



June 5, 2013

OTTAWA ROSE KEIRA KILMARTIN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN IRELAND'S ROSE OF TRALEE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL THIS AUGUST

2013 Ottawa Rose Keira Kilmartin - a 22 year old McGill University student with aspirations to pursue medicine, has been selected as one of two Canadians to participate in an International Festival celebrating the accomplishments of young women with Irish ancestry.

The Rose of Tralee International Festival is one of Ireland's largest and longest running festivals, celebrating 54 years in 2013. The festival brings young women of Irish descent ("Roses") from around the world to County Kerry, Ireland, in August for a global celebration of Irish culture.

The Ottawa Centre has been a part of the Festival since 2009. Our selection panel from the Ottawa Irish community selects the applicant they see best embodying the qualities and characteristics of a "Rose" - someone who represents the collective aspirations, social responsibilities and ambitions of young women of Irish descent. Keira was selected to be the 2013 Ottawa Rose in March. She travelled this month to Ireland for the Rose of Tralee Regional Festival, held every year before the Rose of Tralee International Festival to determine which Roses will represent their territories at the International Festival in August.

With nearly 70 Rose Centres around the world, the Regional Festival narrows the number of young women down to the 32 to participate in a tour around Ireland and the Festival in Tralee; and to be interviewed on a nationally broadcast RTÉ television show in August. This two-night show is filmed before a live audience and has almost 1 million viewers.

There are four Canadian Centres involved in the Rose of Tralee International Festival – Ottawa, Toronto, Western Canada, and Newfoundland and Labrador. This year, Keira Kilmartin representing Ottawa and Erica Halfyard representing Newfoundland were selected to be the two Canadians among the 32 International Roses. Both will be returning to Ireland in August, 2013.

Learn more about the Rose of Tralee Ottawa Centre by visiting: www.roseoftralee.ca



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