

Féis an Eilein

Summer Events 2018



Gaelic Concert Series

Fichead Bliadhna!—Twenty Years!

“Bu Deònach Leam Tilleadh”

Tuesdays 8pm

July 17, 24, 31, Aug 7, 14

28th Annual Féis an Eilein

August 21 – 25

Music 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 Lessons

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays

July & Aug | \$6/half hour or \$10/hour

Beginning July 4 pick up your fiddle or get those toes tapping. We offer lessons in beginner and intermediate fiddle, piano, and step-dancing with instructors Maggie MacNeil and Andy MacMullin.

Pre-registration required. Please email maggie.macneil@gmail.com or call 902-622-2627

Tì is Seanachas – Tea & Conversation

Fridays July 6 – 27 | 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!

20th Annual Gaelic Concert Series

Tuesdays July 17 - Aug 14 | 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.”***

Artist bios at feisaneilein.ca

July 17

Mòd nam Fìdhlearan “The Fiddler’s Court”

Bean an Taighe Beth MacNeil will host the first concert of this our 20th year! Join her as she welcomes renowned Cape Breton traditional fiddlers Brenda Stubbart, Kimberly Fraser, and Colin Grant. Accompanists are Joël Chaisson and Aaron Lewis. They will also play some lively tunes for our featured dancers.

July 24

Òrain Ghàidhlig “Gaelic Song”

Bean an Taighe Stacey MacLean hosts tonight! Gaelic tradition-bearers The Iona Gaelic Singers Rod C. MacNeil and Mickey “John H. “MacNeil will be joined by Colin Watson and Evan Bonaparte.

Stacey will perform with Kaj Udby and Philip Whyte from Na Gaisgich Òga-The Young Heroes, a youth mentorship program. Càirdean, (Rod C. MacNeil, Hugh MacKinnon, Brian Madore, and Barry George) will perform. We also welcome Sarah MacInnis, (Gaelic song and piano), and Elizabeth MacInnis, (harmonies and fiddle). Dancers will perform to Puirt à Beul-Gaelic Mouth Music. A show not to be missed!

July 31

Céilidh nam Piobairean “The Piper’s Céilidh”

We are excited to once again present the Piper’s Céilidh after a few years absence! Bean an Taighe former Féis instructor Anita MacDonald, (fiddle, dance, and Gaelic song), will welcome fellow touring partners Ben Miller and Zakk Cormier, and her sisters Lauren and Katherine for some steps. Ryan J. MacNeil will be joined by his young son Maél performing on the chanter. We also welcome Rankin MacInnis back to the Féis. Come out and experience some of the finest traditional piping Cape Breton has to offer.

August 7

Teudan, Òrain, is Pioban “Strings, Songs, and Pipes”

Fear an Taighe Goiridh Dòmhnallach will welcome to the Féis members of the local community performing group The Legion Legends. They will entertain us with music and traditional Cape Breton ballads. Featured soloists Cathy MacMillan and Janet Gillis will perform some Gaelic songs. Piper Matt MacIsaac will treat us to some traditional tunes, and several members of “The Legends” will play a set of instrumental tunes. Susan MacLean, (piano), and Stephanie MacDonald, (fiddle), will provide the accompaniment for tonight’s step-dancers.

August 14

Aisling air an Ùrlar “A Vision on the Floor”

If you love traditional Cape Breton Step-Dance then we have a special treat in store! Bean an Taighe Betty Lord welcomes you to this night of stepping! Mac Morin, (dance and piano), Derek and Melody Cameron (dance, fiddle, and guitar), Dawn MacDonald-Gillis, (dance and piano), Kyle Gillis, (fiddle) and Helen MacKenzie, (dance and fiddle) will be joined by brothers Stephen and Louis MacLennan for The Scotch 4 and solo dance

Contact and Directions

Comunn Féis an Eilein P.O. Box 317 Christmas Island, Cape Breton Nova Scotia, B1T 1R7

From the Canso Causeway: take Trans Canada Hwy. 105 take Exit 6 to Little Narrows, cross the ferry & turn right. Approximately 30 km
From Sydney: Take Hwy. 125 to Exit 3. Take Route 223. Approximately 45 km
From Sydney: Take Hwy. 125 to Route 4 to Eskasoni turnoff. Approximately 40 km

Féis Week Schedule on Reverse!

28th Annual Féis 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. Friends, relatives, and visitors from near and far come to the Féis each year and we invite you to join us!

Tuesday, August 21

Cuirm-Chiùil Na Féise “The Féis Week Concert”

8pm | Adm. \$15 ~ Children 14 & under \$5

Members of Comunn Féis an Eilein welcome you as we kick off our 28th Annual Féis. Bean an Taighe award winning recording artist Mary Jane Lamond welcomes Cathy Ann MacPhee, herself an internationally renowned singer, who is visiting us this year. We are pleased to again present The Cape Breton University Pipe Band with featured piper Trevor Kellock. We also welcome Mr. Stan Chapman back to the Féis this year. He will be accompanied by Susan MacLean and they will also play some tunes for our featured step dancers!

Wednesday, August 22

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 Catriona Parsons: Catriona NicIomhair Parsons is a native Gaelic speaker who was born in the Isle of Lewis. She has taught Gaelic for many years and has written and published Gaelic-English articles and poetry and produced her CD of Gaelic songs.

Catriona’s Wednesday’s lesson- An Tuiseal Ginideach: (Mastering the Genitive Case).

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) has become the model for community-based Gaelic language learning. Students learn to speak and understand Gaelic through oral repetition and body language while taking part in activities and conversation.

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.**

“Annie Johnson and Cape Breton”
Renowned Isle of Barra Gaelic tradition bearer Annie Johnson was very connected to Nova Scotia. She corresponded with many people here and even came over to visit in the 1950s. One of the people she corresponded with was Sr. Margaret MacDonnell. Cathy Ann MacPhee was a little girl in Barra when she used to visit Calum Johnson (Annie’s brother). Cathy Ann will describe those visits and sing some of his songs. Bean an Taighe Lorrie MacKinnon welcomes Cathy Ann MacPhee, and Rod C. MacNeil, and Mickey MacNeil as they talk about some of the folks that Annie Johnson visited and corresponded with.



Thursday, August 23

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 Catriona Parsons **Thursday’s lesson-** Seann Sgeulachdan agus Naidheachdan: 'gan leughadh, a' bruidhinn orra, agus 'gan ath-innse. (Reading, discussing and re-telling Old Tales) and **TIP/GAB with Stacey MacLean are continued.**

Milling Song Workshop

6pm – 7:30pm | Adm. \$6

Instructor Cathy Ann MacPhee is a native Gaelic speaker who was raised on the Isle of Barra. Come and 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 24

**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.

11:00am – 12:30pm Instructor Cathy Ann MacPhee is a native Gaelic speaker and a renowned Gaelic singer.

1pm – 2:30pm Instructor Angus MacLeod is an instructor with The Atlantic Gaelic Academy.

2:45pm – 4:15pm Instructor Betty Lord 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 when our Prompter will guide everyone through the figures. Hot dogs pop, and ice cream will be provided. Donations accepted at the door.

Saturday August 25

Laoidhean Gàidhlig- Gaelic Hymns

10:30am – 12pm | Adm. \$6

Instructor Rod C. MacNeil in a noted Gaelic tradition-bearer who has a deep appreciation of our local Gaelic Hymn tradition. He will teach some of his favorites today.

Gabh do Naidheachd – Tell Your News

1:30pm | Adm. Free

Bean an Taighe Shamus Y. MacDonald will host this session which is conducted entirely in Gaelic. Tootsie and Neil will host this event at their home 7435 Grand Narrows Hwy, Big Beach. 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. This event will also take place at Tootsie and Neil’s home. Tradition bearers and new singers alike are welcome to share their songs.

CAPE BRETON POST

