

TARTAN PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association

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Welcome!



Welcome your new MHDA executive!

President

Lisa Omand

Vice President

Joan Holmstrom

Fundraising

Jennifer Lange

Membership

Gayle Roy

Secretary

Bailey Carey

Treasurer

Bonnie Bain

Competition Coordinator

Christine Foulkes

ScotDance Manitoba Reps

Susan French & Kathy Ramesar

New Honourary Member - Susanne Robertson

On December 4, 2016, at the Tartan Tea, the MHDA officially inducted Susanne Robertson as our latest honorary member. Susanne graciously and successfully co-chaired both the 2004 and 2016 ScotDance Canada Championship Series (SDCCS) events hosted in Winnipeg along with Donna Cram (who is already an honorary member). For the most recent SDCCS, Susanne volunteered despite the fact that her daughter has grown and is no longer an MHDA dancer/member.

Susanne has truly shown a commitment and love of Highland Dance and our community by giving us so much of her time and energy. Thank you Susanne and congratulations!

Dancer's Grandfather Gives Back

Walter Hagborg is the grandfather of one of our dancers and currently lives in Warren, MB. When Walter retired from farming, he built himself a wood-working shop so he could spend his time doing what he loves – building things, and helping people.

Not only does he contribute to the local community by volunteering as a member of the Warren Lions Club, but he also builds many beautiful and practical creations like cedar chests, bat houses, bird houses, bird feeders, and also display cases for his granddaughter's dance medals.

More recently, Walter has been generously donating his time, talents and the materials to help repair and upgrade our perpetual trophies. He has also custom built new bases for multiple trophies when the original base was either beyond repair or had no more space for engraving. His work has helped extend the life of many of our trophies, as well as improve the look of them. He has saved the MHDA hundreds of dollars by doing so, but the value is even greater, knowing that a member of our dance community had a hand in this.

On Sunday, December 4, 2016 at the Tartan Tea, the MHDA presented Walter with a plaque and gift to thank him for his time, talent and generosity.

IMPORTANT: New Rules From SOBHD

New Point Values and Aggregate Awards

As some of you may already know, points are ascribed to the placings a dancer achieves in a competition. The total value of the points a dancer earns in a competition determines who wins the aggregate award for the day and ultimately for winter season (October through March). In order for the the points of a particular dance to be included in the calculation of an overall aggregate award, there has to be at least 6 dancers participating in the dance on the day of the competition.

As of January 1, 2017, the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance (SOBHD) has ascribed new values for the 6 placings for which points can be assigned:

Placing	Points
1st	137 (previously 88)
2nd	91 (56)
3rd	71 (38)
4th	53 (25)
5th	37 (16)
6th	23 (10)

As this change is taking place part way through the MHDA winter season, the MHDA will be calculating a dancer's overall point totals for the 4 winter competitions based upon the new point system while leaving the determination of who received the daily aggregate awards for the October and November competitions based upon former the point values. This calculation method ensures that all four competitions that are taken into consideration when determining a winter aggregate are effectively weighted equally.

These new point values will also be used in calculating placings in Championships. This change in values should give greater recognition to dancers who achieve consistent results from the three judges compared with a dancer who receives a high result from one judge but no other placings.

No Dancer Card Rule

Just a reminder to be sure to have your ScotDance card with you when you register on the day of competition. Failure to have your card will result in a \$5 fee being charged and a hold on any medals, trophies or cash awards until presentation of your ScotDance Card. This is in accordance with SOBHD and ScotDance Canada rules.

Pre-Premier Cards and Stamping

Pre-premier dancers are responsible for attending at the stamping station following awards. Beginner dancers will earn a stamp if they achieved a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in one of the highland dances (Sp Fling, Fling, Sword, Sean Triubhas, Reel). Novice and Intermediate dancers will earn a stamp if they achieved a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in any of the dances. Only one stamp can be earned per competition no matter how many 1st, 2nd or 3rd placings in that competition. A dancer in consultation with their teacher (and after submitting the appropriate form to the local ScotDance MB registrar) can move up from one category to the next at any time. A dancer must move up to the next category after receiving 6 stamps or after one year in the category following the date of the first stamp, whichever is later. Once a dancer moves up to the next level, they cannot go back down.

Workshops and Competitions

The Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance has instituted what is known as the "3-Month Rule". This rule prevents a dancer from competing before a judge from whom they have been taught or coached (in a workshop, seminar, private or group lesson or any form of tuition) within three months of the date of competition. Dancers will bear the responsibility to ensure that they do not compete in front of a judge who has given them any form of instruction in the preceding 3 month window. A dancer who discovers that a judge is someone from whom they have received instruction within the 3 preceding months will either have to not enter the competition or withdraw if already registered. The 3-Month Rule does not apply to Championship or Premiership Step lectures where the judge does not see the dancer dance or to medal tests or similar examinations.

So, if you are participating in the Workshop on February 12, please be sure to not register to compete in another competition on or before May 12 at which any of Aileen Robertson, Peter Archibald or Sandra Bald Jones will be judging.

Thank you to Alanna Gray, a former dancer, for donating some of her old keeper trophies to the MHDA! She has been invited to present them at the upcoming January competition.

New Tartan Tea Venue a Big Success!

The 2016 Tartan Tea was a very successful one. We moved to the Assiniboine Downs, a venue that garnered resounding positive feedback and should hopefully be the new home for the Tea for quite some time.

We were pleased to welcome nearly 400 guests and make over \$4000 profit.

This continues to be our biggest fundraiser each year. It is not only a 40-plus year tradition, but is a great way to come together as a Highland Dance community in a non-competitive way. The variety, creativity and talent displayed by the 7 participating schools and all their dancers is remarkable and something to look forward to each year.

This was my 6th Tartan Tea as the Coordinator and probably my favourite one so far. I look forward to continuing to organize the Tea and have already contacted the Assiniboine Downs to book our 2017 date! I, however, don't and can't do this alone. I send many thanks to all the member families, dancers and teachers that contributed to our success.

I am always looking for suggestions and fresh ideas. Feel free to contact me with ideas or to offer a hand in the prep work at tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com.

Thank you to...

Performing Schools: Kids In Kilts, Ramesar, Cram, Court, Highland Hoppers, McCallum, French

Volunteers: Kids in Kilts serving, Ramesar & Court dainty cutting/plating, Cram Scottish Auction, Hoppers Bake Sale, McCallum Jar Bar, French Front Door, Coat Check and dancers' goodie bags

Stage Set up: Roy Family & Finnbogasson family

Stage Tear Down: Bennett Family, Horvath Family, Joan Holmstrom

Dance-out Coordinator: Lauren Mitchell Lawson

Piper: Adam Tingskou

MC: Dave Wheeler of 92.1 citifm

Face painter: Heather Oliphant from Heather's Pretty Parties

Santa & Mrs. Claus: Craig & Carla Oliphant

The Assiniboine Downs Banquet and Security Staff

MHDA Executive for Feedback, support, assistance: Christine Foulkes, Joan Holmstrom, Bonnie Bain, Gayle Roy, Jennifer Lange, Bailey Carey

Arranging presentation plaque: Janie Watt

ScotDance Manitoba

The MHDA members

And last but not least, my gopher, general labourer, proof reader, idea checker, chauffeur and anything else I ask him to be, **my husband Bart.**

Lisa Omand, Tartan Tea Coordinator.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 21, 2017

MHDA Closed Competition at St. James Civic Centre in Winnipeg. Don't forget - Premier dancers are in the morning, registration is at 9:00 a.m., dancing to begin at 9:30 a.m. Pre-Premiers register at 11:45 a.m., dance following morning results.

Saturday, January 28, 2017

The Scottish Heritage Council of Manitoba is once again presenting the Sir John A. Great Canadian Skate this year! It will take place at the Forks River Trail from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 11, 2017

Open Winnipeg Scottish Festival and Championship (non-MHDA) at the Victoria Inn. Registration is open, the deadline to enter is February 1, 2017. Enter online on the MHDA website - mbhighlanddance.com.

Sunday February 12, 2017

The Winnipeg Scottish Festival presents a Championship Workshop for dancers with all three adjudicators from the Saturday Championship competition. Following the workshop, dancers may also sign up for a yoga workshop - but space is limited! Register for these when you register for the competition.

Saturday March 18, 2017

The MHDA will host its annual March competition. More details on location and registration coming soon!

Volunteers Wanted for New and Vacant MHDA Positions

1. The MHDA is looking for responsible person to be in charge of overseeing the delivery and setup/take down of equipment such as the sound system and platforms upon which the judges sit from time to time. Ideally, the person should have access to a van or truck. This could be a shared position and would qualify as satisfaction of the volunteer commitment. Interested persons should contact Lisa Omand at lomand@mymts.net.

2. The MHDA is looking for a member to fill a position that we are creating regarding media and community outreach. We are looking at how we can grow our presence in Manitoba and specifically in Winnipeg and surrounding communities. Our dancers are talented athletes, strong students and tenacious individuals who deserve recognition for their many accomplishments. We are searching for an individual who is willing to liaise with the media and different community groups to facilitate in our growth. Familiarity with various popular social media groups is an asset. Any interested persons should contact MHDA president Lisa Omand directly at lomand@mymts.net or through the MHDA website.

Manitoba Dancer Receives Extra Special Christmas Gift

A few days before the holiday season, Manitoba Pre-Premier highland dancer Katherine Walc received a very special letter about a dancer named Jeannie Milne who lived in Winnipeg, back in the early 1900's.

Barbara Murphy, the woman who wrote the letter went to Katherine's house on Christmas Eve, and hand delivered 25 medals that are from the years around 1915-1925, as well as two photographs, and a monetary contribution to be used towards her highland dancing endeavours.

The dancer who won the medals, Jeannie Milne's story is explained in the letter from Barbara Murphy below:



Dear Katherine ~

I read the article about you in the June edition of the St. Vital Lance. The story says you are "highland dancing your way to a scholarship". Congratulations on an impressive achievement for a girl who is only 10 years old! The reason I'm writing is to share the story of another Winnipeg girl who was also an accomplished highland dancer. Her name is Jeannie Milne.

In Jeannie's dancing days, she won medals at home in Winnipeg, and at international competitions. I'm enclosing two photographs of Jeannie in her dance regalia. I don't know the date of the photos, but she must have been younger than 15 because I don't spot a rectangular medal that I know is engraved "First Prize Sword Dance 14 & Under, Seattle, July 4, 1923".

Jeannie was born in 1909. I'm not sure if she was born in Scotland or Canada; but it was around that time her parents and my grandparents all emigrated from Dundee to Winnipeg. Alexander and Jane Milne and James and Isabella Murphy were close friends, both in the old country and in the new.

Jeannie was an only child. I can't even imagine her parents' devastation when she died in 1929, the year of her 20th birthday. I believe she died of tuberculosis. I have visited her gravesite in Elmwood Cemetery. She is buried in a plot where her parents were later buried on either side of her; her Mother in 1942 and her Father in 1971.

My Grandpa, James Murphy, died in 1950, near the start of the Winnipeg Flood. A few years later, my Nannie married Jeannie's Father. I was about four years old, so only have a brief memory of them coming to my house on their wedding day. The Murphy family called him "Sandy" and for most of the 25 Murphy cousins, he was the only grandfather we ever knew. He was a wonderful grandfather - kind, loving and always had a pocketful of candies to share, either humbugs or Scotch mints. Nannie and Sandy shared great love and happiness. Nannie and Sandy and I were particularly close, and we loved each other dearly. Although my cousins might want to debate this point, I'm certain I was the favourite!

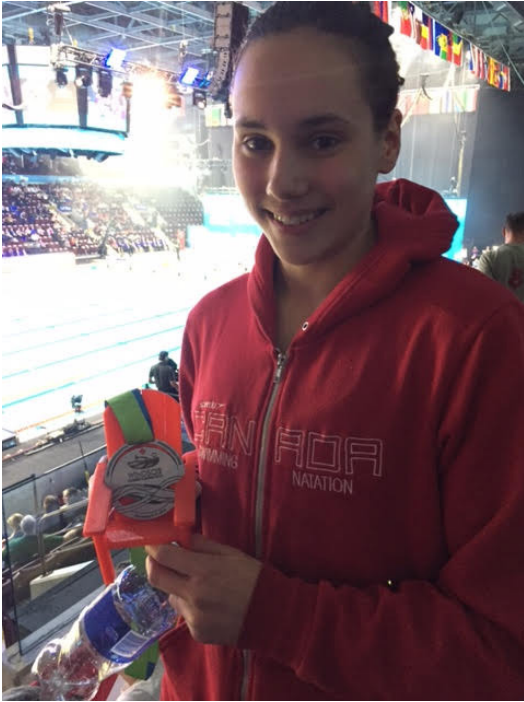
My Nannie died in 1971. Before Sandy died a few months later, he gave me a small box that contained his own medals from World Wars I and II, and 25 of Jeannie's highland dancing medals. I have kept - and treasured - Jeannie's medals until now - when I am choosing to send them to you as a gift. I hope Jeannie's story and her medals will inspire you to continue your dancing and to always do the best you can.

Just so you know a bit about me - I grew up on Victory Place in St. Vital. My Dad owned Murphy's Drug Store on St. Mary's Road. Your parents or grandparents may remember it if they've lived in St. Vital for a long time. I took square dancing lessons at Glenwood Community Club back in the 1950s and spent many cold hours skating on their outdoor rink. I went to Christ the King School, St. Mary's Academy and the University of Manitoba. I moved to Victoria, BC in 1993 but I'm often back in Winnipeg to visit my Dad. He still lives in St. Vital and will soon be 100 years old.

I wish you well, Katherine - with your highland dancing and all your other impressive activities. I hope you'll always enjoy the happy feeling that comes from sharing your talents with others. In Jeannie Milne's honour, I'm sending a small contribution for your scholarship fund, or to be spent on something else to help you with "...living the dancing dream".

I hope you will enjoy knowing about a highland dancer of another generation, and that you will treasure having Jeannie's photographs and her medals as much as I have treasured them.

With warm regards and best wishes for your future. Barbara Murphy



Wog Wins at Worlds

Kelsey Wog, a long-time MHDA member and dancer, made a huge splash at the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m), hosted in London, Ontario December 6 to 11, 2016.

Kelsey qualified for the finals of her favourite event, the 200m breaststroke and swam her heart out in the finals! With 1/100th of second behind the Gold medal, Kelsey came home with a Silver medal in the World Short Course 200M breaststroke!

According to a University of Manitoba Bison's article, Kelsey's silver medal time was a personal best and her fastest by almost three seconds as she was seeded tenth heading into heats for this event at the world championships. She was also part of the 4th place finishing Team Canada women's 50m medley relay.

Way to go Kelsey and keep up the good work!

If your dancer has accomplishments outside of highland dance, we want to know! To have your dancer featured in the Tartan Press, e-mail your stories to Tartan Press editor, terryn.shiells@gmail.com.

Two MHDA Dancers Make Burpee's 100 Most Fascinating Manitobans of 2016 List

Kelsey Wog reached #22 on the list for her results in the pool while Laura Unruh made it to #69 on the list for her accomplishments in highland dance. Well done ladies! See what Ace had to say about them below!



Image from Ronnie Cairns Photography.

69. Laura Unruh (left): Just 13 years old, Laura is already one of Manitoba's most accomplished Scottish Highland dancers ever. She repeated as the Canadian champion this year, won the USA Open Championships, the Commonwealth Championships, and is focused now on the ultimate goal: World Champion. As humble and dedicated as they come. All the best to you Laura.



Image from Swimming Canada.

22. Kelsey Wog (above/right): We have another local swimming star. Kelsey had already broken three Canadian age records in the pool by age 17. She started swimming for the U of M this year, winning three golds and a silver at the Canada West Swimming Championships and was named rookie of the meet. She's fast and has a great career ahead of her.