

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

October 2008

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I would like to thank particularly those who held volunteer positions over the previous year. Everyone has made great efforts to pass on knowledge and information to make transitions smooth and that helps a great deal to keep momentum going from one year to the next.

This year we have a super group of people filling many roles on the executive, the competition committee and the non committee positions. It is a really great mix of experienced and new volunteers. We have a great number of fabulous ideas and initiatives we would like to bring in. I am sure that we have the resolve to accomplish them.

Highland Dancing's biggest challenge is growth. It is a challenge that we all share. As a volunteer organization we depend on our membership. Increased membership will make it easier to accomplish our goals and tasks. Many hands do make for light work.

What can our membership do? We can all be ambassadors for Highland Dancing. Never miss an opportunity to tell someone what highland dance is all about. Your own words are best because you know what it is that you like about it. We all have a passion for Highland Dance. Let's all have a passion for getting more people involved in it!

Best regards,
George Hamilton
President

Message from the President

Like many of our members Highland Dancing has always been part of my life. Even before I started dancing at the age of five I was carted along with the family as we delivered my sisters to lessons and competitions. It can be very difficult to imagine life without some kind of involvement in Highland Dancing. What would we do without kilts, bagpipes, and dancing? Things just wouldn't be the same!

However it is interesting how a change in role from dancer to president of our organization can change my perspective on Highland Dancing in Manitoba. Taking on a different role leads one to look at the same things in a different light.

The biggest change in my perspective has been a greater appreciation of our entire membership. Over the last few months I have been able to speak with many of you. The one constant amongst our membership is a passion for Highland Dance. It is very rewarding to see so many people driven with common goals.

M.H.D.A is a volunteer organization. Over its Six Decades it has celebrated many accomplishments. All made possible by dedicated volunteers!

This has led to a very strong and vibrant organization today that is capable of accomplishing many more things in the future.



Tartan Tea

Manitoba Highland Dancers Association is a non-profit organization of volunteers whose goal is to preserve the Scottish heritage in Manitoba through dance. We accomplish this goal by holding Dance Competitions and participating in several "Dance Outs" at various city venues.

Each year we hold a major fundraiser, called the Annual M.H.D.A. Tartan Tea and plans are currently underway in preparation for this event. Please mark your calendars for this year's Tartan Tea, which will be held on **Saturday December 6th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the St. James Civic Centre.**

Everyone involved in the M.H.D.A. organization participates by selling tickets, volunteering time, donating baked goods and jars for the Jar Bar. At the Tea, we hold a "Scottish" Raffle and present several door prizes. The auction helps us raise funds, to help pay for the expenses involved with hosting competitions and ticket sale are one of the bases used in the determination of Government Funding.

The Tartan Tea is a wonderful afternoon in which Dance Schools come together to provide the entertainment, share the merriment of the holiday season and enjoy delicious desserts with family and friends!

CeltFest 2008

Lauren McCombe and her brother Graeme received scholarships this past summer, to attend CeltFest 2008 – a Celtic college in Nanaimo, B.C. When the Canadians in Victoria were over, they headed up-island for a week to study highland dance and piping, respectively. Carolyn Phillips Cusson (who resided in Winnipeg in her youth) and her husband Rene, are the Principals of this Institute of Celtic Performing Arts. The week was fun and informative, and Lauren learned lots from World Champions Morgan Bamford, David Wilton and his mother Delma (Hutchison) Wilson.



One night they held a “Whacky Jig & Hornpipe” contest. The new Adeline Duncan Hornpipe tune was introduced at Canadians and that weekend, Graeme decided to learn to play it. And, why not play it for Lauren while she dances at the Whacky Hornpipe night?! David and Morgan’s jaws dropped when they saw this – they were going to do the same thing as a surprise at the ‘Sunset and Stars Gala Concert Finale’ on the final night, and Lauren and Graeme stole their thunder and beat them to it! Here’s Lauren dancing while Graeme pipes, and then receiving her prize while Carolyn has a good chuckle over it all!

Folklorama

On Behalf of MHDA we would like to thank all dancer performers and parent volunteers who participated at the Pavilion of Scotland.

The efforts of MHDA families contribute to the annual success of Folklorama and members are involved together in many ways from; dancing, providing information at the MHDA Booth, or assisting in food and beverage area.

A new initiative was introduced at the pavilion this year, to help promote our association and to encourage Highland Dancing in the community.

Following the MHDA Main Stage performance, an invitation was extended to children in the audience for a free 15 minute dance class in the Kids Corner. These New dancers were rewarded with a foam sword after participating in this trial lesson. This initiative to showcase potential dancers to our organization was very well received and will be included at the Pavilion next year. Please let members of our Executive

know of any ideas or suggestions that you may have to help our association grow and develop.

The efforts made by the mother / daughter team of Susanne and Reagan Robertson to contact families, organize the Dance Program and staff the MHDA booth were really appreciated and a special thank you to Jillian Ferguson and Susan French for the work they did to assist them in coordinating the week long dancing entertainment.

Thanks,
Kelly Graham-Miele



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.

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

Scottish Settlers Monument

MHDA Dancers participated in a Parade and the unveiling of the Scottish Settlers Monument located on Waterfront Drive, on September 6, 2008. This monument recognizes the Highland Clearances where Scottish villagers were forcibly removed from their homes and immigrated to Point Douglas in 1813.

These settlers sought a better life in a far-away land and upon arrival fostered a relationship with the Peguis First Nation which was essential for them to prosper in this formidable land. Chief Peguis and his band taught vital hunting, trapping, clothing, shelter and winter survival skills without which the settlers would not have survived.



The bronze memorial statue was unveiled by Lord and Lady Selkirk, the

Honourable Michael Russell, the Scottish Parliament's Minister of the Environment, the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, the Honourable John Harvard, and Mr. Dennis McLeod as part of the celebration and dedication ceremonies. The statue depicts a family leaving their home and is a lasting tribute to those affected by the Highland Clearances. An identical statue sits across the ocean in Helmsdale, on the Sutherland coast in Scotland, as a reminder of the clearances.



The Parade commenced from City Hall at 1:30 pm featuring dignitaries, members of the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg, 8 Pipe Bands, several Scottish cultural groups and Plaid car owner Gail Burfoot. Following the Settlers' Monument', Dedication Ceremonies the Parade continued to the Alexander Docks where a Voyageur re-enactment occurred depicting a traditional canoe crossing and greeting at the Historic Red River. The Voyageurs and Parade participants and guest were

then escorted to the Scots Monument for a short closing ceremony.

A few dancer parade participants then quickly traveled a short distance away to the Forks to join other MHDA dancer volunteers to perform at the Dragon Boat Races.

Kelly Graham-Miele

Scholarship Winners

Meghan Rempel, Amanda Bunting, and Erin Scott (in that order from left to right), students of M'Liss Bunting from the Rising Star Dance Academy, won a scholarship at the Manitoba

Provincial Dance Festival in the National category for their choreography piece called "Nautical Lassies". They were presented with the award on May 24th at the Festival Gala.



Congratulations!



Reagan & Raj - married June 21, 2008



Out of Town Results

Lynn Stephens School of Highland Dance		
ScotDance Canada Championship Series Victoria, BC - July 2008		
Premier Highland 7 Years and under 10		
Kelsey Wog	1 st	Jig
	6 th	Fling
	4 th	Seann Truibhas
	3 rd	Strathspey and Highland Reel
Canadian Inter-Provincial Championships		
Kelsey Wog	5 th	Highland Fling
	6 th	Sword
Premier Nationals		
Kelsey Wog	2 nd	Lilt
Pre-Championship		
Kelsey Wog	3 rd	Fling
	4 th	Sword
	1 st	Seann Truibhas
	2 nd	Strathspey and Highland Reel
Courtney Tottle	5 th	Sword
	4 th	Seann Truibhas
Intermediate Highland 11 years		
Kailey Atkinson	2 nd	Fling

Donna Cram School		
Selkirk, Manitoba June 28, 2008		
Premier adult		
Stacie Nixon	2 nd	Fling
	1 st	Seann Truibhas
	1 st	Blue Bonnets
	1 st	Village Maid
	1 st	Jig
	Winner of aggregate trophy.	
Premier 13 & under		
Erika Ramesar	1 st	Fling
	1 st	Seann Truibhas
	1 st	Blue Bonnets
	1 st	Village Maid
	1 st	Hornpipe
	Winner of aggregate trophy. Winner of Dancer of the day trophy	
Queen City Championship Regina May18, 2008		
16 & over Championship		
Stacie Nixon	1 st	Fling
	1 st	Sword
	1 st	Seann Truibhas
	2 nd	Reel
Winner of 16 & over Championship.		
Nationals Premier 15 & over		
Stacie Nixon	1 st	Lilt
	1 st	Village Maid

	1 st	Blue Bonnets
	Winner of Aggregate trophy.	
12 & 13 year Championship		
Erika Ramesar	3 rd	Fling
	2 nd	Sword
	2 nd	Seann Truibhas
	3 rd	Reel
	2nd Runner up to Queen City 12 & 13 year champion.	
Nationals Premier 13 & 14 Years		
Erika Ramesar	1 st	Blue Bonnets
	5 th	Village Maid
	2 nd	Seann Truibhas
	Winner of 2nd Runner up trophy.	
ScotDance Canada Championship Series Victoria, BC - July 2008		
Highland Premier		
<u>17 years</u>		
Stacie Nixon	2 nd	Fling
	2 nd	Seann Truibhas
	5 th	Strathspey and Highland Reel
<u>13 years</u>		
Erika Ramesar	6 th	Seann Truibhas
	4 th	Jig
<u>12 years</u>		
Julia Domke	6 th	Seann Truibhas
Highland Restricted Premier		
<u>15 years</u>		
Veronica Domke	1 st	Seann Truibhas
	6 th	Reel
Canadian Inter-Provincial Championships		
<u>16 years and under 18 years Championship</u>		
Stacie Nixon	4 th	Fling
	6 th	Sword
<u>12 & 13 Years championship</u>		
Erika Ramesar	4 th	Fling
	6 th	Seann Truibhas
Premier Nationals		
<u>17 years</u>		
Stacie Nixon	6 th	Lilt
	4 th	Village Maid
<u>13 Years</u>		
Erika Ramesar	2 nd	Lilt
	4 th	Blue Bonnets
Premier Nationals		
<u>15 years</u>		
Veronica Domke	1 st	Lilt
	5 th	Village Maid
Pre-Championship		
<u>Premier 12 years</u>		
Julia Domke	1 st	Sword
	3 rd	Reel
<u>Premier 15 years</u>		
Veronica Domke	1 st	Reel
The City of Victoria Open Championship		
<u>17 years Championship</u>		
Stacie Nixon	2 nd	Fling
	2 nd	Sword
	3 rd	Seann Truibhas
	3 rd	Strathspey and Highland Reel

1st Runner up to City of Victoria 17 year champion		
13 Years Championship		
Erika Ramesar	4 th	Fling
	2 nd	Seann Truibhas
	2 nd	Reel
2nd Runner up to City of Victoria 13 year champion		
Kamloops Highland Games		
July 12, 2008		
Premier 16 years & over		
Stacie Nixon	3 rd	Lilt
	2 nd	Flora
	3 rd	Blue Bonnets
	3 rd	Village Maid
	2 nd	Jig
	1 st	Hornpipe

Irene Baird School of Highland Dance		
ScotDance Canada Championship Series		
Victoria, BC - July 2008		
Restricted Premier Highland Competition		
Leanne Miele	2 rd	Fling
	1 st	Sword
	5 th	Seann Truibhas
Super Sailor Hornpipe Challenge		
Leanne Miele	Preliminary - Medal Finalist	
Restricted Premier National Competition		
Leanne Miele	2 nd	Lilt
	1 st	Village Maid
	1 st	Blue Bonnets
	Trophy Winner Aggregate Award	
Pre-Championship		
Leanne Miele	4 th	Fling
	2 nd	Sword
	6 th	Seann Truibhas
	3 rd	Strathspey and Highland Reel
Whistler Mountain Highland Gathering Championship & Nationals Competition		
Championship		
Leanne Miele	6 th	Fling
	6 th	Seann Truibhas
	6 th	Strathspey and Highland Reel
	5th Runner-Up Whistler Championship	
Whistler Premier National Competition		
Leanne Miele	4 th	Lilt
	2 nd	Flora
	2 nd	Hornpipe
Whistler Mountain Highland Gathering		
Leanne Miele	3 rd	Sword

For Sale

Girls size 10-12 competition weight woolen kilt, and woolen socks from Scotland. Tartan: Dress Purple Stewart Lots of room to expand waist and let down hem.
Asking \$325.00 OBO

Girls size 10-12 Aboyne outfit. Full tartan wool skirt and plaide. Crinolin and brooch included. Tartan: Dress MacNaughton Velcro closure. Lots of room to expand waist and let down hem.
Asking: \$200.00 OBO

Girls white bodysuit with detachable front ruffle. Size 10-12
Asking: \$15.00

Cakewalk outfit and crinolin Size 10-12
Asking: \$50.00

Contact: Maria @ 254-0450 mlheron@shaw.ca

Complete National Costume

Glencoe Macdonald – Purple Vest with Silver Braid, Petals, Wool Skirt, Petticoat, Blouse, Pin. Mint Condition

Vest - Nape to end of lapels 17 inches. Chest 10 1/2 inches

Skirt - Waist 20 - 28 inches (velcro closure). Waist to bottom of hem 22 inches (currently not hemmed).

Purple/gold plated pin

White cotton Petticoat and Blouse

Asking \$300

Black Highland Jacket For Sale

1 Year old, just like new, Silver braid, buttons, zipper
Outside Arm 21 1/2 inches (1 inch room for hem let down)
Side length 10 1/2 inches, Chest 25 inches, Waist 23 inches,
Hip 13 inches
Asking \$200

Phone 694-8132.

Billy Forsythe dance shoes, size 13 & size 1 \$15.00 each, size 11/2 hardly worn \$20.00 Toe & Heel Gold - narrow fit size 2, worn 3 times \$40.00

Angelo Luzio Red Jig Shoes, size 2 and size 3 \$30.00 each

Dance costumes to fit a slender 7-9 year old, Burgundy National \$50.00, Green Jig \$25.00, White Hornpipe \$15.00

Dance costumes to fit a slender 10-12 year old, Green Jig (red liner) \$35.00. White Hornpipe \$25.00

Call 235-0514 in the evening

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:

Laureen Wreggitt

lwreggitt@mts.net

