

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

March 2009

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Message from the President

It is amazing how time travels along. Here I am writing a message for the Tartan Press for our March Competition when it seems like a second ago 2009 had just started.

I know it has been a busy highland dancing time for many over the past few months. Congratulations to ScotDance Manitoba for once again putting on a wonderful competition for the Winnipeg Scottish Festival. It really does put Winnipeg on the map in the Highland Dancing world. Many recognize it as a great championship early in the competitive year and it is combined with a great workshop for dancers to help them perfect each year's championship steps. It is followed by a week packed full of exams as our dancers achieve new levels. Work and dedication by dancers, teachers, and parents pays off. I am sure many took a deep breath of relief as February came to a close and are thankful that they survived.

The next few months also look to be eventful:

March 29th we will be holding a Practice with the Pipers event. This is a great opportunity for our pipers and dancers to practice together. The event will be a fundraiser for the Fling for Logan Fund. Look for more news on this at the competition and on the website.

April 25th is the Brandon competition. Brandon has really welcomed this event both with financial support and also

assistance in many other ways. Remember to get your entry in early to have a chance to win back your entry fee.

April 26th is our annual general meeting. This is the meeting where the membership has the most influence on the direction MHDA takes for the next year. Nominations are accepted for all executive and committee positions and voted on at the meeting. Cathy Domke is the chair of our nominations committee. If you are interested in any positions or have questions about the jobs please contact her.

May 3rd is our Provincial Championship. For me this competition is the most exciting MHDA competition of the year. All dancers that work toward this competition and aspire to represent us at the Canadian Championships should be commended for their efforts.

Aside from these events the MHDA executive and committees have been busy with all kinds of things. Everything from reviewing insurance policies, projects to replace equipment, coming up with new fundraising ideas, scheduling of next year's competitions and all kinds of other things are on the short list of things to do.

One major project by our finance committee began in January and will be ongoing over this month and April. They began a review of how we use and invest our funds. The current economy is a great reminder for us about how tenuous things can be. Although our organization is in good shape financially it takes work and dedication to be sure that we stay in good shape.

Wow! All that stuff to do and that isn't even the most important. All that stuff is pertinent and has to be addressed but it is important for our organization to keep one main goal in mind. That goal is Growth. Growth of MHDA membership is very essential to the success of the organization. If membership declines it becomes more difficult to perform the functions of the organization. Whether it is running competitions or raising money, everything is easier if there are more hands to help out. Many people have brought forward ideas of what MHDA can do to help grow the number of dancers. I hope that over the rest of this year we can start putting some of those ideas into action.

Best regards,
George Hamilton
President



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

Passages...

Honorary Member **Marlene Stephen** passed away Tuesday, Jan 19, 2009 from cancer and other complications. She was very involved in all aspects of the Scottish culture. In her role as a dancer's mom, to daughter Marnie (Treichel) Wilson, she was very active in MHDA and was the President from 1992 to 1995. In 1997 she was presented with an Honorary Life membership. Also a bagpiper, she was the Pipe Major of the Heather-Belle Ladies Pipe Band from 1968 to 1989 and continued to teach the pipes and judge at band competitions. Marlene recently retired from the Louis Riel School Division as a music educator. She held many executive positions and won many awards related to music. At the time of her passing, Marlene was on the Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba as President. She worked tirelessly on events like the Winnipeg Scottish Festival and Bands on the Boardwalk. Marlene was delighted to recently become a grandmother to Fiona. She will be missed.

For more details on Marlene's accomplishments, check out the PPBAM's website at www.ppbam.org.

Honorary member **Beth Gibbon** passed away this February of pneumonia and other complications. She became a member of MHDA in 1966 when her daughter M'Liss (Bunting) began competing. She was involved with the association for 30 years. She was president from 1973-1975, convened and co-convened the Tartan Tea on numerous occasions, and could be seen volunteering on the scoring table at many competitions over the years. Although never a highland dancer herself, but of Scottish heritage, it was something that she wanted for her daughter. Some 44 years later, she was still interested in M'Liss' dance students and her own grand-daughter Amanda's highland dancing achievements. She will be missed.



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.

Brandon Dance Competition

Brandon Premier Special Hornpipe and Pre-Premier Special Fling

The Premier Special Hornpipe is a six step Sailor's Hornpipe, with no set steps. Dancers will be divided in to 3 heats based on age and entries received. Six (6) placings will be given per heat and the top three (3) dancers from each heat will advance

to the final. Qualifying dancers will dance a second six (6) step Sailor's Hornpipe.

Awards for the final will consist of;
1st Place - \$100.00
2nd Place - \$75.00
3rd Place - \$50.00

For Pre-Premier Dancer's there will be a Special Fling in addition to the other dances performed.

The Championship steps were selected for the Premier Highland Dances so that Premier's could perform these steps in competition just prior to the Provincial Closed Championship which will be held on May 3rd at Manitoba Theatre for Young People.

All entries received prior to April 1st, 2009 will be entered in a draw for an Entry Free Rebate, so register today!



Bus Trip to Regina Highland Games

MHDA is offering a bus trip to the Regina Highland Games, Queen City Open Championship and Competition. This is a great opportunity to get to know other MHDA members. All age levels of dancers and their families are welcome. There will be games and prizes on the bus, a trip to the science museum, swimming and of course lots of dancing!

The bus will leave Winnipeg on Saturday, May 16 in the morning and stop for lunch in Moosomin, Saskatchewan. We will arrive in Regina early in the afternoon and will be staying at the Ramada. For those who are interested the bus will take passengers to the Saskatchewan Science Museum. This is a fun hands-on museum for all ages. The evening will be spent swimming, relaxing and early to bed.

On Sunday, the bus will make several trips during the day to the competition venue.

The evening is free time or for those who wish, the bus can take you to the Highland Games Ceilidh.

The bus will leave Monday morning and arrive back in Winnipeg in the afternoon.

Although MHDA is sponsoring the trip, we still need to offset some of the expenses, so the cost is \$20 (for dancers & siblings) and \$50 (per parent).

www.mbhighlanddance.com – For additional information in regard to booking the Ramada Hotel at discount rates and Bus Registration Forms.

www.reginahighlandgames.org - Please check the Regina Highland Games website for information, entry forms are not yet available.

domke@mts.net – Please email Cathy Domke if you have any questions!

For Sale

1.Full National Aboyne Outfit - Beautiful bright blue in color, smaller sized, excellent condition, asking \$250.00

2.-Highland Jacket - Red in color, smaller sized, excellent condition, asking \$125.00

3.-Jig Outfit - Lovely Dark green in color, smaller sized, excellent condition, asking \$40.00

4.-Jig Shoes - Green in color, smaller sized, excellent condition, hardly worn, asking \$45.00

5.-Dance Shoes - 4 pairs of various kinds, excellent condition, smaller sized, prices vary depending on make of shoe.

Please call Tannys Bomek at 255-0200 or 799-7011.

Looking for teacher for the Dauphin area.

09/10 school year.

Please call 638-8114 after 6:00 pm ask for Chris

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



ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2004 \$500 Scholarship Awards

Two scholarships will be awarded annually from the ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2004 Scholarship Fund:

1) PREMIER DANCER

Purpose:

To recognize a premier dancer that displays the spirit of the 2004 Championship Series. This would be a dancer that displays not only competitive spirit but also community spirit and sportsmanship, as well as a love for and dedication to Highland Dance.

Selection Process:

The selection will be based upon the dancer's participation in and contribution to highland dance. This would include participation in competitions, dance-outs, Folklorama, volunteer work with MHDA and any other community events that help to promote Highland Dance. Success in competition will also be a factor but participation, as outlined above, will be more highly weighted.

The Selection Committee:

Will be comprised of the Presidents of both MHDA & ScotDance Manitoba, the SDCCS 2004 Steering Committee & an individual from outside of the Highland Dance community. Note – Any selection committee member will excuse themselves if they have a child or dance student applying.

Award:

The award will be in the amount of **\$500** annually and may be used towards any dance related expenses.

Eligibility:

- All applicants must be members of Manitoba Highland Dancers' Association for the year of application.
- The dancer must be a Manitoba resident and may only win the award once.

Application Process:

1. Dancers that wish to be considered for the award will complete the attached entry form.

2. Please attach an essay of not more than 1,000 words outlining your participation in and contribution to Highland Dance and why you feel you should be considered for this award.
 3. Submit postmarked no later than **April 14, 2009** to MHDA, P.O. Box 2491, Winnipeg, Mb R3C 4A7 or by e-mail to: susanne.robertson@humanrightsmuseum.ca
 4. The scholarship winner will be announced at the Provincial Championship & Competition in May.
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ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2004 Scholarship Awards

2) PRE-PREMIER

Purpose:

To encourage a promising pre-premier dancer to strive for excellence. This award is to assist them to attend the ScotDance Canada Championship Series in order to help give them the wonderful opportunity to experience both the competitive and social events at the Championship Series and to help prepare and encourage them to strive to attend the Championship Series in future years.

Selection Process:

The selection will be based upon the dancer's demonstrated ability to excel in highland dance as well as their participation in and contribution to highland dance. Preference will be given to Intermediate dancers in order to prepare them for dancing at the premier level at the Championship Series the following year. (For Selection Committee – see Premier Award)

Award:

The award will be in the amount of **\$500** annually and must be used towards expenses for the current year's Championship Series. The award cannot be carried forward to the following year.

Eligibility:

- All applicants must be members of Manitoba Highland Dancers' Association for the year of application.
- The dancer must be a Manitoba resident and may only win the award once.
- Dancer must be attending the Championship Series in the current year.
- Dancer must be dancing in pre-premier classes at the Championship Series in the year of the award.

Application Process:

1. Dancers that wish to be considered for the award will complete the attached entry form.
2. Please attach an essay of not more than 1,000 words outlining your participation in and contribution to Highland Dance and why you feel you should be considered for this award.
3. Submit postmarked not later than **April 14, 2009** to MHDA, P.O. Box 2491, Winnipeg, Mb R3C 4A7 or e-mail by to: susanne.robertson@humanrightsmuseum.ca
4. The scholarship winner will be announced at the Provincial Championship & Competition in May.

(Qualification – the committee reserves the right to not award either of the Premier or Pre-premier Scholarships should a suitable candidate not apply.)



**ScotDance Canada Championship Series Funds
Scholarship Award Application
2009**

Entry Form

Check Dance Level: Premier_____ Pre-Premier_____

Deadline: Postmarked/emailed not later than April 14/09
(Please attach an additional sheet if more space is required)

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Date of birth:

Number of years involved in highland dancing:

Teacher:

Number of local competitions entered in past two years (i.e. since January 1, 2007):

List the MHDA dance outs attended in the past two years:

List other dance outs attended in the past two years:

Folklorama – outline the involvement of the dancer & parent in the past two years (for the dancer please be specific about # of days danced at the pavilion with MHDA or Ena Sutton)

List of dance accomplishments:

List any volunteer work with MHDA:

List any community activities relating to Highland Dance:

List Parent's involvement with Highland Dance:

PLEASE ATTACH YOUR ESSAY OUTLINING WHY HIGHLAND DANCING IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, HOW IT HAS AFFECTED YOUR LIFE AND WHY YOU FEEL YOU SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS AWARD (Not more than 1000 words please!).