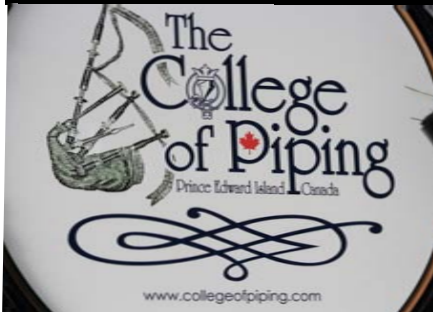


# the Celtic Connection

FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



## EMAILS

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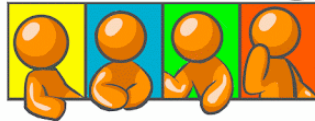
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Our address:  
619 Water Street East  
Summerside PE  
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Our newsletter is published every month. It is available in hardcopy and on our website:  
[www.collegeofpiping.com](http://www.collegeofpiping.com)

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.



## External Credentialing Program

Have you heard that you can get high school graduation credits from The College now? Through the External Credentialing program, grade 12 students can get graduation credits in piping, drumming, highland or step dance if they achieve a required standard. Interested students should ask James MacHattie for more information.

## Aeroplan Beyond Miles Charitable Pooling Program

The College of Piping is now part of **Aeroplan's Charitable Pooling Program**, which focuses on supporting organizations and individuals who want to improve the lives of people in their local communities. The charitable pooling option is meant to extend that philosophy to a local level, where

charitable community efforts are aimed at enriching and improving community life. **Our Aeroplan account is #787 694 595 and we hope that you will consider donating some of your Aeroplan points to The College of Piping!** We are thrilled to be a part of such a recognized program. Please share this information with your friends and family...ever point helps! Here is a link to our profile and once you get onto our page,

there is a donate now button. <https://beyondmiles.aeroplan.com/eng/charities?search=The+College+of+Piping+and+Celtic+Performing+Arts&category=>



## 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.



## Tickets are on Sale Now!!

Have you started to think about your summer plans for this year? If you are coming to PEI, you should make sure that you find time in your schedule to visit The College and see this year's all new version

of Highland Storm! The show is being planned out as this is being written, and we are all very excited about what will be on stage this year.

This year the show is previewing on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and opening in July 4<sup>th</sup>. Show nights in July will be Monday to Wednesday evenings and in August Monday to Thursday evenings, closing on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

For further information and ticket prices, please either email Sue at [sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpiping.com](mailto:sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpiping.com) or visit our website at [www.collegeofpiping.com](http://www.collegeofpiping.com)

We hope to see you in the audience this year!

## Medal Tests

Each year, dance students from around the world are able to be examined in their individual level of study by an adjudicator, receiving critique as well as a certificate (and medal) recommending their level of study in the following year. The College of Piping's step dance program runs through BATD (British Association of Teachers of Dancing) regulations, and therefore recommends testing to all of our step students levels pre-bronze (age 6) and up.

The BATD will be sending one of their qualified Traditional Step Dance examiners to the College of Piping on Friday April 22nd.

Miss Christine Aitken, from Scotland, has been dancing since the age of 2 1/2 years, winning the Scottish Championship at Cowal in 1957. She is the Principal of the Christine E. Aitken Academy of Dance in Paisley & Johnstone and has been teaching for 38 years, Chairman of the Association's Highland Committee and member of the Stage and Ballet Committee. Christine is an Examiner with the B.A.T.D. and also S.O.B.H.D. Adjudicator.

We are very honoured to have her as our examiner this year, and hope to have a very strong showing of dancers for her to review. Exams are to be booked through Chelsey, so if your student is interested in participating in these exams, please speak with her directly.

## Grocery Bagging

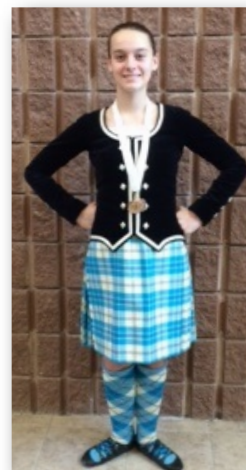


The College of Piping Dance Company will be at the Charlottetown Superstore (465 University Ave) on Saturday April 2nd from 11:30am-3:30pm! Come on by to pick up some groceries and support our dancers as they fundraise for their upcoming trip to Halifax to compete at the BATD Festival of Dance in May.

## Highland results

Congratulations to Shakira Gallant who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in both the Fling and the Sword in the Premier 12 category at the February Fling on February 13, in Moncton, NB!

Way to go Shakira!





## 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.

## Special Guests at Pipe Band Weekend, March 5 & 6

On March 5 and 6 the pipe bands will be put through their paces by a workshop from three of the world's best.



**Ryan Canning** is the Pipe Major of the current World Champions Shotts and Dykehead;



**Blair Brown** teaches at St. Thomas Episcopal Schools in Houston Texas and has won numerous world pipe band championships and placed in the top six at the world solo drumming;



**Matt Bellia** is a member of the Toronto Police Pipe Band and is a well-respected tenor drummer.

They will check in on the three bands' progress over the weekend and leave them with more pointers to be as good as they possibly can be by summer! **Come by for a listen that weekend if you want to see or hear how it goes!**

## 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.



## 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)





## Snow, Wind, Ice, Sleet, Freezing Rain – Winter 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!



FundScrip

Scent Free  
**ZONE**

## 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. His 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.

## Important March Dates for Students and Parents

Just a reminder, there will be **no classes, band practices or dance company rehearsals** during March break week – March 21-25.

The only exception is Highland Dance, which Marielle has sent emails to arrange times with everyone for her make up lessons while she was away.

The College will be closed on

Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday

Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Easter Monday.

# The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada Post Secondary Scholarship Criteria

## Purpose

The purpose of The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada Post Secondary Scholarship is to financially support the post secondary learning endeavors of a graduating high school student who is registered at The College of Piping & Celtic Performing Arts of Canada. Awarding of this scholarship shall help to preserve the unique traditions and skills associated with performing the historic Scottish arts and to provide funding for continued study and development. One \$1,000.00 non-renewable scholarship is available to a graduate of any of the 11 high schools on Prince Edward Island.

## Criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant must be a registered student of The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada
- Applicants must have proof of acceptance at a recognized Canadian university or college
- Demonstrate a commitment to learning and show excellence, or the potential for excellence, in their chosen College of Piping discipline

NB: Consideration will be given to extra-curricular involvement, leadership roles and education plans

Consideration will be given for community volunteerism

## Application Requirements

Applicants must send the following:

- **A submission letter** (include name, address, contact information, instructor's name)
- **A letter of recommendation** from their current instructor (should outline the applicant's skill level, frequency of instruction, progress made thus far, commitment, demonstrated proficiency, and anticipated development)
- **A short essay** stating your educational plans and why you should be considered for The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada Scholarship. No more than 500 words. The applicant introduces themselves to the committee (indicating their background in their College of Piping discipline, personal accomplishments, future goals, extra-curricular involvement, volunteerism, etc.)

*All awarded monies will be sent directly from The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada to the applicant's accepted university or college. No payments will be made directly to the applicant.*

Completed applications should be sent by April 1, 2016 to:

Karen Hatcher

Executive Director

The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada

## International Women's Day – March 8, 2016

Did you know that the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women in July 2010? It is an entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. According to the UN Women website "Empowering women fuels thriving economies, spurring productivity and growth. Yet gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in every society. Women lack access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. They are too often denied access to basic education and health care. Women in all parts of the world suffer violence and discrimination. They are under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes."

According to World Vision's Micro loan site, "Women work nearly two-thirds of the world's working hours – produce half of the world's food – yet earn only 10 percent of the world's income. Female entrepreneurs use approximately 92 cents of each dollar of extra income on their children's health and education."

We are blessed here in Summerside, PEI and Canada that most of us have opportunities to choose a path for a career that many women in other countries can only dream of. We have an amazing leader, Karen Hatcher, at the helm of The College of Piping and we have one of only a few female Pipe Majors in the world in the talented Kylie MacHattie. To round out our very skilled female portion of the instruction team, we have our fast footed and quick witted BATD certified step instructor, Chelsey Sanderson and our newest addition to the team, graceful and four-time world champion Highland dance instructor, Marielle Lespérance! Something to celebrate, I'd say!

