

TARTAN PRESS

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

January 2015

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Our performers & their teachers for the beautiful show. Schools involved: French, Ramesar, Cram, Court, Highland Hoppers, Impey, McCallum, Bunting & Kids in Kilts.

Irene Baird, M'Liss Bunting, Donna Cram, Christine Finnbogason, Susan French, Kathy Hopper, Jillian Impey, Beth McCallum, Kathy Ramesar & Zoe Wreggit for all their encouragement, advice, prize baskets, organizing of volunteers and continued support.

Our Dance-out coordinators Lauren Mitchell-Lawson and Jennifer Watson for organizing the MHDA traditional segment, plus the dancers that performed and Adam Tingskou for piping.

Heather Oliphant of Heather's Pretty Parties for the beautiful face-painting and Craig Oliphant for appearing as Santa.

Thanks as well to our celebrity MC, Dave Wheeler of 92 citi fm McDonald's Canada for the donation of the orange drink and 2 prize packs Captain Unfried and everyone at Minto Armoury. The St Andrew's Society for their generous donation Stewart Trophies & Engraving for the prize donation The MHDA Executive for all their support, advice and assistance.

Our move was not without hiccups and glitches, but in the end, it was a wonderful an successful fundraiser. I look forward to doing it all over again this year. Mark your calendars, because we have tentatively booked the Tartan Tea 2015 for Saturday, December 5, once again at Minto Armoury.

Also, if you are interested in a behind the scenes role in the organization of the Tartan Tea, please contact me at tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com. I will gladly share the responsibilities.

Thank you,
Lisa Omand
Tartan Tea Coordinator

The Tartan Tea was a tremendous success!

We did it! We have successfully moved the Tartan Tea to a more spacious venue. On Saturday, December 6, 2014, over 480 people (our highest attendance yet) attended the Tartan Tea at its new home, Minto Armoury. There was room for everyone to move around, visit the various tables and find a good vantage point to see the dancers.

Many thanks go out to all those that danced, volunteered, donated and of course attended. Many hands make lighter work and with the new requirement of setting up and taking down all the tables, chairs and staging, this became more tre than ever.

While I coordinate the madness, I certainly don't do all the work. I had some much needed help. Thank yous go out to: Kathy Hopper and her school for helping with set up, with the added help from Janet McCombe, Janie Watt, Barb Watson, Keith Rempel & Janet Anderson. Allan McIntosh, his friends, Kelly & Jeff, and Belfour Restoration for the transport, set up and removal of the staging
Kathy Ramesar, her school & Janet Anderson for the tear-down of the stage and clean-up of Minto Armoury



MHDA Membership Survey

MHDA wants to know more about its members! Below is a short survey that you can copy and paste and fill out electronically. Once you are finished, please e-mail your answers to Gayle Roy, at geawalker@hotmail.com. Your help is greatly appreciated!

- ❖ Are you a new member or a renewing member?
- ❖ Why did you decide to be a member of MHDA?
- ❖ In your opinion, what about MHDA is working?
- ❖ What about MHDA could be improved?
- ❖ Any additional comments/suggestions



MHDA Trophy Trivia

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ That the majority of MHDA perpetual trophies have been sponsored by dance teachers, former and current dancers, their families and other supporters of highland dance in Manitoba.
- ❖ That MHDA awards a minimum of approximately 15 - 20 keeper trophies at each competition.
- ❖ That keeper trophies have been generously donated by dance teachers and retired dancers, providing a significant cost saving to MHDA and its members.
- ❖ That YOU can help maintain MHDA perpetual trophies by ensuring that loose name plates are reattached to the trophy, any damage is repaired and the trophy is returned in good condition.
- ❖ That YOU can support MHDA by donating new or recycled keeper trophies for upcoming competitions.

If you have any questions or would like to donate a perpetual trophy, keeper trophies or funds to assist with refurbishing existing perpetual trophies, please contact Janie Peterson Watt, Medals and Trophies Chairperson, at 204-253-7154 or jwatt10175@aol.com. Thank you.

SDCCS 2016 Will Be Here Before We Know It!

As many of you know the ScotDance Canada Championship Series (SDCCS) is being hosted in our very own Winnipeg in July 2016. The committees have begun working on planning the event already and we hope you will consider being part of this national event.

This is a great event for dancers of all levels and ages, with competitions for everyone, including the Canadian and ScotDance Canada Open Championships.

“It is an incredible opportunity for all Manitoba dancers to dance with the best dancers from around the world and, most importantly, make dance friends from around the world,” Susanne Robertson, co-chair of SDCCS 2016 said.

We are very lucky to have Donna Cram and Susanne Robertson and all of our dance schools, teachers and 2004 volunteers returning to put on another world class event. When we last hosted this event in 2004, it was very successful. People are still talking about it!

As you know, fundraising has already begun for the event, with the savings cards that each MHDA member was provided to help raise funds for this size of an event. Turn your money into your teacher before the January 24 competition or continue to sell them if you can! More will be available at the competition.

The details for the next fundraiser will be released soon, as it will take place in early spring. Thanks to all members in advance for helping with the ongoing fundraising efforts.

All of the money raised will benefit our dancers and their enjoyment of the event, not to mention making this truly a world class event for the expected 650 dancers from all over the world.

Keep your eyes peeled for e-mails and more info in the Tartan Press about what YOU can do to help make SDCCS 2016 a roaring success.

“SDCCS 2016 will be a success if all dancers feel welcomed, new friends are made, there is more awareness about highland dancing in Manitoba and there will be funds raised to support highland dancing in Manitoba in the future,” Robertson added.

The different committees range from competition, to awards, marketing, media, program, fundraising, sponsorship or events. Many schools have volunteered to take on certain areas. If you would like to help please talk to your teacher or e-mail sdccs2016@gmail.com.



Dance Outfits Are Fun!



L to R: Claire Schon, Julia Domke, Kelsey Wog and Lauren McCombe participate in a danceout for the St. Andrew's Society Men's dinner on November 28.

There are plenty of dance out opportunities for MHDA dancers throughout the year, everyone keep your eye out for updates. The next dance out is Monday, January 26 at Riverwood Square to celebrate Robbie Burns Day.

Don't forget every year MHDA presents an award for dancers who participate in the most dance-outs!



Tartan Press Submissions

Thank-you to everyone who sent in items to be published in the Tartan Press lately, it is greatly appreciated!

Though I do get many great submissions, I could always use more! I want to continue improving the Tartan Press with more news about our dancers, fun facts, and photos!

If anyone dances out of town, please send me results, a photo, or a story of how the experience went.

Again, thank you to everyone who have contributed and do so regularly, watch your e-mail for a reminder for submissions for the next issue in March.

All submissions can be sent to Terryn Shiells via e-mail at terryn.shiells@gmail.com. And don't forget you can send your items for sale in to the Tartan Press as well!

Upcoming Events

January 24, 2015 – Closed competition run by MHDA at the St. James Civic Centre in Winnipeg, 2055 Ness Ave. Closing date for entries was January 16, 2015. Pre-premier dancers register at 9:00 a.m., dance at 9:30 a.m. Premier dancers register at 12:00 p.m., dance following the morning awards. Good luck to all dancers, especially premier dancers tackling long steps in competition for the first time this season!

January 26, 2015 – Highland dance out at Riverwood Square to help seniors celebrate Robbie Burns Day. Good luck and have fun to all dancers participating!

February 21, 2015 – Open Winnipeg Scottish Festival and Championship, run by ScotDance Manitoba, taking place at CanadInns Polo Park in Winnipeg, 1405 St. Matthews Avenue. Primary and pre-premier events are scheduled for 9:00 a.m., with the first Championship of 2015, the Manitoba Open, set to take place at 1:00 p.m.

February 22, 2015 – Highland dance workshops with the adjudicators from Saturday's competition, plus a yoga classes. Premier championship workshop runs from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m., followed by yoga from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The pre-premier dancers have an introduction to yoga for children workshop from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., followed by highland from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Various dates in late February – Medal test exams will be taking place following the February competition. Good luck to all dancers completing exams!

March 14, 2015 – MHDA Open competition set to be held at the St. James Civic Centre in Winnipeg. Stay tuned for more details!

April 11, 2015 – ScotDance Manitoba will host an open competition, set to be held at Balmoral Hall in Winnipeg. More details will be released closer to the competition.

May 2, 2015 – Provincial selection meet championship and closed competition, set to be held at the St. James Civic Centre, in Winnipeg. Many dancers are already preparing for this competition!

June 6 & 7, 2015 – The final MHDA competition of the season, Mid-Canada. Saturday is a Championship for premier dancers, and Sunday is the Lord Selkirk Premiership. Both days include pre-premier competitions. A competition that everyone looks forward to, as the venue at the canopy at the Forks in Winnipeg is fun to dance at!