



Guth na Dannsairean

The Voice of the Dancers

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President's Report

As I write this message, our temperatures have plummeted once again from the tolerable levels we experienced during the past week – it's enough to make you pull your Great Kilt over your head and not come out until May! However, we'd then miss out on many exciting events, like Rabbie Burns' Day celebrations, upcoming competitions and dance-outs, so we'll just pile on the layers and carry on... Besides the updates on competitions, workshops, dance-outs and more, this newsletter brings information on many other topics. Check the News Flash to find out what CBHDA means, review the Bingo overview to prepare yourself for the upcoming poll, and peruse the calendar of events to reserve the dates for all the upcoming events that you won't want to miss.

The Muriel Boyle Memorial Award selection committee has just finished its work and decided on the recipients for this year's honours. We had ten applicants this year, all with a high degree of involvement in Highland

dance and related activities. While the lists of competitions, workshops, dance events, and placings were certainly notable, it was the descriptions of character traits highlighted in the reference letters and the words of the dancers themselves explaining with heartfelt sentiment the personal meaning of Highland dancing that most impressed the adjudicators. Every applicant would have made a deserving recipient of this award. Winners will be announced on February 5th at the competition. There will be two polls coming your way: an indication of interest for the Calgary/Canmore bus trip planned for the long weekend in September; and a survey to determine whether or not we should continue with bingo as a fund-raising tool. Please see the Bingo article for background information that will help with the latter decision, and vote when the survey arrives in your in-box. SHDA is planning a bus trip to the Highland Games presented in Calgary on Sat., Sept. 3rd 2011 and Canmore on the following day. These

games are terrific to attend, with all kinds of exciting events like tossing the caber, hammer throw, sheep dog trials, a kilted run, pipe bands galore, entertainment, and much, much more. It has been some time since the association has offered a bus trip, and many dancers were longing for their return. Due to our favourable financial position, the SHDA has decided to pay for the transportation and accommodation costs of full member dancers for this trip. Some things to note: For liability and supervision reasons, any dancer 12 years or younger will need to have a parent on the bus [or another dancer's parent who has agreed to be responsible for the dancer]. Parents are welcome to participate in the trip at cost. Watch your e-mail for the sign-up survey! Fortan leibh [good luck] to all competitors on February 5th!

Elaine Baptie



Dates to Remember:

February 5 – SHDA Closed Competition

February 6 – SHDA Workshop

February 11 – Dance Out - Save the Children Fundraiser – Market Mall

April 30 – May 1 – Spring Tune Up Workshop

May 7 – Provincial Day in Regina

May 15 – Spring Photo Contest Deadline

May 28 – Saskatoon Competition at the Bessborough Gardens



Paul, Terrie and MJ at the November 2010 Competition



November Competition 2010



Registration table November 2010

Competitions

We are well into the dance season and competitions are moving along just fine. The Competitions Committee has been hard at work preparing for the events so please take a moment to say 'thanks' to anyone you see from the committee. It may surprise you all the work that goes into putting on a competition. Committee members to seek out and pat on the back are: Robyn Jamieson, Audrey Nagy, Tammi Denby, Yvonne Turnbull, Rebecca Turnbull (no relation), Shannon Robison & Wendy Wilson.

We are pumped to announce that our May 28th Open Competition will be held in the beautiful Bessborough Gardens!!! Yes, our May competition has returned to the outdoors and we are more excited than ever to have it located at the historical 'Bess'. You will need to pack your umbrellas and lawn chairs for this one. Competition Tidbits: Did you know that once you win a Championship Competition – you will always have the title of 'Champion'? Now the down-side of that is that you can never participate in a Pre-Championship competition.

Did you know that Beginner and Novice dancers can no longer receive stamps for National dances? Mmmm ... bummer. Did you know that a Closed competition is limited to dancers outlined in the entry form? Check out our February entry form for details. Did you know that an Open competition is 'open' to everyone? Gotta love those ones.

Yours in Highland,
MJ Sherven



Theresa Grocock
Dance Out Coordinator
terrie.al@sasktel.net

Dance Outs

Thanks to all who have been out to the dance outs so far this dance year!! I hope you are having fun.

11 dancers have completed at least 3 dance outs, so there will be a draw for one of the secondary prizes at the February 5 competition.

The next dance out is February 11. More dance out opportunities will be available before the IPOD draw at the September 26 meeting.

Drop me a line and let me know if you enjoyed the live piper at the last dance out"

Workshops

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual Spring Tune Up on April 30 and May 1! The weekend will provide great preparation for Provincial Day. For our highland dance instructors, we welcome back Dana Gamache and Kendra Jones-McGrath.

Registration forms will be available in March on the SHDA website and from the dance teachers.

Vicki Strelloff
SHDA Workshops

SHDA WORKSHOPS

Sunday February 6
at Dance
Saskatchewan.
Sign up at the
registration table
on Saturday.

Look forward to
our Spring Tune-
Up, April 30-May
1st

News from the SOBHD

The Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance has introduced a new rule that is effective immediately. The rule now states that dancers in Beginner Levels will NOT receive a stamp for a first, second or third place medal in the Lilt or Flora. Dancers in Beginner Levels MUST place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the Highlands (Kilt dances) to get a stamp. Note: Changes have been highlighted in yellow.

PRE-PREMIER REGISTRATON SCHEME

The Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing (SOBHD) operates a registration scheme for dancers from Primary standard through to Intermediate standard, which is the grading which immediately precedes Premier standard. ScotDance Canada is the authorized registration agent in Canada. The scheme allows dancers newly started dancing to monitor their own progress by means of a personal achievement card which, is stamped in the following circumstances:

1. In respect of the Beginner category, their card will be stamped at every competition

where they win a first, second or third prize in any of the highland dances – Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Sean Truibhas, Reel, or Special or Trophy Fling;

2. In respect of the Novice category, their card will be stamped at every competition where they win a first, second or third place prize.

PRIMARY (GREEN card) – Competitors are not permitted to register until the age of 4 but if they are under seven years of age they may compete as a Primary dancer until their seventh birthday is reached after which the competitor is classified as a Beginner dancer and is not eligible to enter a Primary event. A Primary dancer may elect to compete in a more advanced category at any time before reaching the age of seven but thereafter must continue in this new category and/or advance in accordance with the Pre-Premier registration scheme.

BEGINNER (BLUE card) – This status is held until the competitor either a) gains a first, second or third prize in SIX separate Beginner competitions, or b) until six months following the first beginner stamp which ever a) or b) is the later, after which that competitor is classified as a Novice dancer and is not eligible to enter a Beginner event. A Beginner dancer may elect to compete in a more advanced category at any time but thereafter must continue in this new category and/or advance in accordance with the Pre-Premier registration scheme.

NOVICE (YELLOW card) - This status is held until the competitor either a) gains a first, second or third prize in SIX separate Novice competitions, or b) until six months following the first novice stamp which ever a) or b) is the later, after which that competitor is classified as an Intermediate dancer and is not eligible to enter a Novice event. A Novice dancer may elect to compete in a more advanced category at any

time but thereafter must continue in this new category and/or advance in accordance with the Pre-Premier registration scheme.

INTERMEDIATE (PINK card) - This status is held for ONE YEAR from the date of the competitor's first Intermediate competition, after which the competitor becomes a Premier dancer. Intermediate dancers who are seriously injured or seriously ill during their one-year term and are looking for an extension of that term are asked to submit a doctor's certificate for review by the registration Committee on the SOBHD. Each case is reviewed on an individual basis.

PREMIER (WHITE card) – The SOBHD operates an annual Registration scheme for Premier competitors. Premier events enable dancers to compete together and are restricted only by the stated age groupings or to a certain confined area.

Costumes For Sale

New, never worn: red velvet kilt jacket with silver braid and dickie. Made by Gloria Weir. Matches Red MacRae perfectly. Original measurements: bust 33 1/4", waist 26 1/4", Waist over kilt 28 1/2", point position (circumference

around where points sit - 4-5" below waist) 33 1/4" (35" over kilt), hip 34 1/2" (36 1/2" over kilt), biceps 9 1/2" - 10 1/4", sleeve length 30", shoulder width 15 1/4", underarm (from armpit to V at thumb & forefinger) 21 1/2", back length (from nape

of neck down to natural waist) 15 3/4", finished back length 21". Original price \$330. Asking \$250. Please contact Maureen Ellis 306-665-5588 or mmellis@shaw.ca





Newsletter Update

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I am happy to see so many people sign up for our paperless edition of the SHDA newsletter! If haven't already done so and would still like to sign up, please feel free to send me a quick email or sign up at the registration table at our February competition!

Our first SHDA photo contest has now closed and I am happy to announce that we have our winners! Grand prize winner is Kenzie Gardiner who wins a \$100

Future Shop Gift Card and First Runner Up is Carolyn Dunn who wins a \$50 McNally Robinson Gift Certificate. Thank you to our judges Charles Olfert and Daniel Reeves of AODBT Architects. I hope that you will all consider entering our next contest this coming spring!

Thank you
Cathryn Wood
SHDA Newsletter



Grand Prize – Submitted by Kenzie Gardiner; Picture taken in Japan



First Runner Up – Submitted by Carolyn Dunn

Memberships

A hearty welcome to new SHDA members and dancers - Jane B. (Anya G.); Courtney B., Blaine D. (Lauren), and Laura and Dan G. (Emma). We look forward to seeing you at danceouts and competitions in the coming months! This

has increased the number of full memberships to 57, for a total of 76 memberships and 75 dancers!



Save the Date

Provincial Day will be held in Regina on May 7th, 2011.

The Provincial Championships to select our reps for SDCCS 2011 in Antigonish, NS will be held in the morning followed by a competition for all ages that will include Primary to Premier

News Flash! New Association – New Competition Opportunity!

A brand new local association has been formed to promote Highland dancing and Scottish culture in the Lloydminster area. We are so pleased to welcome the **Cross Border Highland Dance Association** to the Saskatchewan Highland family.

President Darcee Baliski announced, “We are very excited to be hosting our very first open competition this year which will be held on Sunday, October 23rd”. This competition will follow the Battleford Highland Dancing Association event on Saturday, October 22nd, permitting dancers to make a whole weekend of dancing. It’s terrific to see the return of a competition opportunity to the Lloydminster area.

The SHDA extends its best wishes to the CBHDA, and looks forward to supporting the association in this new fall Highland dancing event.

Announcement!