

the Celtic Connection

FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



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Our newsletter is published every month. It is available in hardcopy and on our website: www.collegeofpiping.com

The **College website** is a wonderful 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.**

Welcome Back

Such a busy summer with so much to tell you about. And the fall will be equally as busy – lots of news on that front also!

Hope all our students are enjoying, dancing, drumming and/or piping. It is wonderful to see everyone so excited when coming in for class and it was great to meet our Charlottetown and Cornwall class members.

We are honoured to have you as a part of our Celtic Arts family. Whether you are taking instruction in piping, drumming or dancing, you are learning from dedicated, talented and passionate teachers who have experience and expertise in their discipline. During this year we will all endeavor to help you reach your potential, have fun, and learn.



Communication is important. We will try to keep you up to date with what is going on at the College and with all the programs. We need to have some feedback from you as well. We have great instructional and administrative staff with passion and vision for The College. Instructors will be meeting with students and parents over the next few weeks to introduce themselves and set positive, realistic goals for the first term. This will be a great opportunity to share expectations. Jane Magee, our registrar, is available to answer any questions you may have about class times, locations or payments. She can be reached at The College of Piping at 436-5377 or at jane.magee@collegeofpiping.com

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You We couldn't do it without you!

We had over 150 volunteers help with College of Piping activities this past year. Faithful volunteers helped put up tents for the Highland Gathering, staffed the canteen for Highland Storm, dismantled and put up the roof on the amphitheater, helped with tickets for the Barra MacNeils concert, prepared lunches for the judges at the Highland Gathering, chaperoned for band and dance competitions, fundraised to not only help get the Grade 3 band to Scotland but both bands to the various Highland Games in the Maritimes- the list could go on for several pages. With the time, effort and enthusiasm that our volunteers give it is absolutely amazing what The College of Piping can accomplish.

Competition Results

Not only were we busy at The College this summer with Highland Storm but almost every weekend our bands and dancers were competing on the summer Highland Games circuit.

You can see the results of all the hard work and practice our students put in though out the year on our website www.collegeofpiping.com. Go to **Competition Results** to see the placements and **Photo Gallery** to see pictures taken at each of the games. The summer started with the Moncton Highland Gathering and then proceeded to the Summerside Highland Gathering, the Pugwash Highland Games, Canadian Highland Dance Championships, Antigonish Highland Games, New Brunswick Highland Games (Fredericton), and then to Scotland.

Instructors for 2012/2013 year

James MacHattie –
Director of Education

Kylie MacHattie – Bagpiping
Chris Coleman – Drumming
Sam Ramsay – Drumming

Dance

Kearsney Smith – Highland
Samantha MacKinnon – Step(Lead)
Rebecca Dawson – Step
Shanea Rogers – Step

No Classes

There will be no classes on
Thanksgiving Day, or during the
Christmas break. We will be
closed for the same two week
period that the schools are closed
for the Christmas break.

Snow, wind, ice, sleet, freezing rain, storms

In case of bad weather make sure
you check The College of Piping
blog at www.collegeofpiping.com
or listen to the radio to see if we
are closed. The blog will always
have up to date information. We
do not always follow the school
closings.



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Registration Payments

Just a reminder that tuition for classes can be paid in full upon registration or at first class. The registration can also be paid in two equal installments. The first payment can be made upon registration or at first class and the second payment must be made on or before December 14th. Payments can be made by Debit, Visa, MasterCard, Cash or Cheque. If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch with Jane at jane.magee@collegeofpiping.com or by calling 436-5377. Once registered, no refund will be issued if a student decides to withdraw from the program for any reason.

Pipe and Drum Deposit

All College of Piping students who have a set of College pipes or a drum need to pay a deposit. Once the instrument is returned in good condition, your deposit will be returned to you. The amount of the deposits will be small in relation to the value of the instrument and are as follows:

Bagpipes/Chanters: \$100.00 Drums/Carriers: \$50.00

****NOTE:** For drummers: There is regular wear and tear on drums (snare heads can break, etc.), so don't think that a broken drum head from regular wear/age will void your deposit. It happens. Chris and Sam will know if any problems arose from poor care of the instrument (stored next to a heater/ cold area, drum was dropped, gave it a bath, etc.), so be sensible with your instrument and it will be fine.

Other Courses Offered at The College of Piping

Check your Educational Handbook for courses offered in
2012 - 2013

Piping for Highland Dancing Cross-disciplinary with Highland Dance

This course will give pipers the repertoire and experience needed to be proficient at piping for highland dancing – and hireable! Highland Dance competitions often have trouble finding qualified pipers to hire. The course includes time in the Highland Dance studio to familiarize pipers with the steps.

October 15 to December 10 Piping – ½ hour/week

January 7 to March 11 In the Highland Dance studio – ½ hour/
week
tuition: \$225.00

Piobaireachd Workshop All students have the opportunity to work on piobaireachd during their weekly classes; this workshop will take a look at a range of topics depending on the experience and interests of the registrants. Focuses could include the current or next year's Medal Lists, canntaireachd, manuscript traditions, and myriad other topics.

November (TBD) Saturday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
price: \$50 (includes lunch)

Highland Open Class A year round opportunity for retired or recreational dancers to get into the studio to stay fit and have fun!

September to June Open to all levels. ½ hour/week
tuition: \$125

Never too late

It is never too late to learn! **Adult instruction** is available in all our disciplines and our instructors welcome you to register for introductory or refresher classes. Physical and mental exercise keeps your body in shape and your mind sharp. There is an adult class on Wednesday nights for those interested in learning drumming.





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 weeks draw, that portion of the money is added to the following weeks 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 you number slip and add your name to the book. Then all you have to put your toonie in each week and wait to be the winner!

Participating locations

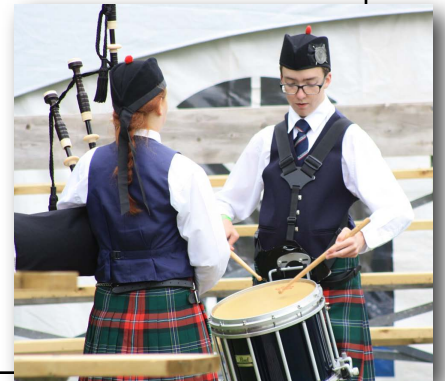
- 1) Shell Service Station - Water St. E
- 2) Wilson's Service Station on Water St E.
- 3) Reid's Corner Esso Summerside
- 4) Granville St. Esso
- 5) Samuels Coffee
- 6) Medicine Shop Pharmacy
- 7) Kensington Food Basket
- 8) Gass's Store – New Haven
- 9) Gallant's Store – Rustico
- 10) Race Trac Gas – Stanley Bridge

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.



2012 Highland Gathering

It's hard to believe that just over 2 months ago the Summerside Highland Gathering was taking place. A lot of time, planning, organizing, coordinating and so much more was put in to make these games possible. A huge thank you to Susan Topping and Vance Bridges for co-chairing the Highland Gathering and making it the success that it was. Vance is a board member at the College and Susan is a volunteer extraordinaire! Susan is one of the unofficial/official College paparazzi and spends many an hour helping out where needed. The College is VERY grateful to have someone like Susan volunteering! Thank you doesn't even cover it! Despite the Scottish type weather, the Gathering went off without a hitch. The Barra MacNeils concert was played to a full amphitheatre and it seemed appropriate that the heavens opened up while the song "Caledonia" was being performed! The beer tent was rocking Friday and Saturday night. A huge thank you to all of our judges who made the trip to the island. A huge THANK YOU to all of those who competed, supported, volunteered and came to watch the various events that were offered. Our Highland Gathering would not be a success without your support! For results and photos, please follow these links: <http://www.collegeofpiping.com/photogalleries.php> and <http://www.collegeofpiping.com/competitionresults.php>



Comments

from the Director of Highland Storm – Ryan MacNeil

The 2012 cast of Highland Storm have just finished another successful season. Our talented group of 30 students and instructors performed 21 shows for not only the residents of PEI, but tourists from around the world. The College Of Piping And Celtic Performing Arts Of Canada has provided world-class instruction in all disciplines. Highland Storm is an extension of a student's inspiration in Celtic performing arts. It is an avenue for students to take their music and dance to the next level and become role models for younger students.

This year's performers in my mind showed amazing virtuosity. They worked creatively as a team with a sense of camaraderie. They should be proud.

I would like to thank the cast of Highland Storm with a special thanks to the creative team, Chris Coleman, Ward MacDonald, James MacHattie, Kylie MacHattie, Samantha MacKinnon, and Kearsney Smith for their experience and creative insight.

I would also like to thank some important people from behind the scenes, Devin Paynter -sound, Lindsay Rogers - lights, Sharon O' Halloran - stage management, Ryan Johnston – stage crew, Lacey Fischer – costumes, and our technical support staff and set up crew Jay Perry, Phil MacLellan, Chris Perry, and Greg Mountain.

Last but not least, I want to thank Karen Hatcher for believing in the project and giving a guy from Cape Breton this wonderful opportunity. You have been an asset to The College and inspire excellence in all your actions.

It has been an honour and a privilege to direct Highland Storm. Sincere Thanks,

Ryan MacNeil Artistic Director Highland Storm

Dance Company

All dancers age 9 and older* are invited to join this year's Dance Company! Dancers will have the opportunity to learn a new repertoire of traditional and choreographed dances, improve presentation skills and technique, and learn to work and travel as part of a team. In the interest of developing performance abilities and choreography experience, dancers will be working towards community-level performances, as well as competing in regional team competitions. For more information get touch with Kearsney or Samantha.

Coming Up

Tickets Now On Sale for Robbie Burns Fundraising Gala

A Robbie Burns Fundraising Gala is being planned for **Saturday, January 26, 2013**. The reception will begin at 6:30 pm. with a traditional Robbie Burns Roast Beef Dinner at 7:00 pm. Entertainment will be provided by the faculty and students of the College of Piping.

Tickets are \$100.00 per person with a \$75.00 tax receipt. A table of 8 will be \$800.00.

There is limited seating available so get your tickets early.

A complimentary shuttle service from Charlottetown to Summerside and return is available.

This is the main fundraiser for The College of Piping so your support is appreciated to help us get through the year.

As a non-profit organization, we are always looking for new and creative ways to raise the funds that will enable us to continue to provide educational programs, encourage students to learn and grow in their disciplines, and offer continued growth in the Celtic Performing Arts.



Watch for future features in Celtic Life about the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada.

Congratulations!

The College of Piping Grade 3 Pipe Band's accomplishment at the World Pipe Band Championships has been written about in the Charlottetown Guardian. To check out the article, follow this link: <http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/Arts/2012-08-13/article-3051370/Summerside-pipe-band-among-best-in-the-world/1>.

There is a mistake in the article. The College of Piping Pipe Band was not the only Canadian pipe band to place at the worlds this year. Canada was well represented in the prize list at the World Pipe Band Championships. Simon Fraser University took home a third place in the Grade One category with another four Canadian pipe bands taking prizes in the top fourteen in that same category. The Robert Malcolm Memorial Pipe Band was the first prize winner in the Grade Three A category and their entry level band took second in the Novice Juvenile category. I'm sure I'm missing some more Canadian bands and my apologies. Canadians showed that they are a force to be reckoned with at this year's World Pipe Band Championships! Well done to everyone!

The College of Piping Grade 3 Pipe Band was also featured in a highlight video about the 2012 PipingLive! festival. Our very own Ashley Brockway is featured not once but twice in the two and a half minute video. The College was very honoured to be a small part of the festivities. As pipes|drums website has noted, the PipingLive! festival is the world's most important festival of piping. A big THANK YOU to the festival organizers for letting the College take part in such an internationally renowned event. A big CONGRATULATIONS for another success PipingLive! festival!

Sarah Simpson has been invited to compete at two very prestigious amateur competitions in the fall. She was invited based on her track record from the past competition year. Only the top amateur players from across North America are invited to play in these events. The first one is the Nicol Brown contest. This will be held in Albany, New York. The second contest is the George Sherriff contest. This is held in Hamilton, Ontario. To say that we are proud of Sarah and her accomplishments is an understatement!

Pipe Major James MacHattie had a bit of a shock when the Scots Guards Volume Three was unveiled in Glasgow last week. His tune, "At Long Last" was published in the latest book. The Scots Guards books are considered the canon of light music books. It was an honour and a privilege for his tune to be included. Not only did James have a tune published but the College's founding director, Scott MacAulay has two tunes featured in the publication. The College is well represented in the latest volume!

Recently our very own **Sarah Simpson** was featured in a **pipes|drums blog**. pipes|drums is the only independent news source for pipers, drummers and pipe bands in the world. Andrew Berthoff, the editor of pipes|drums, was a judge at the 2012 Summerside Highland Gathering. To read about Sarah, please follow this link: <http://blogpipe-pipesdrums.com/>.

Also our very own **piping and dancing instructors** were recently featured in **Celtic Life**. To read about **Kearsney, James and Kylie**, please follow these links: <http://www.celticlifeintl.com/making-beautiful-music-together/> and <http://www.celticlifeintl.com/the-creative-edge/>.

Our very fabulous Executive Director, **Karen Hatcher**, has been interviewed by the prestigious magazine **Celtic Life**. To read the fantastic interview, please follow this link: <http://www.celticlifeintl.com/generation-to-generation/>.

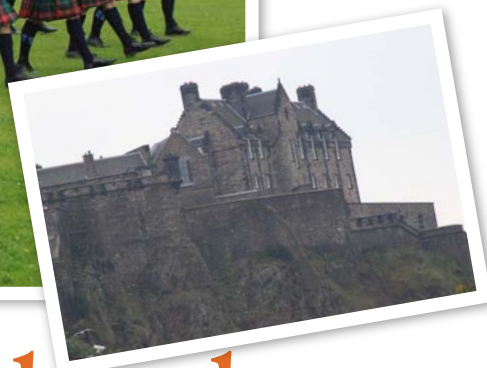
Newsletter

Produced by Jane Magee

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Designed by Anna MacDonald

DESIGNED BY ANNA MACDONALD



Scotland 2012

Grade 3 Band's Excellent Summer Adventure

Wednesday.

As part of the PipingLive! 2012 festival the band performed at George Square in the heart of Glasgow before a huge, appreciative crowd. The band put on a 45 minute concert under the blazing Scottish sun – very unusual Scottish weather! One of the organizers said it was 27 degrees in the square... In the evening many took in the Boghall and Bathgate concert at the Royal Glasgow Concert Hall. Boghall would go on to win the drumming in both the MSR (March, Strathspey and Reel) and Medley contests at the Worlds in the Grade One category.

Thursday

This was an early day - we all went down to Glasgow Green to be ready for an 8:30 practice, since our draw for Saturday was an early one. We did a bit of exploring, and then had to reset the chanters for the pipe section to adjust to cool and dewy grass after the heat of George Square. Karen and Susan joined us all in the afternoon - their tired but smiling faces were a welcome boost to us all. One more practice, and then many headed off to hear Canada's own Triumph Street Pipe Band take the stage with then reigning and now current World Champions Field Marshall Montgomery.

Friday

Another early practice at Glasgow Green and the band was feeling pretty much ready for the big day. Doug and Debbie Hall showed up for another big show of support, as well as alumnus and board member Andrew Hayes who was a great help in the tune up. Then Sarah Simpson rushed off to Strathclyde University to compete in the Grade 1 CLASP contest - the Competing League of Amateur Solo Pipers, open to over 18s who are not yet in professional/open competition. This was Sarah's first foray into this type of international competition, and we were all so incredibly proud when she emerged with first place in the piobaireachd! Even before the Worlds, the College was really turning heads in Scotland both as a band and as a force in solos to be reckoned with! To keep everyone relaxed in the evening we met in the common area of our accommodations and had pizza and played a few games. Then it was back to our rooms to polish shoes, iron shirts and try to get some sleep!





Saturday

The World Pipe Band Championships had arrived! 12 long months of practice and fundraising had finally brought us here, and all we had to do now was do our best to play well enough in the qualifier to make it to the final to compete for a prize. The fog lifted and the sun showed itself just as the band started to warm up for the qualifier. There were 32 bands in total, and we were on 4th out of our heat of 16 bands. What a performance the band put out!! It was by far and away our best performance of the entire year. We were finished before 9:30, but had to wait 4 excruciating hours until the results of the qualifier were announced at 1:30. Even though we felt we had a good play, we all got very nervous waiting for the results. It turns out we stewed for nothing - we won the qualifier handily, with three first place ordinals and one second place! We then drew ninth position to play in the final. The performance in the final was also fairly solid, but not quite as steady as the qualifying run. Finally, a bit after 6:00 the band did the march-past the dignitaries onto the massed band field with thousands of pipers and drummers all together. Kylie and James have played so many times in the World Championships, and they knew that more often than not a band does not get a prize; so when the announcer read out "The College of Piping Pipe Band, Summerside, Canada" in 5th place, they felt such an intense sense of pride in all the members - it was almost overwhelming. After such a long day (and year!) of physical and emotional exhaustion, many of the members of the band didn't really understand the magnitude of what had just happened. The results had an odd mix of ordinals - from the four judges we received marks ranging from first place to ninth. When all the math was done we tied for fourth but another band received that placing because the ensemble judge placed them higher. What an incredible day! And many of us got sunburns... Can you believe it?!

Sunday

The day after the Worlds is always a strange one. All the efforts of the year built towards one day as the prime focus, so the day after can be a bit of a let-down. Some went off to Edinburgh, and many cheered on our board member and superfan Andrew Hayes at the Masters Solo Piping Contest as well as alumnus Iain Speirs. Iain put out a superb performance against the world's best, and won the piobaireachd competition!

Monday

Monday was a real treat! Debbie and Doug took us all to Edinburgh to spend the day exploring, and then treated us to supper at a fabulous Italian restaurant just off the Royal Mile. At this supper an amazing announcement was made: since so many new players are joining the band organization and since we are establishing a brand new Grade 4 band, Doug and Debbie are assisting in the purchase of some new drums for the organization! Chris was overjoyed, to put it mildly! Then the Halls took us all up to Edinburgh Castle to take in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. What a spectacle! The College was represented there as well with both Lacey Fischer and Brooklyn Tchozewski dancing! By the time we all got on the bus (after nearly losing one of our dear parents in the Fringe Festival crowds!) we all nodded off for the ride back to Glasgow. Many thanks to the Halls for everything they do - and so much beyond the financial assistance: they are our biggest fans and huge emotional supporters.

Tuesday

Homeward bound! The bus pulled up at 10:30 to take the tired but happy Grade 3 band to the airport to head home. Kylie and James stayed on in Scotland to represent the College on the solo piping circuit, and so they waved goodbye with wee lumps in their throats as the bus pulled away. Check the blog for details of their adventures!