

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

June 2011

Executive

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Past President / Chair

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Vice-President

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Deb Kusano 253-9008 kusanod@mts.net

Secretary

Jennifer UnRuh

Membership

Diana Simpson dsimpson@mbhighlanddance.com

Competition Coordinator

Annika Pineau

Competition Director

Suzanne Sinclair

Finance Director

Deanne Magnus

ScotDance Representatives

Kathy Hopper khopper@mbhighlanddance.com

Kathy Ramesar kramesar@mbhighlanddance.com

-As a competition organizer we are extremely successful in that we usually host about 7 days worth of competition each year. Most organizations do not do that many and we should be very proud of how we accomplish this each year.

-We showcase highland dancing very well. MHDA provides many opportunities to show case highland dance to the public through dance outs, The Tartan Tea and at folklorama.

-Taking the Manitoba Highland Dancers' Association outside the Perimeter Highway was a very big goal that we had over the past three years. There of course was highland dancing outside Winnipeg but if our organization wants to grow we need to be involved in promoting ourselves to dancers and the general public in other cities and rural Manitoba. Hosting a competition in Brandon was one step in this and it needs ongoing resolve to make sure that it continues.

-On the financial side of things we are healthy because we have had reserves of money to help us. We have made real strides in exercising more control over our funds and better use of them. It is not easy to figure out where to cut and where to spend but I believe that we are going in the right direction of living within our means. We are also gaining some ground in the fundraising area and I hope that new revenue can be generated in the future so we have money to better meet our goals.

As I said in the title: "At least we are talking". By that I mean that we are conscious of the goals that need to be focused on. The one area that I hope that the next executive and all of you will keep in mind going forward is growth. We need more dancers. Not just for MHDA but for highland dancing in general. If you can do anything to help get more people interested in highland dance then Do It! Bring a friend to dance class. Give someone a dance teacher's phone number. Take your teachers and start a school. Do whatever you can do. It is involvement in highland that will keep this link to Scottish culture going and thriving.

I am very grateful for all the support I have had over the past few years as president. It is impossible to thank everyone by name. True friends tell you when you are right but also when they think you are wrong but they are always there to help you back up after a stumble.

Message from the President

At Least We Are Talking

Well It's been a few years now since someone said "how about you George" in regards to being nominated at an AGM. I believe my response was "ummmmmmmmm ahhh well I guess I could" or something like that. With that resounding certainty I ended up being president for three years. I remember how terrified I was that I would mess everything up and everyone would be really mad at me!

So I sat down and read the constitution and talked to people and started putting some mental notes together and came up with lists of stuff that had to be done.

The problem with to do lists is that invariably a lot of things don't get checked off. This is often because new tasks come along that you didn't expect. I often find it discouraging to look back and see all the items on a list that have not been checked off. I really have to force myself to look at the glass in a half full way rather than half empty. It is important to stay positive and focus on the accomplishments. At our Annual General Meeting this spring I did some outlining of where MHDA is in my presidents report.

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I remain president until the end of our year with the current executive. After that time I take on the role of Past President and Chairperson for the meetings.

In the new dancing year our executive will be as elected at our AGM:

President: Craig Oliphant, Vice President: Keith Rempel, Secretary: Jennifer UnRuh, Treasurer: Lorraine Morrison, Finance Director: Deanne Magnus, Membership Director: Diana Simpson, Competition Co-ordinator: Zan Sinclair, Competition Director: Annika Pineau

Deb Kusano is retiring from the position of treasurer at the end of this dance year. I would like to give her a special thank you for her many years of service.

Good luck to all of the competitors dancing in the Mid-Canada Championships June Competition, The Selkirk Highland Gathering and all of those traveling to Antigonish Nova Scotia for the Scot Dance Canada Championship Series.

Best Regards

George Hamilton, President MHDA



Dancer Diversions...

This August, Kelsey Wog, along with 73 other swimmers from across Canada, will join together as a team to swim at the North American Challenge Cup in Puerto Vallarta.

She qualified herself in the Women 11-12 Sprint Freestyle (50m free, 100m free) category. She will be competing against the top swimmers from the United States West Coast and Mexico.



Kelsey with her medals that she won at ShortCourse Man./Sask. in Saskatoon

Folklorama 2011

MHDA will once again be performing at Folklorama this Summer. The Pavilion of Scotland will run from July 31 - August 6, 2011. Each evening there will be two performances. If you are interested in volunteering for this dance out please let me know at your earliest opportunity. Please email your name, dance level and the nights you are available to dance to jillian@lctaylor.net



For Sale

Dress Red Menzies tartan kiltie
with matching socks,
and red sleeveless vest with silver piping
~ price \$200.00 ~
Fits approx 8-10 year old.

If interested, contact me for measurements and photo.

mursch@mymts.net



Selkirk • Manitoba • Canada

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011
SELKIRK PARK

Thank you...

Giselle and her family would like to say thank you for honoring her with the MHDA Pre-Premier Scholarship this year. It is definitely one of her proudest moments and certainly one she will remember forever. She has many goals and dreams in Highland Dance and this will certainly help contribute to her realization of those.

With kindest thanks from Giselle and family



With sadness we share notice on the passing of MHDA Honorary Member, Myrna-Lou McGregor. We express our heartfelt condolences to Myrna's family.

MYRNA-LOU MCGREGOR (published on June 06, 2011 in the Winnipeg Free Press.)



MYRNA-LOU MCGREGOR (ROURKE) It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved Mom and Grammy, Myrna-Lou. Surrounded by those who loved her, Myrna died on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at Health Sciences Centre. Myrna was predeceased by her husband John Philip (Phil) McGregor on September 22, 1995. She is survived by her daughters, Shauna Bunting (Doug), Gaelyn McGregor (Russell Metcalf); and her son Douglas McGregor (Christine); as well as her four grandchildren, Matthew and Ashleigh Bunting, Colleen McGregor Furlan and Emily McGregor. Also left to grieve are her nieces and nephew and Myrna's loving companion, Donald McKinnon. Mom was born on March 20, 1935. The youngest of three daughters born to Alphaeus and Irene Rourke, she grew up happily among the vegetables and flowers of her father's market garden. It was here that her passion for gardening was born. As a young woman, her soprano voice became her gift. She performed in many Rainbow Stage and Gilbert and Sullivan productions. She married her high school sweetheart Phil on April 27, 1957 and this is when her life's work as a devoted mother and grandmother began. She dedicated a good part of her life supporting the Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association and she was a founding member of the School of Scottish Arts. Past President of the MHDA, she was well known as the mother of two and grandmother to three dancers, two of which, Colleen and Emily, are still dancing together today. Mom was also a huge supporter of all the many sports her grandchildren

participated in. Besides attending dance competitions, she could be seen cheering on her grandson Matthew at all of his hockey games and her granddaughter Ashleigh at her speed skating meets. She also attended every music festival, school concert and grad ceremony that involved one or all of her grandchildren. She was their biggest fan. Mom loved to travel. With our Dad she spent many summers camping at Clear Lake and together they cruised through the Panama Canal which was a highlight of their life together shortly before Dad passed away. Later in life, Mom found great joy in travelling the world with Don McKinnon. Together, they covered most of the globe and her passion for travel, particularly cruising, never abated. Above all, Mom will be remembered for her dedication to family - expressing heartfelt joy for accomplishments and supporting us during times of sadness. We love you Mom and we are so very proud of the way you lived your life. A special thank you to the Winnipeg Emergency Medical Service and the staff at St. Boniface Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre for their exceptional and gentle care of our Mom. A special thanks to Dr. Ron Cappellani and Kathy MacRae for their friendship, kindness and support at Health Sciences Centre during our time of great sadness. A celebration of our Mom's life will be held at Thomson Funeral Home on Wednesday, June 8 at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Millie Rochester of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg will be officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Winnipeg Humane Society or CancerCare Manitoba would be most appreciated. In Life Beloved - In Death Lamented THOMSON FUNERAL HOME 669 BROADWAY, WINNIPEG, MB R3C 0X4 783-7211 Condolences may be sent to

www.thomsonfuneralchapel.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