



Robbie Burns / Car Draw

Thank you to everyone who helped out and made the Mustang Draw a success. Check out The College of Piping web site to see a picture of Peggy Miles sitting in her new car. There were 28 other prizes given away so lots of happy people at the Robbie Burns event. The weather wasn't the best but the pipers, drummers and dancers who were able to come put on a terrific show. For the pipers, drummers and dancers who sold tickets, 10% of your ticket sales go to the band or dance fund.

The Highland Gathering is Back! Bigger and Better than Ever!!

Reserve **June 24, 25, 26** for the return of the best weekend of the summer. The College of Piping will be filled with dancers, pipers, drummers and visitors. In order to make this the best Gathering ever we need your help. If you can volunteer at any time over that weekend, we have a job for you. It can be a couple of hours, a day, or the entire weekend. It takes a lot of hands to make this weekend a success so we are asking everyone in The College of Piping family to help out where they can. Call Jane at 436-5377 and let her know what you can do.

Storm Cancellation

Now that the official winter weather is here, there are several ways you can find out if classes are cancelled at The College. The most up to date information will be found on our blog on the College website, www.collegeofpiping.com . The cancellation will be posted minutes after the decision is made. You can also listen to CBC, CFCY, Magic '93, Ocean 100, K-Rock or CJRW for the closure notice. **Remember, just because school is closed, that doesn't mean The College of Piping is closed.**

And on a non-piping note....

Congratulations go out to Carsen Campbell who will be competing at the Canada Games. It turns out he is not only a talented piper but a strong biathlete as well. The College wishes you much luck and success at these games!

Mark these dates on you calendar

Feb. 5	10 am	Highland dance audition for Highland Storm
Feb. 5	1 pm	Step dance audition for Highland Storm
March 21 to 25		March Break - no classes but lots of time of practice!
April 30	9 am to 4 pm	Piping and Drumming Spring Workshop
June 18		Moncton Highland Games
June 19		The College of Piping Year End Recital
June 24 - 26		Summerside Highland Gathering
July 4		Summer School begins at The College of Piping
July 5		Opening Night of Highland Storm
July 9 - 10		Antigonish Highland Games
July 23 - 24		New Brunswick Highland Games
July 29 - 30		Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville ON
		North American Championships
July 31		Montreal Highland Games

Pipes and Drums at the Empire Theatre

On The Day - the story of the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band

A riveting glimpse into the world of competitive piping. You don't need to be an expert to enjoy this tale of talent, perseverance and camaraderie. Netflix says it "features all the thrills and nail-biting suspense of a sports movie." Make plans see this movie at the Empire Theater in Charlottetown in Feb. 9th at 7 pm or Feb. 13th at 4:00 pm. You won't be disappointed.

Web site

We hope that you are a regular visitor to our new web site. You can read our **Blog**, posted by Kylie, at least twice a week. This is the up-to-the-minute way you can find out about class cancellations and College happenings. Look for upcoming events at The College, check out new courses, find out about our staff, competition results ... if it pertains to The College, it will be on our site. There are links to our Facebook page and other areas of interest as well. Go to www.collegeofpiping.com and check us out.

We are still looking for **pictures and video clips** that we can post. Please copy to a CD and drop off to Jane at the College or to your instructor. They will be passed on to Karen and James for their web approval. Any pictures and clips you have and can send us will be a welcome addition. **Please keep us up to date with competition results**, pictures and video clips. It is all about our College of Piping family and you are an important member.

Highland Dance Competitions

Highland Dancers: a reminder to those who wish to compete, you need to fill out the 2011 Dancer Registration Forms. You will need Karen MacLeod-Wilkie's signature on the photos and forms. Parents may wish to go onto the Scotdancepei.ca site to look ahead to upcoming competitions and to download the registration forms: in particular, Sackville Highland Dancing Competition on February 26th with an application deadline of February 9th.

Congratulations

Both AJ Baldwin and Calum Brydon earned their bagpipes. AJ is a second year student and Calum just picked up the chanter in September! The requirements for earning bagpipes are memorizing four tunes and keeping time with your foot. A big congratulations to both of them for all their hard work and practice. A fantastic new chapter now begins in their piping careers!

Last weekend in Halifax Calum Brydon placed 1st and Ryan Simpson 2nd in the Chanter class. Catherine MacDonald placed 2nd and Sarrah Wood third in Grade 4 and Carson Campbell 2nd in Grade 3 at the Mini Competitions. Great start to the competitive year.

College of Piping Newsletter Trivia

The question for this month is: **In which hit musical did Stephanie Cadman begin her professional career?**

The answer to the last trivia question is Doudle means to drone on the bagpipe (essentially to make a noise on the bagpipe).

Answers in the next newsletter - or you can call Jane if you really want to know

Attendance

A reminder for students and parents that if you can not make your lesson, please either call or email your instructor directly (email and phone information can be found on the website) or call/email our registrar, Jane Dunn. When we do not know that you will not be there, it disrupts not only the schedule but the flow of the class (especially in a small group lesson). This small courtesy is greatly appreciated.

Appointment of Kearsney Smith as Highland Dance Instructor

The highlight of February for The College of Piping will be when our new Highland Dance Instructor, Kearsney Smith arrives from South Africa. Until then, thank you to Karen MacLeod-Wilkie, Haley Porter and Suzanne Wilkie for continuing to teach. They will also help with the transition when Kearsney arrives. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated teachers and students.

Lost and Found

A Black jacket, red gloves left from recital, red and green blankets left from the summer. If any of these sound like something you are missing, give Jane a call at 436-5377.

Gift Shop

New items in the gift shop include the Evolution DVD and CD by the current World Champion St. Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band and Scots Guards books. In Piping supplies we now have Bagpipe Stoppers for Socks, Blow Pipe Valves, Elastics and more. The gift shop is discontinuing our food line so all the chocolates, popcorn, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and short breads are 50% off. The cupcake, pancake and scone mixes are 50% off as well.

HIGHLAND STORM AUDITIONS

Mark your calendars!!! HIGHLAND STORM auditions will be taking place on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Stephanie Cadman will be here conducting the auditions.

Highland Dance Auditions will start at 10:00 am. Auditions will take place in the main hall at The College of Piping. A sign up sheet and registration form will be available upon arrival. **Step Dance Auditions** will take place in the main hall starting at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 5, 2011. As you arrive, sign in for your audition slot and fill out an audition registration form. **Casting Priority will be given to students registered at The College of Piping.** Highland Storm will be running Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, opening on July 5, 2011 through to Thursday, September 1, 2011 (33 shows in total). There will be no shows on Thursday, August 28 or Monday, August 1, 2011. If selected for Highland Storm - all performers - pipers, drummers and dancers - **all rehearsals are mandatory.** There will be a weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) in May - this has been confirmed as May 27, 28 & 29 - **also Mandatory.**

The following is the preliminary rehearsal schedule for June (subject to change as required):

Monday, June 20 - Thursday, June 23, 2011 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Summerside Highland Gathering takes place June 24, 25 & 26, 2011

Monday, June 27 - June 30, 2011 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday, July 1st - Day Off

Saturday, July 2 - Afternoon Rehearsal - Evening Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, July 3 - 1:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Monday, July 4 - Afternoon Rehearsal - Show Preview 7:30 pm

Tuesday, July 5 - Afternoon Rehearsal - Opening Night

For Step and Highland Dancers - all selected dancers will be performing on a rotational schedule for the summer. On any given night that you are not scheduled to perform, you are considered the Alternate Dancer for that show and must be available to perform up until 2:00 pm on that day. If you do not receive a call or e-mail prior to 2:00 pm, it will be your night off.

SUMMER PERFORMANCES

For the summer of 2011, we would like to offer our College of Piping students - in the discipline in which they are registered - the opportunity to perform on a daily basis for a **live audience.** Each day, Monday to Friday at 11:30 am, 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm, we offer mini-concerts. These 30 minute concerts are co-ordinated and presented by 4 of our instructors - a piper, drummer, highland dancer and step dancer and run during July and August. This will give you 120 opportunities to perform. In May, we will set up a master schedule and you will be able to sign up for as many concerts as you like, throughout the summer, based on your schedule. With each performance, you will be able to perform with an instructor, showcase a solo performance or dance with some of your friends in a choreographed dance that you are working on. Fill your summer schedule with practice and performance!!!