

# Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

November 2012

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## Stacie Nixon Wins Scotdance Canada's National JL McKenzie Scholarship

ScotDance Canada seeks worthy recipients annually who embody the love and dedication for Highland dance that was exemplified by James L McKenzie. øJLø as he was affectionately known, spread his wisdom of Scottish

Highland dance and Scottish Official Board technique -a technique we all follow to this day - through adjudicating SDTA medal test exams, conducting workshops and judging competitions. He was a consecutive 3-time Adult World Champion -in his dayø and received the MBE from Queen Elizabeth IIí .and he loved highland dance and shared that love with the world, often being away from his home in Scotland for months at a time.

Stacie Nixon, an Adult dance student with Donna Cramø school, applied for the scholarship this past spring, going through the following:

1. Performing a Tribute to JL McKenzie- a dance choreographed in JLøø honour by another well known SDTA examiner from Scotland, Elspeth Strathern
2. Filling out a scholarship application
3. Writing an essay on the applicantøø love and dedication to highland dance

This culminated in Stacie being the nationwide winner! She was awarded the 16 & over SDC JL McKenzie scholarship at the ScotDance Canada Championship Series Banquet in Edmonton, AB this past July. Jennifer Stephenson, Chair of the JL McKenzie Scholarship Committee, is seen in the picture presenting her with the award and a cheque for \$1,000! Congratulations Stacie, on this honour ø you are a most deserving recipient!

Donna Cram



## Jennifer Watt Wins 2nd Overall SDTA Scholarship in Toronto, Ontario



Three dancers from the Donna Cram Dancers were nominated for the JL McKenzie and Elspeth Strathern scholarship of the selection for which took place Thanksgiving weekend in Toronto, Ontario. Kelsey Wog, Jennifer Watt and Julia Domke were nominated by the SDTA examiner during exams the past year. Congratulations again to all three dancers for being nominated for this opportunity.

Jennifer Watt was able to make the trip to Toronto to participate in the scholarship selection process. This full day event required writing a theory exam, participating in a Master Class (working outside their highland dance comfort zone), dancing a Fling and Sword as well as a Tribute to JL McKenzie. In addition, the full day of scholarship selection process also required they dance their own choreography.

There were almost 200 dancers participating from across Canada and the US. In fact, every single province was represented this year, and the group was broken down into two categories of Junior and Senior.

Jennifer, age 15, was in the senior category and received a scholarship for being 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, which came with a \$250 award! This was an amazing accomplishment given the tremendous participation in this year's event. It was a jam packed month of September for her, since Jennifer just returned from dancing through the month of August in Scotland, culminating at the World Championships in Cowal, then got to work first thing in September with her theory studies, learning the Tribute and selecting music and choreographing her own dance of the latter, a first for Jennifer!). Congrats on a job well done. Your Hard Work Paid off!

Donna Cram

## Out of Province Results

### McHarg School Regina - November 3rd

Sophie Henderson  
Pas de Basques - 6th  
Pas de Basques + Highcuts - 5th

Alyssa Strong  
Fling - 2nd  
Seann Triubhas - 4th  
Flora - 4th

Emily Alexander  
Fling - 2nd  
Sword - 3rd  
Seann Triubhas - 2nd  
Laddie - 2nd

### Ramesar School Thunder Bay Open Competition - May 2012

Chloe Mathers - Premier  
Jig 6th  
Fling 2nd  
Sword 6th  
ST 5th

Kellen Molloy - Novice  
Flora 5th

Battlefords Highland Dance Assoc. Open - Oct 20/12:

Kellen Molloy Intermediate  
Sword 2nd, Seann Triubhas 2nd

Cross Border Highland Dance Assoc. Open Competition,  
Lloydminster - Oct 21/12:

Kellen Molloy - Intermediate  
4th Lilt  
Kennedy Molloy - Novice  
6th Special Fling



## 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 this will become a new annual family event.

The MHDA Annual Tartan Tea will be held this year on Saturday December 1st from 1 ó 4 pm at the St James Civic Center 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 an ideal way to stock up on some Holiday Baking with out all the work. For many families it is a tradition not only to attend the Tartan Tea, but also working together while preparing family favorite recipes that they donate to both the bake table and dainty service. 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. If you require a letter in order to obtain donations from your employer or a business, please send the request to [tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com).

Kids just love the Jar Bar 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. Please take time to fill a few jars with candies, small toys, gloves, stickers, etc. Then wrap them up and drop them off at the Jar Bar when you arrive.

There are many ways to be involved. Dancers may perform as part of their school and/or participate in the 2 MHDA traditional segments. (Watch for a dance-out request coming soon). **Families may donate items for the bake sale, dainties to be served, jars for the Jar Bar, door prizes, as well as prizes for the Scottish Auction raffle baskets.**

Many schools have taken on a specific station to run and supply volunteers for, so please check with your teacher for their area of responsibility. If you want to help further, please contact me at [tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com), as their are always other areas volunteers are needed. We always need help setting up the evening before. **Let me know if you will be able to help sometime between 5pm-8pm on Friday November 30th.**

Tickets are being distributed along with memberships this year. Each family is receiving 5 tickets to use or sell as you see fit. If additional tickets are required, please contact [tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com).

The Tartan Tea is MHDA's major fundraiser, 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 2012 Tartan Tea a Timeless Tradition!

Let's make this the most successful Tartan Tea ever!

Lisa Omand



## For Sale

Size 10 slim bright red jacket from Tartantown. Excellent condition. Call Laura [204-255-2396](tel:204-255-2396)

## 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. The deadline for submissions for the next Tartan Press is: January 12, 2013.

Items may be sent by email to Corinne Giesbrecht at [corinne.giesbrecht@gmail.com](mailto:corinne.giesbrecht@gmail.com)

## Editor's Corner

All I can say is: "Wow!"



Colleen McGregor Furlan, dressed for success in CBC's "Over the Rainbow."

On behalf of the MHDA, I would like to extend a heartfelt "congratulations" to the McGregor family on Colleen's incredible achievement of becoming one of Canada's top four Dorothy's! I know we were one of many Winnipeg families glued to the set each week as Colleen sang and danced her way into Canada's heart. Perhaps she will share some of her Over the Rainbow experiences with us in the next Tartan Press. For now, we wish Colleen all the best, as she enjoys a much deserved rest back in Winnipeg!