

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

June 2009

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Message from the President

So summer is here at last and it is time for the Mid-Canada Championship. Seasons come and go with everything in life and MHDA is no different. This is the last competition MHDA holds in the 08-09 year. Our membership will stay busy with highland dancing events after this but it does mark a significant change of seasons for our organization. Looking back over this year I am sure you can agree that it has been a busy year.

There have been many highlights:

- Brandon. I cannot express how delighted I am that so many dancers came to that competition. I still can't believe the wonderful support we received from the Brandon community to help us put on such a great event.
- We ran a Pipe Practice to help develop our new pipers and at the same time raised money to support the "Fling for Logan" Fund.
- Dance Outs: Our dancers have been busy this year getting out and dancing in the community.
- AGM: I want to thank all of our membership who came out to the AGM. It was great to get so much valuable input. A lot of the ideas generated are already being implemented. Thanks very much to all those who have agreed to take on executive positions and committee positions for the 09-10 year. Also thanks very much to all

of those who filled those roles this year; your efforts and your enthusiasm for highland dance is wonderful.

- Manitoba Championship: Congratulations to all of the Manitoba Champions and Runners Up.
- Provincial Reps: Thanks and good luck to all of our dancers who will be representing our province in Toronto this year. We are very fortunate to have such great representation for highland dancing in Manitoba.

This year has been an adventure for me. I know that I have learned a lot in a very short period of time. I am really looking forward to tackling some new ideas and initiatives for the 09-10 year.

Best regards,
George Hamilton
President

2009 MHDA PROVINCIAL REPS

PREMIER AGE CLASS	PLACING	DANCER NAME
7 & Under 10 Years	Trophy Winner	Allison Unruh
	1st runner-up	Meaghan Fennell
10 & Under 12 Years	Champion	Rachel Unruh
	1st runner-up	Kelsey Wog
	2nd runner-up	Kim Hurst
12 & Under 14 Years	Champion	Julia Domke
	1st runner-up	Tera Kusano
	2nd runner-up	Madison Leonard
14 & Under 16 Years	Champion	Erika Ramesar
	1st runner-up	Alia Cappellani
	2nd runner-up	Lauren McCombe
16 - Under 18 Years	Champion	Colleen McGregor
	1 st runner-up	Tara Campbell (unable to attend)
	2nd runner-up	Jessica Oliphant
	3 rd runner-up	Gwendolyn Richer
18 Years & Over	Champion	Stacie Nixon (unable to attend)
	1 st runner-up	Yvonne Raymond
	2nd runner-up	Sean Raymond
	3 rd runner-up	Julie McClurg

The **Winnipeg Police Pipe Band** has released a new CD titled "Legacy" which showcases the band and local artists Sean Johnston, Colleen Morrison and others. CD's are available for \$10 plus shipping from any member of the band or by contacting admin@winnipegpipeband.net



MHDA President George Hamilton and Primary Dancer Giselle Morrison performing the Seann Truibhas at Folklorama's Pavilion of Scotland



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 for the Tartan Press may be sent by email to: Lauren Wreggitt lwreggitt@mts.net

Dedication Ceremony of Sarah's Swords

On Saturday, June 6th a special dedication ceremony of "Sarah's Swords" will take place at the beginning of the morning awards at the Forks Market during the Mid-Canada Championships and Competitions. Sarah Brown who was a student and assistant teacher of mine, passed away as the result of a vehicle accident on September 10th, 2007 at the age of 20 years. She was the beloved daughter of Phil and Cyndi Brown, long time members of the Manitoba Highland Dancers' Association and supporters of anything Scottish. She was sister to Shawn, a former member of the Boy Scout Pipe Band, 177 Air Cadet Pipe Band and currently with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. During the many years she was a student of mine, I noticed that she naturally gravitated to the young dancers, especially the Primary dancers of whom she so dearly loved, and they her. In her soft spoken way, she was able to guide these Primary dancers along their first basic movements and steps for which they will long remember.

Sarah always loved the challenge of a good strong Sword Dance, executing her infamous split high cuts with grace and ease. All her dance mates would stand in awe as she, with no bother at all, would extend her little legs out the widest – always the winner in the split high cut pretend competitions we had in class! It is only fitting that in honour of Sarah's name that the beautiful, white handled flat swords be used in the Primary Class at any and all competitions held in Manitoba. The swords are inscribed with Sarah's name as well as, "Airson gaol air dannsa" which is "For the Love of Dance" in Gaelic flowing down each blade.

History tells us that the Sword Dance is a dance of victory. Each Primary dancer who is fortunate to dance over these swords will be victorious regardless of the competition and will be told one day all about the young, beautiful girl who won her victory in highland dance as well!

Gaelyn McGregor



MHDA Dance Outs & Volunteer Participation

Manitoba Highland Dancers Association, is a non-profit organization of volunteers whose goal is to preserve the Scottish heritage in Manitoba through dance. We accomplish this goal by holding dance competitions every year and several "dance outs" at various city venues including Folklorama.

MHDA has established an annual perpetual trophy called the "Sharing Scottish Spirit Honour Award" in recognition of both a Pre-premier and Premier dancer who through their volunteer participation in MHDA Dance Outs has shown their dedication to our association and goal of preserving Scottish

culture. This year the Keeper Trophies will be awarded in memory of MHDA Honourary Members Beth Gibbon and Marlene Stephen who have sadly passed away.

From May 2008 to April 2009, MHDA held 8 dance outs involving approximately 40 dancers. For several of these dance outs MHDA received honorariums while for others, we performed free of charge, to support community or charity events. Last year, dancers of all ages performed at the Mustang Charity Hockey Tournament for Sick Children, Dragon Boat Races in support of Breast Cancer and Carriage House North Christmas Dinner. Some dancers also travelled to Steinbach to perform in the Eastman Immigrant Services Cultural Evening and promotion of MHDA included interviews with local radio stations and an advertisement their calendar. Premier dancer's performed in a Military Tattoo held at the MTS Center and inside the souvenir program was a write-up about MHDA. Television cameras were on hand at the Selkirk Settler's Dedication Ceremonies which included MHDA dancer volunteer parade participants and at the recent dance competition held in Brandon.

Folklorama – The Pavilion of Scotland has continued to be a big success for MHDA with approximately 25 to 35 dancers performing each night for two shows. Additionally, to promote our organization, a new initiative was taken where foam swords were given out to audience volunteers who participated in a Free Trial Lesson in the "Kid's Korner" as well as a Teacher's Contact List and MHDA Brochures were distributed.

Dance outs are a great way to promote our organization and highland dancing in our community.

Additionally, Dance-outs provide the dancers with the opportunity to showcase their talent in a non competitive environment and gain stage confidence while making friends with dancers from other schools.

We would like to thank all the dancers and their parents who volunteered their time for the dance outs and, in particular, those that helped us out by running some of the dance outs! Please advise MHDA's Dance-Out Coordinator Moira Melvin at mmelvin9@mts.net if you are aware of any Dance-out opportunities available in your community or local schools.

Receive High School Volunteer Credit Hours For Participation in MHDA Dance Outs or Volunteering at Competitions

MHDA recognizes that it is a big commitment for high school students to participate in Dance Outs with the demands of their; school work, participation in extracurricular activities and part time employment positions that they may have. At several high schools there are programs where students can obtain course credit for volunteering. Based on discussions with school representatives this would apply to students who volunteer to perform at Dance-outs or assisting at Dance Competitions.

Please contact Kelly Graham-Miele at s.miele@shaw.ca, if you would like MHDA to confirm your volunteer time for school course credit hours.

Dancer Diversions...

Four students from the McGregor Studio of Dance recently participated in the Winnipeg Music Festival and were extremely successful!

Rachel Unruh won 2 of her classes and the 10 yrs. & under Best Female Voice, Frances E. Wickberg Trophy and Scholarship. Meaghan Fletcher won 4 classes and the 14 yrs. & under Best Female Voice, Ladies' Orange Benevolent Trophy and Scholarship for the second time. Colleen McGregor (Furlan) previously had won both the Frances E. Wickberg and Ladies' Orange Benevolent Trophies and Scholarships and this year won 3 of her classes as well as 1st Runner-Up in the 16yrs. & under, W.H. Anderson Trophy Class and was also recommended by the adjudicator to sing in the Provincial Music Festival in the Junior Canadian Composer/Mozart Category in May. Christina Thomson won 1st Runner-up in the Grade 5 Piano Solo, Romantic Composers class.

Congratulations to these very talented dancers and musicians!

Congratulations to Colleen McGregor who recently successfully passed her Associate Teacher's Professional Exam with "Distinction"!

Folklorama

Pavilion of Scotland
August 2 - 8th, 2009
New Location
Glenwood Community Centre
27 Overton Avenue, Winnipeg

Manitoba Highland Dancers' Association will be performing again this year at Folklorama's Pavilion of Scotland. Please take note that the location of the Pavilion has changed to the Glenwood Community Centre.

If you would like to volunteer as a Dancer or at the MHDA Booth, arrangements have been made for your convenience to register in one of the following ways;

1. **Register Online** - through our MHDA website at www.mbhighlanddance.com prior to July 18th
2. **In Person** - sign-up sheets will be available for registration at the June 6 & 7 competition held at the Forks as well as the Selkirk Highland Gathering June 20th.

Following the Main stage performance, if you are a Premier Dancer and would like to assist in teaching a Free-Trial Lesson at the Pavilion's Kid's Korner, please indicate this in the space provided on your Registration Form.

Note: If you are unable to find your MHDA Membership Number please submit your registration with this area blank. We have this information on file and can complete this part of the form, for you.

For Sale

Kilt/ Vest/ Socks
From MacIsaac Kiltmakers
Dress Blue Earl of Skye tartan
Fits age 7 – 10 years: \$350
Call Sheila @ 453-3962

Kilt with Vest & Socks
From MacIsaac Kilts
Dress Wine Sutherland tartan
Will fit age 7 -10 years: \$350

Purple Highland Jacket
bought last spring from Tartantown
Size 32, (medium) Excellent condition,
\$175 OBO

Billy Forsythe Ghillies
Size 6, worn just 5 times,
Excellent condition: \$35
Call Lori@ 453-1750

Wanted highland vest
approx. size 14-16 kids royal blue or black

Wanted horn pipe hat.
Call Cheryl Andre 237-3841

For sale red Jig shoes size 1, \$25
Royal blue with silver braiding highland jacket size 10-12, \$65
Black with silver braiding highland vest size 3, \$25.
Call Cheryl 237-3841

1-small teen size used dance jacket \$75
- Black Velvet, lining, goat hair stiffener purchased to make a
dance jacket for medium size teen dancer \$79
Contact: Heather 1-204-638-7192

Out of Town Results

Donna Cram School	
Regina Spring Competition April 4/09	
Julia Domke	Premier 12+13 yrs
1st Fling	
1st Sword	
1st ST	
1st Reel	
TROPHY WINNER	
Emma Domke	Premier 16 yrs and over.
6th Sword	
Hawaii, USA - April 4 & 5, 2009	
Tara and Kalee Campbell - both dancers had an extremely successful experience at this 2 day event in Hawaii!	
At the completion of each competition day, the girls were invited to provide an additional 30 minute highland demo for the audience, while the dances/steps were explained. An interesting cool down in the tropical temperatures!	

MHDA Website

The Tartan Press is available online at the Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association Website: www.mbhighlanddance.com

Please send any photos for the website to:
Keith Rempel
myrddin@mts.net

