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MAY 2009

SASKATOON HIGHLAND DANCING ASSOCIATION

Guth na Dannsairean
Voice of the Dancers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter the final quarter of the dance year, there are still many exciting events to anticipate, from competitions, to performances, to the huge celebration that is Folkfest. By the time you read this newsletter, the final SHDA competition of the year will be underway or finished; we are thrilled to be able to give the Field House, our venue for the ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2010 a 'test drive'!

In our dance year to date, we can celebrate many successes:

— Three well-attended competitions, which ran smoothly under the direction of our organizers, MJ Sherven and Helen Hay – thanks, ladies, for your great work and thanks to all the volunteers who so ably assisted them.

— Workshops in November and February, along with the Spring Tune-Up in April, were very popular events with dancers from Saskatoon and beyond. Cathryn Wood deserves a big thank-you for all her work, as do all the volunteers who assisted. The participants thoroughly enjoyed these learning opportunities.

— It's been a busy year for dance-outs, too. Opportunities for our members to show off Scottish culture have included the Festival of Trees, Broadway Street Fair, the SARM Convention, Taste of Saskatchewan, SNPCA Winter Carnival, Francophone Association dinner, the Friendship Centre, various church and seniors' groups and residences, schools – the list goes on! Thanks are due to Kelley Glass and others who organized and assisted at these events and especially to our hard-working dancers whose smiles and performing abilities impressed innumerable audience members throughout the year. Don't miss the Dance-Out Update elsewhere in this newsletter to learn about some exciting new offers to perform!

— The Provincial Championships and Closed Competition offered all Saskatchewan dancers the chance to show their stuff as they vied to represent this province at the ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2009 in Toronto this July. Congratulations to all the dancers – we know you worked hard for your successes, whether it came in the form of a trophy, a medal, or a personal best!

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Dates to Remember:

May 30—Saskatoon Open Competition

June 21 — Minifest Dance-Out

July 1-5 - ScotDance Canada Championship Series

Aug. 13-15—FOLKFEST!!

Sept. 12— Mayor's Cultural Gala

Sept. 28 — REGISTRATION NIGHT!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

- Special recognition goes to the SHDA members who will be proudly representing Saskatchewan and Saskatoon in Toronto:

  12 Years & Under 14 – Champion Rachel Sherven

  14 Years & Under 16 – Champion Eryn McDonald, 1st Runner Up Brooke Hanna, 2nd RU Shonah Runalls

  16 Years & Under 18 – Champion Margaret Ellis-Young, 2nd RU Heather Hudson

  18 Years & Over – 2nd RU Carolyn Dunn

  Two SHDA members won trophies in the Closed Competition. Congratulations to Savannah Poplar [Beginner 9 & Under] and Heather Hudson [Premier 17 & Under]. Many other SHDA members placed well in both parts of the Provincial Competition.

- SHDA made the decision to become the official host organization of the Scottish Pavilion at Folkfest. We are now busy filling committee positions, lining up volunteers, and commencing the serious planning, so that we are ready to host this gigantic party for close to 30,000 guests. With this being the 30th year for Folkfest, we want to make a real splash. Please consider volunteering for one of the committees – the more brains … and hands…, the merrier! If you have any ideas for activities, displays, entertainment …. Don't hold back – pass them along to me!

- The Travel Bursary for full members is back. If you travel to a Highland competition or workshop between that takes place between July 1st and September 30th, and you are a Full Member in good standing, you are eligible to claim reimbursement for a maximum of $400 in expenses. Qualifying expenses include airfare, gas, dancer's portion of hotel and meals, and registration or entry fees. Receipts are required to support the amounts claimed and must be submitted to our Treasurer, Ronda Bolton. Check the web site for an expense claim form that makes it easy for her and for you!

Whew! That's quite a list of accomplishments for SHDA and its members for the past year, thanks to the efforts of our members and our executive. In addition to the people listed above, I would like to express my gratitude to Ronda Bolton for keeping our books in ship-shape order; Lynn Wagner for recording the sometimes labyrinthine discussions at meetings; Cheryl Armbruster for ably handling SHDA memberships; Sherry Hudson, our Past President, for being so generous with her experience and wisdom; Heather Muirhead for being such a supportive vice-president; Christine Hanna for her active role in representing SHDA well at the Saskatchewan Highland Dancing Association board, along with Sherry and MJ; Shannon Robison for jumping in to fundraising; and, Vicki Strelioff for doing such a marvellous job of communicating with members by editing and publishing the newsletter. It has been a decided pleasure working with you this year.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer [it's that season with the bright yellow globe in the sky and no white stuff on the ground, in case you were wondering….] and we'll see you all back in the fall to begin anew.

Yours in Highland,

Elaine Baptie, President

PROVINCIAL DAY

"Provincials" are put on by the Saskatchewan Highland Dancing Association which is comprised of representatives from each member local association. To date Saskatoon, Regina, Quill Lake, The Battlefords and Swift Current are members. This year the event was hosted in Regina on Saturday May 2nd.

The Provincial Championships started off the morning. In this competition Premier dancers compete in set age groups for the honour of representing Saskatchewan at the ScotDance Canada Championship Series being held this year in Toronto in July. The top three dancers from each age category are sent to Toronto as our representatives and dance with the best dancers across Canada in the Canadian Inter-Provincial Championships.

From the 16 representatives this year, 7 are from Saskatoon, 8 from Regina and 1 from Watson.

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

Premier 12 & Under 14

Champion - Rachel Sherven

Third Runner-Up – Katie Wood

Premier 14 & Under 16

Champion - Eryn McDonald;

First Runner-Up – Brooke Hanna

Second Runner-Up Shonah Runalls

Third Runner-Up – Jamie Bolton

Premier 16 & Under 18

Champion – Margaret Ellis-Young

Second Runner-Up – Heather Hudson

Fourth Runner-Up – Bradie Armbruster

Fifth Runner-Up – Emily Dyrland

Premier 18 & Over

Second Runner-Up – Carolyn Dunn

Third Runner-Up – Aubrey Shanofer

Fifth Runner-Up – Elizabeth McCorkell

The Parade of Champions opened the afternoon portion including special greetings from the President of ScotDance Saskatchewan, Mrs. Sheena Walls-Ingram, Val Robinson, President of Saskatchewan Highland Dancing Association and Regina dignitaries.

The Provincial Closed Competition was attended by 85 dancers from all competition categories from around the province. Congratulations to the trophy winners from Saskatoon:

Savannah Poplar in the Beginner 9 + Under category

Heather Hudson in the Premier 17 + Under category

Christine Hanna, Provincial Representative

FOLKFEST UPDATE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our two **Youth Ambassadors** for 2009:

Bradie Armbruster and **Heather Hudson**!

These two dancers have been active SHDA members for several years, as performers, competitors, and volunteers. With their friendly, fun-loving personalities, we can be sure that the Scottish Pavilion will be well-represented during Folkfest and in the pre-festival events.

Scholarship Deadline Fast Approaching! If you are an active member of SHDA who is moving on to or continuing in post-secondary education in the fall, don't miss out on applying for one of the two $500 Folkfest Scholarships. The deadline for applications to be submitted to the Folkfest office is Friday, June 5th. SHDA members have been quite successful in the past in being selected for this award. Application requirements were circulated by e-mail some time ago. If you need another copy of this information, please contact me by e-mail right away and I will forward the details to you.

Important Folkfest Dates – Mark these in your calendar!

Tentative dates for pavilion set-up:

Tuesday, August 11th, evening

Wednesday, August 12th, all day and evening

Pavilion Dates and Hours:

Thursday, August 13th – 5 p.m. to Midnight

Friday, August 14th – 5 p.m. to Midnight

Saturday, August 15th – 3 p.m. to Midnight

Pavilion take-down:

Sunday, August 16th – morning to early afternoon, as required

Full members will be contacted to schedule their required Folkfest hours. Remember that this event is one of SHDA's major fundraisers so we all need to pitch in to ensure the success of the Scottish Pavilion. If you are not able to fill all your hours, don't forget to call on relatives or friends to help out – pavilion volunteering is a blast!

Watch for further information as we get closer to the big days!

DANCE OUTS

There are three upcoming events for which SHDA has been approached to perform, in addition to our Folkfest shows in August:

1. **June 21st**, evening. – Celebrate Multi-Culturalism Week by participating in ***Minifest***, Mini Multicultural Folkdance Fest, presented by the German Junior Folk Dancers. A variety of dance groups will perform, followed by a sharing session, where the dancers can learn steps from other performers. There are refreshments, draws, contests, and more. This is an event designed with fun and interaction in mind! The organizers hope that all dancers will stay for the whole event, but you are welcome to dance even if you need to leave once that part of the Minifest is done. Last year, Minifest ran from 6:30 to 9:00 or 9:30 p.m.
2. **July 11th**, evening – ***Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre, Herschel*** – To commemorate the 1859 hunt by the Earl of Southesk, during which he shot a grizzly bear, the Centre is planning a two-day celebration. One part of this is a banquet on July 11th, for which they would like to have a half-hour performance of Scottish dancing. There will be an honorarium which could be used to subsidize travel costs for attending this event.
3. **September 12th**, evening – ***Mayor's Cultural Gala*** – We have been invited to perform a couple of dances for the 600 – 700 guests who attend this gala at TCU Place, as representatives of Scottish culture. As the organizer explained, she would like a 'wildly exciting' presentation, with dancers of all ages scattered throughout the dinner tables, and live pipes and drums for the Highland Fling. We would love to have **ALL** our members participate in this high-profile event!

If you are available for any or all of these performances, please let me know by June 5th at shda@shda.ca, so that we may confirm our participation in these events. I hope to be absolutely inundated with responses so that we can have spectacular displays of Highland Dancing at these events!

Elaine Baptie

BRUSH UP ON YOUR "SCOTTISH"!

1. **What do you do if you hirple?** *
   - A) laugh loudly
   - B) belch
   - C) walk and limp
2. **What are you if you are genty?** *
   - A) neat and dainty
   - B) irritable and impatient
   - C) young and naïve
3. **What is trauchle?**
   - A) trout
   - B) drudgery
   - C) treacle
4. **What does eldritch mean?**
   - A) fat
   - B) dark-coloured
   - C) unearthly
5. **Donnered means....**
   - A) stupid
   - B) tired
   - C) Twisted

Answers to Brush Up on Your Scottish #2:

1 – **Snash** -- insolent talk

2 – **Williewaught** -- a deep draught of something

3 – **Wheech** -- remove it

4 – **Stravaig** -- wander idly

5 – **Stookie** -- a plaster cast

The "REEL" Event of 2010

SASKATOON 2010
SCOTDANCE CANADA
CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Featuring

CANADIAN INTERPROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRE-PREMIER, RESTRICTED PREMIER, PREMIER HIGHLAND & NATIONAL COMPETITIONS, PRE-CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHOREOGRAPHY

JULY 7-11, 2010

Saskatoon Field House

Host Hotels:

Delta Bessborough
601 Spadina Cres E
1-306 244-5521
1-888-890-3222
www.deltabessborough.com

Sheraton Cavalier
612 Spadina Cres. E.
1-306-652-6771
1-866-716-8101
www.sheratoncavalier.com/saskatoon

Note: Shuttle Bus Passes will be available for purchase in spring of 2010.
The shuttle buses will run all day in a loop from Host Hotels and other downtown hotels to the venue.

For More Information:

www.scotdancecanada.ca www.sdcchampionships.org

SASKATOON HIGHLAND DANCING ASSOCIATION

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SHDA WEBSITE

www.shda.ca

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this last newsletter of the 2008-09 dance year. I have thoroughly enjoyed helping the SHDA communicate to all its members and look forward to doing so for another year.

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is October 10 for the fall issue, so keep that in mind for costumes for sale/wanted, jokes, recipes or anything else Scottish. There will be further issues in January, March and May (deadlines TBA).

Have a great summer!

Vicki Strelioff

Email: vstrelioff@yahoo.com

SHDA 2009-10 EXECUTIVE

Presenting the SHDA for the 2009-10 dance year!!!! Welcome to the new faces and those returning. Thank you for all of your hard work over the past year and in the next.

President:	Elaine Baptie
Past President:	Sherry Hudson
Vice President:	Heather Muirhead
Treasurer:	Ronda Bolton
Secretary:	Bronwen McRae
Memberships:	Cheryl Armbruster
Dance Outs:	Gweneth Jones/Theresa Groocock
Communications:	Vicki Strelioff
Competitions:	MJ Sherven
Fundraising:	Lynn Wagner
Provincial Rep:	Christine Hanna
Workshops:	Cathryn Wood