and specifications as recommended by the architect and heritage professional.

## Heritage...

**Heritage** – in large part will continue to develop the above through areas of culture and learning. At a meeting with the Executive Director of Heritage Toronto the O'Connor project received enthusiasm and validation: we are included on their website: [heritagetoronto.org](http://heritagetoronto.org)

## History...

**History** – the fact that 75 years has passed since the Estate was built, there is a further 120 years passed since the birth of the Founder, Francis Patrick O'Connor. His legacy .....He was an astute businessman, generous benefactor, inspiring philanthropist, active in his neighbourhood and city, courageous politician, beloved family man and well respected among the people at large – all the while with integrity, charity and sincerity as his characteristics.

There is a wealth of history to research and discover through the life of the man and the life occurring at *Maryvale* – all of which can be displayed in museum style at the Estate – all of which befits our platform for culture and learning at O'Connor House.

## OCS-O'Connor School Community

**OCS-O'Connor School Community** – (a) *Staff* – have almost a half century association with *Maryvale*, the De La Salle Brothers and use of the House at the Brothers invitation – which has left a deep fondness in the hearts of many present and former staff for O'Connor House. O'CIHH was first invited to meet the staff in May 2005 at the invitation of the Principal, Susan Baker – to which Mary, Raymund and Sean McCann presented our vision.

(b) *CSAC* – OCS parents committee meet throughout the year in the local school community: [www.tcdsb.org/schools](http://www.tcdsb.org/schools). Our first presentation to CSAC was upon the school's invitation in May 2005 – at which Mary presented the vision. CSAC made a presentation to the TCDSB in October 2006, the same day the O'CIHH lease agreement was approved by the Board. The O'Connor Irish Heritage House is looking forward to joining the Senator O'Connor School community as well as the community at large and in turn is delighted to welcome the Parent Council and neighbours.

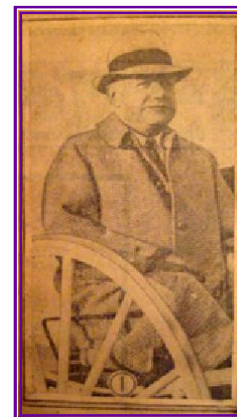
(c) *Alumni* – invitations were issued through their Executive to attend any Town Hall and activity put on by O'CIHH. We are excited whenever we meet parents of Alumni, or indeed Alumni themselves on a one-to-one basis during our regular out-reach activities. We share the vision and invite their participation. We continue to foster a connection with the Alumni committee at OCS through Leslie.

(d) *Chair of the Board Oliver Carroll* and *Trustee Angela Kennedy* – have been supportive of the project and heritage issues.

(e) *TCDSB* – are our negotiating partners sharing the vision, imagining the possibilities, toward saving a piece of Canadian history and providing a healthy learning environment.

## Lease...

**Lease** – between the O'CIHH and the TCDSB for 21 years less a day. Triple Net plus Operating costs. Some shared use with the Board community for an operating recompense according to a pupil accommodation grant formula. Negotiations have exceeded 18 months however it is a mutually desired project and both parties continue to work in good faith.



**Frank O'Connor  
watching an  
International  
Ploughing  
Competition at  
Maryvale**