



Guth na Dannsairéan Voice of the Dancers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, SHDA Members:

Although winter seems determined to linger on, I hope we can all take comfort from the thought that spring has got to be right around the corner ... or at least the one after that!

The Highland Dance year is back in full swing, with many events completed since the Christmas break, and many more coming up in the next few months for the SHDA and its members. SHDA hosted a successful competition on February 7th, with almost one hundred dancers registered, a great turn-out for an event open to dancers within Saskatchewan. On January 31st, we had a terrific turn-out of dancers who delighted audiences at two events for the Saskatoon Francophone Association and South Nutana Park Community Association Winter Carnival. In fact, the evening dancers quite enjoyed being treated to a standing ovation! A photo of one of the numbers appeared in the latest edition of L'eau vive, Saskatchewan's francophone newspaper.

Dance-out requests continue to come in, with the next performance taking place on February 19th. We have also been asked to perform for the Partners Luncheon at the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] conference on March 11th, with a good number of dancers already indicating that they would be thrilled to participate.

On the bingo front, thanks are due to Shannon Robison for accepting the position of Fund-Raising Chair and organizing the February 7th bingo.

Check this newsletter for information on many important areas: the Spring Tune-Up happening at the end of the Easter Break; upcoming dance-outs; the bingo survey results to date; the costume & shoe subsidy for full members; Scottish Pavilion planning update; the Muriel Boyle Award recipients; and much more.

Looking forward to spring,

Elaine

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Dates to Remember:

February 19 – Dance-out 1:30 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

March 11 – Dance-Out 1:00 Hilton Garden Inn—SARM Convention

March 21—Quill Lake Competition

April 4—Newsletter Deadline

April 5—Regina Competition

April 18 & 19—Spring Workshop

May 2 & 3—Provincial Championships & Sask. Closed Competition

May 30—Saskatoon Open Competition

FOLKFEST UPDATE

Scottish Pavilion Update --- Folkfest and YOU!

It's time to begin thinking about summer – and couldn't we all use a bit of that warmth! Summer, of course, means Folkfest, and the fun and excitement of the Scottish Pavilion, for which the planning begins now. Just to add to the anticipation, this year brings the 30th anniversary of Saskatoon's Folkfest, with special plans in the wings to enhance this cultural extravaganza.

Some changes are in the air on the organizational front, as members voted to apply as SHDA, rather than as Scottish Societies, to host the Scottish Pavilion this year. A task group is busy drafting a proposal for a committee structure to facilitate the organization of our pavilion, reporting to SHDA as a whole, and assigning responsibility for the various types of decisions that need to be made throughout the planning and hosting of this major event.

We hope that the direct involvement of SHDA will encourage more members to participate in the planning stages leading up to this three-day fund-raising event. Volunteers are needed in all areas, as leaders, assistants, and committee members. The major areas include:

Facilities: liaising with Prairieland and equipment rental companies; set-up and décor of the pavilion

Kitchen: planning the menu, organizing food orders and preparation, volunteer food

Bar: planning beverage offerings, setting prices, organizing ticket sales and ID verification procedures

Passports: gathering information for passport text and highlights, organizing passport sales and stamping volunteers

Stirling Market: planning and managing the offerings of the market, in conjunction with the kitchen team

Entertainment: engaging the entertainers, arranging MCs, creating the program & script

Pavilion Manager & Assistant: co-ordinating all committees and overseeing all details of pavilion operation

Security: identifying security needs and organizing volunteers to provide coverage to keep our pavilion operation smooth and inviting

Raffle: overseeing licensing, printing, distribution and sales of Scotland trip raffle tickets

We invite you to consider becoming involved in one of these areas. Watch an e-mail inbox near you for further details! We are also interested in gathering ideas and suggestions to make this year's pavilion one of the best ever, in this 30th Anniversary year of Folkfest. Please send your comments to Elaine Baptie at information@shda.ca. The SHDA looks forward to your participation.

Elaine Baptie
President

COMPETITIONS REPORT

We have hosted two very successful competitions this year. Our November competition saw 140 dancers participate while the February Closed competition had 100 dancers take part. The judges at both competitions expressed their admiration of the quality of dancing in Saskatchewan. Our next competition will be held on May 30th. We are trying to host this event outside. For those of you that are newer to the dance world, this competition was traditionally held outside at the Exhibition Grounds on the outdoor stage. That stage needs some serious repairs so we headed indoors. It is our hope that we will find another outdoor venue that could enable us to host outdoors again. We will keep you posted.

Ever wonder what the money from the competitions is used for?? Well here's a breakdown so that you know just where your hard-earned cash is going.

Dance Fees: \$5.00 per dance is used to pay for the judges and pipers fees along with the facility costs. This usually amounts to \$4000.00 per competition. Shocked aren't you? I know I was when I first heard this bit of news.

Provincial Fees: \$2.00 per competition. \$1.00 is used to fund Provincials every year. The other \$1.00 is used to host Canadians in Saskatchewan, an event which takes place about once every 10-12 years.

Late Fees: \$10.00 per competition. This money is used to compensate the person doing registration for all the hassle that goes into entering last minutes dancers. KIDDING. It is supposed to act as a deterrent to prevent people from entering at the last minute, necessitating changes to programs, registration and marshalling sheets, and computer scoring data.

Provincial Championships

Provincial Championships are for EVERY level of dancing. Please do not let the title discourage you from entering this event. Here's a bit of an explanation as to what this weekend is all about. Well, it is a celebration of Highland Dance with 2 competitions. The first competition is the Provincial Championships where our provincial representatives are selected to attend Canadians. The second competition is a Closed competition for ALL Saskatchewan dancers. What is neat about these competitions is that they usually take place over a span of two days so we get to do some bonding with dancers from other associations. It is a more formal event so there are usually some important politicians on hand to assist with medals and the Parade. Oh yes — I forgot to mention the Parade of Champions where our provincial reps are piped in along with a select group of dignitaries. You have to admit that nothing is cooler than a colourful group being piped in. And let's not forget that every dancer gets a goodie bag — which I am told, on good authority, is one of the best parts of this weekend. So now that we have you pumped up for this exciting event, here are a few details.

When: May 2nd & 3rd, 2009

Where: Regina (location TBA)

*****Be sure to set aside this weekend**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

At our most recent Executive meeting a motion was passed to offer a \$75 highland costume reimbursement to those members in good standing. The details are as follows: - to be eligible you must have met your bingo commitment.

- \$75 is available to each dancer with a Full Membership
- reimbursement will be given for new or used costumes (such as kilt, kilt socks, vest, jacket, aboyne outfit, ghillies/dance slippers, jig shoes, jig outfit, hornpipe outfit and fabric for any of the above costumes)
- receipts must be provided - if you are buying used, please provide a receipt from the seller
- receipts can be dropped off to Ronda Bolton, Treasurer, at 150 Delayen Cres, or by mail including a SASE for return of cheque. Please include your name, address and membership number.
- this offer will be good for items purchased between November 24, 2008 and May 31, 2009.

Cheryl Armbruster
Memberships, Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association

MURIEL BOYLE MEMORIAL AWARDS

From a strong group of applicants, the following SHDA members were selected as the recipients of this year's Muriel Boyle Awards:

Pre-Premier: **Marin McRae**

Junior Premier: **Shonah Runalls**

Senior Premier: **Bradie Armbruster**

On behalf of the SHDA, a special thank you goes to our selection committee for their hard work: Gail Moss, Tannis Nicholson, Jean Goldie, Rachele Lockwood, and Elaine Hollman.



MURIAL BOYLE AWARD continued

Muriel Boyle Award Applicants Extol the Benefits of Their Involvement in Highland Dance

One of the requirements for the Muriel Boyle Award applicants is to submit an essay that outlines the meaning of Highland Dancing involvement to the individual dancer, along with a description of ways in which their experience has helped to achieve goals or overcome obstacles.

Some of the applicants gave permission for excerpts of their essays to be shared through the SHDA newsletter. Our selection committee was very impressed with the responses submitted, and it is my pleasure to share some of those with you!

— [M]ost importantly, Highland dancing has provided me with a family in who I can feel unconditionally accepted at all times.... ...Highland dance has introduced me to friends of all ages that share and partake in the same experiences as me, unlike school friends. We have gone through gruelling hours of dance classes together, celebrated during times of achievement, laughed during times of embarrassment and cried during times of hardship, loss or pain.

— In working alongside dancers of all ages and abilities I have learnt to understand the importance of equality and to never underestimate a person, as every individual has unique gifts to offer...

— The skills that I have learned through highland dance have transferred to all other areas of my life. From day one my teachers have taught me to practice patience and perseverance... Dancing has also taught me that winning is not everything.. Highland dance is also a social environment and I feel I have learned many positive behaviours from interacting with the wonderful people involved.

— ...[H]ighland dancing has been a great way to learn to set goals in all aspects of my life.

— Highland dancing means the world to me ... If I wasn't in dance, I wouldn't be me.

— No matter where my journey takes me, highland dance will always be a part of my life, and forever hold a place in my heart.

As you can see, highland means much more to our dancers than competitions and winning. While these things are exciting, there is nothing more gratifying than being accepted as 'family' by an encouraging and supportive group of friends, or learning skills that can be used in other areas of endeavour.

I think you'll agree that our dancers are doing their best to proudly carry on the legacy of Muriel Boyle.

COSTUMES WANTED

I am looking to buy an aboyne outfit, maybe blue or purple, although if anyone is selling who has my size, I would consider other colours if they have a different colour. I have no idea what size I am for an aboyne sizing, but hopefully people that know me could guess about what size I am. (A smaller sized adult that sometimes fits kids clothing.) Thanks.

Tara Labuik, (tajesto@yahoo.com)

COSTUMES FOR SALE

White National Dress: approximate ages 9 – 11; elastic waist -- 26" to 20"; skirt length – 21.5" with 3" hem; shoulder to waist – 14" \$20.00

Vest: Royal blue; chest – 25"; waist [over kilt] – 25"; shoulder to bottom of front point: 14.5"; back neck to centre point – 14.25"; with silver braid and buttons \$45.00

Vest: Royal blue; chest – 31"; waist [over kilt] – 27.5"; shoulder to bottom of front point: 17.5"; back neck to centre point – 17.25"; with silver braid and buttons \$55.00

Jacket: Royal blue, princess seams, for dancer with slight build, chest – 32"; waist [over kilt] – 28"; sleeve [underarm length] – 18.5" at maximum let-down; shoulder to bottom of front point – 21"; back neck to centre point – 20.25"; with silver braid and buttons; one small mark on front, not visible on stage \$75.00

Primary Kiltie: red Stewart tartan, made by Highland Home Industries; ages 3 – 4; waist 19-20"; length – 12.75" with a 1" hem \$15.00

Kilt socks: royal blue, cream, grey diamonds with black and turquoise lines; match tartans like Royal Cunningham and Menzies; foot length – 8.5"; leg length with folded cuff – 15"; calf [unstretched] – 8" \$45.00

Kilt socks: royal blue, cream, grey diamonds with black lines; match tartans like Royal Cunningham and Menzies; foot length – 7.25"; leg length with folded cuff – 14"; calf[unstretched] – 7.5" \$45.00

Kilt socks: royal blue, cream, grey diamonds with black lines; match tartans like Royal Cunningham and Menzies; foot length – 6.75"; leg length with folded cuff – 14"; calf[unstretched] – 7.5" \$45.00

Highland slippers:

#1 – James Senior [red stitching] – foot length approx. 8" -- \$10.00

#2 – Hullachan Pro [red stitching, cushioned ball] – foot length approx. 8.5": -- \$35.00

#3 -- Hullachan Pro [red stitching, cushioned ball] – foot length approx. 7.75": -- \$35.00

#4 – Hullachan [black stitching, cushioned ball, elastics instead of laces] – foot length approx. 8" \$10.00

Please contact Elaine at tartan@sasktel.net

COSTUMES FOR SALE continued

Kiltie: Red/white (unsure of tartan pattern) that would fit a primary dancer aged 4-7; \$75. Call Vicki at 978-0853.

WORKSHOPS

Are you ready?
For a.....



The Saskatoon Highland Dance Association
Presents....

Our Annual Spring Tune Up Workshop
April 18 and 19th
Albert Community Centre
Watch for further details!!

Volunteers needed for this weekend.
If you are interested please contact

Cathryn Wood 477-0871/thewoodsies@sasktel.net

SHDA BINGO SURVEY

At the last SHDA Members' meeting, we decided to circulate a survey of fund-raising members on the question of bingo participation. 42 members completed the survey at the competition on February 7th. If you were not in attendance, you will receive, or will have already received, the survey by e-mail. Please take a few minutes to respond, so that we may have a complete overview of members' opinions.

A big thank you is due to Shannon Robison for distributing and collecting the surveys at the competition, and for compiling the results.

Return to higher budget and 2 shifts per dancer	Maintain current budget and 1 shift per dancer	Prefer 1 but willing to do 2 shifts per dancer	End the bingo fundraising
23	4	5	10
54.76%	9.52%	11.90%	23.81%

Note: percentages add up to 99.99 due to rounding

Comments:

Bingos are a good way to fundraise. The problem is getting people to run them, organize them and volunteer for them. Folkfest would be my preferred fundraising commitment.

I'd rather work more bingos than 16 hours of Folkfest – it's a lot for one person in three days when you also have a job

The Folkfest commitment is tough for single parents who have to manage all of the hours on their own.

We are new(ish) members and do not really see how the bursary and subsidies are valuable to all members. Perhaps longer standing members have benefitted and would be willing to continue the bingo effort.

How many parents are opting not to do bingos? Should we pay more (caution fee) so there is more incentive to do bingos instead of paying? Is there any way to determine who will not work at the beginning of the season?

I would suggest a maximum number of bingos per family. I think it would be hard to do 6 – 8 bingos a year for someone with 3 – 4 dancers. I also like the idea of being able to pay someone else to work it. Maybe charge \$50 if they provide the sub or \$60 if the association has to find them. That leaves a \$10 convenience fee.

Would rather raise money selling burgers at Canadian Tire or putting on a Ceilidh similar to the fundraiser for the dancers who got "Zoomed".

I think an annual ceilidh that is also opened to the public could make a lot of money!

Selling grocery cards through Sobeys

I realize we need to fundraise. however time and location of bingos makes this difficult

It would be terrific to find a culturally relevant fundraising activity – a ceilidh (a public event, not one where we just sell to ourselves), whiskey tasting evening . . .

If required to work bingos I will, although I would prefer some other form of fundraising that is more desirable. I find the bingos quit disgusting to work.

BINGO SURVEY continued

I could manage to have two bingos per dancer if there is a good amount of lead time to sign. I can only do an early shift because of my schedule – so whether this will work or not? If they were spread out throughout the year that would help too.

[We] feel that the amount of the fundraising cheque should be raised as I understand you are often paying workers at bingos. I would prefer to find other ways to raise the Bingo money but until we have a viable option my vote is to do the 2 bingos. We haven't been to a Robbie Burns event yet. Is this a fundraiser, or could it be? I agree that it would be great if other fundraisers were culturally based.

As you can see, over half our members support increasing the number of shifts, with a return to a slightly higher budget request so that we can continue at City Centre Bingo. It is interesting to note, however, that even people who voted for the increase are supportive of finding another -- culturally-relevant -- way to raise funds for the association.

The results and comments give us all much to ponder before the question is addressed at the next Members' meeting in May. If you have any suggestions for alternatives to bingo, please send them to me. I know there are a lot of creative minds out there, so let the ideas roll!

Elaine tartan@sasktel.net

MOTIVATION! by Charlie Mill

Being a Highland Dancer takes a lot of dedication. Highland Dancers have to practice in order to be fit and to improve the way they dance. Sometimes finding the time to practice is hard but trust us, it is worth it.

Here are some handy tips to help make practicing easier and more fun.

- 1) Have a regular time when you practice so that it becomes habit. Some dancers like to practice straight after school, while others get up early in the morning. Find out what works best for you and try to stick to it.
- 2) If practice is fun then it is easier to do. Some dancers like to practice to "pop" music songs, instead of bagpipes. Maybe you could start a practice club in your dancing school. Get together with other dancing friends and practice together.
- 3) Some dancers like to focus on just a couple of dances when they practice. Dance some all the way through for fitness and break some down to improve the way you are dancing them.
- 4) "Practice makes perfect" but only if you are concentrating on correcting things. Practicing something wrong means that it will only stay wrong. Having a notebook where you can write down the things your teacher wants you to correct is a good idea. Try practicing in front of a mirror so that you can see how you are dancing - and don't kid yourself on.
- 5) Practice your dances in your head. Imagining yourself dancing your best will actually help you dance your best.

SASKATOON HIGHLAND DANCING
ASSOCIATION

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SHDA WEBSITE
www.shda.ca

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who makes a contribution to the SHDA newsletter because without all of the help, there would be no newsletter. As everyone receives an SHDA newsletter as part of their membership benefits, it is a wonderful way to keep all of us informed of the latest and greatest happenings.

As always, I am looking for all the news that's fit to print for the next newsletter. So..., if you have anything you wish to share with all of the SHDA members (costumes for sale, costumes wanted, recipes, anything else to do with dancing and all things Scottish), please send them to me on or before **Saturday, April 4.**

Again, many thanks!!

Vicki Streliaff

Email: vstreliaff@yahoo.com



When Jock moved to London he constantly annoyed his English acquaintances by boasting about how great Scotland was. Finally, in exasperation, one said, "Well, if Scotland's so marvelous, how come you didn't stay there?"

"Well," explained Jock "they're all so clever up there I had to come down here to have any chance of making it at all

Test Your Scottish!

How well do you know your Scottish words? Try the quiz to find out!

1. What do you do if you pook something?
A) pluck it B) kick it C) push it
2. What is a fankle?
A) a tangle B) an insult C) a loom
3. What is glaur?
A) glory B) mire C) sunshine
4. What is a bauchle?
A) a rumour B) a worn-out or clumsy person C) a cluster
5. If something is fantoosh, what is it?
A) magical or uncanny B) covered with snow C) fashionable or showy

Answers in the April Newsletter!

SASKATOON DANCERS' SUMMER IN SCOTLAND

In August of 2008, it was with great pride the WSHD had 5 of its top Premier Dancers selected to perform in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Katlin Mess, Kirstin McEwen, Heather Klemmer, Carolyn Dunn and Shannon Hamilton spent 6 weeks in Scotland learning the performance number for the Tattoo, performing in the Tattoo nightly, performing in other miscellaneous shows and even competing in the World Championships also! This "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity was the culmination of years of practicing and preparing for this type of occasion! Below you will get an idea of what this experience was like for these dancers.

Heather Klemmer writes...

"I feel like there should be much to say about my Tattoo experience, but it's challenging to describe. I'll give you a short list of some vivid memories/favourite occurrences, because I can't think of how else to shed light on my experience. Dancing in the Tattoo is....well it's...it's hiking up (and down) castle hill in the pouring rain, it's goose bumps every night, it's living in fast-forward for four weeks, it's meeting some of the most intriguing people you'll ever know, it's forging deep friendships, (it's eating food you would never otherwise ingest), it's dancing with one shoe on....., it's moments of chaos with long stretches boredom, it's perfecting a Scottish accent, it's a million little details, personal stories (the kind you tell your grand children when they forget you were once their age) and a life changing experience -- above all (for me at least) it's the feeling that, for four minutes every night (and twice on Saturday), life is perfect. Truly though, the feeling overwhelming pride and sense of accomplishment that accompanies dancing on the esplanade, for 9000+ people every night is one I will forever cherish."

Carolyn Dunn writes.....

"I didn't realize how difficult it would be to write about the experience, until I sat down to do so!!! There is so much to say! Edinburgh was a magnificent city, just full of possibilities in August. With the festival energy in the air, I was inspired to immerse myself completely into the culture. I loved spending each day with amazing new friends, and dancing nightly for crowds of 9000 spectators, which was truly a breathtaking experience."

Shannon Hamilton writes:

Having had a hand in the training of all of these wonderful dancers, it was one of the proudest moments I have ever had as a teacher. Watching these girls dance (with huge smiles on their faces) on the esplanade of the Edinburgh Castle was so exciting. I know these girls have worked very hard for the past several years and deserved this rare opportunity. I believe this experience lends itself as a gentle reminder to other dancers in Saskatoon, that your hard work, WILL pay off in ways you least expect!! Maybe you too, some day, will dance in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo!

Wendy Wilson

Wilson School of Highland Dance



Wilson School of Highland Dance

1989-2009

This year is the 20th Anniversary of our dance school. We are hosting a gala night to celebrate this milestone. It will take place on **Saturday, March 7th, 2009** at the

Odeon Events Centre. The evening will include cocktails, supper, show, and a family dance.

Tickets \$30, \$15 (ages 4-10), \$5 (ages 2-3)

For Tickets contact:

Ashley Richmond ashley.s@sasktel.net

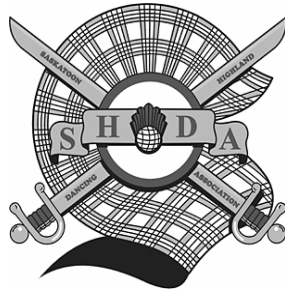
Wendy Wilson wendy@wshd.ca



ScotDance Saskatchewan

and the

Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association



Are proud to host the

ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2010

July 7th –11th

in

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Co Chairs: Kendra Jones McGrath & Wendy Wilson

Contact us at: SDCCS2010@shaw.ca

Future information for this event available at:

www.scotdancecanada.ca/SDCCS