



Guth na Dannsairéan Voice of the Dancers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter is slowly fading and spring is trying to arrive. I am sure we are all looking forward to warmer weather. With that said, remember to sign up for SHDA's **Spring Tune-Up** being held on March 29-30 at the Albert Community Centre. Forms are available on our web site at www.shda.ca. We have a wonderful group of professionals coming to instruct the dancers. Highland dance, of course, will be the main focus of the workshop, but there will also be Pilates, Tae Bo and Nutrition covered as well. The cost for SHDA fundraising members is only \$20.00. Be sure to sign up.

Congratulations to our recipients of the Muriel Boyle Award for 2007: Chloe Runalls for the pre-premier group, Heather Hudson in the junior premier category and Kenzie Gardiner in senior premier category. Thank you to all that applied. I would like to thank the awards committee who went through the selection process for these awards. These volunteers are people that no longer have active dancers or are no longer dancing. The committee wanted to let all the applicants know that they were inspired and moved by the amount of time and commitment that these dancers put forth.

Saskatoon is the host city for Provincial Championships again this year being held on May 3rd and 4th. This is a spectacular weekend of dance sponsored by the Saskatchewan Highland Dance Association. Saturday will be our provincial championship competition open to premier dancers only. The winners of this event will represent Saskatchewan at Canadians being held in Victoria, BC, July 2008. Saturday evening the Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association is hosting a pool party for all dancers. We did this last year, and it was a huge success enjoyed by dancers and parents. It was a great way to meet new people, the food was delicious (loved the chocolate fountain), and the atmosphere was very relaxing. Information will be on the entry forms. Be sure to sign up early. Fundraising members of Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association will be subsidized. Sunday May 4th is a closed competition open to all dancers in the province. Entry forms are available on the SHDA website and from your dance teachers.

Saskatoon Open Competition is May 31, 2008. Entry forms will be available soon.

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Dates to Remember:

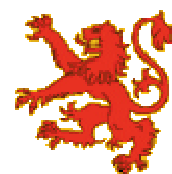
- March 29 & 30—Spring Tune-Up**
- April 5—Regina Competition**
- April 19 - Quill Lake Competition**
- May 3 & 4—Provincial Championship and Closed competition**
- May 16—SHDA newsletter deadline**
- May 18—Regina Highland Games**
- May 26—SHDA Annual General Meeting, 7 p.m.**
- May 31—Saskatoon Open Competition**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

The Scottish Pavilion planning is underway. Part of the fundraising commitment this year is the volunteer commitment for the pavilion. There will be an opportunity for some of these volunteer hours to be worked prior to Folkfest weekend. More information will be forwarded once dates for cooking are confirmed. We will also be selling the tickets for the trip to Scotland starting in May this year instead of just selling them during Folkfest. This is a fundraising opportunity for the Saskatoon Highland Dance Association so we look forward to your assistance in making it a success.

The Pavilion is still in need of a Décor Chairperson. For more information on this position call Elaine Baptie at 373-7659 or by email tartan@sasktel.net. It is absolutely necessary that this position be filled. We cannot have a pavilion without a Décor chairperson.

The next general meeting is May 26th at 7.00 pm at Nutana Mennonite Church, 1701 Ruth Street. Topics will include; budget for 2008/2009, Scottish Pavilion update, travel and review of 2007/2008.



Sherry Hudson, SHDA President

TRIP TO SCOTLAND FOLKFEST RAFFLE

As I am sure most of you know, we hold a raffle for a "Trip for Two to Scotland" at the Scottish Pavilion during the Saskatoon Folkfest celebration. The prize is a \$3,000.00 travel voucher from TravelCuts, plus \$500.00 cash. The travel voucher must be used to travel to Scotland. The trip must be taken before August 16, 2009. Tickets are \$3.00 each, or 2 for \$5.00. You must be 18 years of age to purchase tickets, as well as to sell them. The draw is made during Massed Bands on the Saturday night at Folkfest. The winner does not need to be present at the draw in order to win. The alternate prize (if you wished to travel somewhere else) is \$2,500.00 cash.

We again plan to sell tickets before Folkfest this year. We should have tickets available at the beginning of May. As well as individual members of the Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association taking books to sell, I have inquired about having a table set up at a mall in Saskatoon. Since part of our fundraising commitment for S.H.D.A. membership is volunteer time at Folkfest, volunteering to sit at a mall and sell tickets could be counted towards this commitment. I would look at having two people working together.

If you would be willing to sell tickets ahead of Folkfest and/or willing to spend some time selling at a mall location, please contact me. My email is: The5W.athome@sasktel.net. Messages can be left on my cell phone (262-4421). I hope to hear from many of you! Thank you in advance.

Lynn Wagner
Raffle Co-ordinator

Provincial Day Pool & Pizza Party

Everyone is invited to come join the fun at
the Provincial Day Pool and Pizza Party

Where : Lawson Civic Centre Wave Pool
225 Primrose Drive

When : Saturday May 3rd from 6:30-9:00pm
(after the Provincial Championships)

Cost : All SHDA Fundraising dancers are FREE!!!
Parents and non members are \$7.00

There will be pizza, pop, and a chocolate fountain
along with the wave pool and hot tub

Come and relax those tired dancer muscles
and spend a great evening with
your dancing friends!

Contact Christine Hanna 249-0326 for more information

SHDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Memberships have increased this year with several first-time members coming on board. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special warm welcome to all dancers, parents and their teacher Patricia Logan-Krogstad, from the University of Saskatchewan Dance School. We are excited to have you join our association and look forward to meeting you at competitions, dance-outs, workshops, Folkfest and other association sponsored events. We are confident that you will reap the benefits that our association has to offer increasing the rewards received from Highland Dancing and the Scottish culture of its origin - "Ceud Mile Failte" or "100,000 Welcomes"

Cheryl Armbruster, Memberships

IN SEARCH OF YOUR ROOTS

As members of the SHDA, we take pride in the Scottish culture and promote it through dancing and hosting the Scottish Pavilion at Folkfest. You don't need to have Scottish ancestry to Highland dance, but probably the majority of the members can lay claim to a wee drop or more of Scottish blood. By researching your family tree, you can put down on paper (or in a computer database) all the facts to show in the future to your children, grandchildren, and other family members.

It may seem like a daunting task and you don't know where to start. To begin with, you need to start with yourself and move on from there one step at a time. Using an organized recording system, write down all of your vital statistics—date and place of birth, baptism, marriage, etc. There are many resources for record keeping such as special books published for that purpose, photocopying family record and pedigree charts from books and the internet or computer databases using a software program such as Family Tree Maker. The Church of Latter Day Saints also has a free downloadable personal ancestry file program (PAF). The most important papers for proper documentation are those that are primary sources. Primary sources include birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates—basically any legally registered document. Make photocopies of these to file with all of your genealogical research. It is usually easy to collect information for two or three generations as these family members are still close by. The digging becomes more difficult the further back you go, and you will have to find leads using secondary resources such as grave markers and census records. If you are lucky, perhaps you will find other, more distant, relatives have also been researching and you can share with each other. But remember, personal information on those who are living should be guarded closely and only shared with their permission. The internet can be a useful resource as there are many websites devoted to genealogy, but the information posted may not be accurate. Unless you can back up the details you find with primary or reliable secondary sources, be careful with what you record as fact.

Genealogy can become quite a passionate hobby, and don't be surprised if you find yourself with boxes and boxes of files filled with copies of all types of certificates, pictures, and correspondence. You may also come in contact with distant cousins all over the world. It becomes a very small world when you discover how many people you share the same great-great-great-great grandparents with. As time and financial resources allow, you may travel to parts of the world where your ancestors came from and delight in walking along the same streets they did and even finding the house they lived in is still standing. As a last bit of warning, in your travels as a serious genealogist, you will find that your car will begin to stop at cemeteries!

MURIEL BOYLE MEMORIAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2008 winners—Chloe Runalls, Heather Hudson and Kenzie Gardiner. The Muriel Boyle Memorial Awards will next be presented at the SHDA closed competition in February, 2009. These awards are open to all SHDA dancers in three categories—pre-Premier, junior Premier and senior Premier—who have not received the award in the past three years.

For further information about the requirements and application forms, please go to the SHDA website.

BINGO UPDATE

Last Bingo dates: Tuesday April 1st, 2008 4:30pm-1:30am and Friday May 23, 2008 4:30pm-9:30pm only.

These are the last dates we have for this dance year. All bingo commitments must be completed by this time. Please call to book your time if you have bingo requirements to complete for this dance year.

Christine Hanna, SHDA Bingo Coordinator

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

What's the difference between a tightrope and a Scotsman ? A tightrope sometimes gives.

WORKSHOPS

Are you ready for a Spring Fling?

The SHDA presents our Annual Spring Tune-Up Workshop

When: *Saturday March 29 and Sunday March 30*

Where: *Albert Community Centre*

Featuring *Loree Vellner* from Red Deer, Alberta and *Carleigh Leighton* from Oakville, Ontario.

Also featuring special classes in Wellness/Nutrition and Tae-Bo! This is a great opportunity for all dancers, and for SHDA fundraising members, it's a great deal at only \$20 for the weekend.

For more information and registration, contact *Cathryn Wood* at **thewoodsies@sasktel.net**

Don't delay—deadline for registration is March 20!!!

1701 Ruth Street E
Saskatoon, SK
S7J 0L7

SHDA WEBSITE
www.shda.ca



A Glaswegian stops before a graveyard in a Gorbals cemetery, and notices a carved tombstone declaring,
"Here lies a lawyer and an honest man..."
"Ach, who'd ever think..." he murmured, "there'd be enough room fer two men in that one wee grave..."



FOLKFEST—SCOTTISH PAVILION UPDATE

The serious planning for Folkfest 2008 has begun! The Scottish Pavilion is returning to the wonderful Prairieland location, where we share the excitement with four or five other Pavilions. Folkfest runs from August 14th through the 16th, so mark your calendars now!

With the changes that were made recently to the Scottish Societies' constitution and by-laws, we are able to honour a person who has made significant contributions to the promotion of Scottish culture in Saskatoon with one of the adult Pavilion Ambassador positions. A list of names was generated at the last meeting, and we hope to announce our selection soon. This person will join last year's Pavilion Manager, Kelley Glass, in representing the Scottish Pavilion this year.

The overall theme for Folkfest 2008 is *One World – Many Faces*. We will be brainstorming some ideas for a theme for our pavilion which ties in to this slogan. If you have any ideas, please send them my way. Our plan is that the theme will be used in the pavilion décor and activities.

Another exciting element of the Folkfest celebration is the Youth Ambassador program. Each year, we can choose two youth members of SHDA to represent the Scottish Pavilion in a myriad of Folkfest activities, as well as to act as goodwill ambassadors at our pavilion and visits to others throughout Folkfest. We are working on a formal application form and process for selecting our representatives; watch your e-mail for further details! All active dancers between the ages of 15 and 21 will be invited to apply for this terrific opportunity.

As SHDA members are aware, part of the membership commitment is to volunteer a minimum of twelve hours at activities related to the Scottish Pavilion. This could include working at the pavilion for set-up, take-down, and during Folkfest. Other volunteer opportunities, especially suited for those who will not be available during Folkfest, will be offered, such as advance food preparation [schedule to be distributed soon] or selling raffle tickets at a mall. It takes many, many volunteers from SHDA and beyond to present a successful pavilion – we appreciate your help to build on the achievements of past years. Again, just watch your e-mail for further details!

The next meeting of the Scottish Societies' delegates is set for April 3rd; if you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions about this year's Folkfest plans, please contact me.

Mòran taing [Many Thanks!]
Elaine Baptie,
Scottish Pavilion Manager