



The Rideau Canal



## Festival 2014

A Canadian Square &  
Round Dance Convention  
July 17-19, 2014  
Ottawa, Ontario Canada  
**A Truly Capital Event**  
[www.Festival2014.ca](http://www.Festival2014.ca)  
1-866-206-6696

### NEWSLETTER#1 – December 17, 2010 – Countdown: 1308 days

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Greetings from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, home of “Festival 2014,” the next Canadian Square & Round Dance Convention. If you are getting this newsletter delivered directly to you, it is because you are registered for the Festival, and we thank you very much.

It may seem strange to receive a newsletter so far before the Festival but, as we are the next one, we wanted to start letting you know what’s happening with the planning and organizing of the Festival. As sorry as we are that there is not a Canadian National in 2012, we are very excited to be The Next One, and are working hard to deliver a world-class event!

We want to thank the over 200 of you who are supporting our efforts and have already registered for the Festival, even though it is still 3½ years away. Thank you! We know that dancers don’t normally plan so far ahead (I read on Facebook just the other day that someone thought that November of this year was way too far in advance to plan to attend a dance event in the summer of 2011!), so we thank YOU for doing so!

The organizing Board is working hard to put together an event worth waiting for. We have ideas to make it so exciting you won’t want to miss it. The best way to keep up to date on what is going on is to follow our website (we do our best to keep it current): [www.Festival2014.ca](http://www.Festival2014.ca). You can also find real current, day-to-day comments by following us on Facebook (search for “Festival 2014”) or Twitter ([www.twitter.com/Festival2014](http://www.twitter.com/Festival2014)). Please feel free to add your comments and thoughts – we look forward to hearing from you.

#### Venue

We are very pleased to announce that our event will now be held at the new **Ottawa Convention Centre (OCC)**, right in the heart of Ottawa, on the historic Rideau Canal and only two blocks from Parliament Hill, the home of Canada’s Federal Government.



Museum of Civilization

The Ottawa Convention Centre will be Canada's newest Convention Centre when it opens in April 2011. For more information about this exciting venue, visit their web site at [www.ottawaconventioncentre.com](http://www.ottawaconventioncentre.com)

Ottawa's beautiful **Westin Hotel** connects directly to the Convention Centre and will be Headquarters Central for Festival 2014. With many of the hotel's Traditional rooms overlooking the Canal or Byward Market, and Premium rooms overlooking Parliament Hill, and being so convenient to the dance halls, I know many of you will choose to stay there. Special room rates have been negotiated and will be posted on the Festival website shortly. If you want to be guaranteed a great room at a great price in a great hotel, you will want to contact the hotel as soon as details are posted.

### **REGISTRATION GROUP**

We were thrilled to sell 50 registrations at the convention in Halifax this past July. And, as that put us over the 200-registration mark, we put those 50 names into a hat and drew a name: Mr. Bill Pushie, from St. Catharines, Ontario, had his name drawn and won his \$100 registration back again! Lucky man! Keep your eyes on our website, as we will very likely have more prizes to give away as we reach more registration milestones.

### **PROGRAM GROUP**

We are pleased to report that we already have 25 Leaders registered, and they are from all over:

New Brunswick: 2  
Nova Scotia: 3  
Ontario: 11  
Quebec: 1  
Saskatchewan: 1  
Alberta: 1  
British Columbia: 1  
Vermont: 4  
Maine: 1

We are planning to offer dancing at all levels and styles<sup>1</sup>: Square Dancing from Basics through Challenge; Round Dancing from Phase 2 through 6; Clogging from Beginner to Advanced; and Contra dancing and Line dancing. Within those programs, we will also offer opportunities to challenge your skills with a variety of special workshops and sessions. And, finally, challenge

yourself by trying to earn the prestigious "Capital Five" Award... Details to follow... ☺

### **Trail In / Trail Out Dances**

If a club or Association in your area plans to host a Trail In or Trail Out Dance (it's never too soon for a Trail In!), please be sure to let us know as soon as it is planned, so we can post it on our website. The Ottawa area plans to host a dance on the third Thursday in July *every year* beginning in 2011 – that'll be on the website soon. We are working on confirming a location "as we speak."

### **EDUCATION GROUP**

We are working on an idea for a totally different kind of Fashion Show. Not much to tell you now... Just "warning" you!

As usual, we will also offer sessions on topics of interest to both dancers and leaders. If you have a topic you would like to present or like to have presented, please let us know. We are looking for ideas and presenters.

### **WE WANT YOU**



I know Uncle Sam is not Canadian... but still, we want you! We need GOOD people to help us make this a GREAT event. There are still plenty of openings on our Board and within our Committees. Publicity is the biggest thing, at the moment (along with Festival Dress, Ways &

Means, Budgets...), as we need to be advertising our event all around the world. Not a small job, so the sooner we get going on it, the better. The more people working on this, the better. If everyone has little jobs, there is a more-realistic expectation for getting them done in a timely manner.

Don't assume that "Someone" will do it. We know there really is NO Someone. It has to be Me and You who do the work and get the job done.

### **THE LAST WORD**

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to Festival 2014, please feel free to contact anyone listed on the front page. We would love to hear from you. It's YOUR event. Contact with you will make it better!

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<sup>1</sup>Programs offered are directly in proportion to number of dancers registered for each.