



The locals in Quebec would come to call Grosse Ile "L'île des Irlandais." Translated, it means the Island of the Irish, but for thousands of Irish Immigrants the Canadian island would be the first - and final - resting place in their new home.

In the spring of 1847, the quarantine station at Grosse Île Quebec was ready to receive 32,000 immigrants to its shores. The hospitals were equipped to handle 200 ill.

Just 3 miles long and 1 mile wide, at one point there was reportedly a chain of 40 ships matching the Island in length with more 13,000 emigrants aboard.

By the end of 1847 over 98,000 souls arrived. Most were sick and dying needing immediate medical attention.

The immigrant ships from Ireland carried throngs of malnourished, dispirited people who were ravaged by hunger and disease. Government and private measures to feed these people in Ireland were inadequate, creating a mass exodus. While many voluntarily left in search of new horizons, others were forcibly "assisted" by pressures from landlords eager to be rid of unprofitable tenants.

The "coffin ships" were in fact cargo vessels, not passenger ships, carrying wood from Quebec City and Saint John's each summer. The owners did not want their vessels returning to Canada empty.

These poor Irish emigrants endured this passage of several weeks living below deck in cramped bunks, eating little more than moldy ship biscuits and dirty water, ideal conditions for the spread of Typhus. British laws called for the ships to provide seven pounds of food a week for each passenger, often these laws were ignored. Many ships bought used casks for the passengers' drinking water as they were less expensive, but these often leaked or stored wines, making the water undrinkable.

Upon arrival to Grosse Île, hospital personnel on the island administered whatever care they could in medicines and bedside attention. The clergy constantly provided spiritual assistance and consolation to the dying and their families. When hospitals became over- crowded, the military supplied tents to house the infected and their relatives.

As thousands died, burials became unceremonious; individual graves were unknown. One large field became a mass burial ground. Soil had to be transported from across the river at Montmagny in order to fill the trenches so clearly seen today.

Before the year was over more than 5,424 souls were interred on the Island.

With breakthroughs in medicine and the tragedy of 1847 now over, the Western part of the Island was not used and the graves became neglected and forgotten.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America – appalled by the lack of respect and reverence paid to those Irish brothers and sisters who perished contacted AOH members across the United States and Canada, asking for donations to build a Celtic Cross as a marker for those perished.

The response was as generous as it was swift. What started as a small monument became one of the tallest Celtic Crosses in the world.

In 1909, in a ceremony that drew thousands, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America unveiled a 46-foot-high Celtic cross on Grosse Île atop Telegraph Hill, the highest point on the Island.

Join the Ancient Order of Hibernians from across Canada, the United States, Ireland and Europe as we host a three day celebration of the Centenary of the Cross on August 14, 15 and 16, 2009.



Ancient Order of Hibernians Celtic Cross Centenary

Friday August 14, 2009 to Sunday August 16, 2009

Complete	Package One	Island Only
Friday ✓ Ice Breaker ✓ Dinner ✓ Entertainment Saturday ✓ Boat ✓ Lunch ✓ Mass ✓ Entertainment ✓ Ceremony ✓ Island Tour Sunday ✓ Mass at St.Patrick's ✓ Farewell Reception	Friday ✓ Ice Breaker Saturday ✓ Boat ✓ Lunch ✓ Mass ✓ Entertainment ✓ Ceremony ✓ Island Tour Sunday ✓ Mass at St.Patrick's ✓ Farewell Reception	Saturday ✓ Bus (<i>same day return to Montreal</i>) ✓ Boat ✓ Lunch ✓ Mass ✓ Entertainment ✓ Ceremony ✓ Island Tour
\$185.00 pp	\$150.00 pp	\$125.00 pp

All prices listed in Canadian Funds.

For reservations contact:

Tom Gargan, National Chair – 2009 Project via email at RESERVATIONS@AOH-2009.COM, or by calling (514) 639-0914. <or>

Victor Boyle, National President Ancient Order of Hibernians in Canada at RESERVATIONS@AOH-2009.COM, or by calling (514) 928-7196.

Hotels:

1st Choice – Hilton

1100 René-Lévesque Blvd East
Québec, Québec G1R 4P3
Reservations: 1-800-447-2411
Code: AOH

<http://www.hiltonquebec.com/en/accueilVac.asp>

Standard Room Rate: \$209.00 CAD

2nd Choice – Loews Concorde Québec

Loews Le Concorde Hotel, Québec
1225 cours du Général-De Montcalm
Québec City, Québec G1R 4W6
Reservations: 1-800-463-5256
Code: AOH

<http://www.loewshotels.com/en/Hotels/Quebec-City-Hotel/Overview.aspx>

Standard Room Rate: \$209.00 CAD \$169.00 USF

Alternate – Hotel Clarendon

57 rue Ste-Anne
Vieux Québec, Québec G1R 3X4
Reservations: 1-888-554-6001
Code: 1909-2009 AOH Celtic Cross Centenary

http://www.dufour.ca/en/dufour_menu/hotels/clarendon_hotel/

Standard Room Rate: \$175.00 CAD

Alternate – Hotel Universel

2300 Chemin Ste-Foy
Ste-Foy, Québec G1V 1S5
Reservations: 1-800-463-4495
Code: AOH
<http://www.hoteluniversel.qc.ca>

Standard Room Rate: \$129.00 CAD

Plaza Québec
3031 boul Laurier
Québec, Québec G1R 2M2
Reservations: 1-800-567-5276
Code: 1271443
<http://www.hotelsjaro.com/plazaquebec/contact.aspx>

Standard Room Rate: \$144.00 CAD

Hotel Québec

3115 Ave. des Hotels
Québec, Québec G1R 3Z6
Reservations: 1-800-567-5276
Code: 1271443
<http://www.hotelsjaro.com/hotelquebec/index-en.aspx>

Standard Room Rate: \$159.00 CAD

Palace Royal

775 ave. Honore-Mercier
Québec, Québec G1R 6A5
Reservations: 1-800-567-5276
Code: 1271443
<http://www.hotelsjaro.com/palaceroyal/index-en.aspx>

Standard Room Rate: \$175.00 CAD

Lindbergh

2825 boul Laurier

Québec, Québec G1V 2L9

Reservations: 1-800-567-5276

Code: 1271443

<http://www.hotelsjaro.com/lindbergh/index-en.aspx>

Standard Room Rate: \$122.00 CAD

Sir Wilfred

3055 boul Laurier

Québec, Québec G1V 4X2

Reservations: 1-800-567-5276

Code: 1271443

<http://www.hotelsjaro.com/sirwilfrid/index-en.aspx>

Standard Room Rate: \$109.00 CAD

Alternate: ALT Hotels

Hôtel Dominion 1912

126, rue Saint-Pierre

Québec (Québec) G1K 4A8

Code: TBD

<http://quebec.althotels.ca/en/>

Standard Room Rate: \$129.00 CAD

Alternate: Courtyard Marriott

850 Place D'Youville

Québec (Québec) G1R 3P6

Code: TBD

Reservations: 1-866-694-4004

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yqbcy-courtyard-quebec-city-downtown/>

Standard Room Rate: \$199.00 CAD

Alternate: Best Western

330 rue de la Couronne

Québec (Québec) G1R 3P6

Reservations: 1-877-625-7549

Code: TBD

www.bestwestern.qc.ca

Standard Room Rate: \$189.00 CAD

Alternate: Manoir Victoria

44 Cote du Palais

Québec (Québec) G1R 4H8

Reservations: 1-800-692-3822

Code: TBD

<http://www.manoir-victoria.com/>

Standard Room Rate: \$245.00 CAD

Itinerary:

Friday, August 14, 2009

- Arrive in Quebec City selecting from one of our 14 preferred hotels
- Stop at Ice-Breaker at the Hilton Quebec from 12:00 to 5:00 to register and meet old and new friends
- Upstairs to the Hilton Grand Ballroom for dinner at 7:00PM with live entertainment

Saturday, August 15, 2009

- Make your way down to the Old Port of Quebec and board one of the 3 waiting boats for the scenic Ride along the great St. Lawrence River to Grosse Île. Watch as the Celtic Cross grows larger in the distance – waiting to welcome you.
- On the Island, enjoy a boxed lunch, and then make your way up Telegraph Hill for the rededication Ceremonies. For the first time in the Island's history you will have walking access to the Easter part of the Island. Tour through the disinfecting center as a passenger would have in 1921. Celebrate with entertainers or find a quiet place to reflect. Parks Canada employees will be stationed throughout the Island to answer any questions you may have. Mass at 3:30 at the Irish Cemetery.
- Return to the boats for a reflective return to the Old Port of Quebec. Enjoy some of the many charms of the ancient walled city before returning to the hotel.

Sunday, August 16, 2009

- Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in the heart of Quebec City, followed by an informal farewell reception.