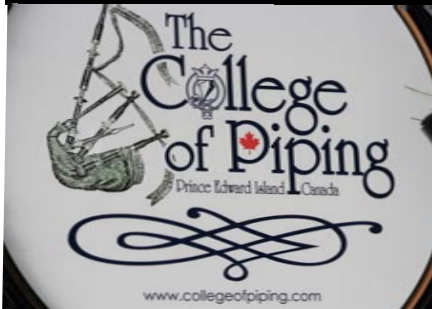


# the Celtic Connection

FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



## EMAILS

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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.

## Hello Highland fans!

# STORM

Here we are at the end of Highland Storm 2015 season with only the stage pack up left to finish. How time flies! I am very pleased with our amazing group of Celtic entertainers this year. Our cast included many first time "Highland Stormers". They not only did the job, but showed the skills of seasoned veterans.

Every year we are gaining new fans and making the show a holiday tradition for many. The audience response was very positive and energetic. The interactive photos and videos taken with #HIGHLANDSTORM has helped spread The College of Piping's story to the world.

As many of you may have heard, my wife Kearsney and I will be moving back to South Africa for the year. I am very pleased to say that we will be back in June 2016 so that I can continue to work on the show I love. Directing the Highland Storm's creative team from South Africa is now possible with FaceTime and Skype. It is my goal to make it the best show to date...with the help of best cast in the business!

A big thank you to everyone who made Highland Storm 2015 happen! Stay tuned for updates from the Southern Hemisphere.

Slainte!

Ryan MacNeil  
Director of Highland Storm



## Welcome from the Director of Education:

Welcome to the College of Piping to all the new students and families, and welcome back to all the returning Celtic performing artists! I'm excited to start a brand new season of teaching, learning, rehearsing, performing, and having a grand time! If you don't know me yet, please come on up to my office/teaching space and introduce yourself. Here's to a year of hard work and good fun!

## Instructors for 2014/2015 year

James MacHattie –  
Director of Education

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

Marielle Lespérance – Highland  
Chelsey Sanderson–Step(Lead)  
Mikaila Murray-Step (Instructor)

## Skype Lessons

Skype lessons are being offered in piping and drumming. 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>

## Scent Free

The College of Piping has a **scent free policy** in its Summerside building. There are many people coming and going and some of them have scent allergies. These allergies can range from getting a headache to going into anaphylactic shock requiring hospitalization. Please be respectful and give them a safe place to study, perform and enjoy our programs.

## Handicapped Parking

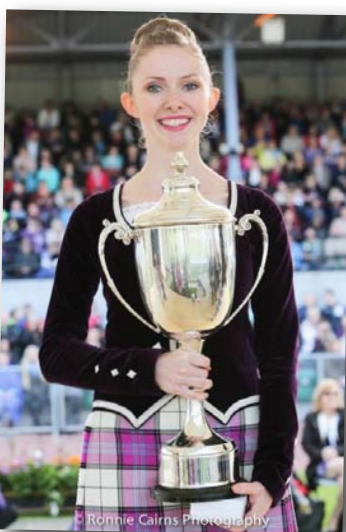
Only vehicles with handicapped parking stickers should be parking in the handicapped parking designated areas. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

## Change is in the Air

The College has to bid a fond and sad “see ya later” to Kearsney and Ryan as they move to South Africa to settle into being “The MacNeils”. But not farewell: we will be seeing them in 2016 as Ryan is back on board to direct next year’s Highland Storm! Kearsney will be missed as instructor, friend, mentor, colleague, jokester, organizer.....by all of us here. Best wishes and haste ye(s) back!!



We are also excited to lay out the welcome mat for **Marielle Lesperance** to take over the Highland Dance program!



Please drop by to make her feel welcome and get to know her. She begins officially on September 8, with the first lessons starting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Here’s a little more about Marielle:

Marielle Lespérance is the current Adult Ontario, Canadian, Commonwealth and World Champion in highland dancing. She is a 3-time World Champion, 5-time Commonwealth Champion, 10-time Canadian Champion and 11-time Ontario Provincial Champion.

Marielle has performed with various groups throughout Canada and the United States, including with DRUM! at Dollywood in Tennessee, and with the Squid Precision Drummers in Jacques Cartier park for Canada Day. Marielle’s passion for highland dance also extends to teaching. She is a member of the British Association of Teachers of Dance and has taught dance workshops across Canada.

Her newest venture is the formation of the highland dance performance group, Change of Step, with several other accomplished highland dancers. Marielle has been instructed by Ellen Cameron since the age of 10, and by Janice Macquarrie while completing her Bachelor of Science in Physics at St. Francis Xavier University. Marielle also holds a Master’s of Science in Medical Physics from Carleton University.

## Open House to Wish Kearsney Well!

On Tuesday, September 22, 2015 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Kearsney will be in the Main Hall for an Open House for anyone who wants to drop by and wish her well on her move and thank her for her hard work and dedication to The College of Piping and all her students. We look forward to seeing you here!







## 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

- **Samuels Coffee House**, Summerside
- **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
- **Slemon Park Variety**
- **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.

## Devin Paynter (Drumming) is Heading to The Worlds!

On Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, it was confirmed that Devin Paynter will be competing at the World Solo Drumming Championship in Glasgow, Scotland in October of this year. For Devin to be able to participate in this competition, he will have to raise approximately \$1,600.00 to cover his flight, accommodation, meals and ground transportation. I am going to assist Devin in making all of his travel arrangements, so he does not have to worry about the logistics of the trip.

Chris Coleman has written a wonderful piece about Devin's journey through The College of Piping. It reads as follows:

In September of 2010, Devin Paynter began drumming lessons at The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada in Summerside, Prince Edward Island. He showed great talent and promise, and in a few short months he was quickly asked to become a member of The College of Piping Pipe Band. His experiences in that first year with the band proved to be the starting point of something very special.

In the 5 short years that Devin has been involved in pipe band drumming, he has won the title of Atlantic Canadian Champion on 4 separate occasions, along with almost every other award that can be given to an amateur drummer in Atlantic Canada. In August of 2015, Devin travelled to compete at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario and won the title of North American Champion for Grade 1 Drumming, the highest possible level for an amateur competitor.

Devin has had to overcome many hardships in his life, but the most life-changing event he has faced happened in January of 2011, when his mother was diagnosed with an illness and given medication that has, since, caused her permanent challenges. The extent of this illness is still unknown, so his family has had to cover many costs for travel to see numerous doctors and physicians in an effort to better understand her situation. Devin's family life has seen many changes over the past four years. He has seen an incredible amount of increased responsibilities at home, but most of all, his mother is not the same person that she was just a short time ago.

During this very difficult time, Devin started to suffer from anxiety issues and his school work started to suffer. It got to the point where he was so overwhelmed with everything that was happening in his life that he felt scared to go to school and was absent on a regular basis. Throughout all of this, Devin was able to escape and find refuge and comfort in his drumming and with his friends and bandmates at The College of Piping.



## Step Dancing Success

A big congratulations goes out to the step dancers who participated in the Eldon Highland Games this year, held on August 2nd. Delphine Corney, Veronica Pater, Jane Nordquist, Erika Pater, and Katie McLaughlin. It was a very successful day, filled with lots of hard work and lots of smiles. Chelsey was extremely proud of all of your performances, good job girls!

## A Note from Chelsey for Step Students

It's that time of year again, the time when shoes just don't fit like they did last year. In fact, they might not fit at all! While your dancers were out running around in sandals all summer, you may not have noticed their growing feet! Back to dance shopping may need to happen- so make sure to try those shoes on and find out before your first night of classes whether you need a bigger size. There is a limited supply of second hand shoes at the college, so make sure to ask your teacher if you are having trouble finding shoes!

In the second semester of his Grade 11 year, Devin started looking to the future and turned a corner academically. He turned his struggling grades in to those that are in the 80% - 90% range. In the spring of 2015, Devin was accepted in to the Bachelor of Arts – School of Psychology program at the University of Ottawa. As opposed to taking the plunge and diving right in to university, Devin has decided to take a mature route and upgrade a number of his High School classes, take on a part-time job and save some money to alleviate the financial burden that comes with being a university student.

It is our goal to help Devin to try to secure enough funding so he can go to The World Solo Drumming Championships in Glasgow, Scotland on October 17, 2015. This is a dream that Devin has had for very long time, and we believe that he has earned the opportunity to represent himself, Summerside and Canada on the World's stage. This is the last year that Devin will be eligible to compete in the Juvenile category in this event, and we would very much like to see his dream come true.

If any of you are interested and able to make a contribution to Devin's competition fund, it would be greatly appreciated and welcomed. Any donations can be made to The College of Piping in Devin's name and will be allocated towards the expenses that he will incur on during this experience of a lifetime.



## Pipe Band Summary

The summer went very well for the College's three pipe bands. At the North American Championships which were held in Maxville, Ontario, the College's Grade 5 band came fifth, the College's Grade 4 band came second and the Grade 2 band came third. For the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association's Champion Supreme, the College's Grade 5 band was second and the Grade 4 and 2 bands were first overall for their grades. The Grade 2 band won the overall for Marching and Department. They look forward to the start of the 2016 season which will begin with band practices starting the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>. Grade 5 practice is on Tuesday, Grade 4 practice is on Wednesday and Grade 2 practice is on Thursday.





## ...to close amphitheatre

It's that time of year again, Highland Storm has finished for the season and we need volunteers to help tear down the amphitheatre: dismantle the set, remove the roof, and do a bit of light gardening. Everything gets going on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9am, with an alternate date of Sept. 19 in case of inclement weather. We will be keeping a close eye on Mother Nature, and may get everything going earlier in the month if a major system approaches. The more people that come out, the faster the work will be completed! We look forward to meeting new volunteers and those that have been helping us for many years!

**...to help in the office**, 5:00-9:00pm, Monday-Thursday evening, during lessons and band practices. Volunteers help ensure the safety and security of our students, instructors, and the building itself. The gift shop will not be open, and there is no 'official' work that we'll need you to do...just greet people as they come in and answer the phone when it rings! It's a great chance to get caught up on work, small crafts, that novel you've been wanting to read (or write), or anything else.

**To volunteer for either of the above, or if you have any questions, please contact Sue at 902-436-5377 or [sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpip.com](mailto:sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpip.com)**

[sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpip.com](mailto:sue.mcgiveron@collegeofpip.com)

## Gift Shop Update!

Another busy summer is slowly winding down in the gift shop. We've had a great time welcoming guests to Highland Storm and to the mini-concerts. If you haven't had a chance yet, please stop in and see some of the exciting new merchandise that we brought in this year.

- The College of Piping partnered with **Cows Ice Cream to produce a new t-shirt exclusive to our gift shop**. Lots of sizes in youth and adult for that punny person in your life.
- Everyone loved our "I've got a great set of pipes" onesies last year, so now it's time to dress the grown-ups. We still have some **'great set of pipes' adult t-shirts** in a variety of colours. Show off your piper's pride to the world.
- Winter can be rough on your skin. Check out our selection of **Nova Scotia Fisherman skincare products**... naturally sourced, locally produced, and dedicated to giving back to local charities.
- Speaking of charities...have you seen our line of **Basic Spirit pewter ware**? We carry jewelry, bottle stoppers and cheese boards for your next party, business card holders for work and home, and more. Regionally made and supporting local, national, and international charities, it's retail therapy with a conscience.

Of course, **we still have all your favorites**: oodles of rings, necklaces, and bracelets; College crested t-shirts, hoodies, dorm and sweat pants (all especially great for the student needing comfy clothes to study in); laptop and shopping bags; water bottles and travel mugs; and all your piping, drumming, and dancing supplies as we gear up for another exciting year of lessons.

And...**it's never too early to start your Christmas shopping**. Check out all our local artisans, or our display of Christmas ornaments and greeting cards. We also have lots of scarves and blankets in the PEI Tartan to keep you toasty warm once the snowflakes start to fly.

Plus we have fudge. Lots and lots of Cape Breton Fudge!

