

IRISH CULTURAL PROGRAMS

In addition to Irish language activities, it is foreseen that the Gaeltacht will host a wide range of cultural and heritage activities.

HERITAGE MUSEUM

Our Gaeltacht will be located in the heart of Irish settlement in the Ottawa Valley. It is ideally situated to record and display the history of this Irish settlement through a collection of books, newspaper articles, photographs, paintings, maps, oral histories, artifacts and other forms of related media. Emphasis will be placed on illustrating the experience and conditions faced by those first Irish speaking settlers to this region who attempted to carve out homesteads from the rough terrain that was only marginally suitable for farm purposes. The history will also show the significant role that the logging, river driving and shantying played in the lives of those early settlers.

DANCING

The earliest dancing in Ireland of which we are aware was solo dance and country dance, mostly danced to reels and jigs. The traditional hornpipe was not developed until the mid 1700's and the polkas and slides even later. Over the years, Irish dancing has branched into four major types: the traditional step dance style, popularized in *Riverdance*; *sean nós* dancing which is a solo form of dancing which is less structured than step dancing and which is usually performed in hard shoes; *céilí* dancing which is a form of social dancing performed by any number of people from two upwards; and set dancing, which evolve from the French Quadrilles and was brought to Ireland by soldiers who had fought in the Napoleonic wars. All of these dance forms will be taught, performed and enjoyed at the Gaeltacht.

CÉILÍS

The local community in the Ottawa Valley maintains a strong Irish consciousness. Regular community céilís will be organized, and are anticipated to be popular.

MUSIC FESTIVALS (FLEÁNNA)

We expect that music will be an important part of all activities at the Gaeltacht. The facilities which we envision to accommodate our language programs will be equally suitable for hosting musically oriented events such as fleánna.

SPORTS

Gaelic football and Hurling are two traditional Irish sports that are played in North America