



Guth na Dannsairéan Voice of the Dancers

PROVINCIAL WEEKEND-HUGE SUCCESS!

Well, another Saskatchewan Day weekend of competition has come and gone with resounding success. The 2-day competition was hosted in Saskatoon again this year to offset the cycle of rotation of the competition around the province so that our local volunteers will not be over-taxed for the ScotDance Canada Championship Series that will be hosted in Saskatoon in 2010.

The weekend opened on Saturday morning with greetings from Val Robinson who is the President of the Saskatchewan Highland Dancing Association. The Sask. HDA is the umbrella organization for all local highland dancing associations and the official organizer of the Provincial Championship and Closed Competition. This year's local Competition Organizer (i.e. the person who actually does all the work) was MJ Sherven, and **BIG BIG KUDOS** must be sent out to her for a smoothly run, well-organized event.

The theatre at Tommy Douglas Collegiate was the scene on Saturday for the championship event. The top three dancers in each age group will represent Saskatchewan at the ScotDance Canada Championship Series in Victoria, BC this July. Out of the 15 representatives chosen, 9 of those are members of the Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association, 5 are from Regina and 1 is from Watson.

The full results for members of the Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association are as follows:

Premier 10-Under 12

1st Runner-Up Rachel Sherven (Rep); 2nd Runner-Up Katie Wood (Rep)

Premier 12-Under 14

First Representative Eryn McDonald (Rep)

Premier 14-Under 16

2nd Runner-Up Jamie Bolton (Rep); 3rd Runner-Up Shonah Runalls;
5th Runner-Up Emily Dyrland

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Dates to Remember:

May 26—SHDA Annual General Meeting, 7 p.m.

May 31—Saskatoon Open Competition

July 2-6—ScotDance Canada Championship, Victoria, BC

August 14-16—FOLKFEST!!!

September 22—Member Registration Night

October 10—Newsletter submission deadline

PROVINCIAL WEEKEND continued

Premier 16-Under 18

Champion Natasha Reilkoff (Rep)

1st Runner-Up Bradie Armbruster (Rep); 2nd Runner-Up Heather Hudson (Rep); 3rd Runner-Up Amanda Kolbinson; 4th Runner-Up Aubrey Shanofer; 5th Runner-Up Erika Sherven

Premier 18 and Over

Champion Carolyn Dunn (Rep)

1st Runner-Up Lisa Patterson (Rep); 4th Runner-Up Shannon Hamilton; 5th runner-Up Cailey Muirhead

Saturday night was a pool/pizza party hosted by Saskatoon HDA at Lawson Heights Wave Pool. There were over 100 people in attendance, and through personal indulgence, I can attest that the pool, the pizza and especially the chocolate fountain were fabulous. Many thanks are due to organizer Christine Hanna and her accomplices for a wonderful evening of visiting, fun, relaxation and food!

Sunday was the Provincial Closed Competition and was attended by 98 dancers from all competitive categories from across the province. A Parade of Champions was hosted about half-way through the day, and special greetings were presented from the President of ScotDance Saskatchewan, Ms. Sheena Walls, the Mayor of Saskatoon, Mr. Don Atchison, and a local MLA, Ms. Joceline Schriemer.

Saskatoon dancers were again well represented during the awards ceremonies winning many medals. Aggregate keeper trophies were presented to the following dancers from the Saskatoon HDA:

Beginner 9 & Under Trophy: Emma Wood; **Beginner 10 & 11** Trophy: Sarah Groat; **Beginner 13 & Over** Trophy: Madison Adolph; **Novice 10 & Under** Trophy: Pamela Wayman; **Premier 11 & Under** Trophy: Rachel Sherven; **Premier 12 & 13** Trophy: Eryn McDonald; **Premier 15 & 17** Trophy: Heather Hudson; **Premier 18 and Over** Trophy: Lisa Patterson

ITEMS FOR SALE

First, a pair of green, size 6B (B= normal width) Angelo Luzio jig shoes, which have only been worn once. \$55.00 obo

Second, a beautifully mom-made white National dress for a young adult. The measurements are as follows: chest: 36", waist: 28", and length (from the waist to the bottom hem): 21.5". It has a deep hem in order to allow for growth. In addition, it comes with a slip and two plaids, one of which is primarily dark green and the other, bright blue. \$25.00 obo

Contact: Cara or Vera at 978-2591.

For the beginning primary dancer—A red plaid kiltie in good condition (fit my daughter from age 5 to 7 1/2) . Asking \$100. For more information, please contact Vicki at 978-0853.

FOLKFEST VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

I will be needing people to work in various areas for Passports. There are several shifts for each of the following jobs: We need two people stamping passports at our Pavilion entrance; we need one person "clicking" the number of people entering the Pavilion and one person "clicking" the people who are leaving (These numbers need to be recorded in order to check for capacity as far as the Fire Marshall is concerned); we also need two people at our back door volunteer entrance (This job covers checking off lists when our volunteers come in and making sure that they have their volunteer tags); the last job we need to fill is two people selling passports out in the main lobby of the Prairieland building in conjunction with the other pavilions in the building.

If you would be interested in helping out with any of these jobs, please contact me by email at: The5W.athome@sasktel.net

Thanks for your help.

Morag Wagner



Well, the preparations are well underway for the fabulous Scottish fare that will be offered from the kitchen ("Swee' & Spurtle") at the Scottish Pavilion. For those of you who are skilled in the culinary arts (or if you just like cooking), we need your assistance in the preparation and cooking of the food items for Folkfest.

We have several dates available to accommodate those SHDA members who need to fulfill their Folkfest commitment early. Dates are as follows:

Wed. &/or Thurs., July 23 & 24 during the day
Sunday, July 13 or 20 during the day

There will also be a couple of times set aside in late July for cookie decorating where we will have many dozen Scottie Dog gingerbread cookies that will require icing eyes, mouths and ribbons put on. This activity is aimed at the dancers who would like to help out in advance of Folkfest. Previous decorating skills are not required!

If you are available for any of these times – whether you want to cook, wash dishes or decorate cookies, please give Tangyne a call or an e-mail at 374-8837 or t.berry@sasktel.net.



SHDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I am delighted and encouraged by the increase in memberships for 2007/2008 in the Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association. We currently have 73 dancers in our association that actively participate in competitions, dance-outs, workshops and cultural events such as Folkfest here in Saskatoon. In addition, our members benefit from: funding for travelling to competitions, support to provincial representatives, memorial awards, social events and special rewards such as dance shoes and garment bags recently received. All of these events and benefits are organized and funded by our membership to promote the art of highland dance and the origin of its culture here in our community. It pays to be a member! It is only with the ongoing support of our membership that the SHDA can continue to sustain its aims and objectives. The foresight of our founding members in 1954 and that of many others along the way has led us to what we enjoy - a thriving, vibrant highland dance community.

Cheryl Armbruster, Memberships

TRIP TO SCOTLAND FOLKFEST RAFFLE

I now have the raffle tickets available for our membership to start selling before Folkfest. The prize is a "Trip for Two to Scotland" with a \$3,000 travel voucher from Travel cuts, plus \$500 cash. If our winner decides that they do not wish to travel to Scotland, they can take a \$2,500 cash prize. The draw will be made at the Scottish Pavilion on Saturday, August 16, 2008, during Mass Bands. The winner does not need to be in attendance to win. Tickets are \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00. Buyers must be 18 years of age. If there is any question of age, the buyer should put a parent's name on the ticket.

I will need people to sell tickets at the Pavilion on each of the three days of Folkfest. As well, we have two dates for selling tickets at The Mall at Lawson Heights. We will be selling from 11:00-5:00 on Saturday, June 14 and on Saturday, June 28. Each day will have two shifts, and I am looking for two people to be selling during each shift.

I can be contacted at (306) 225-4421, by email at The5W.athome@sasktel.net or messages can be left on my cell phone at 262-4421. I would like to ask anyone who contacted me previously to do so again. My previous email "crashed," and all of the contact information I had is gone.

Thanks in advance for your help with our raffle tickets!

Lynn Wagner, Raffle Co-ordinator



DANCE OUTS

The next Dance Outs are as follows: June 14, 2008 and June 28, 2008 at Lawson Heights Mall, 2pm till 3pm both days. We will be doing two twenty minute sets. This is along with selling tickets for the trip to Scotland that is drawn on the last night of Folkfest.

Just a friendly reminder: Every dancers has to do three dance outs during the membership year. The dance outs have to be arranged by the Dance-Out Coordinator and through the Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association. Folkfest is NOT included as a dance out; it is a separate event. Any dancing done through your school or for family gatherings DOES NOT qualify as a dance out for the Association. If you have any questions with regards to the above information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you. ***Kelley Glass, Dance-Out Coordinator***

BINGO UPDATE

Last Bingo date: Friday, May 23, 2008 at 4:30pm-9:30pm.

For those who have completed their fundraising requirements, you have until the end of June to use the certificate at Ceilidh Surprise. Unfortunately, they will not be able to make it to the May 31st competition for the remaining dancers to use their certificates. They have agreed to send up a variety of shoes to the competition. I will be at the competition all day with the shoes that Ceilidh Surprise sends up to try on. Your dance teachers can help you get the fit you need.

To make sure we have the appropriate shoes and styles for you to try, I will need the following information: 1) Name; 2) Competitive level; 3) Size of running shoe you wear (to estimate dance shoe size; 4) Style of shoe (slipper, jig or teacher runner); 5) For slipper style, your two top brand preferences (i.e. Gandolfini, Toe and Heel, Dancewear regular or deluxe, Billy regular or shock absorb, Hullachan, Angelo, James Senior), or even eyelet colour.

Please send this information to me by May 26th so that I can have the appropriate shoes sent to us.

Christine Hanna, SHDA Bingo Coordinator

Phone: 249-0326 Email: the.hannas@sasktel.net

WORKSHOPS

SHDA workshops this past year have run on the Sunday after the November and February competitions. These workshops are an excellent way to improve upon dancing skills and receive feedback from competition judges on what they are looking for in the dances. Our 2007/2008 workshops were well attended with an average attendance being about 30 dancers. Our Spring Fling Tune-Up was held at the end of March, and 38 dancers were in attendance. We were pleased to welcome Loree Vellner from Red Deer, AB and Carleigh Leighton from Oakville, ON. Kendra Jones came from Lloydminster to teach Pilates as well as some Highland. We were also treated to some Tae-Bo sessions with Clint Deikema and sessions in wellness and nutrition with Bobbi Janzen.

Watch for more information regarding workshops in the 2008/2009 year!

Cathryn Wood, SHDA Workshop Coordinator

SHDA WEBSITE

www.shda.ca



***My wife says if I don't
quit golf, she'll leave
me."***

"That's too bad."

"Aye, I'll miss her."



FOLKFEST—SCOTTISH PAVILION UPDATE

Congratulations to our Scottish Pavilion Youth Ambassadors for 2008, Jamie Bolton and Shonah Runalls. These two young ladies are very excited to be representing the Scottish culture before and during Folkfest this year. Both Jamie and Shonah have been dancing for many years, enjoying all the opportunities that Highland Dance can offer: fun, friendships, travel, learning, and more! The girls had interesting choices for their Scottish heroes: J. M. Barry, the creator of Peter Pan, and Mary Queen of Scots, who ruled Scotland for several years.

On April 12th, we had a terrific brainstorming session, with an enthusiastic group of people generating tons of wonderful ideas – too many for one year, even! Ideas that we are checking into include:

A display and demonstration of Scottish breeds of dogs for Saturday afternoon;

A continuous slide show of Scottish scenes, events, and people, which will replace many of our standing displays and free up some floor space;

Soccer target kick for the kids, along with a fly-fishing pond, both with small prizes;

An opportunity to dress in a kilt and have your photo taken [hopefully on Brig 'a Doon – we're working on this!];

Robbie Burns circulating through the crowd, reciting poetry;

Our entertainment co-ordinators are working hard on adding new performers to our non-stop line-up;

... and much more!

Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter for ways you can assist and fulfill your FolkFest volunteer hours. Cooking and selling raffle tickets could help those who will be away during FolkFest to complete those hours.

Stay tuned for more information and volunteer opportunities.

Mòran taing [Many Thanks!]

***Elaine Baptie,
Scottish Pavilion Manager***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our annual general meeting will be held on Monday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Nutana Mennonite church at 1701 Ruth Street. At this time the 2008-2009 executive will be voted in. If anyone is interested in holding a position or joining a committee, please e-mail me at s.hudson1@shaw.ca or call 653-1238. A general meeting will follow. I look forward to seeing you there.

Congratulations to all the dancers who participated in the Saskatchewan Highland Dancing Association competitions on May 3rd and 4th. The dancing was spectacular.

Our representatives on the provincial board are MJ Sherven, Tangyne Berry, and Sherry Shanofor. These ladies did an amazing job organizing this event. We thank you for a wonderful weekend of dance. Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association hosted the pool party held Saturday evening, and all had a great time. There were approximately 120 people in attendance. Once again the chocolate fountain was a huge hit. I have never seen kids eat so much fruit. Okay, it was covered in chocolate, but it was still fruit. Thank you to Christine and Brad Hanna on organizing this wonderful event and Ronda and Earl Bolton for their assistance during the party. This was a relaxing, fun-filled event for dancers and parents alike.

The Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association will be offering a travel bursary for all fundraising members between June 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008. Fundraising members will be eligible for up to \$ 400.00 when competing at any out-of-province competition between these dates. Members are required to submit appropriate receipts for reimbursement; for example, receipts for dancer's meals, registration/entry fees, dancer's portion of hotel, travel expenses such as gas receipts or air fare. I would ask that participants submit these receipts no later than October 15, 2008 to Ronda Bolton at 150 Delayen Crescent, Saskatoon SK. S7N 2V6 or call Ronda at 249-5521.

The last bingo date is May 23, 2008, and it is booked. Anyone with slipper certificates, time is running out so get your slippers ASAP.

Scottish Pavilion planning is in full swing. Part of the fundraising commitment this year is the volunteer commitment for the pavilion. Tickets for the trip to Scotland will be available at the May 31st competition, so please pick up a book to sell. We will also be selling these tickets at a mall prior to Folkfest. Members that are not able to attend Folkfest will have a chance to do their commitment on one of these Saturdays or helping with the cooking prior to Folkfest. Please read on as committee heads have lots of information in the newsletter. If you have any questions or want to help out in other ways, please call Elaine Baptie at 373-7659 or e-mail her at tartan@sasktel.net.

Saturday May 31st is our last competition in Saskatoon for the dance year. Entries are available on our web site at www.shda.ca or from your dance teacher.

2007/2008 has been a tremendous dance year. We have had three very successful competitions, two very well-attended workshops, as well as the Spring Tune-up. Fundraising members (that completed their fundraising commitment) also received free slippers, a garment bag, pool party, and travel bursary. These are some of the events that fundraising dollars go towards.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

A huge thank you to the executive and their committees. It is because of these dedicated, hard working volunteers that such events as competitions, workshops, dance outs, newsletters, the Scottish Pavilion at Folkfest just to name a few, can be organized. These events take a great deal of time and commitment to plan and execute. This year our fundraising requirements changed somewhat. We went from 4 bingos shifts per dancer to 2 bingo shifts per dancer and 12 hours per family of volunteering for the Scottish Pavilion. This change has been well received by the membership. We would like to have the same format for next year.

In our constitution our objectives are:

- A) To promote the art of Highland Dancing,
- B) To sponsor competitions and workshops for Highland dancing,
- C) To assist dancers.

The Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association certainly achieved those objectives this year.

Sherry Hudson, President

Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association

