



Friends of Sinn Féin (Canada)

Les Ami(e)s du Sinn Féin (Canada)

ANNUAL DINNER

Friends of Sinn Féin's annual dinner will be held on Saturday, November 6 at the Hilton, 145 Richmond Street West, Toronto. Cocktails start at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$100.

We have two guest speakers this year: Mary Lou McDonald, whose election to the European Parliament in May stunned the pundits, and Eoin O Broin, Belfast City Councillor. Mary Lou McDonald is also a member of the Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle.

She is married to Martin Lanigan and they have a baby daughter. Educated in Trinity College, Dublin, Dublin City University, and the University of Limerick, Mary Lou has studied English Literature, European Integration Studies and Human Resource Management. She previously worked as a consultant for the Irish Productivity Centre, as a researcher for the Institute of European Affairs and in co-ordinating the work of



Sinn Féin elected representatives across the island.

Eoin O Broin was recently appointed to the post of Director of European Affairs for SF, to help Mary Lou McDonald and Bairbre de Brún in their work as MEPs. He is based in Ireland, but he will also be in Brussels and Strasbourg on a regular basis. The job involves co-ordinating the work of the European Department for the party.

BENEFIT CONCERT

We are pleased to announce a Benefit Concert for Friends of Sinn Féin (Canada) Inc. on Friday, November 5 at **The 360 Club**, located at 326 Queen Street West, Toronto. Performing at the concert will be the Mahones, Rant Music and other popular local bands. Tickets will be available at the door for \$12. Sinn Féin MEP Mary Lou McDonald and Belfast Councillor Eoin O Broin will be at the concert. For more information, please contact us by email.

MONTREAL RECEPTION

We are pleased to announce that Friends of Sinn Féin Canada (Inc.) will be hosting a reception in Montreal on Sunday, November 7 at 2:00 p.m. at Hurley's Irish Pub, 1225 Crescent Street, Montreal. Our special guests at the reception will be Mary Lou McDonald MEP and Belfast City Councillor Eoin O Broin. Tickets are \$25 and can be obtained by calling 514 495-3689.



Gerry and Richard McAuley with Chief Alexis Nakota, Sioux Nation, in Calgary, March 2004.

ADAMS CELEBRATES ST. PATRICK'S IN CALGARY

Friends of Sinn Fein (Canada) moved west this past March 18 with a hugely successful dinner in Calgary with Gerry Adams. Over 130 people attended the event at Calgary's Fairmont Palliser Hotel. The Sinn Fein leader flew to Calgary directly from Washington D.C. where he had celebrated St. Patrick's the previous day. There was tremendous support in Calgary's Irish community for the visit and considerable media interest. Plans are already underway for another Sinn Fein visit to the west in 2005.

LETTER FROM GERRY ADAMS

I am always heartened when I travel to Canada and meet so many people who are deeply committed to our vision of a united and just Ireland. With all the pressures and challenges that you face in your daily life and in the life of your own country, the fact that you still make time to campaign for the success of the peace process in the small island I come from is humbling indeed.

On behalf of Sinn Féin, I congratulate Friends of Sinn Féin Canada for the great job they have done in marshalling both political and financial support for Sinn Féin and thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Irish Peace Process. We would not be in as strong a position in the recent negotiations if it were not for people like yourselves who

continue to be so active in your support for the peace process.

We still face many challenges in the peace process. British policy continues to tolerate and perpetuate institutionalized inequality in the north of Ireland. The British government must fulfil its own obligations under the Good Friday Agreement, and set the example for unionists.

Unionists must fully embrace the fundamentals of the Agreement – equality, power-sharing, all-Ireland institutions, human rights and crucially the checks and balances placed there to stop a return to unionism's abuse of power. These fundamentals are not up for negotiation.

The Irish government as an equal partner to the Agreement must defend all aspects of the new dispensation and insist that the British government honour its obligations.

The Sinn Féin peace strategy is about more than the here and now. It is about the future. The Agreement is the blueprint from which we can map our path to the resolution of the conflict and to national reunification.

We need the continued attention from people like you who have helped to bring us so far in our struggle for justice and peace in a united Ireland.

3rd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Over fifty golfers turned out for the third annual FOSF (Canada) golf tournament in June at the Woodlands Golf & Country Club in Brampton. The tournament has fast become a summer highlight for Sinn Fein supporters, not least for the dinner, warm hospitality and craic afterwards at Lar na nGael, the Brampton Irish Centre.

Warm up your clubs for next year. We'll be playing at Caledon Golf and Country Club, a very nice course in the Caledon hills. Tee-off at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2005. We have space for 80 golfers. Any questions, give Bob Wynne a call at 416-791-0779.

MASKEY AT ST. PATRICK'S IN TORONTO & HAMILTON

Former Belfast Mayor and current councillor and MLA Alex Maskey was a Review Stand guest at the Toronto St. Patrick's Day Parade in March. The Parade Society also gave Alex a warm welcome at its Grand Marshall's Ball.

At the Ireland Fund of Canada luncheon, Maskey reviewed the peace process with NDP MP Joe Comartin, CUPE (Ontario) leader Sid Ryan, and Leo Puddister, President of the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees. The visit also included successful FOSF (Canada) receptions in Toronto and Hamilton.



While visiting Toronto, Maskey met with City Councillor Howard Moscoe (above), who was standing in for the out-of-town Mayor David Miller.

McGUINNESS TOURS EAST COAST

Martin McGuinness's visited Nova Scotia and Newfoundland in June, and spoke to large crowds in St. John's and Halifax at successful Friends of Sinn Fein dinners. There was considerable media interest in the trip, with several television, radio and paper reports in both cities. Martin also met with local politicians and was welcomed to Nova Scotia by Provincial Government Deputy House Leader Jim De Wolfe and Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly.

Martin thoroughly enjoyed his time in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.



At the Nova Scotia Provincial legislature; Dave Wilson MLA, NDP Tourism Critic; Jim DeWolfe, Progressive Conservative Deputy House Leader; and Bill Estabrooks MLA, NDP Education Critic.

We hope to visit the Maritimes and Newfoundland soon with another Sinn Fein leader. Our local organizers did a fantastic job this time. We made lots of new friends and contacts. We are very confident about our growth potential in the area. Coming fast on the heels of successful Sinn Fein visits to Calgary, Toronto, and Hamilton earlier this year, Martin's tour highlights the growing support for Sinn Fein and the Irish peace process in Canada.



Martin McGuinness with Leo Puddister, President, Newfoundland Association of Public Employees

CANADIAN PRESSURE FOR FINUCANE INQUIRY

In the wake of the release of the Cory Report, Canadian Members of Parliament from all political parties supported a Friends of Sinn Fein (Canada) campaign this past Summer to press the British government into launching an immediate inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane. Twelve M.P.s signed a petition calling for an immediate inquiry. The signatories included the Parliamentary leader of the Bloc Quebecois Gilles Duceppe MP and his foreign affairs critic Francine Lalonde MP. The

News

New Democratic Foreign Affairs critic Alexa McDonagh MP signed the petition and, along with her party colleague Joe Comartin MP, also wrote to Prime Minister Blair calling for an immediate independent international inquiry to "help remove this barrier on the road to Peace".

The other signatories of the petition were Liberals Pat O'Brien MP (Chairperson of the Ireland Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group), Marlene Jennings MP and Colleen Beaumier MP; Conservatives Jason Kenny MP and James Rajotte MP; New Democrats Pat Martin MP and Svend Robinson MP; and Bloc Quebecois member Pierre Paquette MP.

In a separate development, the then New Democratic Parliamentary leader Bill Blaikie MP wrote to the British High Commissioner in Canada calling for an immediate inquiry. Blaikie said that "ignoring" Cory's recommendation creates "an unnecessary impediment to the peace process".

Former Canadian Solicitor General and human rights advocate Warren Allmand, a long time supporter of the peace process, also spoke out on the case, saying, "Any public prosecution should not be allowed to delay in any way the setting up of an independent inquiry into the killing of Patrick Finucane. It is only through such an inquiry that the full truth surrounding this killing shall become known".



Board members Patrick Doyle, Pat Totton and Alan McConnell presented a donation of \$25,000 to Bairbre de Brun for her European Parliament campaign

SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS

In February FOSF (Canada) Board members Alan McConnell, Patrick Doyle and Patrick Totton attended the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis 2004 in Dublin. The delegation observed party members engage in three days of spirited debate. Former guests at FOSF (Canada) annual dinners, Gerry Adams MP and Martin McGuinness MP, welcomed the group to Ireland. They were given a full update on the state of the peace process from International Department leader Ted Howell, North American Director Rita O'Hare, and National Treasurer Dessie Mackin.

The visitors also brought greetings to old friends who had visited Canada frequently in the past, including former Belfast Mayor Alex Maskey, Assembly member Fra McCann, and former Lisburn councillor Pat Rice.

BECOME A SUPPORTER

We seek the assistance of supporters across Canada. You can help by organising visits by Sinn Féin leaders and disseminating information about Sinn Féin and the Irish peace process. We also seek financial donations to help us in our work. Donors of \$50.00 or more are recognised as Supporters of FOSF (Canada). To help us build support for Sinn Féin and the peace process, please complete and return this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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