

# Tartan Press

Newsletter of The Manitoba Highland Dancers Association

October 2014

## Executive

### President

Keith Rempel [kempel@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:kempel@mbhighlanddance.com)

### Chairman

Cathy Domke

### Vice-President

Diana Simpson [dsimpson@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:dsimpson@mbhighlanddance.com)

### Treasurer

Zan Sinclair [zanandscott@shaw.ca](mailto:zanandscott@shaw.ca)

### Secretary

Barb Watson [bwatson@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:bwatson@mbhighlanddance.com)

### Finance Director

Valerie Mathers [val@bravacreations.com](mailto:val@bravacreations.com)

### Membership Director

Gayle Roy [geawalker@hotmail.com](mailto:geawalker@hotmail.com)

### Competition Coordinator

Allan McIntosh [alanm@belforcanada.ca](mailto:alanm@belforcanada.ca)

### Competition Director

Janet Lyon-Anderson [janetlyon\\_teacher@hotmail.com](mailto:janetlyon_teacher@hotmail.com)

### Ways and Means Fundraising Director

Lisa Omand [lomand@mymts.net](mailto:lomand@mymts.net)

### ScotDance Representatives

Kathy Hopper [khopper@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:khopper@mbhighlanddance.com)

Susan French [susanfrench@live.ca](mailto:susanfrench@live.ca)

## Volunteer Hours Booking Up Fast

*Submitted by Joan Holmstrom*

At the membership meeting in September, members were able to hand in their registration forms and sign up to help at competitions to fulfill their membership requirements. The shifts for all 7 competition days were available to choose from. Those in attendance or who had submitted their forms early had the first choice on the volunteer slots available. As forms continued to come in during the days that followed, shifts were filled according to the order in which members forms were received. Members were then contacted by e-mail to remind them or to let them know what shifts they are scheduled for in the upcoming year. This amounted to a LOT of emails!

As each competition date approaches, a further email reminder will be sent to those volunteering at the competition. (Even MORE emails!)

Some members were not sent a list of which competitions they are scheduled to volunteer but were asked to send in a new list of choices as the competition dates they chose already had enough volunteers. Some members were not contacted because they had not left an e-mail address. If you have not been contacted yet OR were asked to send in new choices, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [MHDAVolunteers2013@shaw.ca](mailto:MHDAVolunteers2013@shaw.ca).

The MHDA is still looking for volunteers to help out with the competition in May and with the competitions at the Forks. The other competitions (November, January and March - unless you want to announce for the pre-premiers in March) are full at the moment.

It is YOUR responsibility to see that you (or someone on your behalf) completes your volunteer shifts at competitions so that your volunteer cheque does not get cashed. So if you have not yet been contacted OR if you owe the Volunteer Coordinator a response, please contact her. She is emailed out but waiting to hear from you.

## Wanted: Missing Trophy

*Submitted by Janie Watt*

The MHDA Past President's trophy was last awarded in 2006 to the provincial champion of the 7 and under 10 years class, but has been missing ever since!

We are hoping our members can help track down this trophy, as the 2006 recipient has been contacted and they do not have the trophy. As far as we know, it also hasn't been awarded since 2006 provincials.

If anyone knows where this trophy is, please contact Janie Watt at [jwatt10175@aol.com](mailto:jwatt10175@aol.com) or 204-253-7154. Below is a picture of the missing trophy.



## Out of Town Results

Congratulations to our Manitoba dancers who spent the summer competing abroad, including those who travelled to SDCCS in Richmond, BC this past July. Full SDCCS results will be available in a future newsletter.

### 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Fergus Scottish Festival – Fergus, ON August 9 – 10, 2014

#### Fergus Scottish Festival Championship

Premier 17 Years

#### Jennifer Watt

Highland Fling – 4<sup>th</sup>

Sword Dance – 4<sup>th</sup>

Seann Trubhias – 4<sup>th</sup>

Reel – 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Fergus Scottish Festival Nationals

Premier 17 Years & Under

#### Jennifer Watt

Flora – 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Fergus Scottish Festival Highland Dance Competition

Premier 17 Years & Under

#### Jennifer Watt

Highland Fling – 6<sup>th</sup>

Reel – 4<sup>th</sup>

### Calgary Highland Games

August 30, 2014

Premier 16 Years & Over

#### Jennifer Watt

Jean Murdoch Simpson Seann Trubhias Challenge – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Blue Bonnets – 5<sup>th</sup>

Village Maid – 1<sup>st</sup>

Scotch Measure – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sailor's Hornpipe – 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Canmore Highland Games

August 31, 2014

Premier 16 – 18 years

#### Jennifer Watt

Highland Fling – 1<sup>st</sup>

Seann Trubhias – 1<sup>st</sup>

Half Tulloch – 1<sup>st</sup>

Blue Bonnets – 1<sup>st</sup>

Village Maid – 1<sup>st</sup>

Aggregate Trophy Winner



## McHarg Dancers Find Success Abroad

Submitted by Shona McHarg

Portage la Prairie Highland dancer, McKenna Sharpe, participated at the Hawaiian Scottish Festival and Highland Games earlier this year in Honolulu, Hawaii. Over the course of the two day competition, McKenna competed in the Beginner section where she received 1st in all dances she competed in. See below for a picture of McKenna's awards including a crystal pineapple trophy!



Alyssa Strong, another student of Shona McHarg, has recently returned from a trip to Scotland where she competed and placed in competition. Alyssa Strong participated in the International Festival of Dancing and the Arts in early August in Musselburgh, Scotland. Hundreds of dancers competed in the event which hosted multiple competitions including the British Championship and British Overseas Championship. Alyssa competed in the Novice category where she received two medals; 2nd in the Seann Truibhas and 3rd in the Lilt.



## Dancer Swims To Success

Manitoba highland dancer Kelsey Wog spent her summer in the pool, and did some great things representing Team Canada.

Kelsey competed at home, and travelled to China for the Youth Olympics and Hawaii for the Junior Pan Pacific Championships this summer and had some exciting results.

Before she left, Kelsey was featured in a couple of newspaper articles, garnering well deserved local "fame". You can see one article from the Winnipeg Free Press here at this link: [Free Press Story](#)

Some highlights from her summer include placing first in multiple events at the Canadian Age Group Championships in Winnipeg, and breaking records in China. Kelsey also had some exciting moments in Hawaii, including a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 100 medley relay.

MHDA is very proud of Kelsey for her accomplishments outside of dance, and wishes her luck in upcoming swimming events!



## For Sale: Like New Kilt

Complete highland outfit in perfect condition. Dress Cunningham 6 yard Scottish woven tartan with XL hem for lots of growth room (\$750.00). Green velvet vest with gold braid and buttons (\$125.00). White blouse with lace dickie (\$25.00) 1 Pair Dress Cunningham Socks(\$100.00).

Asking \$1100.00 for the full outfit, as it is like new. It was only worn once for a competition (2 dances). Will deliver. Please contact Darren Raeside at [raeside@mymts.net](mailto:raeside@mymts.net). See pictures below:



## MB Welcomes New Judge!

*Submitted by Linda Aronson*

This summer, 2014, Shona McHarg travelled to Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland for a 3 weeks' vacation. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, she successfully passed her SOBHD Judges' Exam in Paisley, Scotland.

Shona has been an inspiration to her students, friends and family as she continues the traditions of Highland Dance both at home in Brandon and abroad. Her dance pupils, Alyssa Strong and McKenna Sharpe competed and enjoyed success in Musselburgh, Scotland and in Hawaii, USA earlier this year. Shona has always enjoyed maintaining many of the friendships that she has made through Highland Dance, including keeping in regular contact with her first dance teacher Doreen Wallace, seen in photograph taken this summer in Scotland 2014. Shona left Scotland at age 9 maintaining her commitment to the world of dance to present day.

She started teaching with her dance teacher, Linda Aronson, at numerous Winnipeg venues for a number of years, after receiving her Associate and Members Highland and National teaching certificates. Shona went on to establish her own dance school in the city of Brandon. She currently teaches in Brandon, Dauphin and the MacGregor areas which include students from Portage la Prairie, Virden, and Shilo.

Linda wishes to recognize and celebrate Shona's determination and commitment to Highland Dance. We all share in congratulating Shona and wishing her the best of luck in her journey ahead as an S.O.B.H.D judge.





## MB Dancer Turns Dreams Into Reality

Submitted by Linda Aronson

As a competitive Highland Dancer, Colleen McGregor (Furlan) deals with the 4 D's –drive, determination, dedication and desire. That combination has already transferred to her love of theatre by earning her the leading role in the Canadian premiere of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* held at Rainbow Stage this past August 13-29, 2014.

Colleen, as Ariel-the Little Mermaid, was both impressive and inspirational to our students of Highland Dance. Our MHDA Dancers witnessed a real life role model as Colleen McGregor's dreams of a career in theatre are being realized right in front of our eyes. "Nothing great has ever been accomplished without passion" is a mantra that Colleen has lived and passed forward to inspire others. She believes in the capacity for all students of Highland Dance to realize the potential they each hold within themselves to fulfill their dream.

Colleen plays in the theatrical performance as well as in real life a young adult who wishes to create her own destiny and just "be herself." Ariel is the role model for girl power and self-empowerment. Colleen's ability to command the stage, while coupling her "Crystal Clear" soprano voice and dance ability inspire us all to believe that our dreams will become a reality.

One step at a time, Colleen continues to follow her own advice and those of her mentors who have left a positive impression on her life. They have always encouraged her to set new goals. She actively pursues her next leading role, fuelled by mentors: her mother, Gaelyn McGregor; her Grandma, Myrna-Lou McGregor, Marge Koop, Paula Potosky, and Kristen Chenoweth. Colleen plans on "paying it forward," within MHDA, as she in turn mentors many youngsters to enjoy the world of dance. They witness first hand Colleen dancing and singing her way to future leading role ventures. These youngsters give Colleen an extra boost of motivation and inspiration as she channels her energy to focus on realizing her dream of Broadway stardom.

Her passion is performing, therefore the happiest moments are spent on a stage with her cast members and friends. She has a fantastic work ethic that coupled with hard work and perseverance has led to creating opportunities for herself. Colleen is a humble individual who shares, while actively demonstrating her life lesson, "Work hard, then you can play hard," with young dancers and their families. Colleen never lost sight of her goal as she built up an impressive repertoire within the last year starting with CBC's *Over the Rainbow Series* showcasing Andrew Llyod Weber's search for the next Dorothy. Colleen took a "Leap of Faith" while placing on hold the University of Manitoba's Music program, and was a part of this series. She finished an impressive third runner up position which in turn taught her valuable lessons and opened many other doors.

Her recipe of success is certainly to include the 4 R's- risk taking, reanalysis, restructuring and readiness to vie competitively for upcoming roles. Her Highland Dance training has laid a strong foundation to enable Colleen to perform comfortably and confidently on stage. She has mentally prepared for competitive moments since the age of three years. Through utilizing her active listening skills, daily practice, building confidence on a stage and by observing others Colleen has trained well for the "moments" we all witness as a leading lady. Intrinsicly, Colleen is reminded daily of why she loves to be center stage!

Colleen, who has the ability to think on her feet/fins quickly, jumped at the chance this summer to include Highland dance moves into the production's choreography. Highland dance has prepared Colleen to pick up choreography including many other dance genres with ease. Basic body awareness and technique required for all forms of dance (pointed toes, turn out, posture) have all been well honed from her extensive training in Highland. Always the team player and mentor Colleen is quick to point out that it is essential to study all forms of dance if you wish to pursue theatre roles. The dance call auditions are often the predecessor to the vocal call-backs and a necessity to rounding off the entirety of a "true" performer. Colleen encourages children to start to set goals based on the reality of their moment as a child with a vision will succeed. As experience warranted Colleen reanalyzed the steps necessary to achieving her dream of performing in front of "live" audiences.

By pursuing both the leading roles of Dorothy and Ariel, characters that held big dreams for their futures, Colleen has come to represent the fact that "dreams do become a reality!"



## Upcoming Events

**October 25, 2014** – MHDA open competition to be held in Brandon, Manitoba. The competition will take place at Kirkcaldy Heights School in the gymnasium, 10 Knowlton Drive, Brandon, MB. Pre-premier registration is at 9:30 a.m., with dancing to be begin at 10 a.m. Premier and intermediate dancers register at 12:30 p.m., dance following morning results. Entries have closed, good luck to all dancers attending!

**October 25, 2014** – Following the MHDA open competition in Brandon, a workshop will be held for dancers with Loren Macklin. Pre-premier dancers will be from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m., with premier dancers from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. The cost is \$15 for pre-premier, and \$20 for premier dancers.

**November 15, 2014** – MHDA closed competition to be held at Balmoral Hall in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Entries opened on October 18, 2014. They close on November 1, 2014. Don't forget this time premier and intermediate dancers register at 9 a.m., dance at 9:30 a.m. Pre-premier dancers register at 12:30 p.m., dance following morning results.

**November 28, 2014** – Dance out opportunity for dancers 16 years and older. It will be at the annual St. Andrew's Men's Society dinner, further time details to follow. MHDA dancers will perform with Graeme McCombe piping for about 15 minutes. Please contact Lauren Mitchell-Lawson at [danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com) before the end of October to sign up!

**December 6, 2014** – The annual fundraising event that every member and alumni looks forward to – the Tartan Tea! All members will receive tickets, as outlined in the membership forms filled out and sent in earlier this year. Save the date for a fun time of wonderful dancing, christmas spirit, food and many more activities.



Colleen shown here with young Highland Dancer whom she mentors Brooke Aronson (August 14, 2014, Rainbow Stage Ariel)



## Tartan Press Submissions

Thank-you to everyone who sent in items to be published in the Tartan Press for this edition, it was greatly appreciated and I know the members appreciated reading your results, stories and successes.

If anyone dances out of town, please send me results, or a photo, or a story of how the experience went. Any other success stories, we love to know what our dancers are doing outside of MHDA and highland dance.

Again, thank you to everyone who contributed this year, watch your e-mail for a reminder for submissions for the next issue.



## Fill Up For MHDA

Don't forget that MHDA has a Co-Op number that you can use next time you fill up at Co-Op gas bars. This is greatly helpful for the organization, as it is another way to fundraise so we can keep running competitions for all of our dancers. So, next time you fill up remember our number:

# 346810