

Féis an Eilein

Summer Events 2017



19th Annual Gaelic Concert Series
"Bu Deònach Leam Tilleadh"
Tuesdays 8pm
July 18, 25, Aug 1, 8

27th Annual Féis an Eilein
August 15 - 19

Music & Gaelic Lessons
July & August

Events take place at the
Christmas Island Fire Hall
8539 Grand Narrows Hwy (Route 223)
feisaneilein@ns.sympatico.ca
feisaneilein.ca
902-622-2627

Music & Gaelic Lessons

Music Lessons

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays
July & Aug | \$6/half hour or \$10/hour**

Beginning July 5 pick up your fiddle or get those toes tapping. We offer private youth and adult lessons in beginner, intermediate, and advanced fiddle, and beginner and intermediate piano, guitar and step-dancing. We are pleased to welcome instructors Maggie MacNeil, Shawnee Paul, and Andy MacMullin back to the Féis this year. Maggie is an accomplished pianist and step-dancer. Andy won our hearts last year with his dynamic step-dancing, and Shawnee has completed her second year of a Bachelor of Arts in Music at Acadia University. She will teach piano, fiddle, and guitar. Lessons fill up quickly and pre-registration is required. Please email maggie.macneil@gmail.com or call 902-622-2627 to book your lessons.

Beginner Gaelic Language Classes

**Wednesdays July 5 - Aug 2 | 7 - 8:30pm
\$25 for all 5 weeks**

Beth MacNeil is a well-known Gaelic language instructor. She will teach the Total Immersion Plus/Gàidhlig Aig Baile methodology. TIP (or GAB) focusses on oral repetition and the use of body language. Students will learn conversational Gaelic in a fun and stress-free environment without the need to learn to read or write the language.

Tì is Seanachas – Tea & Conversation

Fridays July 7 - 28 | 10am - 12pm | Adm. Free
Native Gaelic speakers and learners alike are invited to join Fear an Taighe Mickey MacNeil. Enjoy a cup of tea and a snack as you visit, converse, and share songs and stories in Gaelic!

19th Annual Gaelic Concert Series

Tuesdays July 18 - Aug 8 | 8pm

Adm. \$15 ~ Children 14 & under \$5

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. A traditional tea with oatcakes and tea biscuits is served.

Tickets must be purchased at the door on a first come first served basis. Doors open 7pm.

The title of our Gaelic Concert Series is derived from a song composed by local Bard Hugh F. MacKenzie while he worked in the lumber camps. Hugh F. lamented leaving his home, "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."*

We dedicate this year's Gaelic Concert Series to three individuals who have made a significant contribution to Féis an Eilein's efforts to preserve Gaelic language in our community. **Father Francis Cameron, Janet Cameron, and Florence MacIsaac** participated in our original session of Gaelic language classes using the new TIP methodology. Since that time they have organized weekly Wednesday morning Gaelic céilidhs at The Beaver Cove Take-Out. Their enthusiasm and generous giving of their time has provided an opportunity for native Gaelic speakers and learners to visit and converse in the Gaelic. We are very much obliged to them and we thank them for their commitment.

July 18

A' Ghàidhlig Anns A' Cheòl "Gaelic in the Music"

Fear an Taighe Goiridh Dòmhnallach will welcome you to the first concert of the summer series. Goiridh is a renowned Gaelic speaker, singer and composer of Gaelic songs. He will enlighten us on the deep rooted connection between our Gaelic language and our traditional Cape Breton music. Fine examples of the "Gaelic in the Music" are tonight's guests: accompanist and soloist Dougie MacPhee (piano), Howie MacDonald (fiddle), and Kevin Dugas (pipes). The evening will also feature traditional step dancing by our Féis instructors Maggie MacNeil and Andy MacMullin.

July 25

Oichche Nam Ban-Uasal "Ladies of Music"

This concert features an all-female line-up of performers. Bean an Taighe Beth MacNeil will be joined by her daughter Jenna Morton and granddaughter Clara for some Gaelic songs. Sisters Helen MacKenzie (fiddle) and Dawn MacDonald-Gillis (piano) will be getting our toes tapping in preparation for Dawn's daughter Brenley to join them on the dance stage. The strathspeys and reels for the synchronized step dancing of this talented trio will be provided by Shelly Campbell (fiddle) and Loretta MacDougall (piano). Home from British Columbia, Ryan MacDonald (pipes) will round out the cast for this evening. A show not to be missed!

August 1

**Puirt O'n Chòlaisde Ghàidhlig
"Tunes from the Gaelic College"**

Bean an Taighe Stacey MacLean will welcome this evening's performers all of whom are fellow staff at Colaisde na Gàidhlig - The Gaelic College in Saint Anne's. Featured musicians are CEO Rodney MacDonald (fiddle), Kenneth MacKenzie (pipes), and the MacDonald brothers, Colin (piano), Keith (pipes), and Kyle (fiddle). This high energy show will have the fire hall rocking with the Inverness County style of traditional playing and close to the floor step dancing. Our Féis instructors will also perform for us tonight.

August 8

**Bho Ghlùn gu Glùn
"From Knee to Knee"**

This expression is used in Gaelic to describe how songs and stories are passed from one generation to the next. This sharing of knowledge by tradition bearers, in kitchens and parlors, is how Mary Jane Lamond learned her songs. More recently, through the Office of Gaelic Affairs and Féis Cheap Breatainn, mentorship programs have been set up to continue this tradition. We now have two more generations of singers and musicians sharing songs, tunes and stories. Join Mary Jane, along with award winning fiddler Troy MacGillivray for a musical evening that explores those relationships. East Margaree fiddler and dancer Haillee Lefort will represent the latest musical generation. Tonight's featured singers include Rod C. MacNeil and Hannah MacNeil, Mickey MacNeil, Colin Watson, and Stacey MacLean. They will be joined by Féis instructors Maggie MacNeil, (piano and dance) and Andy MacMullin (dance).

27th Annual Feis an Eilein

Féis an Eilein is a community-based festival designed to promote the Gaelic language and culture of our area through educational and social activities for people of all ages. Christmas Island is home to the first Féis held outside of Scotland. Friends, relatives, and visitors 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!

Tuesday, August 15

**Cuirm-Chiùil Na Féise
"The Féis Week Concert"**
8pm | Adm. \$15 ~ Children 14 & under \$5
Dithist Fhear An Taighe - Two MC's, Hughie MacKinnon and Barry George, will welcome you tonight as we kick off our 27th Annual Féis. They will be joined by Brian Madore and Rod C. MacNeil for some Gaelic tunes. We are excited to welcome members of The Cape Breton University pipe band with featured piper Trevor Kellock. Féis instructor Shawnee Paul (fiddle and piano) will be joined by friends Vincent Joe, Vincent Joe Junior, and Mooney Francis to play some tunes. MacDonald brothers Shawn (fiddle), Paul (guitar), and Danny (fiddle) will be accompanied by Leanne Aucoin (piano). Susan MacLean (piano) will join Shawn, Danny, and Paul to play some tunes for our featured step dancers - Féis instructors - Maggie MacNeil and Andy MacMullin. Get ready folks, this kick-off concert will get you all fired up for the week's festivities!

Wednesday, August 16

**Gaelic Language Classes
10am - 4pm | Adm. \$25/per day ~ Seniors & Students \$10 | Please bring your own lunch.
Tea, coffee, and snacks will be provided.**

Intermediate/advanced classes with Goiridh Dòmhnallach. Goiridh is a Gaelic singer, composer, storyteller and educator. He was fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from some of Cape Breton's best tradition-bearers, including Seumas MacAoidh, Seonaidh Aonghuis Bhig, Pàdruig Aonghuis Sine, Fransas Dhùghaill Shandaigh and Rodaidh Ailig Ruairidh. He is one of a musical Cape Breton family, the "Dougalds" MacDonalds, originating in Kingsville, Inverness County. He was influenced by traditional musicians on both sides of his family. Goiridh works as the Gaelic Field Officer for the Gaelic Affairs branch of the NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and prefers to sing in the traditional style he learned from the singers of his native Bràigh na h-Aibhneadh. Goiridh has performed in Scotland, Ireland, and Canada, and is a highly sought after instructor for numerous Gaelic language classes and immersions throughout Cape Breton. This instruction will be provided mostly in Gaelic and will draw from everyday speech and subjects as well as from the storytelling tradition in Gaelic Cape Breton. This will be a good, relaxed Gaelic immersion opportunity.

Total Immersion Plus/ Gàidhlig Aig Baile classes with Stacey MacLean. Stacey took a great interest in Gaelic language and culture at a young age. She immersed herself in the language and attended the Féis in the early days. She has taught Gaelic in the Public School system and now teaches youth and adults at community based classes and at Gaelic cultural institutions.

Stacey will instruct this 2-day session utilizing the TIP/GAB methodology. Gàidhlig aig Baile (GAB) or Gaelic in the Community, has become the model for community-based Gaelic language learning throughout Nova Scotia. Students learn to speak and understand Gaelic through oral repetition and body language while they take part in everyday activities and conversation. There is no need to learn to read or write the language, which contributes to a fun and stress free learning environment. Féis an Eilein was the first organization in Nova Scotia to offer this model.

Students are welcome to participate in one or both days of instruction.

**Ar Seanachas, Ar Daoine agus Ar n-Àiteachan
"Our Stories, Our People and Our Places"
7:30 pm | Adm. by donation.
Tea & Lunch will be served.**

Each community in the Gaelic world had an active and lively tradition of song composition. Songs from Central Cape Breton were made by people such as Alec Steele, Captain John MacKinnon, Shamus Campbell, Jonathan MacKinnon, and Mary MacLeod. Who were these composers and what were their songs about? Do these songs matter in our modern world? This evening's event pays tribute to them and examines some of the issues around retaining their songs in the 21st century.

Join long time Féis contributor Bean an Taighe Lorrie MacKinnon as she welcomes Winnie MacDonald and her son Paul MacDonald, Rod C. MacNeil, Mickey MacNeil, and Emily Clegg as they explore some of the composers and singers from our area and the music they created.

Thursday, August 17

Gaelic Language Classes

10am – 4pm | Adm. \$25/per day ~ Seniors & Students \$10 | Please bring your own lunch. Tea, coffee, and snacks will be provided.

Intermediate/advanced class with Goiridh Dòmhnallach and TIP/GAB with Stacey MacLean are continued.

Milling Song Workshop

6pm – 7:30pm | Adm. \$6

The instructor for this workshop is Goiridh Dòmhnallach. He teaches and performs throughout North America and at events around the island. Come learn some milling songs and choruses and join in the singing tonight.

Traditional Milling Frolic

8pm | Adm. \$10 ~ Ages 14 & 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.

Friday, August 18

Latha De Dh'òrain – Day of Gaelic Songs

Adm. \$6 per workshop

We are pleased to offer this day devoted to the study of the Gaelic Song Tradition. A wide-variety of song styles will be taught. Our instructors are all well-known Gaelic singers.

11:30am – 1pm Instructor Betty Lord is a Gaelic singer, organizer, and promoter.

1pm – 2:30pm Instructor Colin Watson is a native Gaelic speaker and a long-time contributor to Féis an Eilein.

2:30pm – 4pm Instructor Shay MacMullin has

organized and taught numerous Gaelic language classes and song workshops.

Féis Children's Concert & Family Square Sets 7pm – 9pm | Adm. Free

Students of our summer music program will perform in a Féis style recital at the Christmas Island Fire Hall. Stay for some square sets with music by Féis Instructors Maggie MacNeil and Shawnee Paul. Former Féis instructor Lauren MacDonald will guide everyone through the figures. Hot dogs, pop, and ice cream will be provided. Donations accepted at the door.

Saturday August 19

Conair Moire – The Rosary

10:30am – 12pm | Adm. \$6

In many homes in our area it was a ritual to recite the Rosary in Gaelic each evening. Some people still up-hold this tradition. Among them is Rod C. MacNeil of Barra Glen who will teach the Rosary and other prayers in Gaelic. Rod is a noted Gaelic tradition-bearer and singer who has taught many classes and workshops over the years. He has supported the Féis since its inception and we sincerely appreciate his support again today.

Gabh do Naidheachd – Tell Your News

1:30pm | Adm. Free

Fear an Taighe Shamus Y. MacDonald will host this session which is conducted entirely in Gaelic. Held at the Grand Narrows Hotel, it is an opportunity to share stories and be immersed in the language. Refreshments will be served.

Sreath de dh'òrain – Gaelic Song Circle

3:30pm | Adm. Free

Bean an Taighe Lorrie MacKinnon will lead the singing at The Grand Narrows Hotel. Tradition bearers and new singers alike will be welcome to share their songs.

We sincerely hope you enjoy your Féis experience and that you can come back to visit us again!

Contact Us

Comunn Féis an Eilein

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Like us on Facebook and Twitter

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Merchandise

Féis an Eilein: Fichead Bliadhna \$20

Presented entirely in Gaelic this DVD includes Gaelic and English sub-titles and is a look back at our first 20 years. It is also a useful resource for those learning to speak and read Gaelic.

Còmhla Cruinn-Gathered Together \$20

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. We also have for sale Féis t-shirts and other merchandise.

Directions to Christmas Island

From the Canso Causeway: take Trans Canada Hwy. 105 take Exit 6 to Little Narrows, 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.

Féis an Eilein is a Registered Charity

Official receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued for all donations.

Celtic Colours Matinée

Saturday, October 7, 2017 | 2pm

celtic-colours.ca

Join us as we host a Matinée during the Celtic Colours International Music Festival.

Móran Taing Dha 'n a h-Vile Duine!

Thank you to the Christmas Island Volunteer Fire Department for your continuous support of our efforts to promote the Gaelic language and culture. We also wish to thank each and every one of you, our participants and our contributors, for your support of the Féis. Many thanks also to our volunteers and our sponsors.

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