

**Durham Region Highland Dance Association Fall 2009 Newsletter**

**Oshawa International Festival**

The DRHDA hosted the Oshawa International Festival dance competition on July 12th. This was the first time for this event and although a small tornado ripped through the grounds on the Saturday, the highland competition was quite successful. We gave out cash awards to all the premier groups along with trophies to the winners and runner ups. The trophies were supplied by Stewart Bennett and were gift boxes with a Celtic inlay on the top. Thank you for your support with this event.

**Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is scheduled for Sunday, Oct.4, 2009.7:30 P.M. at Jacqueline’s School of Dance. Which is located at 1735 Baly St., Unit 8 in Pickering?

To get there Exit the 401 at Brock Rd., drive south to Baly. Jacqueline’s is in the plaza on the south east corner of Brock Rd. and Baly.

New ideas will be solicited on how to better serve the highland dance community of Durham Region.

A new Executive will also be elected at this meeting.

Please plan on attending this important meeting. We welcome your ideas.

**2009/2010 Membership Renewal**

The 2009/2010 Membership form is now available and on our website [www.drhda.ca](http://www.drhda.ca/)

Membership has its advantages.

 Our membership year runs from Oct.1,2009 to Sept. 30, 2010. This includes 4 competitions a year. The dates of our competitions this year are Oct.31, Jan.30, April 24, and Sept.18. Entries for all our competitions will be up on our website soon, so please keep checking. Non members pay an additional fee to compete.

The DRHDA does its very best to keep competition entry fees to a minimum.

Entry forms are emailed directly to our members.

Members may participate in any DRHDA sponsored workshops or functions at a members rate. Non members pay a higher fee.

We offer our members the opportunity for their dance studio to run the kitchen at our competitions, to raise funds for their own studios. Any interested studio, please contact any member of our executive.

Members who are part of the Ont. Rep team (determined at the Ontario Closed Selection meet held in June each year at Harbourfront ) are eligible for a bursary, to help defray the cost of competing at the ScotDance Canadian Championship series

The DRHDA on behalf of our members sponsors a group every year at the Interprovincial Championships, contributing the cost of trophies and medals for that group.

Lastly, we don’t require our members to do anything other than to come and enjoy watching your child compete. Although joining our committee or helping us at our competitions is much appreciated.

**Ontario Reps.**

The DRHDA is proud to acknowledge and support its member dancers who placed on the 2009 Ontario Rep Team. These dancers are: Morgan McDougall, Mikaela Johnston, Lizzie Beattie, Meagan Sweeney, Ruthanne Sweeney, Natalie Waddington and Jamie Conrick.

There were many other DRHDA member dancers who competed at the ScotDance Canada Championship Series, this past July held in Toronto. We congratulate them also for their effort and spirit which helped to make this event a great success.

**Community Hours for High School Students.**

If you are a high school student in need of some community hours for graduation, why not consider volunteering at one of our competitions? Please contact any member of the executive for details.