

KAY BURNS  
DIASPORA



*This project has been developed as a 7Scenes iPhone app as part of programming for Third Space Gallery, Saint John, New Brunswick.*

The banality of everyday life is not so mundane when it's the life of an ancestor or when it's about things that have happened in places you are familiar with. We find parallels in the lives of others with our own experiences. We respond to our observations, sometimes with admiration, sometimes with disdain.

As a participant in this project you become an observer of someone else's life, of several lives. Who isn't curious to peer in a window at dusk before the dwellers close their drapes. Or who can admit to not wanting to eavesdrop on a conversation across a room. We are inherently curious, it stems from being human, and being a part of a community, whether that community is here or somewhere else.

The narrative for this project revolves around the perspective of several generations of a fictional family of Irish immigrants, beginning with a small family who arrived on Partridge Island in Saint John to escape the potato famine. The content of the narrative wanders back and forth across different points in time, but is connected through the voice of a contemporary Irish woman, Moira Quinn, who came to Canada to learn of her paternal lineage (a reverse of the usual pattern of Canadians going to other countries to do genealogical research). The narrative content alludes to historical events and places in Saint John but is a fictionalized account of this family told through fragments of letters written by generations of the Quinn women (those who married into the Quinn family) to family members back in Ireland over the years. The people who are the focus of the narrative are often marginalized or of lower classes, not the kind of history that one would expect to encounter in a seemingly 'tourist' type format.

This project is much about the act of walking as it is about the audio encountered along the way. As such there will be sections where you will walk for some distance before another audio file materializes. Feel free to stop along the way. Rest on a bench or get sidetracked by other things. Look at the buildings around you, imagine the lives within, now and in the past.

Mary Quinn  
1825-1864  
Co. Cork, Ireland

John Quinn  
1825-1847  
Co. Cork, Ireland

Rebecca McGee  
1850-1919  
Dublin, Ireland

Finn McGee  
1849-1886  
Dublin, Ireland

Ellen Quinn  
(McGee) 1847-1915  
Dublin, Ireland

Patrick Quinn  
1845-1910  
Canada

John Quinn  
1866-1877  
Canada

Thomas Quinn  
1868-1936  
Canada

Sarah Quinn  
(Sullivan) 1869-1938  
Canada

Elizabeth Sullivan  
1878-1968  
Co. Waterford, Ireland

James Quinn  
1894-1953  
Canada

Michael Quinn  
1896-1960  
Canada

Margaret Quinn  
1904-1984  
Canada

Bridget Quinn  
(McArthur) 1898-1970  
Canada

Carol Quinn  
(Fitzgerald) 1916-1945  
Canada

Roddy Quinn  
1916-1980  
Canada/Ireland

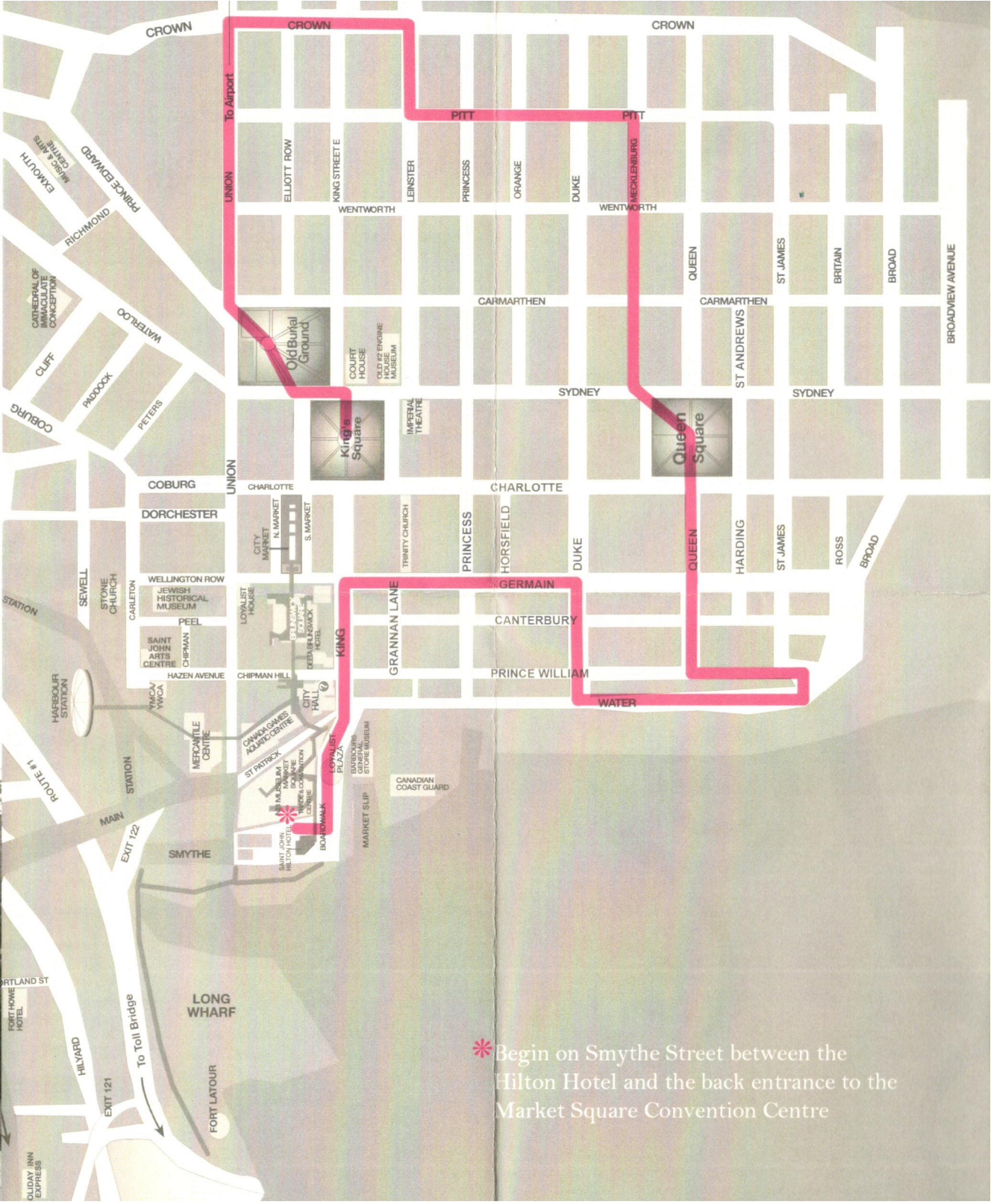
Catherine Quinn  
(Donahue) 1938-2009  
Galway, Ireland

Ann Quinn  
1919-1985  
Canada

Seamus Quinn  
1966-  
Galway, Ireland

Moirá Quinn  
1970-  
Galway, Ireland





\*Begin on Smythe Street between the Hilton Hotel and the back entrance to the Market Square Convention Centre



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N.B. Museum Archives

Third Space Gallery

Waag Society



**Newfoundland and Labrador  
Arts Council**

For more information and 7Scenes  
instructions go to [thirdspacegallery.ca](http://thirdspacegallery.ca)