

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gaelic College programming clarification

The Editor

Some clarification to the Statement posted in your last issue by the Gaelic College, regarding its programming changes and cuts planned by new administration and signed by Board Chair Maureen Carroll:

Question #8: Will there be a Pipe Band re-established at the Gaelic College?

Gaelic College Statement: Yes. In 2012, a new Pipe Band will be established under the direction of Kenneth MacKenzie and Paul K. MacNeil. Both pipers bring experience and expertise in both competition style and Cape Breton style piping.

This is a very misleading statement. There will not be the style of Pipe Band that has been formerly a huge part of the Gaelic College program. Typically, at the Gaelic College, Highland Games and to most people's perception of a 'Pipe Band' ~ the ideal of a Pipe Band is that of a military style marching band of Pipers and Drummers. This is not what they are referring to in their statement. The new style Pipe Band they are promoting is an ensemble which includes pipes, fiddle, piano, guitar, Gaelic vocal and step dance. The idea is to play the Cape Breton style of tunes to drive the dancers. It is a performance style band with pipers ~ not the typical Pipe Band of earlier GC days.

The Gaelic College cannot have the former style of Pipe Band, when they are

not offering courses in drumming at all. Pipe Band style drumming is not being offered in any of the 2012 programs.

Question #9: Will Bursaries be removed or no longer offered through the Gaelic College?

Gaelic College Statement: No. The past years' bursaries will continue to be offered through the Gaelic College.

There will no longer be a Harp Bursary, as Harp is no longer a subject at the Gaelic College. Harp, as well as Drumming, has been completely cut from all programs. Bodhran is only being offered one week as opposed to its previous near full March Break and Summer Session offering.

Also, although the Highland Dance Competition has been re-instated for 2012 after the public outcry, the CEO has publicly stated that its future is doubtful, and that the Board would make this decision in the end, however he will make his suggestions with regards to not approving of competition 'on site'.

A comparison of the March Break programming for 2011 and the 2012 format can be done by visiting the Gaelic College at their website at www.gaelic-college.edu/school/march-break-fun-camp/general-info.html.

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3 day rural leadership development in Iona

Special

The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia has announced the four recipients of awards under its Rural Leadership Initiative. A total of \$15,000 will be used to support community initiatives in Colchester, Cumberland, Annapolis and Victoria Counties.

Highland Village in partnership with Sage Voices: Leadership Development through the transference of wisdom and skills is presenting a leadership development opportunity for 12 to 15 Cape Breton women, ages 19-30 who are or would like to be leaders in their communities. A three day residential workshop will be held in August at the Highland Village in Iona. Young women will experience life in Gaelic (late nineteenth - early twentieth Century) Cape Breton through food, dress, music, language and customs associated with home and community. They will connect and compare the circumstances of then and now as a way to focus on their own leadership skills within today's economic, social and cultural circumstances in Cape Breton.

The Rural Leadership Initiative promotes rural leadership development in the process of serving community needs. The intent of these grants is to enhance leadership within rural communities, both skill and leadership capacity; building on existing resources and increase understanding of the impact of leadership on rural communities.

"These projects included both leadership development and the application of their leadership skills," says Pam Harrison, Chair of the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia. "We remain committed to the long term sustainability of rural and coastal communities and are encouraged by the dedication of Nova

Scotians to this effort."

Each participant will come to the workshop with a plan for a project she intends to initiate or continue in her community setting, in conjunction with a community mentoring partner. Associated with each project will be a specific leadership skill which each will identify, discuss and practice during the workshop.

This project is also supported through contributions from Victoria County, Strait-Highlands RDA, and the Cape Breton Community Economic Development Agency.

The three other groups receiving funding under the Rural Leadership Initiative are United Way of Colchester County; Maggie's Place Family Resource Centre, Cumberland County; and Family Matters, Annapolis County.

Firefighters achieve Level 1 training



After weeks of training the firefighters in this picture completed their Level 1 at the fire school in Waverley, Nova Scotia. Front row L-R Deputy Chief Deidre Fraser of Bay St. Lawrence Fire Department; Firefighter Brent Anderson, Cape North Fire Department. Back row L-R Firefighter Jason Whitty, Ingonish Fire Department; Firefighter Mike Fitzgerald, Cape North Fire Department; Chief Scott MacKinnon, Cape North Fire Department; and Firefighter Raymond Donovan of Ingonish Beach Fire Department.

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INVERARY'S 2012

Winter Program

THISTLEDOWN PUB

Open Fridays & Saturdays
Pub menu available.
Entertainment every Saturday.

TRADITIONAL SQUARE DANCES

MacAulay Conference Centre
Step it out with Cape Breton's best.
Jan. 28 – Rodney MacDonald
Feb. 18 – Douglas Cameron
March 31 – Brenda Stubbert
April 28 – Chrissy Crowley
Time: 9:00pm – 12:00am

\$10* per person, plus taxes & gratuities.

ST. PADDY'S DAY PARTY*

March 17th, featuring John Ferguson of McGinty and Buddy MacDonald.
9:00pm-1:00am \$15.00 per person
*Must be 19 of years or older.

VISITING CHEFS SERIES

January 21, Chef Terry Vassallo, Executive Chef, Trattoria Della Nonna, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
www.trattoriadellanonna.ca

Terry, a native Cape Bretoner learned his culinary trade on Canada's West Coast, returning to Halifax he worked for The Five Fisherman and Seven. His culinary imagination blends French practices with Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Award winning, "Trattoria Della Nonna", continues to be recognized as one of Nova Scotia's leading foodie experiences. Inverary is pleased to welcome Terry home and hope you can join us for this culinary celebration of winter.

Dinner is served:

- Seared scallops with crimini and oyster mushroom risotto, with duck stock, grana padano and balsamico reduction.
- Cinzano and lime sorbetto
- Slow roasted porchetta (pork shoulder) filled with spinach and fontina accompanied by roasted winter root vegetable ragu & served with pan drippings & salsa verde.
- Tiramisu

\$49 per person, plus taxes & gratuities.

OTHER VISITING CHEFS SERIES
Feb 25th, March 24th and April 21st.



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