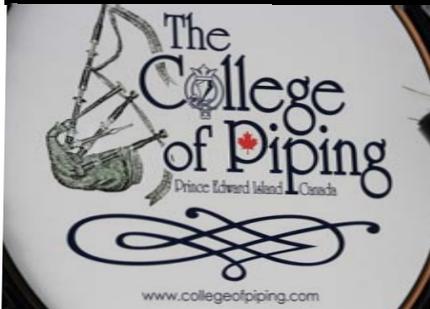


# the Celtic Connection

FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



## EMAILS

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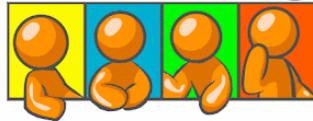
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Our newsletter is published every month. It is available in hardcopy and on our website:  
[www.collegeofpiping.com](http://www.collegeofpiping.com)

The **College website** is a fantastic source of information on the College of Piping and its activities. You will find up to date information on the blog, access to our Facebook page and Twitter account, pictures of events at The College and at events we have attended. Class offerings, staff biographies, College history, competition results, photos and much more can be found on the site. Take a look and find out more about us.

## Town Hall Meeting “Making your College of Piping Voice Count”



Our Executive Director, Karen Hatcher, would like to invite all parents, students, volunteers and supporters of The College of Piping to a Town Hall meeting on

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 6 pm in the main hall at The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada.** Topics of discussion will include education programs, College fundraising, pipe band fundraising, dance fundraising, pipe band and dance travel, College of Piping events and just an overall discussion on The College of Piping.

This will be a great opportunity for everyone to engage in conversation on where we have been and where we are going, to share ideas and to help make plans for the future. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

## Message from the Director of Education regarding Charlottetown classes:

As of September 2016, The College of Piping will no longer be offering classes in piping, drumming, Highland or step dance at Trinity United Church in Charlottetown. **All regularly scheduled classes, band and dance company practices will be conducted at the College in Summerside.**

The decision was made for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the expense of the rental space vs tuition; increasing tuition fees to offset the cost of the space is not a palatable option, particularly since we have our own customized facility available. (Plus, our space in Summerside is much better suited to instruction, and in particular the Highland dance studio has the right give in the floor, which will reduce the chances of injury).

There is another less tangible reason, but a strong one. Being a College student is being part of a community, and that inclusion is not there at the church. This facility in Summerside facilitates greater engagement, and students get a chance to see the various performing groups more often and so have a clearer idea of what they are aiming for - why they practice, and where they might be going. As an educator, this reason is a very strong one for me. Kids need to know where they are going and what the possibilities are for their development, rather than just coming to one half hour per week in relative isolation.

There is also greater scheduling flexibility if we are only running classes out of Summerside - Monday through Thursday will be available until the time slots fill up.

I hope to see each of you here at the College in Summerside in the fall, and I am confident that you will find the change worthwhile!

## Grocery Bagging (Tomorrow)

The College of Piping Dance Company will be at the **Charlottetown Superstore (465 University Ave) on Saturday April 2nd from 11:30am-3:30pm!** Come on by to pick up some groceries and support our dancers as they fundraise for their upcoming trip to Halifax to compete at the BATD Festival of Dance in May.



## Instructors for 2015/2016 year

James MacHattie –  
Director of Education

Kylie MacHattie - Bagpiping  
Nick vanOuwkerk - Bagpiping  
Chris Coleman - Drumming  
Sam Ramsay - Drumming  
Dance

Marielle Lespérance - Highland  
Chelsey Sanderson - Step(Lead)

## Skype Lessons

Skype lessons are being offered in piping, drumming and highland dance. Please contact our director of Education, James MacHattie, for more information on how you can learn to pipe or drum from the comforts of your own home.

## Contact

If you have any questions, concerns or words of praise, please contact Karen Hatcher, Executive Director or James MacHattie, Director of Education. They can be reached at 436-5377 or e-mailed at [karen.hatcher@collegeofpiping.com](mailto:karen.hatcher@collegeofpiping.com) or [james.machattie@collegeofpiping.com](mailto:james.machattie@collegeofpiping.com)

## Competitions and Photos

Please check the College of Piping website for the most up-to-date results from the summer competitions. These can be found at: <http://www.collegeofpiping.com/competitionresults.php>. You can also find the most up-to-date photos from all of our various competitions, fundraisers and events. These can be found at: <http://www.collegeofpiping.com/photogalleries.php>



### Handicapped Parking

Only vehicles with handicapped parking stickers should be parking in the handicapped parking designated areas. Thank you very much for your co-operation.



## National Volunteer Week – April 10-16, National Volunteer Week 2016

Volunteers are a vital part of keeping a charitable organization like ours running smoothly. We know that we couldn't do what we do without the help of our fabulous volunteers! So, **from the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!!** We appreciate the time you take to help us out in many different ways, whether it be volunteering in the office, putting the roof and sets up in the amphitheatre in preparation for Highland Storm or removing them all at the end of the season, or cleaning up the field, we thank you! **For those who volunteer during the run of Highland Storm in the summer and all those other tasks that you do so willingly, we thank you all!**

### And speaking of volunteers...

It's that time of year again...hard to believe we are thinking about summer already!! **We are looking for volunteers to help clean up the amphitheatre and back field in preparation for our summer season.** The date is weather dependant, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page and email in box, if you are on our volunteer list!

**As well, we are looking for volunteers filled with enthusiasm to volunteer for Highland Storm this summer.** For Highland Storm we will need people who love to deal with the public and are interested in the following areas – ticket taking, handing out programs, giving out prepaid tickets, working in concessions, etc. If you think you'd be interested in volunteering for any of these things, please contact Sue and let her know!

Sue can be reached at [sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpiping.com](mailto:sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpiping.com) or 902-436-5377. We thank you in advance for your assistance!



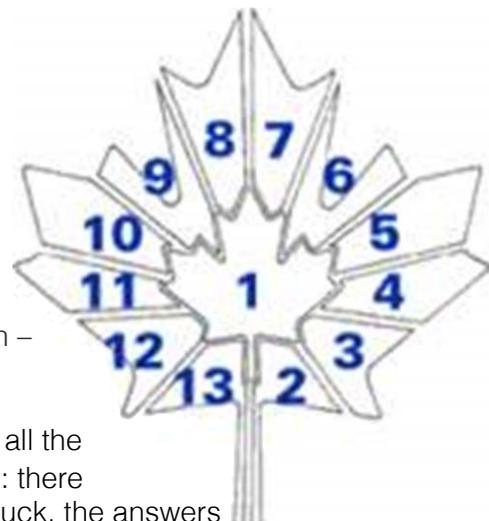
## Tartan Day

Tartan Day is an annual celebration of Scottish heritage held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, which coincides with the date that the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. This declaration confirms Scotland as a sovereign state. Tartan Day in Canada originated in Nova Scotia in 1987 and all other provinces were petitioned to recognize

April 6<sup>th</sup> as Tartan Day, which they did, eventually!

Tartan Day celebrations are held throughout the world, but in Ottawa they have a large celebration at noon on April 6<sup>th</sup> or the closest Sunday to Tartan Day on Parliament Hill. In 2011 Tartan Day celebrated Canada's tartan – called the Maple Leaf!

**Tartan Day quiz...**...can you name all the Canadian tartans shown below? Note: there isn't a tartan for Nunavut. If you get stuck, the answers at the end of the newsletter!!





## Gold Rush 50/50 Draw

Don't forget to put your toonie in for the 50/50 Draw! You could be the lucky winner. The draw will be made each Thursday evening at the College of Piping in Summerside. If the number drawn on the draw day is a number for a person who did not sign in for that week's draw, that portion of the money is added to the following week's draw. This will increase the amount of winnings until a number is drawn that belongs to someone who has signed in. If you haven't signed up yet, come to The College or any of the participating locations, fill out a number slip and add your name to the book. Then all you have to do is put your toonie in each week and wait to be the winner!

### Participating locations

- College of Piping, Summerside
- Kensington Food Basket, Kensington
- Gallants Clover Farm, Rustico
- Gass's Store, New Haven
- Race Trac Gas, Stanley Bridge
- Wilson Gas, Summerside
- Reids Corner Esso, Summerside
- Granville Street Esso, Summerside
- Griffins Smoke Shop, Sobeyes, Summerside
- Lights Smoke Shop, Summerside
- Summerside Butcher Shop
- Water Street Bakery, Summerside
- Credit Union Place, Summerside
- Needs Convenience, Water St. Summerside

Pass this message on to your friends and family and get them to enter our weekly draw and support the College of Piping Pipe Bands.

## Chocolate bar fundraiser



The College of Piping Dance Company is once again selling chocolate bars! To buy some of our assorted flavours for yourself, friends and family, see any of our company members. Put your toonies to good use by supporting our dancers and satisfying your sweet tooth!

## Pipe Bands and Dancers Fundraising Concert – June 4th!

On Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> the bands and dancers will be putting on a fundraising concert at the College at 7:00. In addition to the incredible entertainment, there will be a silent auction, a cake auction, concessions, 50/50 and a great atmosphere! Tickets are \$10 and will be available soon from pipers, drummers, dancers and from the gift shop. See you there!

## Marielle's Excursion to Scotland and Ireland

This February, our highland instructor, Marielle, was privileged to be invited to Scotland and Ireland, where she shared her talents and learned from renowned instructors and dance performance experts. Marielle was a guest presenter at the University of Limerick's Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, in their seminar entitled "Tough at the Top: Maintaining Excellence in Performance Practice". She spoke about the mental and physical challenges that must be overcome to achieve success in dance and performance. In Scotland, Marielle was a guest performer, workshop instructor and lecturer at the 26th Annual UKA Highland Gathering. She offered her ideas about conditioning, overcoming performance anxiety, choreography, and technique for the 2016 highland championship steps, and performed a solo choreography at their evening banquet. Marielle had a wonderful trip and has returned full of inspiration and ideas!

## Spring Showers Boot Special!!

It's been a mucky winter, and by now, you probably need a new pair of boots! All of our dancer and piper wellies must go! The regular price was \$79.99 and are now on sale for \$39.99, which is a 50% discount! These boots are imported from Scotland and are great quality. We have the dancer's boots in blue and pink and the piper's boots in white, in a variety of sizes. Please drop by the gift shop to try on a pair and make a purchase!

While you are at it, our delicious Cape Breton fudge is on clearance for \$3.50 each, regular price is \$5.60.

Other items are being marked down as well, so plan to make your way into the gift shop for some great deals on select College of Piping items!





## Snow, Wind, Ice, Sleet, Freezing Rain – Winter/ Spring Weather

In case of bad weather please make sure that you check the College of Piping blog at [www.collegeofpiping.com](http://www.collegeofpiping.com), check out our FaceBook page, or go online and check out the cancellation lists on the various local radio station's webpages (keep scrolling past the schools!). **We do not always follow the school closings!**



## Bottle and Can Drive!

Keep saving those bottles! The College of Piping dancers are hoping that you will continue to save your bottles and drop them off to Don's bottle exchange at your convenience (just make you sure mention that they are being donated to the College of Piping account when you do)! Thank you! Please let your Face book friends know as well, you never know who'd be willing to help support our dancers' fundraising goals!

## Piobaireachd Challenge

The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada presents the 2016 Atlantic Canada Piobaireachd Challenge in partnership with the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association. The event will take place at The College on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

**New for 2016:** The College is adding March competitions for grades 5 and 4, and MSR events for grades 3 through professional.

We are pleased to introduce Alan Bevan, Gold Medalist and Pipe Major of the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, as our judge. Alan will also be running piobaireachd and light music workshops at The College on Sunday, April 24. Alan is the pipe major of the six time world champion pipe band, the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band. Alan is a successful soloist having won both the Argyllshire Gathering Gold Medal at Oban and the Northern Meeting Gold Medal in Inverness. He has also won the Donald MacLeod competition and many other top solo prizes.



## The National Piping Centre and The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada Summer School

**Saturday, July 2 – Monday, July 4, 2016**

The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada and the National Piping Centre from Glasgow are continuing a partnership to offer the 2nd Summerside Piping and Drumming School, a festival of piping and drumming dedicated to education and performance. Finlay Johnston from the National Piping Centre will join the College of Piping faculty in Summerside from Saturday July 2 through Monday July 4. In 2015 Finlay achieved the rare feat of winning both the Gold Medal and the A-Grade MSR at the Northern Meeting.

Students will receive hands-on class time per day, with a rotation of instructors through the school. Classes will be kept small so each student receives appropriate attention. In addition, workshops and other events will be offered.

All piping registrations are taken through the National Piping Centre at <http://www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/bagpipe-drumming-schools/p-e-i-summerside/>. All drumming registrations will be taken through the College of Piping.

## Who is Finlay Johnston?

Finlay began learning the pipes at the age of 8 with his Grandfather (Alastair Sinclair) during a summer spent with him at his home on the Isle of Tiree. He began receiving lessons from Ronnie McShannon shortly afterwards and continued to do so since.

Finlay has been surrounded by piping his whole life – His mother (Anne Johnston) was a very successful solo piper, being the first woman ever to win the Silver Medal.





Scent Free  
**ZONE**

**Tartan Day quiz answers:**

- 1) Maple Leaf
- 2) Newfoundland
- 3) PEI
- 4) Nova Scotia
- 5) New Brunswick
- 6) Quebec
- 7) Ontario
- 8) Manitoba
- 9) Saskatchewan
- 10) Alberta
- 11) British Columbia
- 12) Northwest Territories
- 13) Yukon Territory

Finlay's father (Tommy Johnston) was also a successful pipe band drummer and played under Leading Drummer Alex Duthart.

Finlay has played in several pipe bands over his career, most recently with Inveraray & District under Pipe Major Stuart Liddell. He spent 4 years with Inveraray, during their rise from Grade 2 to the top end of Grade 1. Prior to this he played in The Spirit of Scotland Pipe band under Pipe Major Roddy MacLeod and also the 52nd Lowland Regiment under Pipe Major Gordon Walker.

## Summer School at The College of Piping



Have you ever wanted to learn how to Highland or step dance? Have you dreamed of learning to play the bagpipes or snare drum? If you have, then summer school at The College of Piping is the best place to learn. **We offer week long (Monday to Friday) classes, for 1 – 2 hours per day, depending upon your discipline for reasonable prices!** Classes are tailored to your goals and skill level and we provide a fun and creative learning experience with our highly skilled instructors! For more information on our classes, please follow this link. <http://collegeofpiping.com/become-a-student/2015-summer-programs/> If you'd like to register to become a student at The College, please contact Sue at [sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpiping.com](mailto:sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpiping.com)

## Walk So Kids Can Talk – a Fundraiser for the Kids Help Phone

The Walk will be held on May 1st at the UPEI Canada Games facility with registration open at 12 pm.



The walk is a 5k walk or run followed by entertainment and refreshments and more!

Anyone can sign up for the Walk and accept online pledges and donations through the website

[Walksokidscantalk.ca](http://Walksokidscantalk.ca)

Pledge forms can be printed if people do not want to pledge online. You can sign up as an individual or in teams.

The organizing committee is looking for volunteers for the event to help with set up, clean up and handing out refreshments. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the day, it would be greatly appreciated. To volunteer contact

[Kimberly.davey@gmail.com](mailto:Kimberly.davey@gmail.com)

Information on the kids help phone can be found on [kidshelpphone.ca](http://kidshelpphone.ca)

Some info on PEI:

According to Stats Canada, 20% of Islanders are under the age of 20 and in 2013 children from 19 communities on PEI reached out to counsellors via phone, texting and online chats.

This is truly a wonderful community of people dedicated to helping empower our young people to take charge of their lives and feel more in control.