

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

January 2012

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a special thanks to Deloree McCallum for the generous donation of our Grand Prize, an Xbox 360 game system.

We had some corporate assistance this year. The following businesses made donations to our success:

McDonalds, Subway, Birchwood Automotive Group, Manitoba Hydro, and T & T Seeds.

I would also like to personally thank my committee: George Hamilton, Lorraine Morrison, Barb Watson and Rita Campbell. I really couldn't have done it without you. The added support of Janet McCombe and Zan Scott on set-up night was also greatly appreciated.

I look forward to being the coordinator again for the 2012 Tartan Tea. Anyone wanting to volunteer to help, please email me at lomand@mymts.net. Many hands make light work.

Thank you everyone!

Lisa Omand

Tartan Tea Coordinator

479-3021 or lomand@mymts.net



2011 Tartan Tea

This year's Tartan Tea was a great success! Thank You Everyone!

We sold a total of 421 tickets, took in \$152 with the 50/50 draw, \$456 at the Bake Sale, \$305 at the Jar Bar, \$285 with the Xbox, and \$972 at the Scottish Auction. After expenses, the MHDA has about \$3400 profit from the Tartan Tea.

There are many people who contributed to the organization and success of the Tartan Tea. Some by volunteering their time, some by donating prizes, some by contributing baking and jars and some did it all.

I can't begin to list every single volunteer, dancer, guest and contributor, so I would like to start with a general thanks to all the members of the MHDA for the generous support of this fundraiser. Whether you volunteered, donated or attended, you played a part in our success.

Thank you goes out to all the dancers. Without your talents to entertain us, the Tartan Tea would be very boring indeed. Also, thank you to all the teachers that choreographed and provided entertainment - Donna Cram, Kathy Ramesar, Kathy Hopper, Susan French, M'Liss Bunting, Zoë Wreggitt. Special thanks go out to Lorraine Morrison and Katie Burfoot-McMahon for coordinating the MHDA dance segments, Katie, again, for also being our MC and Adam Tingskou for his piping talents.

I would like to thank all the families and teachers that contributed door prizes and/or Scottish Auction baskets. Plus

Why I Love To Dance

Highland dancing has been a wonderful experience for me. I've been dancing for 4 years and I'm taking lessons with my dance teacher Zoë Wreggitt. My lessons, along with other dancers, are at the Glenwood Community Centre. The reason I chose highland dance, out of all the other dances, was because some of my other friends were also learning highland dance. After a year of lessons, I had a choice of continuing or not, I decided to continue because I enjoyed hopping a lot! Also, when I saw Zoë in one of her performances, I liked how she was so precise, exact and that she was jumping so high it only looked like she was touching the ground for a millisecond! When I saw that, I wanted to be able to do it too.

This year was my first year at the Tartan Tea, it was a great experience. It really shows that highland dance can be danced to any sort of music whether it's rock and roll or slow classic, it still works! The Tartan Tea has draws, dainties and of course, highland dancing. I think it's a great activity for the whole family and inspires those who would like to try Highland dancing.

Maria Charach

Age: 11



The following article was reprinted from **The Lance** November 30 2011:

Dancer Doesn't Let Tendonitis Stop Her

Catch Erika Ramesar next on stage Dec. 3

By: Terryn Shiells



Erika Ramesar (left) represented Manitoba at the Canadian championships in Antigonish last summer with fellow dancer Stacie Nixon.

Dancing has been both a pain and a pleasure for Erika Ramesar.

Ramesar, a 16-year-old Collège Jeanne-Sauvé student, is one of the top highland dancers in Manitoba and has represented the province at the Canadian championships for the past eight years.

It hasn't always been easy for the St. Vital-based Ramesar, though.

She has tendonitis in her knees — a condition more commonly known as jumper's knees — which makes dancing painful.

"It's from dancing too much" she said. "And not taking care of it enough. The more you dance the more it hurts."

Still, Ramesar hasn't let it curtail her promising dance career.

"I just deal with it, lots of icing and Advil," she said. "Because it's fun, it's all I do and it keeps me in shape."

Ramesar won her first championship at nine years old, just six years after she started taking lessons with teacher Donna Cram.

"My sister did it and I was really jealous," she said. "So I really wanted to do it. And, my mom was a dancer too."

Highland dancing is an athletic, solo dance that originated in Scotland and has several links to Scottish military history. It

features bagpipe music and dancers are often outfitted in kilts and matching socks.

Ramesar's career highlights include multiple mid-Canada championship titles and winning the 14-year-old division at the North American championships in Toronto in 2009.

"I was in the airport and I got a call saying I won North Americans," she said. "I was basically in shock. I didn't really say anything and my mom was just like 'No way'."

Ramesar said highland dancing has taught her more than just a series of moves.

"I've learnt poise, confidence, grace, discipline and competition," she said.

Ramesar has had the opportunity to travel across Canada to compete in various competitions. She also participates in competitions run by the Manitoba Highland Dancers' Association and Scotdance Manitoba about 10 times each year.

Ramesar said there is more to highland dancing than just winning trophies.

"Just knowing that I can do it," she said. "I'm just proud of myself that I can do it all."

Ramesar will take to the stage again Sat., Dec. 3 at the MHDA's annual tartan tea. The show will begin at 1 p.m. at the St. James Civic Centre and tickets are \$5.



Out of Town Results

Shona McHarg School of Dance

Emily Alexander (Novice)

Fling	6 th
Sword	4 th
Strathspey and Highland Reel	4 th
Flora	3 rd



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: Lauren Wreggitt

lwreggitt@mts.net

