



Guth na Dannsairean

The Voice of the Dancers

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Dates to Remember:

December 31 – SHDA newsletter submission deadline

December 2011 – Remember to renew your Scotdance cards!

January 15, 2012 – Muriel Boyle Applications due.

January 28 – SHDA Executive Meeting

February 4 – SHDA Closed Competition

February 5 – SHDA Workshop

President's Report

Welcome back to Highland Dancing for another year!! My name is Tangyne Berry and I am your new Grand Pooh Bah ☺ and with the help of the remaining and new members of the Executive Board, it will be my honour and pleasure to take over from Elaine Baptie and the previous Board. I certainly want to send kudos to the retiring members of the Board who have been diligently guiding our organization of the past several years. You have cared for us well and have left our organization in a safe financial position. On behalf of the Executive for this year, I want to say a big thank you to all our members for your efforts put into FolkFest for this past summer.

Our numbers are in and we have once again achieved a reasonable profit.. I also want to send out props to Adam Wagner who was one of our dynamic duo Youth Ambassadors (Brooke Hanna being the other) as Adam won the Youth Ambassador Spirit Award from FolkFest Inc. In terms of the Members' Benefits this year, the Executive passed a motion to once again offer a \$500 costume/travel/workshop/competition bursary to full members in good standing. We have our first of two General Members' Meetings coming on November 28th. This is where we look for interested parties to help out with FolkFest planning and prep, we report on the past

year and you can have a chance to add your ideas to the list for ways to we can improve and serve you better. To have quorum we will require 16 voting members so please come out and attend as we have perks for those who attend and a prize for one lucky member in attendance.

Upcoming in January will be the deadline for applications for the Muriel Boyle Memorial Awards. Further information can be found below. Last but not least I say a big "thanks" to the current Executive Board for stepping up or staying on and look forward to working with all of you.

Tangyne Berry

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, 2012**. Good luck!

Competitions

If you have photos from any recent competitions that would be suitable for the newsletter, please forward to jody_mitchell@shaw.ca



We have four competitions coming up this 2011/2012 dance year; November 26, February 4th, and May 27. The first of our Saskatoon competitions will be held Saturday November 26th at the Manhattan Ballroom. We will be holding a “special event” called “Flinging for Cash”. For a special event, cash prizes are awarded: 1st - \$30.00, 2nd - \$25.00, 3rd - \$20.00, 4th - \$15.00, 5th - \$10.00, 6th - \$5.00. However, because this is a special event, the fling does not count towards the aggregate trophy. The registration deadline for this competition is November 16th and should be sent to MJ Sherven. If you are looking for an entry form, they are available on the SHDA website – www.shda.ca.

You might have noticed that

I didn't list the fourth competition above. The fourth competition this year is our Provincial Championships. Every year and in every province in Canada, Provincial committees hold a Provincial day. The Champion-ships are for our premier dancers who compete for the spot of Provincial representative at Canadians in July. There is also a competition linked with this for all dancing categories. In Saskatchewan, centers take turns hosting Provincial Day. This year it will be in Saskatoon and is the first weekend in May so watch for further details about that.

If you are new to the world of Highland dancing, you might wonder what I mean when I say, “dancing categories”. Dancers starting at the tender age of 4-6 start in the primary category in which they

compete four basic dances, pas de basques, pas de basques and highcuts, the fling and the sword dance. Once they turn 7, they move into the beginner category where they start collecting stamps and learning new dances. You receive a stamp for every competition you place a first, second or third in one of your Highland dances (that is fling, sword, seann triubhas, strathspey and highland reel) Once they have collected their six stamps, you move into the novice category and collect six more stamps. Then you move into Intermediate where you no longer collect stamps but remain intermediate for a year from your first intermediate competition and move into the premier category.

See you at the competitions!!

Competition Co-Chairs
Cathryn Wood
MJ Sherven

Dance Outs

As full or associate members you are invited to participate in S.H.D.A. dance outs. For those new members, dance outs are opportunities for the S.H.D.A. dancers to perform in front of an audience. Typically the dancers are invited to dance for an event such as Festival of Trees, for a group such as a senior's center or for a birthday celebration. 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 performed for fun, experience, entertainment and the promotion of highland dance.



Dancers at the Festival of Trees Dance Out – always a fun event!

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.

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 I-Pod Touch being made at the end of the year. Congratulations to Ali

Grocock for being the lucky winner of the i-Pod Touch for the 2010-2011 dance year!

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 us by phone or email. ****Reminder: dance year runs from membership sign up night to membership sign up night.**

Tammi Denby & Yvonne Turnbull,
Dance Out Coordinators

Workshops

Robyn Jamieson is the workshop coordinator this year and is new in the position. Welcome Robyn!

Please watch future newsletters for more information about the Saskatoon Highland Dance Association workshops!

SHDA WORKSHOP

Sunday November 27th – at Dance Saskatchewan. More information will be available at the competition on Saturday, November 26th at the Manhattan Ballroom.

Membership Benefits

Last year SHDA paid out over \$22,000 in Members' Benefits on the \$500 costume/travel/workshop/competition bursary alone. Members also received an 8x10 SHDA group photo, a dancer bag and reimbursement to a maximum of \$50 for Provincial Day competition fees. Those are some pretty good rewards for only having to work 16 hours at the best Pavilion in the world right?? In absolute fairness some of these benefits were a way of saying "thank you" for helping us to host the SDCCS in 2010 and making the event financially successful for SHDA.

But, we all know that 16 hours per family alone will not run our pavilion, that there are many of you who work way more than 16 hours,

and most importantly, we all know that without your help our Pavilion would never happen. FolkFest is our only fundraising event and it takes many, many volunteer hours to host and dedication from a hard working team to pull it off.

As a parent of 2 dancers, I also know how expensive our sport of dancing can be and wanted to let you know that the SHDA is doing what it can to help decrease your costs, to keep our competitions and workshops at a subsidized rate and maintain a financial balance that will allow for those Primaries of today to have a dancing organization for many years to come.

To recognize your hard work at FolkFest and competitions and workshop, the Executive passed a

motion to once again have a \$500 bursary per dancer for full members in good standing for costume/travel/workshop/competition expenses. 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. For the reimbursement, please collect your receipts until you have the maximum claim amount and make a single submission to our Treasurer. The form for the application will available on the web site shortly.

Any questions please email Tangyne at t.berry@sasktel.net

"Trip for Two to Scotland" winner was Kathrin Zichichi from Bruno, SK. She is planning to travel to Scotland with her daughter and is very excited! Thanks to everyone who helped with the raffle at the Scottish Pavilion at Folkfest and to those who bought a ticket!

Lynn Wagner, Raffle Coordinator

Costumes Wanted

Do you have a costume that you would like to sell? Send an e.mail to jody_mitchell@shaw.ca and I will include it in the next newsletter

Are you looking for a costume? Send an e.mail to jody_mitchell@shaw.ca and I will include it in the next newsletter



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Folkfest 2011 Update -

Once again, the Scottish Pavilion was a huge success. Over 27,000 people visited our pavilion. The theme at the pavilion was Scotland Un-locked. There was information about the lochs of Scotland for visitors to read.

There were several new items at the pavilion this year. We added a second stage for Celtic bands. This allowed the bands to keep their instruments set-up on stage and created a better flow of entertainment. A new raffle booth was built by SHDA member Gene Porter. We have updated majority of the structures in the pavilion due to grants from Folkfest Inc. This year we brought back the Ceilidh Room. The volunteer/entertainment room was moved to the front of the building. This gave our entertainment access back stage without having to walk through the crowd. Brit Foods joined us a vendor this year as well there was a kilt making display. For those who were out of town during Folkfest, the Norwegian Vikings raided our pavilion and kidnapped some dancers. These dancers had to dance for their freedom at the Norwegian pavilion.

Swee 'N Spurtle (kitchen) was busy. There was a line-up for food from when the doors opened Thursday till 8:30pm! A record number of sausage rolls were sold over the three days.

The Scottish Pavilion would like to thank our sponsor: Souleio Foods

Some comments from patrons at our pavilion: Most kid friendly pavilion; Your pavilion was so professional!; Great entertainment

I would like to thank the committee chairs for their hard work planning the pavilion.

Kitchen Chair: Tanyne Berry

Facilities Chair: Morag Wagner

Raffle Chair and Passport Chair: Lynn Wagner

Volunteer Chair: Terrie Grocock

Entertainment Chairs: Sherry Hudson and Heather Muirhead

Stirling Market Chair: Bronwen McRae

Bar Chairs: Rebecca and Jason Turnbull

Volunteer Food Chair: Cathryn Wood

Kids Area: Vicki Strelhoff

Vendors Chair: Elaine Baptie

Don't worry, the Scottish Pavilion famous toffee will be back for 2012!

Sláinte,

Rachelle Lockwood

If anyone has any photos (from competitions, dance outs, etc) that you would like to share in the newsletter, please send to jody_mitchell@shaw.ca Thank you!

Newsletter continued on Page 5 (below) ...

Newsletter Update

SASKATOON HIGHLAND DANCING ASSOCIATION

1701 Ruth Street
Saskatoon, SK
S7J 0L7

See us at:

www.shda.ca

Newsletter editor
contact:

Jody Mitchell
jmitchell@shaw.ca

By now everyone has had a successful start to their dancing year! Thanks to Cathryn Wood for her work in putting together our newsletter last year! My name is Jody Mitchell and my daughter, Jayme Mitchell, is involved with highland dancing and the SHDA. I will be taking over the newsletter position and this year we are e-mailing the

newsletter (no paper copies). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like something to be included in the newsletter or if you have any suggestions. This is a great way to communicate with the SHDA membership, so please feel free to reach me at
jody_mitchell@shaw.ca

Thank you
Jody Mitchell

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

answer to, please feel free to "Ask Nessie"! Send an email to
jody_mitchell@shaw.ca
and we will print your questions with an answer in the next newsletter.



Save the Date

Provincial Day will be held
in Saskatoon on
May 5th & 6th, 2012.

We have decided to host
a two day event which
means the Championship
competition will be held
of the Saturday and the
closed competition will be
hold on the Sunday.

Watch for more
information in future
newsletters.