



# Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

March 2011

SMFA Provincial Office  
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"Classical Competitive Festivals"

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## President's Message

*Joy McFarlane-Burton*



As I am writing this message it is Family Day in the Province of Saskatchewan. This seems appropriate, as in many of our 49 District Music Festivals it is common to see as many as four generations of family involvement and commitment to the Music Festival. When we attend these festivals we notice the family support for our young musicians and those involved in Speech Arts. You will also find a network of supporters such as peers, teachers, accompanists, neighbours, and friends. In some of our smaller communities the Spring District Festival is the main musical event of the season. I sincerely hope that the 2011 Music Festivals will be a positive experience for our young performers as their talents are showcased and shared with their families and their communities.

We thank our Volunteers for their continued support, guidance, and encouragement in the success of our 49 District Music Festival communities. Please take a moment to thank these volunteers personally at this year's festival sessions. Also consider recognizing Volunteers for their service to

your District Festival.

We appreciate all the sponsors, donors, and patrons of the District, Provincial, and National Music Festivals. Their continued support is integral to the continuation of our competitions and programs. We also acknowledge the continuing support of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture, and Recreation, SaskCulture Inc., and the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

Please take a moment to check our website ([www.smfa.ca](http://www.smfa.ca)). You will find a wealth of information there that will help your Music Festival to run along smoothly. The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is also on Facebook. Please consider becoming a FAN.

Work is also underway for the 2013-2015 SMFA Syllabus. Theresa Brost, Past-President, is the Chair of this very important committee. All requests for Syllabus changes or additions are to be forwarded to Theresa ([tebrost@xplornet.com](mailto:tebrost@xplornet.com)) for discussion and possible ratification by the SMFA Provincial Board of Directors. The deadline for these requests is May 15, 2011.

The Provincial Finals are being held in Moose Jaw June 3-5, 2011. The Provincial Level of National Competition will be held on June 3, the Provincial Finals on June 4, and the Grand Awards concert will be on June 5. Please consider supporting your District Winners by attending the Provincial Finals. It is always a thrill to hear those in the Provincial Level of National Competition and support those who will represent our Province at the National Music Festival.

The 2011 National Music Festival will be held at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia August 11-13. We are pleased to announce that Gloria Nickell, a Past President of the SMFA, is a Director on the Executive of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals. Congratulations Gloria!

I wish you all a very successful 2011 Music Festival.

**Safe travels and Happy Easter!**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March-May, 2011**

SMFA District Festivals (49 Locations)

**June, 3, 4 & 5, 2011**

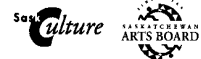
Provincial Finals – Moose Jaw

**August 11-13, 2011**

National Music Festival – Antigonish, NS

**November 19-20, 2011**

Concerto Competition - Saskatoon





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## Gloria Nickell of Rosetown Appointed to FCMF Board of Directors



Due to a recent opening on the Federation of Canadian Music Festival's (FCMF) Board of Directors, Gloria Nickell, former President of the Saskatchewan Music Festival (SMFA), has been appointed as a Director and takes on several key responsibilities.

The FCMF is the umbrella organisation for over 230 local and provincial festivals. It is a charitable, not-for-profit Canadian organization of volunteers from across the country serving tens of thousands of young musicians.

The other members of the FCMF Board of Directors are: Pam Allen - President; Dianne Johnstone - Past-President; Rhéal Fournier - Vice-President; Jerry Lonsbury - Director; Marilyn Wiwcharuk - Director; Mary Ross - Treasurer and Heather Bedford Clooney - Executive Assistant.

The 2011 FCMF Conference and National Music Festival will be held in Antigonish, NS August 8-13.



## Copyright and the Internet

*Reprinted from the SMFA Directory by Darren Schwartz*

With email and internet these days, there is no excuse for not having a second or third copy for the adjudicator or accompanist. Most major publishers will grant permission to make up to three copies (provided you have an original), for a small fee or no fee at all. **BUT, you have to email them and ask for permission.** They will then instruct you on how many copies you may make and what needs to be written on the bottom of each copy.

Copying for a page turn is not allowed and is an infringement of the law. Photocopies for page turning purposes will only be allowed when written permission is supplied by the holder of the copyright material.

If you wish to transpose any existing publication or modify it in any way, you must seek permission. It is illegal to duplicate or alter music that is copywritten.

**Music in the Public Domain** should be researched by your local music store to ensure it is in the Public Domain before any selection would be used for Festival purposes. Publications that are out of print or in the Public Domain may not be photocopied until you have cleared it with the rightful owner.

Your local music store should be able to assist you with any of these procedures.



## Second Copies for Festivals

*Reprinted with permission From Darren's Music Place Newsletter*

There seems to be a misconception out there that we [music dealers] are able to provide permission letters for everything [second copies of music]. This is not the case. We provide permission letters when an item has been ordered and prepaid but not yet arrived or in a backorder status. When a publication is still in print it is your responsibility to obtain a second copy or ask the publisher for permission to photocopy. I have links on our website for most of the major publishers (<http://www.darrensmusicplace.com/Teacher-Page.html>). By clicking on the ENTER button beside these publishers you will be directed to the permissions and copyright department. Simply follow the instructions. Of course, if you run into a problem please call and we'll see what we can do to help you.



### LET US KNOW

If your festival will be celebrating a special event or a milestone year in 2011  
Please send your information to Board members [Nancy Toppings](#) or [Sandra Senga](#)



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## Twin Rivers Music Festival in Dalmeny Celebrates 10 Years

*Reprinted with permission from Clark's Crossing Gazette by Terry Pugh*

Organizers of the Twin Rivers Music Festival in Dalmeny are gearing up to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the event April 4 to 8, 2011. It promises to be the most inclusive and entertaining festival so far, says Marg Andres of Dalmeny, President of the festival.

"For the musicians, and for the community as a whole, the festival is a really important event," said Andres in an interview January 12. "Our goal is to provide a performance opportunity and a learning opportunity for the musicians; and to provide a cultural dimension to our community."

Andres said the ultimate objective for musicians is not so much to win their particular class or event, but to grow and learn from the experience. "It's not just about the competition," she explained.

"That's part of it, but the real focus is the journey itself. The fact that these musicians are given the chance to go out there in front of the public and perform. That's what it is really all about. The other important aspect of the performance is the adjudication. Every participant receives a written adjudication where they are assessed on all the things they did well, and where they need to improve."

She said the adjudication is especially important for those music students working toward their examinations, particularly those in their senior years. "They want the honest critique, and they need the opportunity to perform," she added. "As a music teacher, I find that when my students participate in the festival, they grow by leaps and bounds. The goal is to strive for excellence – not perfection, because nobody is perfect – but excellence. They strive to do the best they can, and in the process, they grow as musicians and as people."

Andres said the organizing committee and volunteers are very proud to have reached the tenth anniversary milestone.

"The provincial music festival association celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2008," she said. "We're proud to be part of that, and even though we're only ten years old we feel that is significant."

She said the festival has commissioned Saskatchewan composer Janet Gieck to write two special pieces of piano music for the occasion: "Festival Jitters" and "Bittersweet", and created specific classes for entrants performing those pieces.

Over the years, the festival has provided more than \$21,000 in scholarships to musicians, and in 2007, thanks to the ongoing efforts of its many volunteers, it was recognized with the Blackstrap regional Recreation Association Award of merit for Culture.

Andres said over the past decade, there has been a shift in the type of music performed at the festival. "There used to be a lot more classical pieces," she said. "Now there is a gradual shift toward more jazz and popular music. That's a reflection of what is being taught." She added the art of teaching music has also changed over the years. "I find I'm vying for kids' attention in a way that wasn't the case ten years ago," she said. "It's forced me to be a lot more creative in my teaching methods. No two students are the same."

She noted that music teachers who sit in on the festival are able to learn from the adjudicators' comments and critiques. "The adjudicators often are able to look at things in new and different ways, and that's very helpful," she said.

The Twin Rivers Music Festival enjoys a solid reputation within the Saskatchewan Music Festivals Association, she added. "The adjudicators who come here have told us we have a very high standard of excellence," she said. "The level of performance here is very good and they have positive things to say about the teaching in the communities – including Warman, Martensville and Dalmeny – where most of the students come from."

The event is held annually in Dalmeny, but has good participation from neighbouring communities, said Andres. "This is more of a rural festival, so it's got a little different atmosphere than the festival in Saskatoon. I think it's a little more inclusive, and there's a familiarity that's developed among the music teachers and students as they have come back year after year. For music teachers, it's a great way to make connections and work together and support each other."

The festival takes place over the course of a full week, with a special performance on Sunday, April 10 featuring a guest artist, as well as highlights of the festival week. The festival utilizes two sites, the Dalmeny Bible Church and the Dalmeny Community Church – one for individual and small ensemble performances, and the other for large groups such as bands.

The provincial syllabus published by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association outlines all the categories open to entrants, but the local festival committee also has the flexibility to create additional classes if the demand is there, noted Andres.



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“The syllabus is 180 pages long, so the odds are there’s a category for you. But not always. One year we had a guy who wanted to play the bagpipes, so we created a spot for him,” she said.

Andres said while the focus of the festival is on music of all kinds – including individual, small ensembles and large bands performing on a variety of different instruments – it also incorporates a growing number of “speech arts” categories.

“Not everyone can be a musician,” she said. “So we are really trying to focus on the speech arts aspect of the festival as well. Anybody can come and present a poem, or story-telling, or public speaking. That’s what speech arts is all about. It’s the written material that is performed or recited. You can choose whatever you like – from Canadian poetry to Shakespeare scenes, a sacred reading or you can write your own speech.”

The deadline for entries is February 7. “Once the entries are in, we’ll know how many participants we have and what classes there will be,” Andres said. “Then we contact the provincial music festival association and they provide us with qualified adjudicators.”



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## Workshops

*Submitted by Festival Focus Committee*

Want an idea for getting your students excited about Music Festival? A workshop is something to consider.

A workshop is a very beneficial activity for all parties concerned. Teachers learn different ways of presenting concepts that they have been working on with their students. The parents (if they stay for the session) learn how to help their child practice more effectively. And, the students hear a different voice giving them instruction and for some reason, the light often suddenly goes on and they ‘get’ what their teacher has been telling them all along!! The result of this process often gets them more enthused about the music festival.

Workshops can be planned for any discipline. However it is probably most beneficial and simpler to plan one for individual participants rather than groups. And since most of our entries tend to be piano or vocal, it is easiest and most cost effective to concentrate on these areas.

Of course to give a workshop, you need a clinician. You may want to invite an adjudicator who you especially enjoyed having at your festival. Or, it may be as simple as inviting a colleague who teaches nearby.

Where would it be best to hold your workshop? There are a couple of options. It could be held in a private music studio. However, if at all possible, consider holding it in a facility that is used during festival. This provides room for more participants. It also provides the ambiance and acoustics that the students will encounter during festival. The fact that a workshop is a lot less formal allows the student to relax in a quasi-festival setting. This can give them more comfort and confidence which in turn develops into more enthusiasm for the festival.

Most importantly, you will need participants. Advertise with your local teachers. If you are offering a vocal workshop, don’t forget your local schools and churches and your local newspaper. By advertising in the paper you may attract interest from people who are not taking lessons. This in turn may result in new entries for your festival.

It is a wise move to have participants pre-register. It is also a good idea to limit the number of participants. This ensures that the clinician will have ample time to spend with each person. If the student only gets a minute of the clinician’s time, he or she may feel that it was not worth the time. And on the flip side, the clinician may feel that he or she has not been of any benefit to the student.

Cost is a factor to all of us. It is understandable if you feel that you need to recoup some of the cost from the participants. However, don’t price yourself out of participants. Remember that entrants already pay a fee to take part in the festival. Try not to make it too expensive for them to take part in a workshop.

For an added touch to your workshop, you may want to invite a local music store to set up an area where they can display and sell some music. If you do not have a local vendor, you may want to contact one from a larger center. If they are unable to come themselves, they may agree to send out some of their product and members of your committee could take care of the selling.

Yes, it is probably too late to plan a workshop for this year’s festival. However, consider putting one on next year’s agenda. It is a terrific experience for everyone!





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## Did You Know?

- Over 250 musicians are hired annually to adjudicate music festivals across Saskatchewan.
- Affiliation dues paid to SMFA are \$3.50 per entry in the local festival. Based on 2011 entries, \$2.75 stays with the Provincial Association and \$0.75 goes to the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals. Fees to FCMF will be increasing incrementally over the next two years.
- The \$3.50 affiliation fee charged to district festivals has not increased since 2004. DISTRICT FESTIVALS SHOULD PLAN FOR INCREASES IN AFFILIATION FEES, WHEN SETTING ENTRY FEES FOR THE 2012 FESTIVAL YEAR.
- Fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds from Travel Lottery tickets will be returned to District Festivals.



## Adjudicator Liaison

*Doris Covey Lazacki*

Dear Festival Friends:

We have just put the finishing touches on the last adjudicator contracts for 2011 and of course we are looking to the future and the 2012 festivals. My job as Adjudicator Liaison has been made considerably easier by the prompt information that was returned by so many of you regarding your adjudicator choices and estimated days of work for our musicians. The earlier that I can book the popular judges the better – so I urge you to meet with the evaluation committee and teachers of your festival area to create a wish list for next year’s festival. If you can have this meeting shortly after the completion of your festival it would be great and you will be aware of exactly what your needs will be for the next season. As many of you know, I try to fill your adjudicator requests first, and if those musicians are not available I move on to the adjudicator listings from many sources. My warmest wishes for a successful festival for the competitors, the accompanists, the teachers, the parents, and most certainly for the amazing volunteers of SMFA.



**The Art of Adjudicating**  
produced by  
The Saskatchewan Music  
Festival Association

This informative DVD provides guidelines for individuals who are considering adjudicating for the first time as well as some pointers for experienced adjudicators.

**\$15.00 each**  
**1-888-892-9929**

LOTTERIES  
Culture

[www.smfa.ca](http://www.smfa.ca)

## SMFA Travel Lottery Fundraiser

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Board notified the 49 District Festivals in October regarding a Travel Lottery fundraiser, which was then voted on at the AGM. The delegates supported the initiative of the SMFA Finance Committee.

Each of the 49 District Festivals will be required to sell 30 tickets at \$10.00 per ticket and will be invoiced for \$300.00. Fifty percent (50%) of the money each District Festival raises in ticket sales will be returned to them. More tickets will be available from the SMFA Provincial Office if requested. All monies and unsold tickets are to be sent to the Provincial Office.

The Early Bird draw for an iPod will be made at the Grand Awards in Moose Jaw on June 5, 2011. The First Prize is a trip for 4 persons to Disneyland, California and Second Prize is a Weekend Getaway to the Moose Jaw Temple Gardens Spa (some conditions apply). The First and Second Prizes will be drawn at the Saskatchewan Music Conference in Regina on November 5, 2011.

The purchaser, or the name of the person on the ticket, must be 19 years of age or older.

We look forward to this co-operative Fundraiser that will be of mutual benefit to both the District and Provincial Music Festival Associations.





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## In Memory – Mossie Hancock

(October 14, 1915-January 15, 2011)

*Prepared by Doris Covey Lazacki*



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Family is saddened by the news of the death of Mossie Hancock, a pillar of the festival movement in Saskatchewan and Canada. Mossie fervently believed in the music festival as a platform for aspiring young people, be it in music or speech arts. Her contribution to SMFA included not only her adjudications but a lifelong interest in the wellbeing of the Association, by providing leadership and sound suggestions to the provincial and national boards. She was proud that Saskatchewan maintained test selections in their festival syllabus, keeping the standard of competition at a high level. In addition to her valuable writing skills she was the Association's archivist, compiling our history and telling our story and most recently, it was her voice that introduced our Adjudicator Training DVD. Our celebration of 100 years of festivals would have been sparse indeed without the input of Mossie's knowledge of which she so generously shared.

Mossie, daughter of Dr. J.R. and Mrs. McCrae was born in Mervin, Saskatchewan and moved to Toronto and Sault Ste. Marie before settling in Lloydminster where her father established his chiropractic practice. She studied with Alex Kevan and Mrs. R.G. Chapman and advanced studies were with Lyell Gustin, Gordon Hancock, and Iso Elinson of London, England. Mossie held Licentiate diplomas of Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College, London. She concertized widely as a two-piano team with Gordon, playing concerti with the Regina Symphony Orchestra, and frequently as lecture-recitalists. They became well known as "classical disc jockeys" for 16 seasons on CKCK radio. Mossie was also a regular contributor to CBC radio as a reviewer and commentator, writing a four-part documentary "Faces and Places of South America" for the Saskatchewan Department of Education school broadcasts. She adjudicated at music festivals in nearly 60 Saskatchewan centres and Western Canada and was the first woman to adjudicate in all ten provinces. As an actress, Mossie won the Best Actress Award at the 1955 National Drama Festival and was in TV plays, film, and commercials in various media. Her writing includes: articles in various music publications; short stories, documentaries, and plays on CBC; several one-act plays which received honourable mention at the Ottawa Annual Playwriting Competition; the History of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Music for One...Music for All and updates to that book for the years 1989-2000, and most recently as a compiler of a Speech Arts Resource Manual for SMFA competitions. For several seasons she gave informal chats prior to the Symphony concerts of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Mrs. Hancock was recognized by the Saskatchewan government for her services to music in 1984. She was the recipient of the Founder's Award of the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild and was an Honourary Life Member of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals and Saskatchewan Music Festival Association.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association has set up a Memorial Fund in honour of Mossie and her contribution to the cultural life in this province. Donations can be sent to the SMFA Office at #14 – 62 Westfield Drive, Regina, SK S4S 2S4. Tax receipts will be issued.



SMFA accepts donations for scholarships on an ongoing basis. Currently we are seeking donors for the following Provincial Awards:

- #19 – Intermediate Percussion (**\$200**)
- #24 – Senior Piano Bach (**\$300**)
- #47 – Grand Awards Runner-up in Woodwinds (**\$300**)
- #27 – Senior Piano Haydn/Mozart (**\$300**)
- #31 – Senior Piano French Music (**\$300**)

We are also seeking donors for National Awards for Chamber Group, Guitar, and Percussion Competitors who advance to the National Music Festival (**\$500 per person**)



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## Letter from Lillian Mitchell

*The following letter was written to me by Lillian Mitchell, Hon Life Member of SMFA, upon hearing of the death of Mossie Hancock. Lillian has kindly given us permission to reprint it for our newsletter.*

Dear Doris:

Thinking of you as we share a loss, but at the same time we rejoice in “what has been” because of Mossie and Gordon Hancock.

When Mainline Music Festival was organized after no festivals in that vicinity for several years, it was an exciting time for us. Mrs. Flude, Mrs. McCurdy, Mrs. Milroy, Mrs. Dewar, and the manager of Ford Motors were on the committee. I attended several of the meetings at Indian Head that year (1960). I received permission to have a massed choir of our two schools to sing at the final program of our first festival. We had Sunday rehearsals and did we have fun! What a thrill – over 100 voices, four part harmony – both schools had really good voices especially in the tenor and bass sections. Gordon Hancock was the adjudicator that year and had high praise for the massed choir. Assiniboia, where my mother lived, was Gordon’s next festival. Mom said she was so proud when he spoke about the choirs at the Indian Head festival in such glowing terms.

We had Mossie as our adjudicator a number of times and she was always welcomed back. One year, in the sixties, there was a bad flu going around and the joint committee of Wolseley, Grenfell and Indian Head decided we had better cancel the festival. We in Grenfell were so disappointed, especially the high school students. So the Grenfell members of the committee invited Mossie to come down and adjudicate, no marks as I recall. We had 10 Grenfell choirs, piano and voice students – and what a happy evening we had. Mossie talked about both the girls and boys ensembles – and later one of the boys came to me to find out if I thought Mossie Hancock thought the boys were better than the girls!!

The years went by and I remember Gordon coming down in the evening to committee meetings where he was always welcome. Mossie and Gordon’s adjudications were always warm, constructive, yet firm. I remember the radio programs with Gordon and Mossie. Jack and I used to plan supper so we had their wonderful music with our meal.

I recall the SMFA Conference at Jackfish Lodge. We had Guy Few for the Friday night entertainment and he sang, played, and recited. After he played a Mozart sonata that Mossie had memorized many years before, she went to her room, sat in the dark and played that sonata right through silently with her mind and fingers. Imagine! Mossie really was an Arts Icon – musician, orator, actor, writer, playwright etc.

I am so grateful that when I was involved with festival preparations, choirs, etc., that those were the years Mossie was at her prime. What a privilege to be alive then.

*Lillian Mitchell. February 17, 2011*





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## From the Provincial Office

*Carol Donhauser, Executive Director*

As the entry close dates come and go for many festivals and adjudicator information is sent out, I would like to remind you how important it is contact your adjudicator(s) as soon as possible to discuss travel arrangements (expected arrival date and time and mode of transportation), confirm accommodation location, send out a copy of the program when it is ready (even a rough electronic copy), and to arrange a briefing session once your adjudicator arrives. At the briefing session, please go over all of your committee's expectations, explain any special scholarship information they will need to know, provide a list of recommended places to eat and with a suggested \$40.00 cash per diem. **Please notify us as soon as possible with any changes or errors to the Adjudicator Information Report.**

I would ask that you please submit your entry numbers as soon as possible. As discussed at the AGM, we are sending out the affiliation dues invoices in May to coincide with the district festival fiscal year-end (June 30) so that your financial records reflect the payment in the same year that the money is collected. We don't need the full people stats form until June, but a **quick e-mail with the number of entries will be needed by April 30.** Please also remember to **send in two copies of your printed program as soon as they are printed.** We occasionally get questions here at the office that can be answered if you provide us with the program.

Moose Jaw is the host of the SMFA Provincial Finals (June 3-5). We look forward to a terrific three days of competition as the Moose Jaw host committee, chaired by Sharon Penner, welcomes competitors from across the province. Thank you to our Provincial Finals corporate sponsors SaskTel and SaskEnergy who have renewed their sponsorship for this year. We are also grateful for the support we receive from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskCulture, and the Sask Arts Board.

I would like to speak briefly on volunteers as you approach your festival. Nonprofits can't produce a great event without the help of their volunteers. However, you need to make sure your volunteers have the tools they need to make your event successful. It's not enough to send out an email asking for help and then adding your volunteers' names to the event list. You also need to make sure those individuals who agree to help are familiar with all aspects of your event. Make sure you give them enough information on the event ahead of time so they can assist you on-site in answering any questions that may arise during the festival. Make sure they know where everything is, from restrooms to the festival office. It is a good idea to send a survey to your volunteers after the event and get their input on what went right and what went wrong. This information is valuable as you plan for next year. Be sure to thank your volunteers before, during and after festival. Send a special thank you note to each volunteer. This will help keep them coming back. Volunteers are such an important part of any nonprofit. Keep them happy and encourage them to continue their volunteer efforts and spreading the 'good' news about your organization.

*Thank you for volunteering!*

We here at the provincial office wish you all the best during your festival week(s) and **thank you** for being a festival volunteer!



**Provincial level of National Competition  
and Provincial Finals Competitions  
Moose Jaw, June 3-5, 2011  
Entry deadline is May 15!  
Entry Forms can be found online  
([www.smfa.ca](http://www.smfa.ca))**