

The BYU American Folk Dancers



June 28 - July 22, 1982

Kingston, Ontario—Drummondville, Québec—Québec, Québec—Ottawa, Ontario
Trenton, Ontario—Niagara Falls, Ontario—Palmyra, NY—Toronto, Ontario

Canada Tour

June 29 – July 26, 1982

June 29, 30 Tuesday, Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Load at north end of Richards Blvd.
7:45 p.m. Depart by bus for SLC airport
SLC/Atlanta – Depart Eastern #845, 11:00 p.m.,
Arrive 5:10 a.m., June 30
Atlanta/Toronto – Depart Eastern #632, 9:23 a.m.,
Arrive 12:16 p.m.
Bus to Kingston by Festival

July 1 – 9, Kingston Ontario

International Folklore Festival – Kingston, Ontario

July 9 – 18, Drummondville, Quebec

International Folklore Festival – Drummondville, Quebec
Bus to Drummondville by Festival

July 19, Monday – Quebec City

Sight-seeing – Quebec City
Overnight in La Château Frontenac

July 20, Tuesday – Montreal (160 miles, 3 hours)

8:00 a.m. Depart La Château Frontenac
11:00 a.m. Arrive Montreal Stake Center, 470 Gilford
Meet guide for sight-seeing
Lunch on own
Afternoon: Two 15-minute Mall performances (pending)
5:00 p.m. Evening meal at performance site
Expo Theatre, Cite du Havre (seats 2000)
7:30 p.m. Performance
Home with hosts

July 21, Wednesday – Ottawa (130 miles, 2 ½ hours)

8:00 a.m. Depart Montreal Stake Center, 470 Gilford
11:00 a.m. Arrive – Parliament Building (call sponsor)
Sight-seeing – Lunch on own
3:00 p.m. Arrive at performance site, High School of Commerce,
300 Rochester St. (seats 1100)
5:30 p.m. Evening meal, Ottawa Chapel – 1017 Prince of Wales Drive
8:00 p.m. Performance – High School of Commerce
Home with hosts

July 22, Thursday – Trenton (150 miles, 3 hours)

8:00 a.m. Depart Ottawa Chapel – 1017 Prince of Wales Drive

11:00 a.m.	Arrive Community Center – Centennial Park Meet guide for sight-seeing – sack lunches provided Possible Radio Interview
4:30 p.m.	Evening meal at performance site, Trenton Amphitheatre – Centennial Park (seats 4000)
7:00 p.m.	Performance Home with hosts

July 23, 1982, Friday – Palmyra, New York (256 miles, 5 hours)

6:00 a.m.	Breakfast at Trenton Chapel
7:00 a.m.	Depart for Palmyra
12:00 noon	Arrive at Hill Cumorah Tour Mormon Historical sites
Afternoon	Check into Tranholm East Inn, Victor, New York
Evening	Hill Cumorah Pageant (front row seats)

July 24, Saturday – Niagara Falls (92 miles) – Toronto (88 miles)

early a.m.	Depart Tranholm East Inn sight-seeing, Niagara Falls
4:30 p.m.	Arrive Toronto Stake Center (Rathburn & Melburt Streets) Evening meal
5:30 p.m.	Arrive Etobikoke Olympium (seats 1500) (across from stake center)
7:30 p.m.	Performance Home with hosts

July 25, Sunday – Toronto

a.m.	Sunday meetings with hosts
afternoon	Individual hosts will take sight-seeing
7:30 p.m.	Fireside – Toronto Stake Center

**Brigham Young University
AMERICAN FOLK DANCERS
1982 CANADIAN TOUR**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Carrie Ekins
TOUR MANAGER: Karl Wesson

BUSINESS MANAGERS

Lance Wade
Jaret Moulton

BAGGAGE MOVEMENT

Bryce B.
Clint Astle
Loren Olsen
Kathy Bunker

BAGGAGE LOADING

Jonathan Huefner
Allen Glander
Dallas Pilcher
Boyd Price

SPECIAL EVENTS/ DEVOTIONALS

Tom Guliver
Karynn Hales
Clark Hirschi
Cynthia Pierce

HISTORY

David Cyr
Margaret Boyd
La Vona Jenks
Leanne Haigh

ADDRESSES

Dean Gassman
Max Darrington

MEN'S COSTUME ROOM

Jeff Leavy
Rix Shupe

WOMEN'S COSTUME ROOM

Allyson Jensen
Lori Fife
Trudy Smith

WOMEN'S SLIPS

Courtney Ekins
Jennie Buckley

BAND COORDINATOR

Chris Heoker

DANCING PROPS

Nora Webster
Gary Pimentel

BAND PROPS

Tim Beavers

FOLK DANCERS
TOUR PERFORMANCE SUMMARY
QUEBEC AND ONTARIO CANADA
June 29 – July 26, 1982

No. in Group: 35
 No. of Performances: 22
 No. of Firesides: 0

Total Audiences: 111,000
 Average Audience: 5,000
 TV/Radio: 0

DATE	PERFORMANCE SITE,	AUDIENCE
July 1, Thurs.	Canada Day Parade, Kingston, Ontario	18,000
July 1, Thurs.	Torch Light Parade, Kingston	10,000
July 2, Fri.	Opening Ceremony, Kingston	2,000
July 3, Sat.	Grand Theatre Concert, Kingston	800
July 5, Mon.	Chaffey's Locks, Kingston	400
July 6, Tues.	Grand Theatre, Kingston	500
July 6, Tues.	Festival Park, Kingston	200
July 7, Wed.	Grand Theatre, Kingston	900
July 8, Thurs.	Memorial Centre, Kingston	2,500
July 9, Fri.	Opening Ceremony, Drummondville	3,200
July 10, Sat.	Int'l Concert, Drummondville	3,000
July 13, Tues.	Culture Center, Drummondville	2,000
July 14, Wed.	Woodyatt Park, Drummondville	5,000
July 15, Thurs.	Torch Parade, Drummondville	25,000
July 16, Fri.	Woodyatt Park, Drummondville	16,000
July 17, Sat.	Parade in town, Drummondville	16,000
July 17, Sat.	Woodyatt Park, Drummondville	1,000
July 18, Sun.	Closing Ceremonies, Drummondville	4,100
July 20, Tues.	Expo Theatre, Montreal	1,200
July 21, Wed.	Ottawa, Ontario	800
July 22, Thurs.	Trenton, Ontario	1,600
July 23, Fri.	Toronto, Ontario	800

The Tours of 1982

September 1981. The Richards Building facilities are home of the BYU International Folkdancers. They house the Performing Arts Company and the Folk Dance offices are on the second floor overlooking the student basketball courts. There is excitement at the beginning of the Fall Semester as second-year members of the Folkdancers find out if they made the PAC (Performing Arts Company).

This Fall there was an abnormally large “incoming class” to the Performing Arts Company. The reason was that two International Tours are slated for the summer of 1982 and they will need to be filled. The two tours were a European tour, with invitations including the celebrated French festival Confolins. The other, a tour of Eastern Canada with two brand new Canadian festivals, one in Kingston, Ontario and one in Drummondville, Quebec. So, everyone worked hard and charged forward waiting hoping that they would be one of the tour lists in January 1982. Of course everyone was hoping that they would be chosen for the Europe Tour.

Meanwhile, there was still *Christmas Around the World* to put on before finding out about the tours and the Backup PAC having an unusual number of great dancers, greatly increased the folkdancer talent pool and increased the competition by a couple orders of magnitude. Whereas, before, if you were a member of the PAC it seemed as though you would have a pretty good chance of getting to go on a tour. Now, however, with the talent pool bigger, not only were the PAC kids worried about if they would make a Tour Team at all, but it must have undoubtedly put a strain on the Folkdance Leadership as well -- requiring them to make many “tough decisions” of who and who not to select. So, this was setting just prior to selecting the 1982 Europe and Canada Tours

Canada Tour is Chosen

Winter Semester 1982. The lists were posted, and after all the dust settled, it was time to get to work learning the dances, attending Tour Retreats, getting fitted for the tour clothes and going to culture classes. The Canada tour practices took place in the ELWC Ballroom – all semester.

The Tour Leadership and assignments were as follows:

The Tour team was composed of:

Dancers/Partners	Loren Olsen
	Jeff Leavy
	Lance Wade
	Allen Glander
	Bryce Sheffield
	Jared Moulton
	Dave Cyr
	Gary Pimentel
	Max Darrington

Band	Dallas Pilcher	Mandolin
	Tim Beavers	Guitar
	Chris Hooker	Violin
	Trudy Smith	Violin
	Rex Shoop	Banjo

Business Manager: Karl Wesson
 Chaperone: Cecilia Fielding
 Artistic Director: Carrie Ekins

The tour dates ended up like this:

June 23, 1982	Report to pre-tour practice
June 29	Leave for Canada
June 30	Arrive in Toronto, Ontario. Bus to Kingston
July 1	Kingston festival begins
July 2—12	

pre-tour practice and final planning

Wednesday June 23 - Monday June 28, 1982

Wednesday through Saturday saw a newly reunited Canada Tour Group doing a variety of things -- mainly practicing the suite of American dances that we learned during the Winter Semester. In addition to dance practice in the old Social Hall, we practiced our songs with the coaching of Randy Boothe, got our costumes, had a business meeting to go over the new itinerary, and we managed to squeeze-in a pre-tour performance at Mountain View High School in Orem on Saturday. The show line-up was as follows:

Devil's Dream Medley
 Contra
 Smokey Mountain Clog
 Appalachian Clog

All indications were that the show was a success and that we danced very well.

Sunday we all attended Carrie Ekins' LDS Ward to sing "I Am a Child of God" and "Climb Every Mountain" in her Sacrament Meeting. Immediately following, a special testimony meeting was held at the Ekins house for the group. Mary Bee and Don, Dennis Hill, and Delynne Peay were in attendance to lend their support.

Final practice and costume bag weigh-in took place on Monday. A more involved process than most had anticipated. In the evening, yet another social event to attend -- a barbecue at the Ekins

house. There to meet us and give a few words of advice and encouragement was BYU Department of Physical Education Dean, Clayne Jensen, along with Folk Dance leadership.

Taken from journal of Jeffrey Leavy about the BYU Folkdance 1982 Canada Tour.

The Tour – Kingston, Ontario

Tuesday June 29, 1982

The day had finally come to leave on tour. It was very exciting because for most of us it was our first summer tour with the Folk Dance organization. We all converged at the north end of the Richards Building in our tour suits and cowboy hats to meet the bus at 7:30 pm. We then left Provo at 8:00 pm to Salt Lake International. While we waited at the airport we were entertained by Rex, his dad, and other band members to some blue grass pickin'. Our plane finally departed at x:xx pm and off we were on our "red-eye" flight to Toronto -- well, to Denver, then Atlanta, then Buffalo, THEN Toronto.

Wednesday June 30, 1982 ...on the way to Kingston and Arrival in Kingston, Ontario

The plane arrived at about 5:45 am EST in Atlanta. We were greeted in Atlanta by humidity -- and hospitality. An Eastern Airlines suite was set up for us to rest in during our somewhat long lay over. At last, we finally touched down on Canadian soil at 12:12 pm. We were met at the airport by a representative of the Canadian Folk Arts Council to escort us to Kingston. We had about a three hour bus ride to get to Kingston. Sharing the bus with us was an all girl Irish Folk group from Winnipeg, Manitoba comprised of about six people. Here's where a little story comes in. Back in Utah, in preparing for the tour, Carrie, Courtney, and Allen Glander had the idea to cut different color fabric to "roll-up" and use as headbands to give away as souvenirs. The headbands are the latest fashion for the newest dance/fitness craze sweeping the U.S. -- aerobics! Anyway, someone has the idea to give one of the Manitoban girls a headband as a gesture of good will and before you knew it everybody on the bus was making and wearing headbands. Of course everybody had to have a picture taken with their camera of the whole bus headband-clad and being near the front of the bus -- and being a nice guy -- Jeff Leavy ended up snapping photo after photo of the whole scene.

Arriving in Kingston we unpacked and hauled our gear to the fourth floor of a dorm on the campus of Queens University...ummm...a co-ed floor. Now, being used to BYU standards, we had to think quickly. Soon male rooms were on one side of the floor and female rooms on the other. Bathrooms were also designated and duly marked. As far as our dining accomodations go, the Kingston festival is somewhat unique. Each member of the group received a food voucher booklet for lunches and dinners for each day of the festival. These vouchers were good at various restaurants throughout Kingston. So, a large group kicked off the evening by being led by former Chinese missionary, Clint Astle, to a Chinese restaurant. Reports came back as "four and a half stars out of five." Now things were starting to happen. Different people started doing different things. Five members of the group were given a car tour of the city with John Davis, husband of the festival director. Some members of the group made contact with the Bulgarian group with Carrie Ekins leading the way. In fact, she made a contact to learn some of their dances.

KIFF: The Kingston International Folklore Festival
Kingston, Ontario, CANADA

Thursday July 1, 1982

The day started out with a hearty breakfast at the University cafeteria followed by some practice time to go over Appalachian and Kentucky clogs. As we practiced, some people from the French and Bulgarian groups watched. In addition, we went over an aerobic routine to Freeze Frame that we are going to teach the other groups. Today being Canada Day, all the groups were in a big parade. We wore our "reds" for the parade. While we were waiting to get started some members of our group began to exchange BYU buttons and post cards with the Bulgarian group, who were right next to us. Before you knew it they started dancing and were grabbing us and showing us a few of their steps. It was just like Colleen Anderson said, "the Eastern Europeans and Americans just attract each other."



We eventually lined up in proper order and the parade began. We intermittently walked and danced down the city streets lined with people cheering and clapping. We made our way right down to the City Hall, where the parade was being filmed for TV. After the parade, some of us mingled with the Swiss group before boarding the bus and heading back to the dorms at Queens University. Upon our return we were excited to see ourselves on TV and do some more mingling with the French, Bulgarians, and Puerto Ricans. Some found that a great way to get to know the other groups was to start tossing around frisbees in the commons -- BYU frisbees of course.

After dinner, we got dressed in our costumes again to march in a candlelight parade. Each of us had a sparklers lit up as we marched into a pavillion and performed Devil's Dream. Each group performed, which included Puerto Rico, France, Bulgaria, Switzerland and Manitoba. As we listened to the Mayor of Kingston say a few words about the upcoming festival, and saw the crowd of people, it wasn't hard to imagine that we were actually in Europe at a folk festival. By this time it was dusk and time for the fireworks. It was a beautiful setting with the fireworks

going off over the water under a moon lit sky.

Friday July 2, 1982

After our usual cafeteria breakfast, some of the group was going to go shopping at a mall but opted to take a nap first and then go to the mall later. Another small group took a walk along the shoreline of Lake Ontario and take in some of the local history. Kingston has quite a few military fortifications – and some were strategically placed on the shore where we were walking. These are called Murney towers and were used in the war of 1812. Our group split up into littler groups today and basically did what they pleased because we had almost the whole day to ourselves. Some ended up going to the mall, others stayed nearby the dorms and played frisbee.

Eating here at the Kingston Festival is a little different. At the beginning of the festival, each member in our group was issued a booklet of meal vouchers for lunches and dinners that would be honored by certain local restaurants during the festival. And, because of the meal voucher system, the whole group didn't always eat together, like today. Little groups usually got together to eat at various places throughout Kingston for lunch but for dinner we were mainly together. We ate downtown tonight and browsed around the waterfront afterwards to look at all the pleasure boats docked there.

With our day of play behind us, it was time to turn our thoughts to the Opening Ceremony tonight. It was held at a stadium where all the groups, dressed in their colorful costumes, marched into the stadium olympic style, carrying signs indicating their country, eventually taking their place in chairs around a stage in the middle of the stadium.

It was quite an event – an orchestra playing, an official opening speech from a Senator, the releasing of balloons and finally the raising of the K.I.F.F. (Kingston International Folk Festival) flags to mark the opening of the festival. Part of the opening ceremony was to be a short performance by each of the groups. However, before all of the groups had a chance to make it on stage, including us, it began to rain and the rest of the



ceremony was cancelled.

Upon arriving back at the dorms, Carrie took us to a rehearsal room and started going through

the aerobic routine to Freeze Frame. Soon people from the other groups were right along side of us Americans learning and doing the routine. Before the night was over, many foreign folkdancers were wearing our aerobic headbands that we gave them. Modern dancing followed for a while then the French Canadian group contributed to the music and dance of the evening as well. It was all quite fun and many people in our group started getting to know our foreign friends a little better. Of course we got to know the kids in the Puerto Rican, Swiss and French groups a little quicker because there was less of a language barrier.

Saturday July 3, 1982

The morning was free except for getting some costumes together for the show today. At 11:00 we had a rehearsal at the Grand Theatre in preparation for our matinee show at 2:00 pm. The show went pretty well. After being rushed outside to catch a bus, which never showed up, we were allowed to go into the theater and sit on the balcony to watch a couple of the other groups perform. The group from Ghana danced to their rhythmic beating of their drums and we were all in awe of the intricate footwork of the Bulgarians. The show and dinner took up the rest of the afternoon and actually only left us 25 minutes to get ready for the evening activity once we arrived back at the University dorms. So, after a quick change we were off to a historic landmark in Kingston, Old Fort Henry, for military marching and drills.

All of the groups were at the fort to watch the precision marching, drills and cannons being fired by men dressed up in authentic uniforms of the 1812 era. After the demonstrations, we started taking photos of each other sitting on and standing by the old cannons, and took many photos of the other groups as well.

Upon our return after the show, many of our group went to the Festival Park to dance and mingle with the other groups. Others went back to the dorms and met up with our foreign friends in the TV room. Some of the Bulgarians were rivited to the TV because the World Cup soccer games were going on. They take that very seriously!

Sunday July 4, 1996

First thing this morning all the groups convened at Ft. Frederick for a group photo. As the groups were assembling for the photo, many of our group went around with cameras in hand snapping photos of each of the groups in their beautiful costumes. Once we were all positioned next to each other on the embankment inside the fort -- each proudly displaying their country's flag -- the photographer climbed up his ladder, we all smiled and the official festival photo was taken. We had to then literally run to the bus so we could go to the Kingston Ward to attend Fast and Testimony meeting. The girls didn't even have time to change out of their red square dance dresses. Well, you could at least tell who the folk dancers were in the congregation! Our festival guides, Tim, George and Christine went with us to church. Tim is a member of the church but Christine and George are not, so it was a special treat to have them along.

After the meetings, the ward had a picnic lunch for us outside the chapel. It was quite a spread. It was just another display of the kindness of the local ward members. They have been so good to us. They've made offers to have us over for dinner and have come to see us dance in the festival. To express our thanks we sang for them, of course. It's the folk dancers signature "Thank you." We spent the afternoon back at the dormitory hall mainly resting.

For dinner, a local square dance club, the Kingston Promenaders hosted a dinner for us in the basement of the Church of the Redeemer, an Anglican church. Following our feast we were given a tour of the church. Included in the tour was a special demonstration of an old theater organ, now in the church. It was acquired from Ohio and is one of the oldest in Canada. It was used in theaters to provide music for silent films. The demonstration of the organ was a lot of fun too. Our visit ended with a square dance demonstration performed by the Promenaders and us singing to them. As we were departing, the club president said that we were the best ambassadors from the U.S. that they've ever seen. Needless to say, that made us feel quite honored and was another reminder of how we're being watched all the time and how important our example is. The rest of the evening was spent visiting with our foreign friends. Late nights have become the norm lately – great for forging friendships but hard for getting up in the morning!

Monday July 5, 1982

We woke up to good news this morning. Originally we were not scheduled to perform in the evening performance, but it seems that we impressed the festival directors enough to put us in the show and even give us top billing – to be last in the program! Carrie worked us hard this morning to get us prepared. At around 11:00 am, all dressed in our pioneer costumes, we hopped on a bus and headed out to a place about an hour from Kingston on the Rideau canal, Chaffey's Lock. We ate a sack lunch while watching the locks operate – filling and emptying, allowing boats to pass through and continue on their journey up the canal. The Rideau canal connects Lake Ontario, at Kingston, with the Ottawa River in Ottawa, 123 miles away. Chaffey's Lock is one of 47 locks on the Rideau.

We did have a performance here, as did the French group. It was an outdoor performance on a small wooden stage that could only hold one square comfortably. We did manage to squeeze two squares onto the plywood platform but it was quite bouncy. Running sets had to be done on the lawn which wasn't much better than the stage. Being a little hilly, a number of us fell down but somehow we made it through the show. Even though we were less than thrilled about our performance, the people liked us and we had fun going into the audience to give away our folkdance post cards. After our show, the French group performed on the same little stage. A couple of us stayed behind to watch and support them while most of the others took off to go swimming at the Lock. Eventually our whole group ended up at the lock to swim, jump off a rope swing and play frisbee football. It was a nice (and needed) diversion which was enjoyed by all.

With fairly long bus rides on both ends of this trip, our bus became an unofficial choir practice room. Some of the more sophisticated melodies emanating from the long yellow vehicle included "Toom-ba-da toom-ba" as taught and led by Cecilia and the "Snap, crackle, pop" song, as led by Clint Astle. Back in Kingston, we ate dinner and went to our theater to get ready for the performance. We had the opportunity to watch the last part of the Bulgarian's show and from the wings we all enjoyed watching the group from Puerto Rico. After seeing such tremendous performances, we all realized that we had a lot to live up to. But we rose to the occasion and performed with more unity and spirit than we ever have. It really pulled us together as a group. People told us that they were amazed at the energy with which we performed. It was a great way to top off a delightful day.

Tuesday July 6, 1982

This morning we were greeted with a lighter rehearsal which was nice because we used up all our energy last night during our performance. We also had some free time afterwards and were on our own for lunch. The afternoon brought two performances and what seemed like ten times more humidity. The first show was not what we would consider a show stopper. However, the audience, comprised of mainly senior citizens, really enjoyed the precision and beauty of our Contra number. We then marched off to Festival Park where there was an outdoor stage for our second show of the day. It wasn't a long show but we did have three changes and the humidity really got to us. Margaret Boyd almost fainted because of the heat and humidity. The stage was a little bumpy and there was some loose vinyl which we could have tripped over but the show ended up being pretty good after all was said and done. We headed back to the hall, all sweaty, quite tired and feeling kind of grateful that we had the evening to watch the performances instead being on stage! We watched Puerto Rico and Ghana but it was Poland that really caught our eye. Their formations were flawless and costumes elegant.

July 6, 1982 (continued)

The costumes that the Polish group had were different for each dance and we were told that each dancer had 12 costumes.

Upon arriving back to the dormitories our whole group lined-up on each side of some concrete steps and applauded and yelled "Bravo" for the Polish group as they arrived on their school bus and were going inside to show our excitement of seeing their most wonderful dancing.

We are being treated wonderfully including a \$5.00 per day stipend.

July 7, 1982

We took a boat cruise starting at the beginning of the St. Lawrence River through the area called the Thousand Islands. It was named this due to the many, many islands in the river. It was interesting to notice some very large summer homes on them. The cruise lasted about 3 hours.

July 8, 1982

Kingston
Closing Ceremonies

July 9, 1982

Left Kingston
Arrived in Drummondville

July 10, 1982

Drummondville

July 11, 1982

Drummondville

July 12, 1982

Drummondville and surrounding towns

July 13, 1982

Drummondville

July 14, 1982
Drummondville

July 15, 1982
Drummondville
Free day

July 16, 1982
Drummondville

July 17, 1982
Drummondville

July 18, 1982
Drummondville
Closing ceremonies

July 19, 1982
Left Drummondville

July 20, 1982
Montreal

July 21, 1982
Left Montreal
Arrived in Ottawa
Met with Pierre Trudeau

July 22, 1982
Left Ottawa
Trenton

July 23, 1982
Toronto

From: Cecelia Fielding

To: Mary Bee Jensen

Date: 12 August 1982

It is difficult to know where to begin to describe such a rich and varied experience at the Canada 1982 American Folk Dancers tour. It was at times extremely exciting and exhilarating, and yet it was also frustrating and sometimes downright tedious, as only these tours can be. But looking back on it now from the distance of several weeks, I can honestly say it was one of the most enjoyable and memorable four weeks I've ever spent. I wanted to share some of my major impressions of the tour with you on paper and then perhaps we can get together and discuss it at length.

The Kingston, Ontario festival was, to me, incredibly well organized and successful from a participant's point of view. As Karl may have told you, our accommodations were quite nice, and I particularly appreciated the accessibility of the festival staff—they were always right downstairs, and if I ever had a question or a need, I could walk right up to the director, Moira Davies, and ask her, knowing that I'd get a prompt response. They were extremely sensitive to our needs, asking Karl and me repeatedly how we felt about how the festival was progressing and if things were all right with us. Moira was especially impressed with our group (as evidenced by her several trips to Drummondville to see us) and she should be a valuable contact for us in Ontario. The only disappointment in Kingston was the lack of crowds at most of our performances, which was apparently due to two major factors: Kingston had just sponsored a local folk festival a week or two prior to our arrival, which had dissipated some of the interest in the international folk festival, and the Kingston festival only received \$40,000 from the Canadian government as opposed to the \$100,000 given to the Drummondville festival (a political move that had the Kingston people really upset). The last time I talked to Moira, she still wasn't certain how far in the red they would go, but she was very hopeful that the festival in Kingston could be repeated. If the promotion problems can be solved, Kingston could turn into a major festival experience, I feel. (See the attached news release on Kingston for more details.)

I must admit, however, that I have some real mixed feelings about our experiences in Drummondville. To begin with, the accommodations—army cots in a high school classroom three floors away from the bathrooms—were a real shock to everyone, and I was very frustrated by the fact that I never did meet or even find out who was running the show. We simply didn't know what was going on half the time, and after the excellent lines of communication we experienced in Kingston, this was a real frustration. Part of the problem was due to the Quebecois' obstinacy in using French as the only language (another long political story), and part of it was due to the very obvious fact that, unlike Kingston, this was not a participants' festival but a festival for the VIPs. We were constantly being misinformed about time and places, and we could not with any consistency depend on the instructions given us by our well-meaning but often confused guides. In many instances, the dancers were treated like cattle, a fact that irritated Karl and me to no end. Our frustrations were shared by most of the other performing groups (particularly the Ghanans, who at one point were threatening to leave), and had it not been for the diplomatic intervention of our good friend, Guy Landry, things might have gotten a little unpleasant. Karl dealt with the festival people very firmly, at times informing them very pleasantly that we just wouldn't play ball with them, and he helped keep the group from being taken advantage of any more than we were.

But perhaps all of this is petty in light of the enthusiastic reception our dancers received from the Drummondville crowds, estimated to total more than 150,000. We had some of our very best performance experiences in Drummondville, and the close proximity of our accommodations allowed the group to make some extremely close ties to the other international groups. The tears that flowed when we left for Quebec City were many and heart-felt. (See the attached news release on the Drummondville festival for more details)

As I anticipated this experience, I remember looking forward to seeing a part of the world—Eastern Canada—that I probably would never get another chance to visit. But I must tell you in all sincerity that the real highlight of the tour for me was the kids themselves. I never got tired of seeing them perform and I could never watch their high-spirited finale without my pulse racing. Every day I found new reasons to love and admire them. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the privilege of getting to know them, even if just for a short time. I will never forget Jeff Leavy, the kind of special young man I hope my own Jeff grows up to be, or salt-of-the-earth Cynthia Pierce, who helped us keep everything in perspective, or Courtney Ekins, truly the Eighth Wonder of the World, or Lance "Romance" Wade, or especially Lori Pimentel, smiling and dancing her heart out despite her injured leg. I attribute our opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Trudeau directly to the dancers' good image and influence: Our guide in Kingston, George Allain (who became one of our chief "groupies"), went to great lengths to get us the appointment with Trudeau because he so wanted the PM to meet us. (See the attached news releases on Trudeau for more details.) The folk dancers were a well-disciplined, cooperative, high-spirited group of beautiful young adults who made friends for the Church and the university wherever they went. They all reached out to me from the very

beginning and helped me feel a part of the experience, and I'm extremely grateful to them for that. They danced like demons and behaved like angels, and you should be very proud of them.

As the tour manager, Karl Wesson (to use his term) was just super. He was well-organized, efficient, firm but friendly in dealing with our sometimes difficult contacts, and extremely sensitive to the needs of the group. He had a very high profile with the kids, partially because he took pains to let them know what was going on and partially because he so obviously enjoyed being with them. I repeatedly overheard our group (as well as the festival officials and other groups) praise him for the concern and care he took with us. I simply can't say enough good things about Karl. He really made the experience a lot more enjoyable for me and for everyone else.

I had suspected but had not fully realized what a multi-talented individual Carrie Ekins was until traveled together. Despite long days, late hours and hot and humid weather, she managed to keep everyone's enthusiasm high at all times, and she is directly responsible, I feel, for the reputation our group received as the most energetic and enthusiastic troupe at the two festivals. I was particularly impressed with Carrie's knowledge of dance physiology and dance injuries—a skill that undoubtedly contributed to the fact that we had so very few injuries to contend with during the tour. (I'm certain that Tom Gulliver's rapid recovery from what appeared to be a serious sprain was due to Carrie's prompt and thorough treatment.) It was more than obvious at times that Carrie would probably have much preferred to be up there dancing with the group, but the great love she had for what they were doing was infectious. The group caught her dance fever and literally clogged their taps off for her.

I have enclosed some of the press materials I prepared before, during and after the tour as well as some newspaper clips for your files. I also have the photographs that Eric and I took and the journal entries from the group members and I am anxious to get the tour journal started, so I would appreciate some direction from you or Karl on that.

Thank you again for a most enjoyable experience, I hope I was able to contribute something towards its success. Please call me (x7320) when you get an opportunity.

Enclosures

cc: Karl Wesson, Ed Blaser, Veloy Morgan, Paul Richards, Clayne Jensen, George Bowie, Phyllis Jacobson.

**From: Karl Wesson
RE: CANADIAN TOUR 1982**

To: Mary Bee Jensen

Date: 16 November 1982

It's not easy to decide where to begin in describing what to me was one of the highlights of my time at BYU so far. It doesn't take long on tour to get to know the students and discover what excitement and exuberance they can portray through dance to their audiences as well as what wonderful individuals they are. We had some ups and downs but I would say the majority of our time spent on the Canadian tour was worthwhile and will always be memorable to all of us. My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed spending those four weeks in Canada. I have completed a daily report of considerable length and detail which I can give to you if you are interested. In this memo I want to highlight the most important and informative aspects of the tour.

The first festival we attended was on the shores of Lake Ontario at the beautiful Queens University campus in Kingston, Ontario. Kingston is a seaport with university facilities directly on the shoreline, making a remarkable setting for the festival. One of the things which impressed us was the way meal arrangements were handled. Breakfast was served in the university cafeteria but for lunch and dinner they issued each one of us a meal coupon redeemable at a number of selected local restaurants. Each coupon allowed five dollars worth for lunch and seven dollars for dinner of your choice. Any additional was the responsibility of the student. One of the most exciting things about the festival, however, was the director, Moira Davies. She was just a delightful organized woman and very sensitive to our needs. She was always asking if things were okay and quick to handle any problems or questions. She should be a very valuable contact for the folk dancers in Ontario. Our only disappointment was the size of the audiences we performed for. The crowds were not very large and it seems there was a problem with the publicity. Opening ceremonies were held in a football stadium with a beautiful stage built in the middle but the rain did not cooperate so we were unable to perform. They did have a small but beautiful theatre downtown in the Kingston Art Center complex where we performed, though, and were very well received. Everyone attending seemed to appreciate and enjoy our performances from the mayor right down to the people at the parades. The Kingston festival was definitely a festival for the performers. Those hosting us were very gracious and always on hand to make certain transportation needs and all other arrangements were responsive to our needs as a group.

Our second festival was held in Drummondville, Quebec. The people there are primarily French Canadians, or "Quebecois", and seemed to present a completely different atmosphere for their festival. In Drummondville, the festival did not feature the talents and people of different cultures. Instead, it featured the VIP's from Canada who would be attending. The arrangements were nebulous and we seemed to be herded here and there like cattle. None of the groups really knew who the festival chairman was, including the two chaperone-interpreters assigned to us. Since all the information, schedules, etc. given to us upon our arrival were written in French we depended on the chaperones or several of our own students who spoke French to be able to keep us informed. Unfortunately only one of the chaperones spoke fluent English and the Quebec version of French is different enough from the Parisian or textbook French that there were still areas of confusion.

Although English is the official second language there, the people of Quebec refuse to speak it unless forced to do so. After a very confusing opening, I was able to make contact with Mr. Guy Landry, the government representative. He scheduled a conference with the directors and the festival committee for the following morning to solidify the schedule and solve numerous other problems. Mr. Landry was the only one who held the festival together, groups from Canada threatened to leave opening night. Fortunately, Mr. Landry is a sensitive person and also a strong political negotiator. He was able to help us all understand the schedule better and require the festival committee to provide any future information in French and English (usually broken English but we were grateful for even that). Almost all of the directors were upset about the organizational problems of the festival and to my surprise, some of them came to me asking if I would mediate for them in trying to answer their questions and clarify schedule problems. I felt like I had been appointed to the United Nations and found it an interesting challenge to be very firm but tactful for all of us.

The major challenge for the students was the housing. We were all housed in high school classrooms with portable army cots. Each group had a different section of the building which was four stories high and there were 3-4 groups on each floor. We were on the top floor so the only showers were down in the basement and there was a small bathroom on each floor. It was a challenge for the students to adjust to after just coming from the nice accommodations at Kingston but they did after we discussed it and got used to the fact that this was what we had to make work.

In spite of these obstacles, there is no doubt that we were one of the most popular groups. We performed in a very nice ice arena and theatre downtown and in several parades and outdoor shows. The audiences were responsive to the dancing and performances were filled to capacity most every night. While we were there, we performed for about 150,000 people. Our group was also one of the favorites among the performers themselves. Wherever we went there were always members of other groups who wanted to be with us and share our enthusiasm. The students made special efforts to reach out and get to know the other groups and make many close friends. It was hard to say goodbye, especially to the Polish, Puerto Ricans and Bulgarians and the tears seemed never ending.

I am sure there will be other festivals at Drummondville to which we will be invited but to make them more successful we must insist on receiving a schedule in advance written in English as well as French. Any schedule conflicts, such as Sunday performances, need to be settled before the festival begins and arrangements defined. The thing that needs to be communicated foremost is that we are professional in what we expect of ourselves and need to be treated in a like manner for the benefit of all involved in the festival experience.

The remainder of the tour was spent on the road performing at a different city each night. We performed in Montreal, Ottawa, Trenton, and Toronto and spent some time visiting Quebec City, Niagara Falls and the Hill Cumorah Pageant along the way. Quebec City was a pleasant taste of French Canada. We met our tour bus there and spent some time enjoying the sites of the city and an evening boat tour where the students attracted many positive responses from others on the boat because of their enthusiasm and appearance. Our favorite cultural experience there was staying at the Hotel Frontenac built at the turn of the century on a hill overlooking the city. From Quebec we performed in Montreal at the Expo '70 Theatre. This was the largest audience the church had ever had before to a cultural event of this type and we were well received. The audience was filled with non-members and seems to have been a very positive boost for the church in that area. Ottawa was another highlight where we were privileged to meet with Prime Minister Trudeau thanks to the positive impression we had made on our chaperone in Kingston, Mr. George Allain, who then arranged the meeting. Trudeau was very gracious and most impressed with how nice the group looked and all our smiles. It impressed me again what a pleasure it was for us to be associated with such a wonderful group and university. Mr. Trudeau was so overwhelmed by the highspirited and beautiful young people he met representing the church, university and the United States. We have every right to be extremely proud of each of those students and what they represented so well.

I know the success of this tour could not have been accomplished without the help and talents of all the leaders. It was good to be able to work with Carrie Ekins and appreciate her enthusiasm for dance. She is a very talented young lady and has been on many tours but despite long days, late hours, humidity and pressuring schedules she managed to keep everyone enthused and ready to perform. Her only difficulty was in trying to assume the role of a director instead of being one of the dancers. This was not an easy transition but she tried her best and we all appreciated what she was able to accomplish. Her knowledge and training in first aid and treatment of dance injuries was invaluable and made it possible for us to keep everyone dancing. When Tom Gulliver sprained his ankle quite badly, her treatment made it possible for him to be dancing again two days later and have no trouble with it from then on.

It was a delight to work with Cecilia Fielding. She is a very organized, thorough person and was able to take care of all our promotional and public relations needs in a most professional manner as well as be a friend, mother, roommate and fun companion to all. She was a very positive asset and always willing to help in any way whether it was running errands, fixing shoes or taking pictures and reporting on performances.

My wife and I truly appreciated being asked to go on this tour. It was a big responsibility with many students, festival challenges and performances but all of us working together made it rewarding and memorable for everyone. The most delightful thing of all was the students themselves. They expressed such enthusiasm and excitement for life and responded so well to the many different circumstances they encountered. The love and appreciation I have gained from being with them will never be forgotten. They responded well to both of us and it was a joy to see how my wife quickly became their friend, chaperone and mother as well. She was accepted readily by all of them and this made the tour special for both of us. Thank you for this choice opportunity.

Karl

cc: Dean Clayne Jensen
George Bowie
Ed Blaser
Phyllis Jacobson

Letter From The Bus Driver:

My dear friends,

I wanted to talk to you before you leave, but I knew when you took your luggage away at the airport, that I could not. So, I decided to write when you were at the shopping centre.

When I picked you up at Château Frontenac in Quebec, you were passengers, but after this meet together, I leave you as my friends.

You just don't know how happy I was to be your bus driver. I was happy to serve you and to be with you. You made me feel as a member of the group.

Some time ago, I asked Jésus to make me stick with people that believe and He sent you to me. My believing has growned up with you. I thank God.

I watched you dancing, the first night in Montreal and I fell in love with all of you. Something is getting out of you, I think its love and the assurance that God and Jésus are in you. And I loved you all these days we were together. Thanks, too, for the love you gave me. The last night you perform, I beleave that a big part of it was for me. Thanks, thanks, thanks. I heard that you were going to give me The Book of Mormon. This is the proof that you love me. I will read it. I don't know what will happen but you can be sure from now on, you will have a lighted candle in my town. I hope we meet again, and any time you're in Québec city, day or night, my door will be opened for each one of you.

Now, I must say a big thanks to Karl. He made my job go easy, every things were well planned and he knows what he is doing. You are a good and great man. I promise you, the next time, I will do my best not to take you into so many road works...!

Now, have a good trip back home and I wish you good vacation and let's pray that many people come to Jésus Christ.

From my heart,

Jean Guy
P.S. Phone (418) 872-4835