



HALIFAX NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2010 NEWSLETTER – MAY 2009

17th Canadian National Square & Round Dance Convention July 29, 30 & 31, 2010 Halifax, Nova Scotia www.squaredance.ns.ca (2010 button)

Arrive by Air, Train, Road or Ship

VIA Rail passenger trains arrive daily to downtown Halifax just a few blocks from the dance centre. Photo shows track along Bedford Basin. www.viarail.ca

Halifax International Airport is 35 km (21 miles) from downtown. Check FlyHalifax.com for current flight options and www.hiaa.com for airport details. The Airporter shuttle bus service travels from 6 a.m. to midnight to major downtown hotels (currently \$18 one way). Taxi and car rentals are also available.



The CAT high-speed ferry travels from Portland or Bar Harbour, Maine to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia (one or the other each day), www.catferry.com. There is daily ferry service across the Bay of Fundy from Saint John, New Brunswick to Digby, Nova Scotia, www.acadiaferry.com.

The Trans-Canada Highway enters Nova Scotia in Amherst where a visitor center will provide provincial maps and guidebooks. Signs clearly mark the turn south in Truro onto route 102 towards Halifax. Follow Barrington Street to downtown. Bus Trips are coming from Ontario and New England. See the next page for details about a caravan coming across Canada from Alberta.

Passports: Before arrival at an international border, make sure you have an up-to-date passport with six months until expiry. In the United States refer to www.travel.state.gov. When flying out of Halifax to the United States you clear customs in Halifax.

World Trade & Convention Centre, Halifax Metro Centre



Our dance area is centrally located in downtown Halifax just below the Town Clock and overlooking the harbour from the slopes of Citadel Hill. It is entirely air-conditioned, and interconnected with escalators and elevators. We will provide the best floors we can with either polished cement, tile, wood or some other hard surface in all areas. In some halls dancing may extend onto carpet at peak times, so appropriate footwear may be desirable. A pedway system (shown in red on map) connects the complex with several hotels, shops, and eateries.

Quilt Raffle: Volunteers have pieced together a beautiful blue and white queen sized quilt. Draw will occur during the Closing in 2010.



Accommodations

Several hotels are within easy walking distance of the dancing. These are accessible through pedways, or within a few short blocks. The attached map shows the closest accommodations. The following top four choices have quoted room rates for our convention:

Cambridge Suites Hotel: \$159, 1-800-565-1263, <www.cambridgesuiteshalifax.com>

The Prince George: \$185, 1-800-565-1567, <www.princegeorgehotel.com>

The Delta Halifax: \$169, 1-800-268-1133, <www.deltahalifax.com>

Citadel Halifax Hotel: \$149, 1-800-565-7162, <www.citadelhalifax.com>

Details about all hotel, motel, inn, hostel, Y, university and B & B accommodations can be found at www.novascotia.com or 1-800-565-0000. Halifax hotels have a high occupancy rate so make your reservations soon.



Campsites

The closest commercial campsites are 16-20 km (9-12 miles) away:

Woodhaven RV Park: 1-902-835-2271, www.woodhavenrvpark.com>

Shubie Park Campground: 1-800-440-8450, www.shubiecampground.com>

There are limited city bus connections to Woodhaven Park and Shubie Park. In addition we plan to arrange transportation to and from Woodhaven Park each morning and evening and perhaps to Shubie. The Bluenose RV Campers are working on additional options.

Caravan across Canada

Edmonton, Alberta to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Estimated arrival time is Tuesday, July 27, 2010. For a Fun Time, you are welcome to join us along the way and travel with us to Halifax.



Contact Audrey or Glen Eliasson by e-mail, snail mail or phone by July 31, 2009 at:

gee4@shaw.ca
12132 - 135a Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5L 3Z3
(780) 454-6357

Downtown Parking

Parking is available at most hotels. The nearby Scotia Square complex attached to the pedway system has multi-level parking. We are working to obtain event rates. Please see the attached map for other parking locations. Street parking is free on weekends and after 6 p.m. on weekdays.

Transit Buses

The city of Halifax has many buses running throughout the metro area at all hours of the day and evening. A free bus service, nicknamed FRED, runs continuously during the day looping Pier 21, Lower Water Street, Scotia Square, Barrington Street, Citadel Hill and Spring Garden Road.

Harbour ferry service every 15 minutes connects the twin cities of Halifax and Dartmouth. The Halifax terminal is five short blocks from the WT & CC.



Fund Raiser – SRDFNS Provincial Festival, July 24-25, 2009, Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich in the Annapolis Valley, Maritime Leaders, Basic, Mainstream, Plus and Rounds.

Cookbook: "Nutritious and Delicious Nova Scotia Dishes" (440 Recipes), \$10 each

Events near the Old Town Clock:

Dance Program: Come and enjoy three days of Basic, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and Challenge Squares, Contras, Phase II – VI Rounds, Clogging, Lines, and Wheelchair Dancing. There will be a Trail-in Dance at the Metro Centre on Wednesday, July 28th at 7:30 p.m. Convention dancing will be scheduled morning, afternoon and evening on Thursday through Saturday. Sound will include hearing enhancement in most halls, please let us know if you must have this in a certain hall. Plans are underway for some dancing along the historic waterfront.



Leaders: Currently registered leaders are listed on our website. Leaders will receive a questionnaire by the end of 2009 regarding their specific abilities and program desires. Contact is Dottie and Gary Welch, Program Chaircouple, dwelch@ap.stmarys.ca or 902-435-4544.

Dance Attire: Tasteful casual attire is acceptable during the day. Please plan to wear Traditional Attire (including prairie skirts) for all evening events.

Banner Parade: Official events will begin with a banner parade Thursday morning. Bring your club or regional banner and an appropriate outfit for a short parade along a mostly level and shady route. Banners will hang in the Metro Centre Arena during the convention.

Fashion Show: Our aim is to showcase and inspire with custom made, one-of-a-kind creations. This will be presented in the main arena with free and ample seating for all. Please let us know if you are interested in participating. Contact Deborah Lee, 902-464-1498, Deborah.lee@ns.sympatico.ca, 110 Johnstone Avenue, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 2K5.

Heritage Display: This display is the story of our Square Dance history, the clubs, the dancers, and the National Conventions (especially the previous three nationals in the Maritimes).

Education: There will be various educational seminars. Let us know if you would like to participate on a panel or make a presentation. Contact Laurie & Wilma Illsley, lawrence.illsley@ns.sympatico.ca or 902-584-3500.

Hospitality: Our welcoming committee is organizing greeters at arrival points, and receptions for Solos and Wheelchair Dancers. Details for other special needs are also being addressed.

Registration: The current registration price is \$125 per adult and \$60 per youth dancer for three full days of dancing and all other events. The registration form is available on the website or contact Ralph & Valerie Brown, Registration Chaircouple, at 1-902-543-5278. In spite of the economic woes we are nearing 600 registered and aiming for at least three times that.

Exchange Rate for Foreign Visitors: Sorry, we cannot accept payment by credit card. The Festival price is quoted in Canadian Funds. We will accept the equivalent in the form of a cheque or money order written in foreign funds on a foreign bank. Please use the exchange rate for the date of the cheque. (Changes between writing and cashing time balance out.) Example: If the exchange rate is \$1 Canadian = \$0.82 US then \$125 Canadian x 0.82 = \$102.50 US.



Nova Scotia Tartan: The official convention attire for all Nova Scotian dancers is an outfit that includes the Nova Scotia Tartan. Designed in 1953, this beloved royal blue plaid became the first provincial tartan in Canada in 1955. The blue and white stand for the sea, the green represents the forest, the red is for the royal lion and the gold for the 1621 charter. Visitors are welcome to include the tartan in their outfits as well.

Tourist Information <www.novascotia.com>

It is easy to include tourist adventures while you are in Nova Scotia. Within walking distance of the dance area there are numerous historic sites and buildings. The oldest Protestant church in Canada is St. Paul's Anglican built in 1750. The traditional noon gun will be fired each day from the Halifax Citadel National Historic site built in 1828. The FRED bus goes to Pier 21 where 1.5 million immigrants, war brides, troops and evacuee children entered Canada from 1928-1971. Useful websites are <www.halifax.ca/visitors> or <destinationhalifax.com>.



More Questions: Website: <www.squaredance.ns.ca> then press the 2010 button.

Bob & Inge Ruohoniemi, Executive VC Marketing, 902-757-3884, bobruoho@ns.sympatico.ca
Dottie & Gary Welch, Executive Vice Chair Events, 902-435-4544, dwelch@ap.stmarys.ca

