



B.C. HIGHLAND NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the British Columbia Highland Dancing Association. January 2003

Your Executive members for the 2002-2003 dancing season.

President

Glenna Urbshadt 604-224-5479

Vice-president

Kathleen Carlsen 604-788-3816

Secretary

Peggy Askew 604-944-3077

Treasurer

Elaine Goodman 604-942-1033

Competition Secretary

Doris Duncan 604-590-3397

Past-president

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Executive at large

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Fraser Fraser (Alan)

Kelly Harder

Nancy Lee

Angus Mackenzie

Dave Moralek

Annette Oliver

Cheryl Rafter

Sharon Sullivan

Shannon Watt

Non-Voting executive

Susan Rowe-Sleeman

Diane Tilkane

General Meetings

Wednesday, April 9th 2003

Wednesday, June 11th 2003

Burnaby North Baptist Church

3977 Albert Street,

Burnaby, BC

Be there at 7:30 PM

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

BCHDA CLOSED

Saturday, January 25th. 2003

Sunday, April 13th. 2003

Pre-premier start 9:30 am sharp.

Inter. early (11 am may be to late)

Premier's Approx. Noon, no later.

Terry Fox Sec. School Theatre

1260 Riverwood Gate,

Port Coquitlam

BCHDA OPEN

Saturday, March 8th 2003

Magee Secondary School

6260 Maple Street, Vancouver

BRITISH COLUMBIA CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday May 11th. 2003

Douglas College

700 Royal, New Westminster

Workshops

A joint workshop with FVHDA is planned for Monday evening, April 14th 2003 at the Scottish Cultural Centre with Alison Moore, a judge who is visiting from Scotland. Also, a workshop may also be held on Sunday, March 9 but a venue has not been finalized at this point. More details to follow.

We would like to send our next newsletter and other dance info. to you via e-mail, please send me a note to bchdanews@telus.net and I will make sure your address is on our e-mail list.

Happy New Year from your Executive Members.

Here is a little Scottish New Year Trivia.

In Scotland, New Year is called Hogmanay, and in some villages barrels of tar are set alight and rolled through the streets. Thus, the old year is burned up and the new one allowed to enter.

CELEBRATE HOGMANAY TWICE!

The village of Burghead in Moray celebrates the New Year with the Burning of the Clavie, a unique event that takes place on 11 January each year. Just as the rest of Scotland are recovering from their Hogmanay hangover the residents of the small Moray village of Burghead are preparing for their own very special and unique celebrations to welcome the New Year.

The Burning of the Clavie takes place on 11 January when locals welcome the New Year with a fire ceremony, which has ancient roots and is believed to bring good luck for the coming year. The clavie, which means basket in Gaelic, is carefully crafted before the ceremony each year with a barrel atop a long pole, that is then packed with tar-soaked sticks and mixed with peat, before being set alight. It has to be specially made to leave a space for the carrier's head below the staves holding up the burning clavie, which is very heavy making it no mean feat to carry it safely through the village. The master of ceremonies, known as the 'Clavie King', will start proceedings and a carefully chosen member of the 'Clavie Crew', a squad of veterans often clad in old clothes and overalls bearing the scorch marks from previous ceremonies, will be given the honour of carrying the Clavie. Becoming a member of the Clavie Crew is one of the highest honours the community of Burghead can bestow upon its men and some local families have been represented in the crew for several generations.

They follow a set route through the village and along the way stop off to give smouldering embers from the clavie to householders who cherish them as tokens of good luck for the next twelve months. Once they have completed their route they finish as always at the top of the Doorie Hill, where the ramparts of an ancient Pictish fort lie and there the Clavie Crew throw tar and creosote around the burning clavie, which is wedged into a stone pillar, to encourage the flames to envelop the barrel. The clavie is then allowed to burn out and as the barrel collapses the embers are scattered all over the hilltop before being collected and given out as lucky tokens to onlookers while some are kept to give to family and friends. Once the clavie has completely burnt out the pole is retrieved and carried from house to house as the Clavie Crew first foot round the village to wish people a happy New Year and enjoy a dram or two.

Many people may wonder why the community of Burghead celebrate the New Year 11 days later than the rest of the world but this goes back to when the Georgian calendar was introduced in the 1750s. The introduction of the Georgian calendar meant 11 days were lost and all over the country there were riots demanding that it was changed back and the missing days reinstated. The people of Burghead did not riot however but simply chose to have the best of both worlds and mark New Year on both the old and new date and therefore enjoy celebrating New Year twice!

Scottish people believe that the first person to enter your house in the New Year will bring good or bad luck, and it is very good luck if the visitor is a dark-haired man bringing a gift. This custom is called first-footing.

PHOTO'S AT THE JAN. 25TH COMPETITION

Schedule

Our photographer is Mr. John McBinnis; he has photographed dance schools for more than 20 years. **Pre Premier** pictures will be taken in **highland** outfits so beginner and novice dancers will dance their nationals first. **Intermediate and Premier** dancers will have their pictures taken in their **jig costumes**, so **highland** will be danced first. Class plus individuals (memory mate) will be \$15.

Primary dancers will dance during the costume change of pre-premier dancers (after lilt and floras).

ANOTHER REMINDER OF CHANGES FOR THE NEXT COMPETITION!

All Premier 10 years and over. Highland dances will be long steps; the Fling and the Sword will be 6 and 4 steps respectively. We will also have a 9-year & under premier class which will dance short steps. Thank you.

BUY AND SELL

National outfit Dress Stewart with red vest

Size 8-12 \$35.00

National outfit green and rose with rose vest

Size 12-14 \$35.00

Jig outfit green skirt and black vest

Size 8-12 \$20.00

Hornpipe suit. Navy. Includes hat

Size 12-14 \$25.00

Please call **Iris Stephen at 604-943-7068**

Jig costume size 10 - 12: red skirt, green vest & blouse \$30.00.

Blue highland vest size 12 with blouse \$50.00.

Please contact **Doris Duncan at 604-590-3397** or email clanduncan@dccnet.com

WANTED

Jig outfit and shoes for 10 year old. Shoes size 3. Also need Highland outfit size 10-12.

Please contact **Karen Waters at 278-0293** or email karenwaters@shaw.ca

Jig outfit, size 14 or so, as well as a national vest, again a size 14.

Please contact **Cathy Hoffard at (604) 939-8386** or email CHoffard@sd43.bc.ca

If you have any items for sale or are looking for something, please contact

Dave Moralek by phone 604-272-6566, or by e-mail to bchdanews@telus.net

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Our competitions can not possibly run without your help. Please contact Susan Rowe-Sleeman to add your name to our schedule. Contact her by phone 604-552-2696, or by e-mail srowe@shaw.ca

Thank you

A big round of applause goes out to SCOTDANCE BC who have made a \$1000.00 donation to BCHDA for all the effort and support our association gave during the last Interprovincial Competition here. Thanks again to all that supported this big undertaking.

Do you know of anyone that is considering joining our association?

If you do, please advise them that all **NEW** members will have their membership fees pro-rated from the time that we receive their application. In other words, if a Premier dancer was a past member, and they missed our first competition and they wanted to register after November 17, 2002 they would still have to pay all the regular fees from the beginning of our dancing year prior to November 17, 2002. If you are a **new dancer** and have never been a member you will not have to pay for missed competitions.

SILENT AUCTION

Once again we will be offering a silent auction at the March competition. If you or perhaps your employer can provide us with some item, please contact Cheryl Rafter. Phone 604-325-4002 or e-mail crafter@telus.net

Welcome

The executive would like to welcome Mr. Andrew Lee as an Apprentice Dance Piper to our closed competitions. We hope that this training will be a benefit to both Andrew and the local dance associations. Please don't be upset if an error is made while he is learning.

If you have any items that would be of interest to our members, and you would like them in our next newsletter please let me know. Phone Dave Moralek at 604-272-6566 or e-mail me at bchdanews@telus.net The next newsletter deadline is February 21st.2003.

Catch us on the web www.agspider.com/bchighlanddance



AWARD SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Please assist in the hosting of the ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2003 through sponsorship of one or more dance classes. This involves paying the cost of the awards, medals and ribbons. Donors will receive recognition for their sponsorship through engraving on the award and notice of sponsorship in the souvenir program. Requests for specific classes will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis.

CANADIAN INTER-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **Six age categories**
- Championship & Runner-up awards in each age group:
 - Championship Award (each) \$ 200.00
 - 1st Runner-Up Award (each) \$ 175.00
 - 2nd – 5th Runner-Up Awards (each) \$ 150.00

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

- **Thirteen age categories**
- Championship & Runner-up awards in each age group:
 - Awards and medals (per class) \$ 700.00
 - Championship Award (per class) \$ 125.00
 - 1st Runner-Up Award (each) \$ 100.00
 - 2nd – 5th Runner-Up Awards (each) \$ 85.00
 - Medals (per class) \$ 150.00

HIGHLAND, PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP & NATIONAL DANCE COMPETITIONS

- Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Premier categories
 - Class trophy & medals \$ 250.00
 - Class trophy (each) \$ 100.00
 - Medals (per class) \$ 150.00

JIG & HORNSPIPE COMPETITION

- **Fourteen age categories**
- Class trophy & medals \$ 175.00
- Class trophy (each) \$ 100.00
- Medals (per class) \$ 75.00

CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION

- Small and Large Group categories
 - Class trophy & medals \$ 400.00
 - Class trophy (each) \$ 100.00
 - Medals (per class) \$ 300.00

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM
AND SEND TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED.

*ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2003
Brock University - St. Catharines, Ontario - July 2-6*

AWARD SPONSORSHIP FORM

**SPONSOR
NAME:** _____

**CONTACT
NAME:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **PROVINCE/STATE:** _____

COUNTRY: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

PHONE: _(____)_____

FAX: _(____)_____

EMAIL: _____

Name to be placed in Program: _____

Preferred class (es) to sponsor: _____

Please make cheque or money order payable in Canadian funds to:

*ScotDance Canada
Attn: Carol Rowlett
481 Grovehill Road
Oakville, On L6H 6P2*

PLEASE FORWARD COMPLETED FORM AND DONATION BY MAY 1, 2003