

## Summer Events 2011



Festival of the Island  
Christmas Island  
Cape Breton

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gaelic Concert Series  
*“Bu Deònach Leam Tilleadh”*  
*“I Would Willingly Return”*

Tuesdays 8 pm  
July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2, 9

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Féis an Eilein  
August 15 – 20, 2011

Comunn Féis an Eilein welcomes you to Christmas Island, Cape Breton! During the celebration of our 21<sup>st</sup> year, our community hopes you'll enjoy your time with us and the many summer events we offer.

### Lessons

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#### Summer Music Lessons

**Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays in July & August \$6/half hour \$10/hour**

Beginning on July 4, pick up your fiddle or get those toes tapping. We offer private youth & adult lessons in beginner & intermediate fiddle, piano & step-dancing with Féis instructors Anita MacDonald & Christina MacNeil. Evening classes are available upon request. Book your lessons by calling 902-622-2627. Lessons fill up quickly!

#### Gaelic Activity Day Camps for Youth

**Wednesdays July 6 – August 10, 10 am –12:30**

**Admission \$6 or \$12 per family**

Join Féis instructors Anita MacDonald and Christina MacNeil as they deliver a day of activities full of fun and Gaelic language. Children will enjoy games, crafts, and dance, along with learning Gaelic songs and phrases. Pre-registration is not required. Lunch is not provided.

#### Féis an Eilein Youth Song Group

**Wednesdays July 6 – August 10, 1-2pm**

**Admission – No Charge**

Each week following Gaelic day-camp we will provide the opportunity for youth to come together and learn some Gaelic songs.

#### Beginner Gaelic Language Classes

**Wednesdays July 6 – August 10, 7 – 9 pm**

**\$25 for all 6 weeks**

Using the TIP/Gàidhlig Aig Baile method Instructor Beth MacNeil will focus on teaching Gaelic through oral repetition and body language. It's designed to teach students conversational Gaelic in a fun and stress-free environment without the need to read or write. TIP has become the model for community Gaelic classes in Nova Scotia.

#### Intermediate/Advanced Classes

**Thursdays July 14 – 28, 7 – 9 pm**

**\$10 for 2 hour lesson**

Informal intermediate/advanced group classes in Gaelic song, step-dancing, & Celtic guitar. Those who have some experience can come and enjoy the evening and learn a new tune or step.  
July 14: Step-dancing instructor Anita MacDonald  
July 21: Gaelic song instructor Beth MacNeil  
July 28: Celtic guitar instructor Donnie Campbell

### Concerts

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#### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gaelic Concert Series

**Bu Deònach Leam Tilleadh**

**Tuesday evenings 8 pm**

**Admission \$10, Children 14 and under \$5**

The title of our Gaelic Concert Series is derived from a song composed by local Bard Hugh F. MacKenzie. While working in the lumber camps, he lamented leaving his home in Christmas Island. "Christmas of 1927 overtook me in Northern Ontario, eighty miles from civilization. While my associates amused themselves playing cards, I laid in bed to indulge in my melancholy alone. My thoughts of home and Cape Breton I tried to voice in the following verses vowing:

**“Bu Deònach Leam Tilleadh.”**

**“I would willingly return”**

Some of Cape Breton's finest musicians gather at the Christmas Island Fire Hall to share the stage with emerging talent and local tradition bearers in bilingual Gaelic- English concerts. Traditional tea, oatcakes and tea biscuits will be served.

**July 12**

***A' Ghàidhlig Anns A' Cheòl***

**Gaelic in the Music**

Come help us kick off this year's Gaelic concert series with an evening of traditional fiddling, piano & dancing. Join *Bean an Taighe* (Woman of the House) Gaelic singer Mary Jane Lamond, Shelley Campbell and Carl MacKenzie (fiddle), Sandy MacDonald (guitar), and Pat Chafe (piano). The Iona Gaelic Singers and Barry George will sing traditional Gaelic songs and Anita MacDonald will step dance.

**July 19**

***Ceòl Eadar Càirdean***

**Music Among Friends and Relations**

*Fear an Taighe* Jeff MacDonald will welcome Kyle Gillis (fiddle), Dawn MacDonald-Gillis (piano) and Patrick Gillis (guitar) as they share the stage with Kyle MacNeil (fiddle), Seamus MacNeil (piano) and Monica MacNeil (Celtic saxophone).

**July 26**

***Mòd nam Fìdhlearan***

**The Fiddler's Court**

Tonight our *Fear an Taighe* Lewis MacKinnon CEO of the Office of Gaelic Affairs welcomes the duo of Kimberley Fraser (fiddle) and Hilda Chaisson (piano). Local entertainers the Boisdale Trio (fiddle/piano), and Father Francis will perform as well as Mike Barron (fiddle).

August 2

*A' Moladh Ar n-Òigridh*

**Celebrating Our Youth**

Tonight we are thrilled to present some of our fine young musicians. *Bean an Taighe* Anita MacDonald will host this evening, welcoming Neil MacInnis (pipes), Stuart MacInnis (guitar) Cullen MacInnis (Gaelic song/step dance), and Allan Cameron (fiddle). Anita will also perform with Evan Bonaparte (guitar), and Lauren MacDonald (step dance/song/guitar).

August 9

*Ga Smùideadh*

**Drivin'er!**

Young talent graces our stage with Colin Grant (fiddle), Mabou sisters Dawn and Margie Beaton (fiddle/step dance), and Adam Young (piano). *Bean an Taighe* Beth MacNeil will emcee this evening. Also enjoy some lively step-dancing to the tunes by Anita MacDonald.

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Féis an Eilein**

**August 15 – 20**

A Féis is a community-based festival designed to promote the Gaelic language and culture of an area through educational and social activities for people of all ages.

The first Féis was held on the Isle of Barra in 1981. Christmas Island is home to the first Féis held outside of Scotland. Friends and relatives from near and far come to the Féis each year and we invite you to join in the celebrations. If you have even a little of the Gàidhlig we invite you to use it during our events. We are proud to celebrate our 21st year as a festival dedicated to preserving and promoting Gaelic culture.

**Monday, August 15**

**Féis Children's Concert and Weiner Roast**

**7 – 10pm**

Students of our summer music program will perform at the Grand Narrows Waterfront. Stay for some tunes played by local musicians Anita MacDonald (fiddle) and Evan Bonaparte (guitar). Hot dogs and pop provided free for all ages, silver donations are welcome.

**Tuesday August 16**

***Céilidh nam Piobairean* The Pipers' Céilidh**

**8 pm, Admission \$10, 15 and under free**

Join us for a night of high energy traditional Cape Breton Piping featuring Paul K. MacNeil (pipes) and Tracey Dares-MacNeil (piano). Also performing are pipers Ryan MacDonald and Kenneth MacKenzie. *Fear An Taighe* Angus MacLeod will treat us to his powerful singing style and Féis instructor Anita MacDonald will dance to the pipers.

**Wednesday August 17**

**Youth Activity Day 10 am – 2 pm**

**\$6 per child, \$12 per family, lunch included**

Children are invited to a day of Gaelic songs, stories and games. Instructors Beth MacNeil & Debi MacNeil will be joined by our Féis instructors.

**Gaelic Language – Day 1, 9:30 am – 4 pm**

**Admission \$25 per day**

**Seniors and Students \$10. Lunch is included**

Intermediate and advanced learners focus on the Christmas Island idiom in this two-day session with native Gaelic speaker and educator Effie Rankin from Mabou.

**Symposium: How we learned the songs**

**7:30 pm. Admission \$8.00**

**Tea and Lunch will be served**

Tonight we explore and celebrate the many ways that Gaelic songs have been learned over the years - at home and in the community, at the milling frolic table and at house parties - from the wonderful native speakers who have so generously shared their time and talents. Participants will include some of these native speakers, Janet Cameron who will tell us about growing up in a home full of Gaelic singing, and Gaelic singer Mary Jane Lamond, who will relate to us how she learned the songs. Come and hear how this wonderful oral tradition has survived and evolved and enjoy some Gaelic singing

**Thursday August 18**

**Gaelic Language – Day 2, 9:30 am – 4 pm**

**Admission \$25 per day**

**Seniors and Students \$10. Lunch is included**

Intermediate/advanced lessons with Effie Rankin are continued

**Gaelic Language – 9:30 am – 4 pm**

**Admission \$25 per day**

**Seniors and Students \$10. Lunch is included**

This beginner Gaelic class with teacher Hector MacNeil is a day-long session is designed for beginner students who have taken part in classes employing the GAB immersion methodology. We will examine Gaelic spelling, basic grammar and sentence structure in order to broaden students' understanding of how the language works.

**Milling Song Workshop, 6 – 7:30 pm**

**Admission \$6**

Led by local tradition bearers/ Gaelic singers Jamie MacNeil and Rod C. MacNeil Learn some songs and join in the singing tonight.

**Traditional Milling Frolic, 8 pm**

**Admission \$8, 15 and under free**

Singers once gathered around the milling table to keep a constant rhythm while pounding newly-woven cloth; now the work is done for the sheer pleasure and to keep the songs and culture alive. This milling frolic is one of the best known on Cape Breton Island and is not to be missed! Tea and lunch will be served. Minors under 19 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Friday August 19**

**Fiddle Workshop 12:00 – 1:30 pm**

**Admission \$6**

Come try your hand at the fiddle with a combined beginner/intermediate workshop with Anita MacDonald. Learn the basics of the instrument or pick up a few new tunes.

**Gaelic Song Workshop 12:00 – 1:30 pm**

**Admission \$6**

Puirt A Beul (mouth music) was an integral part of the Highland Gaels' way of life. When Puirt A Beul is sung, the rhythm and sound of the songs resembles piping & fiddling. This class is designed for beginners and also feature a variety of styles. It is instructed by Beth MacNeil.

**Gaelic Song Circle 2:00 – 5 pm**

**Admission No Charge**

An afternoon of Gaelic singing in the relaxed atmosphere of the kitchen céilidh, tradition bearers and new singers will be welcomed to share their songs. Whether you have new songs that you're working on, or songs that you've enjoyed singing for years, bring them along and share them with the group. The session will be facilitated by Hector MacNeil and hosted by Neil and Tootsie at 7435 Hwy. 223, Big Beach.

### **Square Dancing Workshop 3:30 – 5 pm**

#### **Admission \$6**

Join instructor Melanie MacDonald and learn the basic steps for a traditional Cape Breton square dance. Her lively and enthusiastic style will have you ready to show off your steps at tonight's family dance!

### **Family Square Dance 9 pm – 1 pm**

#### **Admission \$10. Ages 15 and under free**

Kick off the Féis weekend with a Family Dance with Anita MacDonald (fiddle), Susan MacLean (piano) and Ryan J. MacNeil (pipes). Minors under 19 must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Saturday August 20**

#### **Gaelic Language Workshops 12 – 1:30 pm**

Beth MacNeil and Hector MacNeil will teach beginner and intermediate/advanced Gaelic through the TIP/Gàidhlig Aig Baile immersion methodology.

### **Gaelic Hymn Workshop 1:30 – 3 pm**

#### **Admission \$6**

Local native Gaelic speakers Rod C. MacNeil and Jamie MacNeil will teach some Gaelic Hymns which remain well-known in our area.

### **Step Dancing Workshops 3 – 4:30pm**

#### **Admission \$6**

Learn basic steps with Jody MacKenzie or challenge yourself to some advanced footwork with Dawn MacDonald-Gillis

### **Gabh do Naidheachd – Tell Your News 3 pm**

Fear an Taighe Hector MacNeil

Conducted entirely in Gaelic, this session held at the Grand Narrows Hotel B&B is an opportunity to share stories and be immersed in the language. Lunch will be served.

### **Family Square Dance and Céilidh 9 pm – 1**

#### **Admission \$10, 15 and under free**

We finish off Féis week with a night of music, dancing and fun for everyone! Bring your family and friends to hear Joel Chaisson (piano), Glen Graham (fiddle) and Brenda Stubbart (fiddle). Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Féis an Eilein: Fichead Bliadhna**

#### **Celebrating 20 Years of Féis an Eilein**

We are proud to announce that we will release our DVD early this summer. It's a look back at our first 20 years. Filmed by Colette Thomas it was supported by the Center for Cape Breton Studies at CBU and funded by The OGA and NS Tourism and Culture. Thank you to all who contributed to this production.

### **Còmhla Cruinn-Gathered Together**

#### **A Cape Breton Gaelic Celebration**

Our Féis CD features Gaelic singers and entertainers from around Cape Breton who focus on local Gaelic songs, pipe, and fiddle tunes. Produced by CBC Radio Host Wendy Bergfelt and recorded live at the Firehall.

### **Contact us**

Comunn Féis an Eilein

P.O. Box 317 Christmas Island, Cape Breton

Nova Scotia, B1T 1R7

E-mail: [feisaneilein@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:feisaneilein@ns.sympatico.ca)

<http://www.feisaneilein.ca>

Ph/Fax: 902-622-2627

We invite you to show your support by purchasing a membership. Individual \$5.00, Family \$10.00

### **How to get to Christmas Island**

From the Canso Causeway: take Trans Canada Hwy. 105 to Little Narrows, Exit 6. Cross the ferry & turn right. Approx. 30 km

From Sydney: Take Hwy. 125 to Exit 3. Take Route 223. Approx. 45 km

From Sydney take Hwy. 125 to Route 4 to Eskasoni turnoff. Approx. 40 km

### **Where to Stay**

Grand Narrows Hotel B&B, Grand Narrows  
622-1330

Bras d'Or Lakes Hideaway, Grand Narrows  
622-2009

Highland Heights Inn, Iona 725-2360

Hector's Arm B&B, Iona 622-1229

### **Where to Visit**

Nova Scotia Highland Village Museum, Iona  
725-2272

Barra Strait Marina Laundry and Showers,  
Grand Narrows Convenience & Liquor Store,  
622-1247

Iona Cap Site 725-2785

### **Where to Eat**

Beaver Cove Take Out, Beaver Cove 871-2180

Highland Heights Inn Dining Room, Iona  
725-2360

### **Tuesday October 11**

Join us as we host an evening concert during the Celtic Colours International Music Festival. Tickets will be available at the box office or by calling 622-2605

**Thank you to the Christmas Island Volunteer Fire Department for your continued support** in our efforts to promote the Gaelic language and its cultural art-forms. As a Registered Charity we appreciate every donation that provides for Gaelic language instruction and other initiatives. Official receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued for all donations.



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We are a community dedicated to the promotion and preservation of our Gaelic language and culture. Events take place at the Christmas Island Firehall 8539 Grand Narrows Hwy (Route 223)