

TARTAN PRESSES

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

March 2015

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Message from the President

Greetings to members and friends of MHDA. It has been an exciting year so far. We have a new Treasurer, Bonnie Bain, who has joined the executive, and she is bringing to the table a wealth of experience and knowledge. Suzanne (Zan) Sinclair "retired" from the board after faithfully serving above and beyond over the past number of years as both Competition Coordinator and then as Treasurer in her final year. We as a board thank her for all the hard work she put in keeping things rolling along day after day.

We had a successful move of the Tartan Tea in December to a new facility with the tireless work of Lisa Omand overseeing it all.

The Provincial Reps and others did Manitoba proud last summer at the Canadian Championships, and we commend them greatly. And with the year half over already, I have been witness to some outstanding dancing at the competitions so far, and look forward to the excellence that will be pushed for in the upcoming Provincials and Championships. I know the dancers are working hard to perfect those exhaustive dance steps. How they can remember them all I have no idea. It was hard enough for me to remember 4 steps of the fling, and even then I didn't do them half as good as many of our Primary dancers.

As we look forward to the rest of this year and the next, we continue to work for the betterment of this fine organization. There have been many suggestions and observations that have helped to focus the board and to develop new and progressive ways to do things. We started last year by looking at the membership, constitution, and by-laws and making changes where we felt were needed. We worked on developing a sponsorship package set to assist us with making the competitions better. And as we look forward there are still a number of areas that can be fine-tuned, and I will continue to work hard to make this a better organization than when I started as President.

Next year, as many of you are aware, Manitoba will be hosting the 2016 SDCCS Championship Series, and Diana and I are involved on that board as Representatives of MHDA. With that in mind, a number of you will be asked to participate in some way or another with volunteering. I ask that all of you take this opportunity to show your pride in Manitoba in welcoming Canada to Winnipeg.

Good luck to all Dancers in the upcoming competitions. See you on stage.

Keith Rempel - MHDA President

MHDA AGM Announcement

Please be advised that the MHDA Annual General Meeting will not be held in April as we have in years past. The meeting will be moved to September 20, 2015.

The decision to move the date was made in our ongoing efforts to make the MHDA an efficient organization. This change will align with the end of the fiscal year and we can then report on a full year of activity.

The executive and board is also reviewing our board positions to see if they currently meet our needs. If any changes are required, by-law changes may be needed and would be presented at that time.

The membership renewal will be available to be brought in at that time as well.

A more formal announcement of meeting time and place will be sent closer to the actual date. For now, please save the date of September 20, 2015.

Should you have any questions regarding this change, please contact Keith Rempel, President kempel@mbhighlanddance.com or Diana Simpson, Vice President dianasimpson@mymts.net.

Our Spring Bud, Spud & Steak is back!

Save the Date of Friday, May 29, 2015 from 6-9pm at the Tijuana Yacht Club Event Centre (TYC) in Canad Inns Polo Park.

The MHDA will once again run a Spring Bud, Spud & Steak fundraiser, but with some changes. This year, the fundraiser is optional and open to all dancers (not just Mb Reps) travelling to the ScotDance Canada Championship Series in London, Ontario in July.

There are multiple ways to participate and earn funds to assist with the expenses of travelling to this prestigious event.

In order to participate, please provide proof of registration (Online entries will open at 1:00 PM EDT on Monday, March 16, 2016 at www.sdccs.ca), regardless of dancer classification. Once participation is confirmed, there are 3 ways to earn funds (choose what works for your family):

- 1) Sell tickets: \$10 from each ticket sold goes back to the dancer that sold the ticket (for example, sell 10 tickets, receive \$100). Dancers can sell tickets to friends, family, coworkers, etc whether they are available to attend or not.
- 2) Donate or collect a prize: Provide a minimum of one prize basket in order to receive funds from the Silent Auction. After the silent auction is completed, all proceeds will be divided equally amongst all the dancers providing a minimum of one basket each. Families with multiple dancers must provide a basket from each dancer in order to receive multiple shares. Dancers need not attend to participate, however, you must make your own arrangements to ensure the basket is delivered in time for the event and clearly marked with the donating dancer's name. Anyone requiring a donation request letter, please advise Lisa Omand.
- 3) Perform: Dancers that participate in the Dance-out performance that evening will split the proceeds of the 50/50 draw. (Dancers do not need a ticket to attend for performing only, however, they will not receive a meal and no outside food or drinks are permitted).

Tickets will be available starting at the Scotdance Manitoba competition in April.

Contact Lisa Omand (lomand@mymts.net or 204-479-3021) for questions, tickets and for a donation request letter.



MHDA Trophy Trivia

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ That MHDA awards approximately 10 perpetual trophies at each of the October, November, January and March competitions; approximately 15 perpetual trophies at the Provincial Championship in May and approximately 25+ perpetual trophies at the Mid-Canada competition in June.
- ❖ That any given MHDA perpetual trophy is not always awarded every year, depending on the number of dancers and classes in a competition.
- ❖ That MHDA perpetual trophies not in circulation are stored in a storage locker rented by MHDA.
- ❖ 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!



You are invited!

If you think you may be a descendant of the Selkirk Settlers or would just like to learn more about the history please join us at Kildonan Park, Shelter 3a on Sunday June 7th from 12:30 to 4:30pm.

Hear the wonderful sounds of a piper. Join a historical scavenger hunt. Play bocce ball & horse shoes. Ask questions about tracing your own ancestry. Enjoy a hot dog & drink at a beautiful Winnipeg Park.

For more information or to register contact Edith Lyon (204-885-1927) or Twila MacNair twila.macnair@gmail.com
Members of The Lord Selkirk Association of Rupert's Land

Please let us know if you plan to come so we will have enough hotdogs for everyone!

Upcoming Events

March 14, 2015 – MHDA Open competition set to be held at the St. James Civic Centre in Winnipeg, 2055 Ness Avenue. Pre-premier dancers register at 9:00 a.m., be ready to dance by 9:30 a.m. Intermediate and Premier dancers register at 12:00 p.m., dance following the morning results.

March 16, 2015 – Entries for SDCCS 2015 in London, Ontario open. The official entry form is expected to be released very soon, check sdccs.ca for details, or Like Scotdance Canada on Facebook!

April 6, 2015 – Tartan Day 2015 at the Forks. Event begins at 5:00 p.m. and will include MHDA, RSCDS and the Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band.

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.

April 17, 2015 - Deadline for to apply for the James L McKenzie Scholarship. This is open to Premier dancers, who must submit their application along with a letter of recommendation from their current teacher. Applicants must also perform the Tribute to JL McKenzie dance. There will be opportunities to complete the dance requirement at the March 14 MHDA competition and the April 11 ScotDance Manitoba competition. For more information, please ask your teacher.

April 25 & 26 – Fraser Valley Open Championship, Pre-Championship and Competition in Fort Langley, British Columbia. Regular entries closed on April 10, 2015, but late entries will still be accepted. The entry form notes late entries received after April 17 may not appear in the program. Good luck to any Manitoba dancers making the trip.

May 2, 2015 – Provincial selection meet championship and closed competition, set to be held at the St. James Civic Centre, in Winnipeg. Only 1.5 months away! Entry forms to be circulated shortly.

May 15 – 17, 2015 - Saskatchewan Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival. Two days of competition for dancers, with the Queen City Open Championship on Saturday May 16 and the Prairie Valley Premiership on May 17. Keep an eye for more details, as this is a fun trip for Manitoba dancers!

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!



MB Dancer Finds Success At SDCCS 2014



Lauren McCombe went to Vancouver, sharing the "Winner" position with Julia Domke in the 18 and under 21 age group.

On Thursday, July 3rd, in the Premier Highland, she got a 6th in the Strathspey and Highland Reel.

On Friday, July 4th, in the Canadian Championship, she received 2 Championship Points, or Judges Placings.

On Saturday, July 5th, in the first-ever ScotDance Canada Premiership, she was awarded 4th Runner-up in the 19 and under 21 age group. (see photo above)

On Sunday, July 6th, in the ScotDance Canada Open Championship, she received 2 Championship Points, or Judges Placings.

Lauren was very happy with her results. It is not uncommon to come home from Canadians empty-handed, something she has experienced.

Congratulations Winnipeg Scottish Festival Championship Dancers!



Congratulations to all dancers who participated in the Winnipeg Scottish Festival, hosted by ScotDance Manitoba on February 21. Above is a photo of most of the champions and runner-ups in the first Championship of 2015 for many of the dancers. Great work everyone! Below is a list of the champions and runner-ups for each class.

7 and under 12

Champion - Laura UnRuh
 1st runner up - Anna Taylor
 2nd runner up - Aurora Knowles
 3rd runner up - Mya Pilat
 4th runner up - Victoria Wood
 5th runner up - Imogen Bellegarde

12 and under 14

Champion - Jean Thomson
 1st runner up - Elizabeth Wood
 2nd runner up - Camryn Watson
 3rd runner up - Madelaine Baigrie
 4th runner up - Jordan Kennedy
 5th runner up - Gillian Mitchell-Lawson

14 and under 16

Champion - Allison UnRuh
 1st runner up - Claire Meier
 2nd runner up - Sarah Miller
 3rd runner up - Meaghan Fennell
 4th runner up - Sydney Sinclair
 5th runner up - Gillian Foster

16 and under 18

Champion - Rachel UnRuh
 1st runner up - Kelsey Wog
 2nd runner up - Donnelly Morrison
 3rd runner up - Josephine Acton
 4th runner up - Macleod Simpson
 5th runner up - Keelyn McGinn

18 and over

Champion - Julia Domke
 1st runner up - Lauren McCombe
 2nd runner up - Jennifer Watt
 3rd runner up - Christina Thomson
 4th runner up - Alia Cappellani
 5th runner up - Kelsey Watchman

