



# Guth na Dannairean Voice of the Dancers

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Salutations!

As those first green shoots of the brave crocuses poke through the garden soil in search of the warming rays of the spring sun, we can watch winter begin to pack up her now-sullied mantle of snow and ice. Soon our eyes will feast on the vibrant colours of a new season, from the pastel palette of the early flowers to the vibrant reds and yellows of tulips and daffodils and the fresh green of newly-budded leaves. As you can tell, I am more than ready for the new season and the promise of spring!

First, I want to congratulate and thank all our applicants for the Muriel Boyle Memorial Awards. Eight member dancers put a great deal of effort into tracking their accomplishments over the past year, completing the detailed application form, and gathering references to support their achievements not just in dance but in character and spirit. The quality of the applicants was such that our selection committee did not have an easy task in adjudicating the entries. Our successful applicants this year were Katie Turnbull in the Pre-Premier category and Katie Wood in the Junior Premier class. Unfortunately, we did not have any Senior Premier applicants this year. Thanks are due to Rachelle Lockwood and Elaine Hollman for their much-appreciated role as our selection committee for this year's awards. Thanks again to all our applicants. I would encourage dancers to keep this award in mind as you go through 2010, as you could be one of our deserving recipients next year!

Fund-raising members, don't forget about the competition and costume expense subsidy that is available. Reimbursement of these types of expenses incurred between January 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 can be claimed by submitting receipts to our Treasurer. Please refer to the details elsewhere in this newsletter to find out how you can claim your subsidy.

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### Dates to Remember.

- April 10 & 11—Spring Tune Up*
- April 17—Quill Lake Competition*
- May 1— Provincial Day Championship and Competition*
- May 17—SHDA Annual General Meeting*
- May 22—Newsletter submission deadline*
- May 23—Regina Highland Games*
- May 29 — Saskatoon Open Competition*
- July 7-11 — ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2010*
- August 19-21—FOLKFEST!*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued**

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Just a few weeks away is our annual Spring Tune-Up workshop. This is an excellent opportunity for dancers to partake of additional instruction and enjoy learning other disciplines, such as yoga, that complement their highland training. A registration form and further details will be found in these pages.

In ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2010 news, the excitement is mounting! Our committees have been tirelessly working away, putting in place all the details large and small that are required to put on an event of this magnitude. One great need right now is VOLUNTEERS. If you haven't already done so, please take a minute to complete the Volunteer Registration form and send it off to Michelle Cowell. If each of you, our SHDA members, offers just a few hours of your time at SDCCS 2010, we will have one of the best-staffed events ever. I can attest from personal experience that volunteering at this event is fun and exciting; furthermore, it is very gratifying to be able to make even a small contribution to the enjoyment of hundreds of dancers and their friends and supporters.

By the time you read this, online registration will be live for the dance events, so I hope that many of you will already have signed up. Ticket sales for the social events will open in April. You definitely will not want to miss any of these great events that round out the SDCCS experience: the spectacular opening ceremonies, the scrumptious banquet and dance, and the electrifying family ceilidh on the riverbank. Don't forget the pin exchange, for which no ticket is required, an event that offers a terrific way to meet other dancers from across the country and around the world.

In preparation for SDCCS 2010, there is going to be a scrutineering [computer scoring] workshop held on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the interest, there may be both a morning and afternoon session. This workshop will be great for anyone who is interested in volunteering as a scorer at 2010 or at local competitions. Watch for an e-mail with the registration form and further details, coming soon to an inbox near you!

Of course, the prelude to the Canadian Championships is fast approaching – the Provincial Championship event for Premier dancers and Closed Competition for all dancers are scheduled for Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in North Battleford. On behalf of the SHDA, I offer our best wishes to the Premier-level dancers in the Championship, and encourage all SHDA members to register for the Closed Competition in the afternoon.

Thinking warm, sunny thoughts,

***Elaine Baptie***



## MEMBERSHIP SUBSIDY

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At the General Members' Meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, a motion was passed to provide a subsidy to fund-raising members for certain expenses incurred between January 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Members in good standing may request reimbursement of competition expenses, such as entry fees, the dancer's share of hotel room costs, gas or other transportation costs, and the dancer's meals. Eligible costume expenses include costumes themselves as well as dance shoes. Each dancer may receive up to \$100 in reimbursement.

Receipts with an itemized list should be sent to the SHDA Treasurer along with a self-addressed stamped envelope so that your reimbursement cheque may be sent to you:

**Ronda Bolton**  
**150 Delayen Crescent**  
**Saskatoon SK S7N 2V6**

To lessen the administrative complexity and costs, please save up your receipts until you have the \$100 limit before submitting them to Ronda. The only exception would be if you are not claiming the entire amount. Ronda will thank you for making her task easier!

## COSTUMES FOR SALE

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Create a full outfit or buy the pieces you need ! All were worn by a dancer with a slim build.

**Kilt:** Dress Royal Cunningham (6 m. of fabric) – waist from 20” to 22+”; hips approximately 27” to 30”; length 22” [hem fully let down] – worn from age 7

\$125.00

**Jacket:** Royal blue velvet jacket with silver braid and buttons – fits chest size 30”; measurement across front below armholes 16”; sleeve length 17”; back length from neck to centre point 20”. Hardly worn, but with tiny blemish not visible on stage. \$65

**Vest:** Royal blue velvet vest with silver braid and buttons – fits chest size 29”; measurement across front below armholes is 15.5”; back length from neck to centre point 17” \$45

**Socks:** Wool socks [match Royal Cunningham, Menzies or similar] – foot length approximately 7.5”; length from heel to top of cuff [folded] 13”; calf 6.5 unstretched \$30

**Socks:** Wool socks [match Royal Cunningham, Menzies or similar] – foot length approximately 8.25”; length from heel to top of cuff [folded] 14”; calf 7” unstretched \$40

Please contact Elaine at [tartan@sasktel.net](mailto:tartan@sasktel.net) or 373-7659.

## COMPETITIONS REPORT (from M.J. Sherven)

Mmmmmmm, what to write about this month ... how about February's good turn out of 111 dancers? No, I think people want to read about something else rather than stats. How about the fact that the next competition on May 29<sup>th</sup> is being held at a totally different venue – Walter Murray Collegiate? Nah, they'll see that on the entry form being released on April 1<sup>st</sup> (no joking). How about the fact that Premier dancers 16 years and over receive hard cold cash instead of medals at the May competition? Nope – they probably don't want their parents knowing that fact because they may have to pay a portion of those winnings to their parents; besides dancing for money could bring about a negative tone to Highland dance. What if I talked about the amazing competitions committee that make the events run so smoothly? Nah, they're such a humble crew that they would probably would hate it if I told everyone that Helen Hay rocks as co-chair, that Tammy Helgert rules the set up, that Simone is the program queen (I think she deserves a tiara), and that Theresa totally outdoes herself with the Primary goodies and the Raffle prizes and the flooring (boy, she does it all) and don't get me started on Bronwen and Deb taking care of our judges and pipers or how Tammy and Yvonne put on such a great awards ceremony every competition – how they keep track of all those medals and trophies is beyond me. Ya I think it would be a mistake to mention these people in the newsletter – besides I would probably forget someone then I would feel like a total tool. What if I wrote that people could sponsor a class of dancers at our upcoming July 7-11<sup>th</sup> event and could have their name immortalized on a trophy for a mere \$250.00. How cool would that be? Ya, maybe I'll tell people about that – oh wait I think Wendy was going to do that and she might get ticked with me for repeating her message. What to write about – mmmmmmm. Dang it, I can't think of anything.

*M.J. Sherven, Competitions Coordinator*

***The MacTavish brothers decided that one of their number would go to America and make his fortune, coming back to share with the rest of them. The youngest, Ian, was chosen for this task. Off he went, and he worked hard in America, and earned himself a fortune over a few years, and wired his brothers that he'd be returning with it. When he came back to Scotland he got off the boat, and looked around for his brothers, but could not see anyone who looked familiar. Finally, a group of bearded strangers approached. "Ho, Ian, are ye not knowing yer own brothers?" asked the first one. Then Ian realized his brothers had grown beards. "Fer heaven's sake, laddies, what would ye be growin' them beards for, now?" he asked. "We had to, lad, ye took the razor wi' ye!"***

## **BINGO UPDATE**

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Thanks very much to everyone who has signed up to work the past bingo shifts that we have had, especially those that came forward at the last moment for the late shift on Valentine's Day!! I look forward to hearing from many more of you regarding our next bingo dates. Those dates are: **Monday, May 3, 2010, for the early and the late shift, and Friday, May 14, for the early shift only.**

As has been mentioned in the past, it is appreciated if everyone can take their turn working a late shift. After all, everybody has to get up the next morning for something. Please keep in mind that if you have fulfilled your two bingo shifts per dancer requirement, we will pay our own members to work the bingo shifts in order to cover our required shifts. Let's keep in mind that we did decide as a group to continue working the bingo shifts at **\*THIS\*** bingo hall as one of our fundraising events. One other thing that I need to mention is this—If you find that you can't work your required bingo shift, and you can't line up a family member or friend to work it for you, it is possible to hire someone from the bingo hall to cover the shift. **HOWEVER**, it is necessary to **HIRE THROUGH US**. Since we have hired a manager to run these bingo sessions for us, that is the person who chooses the extra workers from the bingo hall that they want to work with them.

As I mentioned previously, please email me after the email is sent out to everyone from Elaine Bap-tie. (I'm trying to make it fair for everyone to reply.) My email address is: [The5W.athome@sasktel.net](mailto:The5W.athome@sasktel.net). I print off all emails received at this point and go through them in order that they are received. Please include the areas that you are comfortable working at, and we'll do our best to accommodate - but promise nothing!!! Thanks again!

*Lynn Wagner, Bingo Coordinator*

## **WORKSHOPS**

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### **Are you ready for a ...Spring Fling?**

**The Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association Presents its  
Annual Spring Tune Up Workshop!**

**Saturday April 10-Sunday April 11, 2010  
Albert Community Center, Saskatoon**

***Presenting Dana Gamache, instructor  
Yoga sessions will also be provided  
Registration deadline April 5, 2010***

Forms & payment may be mailed to:

SHDA Workshops  
c/o Cathryn Wood  
8 Baldwin Cres  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7H 3M6

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## SCOTDANCE CANADA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES 2010

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We are less than 4 months away from the biggest event in Highland Dance to Hit Saskatoon!!! This event is going to be an action-packed week of Highland Dance!

The SDCCS 2010 Organizing Committee is excited to welcome dancers, their families and teachers to Saskatoon. We are excited to show off the city's beauty and culture and to share Saskatchewan's renowned hospitality. We anticipate our event will draw in a very motivated and committed audience due to the high level of competition at this event.

Please remember that this event caters to dancers of all levels and experience. Primary, Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Premier dancers will all have an opportunity to compete more than once.

On July 7th dancers from all over Canada, Scotland, and the USA will arrive in Saskatoon for the ScotDance Canada Championship Series. Our event will begin with Dancer Registration on July 7th, followed by the City of Bridge Choreography Competition and the Opening Ceremonies. On July 8th we will host our Highland Competition. July 9th features the Canadian InterProvincial Championships followed by a banquet for all, at the Sheraton. On July 10th we will host our National competition and wrap up the day with the Riverbank Family Ceilidh in the Bessborough Gardens. Then, on July 11th, we finish the week with the Pre-Championship and the ScotDance Canada Open Championship.

**Visit: [www.scotdancecanada.ca](http://www.scotdancecanada.ca)**

**Online Entry begins on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Online Choreography Entry\* begins on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

**(\*Teachers only can enter Choreography Teams)**

**Online Social Event and Ticket Sales begins on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

*—Kendra Jones-McGrath, Elaine Baptie, MJ Sherven & Wendy Wilson*



**Fund-Raising Members** — It's not too late to pre-order your very own set of  
**2010 ScotDance Canada Championship Series SWORDS!**

Check your e-mail for the order form and send it off today with payment.

At the conclusion of SDCCS 2010, you will be able to pick up a pair of swords used by champions!

That's got to provide good dancing karma...



# **ScotDance Canada Championship Series Schedule of Events**

## **July 7<sup>th</sup> 2010**

SDC AGM  
Dancer Registration  
Welcome Events  
City of Bridges Choreography Competition  
Open Ceremony Rehearsal – All Dancers  
Opening Ceremonies

## **July 8<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Highland Events for Premier, Restricted Premier,  
Pre-Premier, and Primary  
Special Premier Event - Preliminaries  
Pin Exchange  
Teacher & Judges Reception

## **July 9<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Canadian Inter-Provincial Championship  
Banquet

## **July 10<sup>th</sup> 2010**

National Events for Premier, Restricted Premier, Pre-Premier, and Primary  
Special Premier Event - Finals  
Riverbank Ceilidh

## **July 11<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Pre-Championship with 9 & under SDC Open Championship  
ScotDance Canada Open Championship

## What's In a Highland Dancer's Year?

Have you ever wondered what kinds of activities highland dancing can lead to in the space of a year? The Muriel Boyle Memorial Award applications provide some interesting data on just how much the typical highland dancer accomplishes in that time, outside of school, sports, and other activities and lessons.

First, here are some statistics to show what our eight Pre-Premier and Junior Premier applicants got up to in the Highland Dancing world in 2009:

- Participated in 71 competitions
- 7 completed Medal Tests where they demonstrated their command of Highland Dancing technique and theory
- 1 was an assistant teacher, sharing her knowledge with other dancers
- Overall, our applicants attended 25 workshops
- They clocked 26 dancer-days performing at the Scottish Pavilion for Folkfest 2009
- 63 SHDA dance-outs were attended by our applicants where they joined other member dancers in entertaining and enthralling a wide variety of audiences
- 6 of the applicants volunteered at the Scottish Pavilion apart from dancing
- All our applicants also performed at school, community, and family events, on 21 such occasions throughout the year

Of course, these numbers don't include the weekly lessons and hours of practice that help these dancers achieve their goals!

Isn't it amazing to see the effort that our SHDA dancers put into spreading enjoyment, learning, and showing off Scottish culture through Highland Dancing? These numbers just represent a small sample of our members – just imagine what the totals would be if we counted up everything that all 89 of our member dancers accomplish in a year! ... and then, if we added on the efforts of parents, other family members, and friends, well that would be quite a tally.

Congratulations to our 2010 **Muriel Boyle Memorial Award** Recipients:

**Pre-Premier: Katie Turnbull**

**Junior Premier: Katie Wood**

Thank you to all the applicants for their submissions, and especially to our selection committee, Rachele Lockwood & Elaine Hollman

## What Highland Dancing Means to Me

### *Wise Words from Muriel Boyle Memorial Award Applicants:*

The essays written by our applicants truly show just how much involvement in and dedication to highland dance help in all aspects of their lives. Whether it's building positive character traits, providing a network of supportive friends, or enhancing capabilities in other sports, Highland Dancing offers it all. This sample of quotations from the applicants' essays shows how much this form of dance has done for all dancers.

- *I have made a lot of friends and have a lot of fun trying new dances.*
- *Though highland dancing might look easy ... it takes patience and co-operation.*
- *Highland dance has taught me to be brave. ... Now I'm brave enough to go to Scotland to highland dance!*
- *... dancing on stage, in front of lots of people and making friends that also dance helped me to get over my shyness while having fun and being active.*
- *... you can always learn more about [highland] like a new dance or the history behind it or ... a new step.*
- *Dancing has made me feel more comfortable on stage. I have been able to do a school play and perform in the children's festival. ... I would recommend Highland Dancing to friends and family.*
- *I have learned that I cannot always win, but to have fun anyway. I have also learned that it is possible to achieve one's goals if you try hard enough, and believe in yourself.*
- *... I have learned humility, and learned to be happy for my friends ...*
- *Friends would be one of the most important things I have gained from being in dance. I get so much encouragement and support from everyone in dance, all my teachers, friends and even competitors, I can't imagine life without any of them.*
- *I have helped teach younger dancers and they have helped me in many ways, gaining so much patience while working with them, and learning how to be a good leader.*
- *Highland dancing is an expression of my heritage. ... I have been privileged to learn about my cultural background through my dancing.*
- *Through highland dance I was able to find confidence within myself to reach for my goals.*
- *I've met so many good, loyal and best friends through dance. ... Thanks to dance, I am very fit and can succeed in my other sports.*
- *[Highland dance has] given me one of the most important things in my life, loving and caring friends!*

**SASKATOON HIGHLAND DANCING  
ASSOCIATION**

1701 Ruth Street E  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7J 0L7

**SHDA WEBSITE**  
**www.shda.ca**



## **NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

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Welcome to Spring! I am so happy to have received so many contributions for this newsletter—I had to keep adding pages to my formatting, but there is so much to share to everyone that I can't leave anything out. I'm sure with everyone's help again, the May newsletter will just as fantastic.

The deadline for the last SHDA newsletter of the season is Saturday, May 22nd and will be ready for distribution at the May 29th competition (Like a good Scot, I'm trying to pinch some pennies by saving on postage and envelopes!)

As my term as the communications coordinator is coming to a close, the SHDA will be looking for someone to fill my shoes. So if anyone is interested, make sure to show up for the Annual General Meeting on May 17 to sign up for duty.

**Vicki Strelieff**

**Email: [vstrelieff@yahoo.com](mailto:vstrelieff@yahoo.com)**

## **DANCE OUTS**

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Thank you for your cooperation in this year's dance outs. Please continue to let us know which new dances you learn so we can update your sheet. If you are temporarily without a costume for a certain dance, just let us know when you respond to a dance out invitation, and we will accommodate.

Some members have received an email letting them know their 3 dance outs are done. We will try to let you know when you reach this mark, but PLEASE continue to come join in dance outs and share your love for highland dance. Reminder: The dance year runs from membership sign up night to membership sign up night.

Dance out programs are not put together necessarily by age, experience or friendships. The primary criteria are that it is a dance known to the dancer and who has the appropriate costume for it. Dance outs are performed for fun, experience, entertainment and the promotion of highland dance.

***Terrie G. & Gwen J.***

***Dance Out Coordinators, SHDA***

668-5572

[terrie.al@sasktel.net](mailto:terrie.al@sasktel.net)

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