

# **2010 Immersion Weekend, Colorado Springs, CO**

*To register for this event, print the registration form and follow the instructions there.*

## **Ceud Mìle Fàilte gu Colorado! (100,000 Welcomes to Colorado!)**

### **IMMERSION 2010 TO BE HELD IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO**

After a very successful Immersion Weekend in Colorado Springs in 2009, we're returning to the same site for 2010. An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (ACGA) presents its 14th Annual Scottish Gaelic Immersion Weekend, held for the fourth time in Colorado and the second time in Colorado Springs, from Thursday June 3 – Sunday June 6, 2010.

This event will feature some of the best Scottish Gaelic instructors from Cape Breton and the United States. The immersion weekend is a unique opportunity for learners of Scottish Gaelic to come together with more advanced and native speakers in both a classroom setting and informal gatherings. Whether you are a new learner with no experience or an advanced speaker, the immersion weekend will provide opportunities to speak Gaelic in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

We'll likely have informal afternoon, or at least evening events on arrival day, Thursday, June 3rd. We'll have a full schedule of classes, workshops, and special events all day on Friday and Saturday, and morning sessions on Sunday, June 6. Extracurricular activities will include a cèilidh on Saturday evening.

#### **Our Teachers**

**Donnie MacDonald ("Donnie Large")**

I am from the Isle of Lewis, raised in Skigersta in Ness and later in Upper Bayble in Point. My first language is Gaelic, and my mother Christina Macdonald was the school teacher at Skigersta Primary. She would compose Gaelic poems for the children to recite. When I started attending the High School in Stornoway, the Nicolson Institute, there was a decision required between Gaelic and Latin. I opted for Gaelic, and only then did I realise that I could not read or write the language. Now I can!

My professional teaching experience is limited to 3 years at the Scottish School of Physical Education at Jordanhill College in Glasgow, and 3 years teaching in schools in Renfrew-shire. During this time I discovered my mother's poems and began the very enjoyable journey of composing music to suit. This led to two LP recordings on the Lismor label, and subsequent TV appearances in Gaelic light entertainment. I resigned from teaching and earned my living behind the mic for the next seven years, travelling both in Scotland and some countries in Europe.

In June 1983, I accepted an invitation to work in Long Beach, CA for that summer. I am still in CA. I work in the Irish and Scottish folk duo Men of Worth. We are involved with concerts and educational assemblies in the USA, and vacation bus tours in Ireland and in Scotland. In 1992, I moved to Citrus Heights near Sacramento. My wife Phyllis is from that area, and we have a fifteen year old daughter, Fiona. I teach a small group of students on a monthly basis, and I often get Gaelic related question arriving by e-mail.

**[minchmusic@comcast.net](mailto:minchmusic@comcast.net)**

**Mòrag Burke**

Marion (Mòrag) Burke was born in Sydney, NS on April 17, 1943. When her father enlisted in the army and went overseas, she went to live with her grandparents in Big Pond, as her mother worked in Sydney. At that time, Big Pond was almost totally Gaelic-speaking and Gaelic was what she grew up hearing. But she was not encouraged to speak it and it wasn't until she went to

St. Francis Xavier University in 2000 and took courses in Celtic Studies that she became more fluent as a speaker and learned to read and write the language as a beginner. She is still learning and takes classes wherever and whenever the opportunity presents itself and since learning Gaelic is a lifetime endeavor, she hopes to continue honing her skills.

Mòrag tutored Gaelic at StFX for 5 years and taught children's "after-school" Gaelic classes in St. Andrew's, NS for 3 years. She is currently MC and "in-house" Gaelic singer for the Cape Breton Gaelic Society and helps to facilitate a Gaelic conversation group on Saturdays from November to April.



### **Caroline Root**

Caroline began her interest in Scottish Gaelic in high school when she found a "Teach Yourself Gaelic" book and tape set in the basement of a local bookstore in Boulder Colorado. Though she never progressed farther than chapter three ("obh obh a Sheonag, tha e beag") as a solitary learner, the seemingly inconsequential purchase was to change her life. Another coincidence brought her into contact with weekly study groups and classes in Denver and through them Gaelic began to truly take over her life. After a year of classes she moved to North Uist, Scotland to participate in the first year of the "Gaelic Language and Traditional Music" course at Colaisde Beinn na Faoghla. But Gaelic wasn't done with her yet. After she completed the course she returned home to Colorado and applied to University and was off to Canada. She spent a fantastic three years in Antigonish, Nova Scotia getting a B.A. hon in Celtic studies from St Francis Xavier University. Wishing to continue her work with Gaelic, Caroline then moved to Glasgow and completed a teacher training course for Gaelic medium teachers. Upon completion of that course she accepted a teaching post on the Isle of Tiree.



She taught there for two years before returning to the sunny climes of Colorado in the summer of 2009. Since then she has been trying to get residents of the San Luis Vally to listen to Celtic tales, do ceilidh dancing and learn Gaelic.

## **Our Location: Colorado College**



The site is the very lovely campus of Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We think you'll find this a great setting, with good facilities for our classes and meetings, a fine cafeteria, and reasonable (but college dormitory-style) lodging. Here's a photo of Gaylord Hall, where we'll be staying:



Here's our classroom building, Slocum Hall:



And here's the cafeteria, in Rastall Hall:



## **Registering for the Event**

You'll find the registration form here

(it's also available from the navigation bar to the left). Just print it, fill it out, and mail it in with payment.

We hope to see you there.

## **Other Information**

Non-locals can fly into Colorado Springs itself, or into Denver with a rental car (or perhaps additional travel by bus). We'll put more details about this on the website soon. We also hope to provide our own volunteer-based local transport between the Colorado Springs airport and the college.

***Watch this space*** for information updates, including teachers, special events, and transportation information.