

Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

October 2013

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I will admit that as this year approached, I was worried and a little scared. Being a leader of an organization means more than just showing up at a competition to cheer on my daughters. It means responsibilities to each and every one of the membership, as I aim to represent this organization with the many other Scottish and Non-Scottish Associations in Winnipeg and Manitoba. This organization has over 60 years + of proud history in the Province of Manitoba, with many great presidents and others in the organization bringing it to where it is today. I know I have big shoes to fill from those who have gone before me.

That being said, I will say that I have a great team of dedicated people supporting me on the executive this upcoming year. We have a dedicated group of people filling the roles on the executive, the competition committee and the non-committee positions. It is really a great mix of experienced and new volunteers.

This year is going to be one of rebirth. We started last year with going through the Constitution of this organization, redesigning the membership package and volunteer commitments, and splitting the Constitution and By-laws into two separate documents. As we get the changes finalized, they will be posted on the website for easy access for everyone. We are now starting to tackle the daily workings of the organization.

One of our mandates is to run competitions within the Province of Manitoba. Over the past number of years, we have not always been able to run these competitions in a cost-effective manner. It has been stated by others that we need to cut costs by downsizing things at competitions, as we are running out of money. We are looking at ways to improve the bottom line and will be rolling them out shortly.

To this end, we have a great number of wonderful ideas and initiatives we would like to implement. With the dedicated people on the board, I am sure that we can accomplish many of them. Stay tuned for other opportunities that MHDA can be involved with, including dance-outs and get-togethers. We also want to do some fun things together as an organization that are not competition related.

MHDA is a volunteer organization. After a successful membership/registration meeting we ended up with the key positions filled to keep MHDA operating for another year. Thank you to all of you who stepped up into positions. This organization is about you and your dancers. Everyone one of you helps keep the organization running. We have a great group of people involved in many aspects and it should prove to be a fun year.

Keith Rempel
MHDA President

Letter From The President

Welcome to the 2013-2014 year for MHDA and Highland Dance. First off I would like to thank everyone for your support of Highland Dance in Manitoba.

I came to be a part of this great organization because I have a love of my daughters and what they are involved with. They got involved with soccer, so I became a coach. They became involved in tap, jazz, ballet, and other dances, so I became a Dancing Dad and went to almost all their practices. They became involved with Highland Dance, and I dove headfirst into volunteering with this organization, starting off with the website and developing a new way for competition registrations to take place. I then moved on up to Vice-President, and finally now as President.



Greetings From The New Tartan Press Editor

I am very pleased to be taking on the role of the editor of the Tartan Press. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Terryn Shiells, and I have been highland dancing since 1994. I have always loved to dance and get on stage, and continue to compete to this day. I look forward to being able to interact with those who I already know in the dance community, and meeting those who I haven't met yet during my time in this role.

With my background in communications and journalism, this job is very exciting for me, as I have a place to put the many skills I learnt in school to good use.

If you have any submissions or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at terryn.shiells@gmail.com. We would love to have any story, and love to know what you do outside of highland dance.

Terryn Shiells,
Editor



Terryn Shiells, the new Tartan Press editor at the opening ceremonies of SDCCS 2013 in Montreal this past July.

Out of Town Results

Donna Cram Dancers

Results from Selkirk Highland Gathering –
Selkirk, MB – June 22, 2013

Jennifer Watt – Premier 14 to 17

Fling – 1st
ST – 1st
Hullachan – 1st
Earl of Errol – 1st
Lilt – 1st

Aggregate trophy winner

Special Hornpipe – 1st

Dancer of the Day award

Julia Domke – Premier 14 to 17

Fling – 4th
ST – 2nd
Earl of Errol – 2nd
Lilt – 2nd
Special Hornpipe – 2nd

Erika Ramesar – Premier 18 & over

Fling – 3rd
ST – 1st
Hullachan – 3rd
Earl of Errol – 4th
Lilt – 1st
Special Hornpipe – 1st

Stacie Nixon – Premier 18 & over

Fling – 5th
ST – 4th
Hullachan – 4th
Earl of Errol – 3rd
Lilt – 3rd

Terryn Shiells – Premier 18 & over

Special Hornpipe – 2nd



Jennifer Watt and her teacher, Donna Cram following the Selkirk Highland Games where Jennifer won the Premier 14 to 17 years aggregate trophy and the Premier Dancer of the Day trophy.

Results from ScotDance Canada Championship Series –
Montreal, QB – July 4 – 7, 2013

Premier Highland

Jennifer Watt – Premier 16 years

Fling – 6th

Julia Domke – Premier 17 years

Fling – 3rd
Hullachan – 8th

Canadian Interprovincial Championship

Jennifer Watt – 16 & under 18 Years
Full Tulloch – 6th

Julia Domke – 16 & under 18 Years
Fling – 5th

Premier Nationals

Jennifer Watt – 16 years
Hornpipe – 6th
Earl of Errol – 5th

Julia Domke – 17 years
Hornpipe – 6th
Earl of Errol – 1st
Lilt – 2nd

Pre-championships

Terryn Shiells – 22 years & over
Fling – 1st
Sword – 2nd
Hullachan – 2nd

ScotDance Canada Open Championship

Jennifer Watt – 16 years
Fling – 4th
Sword – 6th
Reel – 2nd
3rd runner up to 16 year open champion

Julia Domke – 17 years
Fling – 1st
Sword – 6th
ST – 5th
Reel – 4th
2nd Runner up to 17 year Open Champion

Erika Ramesar – 18 years
Fling – 5th
ST – 5th
Reel – 5th
5th Runner up to 18 year Open Champion



Jennifer Watt, Julia Domke and Erika Ramesar with their runner-up awards from the ScotDance Canada Open Championship in Montreal.

Calgary Highland Games – Aug 31, 2013

Jennifer Watt - Premiership 16 & Under 19 Years
4th - Scottish Lilt
4th - Earl of Errol
1st - Sailor's Hornpipe
1st - Highland Laddie
1st Runner Up

Jean Murdoch Simpson Seann Truibhas Challenge
16 Years & Over
Aggregate Winner

Canmore Highland Games - Sept. 1, 2013

Jennifer Watt - Premier 16 & Under 20 Years
3rd - Highland Fling
4th - Seann Truibhas
5th - 1/2 Tulloch
3rd – Johnny



Jennifer Watt with her trophies for the Seann Truibhas Challenge at the Calgary Highland Games, August 31, 2013.



Vote For One Of Our Own!

Lori Novak, mother of dancer Alex Bairos-Novak of the Donna Cram school is a finalist in an essay contest with Air Miles Canada. Help her win a trip to New York! To vote, you need to have a Facebook account. Go to [facebook.com/AirMilesCanada](https://www.facebook.com/AirMilesCanada) and press "Like". After that, click on the "Tell Us Your Story Contest" tab, and vote for Lori N. You can vote once a day until October 31, so hurry because time is running out! Quick link: <http://bit.ly/19jmBuE>

Lori's story, as posted on the Air Miles Canada Facebook contest page:

I became very ill when my three kids were very young and needed three complex surgeries in a short space of time. The kids were then under 1, 3 and 5 years old. My husband worked hard to keep food on the table and the mortgage paid...and with the help of homecare, we were getting by. Then our dryer quit--in January--with two of our kids still in diapers! Yikes! Luckily I had saved my Air Miles diligently and quickly ordered a new appliance online. It arrived in just a few days (with free shipping) and meant that we didn't need to take on debt at an already tough time. Air Miles had come to the rescue and I am still saving for things our family needs.

Since that time i have "purchased" Christmas gifts, a computer for our son when he graduated high school and even a new fridge with my Air Miles. It is well worth our time to collect and we seek out deals to get more. We are an Air Miles proud family and I say to everyone "I bought that with my Air Miles" and they are always impressed!

What do Highland Dancers Do In Their 'Spare' Time?

Submitted by Donna Cram

Well, it might not be a big surprise, that many of our dancers have very active lives outside of dancing! One of Donna Cram's dancers, Kelsey Wog, is a competitive swimmer, who had a busy summer competing in speed swimming at Nationals and the Canada Summer Games.

After being in Montreal in early July to represent Manitoba in the Canadian Highland Dance Championships her family and Kelsey flew back...yes, again...for her to compete in the Age Group Nationals.

Over 900 hundred swimmers competed in the event. Over the five day competition, Kelsey placed in the following events:

Gold -- 200m IM, 200m breast
Silver -- 100m breast
Bronze -- 100m fly, 50m free
4th -- 4x100m Medley Relay

She set three new provincial records in the 100m breast, 200m IM and 200m breast.

Kelsey continued her travels to Sherbrooke, Quebec. She competed at the Canada Summer Games where she placed bronze in the 200m breast. She reset her provincial record with a time of 2:34.56.

Well done Kelsey!



Kelsey enjoying her awards at the swimming events she competed in this summer, including the Canada Summer Games. (above and below)



Have You Signed Up To Volunteer Yet?

Submitted by Joan Holmstrom

By now, most of you should have received an e-mail from the Volunteer Coordinator advising you at which competition you are scheduled to volunteer. Follow up e-mails will be sent as each competition date approaches. If you know that you need to switch your volunteer shift, please let the volunteer coordinator know as soon as possible. She may be able to give you suggestions as to which other members might be willing to swap with you.

This year the volunteer coordinator had the volunteer schedules with her at the Membership Meeting in September. Those in attendance were able to sign up right then and there and those who had already submitted their forms but were not in attendance were also scheduled into their volunteer slots that night. This gave true meaning to "first come; first served".

If you have not yet been contacted by the volunteer coordinator, please contact her at MHDAVolunteers2013@shaw.ca. While the first few competitions seem to be fairly well staffed, the later competitions are still in need of volunteers.



Upcoming Events

Don't forget to register for the upcoming MHDA closed competition on November 16, 2013. The competition will be held at the Sifton Theatre at Balmoral Hall School, 630 Westminister Avenue, Winnipeg. The judges will be Pat McMaster and Sheryl Joyner, both from Ontario. You can register by mail, or online at mbhighlanddance.com, but must do so no later than 11:59 p.m. on November 1, 2013. And, don't forget Intermediate and Premier dancers register in the morning (9:30 a.m.) and Pre-Premier in the afternoon (11:30 a.m.).

Following the competition, on Sunday, November 17, 2013, there will be a workshop held for all professionals and dancers who are interested. All of the sessions will be held at the Prairie Theatre Exchange, 3rd floor of Portage Place.

The professional session will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with Pat McMaster from Ontario, and is free for ScotDance Manitoba Members. There is a fee of \$20.00 for non-members. Sign up before November 13 by e-mailing Kathy Ramesar.

The dancer workshops will be instructed by Pat McMaster and Sheryl Joyner, both of whom have taught world champions (past and present). The Premier session, which will focus on 2014 Championship steps, runs from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and costs \$20.00. Pre-premier dancers will have their session from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. (\$15.00). See your teacher for forms and details to sign up. The deadline is November 8, 2013.

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>

Tartan Press Submissions

Please send all submissions for the Tartan Press to the new editor, Terryn Shiells at terryn.shiells@gmail.com. We would love to know what you do outside the world of dance, your out of town results, any dance outs, competitions or other news you may have.

We would also like to encourage our alumni dancers to submit stories about where you are now (and how highland dance helped you get there!)

Generally, the submission deadline will be two weeks prior to each competition. The next submission deadline will be November 2, 2013.