

# Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

June 2008

## Executive

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Vacant

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## Folklorama Fast Approaching...

It seems that the year flies by in the Scottish community. The dedicated volunteers from the Pavilion of Scotland are hard at work preparing for this year's festival. Scotland will be in week two, August 10th to 16th. The MHDA part of the nightly entertainment is open to dancers of any age and ability, from Primary to Premiere. Dancers are welcome to perform on just one evening or every show (show times are 6:15 and 8:55 nightly). To sign up, please contact Alison Thomson at [thomson8@mts.net](mailto:thomson8@mts.net) or add your name to the Folklorama list at the Mid-Canada competition. The performers receive a half price meal ticket for the evening, and dancers under sixteen may bring one adult to assist them.

We also have great opportunities for the parents that want to get involved. We have a variety of volunteer areas that will allow a parent to dress their dancer and see them perform. There is always a need for people to cover meal breaks in all areas, as well as plenty of work clearing tables. Please consider signing up to assist, or bring non-dancing siblings to help out too. We have jobs for younger children as well. A half price meal ticket and supper break will be provided to volunteers. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Pat Allan at [amms@shaw.ca](mailto:amms@shaw.ca) or 222-3836 to register.

Other important dates to mark on your calendar are the Volunteer Night at the Heather Curling Club, 120 Youville St., on Wednesday, June 11th at 8pm, and the trailer unloading and Pavilion set up evening, scheduled for Thursday, July 31st at 6pm. We also need some strong volunteers earlier that day (1pm and 4:30pm) to move the stage and set (contact [amms@shaw.ca](mailto:amms@shaw.ca) if you are available). Many hands make light work, and we have jobs for people of all ages and strengths. We hope to see you all on July 31st for set up, and more importantly, August 10th to 16th to show our city our Scottish pride.



## 2008 Scholarship Winners!

The Selection Committee is very pleased to advise that Terryn Shiells is this year's winner of the scholarship that was set up with the funds earned from the very successful 2004 ScotDance Canada Championship Series held here in Winnipeg. Terryn demonstrated in her application and essay that she truly displays competitive, community and sportsmanship spirit as well as a love for and dedication to highland dance. Please read Terryn's essay, included in this Tartan Press, to see why she is a very worthy winner of the \$500 premier scholarship.

The winner of the \$500 pre-premier scholarship is Allison Unruh. Allison is a very talented and enthusiastic young dancer who is excited to be going with her family to the 2008 ScotDance Canada Championship Series in Victoria this July. This year a \$100 honourable mention award was also given in the pre-premier category to Meaghan Fennell, who demonstrated her love for highland dancing and is also going to the Championship Series in Victoria.

Congratulations dancers!

We were very pleased to receive so many great applications this year – we encourage everyone who wasn't successful this year to apply again next year.

The 2004 ScotDance Canada Championship Series Scholarship Selection Committee.

# The Spirit of Highland Dance



By Terryn Shiells

An Essay for the ScotDance Canada Championship Series  
Funds Scholarship Award

Presented to: The ScotDance Canada Championship Series  
Funds Scholarship Award Selection Committee

April 15th 2008

What is the true spirit of dance? Is it the dedication it takes to succeed, the determination to improve yourself and the dance community? Or is it the way dance affects your life and personality? I believe that the true spirit is all of these things and more. I believe that I deserve this scholarship because I truly do demonstrate the spirit of highland dance.

For the past fourteen years of my life I have done nothing but eat, sleep and highland dance. It has been the one and only thing that has earned my full dedication. Over the years there has been soccer, basketball, curling, badminton and track but highland has always come first. It started when soccer was on the same nights as dance and I had to choose between the two and I am absolutely certain that I made the right choice. Next came the injuries that would leave me with the choice to quit dance or basketball and once again I made the right choice. I've competed in every single competition that I could and

was always sad when I had to miss one because of illness or injury. For me competition is about more than just winning. Winning may be the cherry on top but how good is a cherry on its own? I remember when I first started highland dancing I couldn't really dance at all, my little legs were so fragile and I could barely even hop. I truly believe that my dedication is what brought me to where I am today and will carry me along into the future.

I believe that my person has been strongly impacted by the sport of highland dancing. Whether it be the years making friendships across the world, experiencing so many different ways of life or simply going to dance class. Every moment teaches you something. I've learnt and developed so many skills and techniques through dance that will help me in my future. I've learnt great communication skills, gained self esteem, how to deal with mistakes, discipline, perseverance and tenacity. What I feel is most important that I've gained from highland dance is commitment. Because I have shown the world that I can be fully committed to any and everything I do I was elected to be on my school's student council this year. Because highland dance has impacted me so much I feel like I should never let it escape my life.

In the future I plan on being involved with highland dance as long as I can. Though I may not compete until I'm 30 I want to do everything I can to keep the sport alive and well. I know that recently our competition numbers have been down and I really want to revive the sport. One way I want to do that is through teaching. I recently passed my associate's exam with distinction and plan on opening my own dance school as soon as I can. I feel like it's important for everyone to compete and not necessarily just to win but for the enriching experience. That is why I'm going to encourage all of my students to become members of MHDA and ScotDance Canada and enter all the local competitions, the same way I always have. I also plan on helping out with the MHDA and volunteering for them. Once I'm out of university and done competing I'd really like to have a full time spot on the board. Seeing my mum help out at all the competitions since I was five years old has really inspired me to do the same someday. I loved and still love having a lot of local competitions and I want my children to have the same opportunities as I did. That is why I want to help improve the sport of highland dance. I'm definitely hoping my peers will step up to the plate with me and create a really bright future for the sport we all love and know so well.

To conclude I'd like to just refresh your minds. The true spirit of dance is the dedication it requires, the willingness to improve the sport in the future, how it impacts you and your life and many more things. I truly believe that I do demonstrate all of these qualities and more. I am fully dedicated to highland dance and I plan on helping the sport stay live and hopefully watch it grow. Also, highland dancing has truly formed me as a person, body, mind and soul.



# Manitoba Highland Gathering

A Manitoba Community Family Fun Event

~ June 28th, 2008 ~

**Come Celebrate Our 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary!!**

Western Canada's finest Highland Gathering!

Held in the beautiful Selkirk Park.

The day starts at 9:00 am with The Pancake Breakfast. You will be treated to the colorful sights and sounds of a Highland Dance Competition, Pipe Band and Individual Piping and Drumming competitions as well as Heavy Games and the 17th Annual Provincial Marathon Canoe & Kayaking Championships.

Other attractions such as Sheep Shearing, Sheep Dog Trials, Diamond Disc Dogs, Highland Cattle, Clan Booths to research your heritage, Wee Heavy Games and "Wee Folks for fun and face painting, Rugby matches, as well as, an expanded Scottish Market, Scottish Pub, The Red Lion (Scottish Food Concession) other food and craft vendors. RAIN or SHINE!!

Early Bird Tickets.

Bring your chair and umbrella

Experience the centuries-old tradition of colour, pageantry and good time!!!

For further information, please contact:  
Joyce Neyedly at 204-794-6587.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to our own Reagan Robertson who is marrying Raj Maniar on Saturday June 21, 2008!

Best wishes from your friends at MHDA.



Reagan and Raj at Glebe Stone, Scotland

## How's That For Dedication?



Dance teacher, Lorraine (Court) McLean doing student Gwendolyn Richer's hair the morning of the April 12th competition a day and a half after her daughter, Emilie Jennifer was born.

Congratulations to Lorraine and husband, Ian on the birth of your daughter!



## Out of Town Results

Linda Tellier School of Highland Dance		
Regina Highland Games		
Sunday, May 18, 2008		
<b>Novice 10 &amp; Over</b>		
Jennifer Watt	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fling
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sword
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Seann Truibhas
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Lilt
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Flora
		Winner of the Keeper Trophy sponsored by Sutton School of Scottish Dance

## Dancer Diversions...

Highland dancers are successful, involved, energetic people. Let us know what you are up to outside of Highland dance.

Send email to [lwreggitt@mts.net](mailto:lwreggitt@mts.net).

## For Sale

Blue Velvet Highland Jacket with gold braid \$75  
 Hornpipe outfit with hat \$40  
 Cherry red National vest \$20  
 Nova Scotia socks (from Ireland) \$65  
 Red jig dress (reversible, the other side is green) \$45

All items fit slender 8 – 12 year old

Contact Laureen Wreggitt at 231-0759  
[lwreggitt@mts.net](mailto:lwreggitt@mts.net)

1 kilt, Jacket & Socks  
 Size approx. 8-12 (slim build)  
 Color – Red, Black & White Stripe  
 I am not sure the name of the tartan

1 Kilt, Jacket & Socks  
 Size approx. 8-12 (slim build)  
 Color - Orange, White, Blue & Yellow  
 I do not know the name of the tartan

Contact: Shirley Van der Tol  
 224-8285

Small Blue & White Kilt, Vest & Socks  
 Size approx. age 5-8yrs (petite build)  
 Red & White Kilt 2 Vests different sizes, socks  
 Size approx. age 9 -11 yrs  
 National Red Vest Red & White skirt (2 outfits)  
 1 size approx. 7-9 yrs  
 1 size approx. 8 – 11 yrs  
 Call Audrey at 256-7951

## 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](mailto:lwreggitt@mts.net)

## MHDA Website

The Tartan Press is available online at the Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association Website: [www.mbhighlanddance.com](http://www.mbhighlanddance.com)

Please send any photos for the website to:

Keith Rempel  
[myrddin@mts.net](mailto:myrddin@mts.net)

