



What an exciting year 2011 will be at The College of Piping. Between re-launching the Summerside Highland Gathering, running Highland Storm 4 nights a week, and organizing our pipe bands for the North American Championships in Maxville, we will be busy. And that doesn't include the Spring workshops, summer mini-concerts, bus tours, dance competitions, Summer workshops, and the thousand and one other things that go in to making the year a success. We couldn't do it without you so please volunteer to help with The Gathering, Highland Storm, the bands or anywhere you have an interest and see a need.

Driving a Mustang - WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are raffling off a 2011 Ford Mustang Convertible. There are also an additional 27 prizes to be won. Only 1000 tickets to be sold. \$100.00 per ticket. The funds raised through this draw will help the College of Piping in many ways. Please contact Jane and get some tickets to sell. Tickets can be purchased by individuals or groups. Be creative with your selling ideas. If you are a piper or drummer selling tickets, 10% of your ticket sales goes to the band. Dancers selling tickets see 10% of their sales going to the dance fund.

Car Raffle Draw

A Robbie Burns event is being planned for Friday, January 21, 2011. During this event all 28 prizes will be drawn, including the 2011 Ford Mustang Convertible. Your admission to this event is your ticket stub from the Car Raffle. The event will begin at 7:00 pm in the main hall at The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada.

Christmas Recital

Thank you to all those who participated in the Christmas recital. Every dancer, piper and drummer out did themselves. It was so exciting to see the progress our students have made since September. The Salvation Army appreciated our support as we collected lots of canned goods for their Christmas Hampers. Thank you to all those who supported The College with Goodwill offerings. We have a black jacket and red mitts that were left at the recital in or lost and found. If these are yours, please let Jane know.

Governor General our new Patron

We have received a letter from Rideau Hall indicating the His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston has accepted our invitation to become a Patron of the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada.

Our new web site is up and running!!

We are so excited to have such visual and interactive 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 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 looking for **pictures and video clips** that we can post. If you have pictures or video clips from Highland games competitions, dance competitions or anything else from this past year that you think would be suitable for the web site, 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.

Storm Cancellation

If we need to cancel classes due to weather conditions please listen to CBC, CFCY, Magic '93 or CJRW for the closure notice. The information will also be posted on Kylie's Blog on the College website www.collegeofpiping.com

Highland Dance Competitions

Highland Dancers a reminder might 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. She will be able to do this as soon as she returns. Parents may wish to go onto the Scotdancepei 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.

ACPBA memberships for Pipers and Drummers

Pipers and drummers who wish to solo compete for 2011 must become members of the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association. Individual memberships are due before January 1st and are \$20.00. To do so, go to acpba.ca and click on membership.

College of Piping Newsletter Trivia

The question for this month is: What does the word doudle mean?

The answer to the last trivia question is **Daniel Carr and David Wilton.**

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

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 - to be determined at a later date, based on Stephanie's schedule - **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!!!

Have you written your letter??

Piping and drumming students are reminded to write their thank you letters to Doug and Debbie Hall. These letters were supposed to be in before Christmas. **If you have not written you letter and given it to your instructor or Jane please do so immediately!!!** Doug and Debbie Hall generously cover your tuition under the Hall Scholarship program. Please tell the Hall's how you are enjoying your classes, what you are learning, and anything else you think they would like to know.

Appointment of Kearsney Smith as Highland Dance Instructor

Karen and James are pleased to announce the appointment of Kearsney Smith, to the position of Highland Dance Instructor. Kearsney will be joining the team at The College in January 2011 and will handle the coordination and implementation of all Highland Dance programming. With the guidance and leadership of James, her role will encompass overall programming of annual curriculums, summer camps, bi-annual workshops in Highland dance and Highland Storm choreography.

Kearsney Smith began dancing at the age of five and competing in Championship at the age of ten. She won her first South African Championship in 1999 at the age of eleven and then again in 2000, 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2010. She has competed in Scotland and Canada since the age of ten, placing at Cowal three times. In 2002, Kearsney was part of the South African team that performed for the Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. She has also performed in the Hamilton Tattoo in Ontario and the South African Tattoo. Kearsney has performed in many choreography competitions and since qualifying as a member of the SOBHD in 2009, she has both taught and choreographed in her mother's studio. This past year Kearsney has taken a professional choreography course and within the next five years she hopes to qualify as a judge. Once she has taught for five years, her goal is to get her Fellowship qualification.

Stay tuned for Kearsney's arrival date to Canada

Gift Shop

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.

And on a non-piping note....

Nancy Pitre - our wonderful bookkeeper - will be flying off to Calgary the end of January to cheer on her son as he competes in the National Junior Boys Curling Championships in Calgary. Spencer Pitre is the skip of the Island team. Way To Go Spencer!! (and of course behind every successful son is a terrific Mum)

Tuition

Tuition is now past due unless you are making monthly payments. If you have not paid your second installment **please do so immediately**. Call Jane at 436-5377 to make arrangements.