



# Pilgrim Footprints

*Spring brings camino thoughts for many who have already walked a camino – the adventures, the people and the journey - both inner and outer.*

*The focus of this newsletter is people who serve the camino - who walks, their whys, their differences and similarities, their passions, their caring, their learnings and their teachings.*

## THOSE WHO SERVE: Meet (most of) Your Directors & Coordinators



**CCoP Board  
and Chapter  
Coordinators**

@

**Victoria BC  
March 25/18**

**Standing - from left to right:** Alvin Thiessen (Treasurer), Grace Cameron (secretary), Neville Tencer (Vice-President), Donna Coutts (Vancouver), Dianne Homan (Whitehorse), Jim Rondeau (Director), Chuck Hunt (Edmonton), Mary Virtue (Victoria & Director), Mike Gurski (Toronto), Judy Gayford (Calgary), Kevin McKinney (Fredericton & Director), Maureen Summers (Halifax), Loretta Ray (Hamilton), Austin Cooke (Ottawa & Past-Pres), Ivor Lockhart (Winnipeg & Director), Kathy Kepkay (Director). Missing from photo: George Forshaw (Kelowna)

**Sitting – left to right:** Tom Friesen (London), Ellie Witzke (Kitchener-Waterloo), Wendy Loly (President), Cathy Cavanaugh (Director), Lea Pennock (Saskatoon). **Thanks Everyone!!**

## A Word from Your President

**A great deal has been accomplished since I last wrote an update for our Newsletter.**

Our **Annual General Meeting** was held on February 3, 2018, during which new Bylaws were passed to govern our association. These are now quite specific to CCoP rather than the generic ones that were in place before. We also elected a new Board of Directors – see list on last page of this newsletter. These revisions could not have been accomplished without the diligent efforts of those who served with me on our Governance Committee – Pat Concessi of Toronto, Jim Rondeau of Victoria, and Lea Pennock of Saskatoon who was especially instrumental. These revised Bylaws are available in the Member Only area of the CCoP website.

At the AGM we also elected a **new Board of Directors** – see list in this newsletter. The Board has now approved the **new Chapter Guidelines** and **Terms of Reference** for a **Chapter Advisory Council** and a **Nominations Committee**. These documents will now guide us and the Board members and will provide a solid base for the future.

In late March CCoP achieved a new milestone when the **chapter coordinators from across Canada came together to meet face-to-face for the very first time!!** **Fourteen of our fifteen chapters were represented** at a weekend meeting in Victoria. Our chapters range in size from fewer than 50 to more than 1,000 on their contact lists. There was quite a buzz in the meetings as we discussed chapter similarities and differences, debated solutions to common issues, and shared programming ideas as well as some wine and tapas! **All Board members also attended** for a total of 22 people.

All of this Coordinators Gathering was wrapped around the Victoria Chapter's Spring meeting, with special guests including the **Mayor and the Tourism CEO of A Coruña, Spain** and **guest speaker Paul Huschilt of Toronto**. There were **230 local pilgrims in attendance** for this event.

None of this could have happened without the **very strong support of the Victoria chapter volunteers, in particular Terry Costain, Dawn Blais and Mary Virtue**, who between them took on the huge task of finding billets, arranging transportation and food for everyone. The Camino certainly 'provided' in this instance – through the group of hosts who provided beds, the drivers who ferried everyone around town and those who worked to ensure meals were ordered, delivered and leftovers safely put away.

It is my hope that this Gathering will move CCoP forward and onto a stronger footing going forward into 2019. I do believe that meeting face-to-face strengthens interpersonal relationships and will encourage more communications and sharing between our chapters.

**Wendy Loly**

**Editor reminder: all of these people donated their time and energies for love of the camino!**

**THOSE WHO SERVE:** Hospitalero training in Toronto & Victoria,  
March & April '18 Report by Mary Virtue (Victoria)



Since 2007, Tom Friesen and Mary Virtue have been teaming up to train past pilgrims to become hospitaleros. Each year we train between 30 and 40 people and **each year there are about 30 Canadian trained hospitaleros in Albergues in France and Spain**, to greet pilgrims, care for their physical needs and set them on their way the next day.

In the past few years, we have tried to spread the load and the cost, by Tom training mainly in the east with Darlene McKee and Mary doing the training in the west, this past time with Daphne Hnatiuk from Vancouver and Monique Rigole from Calgary. There were 15 participants in each of the training sessions and to all accounts everyone not only had a great time, but left the training with the confidence to walk into an albergue and be prepared to take on whatever problem or situation was thrown at them.

In Toronto, Mike and Barbara Gurski hosted the Friday evening reception which always includes tapas and paella. And as in Victoria, on Saturday and Sunday the trainers put the trainees through activities and to provide information designed to transform them from pilgrims into hospitaleros. And no matter how many stories are related during the training, there are always lots of questions for the panel on the Sunday afternoon. In Toronto Mike, Ingrid Folkers and David Duncan formed the panel and in Victoria, it was David Kilshaw and Jim Swanston. As the panelists say "It's always a great feeling to be able to touch the Camino again."



New hospitaleros working hard

They were rewarded with delicious, typical Spanish food such as tapas and paella.



## THOSE WHO SERVE: Hospitalero Training in Toronto & Victoria, March & April '18



We have often been asked **why** we do this and truly, **it is to provide a service to the pilgrims on the Camino and to give us an opportunity to 'visit' the Camino again.** We have set a standard price for these training sessions and try and keep the costs very low by providing billeting for out of town guests (more than half of the participants who came to Victoria were from out of town). At the end of each session, there are always some **funds left over and these we send to an albergue in Spain, or a project to further support pilgrims.** This year, Mary was able to send 550€ to repair and make safe, the four picnic tables for pilgrims arriving at Tosantos. And Tom was able to send 500 Euros to Italian hospitalera, Laura Monastier as a contribution to Camino Para Todos, a program to support people with special needs to do the Camino. <https://www.freewheelsonlus.com/progetti/santiago-de-compostela/> is the link to Santiago Para Todos.

As with many things Camino, there is also a company offering tours to ensure accessibility, there is a project [openuroutes.eu](http://openuroutes.eu) which is financed by the UE. Their website deals with accessible routes and resources on the Camino (Santiago and St Benedict in Italy).



New hospitaleros  
work hard, study  
hard, play well  
together, problem  
solve potential  
albergue dilemmas,  
and eat well!



## THOSE WHO SERVE : Honouring Hospitalière Monique Chassain

(Deceased June 2017)

by John and Ana Thompson



Monique with John and Ana Thompson at the St. Émilion restaurant.



Ana and the always immaculate Monique in front of her chateau.

Monique Chassain, Ancienne Présidente de Amis et Pelerins de Saint-Jacques – Voie de Vézeley

If you have walked the **Voie de Vézelay**, probably **the least known of the four main French routes leading to the Camino Frances**, you owe a debt to Monique Chassain and her late husband Jean-Charles.

Monique died in June 2017, at Belcayre, her 14<sup>th</sup> century chateau on the banks of the Vezère, not far from Bergerac in Southwest France.

We first met Monique in 2008 when Ana and I signed on as Canadian hospitaliers at the Corbigny refuge, some thirty kilometres from Vézelay. She was standing over a deep hole next to the refuge, supervising the repair of a broken sewer pipe. This was typical of her – meticulous in every detail – as was her dress. Skirt, blouse and jacket – and high heels.

We returned again to Corbigny, then twice to the refuge at St Ferme. Each time she greeted us with a bottle of Bergerac, cheese, and home-made fig jam. She also hosted us overnight at Belcayre, picking us up as we were walking the middle stages of the Voie and, next morning, delivering us back to where we had left off. It was a lovely visit and a very exciting drive – perched on a pillow (she was barely five feet tall) she drove her Volvo stick-shift like a Formula One race driver over a series of twisting roads and hairpin corners.

**The Voie de Vézelay was Monique's baby.** After her first Camino with Jean-Charles in 1997 they researched the ancient route, **organized the Amis et Pelerins de Saint-Jacques – Voie de Vézelay**, and by 2000 **produced a detailed guide**. They **organized the way-marking** of all 900 km, **recruited regional sub-associations**, and **established refuges at Corbigny, Bouzais , and St. Ferme**. After her husband's death in 2007, she carried on, **annually revising the guide** (with detailed lists of accommodations). And **each week she drove the 500 km from her home to the Association office in Vézelay, stopping along the way to check on her hospitaliers.**

## THOSE WHO SERVE : Honouring Hospitalière Monique Chassain

(Deceased.June 2017)

by John and Ana Thompson (cont.)

Monique, tucked away in the shadow of her home, which was perched on top of these the weather-worn sandstone cliffs. Monique loved, lived and died the camino known as the Voie de Vezelay.

She retired as *présidente* of the *association* in 2010 and sadly suffered a stroke in 2012. Just a year earlier, at the end of our second tour as hospitaliers at St. Ferme, she drove from her home, some 125 km away, and treated us to a wonderful lunch in a Saint-Émilion vineyard. Her recent death is a sad end to life that was so hugely productive. **It is a loss to all who loved her and have loved walking her legacy, the Voie de Vézelay.**



**Editor's note:** Ana and John Thompson are hospitaleros (hospitaliers) from London, Ontario. These additional notes were in their email to me. "I'm also hoping that, in addition to recognizing Monique and her contributions, this note might encourage some of our members to try the Vézelay route. It is very beautiful, with lots of challenges, and is relatively unknown — most pilgrims come from France, Holland, and Germany."

### MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

**Congratulations to the Winnipeg Chapter!** Ivor Lockhart recently sent this announcement: "We are happy to announce our very own Facebook page called "Canadian Company of Pilgrims - Winnipeg Chapter," which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/winnipegchapterccop/> ... many thanks to Steering Committee member Linda Zacharias for her work in creating this."

**From Cecelia – Newsletter Coordinator:** In our next issue we will feature some of the camino paths other than the Camino Frances.

Have you walked one of the alternate routes and can tell our members a bit about it? Please get in touch with [cecelia@santiago.ca](mailto:cecelia@santiago.ca). With over 300,000 walking the Camino Frances in 2017, it's definitely time for some of us to jump outside of the box, and strike out for newer, less travelled paths. I'm looking for about 500 words but am flexible. **Thanks in advance!**

## WALKING WITH A PURPOSE FOR OTHERS: Geoff and Annemarie Travers Camino For Alzheimer's Awareness

We started walking caminos together in 2013 having selected the **Camino Frances** as a way of preparing for our respective retirement decisions. Since then we have walked a number of different routes together including the caminos **Portuguese, dos Faros and Le Puy**, plus 400 kms of the **88 Temples in Japan**. Geoff has soloed several longer routes including the **Via de la Plata, the Invierno**, half the Le Puy route and the last 800 kms of the 88 Temples. This past April we just finished walking the amazing **Magna Via Francigena** in Sicily.

**For each Camino there has been a purpose, but none more important than our upcoming Camino. Beginning September 21, 2018, World Alzheimer's Day, we will begin our Camino for Alzheimer Awareness.**

We begin together at Lodève, in the south east of France, and will walk 800 km along the Chemin d'Arles. The route changes to the Camino Aragonés as we pass over the Pyrenees and into Spain. In Spain, at Puente la Reina, Annemarie will complete her Camino, and Geoff plans to continue onwards towards Santiago de Compostela arriving sometime in mid-November, hopefully before his Schengen Visa expires.

**About two years ago at the age of 62, Geoff's sister Kathy was diagnosed with young onset Alzheimer's disease and has been a big part of our motivation for this project.** Kathy and her husband Bob will join us early in our journey, with Kathy walking 10-15 kilometres each day for about 5 days and Bob serving as support.

**Kathy is one of over 70,000 people currently diagnosed with all types of dementia in BC, and approximately 750,000 people have been diagnosed in Canada, with this number expected to climb to 1 million in the next 10-12 years.**

**Worldwide this figure climbs to a startling 44 million people.** Through Kathy, as well as conversations with others affected, and the excellent courses provided by the Alzheimer Society, we have educated ourselves, learning as much as we can about this debilitating condition. We have tried to better understand the experiences and challenges of those living with dementia, including their supporters, who are, of course, key players on this journey.



**Editor's note: Those who walk to promote a specific cause, will NOT be a regular feature in the Pilgrim Footprints newsletter, as there are dozens of Canadians who do this each year. We include them in this edition to highlight those who walk in service to others. Thanks to all who do!!**

## WALKING WITH A PURPOSE FOR OTHERS: Geoff and Annemarie Travers Camino For Alzheimer's Awareness (cont')

We have purposely chosen a longer distance in an effort to reflect on and perhaps replicate the much longer and arduous journey experienced by those impacted by Alzheimers. Like them, we expect there will be good days and bad days as our journey unfolds with challenges along the way. For example, in France and Spain, we expect difficulties making ourselves understood and finding the right words; a common problem for those living with Alzheimer's.



Anne-marie, Kathy and Geoff

Walking on the Arlés Chemin we understand that signage is not always the best, meaning that there is a **high probability of us losing our way from time to time; a common experience for those suffering from Alzheimer's**. We expect many other parallels will emerge as we progress on this journey, and we will be sharing them as we find them.

During our Camino For Alzheimer's Awareness we will be blogging daily about our experiences, as we have done on all our walks. We invite you to travel along with us as we post our musings, Geoff's photographs and some of Annemarie's poetry, at:

<https://caminoforalzheimers.blogspot.ca/>

We are covering all expenses of this Camino ourselves, and are asking for donations to the Alzheimer Society via the **Donate Now** big red button on our blog that links to the Alzheimer Society's website where donations can be made on our event pages.

**All funds raised will go directly to support the range of services that the Alzheimer Society provides for people impacted by this disease, both those with the disease and those who support them.**

You can also provide additional support by adding your thoughts in the "Comments" section at the bottom of each blog post.

**At the end of our Journey For Alzheimer Awareness, perhaps you will be inspired to follow in our footsteps creating your own event for Alzheimer Awareness or a cause close to your own heart.**  
Bon Chemin, Buen Camino!





## WALKING WITH A PURPOSE FOR OTHERS: by Jennifer Townsend “The Way” for Justice

One of the most exhilarating moments about traveling to a new place happens when I step out of the airport, train station, ferry port, or bus terminal, and start to walk along a street. Everything I need in the world, at least for the next few weeks, is carried with me. The road ahead may not be precisely mapped, or perhaps it's even mostly unknown. The as-yet-unexplored new city or town bustles with activity around me, oblivious to my arrival. In moments such as this, I feel an electrifying sense of freedom and anticipation. **My decision to walk the Camino for the very first time in 2018 originated when my love of adventure met at a crossroads with my passionate support for social justice, and merged to become the same path.**



**“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”** Jeremiah 6:16. Through a series of coincidences I was suddenly motivated to walk the camino “the ancient path – the good way” to raise money for an organization I support called **International Justice Mission**.

And so, my plan is to **walk from Pamplona to Santiago de Compostela in June 2018. I am walking to shine a light on the fact that slavery still exists; in fact, 40.3 million people around the world are trapped in modern slavery, more than any other point in history. I am walking to support the work of justice by raising enough to fund one anti-slavery lawyer’s annual salary.**

According to the United Nations, **4 billion people live outside the protection of the law.** That means that their public justice systems – their police, courts, and laws – are so broken, corrupt and dysfunctional, that there is nothing to shield them from violence.

When I think about the Camino, I think about freedom. Freedom to choose your own path, freedom from the daily routine of work or study, freedom to rest and reflect, freedom to be curious, freedom to explore. I am so grateful for all of the freedoms that I have been given. Sadly, for so many people around the world, these freedoms are not a reality; they live under the constant threat of violence with nowhere to turn for help. **International Justice Mission is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world** -- places like India, Uganda, Bolivia, and Thailand, to name just a few. Their team includes lawyers, investigators, and social workers who work together to combat slavery, sex trafficking, police abuse of power, property grabbing from widows, and citizenship rights abuse. They partner with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors with aftercare programs, and strengthen justice systems. International Justice Mission Canada (IJM Canada) is based in London, Ontario.

If you are interested in finding out more about my journey and my goal of raising \$27,000, equivalent to an International Justice Mission lawyer's annual salary, you can visit my website, <https://ijm.akaraisin.com/walkingtheway> . I hope to see you on the Camino in June 2018!

**THOSE WHO SERVE: and live on the camino**

by Johnnie Walker



There are many stories of people who've wanted to make the camino their business. One of the most successful is that of Ivar Revke. If you've done any research at all on the camino, you must have run into Ivar and his exceptionally useful forum. **This is a feature on Ivar who owns and runs the Camino Forum and associated businesses.** Many people are interested in setting up Camino related businesses and Ivar must be the role model of all role models. Ivar's business now attracts over 1,000,000 unique visitors every year and generates a significant gross income per month for him. This is the story in brief:

Ivar is Norwegian who worked as an IT specialist in the United States where he met his wife who is an academic who hails from Galicia. They decided to settle in Galicia and renovated an old stone house near Santiago. In time they also purchased a lovely building in the old town of Santiago which is called **Casa Ivar and is the base for the services Ivar provides.**

**In 2004 Ivar started off with the simple idea of creating an Internet Forum.** It quickly grew in popularity and word about it spread among the pilgrim community. Soon it was generating income through internet advertising and it just grew and grew. So much so that it now **it has a data base of 30,000 posts and is an invaluable source of advice and information for pilgrims.** <https://www.caminodesantiago.me/>

With this growing popularity Ivar diversified into providing a **Storage Service for pilgrims who want to send luggage ahead to Santiago** and also **an online shop selling everything from Pilgrim Credenciales to jewelry.** Ivar has created the perfect privately owned successful business: Members of the Camino Forum are incentivized to make donations so that they don't see pop up adverts, they learn about the Luggage Storage Service and are attracted to the goods for sale in the online shop. This is a huge success and as Ivar reports in this video (available in Spanish only) in the last year he sent out over 7,000 packages to pilgrim customers in 34 countries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF1J-uAhvzU>

**If you are thinking about setting up your own for-profit Camino related business, follow Ivar's lead – identify a gap in the market and provide high quality reliable services which pilgrims want to buy. Congratulations Ivar and all the very best for 2018.**

*John Rafferty, who writes under the name Johnnie Walker, is one of the most prominent names associated with the Camino to Santiago. Over the last 10 years he has published 12 books about different aspects of the camino, with all proceeds going to camino organizations. Ever since moving to Santiago de Compostela, Johnnie has taken an active role in reshaping the English-speaking experience in the city.*

## FOCUS ON THE CAMINO FROM IRELAND:

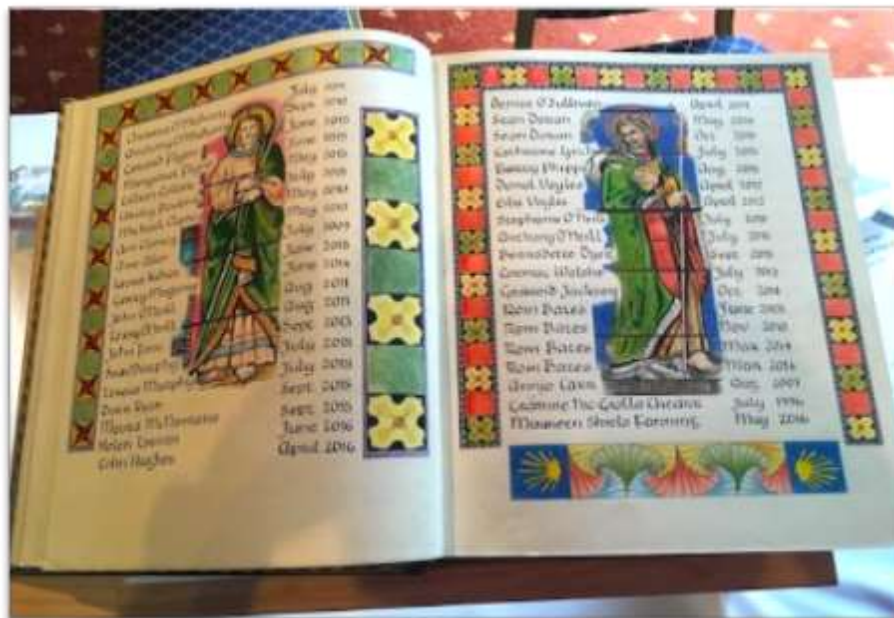
by Wendy Loly

### Celtic Camino Festival, Westport, Ireland, April 13 to 15, 2018

I recently had the privilege of attending the **Celtic Camino Festival**, held in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland from Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This was the first such event organized by the Camino Society Ireland. It was run entirely by volunteers; most key roles were filled by members of the Society's Board. Organizing national events is much easier in a small country like Ireland . . .

On the first evening there was a screening of "**A Camino Voyage**", a full-length feature film by Director **Dónal Ó Céilleachair**, about an Irish crew, including a writer, two musicians, an artist and a stonemason who embarked on the Camino, not on land, but by sea, in a traditional Irish boat that they built themselves. Most of the dialogue is in Irish with English subtitles. It was an inspiring, and often dangerous, **2,500 km modern day Celtic Odyssey to Santiago**, completed over 3 summers. Unfortunately, one crew member died during the trip. The others were present at the screening and each spoke briefly about their experiences afterwards. Their key words to describe their experience were "generosity" and "gratitude" – as exemplified by the many people they met along the way. Hopefully it will be possible to show this new film in Canada in the future.

Saturday was a conference-style day of displays and speakers. One of the displays was the **Irish Society's Book of Pilgrims**, a leather-bound ledger, made in Ireland and held in **St James's Church, Dublin**, that records the names of those pilgrims who have received a **Camino Compostela** and have requested to have their names included in the Book. For a €10 fee, names are inscribed by experienced calligraphers, in a style reminiscent of entries in the Book of Kells.



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## FOCUS ON THE CAMINO FROM IRELAND: by Wendy Loly Celtic Camino Festival, Westport, Ireland, April 13 to 15, 2018 (cont.)

Speakers included **John Brierley (Ireland), Johnnie Walker (UK & Santiago), Lanzada Calatayud (A Coruña, Spain)**. Other international attendees were from England, Spain and Hungary. **Two Professors of Marketing from the University of London spoke of the growth of the Camino as part of a societal trend to “slow movement”: slow food, slow travel, slow city.** They believe that we live in a socially accelerating society and there is a need to decelerate. On the Camino the body and mind can decelerate as walking is slow. Life is simpler – fewer choices to make each day – simple way-finding, simple menu choices, allowing us to slow down. Less technology allows a renewed appreciation of face-to-face encounters. However, it was noted that **transitioning out of the Camino can be difficult as we may suddenly find ourselves accelerating again.**

On Sunday the Society organized a **Celtic Camino Pilgrim Walk**. The various trail associations in Ireland regularly organize ‘Walking Festivals’. There were **170 participants who walked on two linked heritage trails** – first Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail and then onto Tochar Padraig Trail, with a choice of walking either 18 or 25km.

Stamps were provided for the credentials at start and finish, a piper piped us off at the start, the local ladies, at a community hall, 2.5 hours along the walk, provided tea, coffee and sandwiches (and were overwhelmed!). There was a mass at the 12<sup>th</sup> century Ballintubber Abbey at 18km, and busses to transport folks home from there or from the end at 25km. **Those (104 people) who walked the full 25km received the Celtic Compostela which has been recognized by the Cathedral in Santiago to authorize the pilgrim to receive the Compostela for walking the 75km from A Coruña to Santiago.**

It was a glorious green walk, through forests, bogs and many fields of sheep, and innumerable styles of assorted varieties and heights. Weather was pleasant for walking, and at least 3 seasons represented - with sun, showers, wind, and spring flowers.

**More photos** of the walk online at <https://www.caminosociety.com/celtic-camino-festival-walk>



## MANY WAYS TO WALK THE CAMINO

by Wendy Loly

If you are interested in walking in Ireland you can check the website of the Camino Society Ireland <https://www.caminosociety.com> OR

View the 45 minute video of the Celtic Camino presentation made by Jim McNicholas of the Camino Society Ireland at the CCoP Annual General Meeting in Victoria BC on February 3, 2018.

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gns37cbrqhpwh3/AAB7x4kyWrZ3HwiTYcwl\\_TkAa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gns37cbrqhpwh3/AAB7x4kyWrZ3HwiTYcwl_TkAa?dl=0)

As you may be aware - at the CCoP Annual Meeting on Feb 3rd, 2018 our guest speaker was **Jim McNicholas, of the Camino Society Ireland**. Jim spoke about the various routes in Ireland that historically fed into pilgrimage routes in Spain. Many Irish pilgrims walked from home to an Irish port and then sailed to Spain, often to A Coruña, and then walked on the last 75km to Santiago.

In **December 2016 the Cathedral in Santiago announced that pilgrims who walk 25km at home and then walk the 75km from A Coruña are eligible for the Cathedral's Compostela at the Pilgrim Office in Santiago**. The Irish have embraced this plan and are currently designating former pilgrimage routes in Ireland that will provide the required distance there. They have permission from the Cathedral in Santiago to give a "Celtic Compostela" in Ireland that can be taken as proof of the distance walked at home. Combined with stamps acquired along the way in Spain this qualifies the pilgrim for the Compostela in Spain.

You can check out the Irish website for further information on the Celtic Camino <https://www.caminosociety.com>

Canadians can also walk 25km at home before going on to Spain to walk the last 75km. Many churches do have stamps, or you can get a local town hall stamp. Even a return mailing address stamp would be acceptable. You should get at least two stamps in Canada, and I would suggest that at least one stamp should be from a church, and probably better if both are. These can be applied to the pilgrim credential, and as they do in Spain, each should be dated and initialed or signed by the clerk.



## MANY WAYS TO WALK THE CAMINO

### The Camino Goes High Tech!

by Johnnie Walker

A Coruña Provincial Council has funded the provision of 54 technological information panels on the Camino Inglés. There are 3 in each of the 18 municipalities through which the route passes. Now as well as meeting the friendly local people and enjoying the many views which this route offers pilgrims can access information about exactly where they are through these technological panels.

The panels are A5 size and carry the yellow shell on a blue background which is the official symbol of the Camino. The panels are easily recognizable and have been placed on the granite waymarks as well as also on walls and other prominent places.

Pilgrims have a choice of three different ways to access the information through the panels.

#### 1. SCANNING THE QR CODE.

There are many 100% free APPs. We always recommend I-NIGMA <http://i-nigma.mobi>.

#### 2. USING NFC TECHNOLOGY.

All panels have an NFC antenna behind the NFC logo which can be accessed by smartphones. This technology is widely used by people with reduced accessibility.

#### 3. WEBSITE.

All panels have the URL <http://caminoingles.mobi> and by accessing the Web and entering the code pilgrims can access the content directly.



All the information is provided in Spanish, Galician and English.

The panels give access to a wide variety of information including local history, nearby historical monuments and places of interest, such as the Arsenal in Ferrol, a monastery or a Romanesque church, without forgetting less explicit elements, sometimes less perceptible, like legends as the Christ of the Chain or the one hundred damsels. Offer as well extra information as local facilities for visitors.

Pilgrims can easily share the information on social media such as FACEBOOK, TWITTER, WHATSAPP. There is also a facility to search for particular items of interest for example local churches or historic monuments. The system can also plot a route from the information panel to specific places the user may wish to visit. (continued on next page)

## MANY WAYS TO WALK THE CAMINO

### The Camino Goes High Tech!

continued by Johnnie Walker

In addition, there is always **ready access to a map of the entire Camino Inglés with all relevant information.** This project started 3 years ago and it has been very successful. Given the increasing usage of the information points it is **likely that more panels will be commissioned** so that the service is extended.

There are **several ideas for the future such as providing audio files, including more languages and videos.** This service aims to **enhance the pilgrim's experience.** It isn't a guide but provides useful information. **Pilgrims still have to walk the Camino and experience for themselves the many gifts it has to offer.**



## CCoP SERVING THE CAMINO THROUGH DONATIONS

by Wendy Loly

Every year the **Canadian Company of Pilgrims makes some donations to support Camino activities in Spain.** For several years now we have had an **ongoing relationship with the Confraternity of St. James (UK) to assist with two weeks of operation at each of their two albergues, one at Rabanal on the Camino Frances and the other at Miraz on the del Norte route.** If you visit either of those albergues around Canada Day you may see some displays of flags and pins to let pilgrims know that CCoP is involved.

In 2017 CCoP also supported the purchase of **two computers for the Pilgrim House in Santiago,** to be available for pilgrims to use to book onward travel or print boarding passes.

In 2018 the CCoP has chosen to contribute to the purchase of **new mattresses and bed-bug proof mattress-covers for La Casa Mambre,** a donativo parrochial "casa de acogida", right across from the (always open) church in Hontanas. It is now **open for pilgrims who want to take more than a day to reflect or recover or spend a longer time halfway along the Camino Frances,** contemplating in quiet, with a priest and daily Mass on hand if required. This project has been proposed by the non-profit organization *Peaceable Projects* [www.peaceableprojects.org](http://www.peaceableprojects.org)

**Another 2018 donation** will be made to the **Pilgrim Office in Santiago.** This is the office that issues Compostelas, and the staff are often dealing with long lineups and increasing numbers of pilgrims each year. It is run by the Cathedral, but it is costly for them to operate. CCoP is happy to support projects that can benefit pilgrims of all nationalities. **These are the monetary donations but many Canadians also give the gift of time and service as they work as Hospitaleros in albergues in Spain and France. Over 30 of them filled this role in 2017.**

## AT YOUR SERVICE IN THE CANADIAN COMPANY OF PILGRIMS

### Contact List - Board and Chapter Coordinators - as of Feb 3, 2018

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