# ISAAC TODD
## IRELAND TO CANADA AND BACK AGAIN



trading. Todd was elected to the club in 1795, alongside Sir Alexander Mackenzie—who had recently become the first European to travel overland from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast of Canada—and William McGillivray, chief partner in the North West Company.



### THE CANADA CLUB

During the winter months, Isaac Todd, like many fur traders, would return to London to sell the pelts that had been collected during the summer months. It was during one of these trips back to London, in 1810, that Isaac Todd, along with six other fur traders gathered for the first meeting of The Canada Club. Over two hundred years later, the legacy



of The Canada Club lives on as the oldest Canadian institution in the United Kingdom.

### A HOME IN INISHOWEN

Isaac Todd had not put his Ulster roots behind him completely—and it was Inishowen that would be his final Irish endeavor. In 1799, Todd acquired from a relative the 1000 year lease of Ardravan, including Buncrana town, Ballymacarry, Ballymagan, Tullyarvan and Tullydish along with Buncrana Castle. In 1801, he took up a residence in Buncrana Castle, a lord of the manor, who had made his money in the Canadian wilderness.

### FROM ULSTER TO MONTREAL

The story of Isaac Todd would have its start in Ulster, take him to the Canada's remote wilderness, then into the elite and powerful world of business in Montreal, before returning to Donegal as a man made good.

Born into a wealthy merchant's family in Coleraine, Todd's roots were originally Scottish, with his presence in Ireland beginning when his family became settlers during the plantation of Ulster in the early 1600s. But Isaac Todd would not stay in Coleraine for long. By 1764, at just 22 years of age, he was in Montreal where he had entered Canada's lucrative fur trade, a booming industry in the second half of the 18th Century.

By 1776 he'd joined forces with fellow fur trader, James McGill, a Scottish merchant whose name would give Montreal's most famous university its name. Together, they would build not only a successful company, but become the leaders of the Montreal business elite.

### THE BEAVER CLUB

One of Isaac Todd's most long-standing legacies is his association with one of the most storied institutions in all of Canada: The Beaver Club. Founded in 1785 by prominent Fur Barons of 18th Century Montreal, the Club was highly exclusive. To become a member, men had to have undertaken at least one dangerous travel expedition through the Canadian wilderness in pursuit of their