

# 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](http://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.



The College of Piping Pipe Bands are holding not one, but TWO whiskey tastings! If you are over 19 and like to indulge in a dram now and then, this event is for you! On **March 2nd** a tasting will be held at the **College of Piping in Summerside** and on **Saturday, March 3rd**, a tasting will be held at the brand new **Holman Grand Hotel**. Both events will start at 7pm. The events will be hosted by Frank Scott. Frank co-owns and manages the Lunar Rogue Pub in Fredericton, New Brunswick which received "one of the best whiskey bars in the world" awards from The Whiskey Magazine, a UK publication. His knowledge is second to none as he is chair of Canada's oldest Whiskey, Spirits and Liqueur Festival for the past 16 years. This man knows his whiskey! Tickets are limited and a steal at **only \$50 each**. The tasting also includes pairing food that complements the whiskey. Please call the College at 436-5377 to reserve your ticket!

## Ceilidh

On **March 30<sup>th</sup>** the monthly ceilidh will be held at the College featuring the Scottish Country Dancers. Doors open at 6:30pm and the ceilidh will start at 7pm. There will be a **\$5 admission** to the event and free refreshments will be

provided. At the end of the scheduled entertainment there will be an open mic session for anyone who was inspired by the night's entertainment and wants to get up and perform themselves! Come and have a toe tapping good time!

## March Break

There are no classes during March Break (19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>) but there is the whole week for you to spend lots of time of practicing!

## A Reminder to

### Dance Parents

There is a kilt and matching socks for sale. If you would like more information, please get in touch with Kearsney.



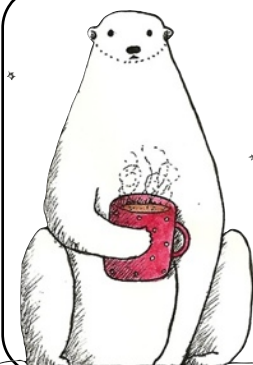
## Highland Dance Competitions

A reminder to those who wish to compete, you will need to fill out the **2012 Dancer Registration Forms**. You will need Kearsney's signature on the photos and forms. Parents may wish to go onto the Scotdancepei site to look ahead to upcoming competitions and to download the registration forms.

## Storm Cancellation

There are several ways you can find out if classes are cancelled at The College. The most up to date information will be found on our blog on the College website, [www.collegeofpiping.com](http://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.\*\***




## Dance Committee Fundraiser

The Dance Committee is Selling tickets on a John Deere D130 Lawn Tractor Hydrostatic with a Drive 42" Mower Deck. The draw will take place on Father's Day. Proceeds will go to The College of Piping Dancers' Fund. Tickets: 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25. Purchase your tickets at The College of Piping Main Desk or from any of the dancers. The dancer who sells the most tickets will win \$50.00. Sponsored by Green Diamond Equipment. You can also support the Dancers by buying the chocolate bars that are for sale for \$2.00 at The College.



## Summerside Storm Basketball games

Thank You, Thank You   
Thank you to all those who volunteered to take tickets, play in the band and dance at the Summerside Storm Basketball games this past season.

## Bands Fundraising

Check out the progress map on the wall at The College of Piping. We have some blue dots filled in but there is still a lot of ocean to cross. Some of the ways you can support the band are;

- ✓ Saving bottles and recyclable drink containers
- ✓ Buying stained glass items from the Beautiful Band Fundraiser collection by Vera MacLean
- ✓ Participate in the monthly Ceilidhs
- ✓ Join in the 50 / 50 Gold Rush Draw that will take place every Thursday

# B.B.F.

## Beautiful Band Fundraiser

Vera MacLean has made some very attractive **stained glass** to sell in the Gift Shop as a fundraiser for the band. There are dance shoes, drums, pipers and thistles. Stop in and see

these beautiful pieces. Now that the days are getting longer these will look beautiful on any window in your house.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to all the College of Piping pipers who took part in the first of three **Halifax Citadel Mini Meets**. Six pipers braved an early morning start on February 4th. It was an excellent day for the College students. It was a day of firsts for all of them. Four were competing for the first time in a new grade. One was competing for the very first time on pipes and one placed first in their competition! **Well done to all!** For complete results of the competition, check The College web site.

Congratulations are also in order for **Morgana Lockhart!** Morgana is the latest chanter student to earn her bagpipes! She successfully passed her four tune "audition" last Tuesday with flying colours. Morgana has worked extremely hard this past year and has improved leaps and bounds. Awesome job, Morgana!

Congratulations to **Carsen Campbell**. Carsen qualified for the World Youth Junior Biathlon Championships being held in Kontiolahti, Finland later February 15-28. He qualified for this event in Quebec City at the Youth Biathlon Selection trials. He earned a second and two thirds. Carsen was recently featured on the CBC news show Compass. As well as competing in the World Youth Junior Biathlon Championships, Carsen will be competing at the World Championships in Scotland this summer with the Grade 3 Band. Well done, Carsen! We're super proud of you!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SUMMERSIDE HIGHLAND GATHERING

June 22,23, 24, 2012  
Contact Jane Magee - 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. The Barra MacNeils will be putting on an terrific concert in the Amphitheatre Friday at 7:30 pm. The Richard Wood Trio will be entertaining in the Beer Tent on Friday evening and Ward MacDonald, Ryan and Boyd MacNeil and Vishten and be entertaining on 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 during this event. 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, 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 may need to be made, tents will need to be raised, benches will need to be moved – there a long list of things that need to be in place before we open the doors on Friday . 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.





## Gold Rush 50/50 Draw

The College of Piping Pipe Bands are sponsoring a 50/50 Gold Rush style draw. There are presently 9 locations where people can sign in for this draw and we hope to add some more locations in the near future. The draw works like this: At any of the participating locations you can complete a registration form and receive your personal number that you will use each week. When you register you will get a sticker from the participating location, you will place that sticker on your toonie and write on that sticker your personal number, make sure your number is written clearly, place that toonie and your registration paper in the draw box. You can have as many numbers as you like, as long as each number is registered. There is no age restriction. 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,

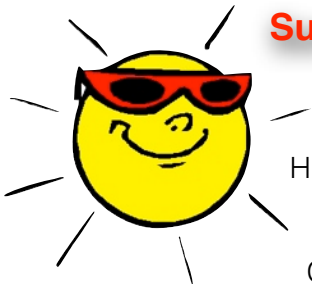
this will increase the amount of winnings until a number is drawn that belongs to someone who has signed in.



## The 50/50 Gold Rush participating locations are as follows

- 1) College of Piping, Summerside
  - 2) Samuels Coffee shop, Summerside
  - 3) Gateway Petroleum Esso, Borden- Carleton
  - 4) Gass's Store, New Haven
  - 5) Book Mark, Confederation Court Mall
  - 6) Beanz Coffee shop, Charlottetown
  - 7) Gallant Clover Farm Store, Rustico
  - 8) Kensington Food Basket, Kensington
  - 9) Clow's Red and White\*\*, North Wilshire
- \*\* new this month

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.



## Summer School

Piping and Drumming summer schools will be available the weeks of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>. The band and instructors are in Scotland the other weeks of this summer competing at the World Championships.

Highland and Step Dance summer school will be available through July and August.

All levels are offered each week in Piping, Drumming, Highland and Step Dance. Classes are two hours a day with extra practice time encouraged. A typical week includes a mix of theoretical and practical instruction. Classes are tailored to meet the needs of each individual student.

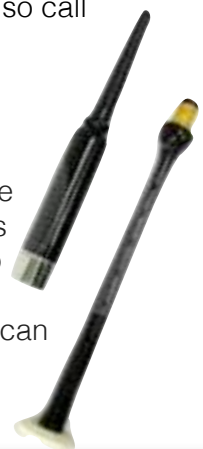
Tuition fee: \$450. Tuition for College of Piping students is half price: \$225.00

For more information check out The College of Piping web site: [www.collegeofpiping.com](http://www.collegeofpiping.com)

There will also be a **beginner's dance summer school week** this year. It will take place the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>. **Dancers ages 4 to 11 are welcome to attend.** The schedule will be set up so that children can attend classes in both disciplines. Classes in each discipline will be one hour long Monday to Friday and will include participation in the Mini Concert on Friday. Tuition is \$100.00 for one discipline, \$180.00 if you are attending both disciplines. These classes usually fill up quickly so call Jane at 436-5377 to register.

## H. G. Hardie Chanters

The College of Piping is partnering with H.G Hardie to stock Practice Chanters. We have Blackwood Nickel, Blackwood Engraved, Plastic Nickel and regular chanters in The College Gift Shop. There is also a set of Hardie RHG02 Bagpipes for you to check out. We stock Hardie Practice Reeds, Hemp, Tape and other piping supplies. The Gift Shop is open from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday or you can call Jane at 436-5377 for more information.



## Piping, Drumming and Dancing Courses at The College of Piping

A reminder that there are several extra courses offered in all disciplines in 2012. Check your Educational Handbook or call Jane for more information on these classes.

### Piping

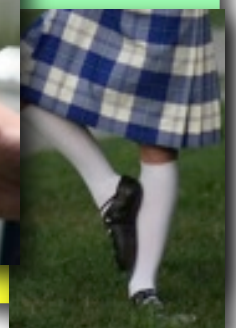
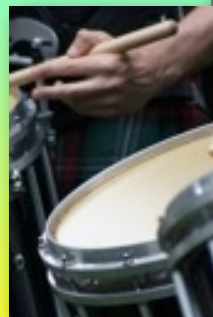
Stage Performance Track	April 2 – May 21
Composition Workshop	April 9 to April 30

### Highland Dance

Choreography Group	Jan. 9 to June 11
Fitness Class	Jan. 9 to June 11

### Step Dance

Choreography Group	Jan. 9 to June 11
Fitness Class	Jan. 9 to June 11



# HIGHLAND STORM

## HIGHLAND DANCE AUDITIONS

Mark your calendars!!! HIGHLAND STORM Highland Dance auditions will be taking place on **Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am** with Kearsney Smith and Karen Hatcher. Auditions will take place in the **Main Hall at The College of Piping, 619 Water Street East, Summerside**. A sign up sheet and registration form will be available upon arrival. Casting Priority will be given to students registered at The College of Piping. Highland Storm will be running **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, opening on July 3, 2012 through to Thursday, July 26, 2012**. There will be no shows July 31, August 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 or 14. The show will resume on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and will run through to Thursday, August 30, 2012 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday). If selected for Highland Storm – all rehearsals are mandatory.

The following is the **preliminary rehearsal schedule for June** (subject to change as required):

Monday, June 18 to Thursday, June 21 3:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
 Summerside Highland Gathering takes place June 22, 23 & 24  
 Monday, June 25 to Thursday, June 28 3:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
 Friday, June 29 Afternoon Rehearsal – Evening Dress Rehearsal  
 Saturday, June 30 Afternoon Rehearsal – Evening Dress Rehearsal  
 Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> Day Off  
 Monday, July 2 Afternoon Rehearsal – Show Preview 7:30 pm  
 Tuesday, July 3 Afternoon Rehearsal - Opening Night

### Selection criteria for Highland Storm Highland Dancers:

- Age: Must be 13 / 14 or older this year
- Dancer must be of Intermediate / Premier standard. This standard must be maintained throughout the membership.
- Dancer must be available for rehearsals where the entire cast is included.
- Dancer must be able to endure copious amounts of dancing.

## Dates to Remember

This will be a busy year at The College of Piping. Here are some dates to mark on your calendar.

March 04	Dance Workshop for Highland and Step Dancers
March 30	Ceilidh at The College
June 2	Yard Sale –Band fundraiser
June 17	End of Year Recital
June 22 – 24	Summerside Highland Gathering
July 2	Highland Storm Preview Night
July 3	Highland Storm Opening Night
August 4	Grade 3 Band Competing at Inverkiething or North Berwick
August 5	Grade 3 Band Competing at Bridge of Allan
August 11	Grade 3 Band Competing at World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow



### Note to those who are going to Scotland

Any payments made towards the trip by Visa, MasterCard or Interact will have 3% added to them to cover the service charge. The 3% will be over and above the amount that you are paying on your travel account.

## Yard Sale

The Bands will be holding a Yard Sale fundraiser on **Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the College**. While you are doing your spring cleaning, please set aside any items you would like to donate! There will be more information on where and when to drop off your donations coming soon.

## New Name – Same Jane

You may have noticed that you are now getting emails from a Jane Magee. No, we haven't replaced Jane Dunn with a new Jane! Jane has changed her name back to her maiden name of Magee. **Please don't fret, Jane is still here!**

Newsletter

Produced by Jane Magee

Edited by Karen Hatcher

Designed by Anna MacDonald

