



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR
*THE SUMMERSIDE
HIGHLAND GATHERING***

June 24, 25, 26, 2011

Contact Jane Dunn - 436-5377

What a wonderful opportunity to take part in the best weekend the Island will have to offer this summer! You will see and hear the top pipers, drummers and dancers in Atlantic Canada. You will experience top local Island entertainment Friday and Saturday evening. Who wouldn't want to be a part of this amazing event?

Hard as it is to think of a time when grass will be growing, birds will be chirping, and The College of Piping will be Gathering, June will be here before we know it.

Volunteers are needed for morning, afternoon and evening shifts. Sign up early and you will have your pick of times, activities and venues. If you fill a minimum 4 hour shift you will receive a weekend pass to The Gathering. There will be an information training session in early June to let you know just what you will be doing.

Once the weather clears and spring is in the air - the snow is all gone - we will be putting together weekend work groups to get the field ready for The Gathering. Jobs will range from getting the roof on the amphitheatre to cutting bush in the field. Repairs will need to take place on the bleachers and stages. All are welcome - the more hands, the better. I am in the office Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm so please call and let me know when you would like to volunteer. I'm waiting to hear from you! ... still waiting!!

Ceilidh

The Ceilidh that was planned for March has been moved to April. Once a date is confirmed we will let you know. More information in the next newsletter.

March Break

There are no classes during March Break ☹️ but there is the whole week for you to spend lots of time of practicing 😊!

Storm Cancellation

I know that almost everyone has had their fill of snow, but just in case we get a wee bit more before spring arrives, remember that there are several ways to find out about class cancellations at The College. The most up to date information will be found on 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.*****

Saturday Band Practice/Workshop Schedule

March 5th - Summerside

Grade 5 - 9:00am - 10:30am Grade 4 - 10:30am - 12:30pm

April 9th - Charlottetown (*Colonel Gray High School*)

Grade 5 - 9:00am - 10:30am Grade 4 - 10:30am - 12:30pm

April 30th - * Summerside (*College of Piping - Piping & Drumming Workshop*) *

Grade 5 - 9:00am - 4:00pm Grade 4 - 9:00am - 4:00pm

May 28th - Summerside (*College of Piping - Piping & Drumming Workshop*)

Grade 5 - 9:00am - 10:30am Grade 4 - 10:30am - 12:30pm

Please note - we had to change the May 28th location due to Highland Storm activities. To compensate we may change the April 30th to Charlottetown - stay tuned!

Congratulations

Sarah MacDonnell successfully passed her four tune requirement to earn her bagpipes at her lesson! Sarah is the second of the first year students to earn her bagpipes. A big congratulations to her for all her hard work! Now the fun really begins!

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. A master schedule has been set up 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!!! Call Jane or stop by the office to fill out your times.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you to Barry MacLean for the amazing job he did shoveling out the path for us to be able to get the oil tank at The College filled up. Barry, you are our Superman!

Time Change

Remember that our clocks spring forward an hour at midnight on March 12th. That will give you an extra hour of light in the evening to practice!

Featured Gift Shop Items

A *Masterblasters* Victoria Police Pipe Band CD (24.99) to brighten up your day. A Scottish Wool Rug (79.99) to sunzzle up in as you listen to the CD and an Irish sticky note (3.50) to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the 17th.

Kearsney Smith Arrival on March 2nd

The highlight of March for The College of Piping is the arrival of our new Highland Dance Instructor, Kearsney Smith from South Africa. Thank you to Karen MacLeod-Wilkie, Hayley Porter and Susanne Wilkie for teaching in January and February. They will still be coming to classes during the first week of transition - that is up to and including Tuesday, March 8th. Karen will work with Kearsney on the Wednesday night choreography class. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated teachers and students.

Piping News

James will be a featured performer at the Halifax Pipers' Club on March 12, at the Christchurch Hall, 61 Dundas Street in Dartmouth NS. This is the same day as the Halifax Citadel Mini-Gathering. Doors open at 7 p.m. with music starting at 8, and a ceilidh will follow. Pipers are encouraged to "have a turn" at performing during this portion.

Highland Dance Costumes

A reminder to all those who have borrowed costuming for the Christmas concert or for last season's competitions, we would like the costuming back so we can get people newly fitted for this spring. We ask that parents sign out anything they borrow. The items we are sharing are valuable and an important way we try to support our dancers in their endeavours.

Highland Storm Volunteers

Our terrific new production of Highland Storm begins on July 5th and runs Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights until September 1st. Volunteers are needed to take tickets at the door, give out pre-paid tickets and work in the canteen. If you can help, please call Jane at 436-5377.

Sackville Highland Competitions February 28

Beginner 10 years and over: Emma MacKenzie Fling 3rd, Sword 1st, Lilt 1st, Flora 1st and High Aggregate Winner, Sherra Rogers Flora 5th

Novice 10 years and over: Sarah MacDonald Sword 4th, Lilt 5th

If anyone has good photos from Sackville, please send them to James or Karen so we can keep our website up-to-date!

Summer School

Piping and Drumming week-long summer studies are available starting July 4, running through to August 26. Some weeks will have tighter restrictions on number of students accepted due to our instructors' schedules. Once we have reached that number registrations will be closed, so students are encouraged to register early. The deadline to register is one week before the chosen session begins.

Highland and Step Dance summer programs will be available through July and August and the schedules are currently being determined.

All levels are offered each week in Piping, Drumming, Highland and Step Dance; the format of each week will be determined based on the levels of experience of the registrants. A typical week includes a mix of theoretical and practical instruction, practice time and space, and performance. Limited placements are available on a first come, first served basis. Tuition fee: \$450. Tuition for College of Piping students is half price: \$225.00

For more information check out The College of Piping web site: www.collegeofpiping.com

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.

College of Piping Newsletter Trivia

The question for this month is: **Who are the current pipe band world champions?**

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

The answer to last month's trivia is Swingstep

Add a little spring and support the Cancer Society

The Canadian Cancer Society is selling fresh-cut daffodils at \$7.00 for 10 flowers. Place and pay for your order at the College between now and the 17th of March. The daffodils will be available for pick-up on Tuesday, March 29. What a wonderful way to add a little spring into someone's life!