

# Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association Newsletter

## February 2007

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### Message from the President

Sherry Hudson

The Saskatoon Highland Dance Association is still operating with some key positions vacant, which caused more work for less people. At this time we still have vacant positions that must be filled in order to continue to offer some key elements. If these positions are not filled we will be forced to cancel them.

At this time we have no Newsletter Co-Coordinator. The SHDA sends out four Newsletters per year to keep the membership informed on upcoming events. Communication is very important and without newsletters key information will be missed.

We also need a Workshop Co-Coordinator. The SHDA puts on three workshops a year for the dancers. Two of the workshops allow the dancers to interact with the Judges that adjudicated them at the Competition the day before. The third is our Annual Spring Tune Up, which is a 2-day event for all levels of dancers. Our fundraising income subsidizes our Competitions and workshops so the dancers can attend at minimal cost. At this time the Spring Tune Up is on hold.

Fundraising Coordinator is also needed. This position has been made more manageable by hiring a Bingo person to run the Bingos for the SHDA so the Fundraising person does not have to be at the Bingos.

Thank you to Heather Muirhead for stepping forward as our Vice President for this year.

At this time due to these positions being vacant there will only be this newsletter and the spring tune up has been put on hold. This is truly a shame as the workshops are for the dancers and they are the ones that will miss out.

The Executive meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month for approximately an hour to hour and half. So come join a great group of people who want to promote Highland Dance and the Scottish culture. We are all volunteers and we do this for the DANCERS. The time commitment is small and the rewards are many.

The SHDA general meeting is on February 26, 2007 and I hope all members can attend. At this meeting we hope to have feed back from the questionnaire handed out at the competition.

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### Competition Report

Cindy Dunn/MJ Sherven

Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association will once again be very busy this year planning competitions. We thank all the dancers for their dedication and hard work put into highland dancing throughout the year. We thank all the teachers for all their dedication to our dancers and to the Competition Committee.

We also appreciate all the volunteer hours put in by those on our committee and the many others who all contribute their time on competition day. All of these events are dependant on having volunteers in place to run these events. There will be lots of help and experience to support you, so never feel that you can't help out. Many hands make light work.

The following competition events will be coming up in Saskatoon, so mark your calendars.

February 3, 2007      Closed Competition      Manhattan Ballroom  
PROVINCIALS      FIRST WEEK-END IN MAY – DETAILS TBA

Not everyone chooses to compete at highland dancing, but the majority of most do. Having the opportunity to dance and compete at a local competition is an honour. Just ask a dancer, their family, or the teacher about all the rewards that a local competition allows. What a great way to develop personal growth that will last a lifetime! And the future opportunities that are endless!

For the upcoming season, good luck to all the dancers!

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### **Scottish Pavilion – Folkfest 2006 Report**

Ronda Bolton

The Saskatoon Scottish Societies and the Saskatoon Highland Dance Association is pleased to announce that the 2006 Scottish Pavilion at Folkfest was a success. This year our pavilion was back at the Prairieland Park in Hall D. With careful planning, reduced expenses and a new re-vitalized executive and committee heads we were able to put on a first class show and make a profit. In fact we were so successful that we unanimously voted to run the pavilion next year.

A survey was sent out to the members of the Saskatoon HDA with their registration packets. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Almost all of the respondents liked the location and size. One member said it best, "...enjoyed smaller area because it was more crowd friendly." In going with a smaller area, we reduced the size to one-half of previous years, we were able to cut the rental cost significantly. This smaller size was better manageable for the security as well. The second most popular subject was the new entertainment schedule. The Entertainment Committee did a fantastic job with the variety and 45 minute time slots. This break encouraged crowd turnover. "The variety and pace of the schedule was good," as quoted by a SHDA member. Other positive feedback was in regard to the Stirling Market, the ice cream and toffee stand run by the dancers. The most profound member comment was; "the energy from the volunteers, guests and especially the dancers was awesome."

I would also like to respond to some of the negative comments, concerns and suggestions.

**Suggestion: fewer items on the menu in the kitchen, too many choices.**

The Kitchen Committee is looking at revamping the menu with new improved recipes and reducing the selection.

**Suggestion: Missed the after party for the pipers and dancers.**

The Saturday night party was getting out of hand and becoming unsafe and unmanageable. Therefore, we, the executive, decided to hold a volunteer/entertainers appreciation social later on. There were approximately 165 people who came to the appreciation social held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a hot roast beef supper with Bill Pollack saying grace. After supper we had an impromptu "ceilidh" with Doug Moss as our emcee. Our entertainers consisted of music by members of Back of the Bus, dancing by members of the SHDA, piping by Dave McIntosh and finishing the night with the duet team of Ron McLean on guitar and Miss Pinel on the violin (fiddle).

The other main concern was "supporting an event that continually loses money." In the 26 years that the Scottish Pavilion has been operating there have been times that the pavilion has only broke even or made a small profit. The main purpose of the pavilion is to showcase our culture and share it with the public. With conscientious management and careful planning we can turn the pavilion into a successful major fundraiser for the Scottish Societies and in turn for the Saskatoon Highland Dancing Association. With

the help of our members we can provide our children with a safe, fun environment to entertain and show off their talents.

On that final note, the AGM of the Scottish Societies will be held after the general meeting of the SHDA on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. At this time we will be accepting the financial statement of 2006 and elect in the new executive. The positions that are currently open are Vice President, Secretary, Boutique Committee head and coordinator of the mini golf/kids games. The more help we can get the easier the jobs will be. Come out and help keep the people of Saskatoon the “Volunteer Capital of Canada”.

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### **SHDA Ceilidh Fundraiser**

**Date:** Friday, March 9, 2007  
**Location:** Odeon Events Centre, 241 2nd Ave S  
**Time:** Doors open at 6, supper at 6:45  
**Entertainment:** Dancing  
**Meal:** Greek cuisine, cash bar  
**Cost:** \$15.00 adult, \$10 child (12 & under)

This is a fundraising event to offset bingo's. Eight or more tickets sold will equal one bingo shift per dancer.

Deadline for purchasing tickets is Monday, March 5th, 2007.

Tickets are available from Ronda Bolton at the competition on Saturday, Feb. 3, or call 249-5521, or email at [rbolton@sasktel.net](mailto:rbolton@sasktel.net).

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**Check out our website at [www.shda.ca](http://www.shda.ca)**

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#### **SASKATOON HIGHLAND DANCING ASSOCIATION 2006/2007 EXECUTIVE**

President	Sherry Hudson	653-1238
Past President	Kim Robertson	
Vice President	Heather Muirhead	955-9930
Treasurer	Kelley Glass	665-7665
Secretary	Lynn Wagner	306-225-4421
Fundraising	Vacant	
Dance-Outs	Cheryl Armbruster	384-1185
Communication	Vacant	
Competitions	Cindy Dunn	343-5884
	MJ Sherven	955-0065
Social & Travel	Vacant	
Memberships	Elaine Baptie	373-7659
Provincial Rep	Gloria Betker	652-6472
Workshops	Vacant	