



February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

To: Municipality of Saugeen Shores

We "Celtic Academy Canada" a not-for-profit organization request a delegation to Council at the upcoming meeting March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in support of a Flag Raising during the month of March.

In honour of "Irish Heritage Month Canada" our local students aim to increase public awareness, foster arts and culture, and preserve heritage and history within the Municipality of Saugeen Shores.

We have been sharing our programs within the community since year 2012. We utilize local community spaces through the Bluewater District School Board, the Plex Rotary Hall, and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #340. Our students participate in numerous community events throughout the year enhancing the lives of residents and seasonal visitors.

We hereby request support from Council for a Flag Raising during the month of March in honour of "Irish Heritage Month Canada" which was officially marked by the Government of Canada in March 2022 in Parliament, Ottawa.

Whereas, in 2004 the Government of Ontario proclaimed Bill 33: An Act proclaiming Irish Heritage Day- March 17<sup>th</sup>, the day of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of the Irish; and

Whereas, the Government of Canada marked the first official "Irish Heritage Month Canada" in March of 2022; and

Whereas, today almost 4.6 million Canadians in towns and cities across Canada can trace their ancestry back to Ireland; and

Whereas, Irish Canadians have greatly contributed to the story of our country, province and town and this month is an opportunity to learn more about their history, culture and positive impacts to our local community, and

Whereas, the Celtic Academy Irish Dance Canada with ten locations in Ontario, and two within the Town of Saugeen Shores, which aims to enhance the lives of local residents and seasonal visitors and preserve heritage and history for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration

Mary Foley, Director

**Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann**  
Consulate General of Ireland



27 February 2026

FAO: Town of Saugeen Shores

To whom it may concern,

I understand that there is an initiative underway to raise the Irish Tricolour in Saugeen Shores, which the presence of a “dignitary” has been requested for. Unfortunately the month of March is an especially busy time of year for the Consulate, and for our Embassy in Ottawa, and so we regretfully are not in a position to attend in person. However, this event has the full support for the Consulate General of Ireland, Toronto, and we would humbly request your municipality to allow this excellent initiative to proceed, if at all feasible.

We are very proud of the Irish diaspora in Ontario and across Canada and March is a particularly special time of year. With approximately 4.6 million Canadians making up 14% of our population claiming Irish ancestry and an Irish ethnic connection, we are well aware of the community initiatives that keep the culture and spirit of Ireland alive far beyond her shores.

In 2022, MPP from Etobicoke-Lakeshore, James Maloney successfully petitioned Parliament to recognise March as “Irish Heritage Month” not just to celebrate Irish heritage on St. Patrick’s Day, but also to recognise the deep roots and the many contributions of Irish migrants, and their descendants in building and shaping the country into what we know today.

Thank you again for raising the Irish Tricolour in Saugeen Shores and for taking the time to organise events during Irish Heritage Month.

If you have any questions, concerns or need clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Consulate at 437-290-6315 or [irelandcgtoronto@dfa.ie](mailto:irelandcgtoronto@dfa.ie).

Kind regards



Cahal Sweeney

Vice Consul General of Ireland