

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

January 2010

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Kathy Ramesar kramesar@mbhighlanddance.com

Why stop at ex-Manitobans? Why not invite all your dance friends to come by Manitoba to compete in one of our great competitions?

MHDA has three more open competitions in 2010: Brandon on March 13th, Mid Canada June 12th and 13th, and October. There are also three great competitions run by other organizations: Winnipeg Scottish Festival on February 20th, Red River Celebration of Life and Dance on April 17th, and the Manitoba Highland Gathering on June 20th.

That makes for 6 great competitions our dance community offers that many of our friends can travel to and enjoy with us.

Another great opportunity exists for us this year. With the ScotDance Canada Championship Series taking place in Saskatoon many of our dancers may be more likely to attend due to Saskatoon's proximity it will be more affordable. If you haven't been to Canadians before then I encourage you to travel to Saskatoon this summer to take it in. Not only do you get to see the best dancers from across Canada, you will also see great dancers from around the world! There are competitions for all levels and many fun social events. The ScotDance Canada Champions Series has become more than just the Canadian Championship and some competitions. It has become an event admired by the world wide Scottish community and once attended most can't wait to go again.

It being in Saskatoon also gives us opportunity to lend a hand to our neighbors. It takes an enormous amount of work to put on an event like this and many volunteers are needed to pull it off. With this Tartan Press there are volunteer forms attached that can be filled out and sent to the organizers. I encourage you volunteer for this great event. I am sure that your contributions will be remembered by our neighbors when it is our turn to play host to the Highland Dance Community.

Best Regards,
George Hamilton, President MHDA

President's Message

In the dictionary the word "Community" is defined as all the people living in one district, or a group having shared interests or origins.

Certainly the latter definition is probably more applicable to us "The Highland Dancing Community".

Many highland dance competitions draw from all over the globe. Strong long lasting friendships are formed. Today when communication is only a mouse click away these friends from other provinces, countries, and continents can seem as if they are only next door.

More than ever we are aware of this larger world wide community. This helps us put in perspective where we fit in with our contributions to Highland Dance. In Manitoba we have a really great Highland Dance community. We are made up of families that have been involved for generations and those that are just being welcomed into our group. There also many people who have been involved in Manitoba's highland dancing over the years and now are still involved with highland dance but in different locations around the world.

I am sure everyone has seen the commercials and is aware that 2010 has been designated Manitoba's Home Coming. Dancing events are a great way for our alumni to come back and visit us. So if you have ex-Manitobans on your contact list give them a shout and tell them we want to see them back here this year.

Red River Celebration of Life and Dance

April 17, 2010

RED RIVER CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND DANCE
(formerly Red River Dance Festival) in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Over \$7,500 in prize money.

Watch for the Entry Form on-line at

www.mbhighlanddance.com on January 31.

For further details, contact Gaelyn McGregor at

ballater@mts.net

Striving for Excellence

What does it mean to be a top highland dancer from Manitoba? We'll look at Erika Ramesar, who won an international-renowned championship this past summer.

For some dancers, the chance to work hard and do their best is their driving force. For others, it is for the social aspects that keeps them working hard - - to earn the right to travel where they make new friends. And for some it is about setting high goals and feeling the success of reaching those goals.

We wondered what Erika Ramesar, who won an international championship this past July, would say drives her success? If you know Erika you would readily see that a love of socializing and making great dance friends is certainly high on her list. On the other hand, her teacher Donna Cram suggests it is her ability to focus on the fine details of technique and her strong work ethic that are keys to her many accomplishments.



At the last ScotDance Canada Championship Series in Toronto in July, Erika became one of few Manitoba dancers who have reached one of the pinnacles of success in the Canadian competitive scene. This success was evidenced by her winning the open championship that is held annually alongside the Canadian Inter-provincial Championship at the SDCCS. The North American Championship title (14 years), that she is now the title bearer of, brings dancers from around the world to compete alongside those who are selected and travel to the 'Canadians' each year as top representatives from each province. So it can culminate in many of the best dancers internationally, in this case 14 year olds, testing their skills. And Erika came out on top! This was her first win at this level and a very exciting one.

As circumstance would have it, it was a year that ran late on the last day of the 5 day event. Unfortunately, Erika had headed to catch a plane before results were announced. But perhaps with more of that same hard work, great focus (and a little socializing fun on the side), she will be able to repeat her success in Saskatoon at this year's SDCCS and stick around for the glory! We wish her and all our Manitoba dancers well as they set their goals and reach for them in July 2010 at the ScotDance Canada Championship Series in Saskatoon.



Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association

**2nd Annual Brandon
OPEN HIGHLAND DANCE
Competition**

March 13th 2010 ~ 10am to 4pm
(approximate timings)

Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium
205 - 20th Street - Brandon
Free Admission

dance program to include the
Newland Sword

Pool & Pizza Party
after at the
Royal Oak Inn
3130 Victoria Avenue - Brandon

Hotel Discount if rooms are booked
before February 9, 2010
800-852-2709 or 204-728-5775
www.royaloakinn.com

MHDA Competition Coordinator

Kathleen Burfoot has been Competition Coordinator for last year and again for the current 2009-2010 MHDA Year. Katie has let me know that she will not be filling this role for us in the 2010-2011 year.

Often we ask for new candidates for positions at our AGM in April. However there are very few competitions after April for someone willing to take on this job to learn the ropes in order to more easily transition into the job starting next fall.

So, we are seeking a volunteer for this position, as soon as possible, so that they can shadow the job for the 4 remaining MHDA competitions this year. (January, March, May, and June).

The Competition Coordinator is the chairperson of the competition committee which, in a nutshell, means they are responsible for the competitions. Essentially, they coordinate all of the other competition committee members to ensure all tasks are completed.

If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please email me at g.hamilton@mbhighlanddance.com or phone 204 479-6142 any time.

George Hamilton
President, MHDA

The W.J. Newlands Esq. Sword Challenge

For many recent years, one of the special events held at June's Mid-Canada competition has been the Newlands Sword Challenge – that, and many other special events over the 2-day competition. This year, 2010, it has been decided to 'lighten the load' a bit in June, and in order to do that, the Newlands Sword event will occur in March.

The March competition is located in Brandon, so you will be eager to attend this competition so you can participate in all it offers, including the W.J. Newlands Esq. Sword Challenge.

Whoever wins this trophy this year; they will be the 61st



recipient!! 1949 was the first year that the trophy was presented. Audrey Davie was the lucky dancer and she won it the following two years as well. Maureen Allen Gardner (look her up in your "Who's Who of Highland Dance in Manitoba" book) remembers Audrey as an adult dancer that

everyone wanted to emulate. She was a petite red head and wore a black and white kilt. Back then, this was quite a departure from the traditional red, green and yellow tartans. Audrey married Rod Springett who piped for dancing competitions. Audrey and Rod have both since passed away. There have been many dancers listed in the "Who's Who" book who have won this trophy, several, more than once. Donna Cove Cram and Tara Christie tops them all, both with 8 wins! Many of the names are no longer familiar.

My major question to alumni has been "Who was W.J. Newlands?" Unfortunately, the people I have asked either never knew or don't remember. The only one to shed some light on this was Maureen who thinks he was neither a piper or drummer, but rather an old Scottish gentlemen who use to help stage competitions, marshal dancers etc.

Nowadays, it is the task of the medals and trophies chairperson (me) to order 'keeper trophies' from Stewart's Trophies to present the qualifiers of the Newlands Sword. However, for many years, Oscar Freeman, father to alumni-dancer Val Freeman George (consult your book again), MADE the keeper trophies. Val remembers that not only did her family donate the keepers, but they were put together in her basement. Her dad would buy the small wooden plaques and then glue on a couple of miniature swords (sometimes just one sword was used as they weren't always readily available). There was also a small-engraved brass plaque attached. The "keepers" actually resembled the annual trophy and were quite a unique keepsake.

Kairistine MacLeod (OK, you know where to look to find out about her) qualified and competed in the Newlands Sword competition from the age of 11 up to and including adult class - time period 1973 to 1982. She tells me that during those years the Newlands Sword was held during the MHDA Annual June "Picnic" competition. This picnic competition was held at Assiniboine Park in the very early years and for a few years in the 1970's it was moved to Rainbow Stage. In 1977 to 1981 it was held inside the hockey arena at St. James Civic Centre - 3 stages across the rink; and for a couple of years it was out at the University of Manitoba's gymnasium. By 1986 it was back at Assiniboine Park. The Newlands Sword Challenge went out to dancers who qualified by winning 1st place in the sword dance in their respective age division. That elite group then "danced-off" for the ultimate prize.

There was only one main trophy awarded to the best sword dancer--The Newlands Sword perpetual trophy. Then, as an added honour for dancing in the Newlands Sword event, each qualifier from each age group would be awarded a small wooden shield decorated with a sword and plaque and year engraved. It was always exciting to hear the numbers called out for the dance-off - a true highlight to the June competition! The MHDA Picnic competition was a big event attracting all local dancers so you could easily say it was the "best of the best" of Manitoba dancers dancing off for the prestigious Newlands Sword title.

So, this is a bit of information about the Newlands Sword as some alumni remember it. If anyone else has some information, please share it with us.

See you in Brandon!

Respectfully submitted by Janet McCombe



Winnipeg Scottish Festival & Workshops

The Winnipeg Scottish Festival & Workshops including the Manitoba Open Championship to be held Feb 20th and 21st, 2010. Entries open January 4th, 2010.

Entry forms can be found online on the MHDA website <http://www.mbhighlanddance.com/>.

Tartan Press Submissions

Items to be published in the Tartan Press will be accepted up to two weeks prior to every M.H.D.A. competition.

Items may be sent by email to:

Laureen Wreggitt

lwreggitt@mts.net

The World of Dancing

I can still remember the first time I saw a highland dancer. The swaying of the kilt and the grace behind each movement the dancer made mesmerized me. At six years old I turned to my mother and said, "I was going to be a highland dancer." My love for dancing has taken me on an amazing journey. For seven years I was the provincial rep and in 2002 danced for the Queen to mark her golden jubilee. My experience as a competitive dancer and a teacher has taught me the importance of support from teachers and parents, yet I still got injured. Your dance performance hinges on high quality jumps, flexibility, and endurance. Now after studying the human body and working with hundreds of injuries as an athletic therapist, I want to enhance your abilities and performance to improve the quality of dance. My dream is to bring Manitoba dancers to the world stage with the highest quality of performance. Get supported and let's get you moving toward your dance dream.

My dance services include assessment of injuries or weaknesses, conditioning programs, Thai massage, nutritional information and much more. I am available for consultation through email or in person at my clinic. I give priority to dancers as well as a 10% discount for your initial assessment. Get on the path of performance improvement for your dancing.

Evelyn Ashton
Athletic therapist
Thai Massage therapist
evie.ashton@gmail.com
415 - 6491 /Cell : 298-5154

Total Rehabilitation sports and injury clinic
390 Provencher Blvd, Unit M



AN EVENING OF CHAMPIONS

Featuring
PM Alasdair Gillies
Voted "Best Piper of the 20th Century" by Piper and Drummer
Online
With an Opening Performance from Matt MacIsaac

Sunday, March 7, 2010
West End Cultural Centre - 586 Ellice Ave.
Doors Open 3 pm
Tickets \$10
(204)470-6063

Event presented by the Police Pipe Band and sponsored by the
St. Andrews Society of Winnipeg

Brandon Open Competition

~ Saturday March 13th ~

At the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium.

- Gold Sponsors for the Competition are City of Brandon and Royal Oak Inn
- Many other sponsors for the event.
- Many local dance families keen on volunteering for this year's competition
- Newland Sword will be awarded at this competition. There will be cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place winners of the Newland Sword of \$100.00, \$75.00, & \$50.00!
- Westman cable will cover this year's event & broadcast it on the local channel 12.
- Orders for DVD's will be taken at competition.
- There are rooms available at The Royal Oak Inn (1-204-728-5775) for both the Friday and Saturday nights at the discounted rate of \$104.99 if booked before the February 9th, quote MHDA or booking ref# 161013.
- Ceilidh Surprise will be at the competition to sell Highland Dance supplies.
- A coffee bar for little snacks will be in the foyer.
- There will be Scottish Auction Prizes.
- A pool /pizza party is being organized for the Saturday evening at the Royal Oak Inn (it has a water slide!)
- There will be two judges this year: Lorraine Symington & Katie Gardner
- The auditorium is a fantastic facility with a large stage, and comfortable seating.
- The event will be open to the public, free of charge
- Look out for the Scottish Auction as there are several good prizes already donated.

Watch the website www.mbhghlanddance.com for your entry form which will be online in late January/beginning of February and for any further updates on the competition.

Come along, visit Brandon, and enjoy the friendly competition and camaraderie.

Best Regards
Dorothy McHarg and George Hamilton



For Sale

Vest and kiltie in Red Erskine tartan
~ Excellent Condition ~
Fits ages 6-8 years.

Contact Allison: mursch@mts.net

Wanted

Jig shoes for a 10 year old
approx size 3-5
If you have a pair that you would like to sell

Contact Allison: mursch@mts.net

~ Kilt/Vest/Socks (2 pair) ~
from MacIsaac Kiltmakers
Dress Purple McKenzie
Will fit age 5 – 10 yrs \$550

~ Black Vest ~
Will fit 8 – 11 yrs \$50

~ Child's Blouse ~
Size small \$20

~ Red Jig Dress with Apron ~
from Marg's Highland Dance Wear
Size 10 \$50

~ Red Jig Shoes ~
Size 2 \$25

Contact Betty: 612-7167
e-mail: kbharder@mts.net

Dance outfits and shoes for sale:

~Green Jig Costume ~
-measures 18 inches from waist with 4 inches to let down,
size 10-14- \$60.00



Red Highland Jacket ~ size 10-12-\$125.00

Red Highland Vest~ size 8-10-\$60.00

Red Aboyne Vest ~ size 8-10-\$40.00

~Green Angelo Luzio Jig Shoes ~
size 4 1/2 and 6 in really good condition (new \$119.00)
asking-\$45.00

Contact Rosetta Matthews: cell 794-5942
matthewsrj@shaw.ca

Out of Town Results

Donna Cram School		
Regina - Nov 7, 2009		
Premier 12 & 13 years		
Julia Domke	4 th	Fling
	1 st	Sword
	3 rd	Seann Truibhas
	4 th	Blue Bonnets
	4 th	Village Maid
	4 th	Special jig 14 & under
Premier 15 & 16 years		
Erika Ramesar	1 st	Fling
	1 st	Sword
	1 st	Seann Truibhas
	1 st	Blue Bonnets
	1 st	Village Maid
		Trophy Winner
	1 st	Special Jig 14 & under
Premier 17 years & over		
Stacie Nixon	2 nd	Fling
	2 nd	Seann Truibhas
	4 th	Blue Bonnets
	1 st	Village Maid
	2 nd	Special Jig 15 & over

McGregor Studio of Dance		
ScotDance Canada Championship Series, Toronto, Ontario, July 1st - 5th, 2009		
Restricted premier		
Kim Hurst	4 th	½ Tulloch
	6 th	Hornpipe
	6 th	Village Maid

Attention All Dancers, Teachers, Parents,
Executive and Other Interested Highland Dance Supporters...

Just a reminder for all: ANYONE can submit articles/photos for the Tartan Press - MHDA executive - dancers - their parents - teachers. All submissions are welcome (may be edited). Such as...

- competition results,
- news from your dance school,
- news from the highland dance world
- upcoming events
- dancer diversions (article highlighting other areas of life our dancers are successful in),
- photos,
- thank you's,
- reports on dance outs and other highland events,
- trips, memories, etc. dealing with highland dance,
- dancer profiles,
- advertising
- letters to the editor
- buy and sell
- and more...

Do you have something to say? Get your pens/word processors ready and... we would love to hear from you.



SASKATOON 2010
ScotDance
Canada
 CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Volunteer Registration Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

I am a: _____ Dancer _____ Parent of Dancer _____ Professional _____ Other

How did you hear about the ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2010?

_____ Dancing Community _____ Friends _____ School
 _____ Radio/TV/newspaper _____ Business _____ Internet/Online Media

** Please note: You must be over 16 years old in order to volunteer.

Please indicate dates & areas of interest where you would be able to volunteer:

Tuesday, July 6, 2010 [set-up]

_____ morning
 _____ afternoon
 _____ evening

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

_____ morning
 _____ afternoon
 _____ evening

Thursday, July 8, 2010

_____ morning
 _____ afternoon
 _____ evening

Friday, July 9, 2010

_____ morning
 _____ afternoon
 _____ evening

Saturday, July 10, 2010

_____ morning
 _____ afternoon
 _____ evening

Sunday, July 11, 2010

_____ morning
 _____ afternoon
 _____ evening

**Morning shifts will generally be scheduled between 7:30 a.m. and noon, afternoon shifts between noon and 5:00 p.m., and evening between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., depending on the area.

**Times are approximate, as volunteer schedule will run in conjunction with competition schedule. You will be notified via e-mail at a later date once the schedule has been finalized.

Areas of Interest: (Feel free to indicate first, second, third choice, etc.)

Prior to July 7, 2010

_____ Marketing _____ Program _____ Sponsorship/Grants
 _____ Awards _____ Merchandise _____ Dancer Bags
 _____ Facilities/Tent _____ Banquet _____ Registration

July 7-11, 2010

_____ Registration _____ Facility Set Up _____ Hospitality – Rooms _____ Awards Presenter
 _____ Scoring _____ Vendor Set Up _____ Hospitality – Hotel _____ Awards Announcer
 _____ Marshalling _____ Clean Up _____ Transportation _____ Pin Exchange
 _____ Competition Announcer _____ Security _____ Banquet _____ Treasurer
 _____ Runner _____ Merchandise Sales _____ Opening Ceremonies
 _____ Information Ambassador _____ Program/Ticket Sales _____ Social

Please describe your previous highland competition experiences or other relevant volunteer experiences related to the areas you checked above:

Please mail your completed form to:

**Michelle Cowell
SDCCS 2010
P.O. Box 388
Star City, Sask.
S0E 1P0**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle at: immwcowell@xplornet.com. All further instructions & communications will be via e-mail.

For additional volunteer forms, feel free to make copies, or download them from the official event website: <http://www.scotdancecanada.ca/SDCCS2010/index.htm>

Thank you for helping us put on the “Reel” Event of 2010!