

The ALGOMA NEWS

Review



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Vol. 45 No. 48
 PRINTED EACH WEDNESDAY
 Serving the Trading Areas of Wawa & District
 (Wawa, Junction & White River)
 (62¢ + 3¢ GST) 65 Cents
 1 Year Subscription - \$62.88 + G.S.T. in Canada
 Wednesday, March 17, 2010
 Contact Our Offices in Wawa: Phone: (705)856-2267 Out-Of-Town Toll-Free: 1-800-461-9209
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 Office/Store Hours: Monday To Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



About Saint Patrick

Many folk ask the question "Why is the Shamrock the National Flower of Ireland?" The reason is that St. Patrick used it to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagans. Saint Patrick is believed to have been born in the late fourth century, and is often confused with Palladius, a bishop who was sent by Pope Celestine in 431 to be the first bishop to the Irish believers in Christ.

Saint Patrick was the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland who is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works, the Confessio, a spiritual autobiography, and his Epistola, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. Saint Patrick described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God."

Saint Patrick is most known for driving the snakes from Ireland. It is true there are no snakes in Ireland, but there probably never have been - the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice. While not the first to bring Christianity to Ireland, it is Patrick who is said to have encountered the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites. The story holds that he converted the warrior chiefs and princes, baptizing them and thousands of their subjects in the "Holy Wells" that still bear this name.

There are several accounts of Saint Patrick's death. One

says that Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on March 17, 460 A.D. His jawbone was preserved in a silver shrine and was often requested in times of childbirth, epileptic fits, and as a preservative against the "evil eye." Another account says that St. Patrick ended his days at Glastonbury, England and was buried there. The Chapel of St. Patrick still exists as part of Glastonbury Abbey. Today, many Catholic places of worship all around the world are named after St. Patrick, including cathedrals in New York and Dublin city.

Why Saint Patrick's Day?
 Saint Patrick's Day has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. Most importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, St. Patrick's Day is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for missionaries worldwide.

So, why is it celebrated on March 17th? One theory is that that is the day that St. Patrick died. Since the holiday began in Ireland, it is believed that as the Irish spread out around the world, they took with them their history and celebrations. The biggest observance of all is, of course, in Ireland. With the exception of restaurants and pubs, almost all businesses close on March 17th. Being a religious holiday as well, many Irish attend mass, where March 17th is the traditional day for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide before the serious celebrating begins.

In American cities with a large Irish population, St. Patrick's Day is a very big deal. Big cities and small towns alike celebrate with parades, "wearing of the green," music and songs, Irish food and drink, and activities for kids such as crafts, coloring and games. Some communities even go so far as to dye rivers or streams green!

It's Our History, Our Country

Written by: Ronald Wolf

St. Patrick's Day



ally made with lamb and root vegetables.

Traditional Irish drinks include stout, a dark beer, and whiskey. Other parties may be themed around the colour green. Guests may be expected to wear green clothes and only green food and drink is served.

St. Patrick's Day marks the feast day and anniversary of the death of a Christian missionary known as Patrick. He was born in the year 387, probably somewhere near the present day border between Scotland and England. At the age of 16, he was captured and taken to Ireland as a slave. During this period, he became very religious and after six years he fled back to his family.

Later in his life, he returned to Ireland as a missionary. He is said to have played an important role in converting the inhabitants of Ireland to Christianity and in ridding the island of snakes. However, there is no evidence that there have been any snakes in Ireland in the past 10,000 years. The "snakes" he drove out of Ireland may represent particular groups of pagans or druids.

It is believed that St. Patrick lived to be 100 years old and died on March 17 probably in the year 461 or 493 (according to different sources). St. Patrick is buried under Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, County Down, and is one of the three patron saints of Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations were brought to Canada by Irish immigrants. The day is a bank holiday in Northern Ireland and a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland.

It really doesn't matter if your heritage is Irish or not. It's a day that can be fun for all. Get a designated driver, be safe, and always remember it's our history, our country.

Quebec City is where the first St. Patrick's Day really started in Canada, with celebrations dating back to 1759, following the British conquest of New France. An official parade happens a week later than most other festivities. Of course anyone that knows anything about Canadian history were not called Canadians until 1867.

In some cities, notably Toronto and Montreal, large scale St. Patrick's Day parades are held, often on the Sunday closest to March 17. The parade in Montreal

has been held every year since 1824. This year marks the 186th parade. In some places there are Irish cultural events. For instance, the Irish Association of Manitoba organizes a three-day festival of Irish culture in the week of St. Patrick's Day.

People who have an Irish background or enjoy Irish culture may hold Irish themed parties and serve traditional dishes, such as Colcannon or Irish stew. Colcannon is a dish of mashed potatoes mixed with kale or cabbage and Irish stew is tradition-

The Dear Little Shamrock
 by Andrew Cherry

There's a dear little plant that grows in Ireland,
 'Twas Saint Patrick himself sure that set it.
 And the sun on his labor with pleasure did smile,
 And a tear from his eyes oft-times wet it.
 It grows thro' the bog, thro' the brake, and the mireland,
 And it's called the dear little Shamrock of Ireland.
 That dear little plant still grows in our land,
 Fresh and fair as the daughters of Erin,
 Whose smiles can bewitch, and whose eyes can command,
 In each climate they ever appear in:
 For they shine thro' the bog, thro' the brake, and the mireland,
 Just like their own dear little Shamrock of Ireland.

That dear little plant that springs from our soil,
 When its three little leaves are extended,
 Denotes from the stalk we together should toil,
 And ourselves by ourselves be befriended.
 And still thro' the bog, thro' the brake, and the mireland,
 From one root should branch, like the Shamrock of Ireland.

Happy St. Patrick's Day
 From the Management & Staff of

WP
 WAWA PRINT & LITHO, INC.

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 Review

CORRECTION

In last weeks paper in the article, "WAWA'S BUSINESS LANDSCAPE CHANGING" The comment, "If no one buys the flower shop soon we will be losing that too." Should have read, "if no one comes forward to take over it soon it will be relocating", not closing. Sorry for any misunderstanding this may have caused.