

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

November 2013

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Upcoming Events

November 23, 2013 – Saskatoon Open Competition and Workshop. Late entries accepted until November 16. Good luck to any Manitoba dancers competing!

November 29, 2013 – St. Andrew's Society Annual Men's Dinner. Senior MHDA dancers will be performing at the event at Fort Garry Place with Graeme McCombe piping. If you haven't signed up yet, are interested in participating and are 16 or older, please contact dance-out coordinator Lauren Mitchell-Lawson at danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com.

November 30, 2013 – The Tartan Tea! We encourage everyone to attend this event and make it a tradition of their own, as it is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. If your school isn't dancing, or even if it is, please consider performing for the MHDA traditional dance sections. To sign up, e-mail danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com. See you there!

January 12, 2014 – Next MHDA Tartan Press submission deadline. Please send all submissions to terrryn.shiells@gmail.com prior to that date.

January 26, 2014 – MHDA closed competition. Location has yet to be determined. Watch your e-mail for the entry form, or check online at mbhighlanddance.com.



We Have a Winner!

Congratulations to Lori Novak, whose story you may have seen in the last Tartan Press. Lori was entered in an Air Miles Story contest, and was up against some tough competition for the grand prize of a trip for 2 to New York City.

With the help of friends, family and MHDA members who voted, Lori won the Air Miles Story contest and will now be off to New York hopefully sometime this spring or summer! She has until next December to go on the trip, but she has to book it by January 2014.

Lori would like to thank everyone who voted and is very excited to head off to New York for the first time ever. She hopes to go in the spring or summer so she can walk around and see the sights.

She is beyond excited to have won the contest, and get some rest for her fingers that were very busy sending e-mails and campaigning to get as many votes from friends and family as she could.

Stay Connected!

Did you know that you can stay connected with MHDA all year round through social media, e-mail and our website?

Be sure to like to MHDA Facebook page, follow us on Twitter, check your Inbox for Clan McCombe e-mail messages and visit mbhighlanddance.com on a regular basis to see updated news, competition information and results, and more.

See below for the links to MHDA's social media accounts.



www.facebook.com/MBHighlandDance



<https://twitter.com/MBHighlanddance>

It's Tea Time!

For the Manitoba Highland Dancers Association it is a decades old tradition that leading into the holiday season, 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, November 30 from 1 to 4 p.m. 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 visit with Santa or assist with serving at the Tartan Tea.

Tea attendees find the bake sale table an ideal way to stock up on some holiday baking without 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. Please bring baking donations at the time of your arrival to the tea. If each family brings one dozen of something ready for sale at the bake sale table and one dozen of something to be added to the service trays, we will have plenty of baking for everyone.

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. This year, we have an amazing grand prize draw worth over \$1300, in addition to at least 6 prize baskets, plus 50/50 and door prizes.

Kids just love the jar bar table with the surprise filled containers that they select from. It's 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. Jars will be sold for \$2 each. Please take the time to fill a few jars with candy, gloves, socks, hair accessories, small toys or other fun surprises. Then wrap them in tissue to hide their contents. jars may be dropped off at the jar bar upon your arrival to the Tea.

What would the Tartan Tea be without enjoying tea, coffee and dainties served while watching wonderful traditional and special choreographed highland dancing? This year is no exception. Dancers and teachers are working hard to put together the day's entertainment.

Many schools have accepted a specific area of responsibility (kitchen, bake sale, Scottish auction, jar bar, serving & dainties) and a prize basket being contributed so, please check with your dancer's teacher for the best way to assist the school. However, if your school does not have a specific

responsibility, you have additional prizes for the Scottish auction or you want to assist with areas of preparation before the Tea begins, feel free to contact me at tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com or 204-479-3021.

We will also require volunteers to assist with set-up and decorating on Friday, November 29th between 5 and 8p.m. You do not need to be available for the entire time. Please let me know how and when you can assist.

The Tartan Tea is MHDA's major fundraiser, ticket sales are important and a contributing factor for determining of 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 2013 Tartan Tea a timeless tradition!

Lisa Omand
Tartan Tea Coordinator



Tartan Tea Performance Schedule

- 1:00 Opening Remarks & Induction of New Honorary Member
- 1:15 MHDA Traditional Dances
- 1:30 Ramesar, Court & Cram Schools
- 1:55 Highland Hoppers, Impey & McCallum Schools
- 2:20 Bunting & Baird Schools
- 2:45 Kids in Kilts
- 3:10 French School
- 3:30 MHDA Traditional Dances
- 3:45 Prize Draws, Closing Remarks
- 4:00 Doors close, clean-up begins

The 2 MHDA segments are open to all MHDA members. These may be danced in addition to the schools' segments, provided time permits. (Consult your dancer's teacher if you are unsure). It is also open to dancers who are not performing as part of a school. Please contact danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com to volunteer for either or both of these segments.



A Manitoba Dancer In Switzerland

Submitted by Sean Raymond

I'm sure most highland dancers would agree that one of the best parts of highland dance is the incredible opportunities to travel and dance in other countries. This past July I had an opportunity to dance in the 2013 Basel Military Tattoo. I thought I would share a little bit about my experience.

The first week I was there was busy with rehearsals. We rehearsed all day taking a break to eat. It was definitely a great way to get in shape for the show! Once the dance was perfected and ready the show began, which included two shows a day for a little over a week. Dancing in the show was an amazing experience. I had the opportunity to perform with 2,000 performers from all over the world including Canada, Africa, Scotland, Ireland and England. Some of the performers included The Band of the Life Guards, Band of HM Royal Marines, the Vancouver Police Pipe Band and of course other highland dancers!

I feel very lucky to have been able to be a part of the show and highly encourage dancers to take the opportunity when the time comes. It is a great way to promote highland dance, get in shape, travel the world and meet lots of great new friends. For me I couldn't have asked for a better way to retire from dancing; but I will admit after finishing Switzerland I said I would come back to do another tattoo if I ever get the chance again it was so much fun!



Here are some photos of Sean's trip to dance in the tattoo in Basel, Switzerland. All of the photos were taken by Brent McCombs.



Great Gifts For Highland Dancers

Submitted by *Terryn Shiells*

With the holiday season fast approaching, you may want to purchase a gift the highland dancer or dancers in your family. I've compiled a list of a few ideas that may help you out, and your highland dancer will love to open during the holiday season.

- ❖ Highland dance-themed or tartan jewellery/accessories. Many highland dancers love tartan, especially when they can wear it outside dance competitions. Tartan jewellery and accessories are the perfect accent to any outfit. I've been able to find these types of items through many of the regular highland dance suppliers, as well as on Etsy.com.



Tartan Necklace – photo from etsy.com shop Highland Hand Crafts.

- ❖ A pair of funky highland dance shoes. Billy Forsyth “Colourz” shoes are fun and colourful for any dancer. They come in red, yellow, green, orange, blue, white, pink, and purple. You can order them online at billyforsyth.co.uk. But, don't forget, these are only for practice or choreography, and are not allowed to be worn for competition.



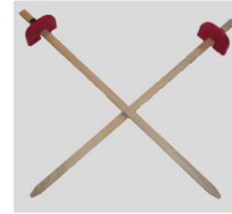
A pair of orange Billy Forsyth “Colourz” shoes – photo from Billy Forsyth website.

- ❖ Highland teddy bear and doll outfits. Some people make little doll and teddy bear outfits that look like kilts, aboynes, jigs and hornpipes. Some places to find them include www.karenskilts.com and craftmeisters.com.



A highland doll – photo from Karen's Kilts Facebook page.

- ❖ Practice swords. If your dancer doesn't already have practice swords, these are a nice addition to the practice regime. It's helpful to practice with swords, as in competition, as it helps increase elevation and reduce errors. Workshops also usually require you to bring your own swords. Many online retailers sell practice swords, including Tartantown, Highlanddancesupplies.com, Highland Island, and highlandxpress.com.



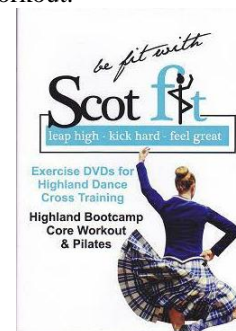
Practice swords – photo from Highland Island website.

- ❖ Practice mats and carrier. Many dancers already have a set of practice mats to use at home or competitions, but they are good to add to your collection if you don't have any. The mats themselves can be found at many retailers including Canadian Tire, WalMart, Superstore, etc. Mat carrying bags are also a great idea, and you can find highland-themed bags online. Some websites that have them include the-reel.co.uk and creativedesigns2100.com. I've also seen the “DIMPA” storage bag from Ikea that would likely work.



Dance mat carrying bag – photo from Creative Designs 2000 website.

- ❖ ScotFit highland bootcamp videos. These are great cross-training videos for highland dancers. Purchase them online from the creator at studiofitonline.com. Three videos to choose from include highland bootcamp, core workout and Pilates workout.



ScotFit DVD – photo from Heart of the Highlands website.