

## Summer Events 2013



Festival of the Island  
Christmas Island  
Cape Breton

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

Tuesdays 8 pm  
July 9, 16, 23, 30 Aug 6, 13

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Féis an Eilein August 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Events take place at the Christmas Island Fire hall  
8539 Grand Narrows Hwy (Route 223)

As we celebrate our 23<sup>rd</sup> year in our community the membership of Comunn Féis an Eilein hope that residents and visitors alike will enjoy all the concerts, céilidhs, and events we have planned.

#### Lessons

##### **Summer Music Lessons**

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

Beginning on July 8, pick up your fiddle or get those toes tapping. We offer private youth & adult lessons in beginner and intermediate fiddle, piano, and step-dancing with Féis instructors Anita MacDonald & Lauren MacDonald.  
Phone- 902-622-2627 to book your lessons

##### **Gaelic Activity Day Camps for Youth Wednesdays July 10 – Aug 14**

**10 am – 12:30 pm Adm. \$6 or \$12 per family**  
Join our Féis instructors 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.

##### **Beginner Gaelic Language Classes**

**Wednesdays July 10 – Aug 14, 7 – 9 pm  
\$25 for all 6 weeks**

Instructor Beth MacNeil will teach Gaelic through the TIP/Gàidhlig Aig Baile method. 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 19 – Aug 16, 10 am – 12 pm (except Aug. 2nd) Adm. No Charge**

Native Gaelic speakers and learners alike are invited to join Fear an Taighe Mickey MacNeil to enjoy a cup of tea as they visit, converse, and share songs and stories in Gaelic.

#### Concerts

##### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gaelic Concert Series Tuesday evenings 8 pm**

**Admission \$12, Children 14 & under \$6**

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. A Traditional tea with oatcakes and tea biscuits will be served.

##### **July 9**

##### **A’ Cliùiteachadh Eòis Pheadair MacGilleathain**

##### **A Tribute to Joe Peter MacLean**

Tonight we honor the life and contributions of prominent Cape Breton Gael Joe Peter MacLean (Eòs Thearlaich Eòis Thorlaich). We welcome Joe Peter’s long-time friends and fellow performers in the Boisdale Trio: Father Francis (fiddle), Paul Wukitsch (fiddle) and Janet Cameron (piano), and young local fiddler Alexa Kirste. Fear an Taighe (Man of the House) Goiridh Dòmhnallach and his son Padruig, will also welcome Joe Peter’s good friends Paul Cranford (fiddle), Paul MacDonald (guitar), and Mario Colosimo (piano), the Iona Gaelic Singers, Carmen MacArthur and local dancers.

##### **July 16**

##### **Mòd nam Fidhlearn The Fiddler’s Court**

Tonight we host an evening of traditional fiddling, piano & dancing. Join Bean an Taighe (Woman of the House) noted Gaelic singer Mary J. Lamond as she welcomes Wendy MacIsaac (fiddle) and Mairi Rankin (fiddle), along with Shelly Campbell (fiddle) and Allan Dewar (piano). Anita MacDonald and Lauren MacDonald will be joined tonight by two local dancers and past Féis workers, Christina MacNeil and Meaghan O’Handley as they showcase Traditional Cape Breton style step-dancing.

##### **July 23**

##### **Dàimh**

Tonight we are pleased to welcome Gaelic super group Dàimh back to our stage for the first time in several years. Dàimh fuse together music from across the Celtic diaspora in a celebration of their common ground. Ross Martin (guitar), Gabe McVarish (fiddle), Damian Helliwell (mandolin and banjo), and Mabou native Angus MacKenzie (pipes and whistle) are sure to provide a dynamic night of music, song and dance!

##### **July 30**

##### **A' Ghàidhlig Anns A' Cheòl Gaelic in the Music**

Bean an Taighe Joanne MacIntyre will welcome The Goin’s On: Anita MacDonald (fiddle), Jason MacDonald (guitar) and Adam Young (piano). ECMA 2010 Roots/Traditional Group Recording of the Year winners, Dawn & Margie Beaton (fiddles) will grace our stage, along with the Féis Gaelic Singers. Local sisters Lauren and Katherine MacDonald will show off their steps!

**August 6**  
**Éirich Air!**  
**Driv'er**

Bean an Taighe Betty Lord will host this evening welcoming Margaree native Chrissy Crowley (fiddle) & vibrant fiddler, Mike Hall (fiddle). They will be joined by local musician Ryan J. MacNeil (pipes) and well-known accompanist Joel Chaisson (piano). Christina MacNeil, Meaghan O'Handley, Anita and Lauren MacDonald will provide some lively steps!

**August 13**  
**Còmhlha Cruinn**  
**Gathered Together**

Bean an Taighe Beth MacNeil will host this evening bringing together Baddeck native Rachel Davis (fiddle) and singer-songwriter Buddy MacDonald (guitar). They will be joined by Brenda Stubbart (fiddle) and Susan MacLean (piano), Féis Gaelic Singers and Rankin MacInnis (pipes). Anita and Lauren, Christina & Meaghan will show their steps!

**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Féis an Eilein August 20 – 24**

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, 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. We are proud to celebrate our 23<sup>rd</sup> year as a festival dedicated to preserving and promoting Gaelic culture.

**Tuesday August 20**  
**Féis Children's Concert, Weiner Roast & Family Dance 7 – 10pm**

Students of our summer music program will perform at the Christmas Island Fire hall. Stay for the Family Square dance with music by local musicians Anita MacDonald (fiddle) and Lauren MacDonald (guitar). Hot dogs and pop provided free for all ages, silver donations are welcome.

**Wednesday August 21**  
**Youth Activity Day 10 am – 2 pm**  
**\$6 per child/\$12 per family Lunch included**

Children are invited to attend a fun-filled day of Gaelic songs, stories and games. The instructor is Meaghan O'Handley, Gaelic and Music teacher at Sgoil Mhic Fhraing a' Chaolais (Rankin School of the Narrows). She will be joined by Féis Co-Chairs Beth and Debi MacNeil and Féis instructors Anita and Lauren MacDonald.

**Symposium: A' Toirt Urram do Pheadar (Jack Pheadair Chaluum Ghobha) MacGillEathain Honouring Peter Jack MacLean 7:30 pm Adm. \$10**

**Tea & Lunch will be served**  
This year's symposium honours Peter MacLean (Peadair Jack Pheadair Chaluum Ghobha) a great community tradition bearer who died on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 99. Peter generously shared his gifts with others and actively supported the Féis since its beginnings. Join Bean anTaighe Lorrie MacKinnon, tradition bearer Maxie MacNeil, Mary Jane Lamond, Shamus Y. MacDonald, Stephanie Conn, and others to explore Peter's Gaelic background, his many talents, his music, and legacy of songs, language, and life lessons.

**Thursday August 22**  
**Gaelic Language Classes 10 am – 4 pm**  
**Adm. \$25 per day Seniors & Students \$10**  
**Lunch is included**

Angus MacLeod, from the North Shore will instruct this **beginner class**. It is designed for 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. Students will also work on how to make the sounds in Gaelic that aren't heard in English, the importance of long vowel sounds, Gaelic rhythm, and other subjects related to getting an authentic Gaelic sound to a student's speech.

Educator Margie Beaton from Mabou will instruct this **intermediate/advanced class**. Entitled "Dòigh eile air a ràdh," learners will take a look at the different ways the Gaels have of expressing themselves on particular topics through the use of songs, stories, pictures, and real life situations. This class would be suitable for those who wish to expand on their vocabulary and who wish to make more use of idioms and expressions.

**Milling Song Workshop 6 – 7:30 pm**  
**Admission \$6**

Come learn some milling songs and choruses and join in the singing at the milling frolic tonight. This workshop is led by Angus MacLeod.

**Traditional Milling Frolic 8 pm**  
**Admission \$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 23**  
**Beg. & Int. /Adv. Gaelic Language**  
**10 am – 4 pm Lunch is included**  
**Adm. \$25 per day Seniors & Students \$10**  
Day-long classes with Instructors Angus MacLeod and Margie Beaton are continued

**Cuirm-Chiùil Na Féise**  
**The Féis Week Concert 8 pm**  
**Admission \$12 Children 14 & under \$6**  
Tonight Bean an Taighe Anita MacDonald will welcome a dynamic line-up of entertainers. Sydney Mines native Kimberley Fraser (fiddle) will be accompanied by eminent piano soloist and Cape Breton accompanist, Doug MacPhee. They will be joined by All Fired Up: Keith (pipes), Kyle (fiddle/drums) and Colin MacDonald (piano) and Kenneth MacKenzie (pipes) and Chris Babineau (guitar). Jenny Cluett, Anita and Lauren will provide some driving steps!

**Saturday August 24**  
**Gaelic Language Workshops 10:30 – 11:45 am**  
Beth MacNeil will instruct the beginner class Carmen MacArthur will lead the intermediate/advanced session. Students will be taught conversational Gaelic through the TIP/Gàidhlig Aig Baile method which utilizes body language and oral repetition.

**Songs in the Kitchen – Òrain anns a' Chidsin 12 – 1:30 pm Admission \$6**  
This workshop, instructed by Betty Lord, offers a variety of song types from puirt-a-beul to lullabies and songs suited to just singing along together. Participants will come away with a selection of songs that they can sing in a number of different settings.

### **Gaelic Song Circle – Sreath de dh’Òrain**

**2 – 3:30 pm Adm. No Charge**

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

### **“Tell Your News” – Gabh do Naidheachd**

**3:30 – 5:30 pm Adm. No Charge**

Fear an Taighe Shamus Y. MacDonald will host this session which is 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.

### **Square Dancing Workshop 7:30 – 8:30 pm**

**Adm. \$6**

Join instructor Anita MacDonald and learn the basic steps for a traditional Cape Breton square dance. She will be leading you through the Christmas Island/Sydney set. Her lively and enthusiastic style will have you ready to show off your steps at tonight’s dance!

### **Family Square Dance 9 – 1 pm**

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

We finish off Féis week with a night of music, dancing and fun for everyone! Bring your family & friends to hear Marc Boudreau (fiddle) & friends. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Canteen Service Only

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

Presented entirely in Gaelic this DVD includes Gaelic and English sub-titles & is a look back at our first 20 years. Filmed by Colette Thomas and supported by The Center for Cape Breton Studies at CBU, The Office of Gaelic Affairs and Nova Scotia Tourism and Culture. \$20.00

### **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 Fire hall. \$20.00

### **Contact us: Comunn Féis an Eilein**

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Nova Scotia, B1T 1R7

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<http://www.feisaneilein.ca>

Ph/Fax: 902-622-2627

**Facebook: Féis an Eilein**

**Twitter: @feisaneilein**



### **Directions 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 in the Surrounding Area**

Grand Narrows Hotel B&B, Grand Narrows  
622-1330 [info@grandnarrowshotel](mailto:info@grandnarrowshotel)  
Bras d’Or Lakes Hideaway, Grand Narrows  
622-2009

Barra Strait Inn, Iona 725-2360

Hector’s Arm B&B, Iona 622-1229

### **Where to Eat in the Surrounding Area**

Beaver Cove Take Out, Beaver Cover 871-2180

Barra Strait Inn Dining Room, Iona 725-2360

Royal Canadian Legion Friday Suppers Iona

Wheelhouse Cafe Grand Narrows 622-1313

### **Where to Visit in the Surrounding Area**

Barra Strait Marina Laundry and Showers

Iona Cap Site

NS Highland Village Museum, Iona

NS Agency Liquor Store Iona

St. Barra Parish, Christmas Island

St. Columba Parish, Iona

St. Andrew Parish, Boisdale

**Thank you to the Christmas Island Volunteer Fire Department for your continuous support of our efforts to promote the Gaelic language and its cultural art-forms.**

### **Comunn Féis an Eilein is a Registered Charity**

We appreciate financial contributions which will be used to provide Gaelic language instruction and other initiatives. Official receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued for all donations.

We also invite you to show your support for our efforts by purchasing a membership.

Individual \$5.00, Family \$10.00

### **Celtic Colours Matinée**

**Monday October 14, 2012**

Join us as we host a Matinée during the Celtic Colours International Music Festival. Tickets will be available at the box office or by calling 622-2605. Visit: [www.celtic-colours.ca](http://www.celtic-colours.ca) for more info.

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Christmas Island is a community dedicated to the promotion and preservation of our Gaelic language and culture.