

## CATHAOIRLEACH'S REPORT – GOLDEN BRIDGES 2014

### New England Delegation 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014

In October I led a Donegal Delegation to Massachusetts to participate in the 2014 Golden Bridges events and to engage with a range of partners to advance partnership and collaboration across a range of sectors. This formed part of a broader North West of Ireland delegation and the Mayor of Derry, Clr. Brenda Stevenson also took part.

This activity took place in the context of the Donegal Diaspora initiative and the visit further advanced cooperation and collaboration across a range of areas – economic, education, political, cultural and community. The Golden Bridges events provide a valuable platform for the North West of Ireland with Donegal County Council working in close partnership with Derry City Council and the Irish Echo Newspaper in this regard. The Golden Bridges events were opened by the Cathaoirleach, the Mayor of Derry and Mayor Marty Walsh of Boston and were attended by a broad range of business, political, educational representatives as well as representatives of the Donegal community living in Massachusetts.



Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston; Clr. Brenda Stevenson, Mayor of Derry; Donegal County Council Cathaoirleach Clr. John Campbell at Golden Bridges

The 2014 Golden Bridges Award recipients included two Donegal men, Michael McCarron from Drumfries, ex-president of the Donegal Association of the Greater Boston area and Danny Hutton from Buncrana, signer with the internationally renowned group Three Dog Night.

A summary of the trip is attached (*Appendix 1*). The visits and meetings that took place encompassed a wide range of activities relating to business development, cooperation and collaboration in the areas of third level education and research, consolidation of potential links, renewable energy development, ICT development, tourism and investment opportunities.

A highlight of the trip for me was the visit to the Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC) in Dorchester and meeting with a group of older immigrants from Ireland, many from Donegal. It was great to see the excellent work carried out by the IPC on behalf of emigrants from Ireland. The visit to the Irish International Immigration Center (IIIC) was also useful in this regard. The wide range of services and supports for immigrants provided by the IIIC were outlined and the ongoing cooperation between IIIC and Donegal County Council highlighted by the management and staff of the centre.



At the Irish Pastoral Centre, Dorchester with Chaplain Fr. John McCarthy; Sr. Marguerite Kelly and Director Megan Carroll

We were grateful for the reception provided for the Cathaoirleach and the Mayor of Derry by the Massachusetts State Senate President Murray and the Chancellor of UMass Lowell, Marty Meehan, at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and which was attended by a broad range of UMass faculty and Senior Executives from other agencies with which, we and LYIT are working in close cooperation.

It was useful and enjoyable to meet with members of the Donegal community in Boston, including those working for the undocumented and also to attend the AGM of the Donegal Boston GAA Club which works to support all of our community, especially our younger immigrants in the Boston region.

### Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> October

#### 9.00am – Mass Technology Collaborative, Boston

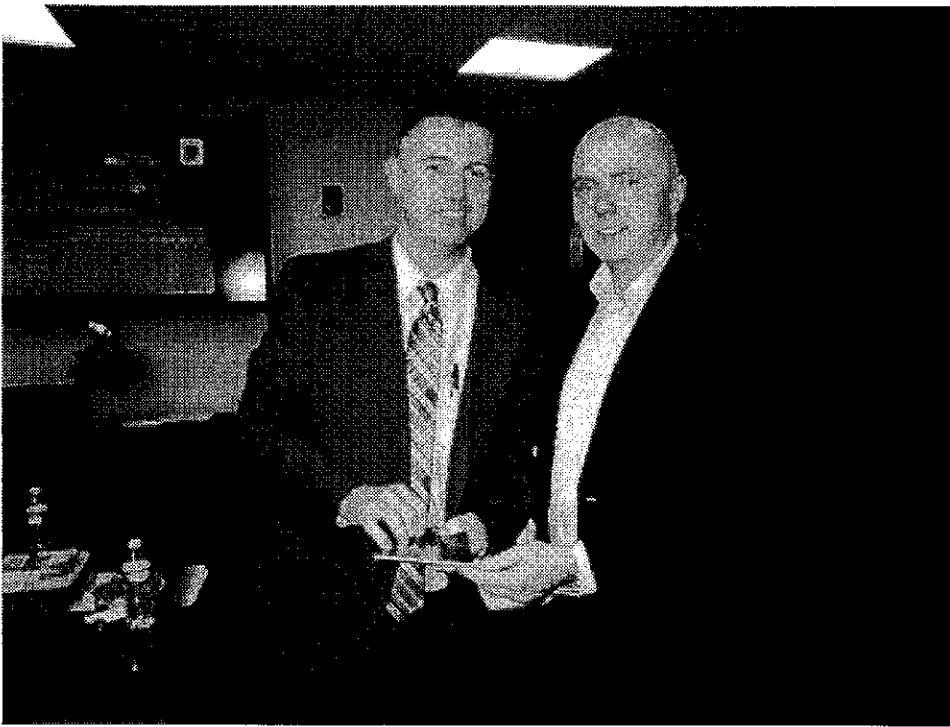
Meeting with Mass Technology Executives to discuss areas of partnership and collaboration between Mass Tech Collaborative and Donegal (LYIT, ERNACT) and possibilities for engaging in a number of collaborative projects relating to ICT.

#### 11.30am – Cambridge Innovation Centre, Boston

Meeting and tour of facilities. Areas for partnership and collaboration explored (LYIT, Colab, ERNACT, Donegal Enterprise Centres). Cooperation to take place on adopting this model for use in a Donegal context.



With Brendan Greally at Cambridge Innovation Centre



Cathaoirleach with Brendan Greally, Director of International Relations Massachusetts Technology Collaborative

### 2.00pm – M2D2 Project, Lowell

Meeting to discuss ongoing collaborative work with M2D2 Medical Science Research and Development Centre project which has now established a base at LYIT (Colab) in Letterkenny. Presentation on plans for development of M2D2 operation in North West of Ireland.



With Steve Tello, UMass; Senate President Murray; Steve McCarthy, M2D2 Project; and Nathan Hafer, UMass Worcester Medical School at M2D2 base Lowell

### 3.00pm – Centre for Irish Partnerships, UMass Lowell

Meeting to discuss ongoing partnerships with the Centre for Irish Partnerships at UMass Lowell. Areas of ongoing and potential future collaboration explored in areas of mutual interest. Centre to continue to link Donegal in to various relevant University facilities throughout the UMass system.

### 6.00pm – Reception, UMass Lowell

Reception for the Cathaoirleach and the Mayor of Derry hosted by Chancellor Marty Meehan and State Senate President Therese Murray. Attended by UMass Faculty, Mass Life Sciences, Mass Technology Collaborative and others involved in partnership with Donegal/North West of Ireland.



With Steve Tello, UMass; Steve McCarthy, M2D2 Project; Chancellor Marty Meehan; President Murray; Vice Chancellor Jackie Moloney; and Nathan Hafer, UMass Worcester Medical School

### Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October

### 8.30am – West Massachusetts Economic Development Council (EDC), Springfield

Meeting to discuss ongoing partnership with West Mass EDC – Ann McFarland Burke, Dawn Creighton, Western MA Director, Associated Industries of Massachusetts. West Mass EDC meeting to support Donegal in terms of enterprise, tourism and creative industries.



With Ann Burke, West Mass EDC; Dawn Creighton, AIM; and Allan Blair at West Mass EDC, Springfield

**10.00am – Valley Mentors, Springfield**

Presentation by Paul Silva, Valley Mentors on innovation business monitoring model developed in Springfield. Support to be provided to adopt and replicate in Donegal context.

**12.00Noon – Worcester State University, Worcester**

~~Reception hosted for Cathaoirleach and the Mayor of Derry by University~~  
President Barry Maloney. Attended by College Faculty, local government, business, Chamber CEO Tim Murray, Senator Michael Moore and others.

### 1.30pm – Worcester Chamber of Commerce, Worcester

Meeting with Tim Murray, CEO Worcester Chamber of Commerce to discuss ongoing partnership re presentation of businesses and other links between Donegal and Worcester.

### 3.00pm – Worcester Planning Institute

Presentation on strategic planning process being introduced for Worcester and surrounding region across all sectors. Discussion on areas for shared learning and cooperation.

### 4.30pm – Becker College / Mass Digi, Worcester

Discussions with Becker College President and with faculty at Mass Digi. Partnerships between Becker, Mass Digi, LYIT and ERNACT being developed for promotion of Creative Industries through transatlantic partnership and collaboration.



With Tim Murray, CEO, Worcester Chamber of Commerce and Robert Johnson, President Becker College

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October

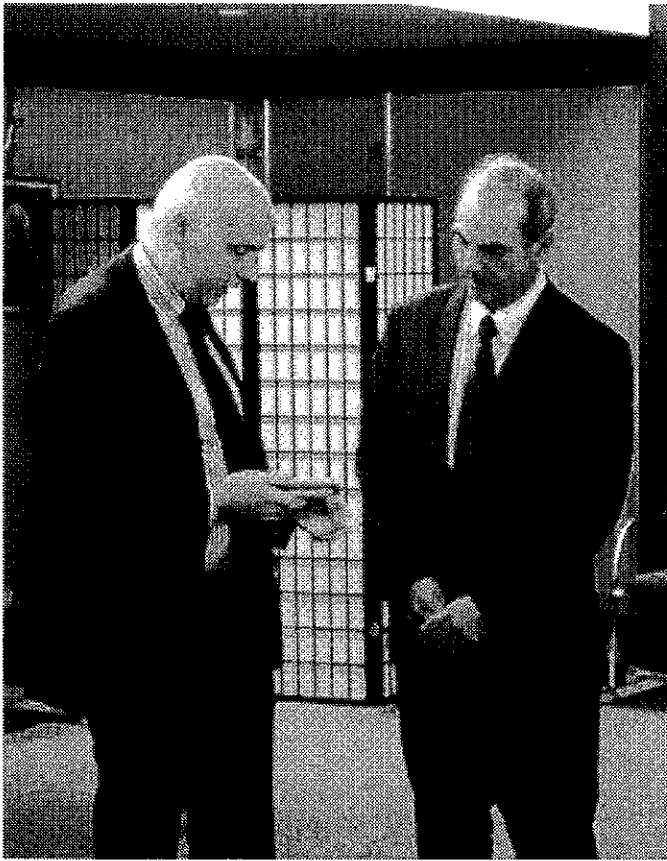
9.00am – Irish International Immigration Center (IIIC)

Presentation on work of the IIIC on behalf of immigrants to Boston and Massachusetts. Presentation on work of the IIIC across a range of areas and discussion on ongoing partnership between Irish International Immigration Center and Donegal County Council.



At Irish International Immigration Centre with staff of IIIC





With Ronnie Millar, Director of the Irish International Immigration Centre

### **11.30am – Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC), Dorchester**

Presentation on work of the IPC and meeting with a range of older immigrants. Discussion on areas of cooperation and mutual support between IPC and Donegal County Council.

### **5.30pm – Golden Bridges**

Golden Bridges Showcase and Tourism Presentations

(See programme attached – *Appendix 2*)

### **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October**

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### **8.00am – Golden Bridges Economic Seminar**

(See programme attached – *Appendix 2*)



With Congressman Richie Neal and John Cullinane of Cullinet

### 12.30pm – Golden Bridges Awards Lunch

Showcase awards lunch with participation from a range of political and business interests. Awards presented to Donegal recipients Michael McCarron from Drumfries and Danny Hutton from Buncrana.



With Michael McCarron, ex-president Donegal Association of Greater Boston area



With Danny Hutton, Buncrana of Three Dog Night and Art McCabe, Economic Development Manager Lawrence City Council

### **3.00pm – Boston City Council**

Round table on cooperation in the fields of Tourism and Enterprise development with executives from Boston City Council.

### **5.30pm – Irish Consul General, Boston**

Reception for Cathaoirleach and Mayor of Derry attended by Irish community Boston and various political, business, education, etc, partners.

### **Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October**

### **8.00am – New Bedford Fish Market**

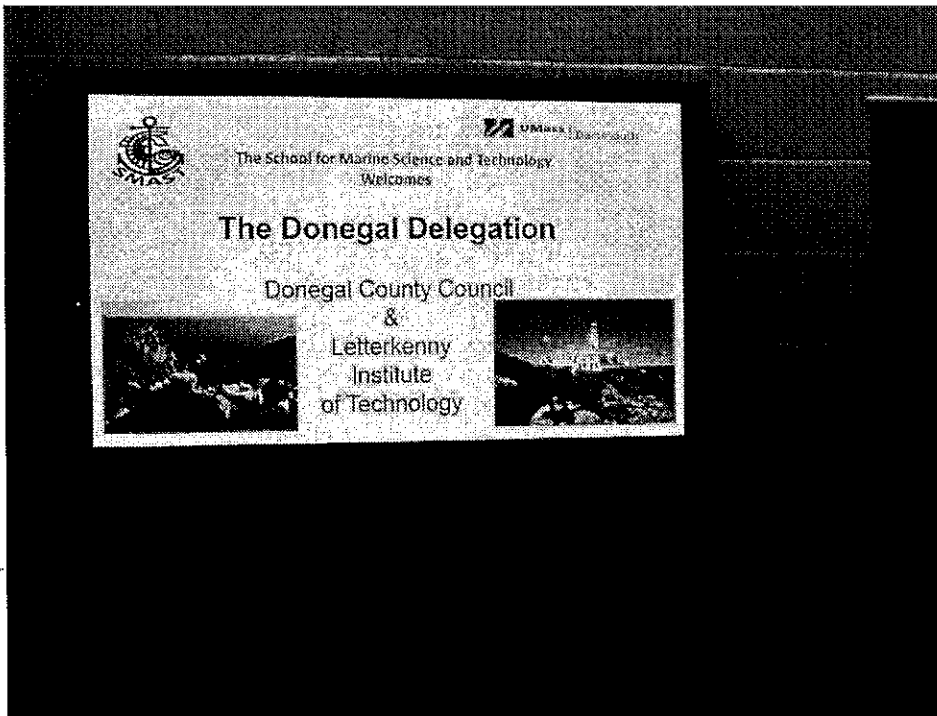
Visit and tour of New Bedford Fish Market and Auction.



At New Bedford Fish Market and Auction

### 9.30am – University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Meeting with UMass Ocean Marine Science and Technology Centre (Ocean Marine Research) re collaboration on ocean development in Donegal. Collaboration to take place on development of Killybegs as a Marine/Energy Centre of Excellence.





With Director of UMass Marine Science & Technology Centre

**11.30am – Meetings took place with a range of stakeholders in New Bedford**

- New Bedford Offshore Wind Terminal
- New Bedford Wind Energy Initiative
- UMass Dartmouth (President)

Tour and meetings in relation to mode of best practice developed in New Bedford for Ocean energy. Potential for collaboration in a Killybegs/Donegal context explored.



With John Quinn, UMass Dartmouth and Matthew Morrisey, New Bedford Wind Energy Initiative



UMass Dartmouth Centre of Ocean and Marine Resources, New Bedford

### 3.00pm – New Bedford Whaling Museum

Meeting with New Bedford Whaling Museum, a key tourism facility in Massachusetts. Discussions on areas of cooperation.



At New Bedford Whaling Museum

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> October – Donegal Boston GAA AGM**

Attended Donegal Boston GAA AGM in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

## **Donegal County Council and the Decade of Centenaries**

To date Donegal County Council has delivered a number of projects, exhibitions and activities linked to the Decade of Centenaries. These have included:

### **Hands of History project**

From 2012-2014 Donegal County Council under the auspices of the Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership delivered the cross community, Hands of History project, which included:

- Seminar programmes
- Shared History Programmes and Study Visits.
- A drama production
- Schools programmes
- The Museum Service delivered a number of exhibitions on relevant themes.
- The County Archives Service produced "A Decade of Change 1912 – 1923, Document Study Pack" and delivered associated schools workshops
- The Library Service compiled three bibliographies of books on the decade 1912-1922. A set of these books is available at a library in each electoral area. A series of workshops for children and adults was also delivered throughout the County on topics associated with the Decade.

### **World War I- Donegal County Museum.**

- Since 2005 the Museum's World War I touring exhibition Before I Joined the Army has travelled to venues throughout the island of Ireland. In March 2014 the exhibition was on display at the 48<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham.
- In 2014 the Museum organised an exhibition on Donegal and the First World War which will continue into 2015. The exhibition will then be available to tour to other venues. The Museum has also received a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Reconciliation Funds to develop supplementary educational material to accompany the World War I exhibition.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup> November, to mark Armistice Day, the Museum organised an evening of stories, poems, music and song to remember the men and women from Donegal who fought in World War I.
- The Museum has been asked to display some of their World War I exhibition at "Carols in the Trenches", an evening of music and song to be held in Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin on 12<sup>th</sup> December

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### **Ulster Covenant - Donegal County Museum**



- In 2012 the Museum worked with the Donegal Centenaries Committee to organise an exhibition to commemorate the signing of the Ulster Covenant in 1912. The exhibition included some of the original signing sheets from Donegal, on loan from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Reconciliation & Anti- Sectarianism Funds funded the exhibition. The Museum also hosted a History Ireland Hedge School in the Regional Cultural Centre on the theme of the Ulster Covenant.

### **Donegal County Museum – Connection and Division 1910-1930**

- The Museum has a small touring exhibition of display panels, which explore the impact of events between 1910 and 1930, on the local landscape of the northwest with particular emphasis on Donegal. The exhibition has toured to venues throughout the County.

### **County Archives - Digitisation of Archives**

- Donegal County Archives is in the process of digitising archives relating to the First World War and uploading the images onto the Facebook page of Donegal County Archives. Donegal County Archives also plans to produce an on-line exhibition of Decade of Commemorations images from the Archives on the Donegal County Council website. This will be added to over the next two years.

### **Heritage Plan**

- The draft Heritage Plan 2014-2019 contains actions, which relate directly to the Decade of Centenaries:

Action 3.4 Support research, preservation and promotion of the material heritage related to landmark historic events including the 'Decade of Centenaries'

Action 5.13 Survey of archival sources relating to County Donegal and the 'Decade of Centenaries'

### **Decade of Centenaries - Proposed Events**

Donegal County Council through its Cultural Services Division (Museum, Archives, Libraries and Arts) will work with groups and organisations, to deliver a programme of exhibitions, seminars, talks and other events to commemorate the forthcoming centenaries including the Easter Rising, Battle of the Somme, War of Independence, Civil War and Partition. For instance the Donegal County Archives is planning an illustrated booklet on the history and archives relating to Joseph Murray, War of Independence Brigadier in command of the Fourth Brigade, South East Donegal, First Northern Division.

## **1916 Programme**

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, recently launched the programme for Ireland 2016 which will include a Culture Programme; a special Education Commemorative Programme and an extensive consultation programme with local government and community groups to facilitate ground up initiatives across the country.

Minister Humphries is meeting with relevant stakeholders including Heritage Officers (17<sup>th</sup> Nov), Arts Officers (17 Nov) and Local Authority Museums (date tbc) to discuss these plans.

It is proposed that the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council will organise and host exhibition/s and associated activities (lectures, seminar, and schools events) to mark the centenary of events which took place throughout 1916 including but not limited to the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme. For instance in March/April the Museum and Archives Service will organise events to commemorate the Easter Rising including an overview of the Rising and focusing on Donegal connections eg Joseph Sweeney. Then in July there will be events to commemorate the Battle of the Somme focussing in particular on the Donegal connections.

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