

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

November 2008

Executive

President

George Hamilton ghamilton@mbhighlanddance.com

Past President / Chair

Cathy Domke 488-1341 domke@mts.net

Vice-President

Kelly Miele kmiele@mbhighlanddance.com

Treasurer

Deb Kusano 253-9008 kusanod@mts.net

Secretary

Allison Thomson 654-4181 thomson8@mts.net

Membership

Diana Simpson dsimpson@mbhighlanddance.com

Competition Coordinator

Kathleen Burfoot kburfoot@mbhighlanddance.com

Competition Director

Caroline Spellman cspellman@mbhighlanddance.com

Finance Director

Deanne Magnus dmagnus@mbhighlanddance.com

ScotDance Representatives

Cathy Hopper khopper@mbhighlanddance.com

Cathy Ramesar kramesar@mbhighlanddance.com

Tea Coordinator

Caroline Spellman 453-0440 Spellman.CR@forces.gc.ca

technical issues and trends in teaching. Any highland dancer can be assured of quality instruction if their teacher is certified and an active member of ScotDance Manitoba. ScotDance Manitoba is an affiliate of ScotDance Canada, the National Body for Highland Dance Professionals in Canada.

M.H.D.A depends on ScotDance Manitoba in many ways. They provide technical advice for our competitions, judge selection, sword stewards, scoring and designing a dance program. They also aid us in putting on events like the Tartan Tea; one of M.H.D.A's most important fundraisers. Many highland dance professionals volunteer or have volunteered their time to serve on the MHDA executive or committees. ScotDance Manitoba represents MHDA as a voting delegate for competition organizers at the ScotDance Canada Annual General Meeting held in conjunction with the Canadian Championship Series. Your professionals also volunteer time to be a part of this executive committee and other committees for ScotDance Canada.

They also contribute to Highland Dance by providing technical advice to non M.H.D.A competitions. They organize other competitions, amateur and professional workshops, medal test examinations and by their dedication to the promotion of their own dance schools, hold activities such as dance camps, workshops and special performances.

Many young dancers and new parents may not realize the depth and significance of these contributions. I hope that by reading this they will have a new appreciation for the Highland Dancing Professional.

I am glad to hear that there are several new young professionals becoming members of Scot Dance Manitoba this year. I am also glad to hear that there are several professional exams being planned for this year. These dancers should be commended for taking the next step in their Highland career. They are the future builders of Highland Dance in Manitoba.

I hope many of our young dancers aspire to become professionals' whether that means becoming a teacher or judge or contributing in other ways.

Best regards,
George Hamilton
President



Manitoba Military Tattoo

On October 24th, twenty four of M.H.D.A's Premiere dancers performed at the Manitoba Military Tattoo. Thanks to the following dancers for dancing: Kathleen Burfoot, Yvonne Raymond, Sean Raymond, George Hamilton, Kelsey

Message from the President

The Professional

In the last issue I used my first message to start off the year by focusing on how strong and vibrant our organization is. I also wanted to emphasize the importance of growth to our organization. New Highland Dancers keep our art alive and I hope everyone keeps that in mind.

This issue, I would like to focus on some of the most important people to Highland Dance in Manitoba: The professionals.

Teachers are really the builders of Highland Dance. Without teachers to pass on the art to young dancers, it would cease to exist.

Note that I made the title of this message "The Professional" rather than "The Teachers". This is because I want to point out the dedication our teachers have to their own professional development and the development of amateurs.

In Manitoba, our Professionals are members of ScotDance Manitoba. Its membership is comprised of those who have taken the qualifying exams. They may have students or not, but they still maintain their professional status. Other Members are also Adjudicators and/or Examiners. All members contribute to maintaining the high standard of Highland Dance in Manitoba. One goal is to stay current with

Watchman, Julia Domke, Veronica Domke, Emma Domke, Stacie Nixon, Julie McClurg, Robin Melvin, Ashleigh Halpin, Alia Capellani, Kathleen Hester, Lauren McCombe, Erika Ramesar, Alexandra Barois-Novak, Kaitlyn Sage, Caitlyn Spellman, Terryn Shiells, Rachel Unruh, Leanne Miele, Gillian McIvor.

These dancers dedicated themselves to this performance, handling the ups and downs throughout the rehearsals and performance with discipline and maturity. They really were great ambassadors' for the M.H.D.A and Highland Dance in general. It says a lot to the credit of our dance schools here in Manitoba to have these dancers represent them.

Extra thanks goes to Kathleen Burfoot and Laurie Tyndal. They put in extra time meeting with the Tattoo organizers. They came up with a choreography which presented traditional Highland Dance in a great way and then taught it to all the dancers in a short period of time.

One of the organizers spoke about how impressed he was by our dancer's performances and how organized we were as a group. They also hope we can perform in the show again next year with even more dancers.

Thanks also to the parents who spent a lot of time getting kids to and from the rehearsals and the tattoo.

The Tattoo gave us the largest audience that will view Highland Dance in some time as well as TV exposure. We did an excellent job of showing what Highland Dance is all about.

Other Stuff In Process

Brandon Competition

As many of you know the M.H.D.A is planning a competition for April 25th, 2009. This will correspond with the Highland Festival Piping competition.

The Dancing competition will be held at Vincent Massey High School

The Host Hotel for this event will be the Royal Oak Inn: They will be giving us a special rate of \$89.99/night (regular rate is \$119/night) as long as the room is booked before March 25th (Ref booking number 132486).

We have booked a hospitality room with the hotel for the Saturday night where we will have some food and beverages available for parents and dancers. It should be a good chance to relax and socialize.

Regina Bus Trip

M.H.D.A is organizing a bus trip to the Queen City Championship being held in Regina on Sunday, May 17th, 2009. Sign up sheets will be available at the January competition as well as information for hotel booking.



The Who's Who of Highland Dance in Manitoba

Make sure you're in the book! If you have had a membership with MHDA in 2007/08 or 2008/09, you will be in "The Who's Who of Highland Dance in Manitoba". This will be a great memento of your involvement in MHDA the year it turned 60. Just send a little bio about yourself and a picture in your costume to Janet McCombe at rjmccombe@shaw.ca. Not sure what to write? I can send you a helpful little questionnaire to fill out which will give me all the information I need about you. Email me if you have any problems and we'll find another way for you to get the info to me. Time is running out.

"Tartan Tea" a Timeless Tradition

For the Manitoba Highland Dancers Association it is a tradition that on the first Saturday of December the annual Tartan Tea is held. For many families this tradition has been carried forth by several generations and for some families this will become an annual family event.

The MHDA Annual Tartan Tea will be held this year on **Saturday, Dec. 6th from 1 – 4 pm** and the holiday tradition of inviting friends and relatives to enjoy an afternoon of dancing, entertainment and dainties continues. Dancers look forward to showcasing their talents in a non-competitive environment and have an opportunity to write a letter to Santa or assist with serving at the Tea.

Tea attendees find the Bake Sale Table an ideal way to stock up on some holiday baking with out all the work or purchase some of the baking they sampled while watching the dance program. For many families it is a tradition not only to attend the Tea but in working together while preparing family favorite recipes that they donate to both the bake table and kitchen. Often grandparents or other relatives who enjoy cooking offer to assist.

For families attending the Tea there are great prize raffle baskets that are donated from either dance schools or businesses. The prize draws are done at the end of the Tea. However, you do not have to be in attendance to claim your prize; arrangements will be made with the winners to receive their baskets at a later date.

Kids just love the Jar Bar Table with the surprise-filled containers that they select from. It is a delight to watch the excitement on their faces as they uncover the candy or treats hidden inside or watch the negotiations made between friends as they barter and trade their loot.

The Tartan Tea is MHDA's major fundraiser, ticket sales are important and a basis for determining government funding. So please encourage your friends and families to attend and

help support our organization. Revenues generated from the Tea help to cover the costs of our competitions.

The contributions made by the teachers, dance schools and volunteers have ensured the success of this annual event and we appreciate the continued support in making the 2008 Tartan Tea a Timeless Tradition!

Kelly Graham-Miele

Out of Town Results

Mcgregor Studio Of Dance		
ScotDance Canada Championship Series, Victoria, BC-July 2008		
Besides competing as a Representative from Manitoba in the Highland Dance Competitions, Colleen had the distinct honor of singing the National Anthem at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2008 ScotDance Canada Championship Series on July 2nd, 2008 in Victoria, B.C.		
<i>Primary 6yrs & Under</i>		
Jean Thomson	1 st	Pas de Basques
	2 nd	Fling
	1 st	Sword
	1 st	Pas de Basques
	4 th	Pas de Basques & High Cuts
<i>Premier Highland 10 years</i>		
Rachel UnRuh	5 th	Seann Truibhas
<i>Premier Highland & Jig, 11yrs</i>		
Madison Leonard	5 th	Jig
<i>Restricted Premier Highland 11yrs</i>		
Christina Thomson	1 st	Fling
	1 st	Jig
	5 th	Sean Triubhas
	Overall Trophy Winner	
<i>Premier Highland and Jig, 15 yrs</i>		
Colleen McGregor	4 th	Sean Triubhas
	4 th	Jig
	6 th	Strathspey and Highland Reel
<i>Canadian Inter-Provincial Championships-Premier 10 years and under 12</i>		
Rachel UnRuh	6 th	Strathspey and Highland Reel
Madison Leonard	Judges' Placing Sword	
<i>Canadian Inter-Provincial Championship, 14 & under 16</i>		
Colleen McGregor	6 th	Fling
	6 th	Sword
	6 th	Seann Truibhas
	6 th	Reel
	6 th	Runner-up overall
<i>Premier Nationals 10 years</i>		
Rachel UnRuh	3 rd	Village Maid Super Sailor Hornpipe Challenge- Preliminary - Medal Finalist
<i>Super Sailor</i>		
Madison Leonard	Qualifier (Premier 11yrs)	
Colleen McGregor	4th runner up overall (13 & under 16 yrs)	
<i>Restricted Premier Nationals 11yrs</i>		
Christina Thomson	5 th	Lilt

<i>The City of Victoria Open Championship- Premier 10 years</i>		
Rachel UnRuh	4 th	Strathspey and Highland Reel
	6 th	Fling
	5 th	Runner-up to City of Victoria 10 year champion
<i>The City of Victoria Open Championship- Premier 11 years</i>		
Madison Leonard	5 th	Sword
<i>City of Victoria Championship, 15 yrs</i>		
Colleen McGregor	3 rd	Fling
	6 th	Sword
	4th Runner-up overall	
<i>Intermediate Highland 10 years and under</i>		
Allison UnRuh	1 st	Fling
	2 nd	Seann Truibhas
	3 rd	Sword
	Winner of Aggregate Trophy	
Kim Hurst	2 nd	Fling
	1 st	Seann Truibhas
<i>Intermediate National 10 years and under</i>		
Allison UnRuh	1 st	Lilt
	1 st	Flora
	1 st	Strathspey and Highland Reel
	Winner of Aggregate Trophy	
Kim Hurst	3 rd	Strathspey and Highland Reel
	3 rd	Lilt
	5 th	Flora
Queen City Championship Regina May 18		
<i>Premier 10 & under 12</i>		
Rachel UnRuh	4 th	Fling
	2 nd	Sword
	4 th	Seann Truibhas
	3 rd	Reel
	3 rd	Runner up
<i>Intermediate</i>		
Allison UnRuh	1 st	Fling
	1 st	Sword
	1 st	Seann Truibhas
	1 st	Flora
	2 nd	Lilt
	Winner of Aggregate Trophy	
July 26th - Dufftown Highland Games		
Colleen McGregor	15 yrs & under – medal winner, 2nd place overall	
August 2nd – Aboyne Highland Games		
Colleen McGregor	13 & under 16 yrs – Overall Trophy Winner	
August 4th – Turiff Highland Games		
Colleen McGregor	15 & under 17 yrs – Overall Trophy Winner	
August 9th – Abernethy Highland Games		
Colleen McGregor	16yrs & under – Overall Trophy Winner, Best Overseas Dancer	
August 10th – Keith Highland Games		
Colleen McGregor	15 yrs & under – Overall Highland Trophy Winner	
August 14th – Ballater Highland Games		
Colleen McGregor	16 yrs & under – medal winner	

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

August 17th – Cortachy Highland Games	
Colleen McGregor	Under 16 yrs – Overall Trophy Winner
August 22nd – Glenisla Highland Games	
Colleen McGregor	2nd overall

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.

For Sale

Kilt with vest & socks,
Dress Sutherland tartan from McIsaac's Kiltmakers,
Excellent condition, will fit girl aged 7 – 11. Asking \$350. I will bring the kilt to the November 22 competition for anyone interested, or phone me,
Lori Novak, 453-1750.

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:
Lauren Wreggitt
lwreggitt@mts.net

