



Guth na Dannsairean

The Voice of the Dancers

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Dates to Remember:

November 21 –
Festival of Trees Dance
Out 2:00pm Western
Development Museum

November 27 –
Saskatoon Competition
Manhattan Ballroom

November 28 –
Saskatoon Workshop
Albert Community
Center

November 22 –
SHDA General Meeting
7:30pm

December 31 –
SHDA newsletter
submission deadline

President's Report

Welcome back to another year of Highland! 2009-2010 was such a busy year for our association, hosting the very successful ScotDance Canada Championship Series, that it will be nice to return to a more regular year.

On behalf of the SHDA executive, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered for SDCCS 2010, a joint effort of SHDA and ScotDance SK. Feedback indicates that our guests had a marvellous time due to the hard work of all the committees and the

friendly attitude of the on-site volunteers. We are anticipating that this event will be a highly successful fund-raiser for our association.

The Scottish Pavilion at Folkfest was another success. While we didn't achieve the financial heights of 2009, we made a comfortable profit which will help to support our association's activities.

On the topic of money, SHDA members will be able to enjoy several members' benefits this year. Check out the

Members' Benefits article for details.

Don't forget that the deadline is fast approaching to submit applications for the annual Muriel Boyle awards. Details are found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Finally, I would just like to offer my thanks to the 2009-2010 Executive for all their efforts on behalf of SHDA, and welcome our new executive members to the team.

Elaine Baptie

Muriel Boyle Memorial Awards

Muriel Boyle was active as an accomplished dancer, teacher, and judge in Saskatoon for many years. She loved to share her love of Highland and Scottish country dancing with the community.

Muriel Boyle bequeathed funds to SHDA to establish an annual award to recognize and reward highland dancers for their efforts in the arenas of competition, community service, and highland dance as a cultural

experience.

Three awards of \$350 are available each year:

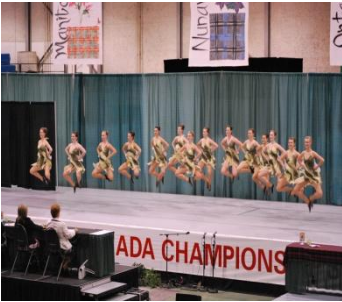
- Pre-Premier [Primary to Intermediate]
- Junior Premier [15 years and under]
- Senior Premier [16 years and over]

Dancers interested in applying will find detailed information and the application form on the SHDA web site, www.shda.ca under the

Forms link.

Requirements include a listing of dance-out and competition participation, community events involvement, your dance teacher's signature, and a letter of reference. Gentle hint: don't leave the application to the last minute!

The application deadline is **January 15th, 2011**. Good luck!



Competitions

Competitions Report
November 2010

Well our last competition we hosted will be difficult to beat now won't it??? I still get goose bumps thinking about how well everything went for our July event. Now that you all have a taste for what Canadians is like you may get addicted to attending this event which means you will be attending more competitions in general to prepare. This is all good because we have 3 exciting competitions for you this year. November 27th, 2010 at the Manhattan Ballroom is where our first one will be held. Check the SHDA website for the entry form. Our February 5th, 2011 will also be held at the Manhattan while our May 28th location has yet to be determined.

Premier dancers ages 16 years and older please note that we are offering cash at ALL our competitions this year!! So dust off your ghillies and get those entry forms in.

Competition Tidbit:

What's the difference between a Competition and a Championship Competition? Good question – the difference is that a championship competition must have approval from Scotland to organize. A Championship competition also has very specific dances with very, very, very specific steps; these steps are called 'championship steps' and these steps are sent out from Scotland every September. The steps change every year but the dances remain the same: Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas & Reel. At a Championship Competition –

there are 6 place finishes in each age group for each dance. One other factor is that a Championship Competition usually comes with huge, honkin trophies which make for great bragging rights. One other note is that if you ever win a Championship you will have the title 'Champion' for life and thus can never enter a pre-championship competition. So what the heck is a competition? It is a competition where the organizers can choose any dances they like and present any amount of awards they want.

We look forward to having you out at the competitions and remember that many hands make light work so don't forget your volunteer commitment at the competitions. If you do forget – we will remind you.

Yours In Highland,
MJ & Robyn (the dynamic duo)

Dance Outs

As full or associate members you are invited to participate in S.H.D.A. dance outs. Full members are required to participate in three but are welcome to do more. This year we are offering an incentive to do more dance outs: after your required three are completed your name goes in a prize draw. Every dance out over three entitles you to another entry in the draw. There will be draws for prizes throughout the year with the grand prize of an Ipod touch being made at the end of the year. Dance

outs give our dancers an occasion to show off the dances they know and the new ones they learn before they take them to competition.

Dance out programs are not put together necessarily by age, experience or friendships. The primary criteria are that it is a dance known to the dancer, who has the appropriate costume for it. Dance outs are performed for fun, experience, entertainment and the promotion of highland dance.

As the year passes and your dancer learns more dances please let us know. If you are temporarily without a costume for a certain dance, just let us know when you respond to a dance out invitation and we will accommodate.

Please pass on any enquires about dance out opportunities. Feel free to contact me by phone or email.

****Reminder:** dance year runs from membership sign up night to membership sign up night.

Theresa Grocock
Dance Out Coordinator

*Festival of
Trees Dance
Out*

Sunday
November 21
Western
Development
Museum
2pm



Workshops

Don't forget to sign up for the SHDA Workshop on Sunday, November 28 at the Albert Community Centre following the Saskatoon competition. This is a great opportunity to work with the judges from the competition without the pressure of being on stage. Workshops are open to all dancers from primary to premier, competitive and non-competitive and offered at the bargain price of \$10!

Signing up is easy--just fill in the competition form available on the SHDA website and mail it in. A tentative schedule will be emailed after the registration deadline has passed. See you there! Don't forget to sign up for the SHDA Workshop, *Sunday, November 28* at the *Albert Community Centre* following the Saskatoon competition.

Vicki Strelieff
SHDA Workshops

SHDA
WORKSHOP
Sunday
November
28
Albert
Community
Center
610
Clarence
Ave South
For
dancers of
all ages
and
categories

Membership Benefits

Due to our successful fund-raising efforts, the SHDA is able to offer some exciting member benefits this year.

These include:

- 8x10 SHDA group photo
- Dancer class bag for full members – free for continuing full members, half-price for new full members
- Up to \$500 competition/highland outfit/workshop/ travel reimbursement for each full member

- Reimbursement to a maximum of \$50 for Provincial Day registration fees 2011
- Bus trip to the Calgary & Canmore Highland Games, with paid travel and accommodation for full member dancers

For the \$500 reimbursement, please collect your receipts until you have the maximum claim amount and make a single submission to our Treasurer. Please use the

2010-2011 form included with this newsletter and also available on the web site. Eligible items include expenses for outfits and shoes that are part of competition outfits, Highland competition or workshop registration fees, transportation expenses to out-of-town competitions or workshops, and the dancer's share of accommodation and meals for such events.

Questions? E-mail Elaine at tartan@sasktel.net

Costumes Wanted

Hornpipe, size 14 & Jig ensemble, size 14
Call Karen 955.1667;
kcharyna@sasktel.net

Hornpipe costume, approximately youth size 12-14 for Katie Forsyth. Email: vstrelieff@yahoo.com

Newsletter Update

SASKATOON HIGHLAND DANCING ASSOCIATION

1701 Ruth Street

Saskatoon, SK

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See us at:

www.shda.ca

Newsletter editor
contact:

Cathryn Wood

thewoodsies@sasktel.net

By now everyone has had a successful start to their dancing year! Looking back, we give thanks to Vicki Strelief for her service to the publishing our newsletter for the past three years! My name is Cathryn Wood and I have four dancers involved with highland dancing and the SHDA ranging from ages 4-14. I will be taking over the

Ask Nessie

Often there are questions when your dancer is first starting out such as what is the SHDA, why do you need a Scotdance card, etc. This new column in our newsletter is the place to have your questions answered! If you have a question that you cannot find the

newsletter position for the next three years.

This first newsletter will be paper and mailed to every household along with a membership list and details on our first SHDA photo contest! We are looking forward this year to offering a paperless option to our membership so if this interests you, please send me an email to

thewoodsies@sasktel.net

and I will add you to the paperless email list.

Newsletters are published four times a year so please look forward receiving your next newsletters in January, March and May.

Thank you
Cathryn Wood
SHDA Newsletter

answer to, please feel free to "Ask Nessie"!

Send an email to thewoodsies@sasktel.net and we will print your questions with an answer in the next newsletter.

Save the Date

Provincial Day will be held in Regina on **May 7th, 2011.**

The Provincial Championships to select our reps for SDCCS 2011 in Antigonish, NS will be held in the morning followed by a competition for all ages that will include Primary to Premier