

MID-WINTER CELTIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 1st, 2025

THE EXCHANGE

2431 - 8th Avenue



MID-WINTER CEILIDH

Door - 7:30 • Show - 8:00

WEST OF MABOU TRIO

EMILY DUBOIS FIDDLE

The City of Regina Pipe Band
and friends.

TICKETS \$20 at the website
and \$25 at the door.



FESTIVAL AFTERNOON

Free performances and workshops
12 noon until 4:30 with displays and
information from local Celtic groups.

www.reginacelticfestival.org



Welcome to the MWCF!

The Mid-Winter Ceilidh began in about 1990 as a winter fundraiser and volunteer warm-up for the Regina Folk Festival. The Regina Folk Festival had pipers involved early on, and it wasn't long before the newly formed City of Regina Pipe Band was playing. Then, the Regina Folk Festival decided to drop the event, and the pipe band took over and has been running it ever since.

Over the years, we've had some brilliant musical performances, and it has been a showcase for the City of Regina Pipe Band in the community. When able, we've always tried to include as much of the wider Celtic community as we could, and you'll see that tradition continues. This has been reflected in the "festival" part of the event. When you visit the Festival during the day, you see and hear diverse and excellent performers from Regina, and have the chance to learn about groups in the community, other events, volunteer opportunities, and we'll even have a few vendors selling Celtic wares.

All proceeds from the Festival go to supporting the City of Regina Pipe Band and the Conservatory Pipe Band, our youth band. As part of our partnership with the Conservatory at the University of Regina, the CRPB supplies all instruments and uniforms for the youth band. It's a costly undertaking.

We are grateful for The Regina Warehouse District and FROST Regina for their support, and to sponsors such as SaskTel for their contributions, including the great people at The Exchange.

Our thanks to the volunteers, including the many excellent community groups who have agreed to participate. We hope you'll enjoy the day of activity, and we look forward to seeing you all out on the dance floor at the Mid-Winter Ceilidh!



2025 SPONSORS



Festival Hosts: City of Regina Pipe Band

2025 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

Afternoon Stage Performances at the MWCF



The free afternoon stage performances feature many of the excellent Celtic groups in Regina. Looking after the stage is Master of Ceremonies **Vincent Murphy**, well known to stages across Saskatchewan and on the airwaves via his excellent broadcasts on CJTR Community Radio, 91.3 FM.

12:30 pm - Conservatory of Performing Arts Pipe Band

The group is a youth pipe band, welcoming new learners on pipes or drums throughout the year. The goal is to teach music skills in a fun environment for children and youth, with new learners starting as young as eight years.
<https://www.conservatorypipeband.org/>



1:00 pm - Regina Police Service P&D

The Regina Police Service Pipes and Drums are a competition and performance group representing the RPS at many functions in Regina.
<https://www.facebook.com/rpspd.ca/>

1:30 pm - A Bit of Brew

Michael Quinn, Barbara MacDonald and Iain MacDonald—original members of the Regina band **Iron Brew**—offer a few tunes and songs to get you in the mood for the Ceilidh later in the day.

2:00 pm - Blakey School of Irish Dance Regina

Blakey Irish Dance is the longest-running school in Saskatchewan. We offer top-level tuition and also have workshops with other Blakey teachers on a regular basis, offering our dancers exposure to the wider dance community in North America. Blakey dancers have placed on the podium at the World Championships, All Ireland Championships, Great Britain Championships and North American Irish Dance Championships.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093836284110>

2:30 pm - RCMP Pipes & Drums

The Regina RCMP Pipe Band is comprised of RCMP members and community performers. They represent the RCMP at events such as the famous Sunset Ceremony at RCMP Depot, and members of the band have performed around the world as part of a Canadian RCMP pipe band. <https://www.facebook.com/rcmppipebanddepot>



3:00 pm - Regina Highland Dancing Association

The Regina Highland Dance Association is a youth-focused organization that provides opportunities for young people to develop physical fitness through participation in Highland Dance at both competitions and performances.

<http://rhda.ca/wp/our-team/who-we-are/>

3:30 pm - Living Skies Irish Dance

Living Skies offers classes for dance enthusiasts age three and up. Whether one is looking for traditional or contemporary Irish dance, or dance fitness, Living Skies Irish Dance has something to offer everyone

<https://livingskiesirishdance.com/>.



4:00 pm - Flatland Fiddling Studio



The Flatland Fiddling Studio is a lesson space for all ages of learning, and for all types fiddle music! The studio focuses on private lessons building community through group lessons, jams, workshops, and perhaps even concerts! <https://flatlandfiddling.com/>

Free Workshops at the MWCF

One of the ways we try to give back to the community is by providing free learning opportunities. These are for either jumping in to try something, or just sitting back to enjoy!

1:30 pm - Learning Your First Scottish Country Dance - The Regina Scottish Country Dancers will introduce to this fun and social form of dance! No experience needed. Scottish country dancing is a traditional form of folk dance associated with Scottish culture. The Regina Scottish Country Dancers dance Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Victoria Club. It is a great opportunity for fun, friendship, and fitness done to lively music. We would love to have you join us for an evening of dancing. You can contact us via the group email reginascottishcountrydancers@gmail.com.

2:45 pm - Learn Your First Irish Dance - Emily Armer of The Living Skies Irish Dance School will lead you through the basics of your first Irish dance! Take your first steps to *Riverdance* fame at the Mid-Winter Celtic Festival! No experience needed.

3:30 pm - Celtic Sing Along - A fun session led by Barbara MacDonald covering some well-loved songs and some new favourites. Science tells us that singing in groups is one of the most fulfilling of human experiences, so come along and join voices to lift your Mid-Winter spirits!



Displays and Shops at the Festival

Community organizations are on display in the afternoon, and we encourage you to check them out. There will be information and conversation about many great activities in Regina, a chance to volunteer, and maybe it's time to finally try Scottish County Dancing?

The Saskatchewan Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival

<https://www.saskhighland.ca/>

The Conservatory Pipe Band

<https://www.conservatorypipeband.org/>

The Scottish Heritage Society of Regina

<https://www.facebook.com/ScottishHeritageSocietyRegina/>

Regina Scottish Country Dancers

<https://reginascottishcountrydancers.org/>

The Living Skies School of Irish Dance

<https://livingskiesirishdance.com/>

Madroot Creations

Madroot Creations is nature-inspired jewelry, including handmade wooden jewelry, carved tree spirits and boxes.

Fairys Glen

Celtic-inspired jewelry and gifts. A selection of hand-sewn goods including journals, pouches, bags and accessories, as well as an interesting variety of collectibles and jewelry.

Finding “the carrying stream”: Locating and Defining “Traditional” Irish/Scottish Music in Saskatchewan through Autoethnography and Community Connections - Come into the main hall to meet Dr. Aislinn McDougall and learn about her exciting research project that could involve your lived experience in Celtic culture.

Stay Classy in the **BAXTER ROOM**

From meetings to meet-ups and birthdays to bachelorette parties, the Baxter Room is the perfect venue to host your event.

= Book Now! =




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2025 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

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2025 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

Mid-Winter Ceilidh Performances

The doors open at 7:30pm for an amazing evening of music and dance, managed by Master of Ceremonies **Andrew Gallagher**.

8:00 pm - The City of Regina Pipe Band - Saskatchewan Champions continuously since 1993, band strives to maintain a Grade 2 competitive standard, while at the same time providing a training ground for young players, and a springboard for musicians who want to go on the highest level bands.

8:30 pm - Highland Dance with Courtney Horejda - Courtney has represented Saskatchewan at the Canadian Championships and she will be performing a National dance called "Blue Bonnets" to the pipe music "The Blue Bonnets are Over the Border," a Scottish ballad about Bonnie Prince Charlie's march into England in 1745. A blue bonnet was a traditional piece of Highland dress and the large highland composition of the Jacobite Army became associated with them.

8:45 pm - Irish Dance solo with Jenna Healy - Jenna is an award-winning Irish dancer and snare drummer with the City of Regina Pipe Band!

9:00 pm - Emily Dubois - Emily Dubois is a musically ambitious fiddler from Langbank, Saskatchewan who has returned to the flatlands after ten years away developing her art. Now she shares it through teaching and performance and we are delighted to have her playing at the Ceilidh!

9:45 pm - West of Mabou Trio - With a nod to their East Coast heritage, West of Mabou carries on the tradition of Celtic musicianship with an animated and boisterous flair. The band's beginnings are simple enough - a few folks on prairies getting together to play a few "chunes" on a chilly winter evening. What they found was an alchemy that led them to audiences across North America. West of Mabou Trio is Alex Rasmussen (pipes, whistles), Justin Easton (guitar) and Roberta Wallace (fiddle).



This youth group of advanced musicians is preserving the Canadian Fiddle Culture by putting a contemporary twist on both old and new fiddle tunes by stringing them together using complex arrangements - and is one of the few youth fiddle performance groups in Saskatchewan! For more information on joining the group or taking lessons from the Flatland Fiddling Studio, please contact flatlandfiddling@gmail.com.

WEST OF MABOU HORIZONS



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westofmabou.ca



2025 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

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· IRISH PUB ·



MONDAY, MARCH 17

2025 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

Women of the FUR TRADE

WOMEN OF THE FUR TRADE

by Frances Koonan

DIRECTED BY YVETTE NOLAN

FEBRUARY 5 TO 23, 2025

ON THE BAWLWISSON MAIN STAGE

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INTERMISSION



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www.saskhighland.ca



2025 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

The Professor & the Poet

*Professor Jefferson McNutt loose-cannons his way
through class-segments in his final term before
retirement—a comedy with original songs.*

Wednesday, 12 March, 2025.

7:30 p.m.

Campion College Auditorium

University of Regina

Tickets are \$20

Buy tickets and donate in advance.

Tickets also available at the door.



**All proceeds in support of
Campion College student scholarships.**



Presented by

The Study Theatre.

Written and performed by Alex MacDonald.

Directed by Colin MacDonald.