

Tartan Press

Newsletter of the Manitoba Highland Dancers' Association

The Countdown To SDCCS 2016 Is On!

With SDCCS 2016 fast approaching (less than 6 months away!) you may be wondering "what can I do to help?" This event is going to need a lot of man power to be successful, and there are plenty of ways you can help!

There are a ton of volunteer positions that still need to be filled, and the planning committee could use extra hands both before, and during the event which runs from July 6 to 10, 2016 right at home in Winnipeg.

You can get in touch with our volunteer coordinator, and MHDA Vice-President, Diana Simpson at dianasimpson@mymts.net to register as a volunteer.

Another way you can help out is through sponsorship. We've had some great companies and individuals step up so far, but as planning an event of this size comes with many costs, we can always use more support! Some great ways to support the event is through trophy and award sponsorship:

SPONSOR A CHAMPION

- Canadian Championship
Seven age categories
 - Champion Award (each) \$200
 - 1st Runner-up Award (each) \$175
 - 2-5th Runner-up Awards (each) \$150
- ScotDance Canada Open Championship
13 age categories
 - Champion Award (each) \$200
 - 1st Runner-up Award (each) \$175
 - 2-5th Runner-up Awards (each) \$150

SPONSOR AN UP & COMING DANCER

- Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, Restricted and Pre-Championship Events
 - Class Trophy and Medals \$250
 - Class Trophy \$100

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Tartan Tea Went Off Without A Hitch!

Submitted by Lisa Omand

On Dec 5, 2015, the majority of the MHDA came together for another successful Tartan Tea. It was our second year at Minto Armouries and it went even better than I hoped. We welcomed about 500 people through the doors to enjoy the afternoon. The event raised over \$4400 for the MHDA - still our biggest and most successful fundraiser every year. That money helps us run all the competitions each year.

From the preparations, to the set up, to the running of the event to the clean up - it was a joint effort. I couldn't have done it alone. Everyone contributed in their own way, so here goes:

Thank you to all the teachers along with their schools that organized performances, ran stations and contributed prizes to the Scottish Auction:

- ▶ Susan French at admissions
- ▶ Kathy Ramesar & Christine Finbogasson for tea & coffee prep
- ▶ Donna Cram at the Scottish Auction
- ▶ Kathy Hopper at the Bake Sale
- ▶ Beth McCallum at the Jar Bar
- ▶ M'Liss Bunting doing daintie prep
- ▶ Zoe Wreggit for providing servers

I'd also like to thank Lauren Mitchell-Lawson for organizing the MHDA traditional performance and the dancers who performed:

Gillian, Bria, Meaghan, Connor, Katie, Adrienne, Presley, Emilie, Katherine, Ashleigh, Tessa, Alex, Jenny, Jasper, Emily Kate & Charlotte.

Dave Wheeler from 92 citi FM was our wonderful master of ceremonies again this year!

Thank you to Heather Oliphant from Heather's Pretty Parties for coming to provide face painting and Craig & Carla Oliphant for being Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

Thanks to my fellow MHDA executive for their input, support & contributions: Cathy Domke, Keith Rempel, Diana Simpson, Bonnie Bain, Gayle Roy, Barb Watson & Joan Holmstrom

Thank you to Minto Armouries, their various staff for all their assistance in booking and the soldiers with the Cameron Highlanders for helping with setting up the event.

I am going to list some of my helpers that went above and beyond, but please understand that I truly appreciate every single person that did anything to contribute. Janet Lyon-Anderson and Christine Finbogasson really had my back this year. Alan McIntosh, Hugh Goudie & Ian Watson and their assistants took care of all the stage transport and set-up.

We tried something new this time by adding a vendor section. I hope you were able to check out the tables and products of Tena-Marie McGinn of Crazy Kilts Dancewear and Gifts, The Lord Selkirk RFM Pipeband offering a selection of home-made crafts, Andee Hiebert from Tupperware, Paulette Ducharme with BeautiControl, Heidi Foot with The Happy Basket Company, Trista Pengelly & Lisa Nabess with Scentsy, Allison Delaurier with Epicure, Grysiuk Queen Bee Honey & Bonnie Benson from Steeped Tea. Each vendor paid for their spot and donated a prize.

We had numerous sponsors donate prizes to the Scottish Auction or provide products/services to help run the event. Thank you to:

- ▶ World of Water
- ▶ Domino's Pizza
- ▶ Bonnie Burns - Tarot & Numerology Reader
- ▶ Unique Ireland Gifts
- ▶ Stewart's Trophies & Engraving
- ▶ Old Spaghetti Factory
- ▶ Bridges Golf Course
- ▶ SDCCS 2016 Steering Committee
- ▶ Bayshore Gifts in Glass
- ▶ McDonald's Restaurants of Canada
- ▶ The Manitoba Highland Gathering
- ▶ Manitoba Hydro
- ▶ Kenaston Self Storage
- ▶ Erin Warwaruk with Thirty-One Gifts

I plan to continue on as the Tartan Tea Coordinator, but always appreciate feedback, ideas or assistance.

Feel free to contact me at tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com or at [204-479-3021](tel:204-479-3021). Dates for the 2016 Tartan Tea will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

Upcoming SDCCS Fundraisers!

As you are probably aware, in order to run another successful SDCCS in Winnipeg this year, we need every MHDA member on board to help out through volunteering, and fundraising! We're very lucky to have all of our dance schools and beyond organizing fundraisers for SDCCS this year.

First of all, thank you very very much to everyone who has already held fundraisers for SDCCS, your efforts and funds raised are going to help out tremendously.

The steering committee would also like to let MHDA members know about some of the upcoming fundraisers planned by our dance schools and highland dance community!



The McGregor School of Dance along with Shauna Bunting will be organizing a ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2016 fundraiser selling Easter chocolates from Purdys, one of Canada's leading chocolatiers. This will allow a unique opportunity for you, your friends and family to enjoy these delicious chocolates here in Manitoba for the same retail price found in Purdys shops in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. A wide assortment of special Easter products will be available in addition to some of their all time favorites you may be familiar with, such as Hedgehogs, Himalayan Pink Salt Caramels and Sweet Georgia Browns. All orders will come specially packaged &/or gift wrapped for Easter. Products will be ready for convenient pick-up at the March competition just in time for Easter. Watch for the distribution of brochures and instructions/timelines for ordering (including convenient online ordering) in February.

For those of you unfamiliar with Purdys chocolates, they are a 107 year-old family-owned Canadian chocolatier based out of Vancouver. Their premium Belgian chocolates are made with sustainably sourced cocoa using BC dairy products.

Thank you in advance for your support. All profits will go directly to SDCCS 2016.



Kathleen McMahon, Julie McClurg and Laurie Tyndall are organizing a dance-a-thon to fundraise for SDCCS 2016!

Dancers get pledges and then they dance for two hours for that sponsorship. All moneys raised by dancers will be given straight to SDCCS 2016. Tax receipts will be mailed out for donations that are \$20.00 and over. All dancers, of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate. You do not have to be a member of MHDA or be competitive. This is not a dance class or a workshop; this is strictly a fun and supportive dance environment to support SDCCS 2016 Winnipeg.

This event will be held on Friday March 4, 2016 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Susan French has offered her dance location which is Parc La Salle Gym, located at 190 Houde Drive.

There will be prizes for those people who raise the most money and for things like the longest fling. Every participant will receive a certificate and a dancing goody bag upon completion of the event.

If the teachers could send a list of participants by February 26, 2016 to Kathleen (Kburfoot666@hotmail.com) that would be appreciated (that way we can make certificates in advance and know how many goody bags to make). Even if you can't make a list, a number of participants would be appreciated.

Change Of Rules From SOBHD For Pre-Premier Dancers

Below is a summary of a change of rules made by SOBHD for Pre-Premier dancers. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your teacher.

CHANGE OF RULE FROM 1ST JANUARY 2016

At the Annual General Meeting of the SOBHD held on Saturday 14th November 2015, the following Rule changes took place: This will affect Beginners, Novice and Intermediate dancers

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2. BEGINNERS:

Rule change affecting Beginner dancers registering from 1st January 2016

This status is held until the competitor either a) gains a first, second or third prize in SIX separate Beginner's competitions, or b) until **twelve** months following the first beginners stamp whichever 'a' or 'b' is the later, after which that competitor is classified as a Novice dancer and is not eligible to enter a Beginner's event.

NOTE: *Beginner dancers with PART of the SIX months remaining, can continue for one year from the date of the first stamp. Beginners stamp for Highland only. Beginner dancers whose SIX months have expired but who have less than six stamps as yet, may continue until all Six stamps are achieved.*

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3. NOVICE

Rule change affecting Novice dancers registering from 1st January 2016

This status is held until the competitor either a) gains a first, second or third prize in SIX separate Novice competitions, or b) until **twelve** months following the first novice stamp whichever 'a' or 'b' is the later, after which that competitor is classified as an Intermediate dancer and is not eligible to enter a Novice event.

NOTE: *Novice dancers with PART of the SIX months remaining, can continue for one year from the date of the first stamp. Novice dancers whose SIX months have expired but who have less than six stamps as yet, may continue until all Six stamps are achieved*

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4. INTERMEDIATE

Rule change affecting Intermediate dancers registering from 1st January 2016

4. INTERMEDIATE: This status is held until the competitor either a) gains a first, second or third prize in SIX separate Intermediate competitions, or b) until **twelve** months following the first intermediate stamp which ever 'a' or 'b' is the later, after which that competitor is classified as a Premier dancer and is not eligible to enter an Intermediate event.

NOTE: *Intermediate dancers registering between now and 1st January 2016 have their start date marked on the back of the card and the year commences from then. E.g. for start dates 1st December 2015 year starts 1 st December 2015. Whereas if start date is 1st January 2016, they will also have a six stamp section on their card.*

Canadian Champion Laura UnRuh Recognized At Manitoba Legislature

Submitted by Gaelyn McGregor

On November 25th at the Manitoba Legislative Building Laura Unruh, along with her teacher Gaelyn McGregor were honored during Heather Stefanson's (MLA Tuxedo) Private Members' Statement. Here is the Statement:

Mrs. Heather Stefanson (MLA Tuxedo): "I am honoured to rise in the House today to recognize a young Manitoban who brought a Canadian championship home to our province this year. Miss Laura Unruh is a Scottish Highland dancer who began her dance career at the age of four at the McGregor Studio of Dance. In the eight years since stepping onto the stage, Laura has managed to accumulate quite the collection of awards. Beyond the numerous local competitions she has walked away victorious from, she has held the Manitoba and mid-Canada championship title since 2012 and was the eastern Canadian champion in 2014.

This past July, Laura's list of achievements culminated in winning the Canadian championship title in her age category of 10 and under 12 years. The last person, Mr. Speaker, to receive this title in Manitoba was 27 years ago by Jillian Currie, who is also in the gallery with us today.

Following this amazing victory, Laura travelled to Scotland to compete internationally at the world championships, where she received second runner-up in her age category.

Laura's accomplishments are obviously a result of her dedication to and love of dance. This passion has been encouraged and mentored by her incredible dance instructor, Ms. Gaelyn McGregor of McGregor Studio of Dance, the largest competitive Highland dance studio in Manitoba.

This year, Gaelyn not only celebrated Laura's triumph at the Canadians but her own milestone of 40 years of teaching. She is an examiner, fellow and life member of the Scottish Dance Teachers' Alliance and an adjudicator with the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance. Gaelyn was the first

recipient of the Lord Strathcona Award sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society for her tireless contributions that help preserve Scottish heritage and culture in Manitoba.

Mr Speaker, I am so pleased to have Laura and her family, as well as her teacher, Gaelyn, as my guests in the gallery today. I would like to ask that all members of this House join me in congratulating both Laura and Gaelyn for their many accomplishments, to encourage them to continue to contribute to our proud Scottish heritage and to wish them all the best in what I am sure will be many more achievements in the years to come.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker."



L to R: Heather Stefanson, Laura UnRuh and Gaelyn McGregor

New Provincial Sashes For MHDA!

Submitted by Gayle Roy

Hello and Happy New Year! For those who have never attended a SDCCS in the past, during Opening Ceremonies and at the Banquet, the Representatives from every province wear a provincial sash.

Over the past few years we have had new Manitoba Rep sashes made and until this year, we have 22 sashes with the possibility of 21 Representatives. With Laura Unruh as a Canadian Champion, we have the possibility of having 22 Manitoba Reps this year. Laura's achievement, along with the need to have a few spares in different sizes were instrumental in the decision that we should have more sashes made.

Over the summer this was accomplished. We now have 26 Manitoba sashes in three different sizes to

best fit our dancers. A huge thank you to Pat Walker (Granny of Céleste and Natasha Roy) for donating the Manitoba Tartan material and her good friend Diane McClellan for donating her time and skill sewing the new sashes. The new sashes look lovely and make a complete set that we will be able to use for many years.

Along with the new sashes, we have a new Manitoba banner in the works. Our Current banner has had a good long run and will be retired with the new banner making its debut in the Opening Ceremonies this July!

What happened to our sashes that were retired a few years back? They have been given a new life! They now are being used at the Tartan Tea by the servers!

Kelsey Wog Sets New National Age Group Record In Swimming

Kelsey set a new NAG (national age group) record in 100 breast in a time of 1:06.20 at the second annual Ontario Junior International in Toronto last month. Picture to the left is Kelsey receiving her medal.

Later that weekend Kelsey set a new IM NAG record in a time of 2:10.14.

She placed first in the 200m and 50m breast events.

Kelsey was also recently recognized for signing with the Manitoba Bisons swim team where she'll compete and study at the University of Manitoba next year!

You can find some nice articles on Kelsey on the Winnipeg Free Press and Swimming Canada websites that also mention highland dance!

Congratulations Kelsey, we'll be very happy to continue seeing you around Manitoba for the next few years as you swim for the Bisons!



Upcoming MHDA Events

Sat, Jan 23, 2016 - Closed MHDA competition at St. James Civic Centre. Registration has closed for this event - good luck to all dancers. (Pre-Premiers dance in the morning, Premiers in the afternoon)

Sat, Feb 20, 2016 - Open Winnipeg Scottish Festival and Championship, including a choreography competition. Entries close on February 5, 2016 - check out the MHDA website to enter online.

Sun, Feb 21, 2016 - Winnipeg Scottish Festival Workshops including a Premier 2016 Championship Steps workshop with the previous day's competition's judges, and a special yoga workshop. Register now as space is limited!

Fri, Mar 4, 2016 - SDCCS 2016 dance-a-thon - a fundraiser for our national event being held in Winnipeg this July. More details are included in this newsletter!

Sat, Mar 19, 2016 - MHDA Open Competition to be held at St. James Civic Centre. More details to come!



Consignment Corner



FOR SALE: Size 6 Tartantown Royal Blue Menzies Kiltie. For measurements visit the Tartantown website.

It was only used for four competitions in 2015 and is in great shape. Seller is asking \$100.00 OBO.

Also pictured for sale is a brand new pair of kids Size 12.5 Gold closed shoes. Seller is asking \$60.00 OBO.

Both of these items are for sale by the same person who can be reached at Charlene.Hollier@gmail.com.



FOR SALE: Size 6 1/2 Angelo Luzio Jig Shoes in **RED**. (Photo shown is for example only - not the actual shoes.)

Please contact the seller by e-mail at lj_walker@shaw.ca for more information.