

## T'was the night .....



### Christmas Recital

It is great to see the progress all our pipers, drummers and dancers are making. The difference at the workshops from the first of the year was amazing. I can't wait to see everyone performing at the **Christmas Recital on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. at the Summerside Intermediate School Cafeteria.** Admission is free. The College of Piping is asking for your assistance in supporting the Salvation Army Food Bank. Please bring along an item of food. During the event there will be a Silent Auction in support of the bands. Come a few minutes early to look over the items. A Goodwill Offering/Donation would be greatly appreciated at the Recital with proceeds going to the operations of The College.

Performers are to use the South Entrance off Beaver Street, between Central and Summer St. There is parking off Beaver and around the East side. **Arrive by 1:30 in your uniform/costume!** Jane and our instructors will be there to let you know where to go. Step dancers must wear socks over their shoes. Students are encouraged to sit with their group until after their performance - if you are going to sit with your family, you need to keep a close eye on the schedule so you don't miss your number! If any parents are interested in volunteering to keep a section of performers together and on schedule, please contact Jane.

### Driving a Mustang - WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are raffling off a 2011 Ford Mustang Convertible. There are also an additional 27 prizes to be won. Only 1000 tickets to be sold. \$100.00 per ticket. The draw will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 pm. The funds raised through this draw will help the College of Piping in many ways. Please contact Jane and get some tickets to sell. They are great for a Christmas gift, stocking stuffer, New Year's wish or gift for a birthday or anniversary. Tickets can be purchased by individuals or groups. Be creative with your selling ideas. If you are a piper or drummer selling tickets, 10% of your ticket sales goes to the band. Dancers selling tickets see 10% of their sales going to the dance fund.

### **Christmas Gaelic Song Workshop With Patricia Murray**

**Thursday December 16, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the College of Piping**

Add some Celtic tradition to your holiday season with a Christmas themed Gaelic Song Workshop with Patricia Murray, PEI's own internationally acclaimed Gaelic singer. You will come away with a more unique Christmas repertoire! **No experience in Gaelic is required.** Open to all ages, and the cost is only \$20.00. Register by calling Jane at 436-5377 or email [jane.dunn@collegeofpiping.com](mailto:jane.dunn@collegeofpiping.com)

### **Appointment of Kearsney Smith as Highland Dance Instructor**

Karen and James are pleased to announce the appointment of Kearsney Smith, to the position of Highland Dance Instructor. Kearsney will be joining the team at The College in January 2011 and will handle the coordination and implementation of all Highland Dance programming. With the guidance and leadership of James, her role will encompass overall programming of annual curriculums, summer camps, bi-annual workshops in Highland dance and Highland Storm choreography.

Kearsney Smith began dancing at the age of five and competing in Championship at the age of ten. She won her first South African Championship in 1999 at the age of eleven and then again in 2000, 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2010. She has competed in Scotland and Canada since the age of ten, placing at Cowal three times. In 2002, Kearsney was part of the South African team that went to perform at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo for Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee and was asked by the Canadian team the following year to join them; she has also performed in the Hamilton Tattoo in Ontario and the South African Tattoo. She has qualified for the Gauteng provincial team since 2000, when the Inter-Provincials were first held. Kearsney has performed in many choreography competitions and since qualifying as a member of the SOBHD in 2009, she has both taught and choreographed in her mother's studio. This past year Kearsney has taken a professional choreography course and within the next five years she hopes to qualify as a judge. Once she has taught for five years, her goal is to get her Fellowship qualification.

We are in the process of developing a transition plan for January so that there will be no gaps in the instruction that our students are currently engaged in. Stay tuned for Kearsney's arrival date to Canada

### **Pipers and Drummers - Have you written your letter??**

Piping and drumming students are reminded to write their thank you letters to Doug and Debbie Hall. Please turn them in to your instructor **at or before the Christmas recital.** Doug and Debbie Hall generously cover your tuition under the Hall Scholarship program. This covers your weekly instruction, some of your instrument fee, fall and spring workshops and more. Please tell the Hall's how you are enjoying your classes, what you are learning, and anything else you think they would like to know. They provide us with this amazing opportunity we need to let them know how much we appreciate their thoughtfulness.

### **ACPBA memberships for Pipers and Drummers**

Pipers and drummers who wish to solo compete for 2011 must become members of the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association. Individual memberships are due before January 1<sup>st</sup> and are \$20.00. To do so, go to [acpba.ca](http://acpba.ca) and click on membership.

### **Second Installment Due on or before December 15<sup>th</sup>**

A reminder that payment of the second installment of tuition fees is due on or before December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you can't make it in to the College of Piping, call Jane and she will make arrangements for payment with you.

### **Introduction to Gaelic**

We will be offering an Introduction to Gaelic course on Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 pm at the College of Piping in Summerside. Our esteemed instructor is Robert MacDonald, father of piper Catherine, drummer Sandy and highland dancer Caroline. The 14 week course starts on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The cost is only \$200.00 Spread the word!!!!

### **Fall Workshops**

35 drummers, 24 pipers, 19 highland dancers, 2 highland/ step dancers, 17 step dancers attended our fall workshops on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The College of Piping was hopping with music and dance on those two Saturdays. Thanks to the instructors who made the workshops interesting and informative and to the students and parents who participated. It was wonderful to see the respect that all the participants showed to their fellow participants and the College. There was no extra cost for these workshops as they are covered in the tuition. We are looking forward to our spring workshops. More news on them after we have shoveled lots of snow!

**Andrew Hayes** is piper who studied at the College, and this year he won the prestigious Gold Metal at the Northern meeting in Scotland. "Pipeline", a program in BBC Radio Scotland, is featuring him on December 4. You can listen to this during the broadcast or the week after on your computer. [Http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0079g6v](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0079g6v). Or, go to [bc.co.uk](http://bc.co.uk) and type "Pipeline" in the Search field.

### **Holidays**

The College of Piping will be closed over the Christmas holidays. There will be no classes the weeks of December 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Since the Charlottetown group meets on Monday and so many Monday's fall on statutory holidays, the faculty is thinking creatively of ways to make up for the missed classes. Suggestions welcome. The gift shop will close at 5 pm. on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and reopen at 9 am on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Gift Shop**

We have new items to help solve your Christmas gift giving dilemmas. We have new; CD's & DVD's, Christmas ornaments (including drummer, piper, and dancer), piper, drummer and dancer Suncatchers, pendants, rings and earrings, broaches, tartan ties, The gift shop is discontinuing our food line so all the chocolates, popcorn, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and short breads are 50% off. The cupcake, pancake and scone mixes are 50% off as well.

### **Our new web site will soon be up and running!!**

We are looking for **pictures and video clips** that we can post. If you have pictures or video clips from Highland games competitions, dance competitions or anything else from this past year that you think would be suitable for the web site, please copy to a CD and drop off to Jane at the College or to your instructor. They will be passed on to Karen and James for their web approval.

Our new web site will be much more visual and interactive. Any pictures and clips you have and can send us will be a welcome addition. Please keep us up to date with competition results, pictures and video clips. It is all about our College of Piping family and you are an important member. **I'll let you know as soon as the site is launched.**

### **College of Piping Newsletter Trivia**

There are two pipers who not only play pipes at the highest level but they also dance at the highest level. They have both won the adult world dancing championships at Cowal. **What are the names of these two dancers/pipers?** Answers in the next newsletter - or you can call Jane if you really want to know!

### **Merry Christmas**

The staff and instructors at the College of Piping wish you a Christmas filled with peace, joy and friendship. See you in the New Year.