



Welcome back, SHDA Members! Welcome Prospective Members!

It's here! The 2009-2010 dance year is going to be packed with exciting events, not the least of which is the **ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2010** right here in Saskatoon. Our committees are now in full gear for our "**Reel Event of 2010**", as we prepare to welcome dancers from across Canada and around the world for five days of dancing, entertaining, friendship, and fun. This is going to be such a terrific opportunity for all our dancers in Saskatoon and throughout Saskatchewan to compete at and enjoy the 'Olympics' of Highland Dancing, right in our own back yard! Mark your calendars for July 7th through 11th. To show off our SHDA team spirit at this event, and throughout the year leading up to it, we are offering jackets to our members. You and your dancers will not want to miss the fitting session at Registration Night!

With summer apparently here at last, the SHDA is excited to welcome everyone, continuing and new members, to this new year of Highland Dancing. 2008-2009 brought the addition of many new members, another successful Scottish Pavilion at Folkfest, well-attended workshops and competitions, and increasing dance-out participation. Several of our members journeyed to Toronto for the ScotDance Championship Series 2009, where seven of our members proudly competed as Provincial Representatives. I know that all those in attendance were busy making notes, both mental and literal, to help with our organizational efforts for 2010.

The Scottish Pavilion at this year's Folkfest was, once again, a great success. We received many compliments on the atmosphere and amenities offered at our pavilion, and plan to keep building on this event as our primary fund-raiser, as well as an incredible opportunity to showcase Scottish culture. The Folkfest dates for 2010 are August 19th to 21st. We are very appreciative of our volunteers, both members and non-members, and hope to see you all back next year.

The results of the bingo survey conducted amongst our membership showed that a majority was in favour of increasing our bingo requirements to two shifts per dancer, so that we could maintain this source of revenue and remove the risk of being moved to a less lucrative location. I hope to have some of our bingo dates for Registration Night so that members can sign up. The Scottish Pavilion volunteer requirement remains at sixteen (16) hours per family. Running the Pavilion does require an army of volunteers but feedback indicates that people love helping to make this event such a success. We know that we appreciate the time and effort that so many people offer!

All our dancer members, whether Full or Associate, are invited to participate in community performances which we refer to as dance-outs. Venues range from the Festival of Trees, to seniors' residences, to street fairs and festivals. We have had some unique opportunities this past year, including dancing by the riverbank for the Fireworks Festival, and entertaining a huge crowd at the very glitzy Mayor's Cultural Gala. Our dancers, from the wee ones on up, provide hours of enjoyment to a variety of audiences over the course of a year, while they learn and enhance their performing skills and confidence. I just love to see the huge smiles on dancers' faces when they experience all these people clapping just for them!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at shda@shda.ca, or bring your questions on Registration Night. The SHDA Executive looks forward to seeing you there!

**Elaine Baptie,
President, Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association**