

Féis An Eilein

Summer Events 2024

Eilean na Nollaig, Ceap Breatainn
Bu Déonach Leam Tilleadh



Christmas Island, Cape Breton
"I Would Willingly Return"

Celebrating our Gaelic Community

Proudly Presented by Comunn Féis an Eilein

26th Annual Gaelic Concert Series

34th Annual Féis Week

Gaelic Activity Day Camps

*Wednesdays & Thursdays 10am-2pm
July 3rd - August 22nd
\$5.00 a child or \$10 a family*

Youth ages 4-12 are welcome to join us at the Christmas Island Fire Hall for fun filled days of Gaelic oriented activities. Youth will participate in Gaelic song, dance, crafts and milling, all taught by our qualified music instructors. *Please bring a lunch/water bottle.*

Music Lessons

*Mondays & Fridays
July 5th - August 19th \$6/half hr \$10/hr
Christmas Island Fire Hall
For information on classes or to pre-register
by Phone (902)622-2627 or email:
feisaneilein.lessons@gmail.com*

Katherine MacDonald: beginner to advanced piano & step dance.

Emily MacDonald: beginner to advanced piano & beginner to intermediate guitar.

Mary Anna MacNeil: beginner step dance & beginner to advanced fiddle.

Emma MacNeil Gushue: beginner piano & step dance.

Bu Déonach Leam Tilleadh:

26th Annual Gaelic Concert Series

*7:30pm Adm: \$15 | Under 14 \$5
St.Barra's Church, 47 Church Road
Grand Narrows Hwy, Christmas Island, NS*

Our 26th Annual Gaelic Concert Series is dedicated to our good friend, Sandy "Mick" MacNeil, who was a faithful volunteer at Féis events since our inception in 1991. Imbued with Highland hospitality, Sandy would greet you as you arrived and help you to park your vehicle, make you feel at home and entertain you with a story or even a dance, and he would wish you a "Safe Home" when you were leaving. Self-effacing, Sandy would probably laugh at our attempt to make a fuss over him, but in our opinion no one deserves our high praise and admiration more!

We miss you Mick! Tapadh Leibhse Gu Mòr!

July 16 Còmhla Cruinn "Gathered Together"

Join us in kicking off our 26th summer concert series with Angus, Kenneth, & Calum MacKenzie with special guests. You won't want to miss the fantastic tunes from the fiddle, pipes, and show stopping steps! You will also hear songs from our hosts, Phillip & Marley Whyte!

July 23 Gu Smùideadh "Drivin' 'er!"

Tonight we welcome brothers Kyle, Shamus & Boyd MacNeil of the Barra MacNeil Family. Hailing from Sydney Mines, with musical roots in Washabuck, you will surely be impressed! Colin Watson will sing you some Gaelic songs and local step dancer Marley Whyte will share her steps!

July 30 A' Chèilidh Mhòr "The Big Ceilidh"

Tonight we are host to a group of dynamic musicians & Gaelic singers. We welcome fiddlers Andrea Beaton, Troy MacGillivray, Robert Fraser, and Taya MacDonald who will be joined by Katherine MacDonald to share some tunes and steps. Gaelic singing group Mo Chàirdean as well as our host/Bean an Taighe, Hannah Krebs will also grace our stage.

August 6 Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig "Up With the Gaelic"

Féis welcomes fiddler Shelly Campbell, pianist Allan Dewar, and piper Tim Cummings for an evening of tunes. We will hear songs and enjoy some steps from our host/Bean an Taighe, Màiri Britton & also from The Northern Connection consisting of Féis instructors Katherine & Emily MacDonald with cousins Chloe Peterson, Morgan MacInnis, Jillian & Breagh Langille.

August 13 Gàidhlig anns a' Cheòl "Gaelic in the Music"

Great evening of tunes tonight with powerhouse duo Chrissy Crowley and Colin Grant. They will share the stage with Brian Doyle & Adam Young for some dandy tunes! Our host/Bean an Taighe, Mary Jane Lamond will share Gaelic songs and you will see steps from Féis instructor, Katherine MacDonald!

34th Annual Féis Week August 20-24th, 2024

De th'ann a Féis? What is a Féis?

A féis (faysh) is a community-based festival designed to promote the Gaelic language and culture of an area. The first Féis was held on the Isle of Barra in 1981. The community of Christmas Island, located on Cape Breton, is home to the first féis to be held outside of Scotland. Our inaugural festival was held in 1991. The annual Féis An Eilein week encompasses workshops in Gaelic language and song, step dancing, fiddle and guitar, and Gaelic activities camp for youth.

Tàing Mhòr to our sponsors:



Office of Gaelic Affairs
Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig

Tuesday August 20th

Teudan, Orain agus a' Phiob

"Strings, Songs, & Pipes"

St. Barra's Church & Communities Centre

\$15 | Under 14 \$5

7:30pm

Christmas Island pipers, Aidan & Cameron MacNeil will share the stage with piper Ryan MacDonald. Fear an Taigh Joe Murphy will also welcome duo Dara Smith-MacDonald & Adam Young, and fiddler Kaj Udby. Marley Whyte will share her steps.

Wednesday August 21st

10am-2pm Gaelic Cultural Day Camp

\$5.00 per child or \$10 per family/Christmas Island Firehall

Youth ages 4-12 with an interest in Gaelic language & culture are welcome to join us for two fun filled days of Gaelic oriented activities. *Please bring a lunch/water bottle.*

10am-3pm Adult Gaelic Classes

\$25/per day Seniors, Students \$10
Pre-registration is encouraged but not mandatory. Tea & biscuits provided.

Emily MacDonald will lead our beginner class at *St. Barra's church* with a focus on everyday sayings & greetings through interactive teaching methods.

Joyce MacDonald will continue your learning through the use of GAB (Gàidhlig aig Baile) or Gaelic of the home. This hands-on method will have you feeling confident in your Gaelic in no time. Fluent conversational & native Gaelic speakers are always welcome. Christmas Island Fire Hall.

7:30pm Symposium

Adm. \$10/Christmas Island Fire Hall

The Beaton Institute at the Cape Breton University houses a collection of recordings and other materials gathered from our communities. We had such fun with this last year we decided to do some further exploring, as did the Gaelic Studies students at Rankin School of the Narrows. Join long standing Féis contributor Lorrie MacKinnon, Stacey MacLean and friends. Always a great evening!
Tea & lunch served.

Thursday, August 22nd

10am-2pm Gaelic Cultural Day Camp

This is a continuation from yesterday's camp but is open to those who could not attend the first day. See previous days events for details.

10am-3pm Adult Gaelic Classes

\$25/per day Seniors, Students \$10
This is a continuation of yesterday's Gaelic classes; new students are always welcome.

6-7:30pm Milling Song Workshop

\$6 or \$10 for both workshop & Milling Frolic
Learn the choruses to popular Gaelic milling songs and join in at the milling frolic to follow. Hannah Krebs, renowned Gaelic singer and teacher will lead this workshop.
Christmas Island Fire Hall.

8pm Milling Frolic

Adm. \$6 (under 14 free)

Milling songs are sung today for the sheer pleasure of it but once they were a very practical method of keeping constant rhythm to the pounding of woven cloth to shrink and soften it for use. Christmas Island Fire Hall.
Tea & lunch served.

Friday, August 23rd

All workshops and will take place at the Christmas Island Fire Hall Adm. \$6

10am-11am Beginner Guitar & Fiddle

12-1pm Intermediate Fiddle & Step Dance

1:30-2:30pm Intermediate Guitar

7pm Féis Children's Concert

Students of our summer music program perform for family and friends. Hotdogs & Ice cream after the concert.

8-10pm Family Square dance

Ben Smith, MaryAnna MacNeil, Emily MacDonald & Katherine MacDonald.
Adm. by donation.

Saturday, August 24th

The following events will take place at St. Barra's Church & Communities Centre...

11am-12:30am Puirt a Beul Workshop with Mary Jane Lamond.

1-2:30pm Gaelic Song Workshop with Angus MacLeod.

3pm Gabh do Naidheachd / Gabh Òran

Cuiribh seachad beagan do dhuine comhla ruinn agus cluinnidh sibh naidheachd no dhà 'nar measg. This Gaelic speaking story & song session is open to all who want to share a story of song or for those who enjoy listening with host/Bean an Taighe, Màiri Britton & Lorrie MacKinnon. *Tea & lunch served.* Adm. Free.

The 28th Celtic Colours International Festival will take place from October 11-19th, 2024. Join us as we host a Matinee performance on Saturday October 12- St. Barra Church & Christmas Island Communities Centre • 2:00PM.

P.O Box 317 Christmas Island, Cape Breton
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www.feisaneilein.ca

Féis an Eilein is a Registered Charity with Revenue Canada. Every donation is greatly appreciated & charitable receipt given. Mòran taing! Many thanks!