

# TARTAN PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association

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## Welcome!



### 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

## Scholarship Opportunity!



Premier and Pre-Premier dancers are invited to apply for one of two \$500 SDCCS 2004/2016 scholarships!

Thanks to the financial success of the ScotDance Canada Championship Series hosted by MHDA and ScotDance Manitoba in 2004 and again in 2016, we are pleased to provide you with an opportunity for your dancer to apply for one of two \$500 annual scholarships.

Dancers who have won in the past have done great things with their scholarship funding, including purchasing new costumes, travelling for competitions (within North America and beyond!) and helping to cover the costs of examinations, lessons, competitions, etc.

Application forms will be available at the registration desk at the March 18, 2017 MHDA competition or you can visit the MHDA website: [www.mbhighlanddance.com](http://www.mbhighlanddance.com).

Deadline for application: postmarked or emailed no later than April 15, 2017 to: MHDA, P.O. Box 2491, Winnipeg, Mb R3C 4A7, or to [scholarship@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:scholarship@mbhighlanddance.com).

Announcement of winners will take place at the Manitoba Closed Provincial Championship and competition – May 6, 2017.

# MHDA Launches New Fundraiser!

## WINE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER - SPRING 2017



By now everyone should have received the wine raffle fundraising information from their teachers. Our government funding has been cut and prices keep going up. We need to work together to be able to continue to provide dance opportunities and funding for our dancers.

The MHDA is holding this wine raffle fundraiser to cover our pipers' and judges' fees. Our goal is to be able to provide more piped music next season. Tickets go on sale at the March competition being held at Balmoral Hall on Saturday the 18th of March. The draw is to take place at our Provincial Selection at the St. James Civic Centre on Saturday the 6th of May at 4:00pm. You do not need to be present to win.

There are five prizes of wine baskets available. We are looking for donations of commercially bottled wine, gift certificates or cash to fill our baskets! I know how generous our membership is and have no doubt that we will be able to come up with the 52 bottles of wine that we are looking to raffle off.

For ease of collection, I would like to ask the teacher's participation in the wine donations. If students can be encouraged to bring in their donations to class I can arrange to have either myself or a volunteer pick up at the teacher's request to avoid dancers bringing all donations to the March competition. I can also arrange individual pick up if necessary.

We are encouraging ticket sales by offering the member families who have the top sales \$100.00 and second highest sales will get \$50.00.

Books of tickets can be signed out by at the March and April competitions by providing a post-dated cheque made out to MHDA for May 6th for the value of the tickets taken (\$50/book). These will be deposited unless you choose to hand in the money collected from ticket sales by the 6th of May. Extra tickets are available between competitions by contacting me directly at:

[fundraising@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:fundraising@mbhighlanddance.com) OR 204-791-3435.

I want to thank you in advance for your participation and support. I know that everyone is busy. If we all participate just a little we can make our goal.

## MHDA Golf Tournament?

Jennifer Lange, Fundraising Director, is looking for people to assist her in organizing a golf tournament.

The response for her previous call for volunteers was less than stellar (This may be due to a misprint of her contact information)! Anyone who did try to contact Jennifer, she apologizes but she did not receive your message.

Lets try this again! We are in desperate need of a another annual fundraising event to help support our organization and our dancers. Jennifer feels that a golf tournament could be a great way to get people out and introduce them to our Scottish heritage!

If you have even just a wee bit of time to spare it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Jennifer at [fundraising@mbhighlanddance.com](mailto:fundraising@mbhighlanddance.com).

# MHDA Boys Mentorship Program

MHDA is proud to launch this volunteer program designed to form a brotherhood through the medium of highland dance in Manitoba. It is intended to inspire young male dancers and potential dancers to either take the first step in participating in highland dance or continue to participate in Scottish heritage through dance. There is no fee for participation.

Most importantly, this program is meant to be a support for dancers who are needing a male community of role models. Although highland dance began as a male sport, it is now dominated by females at a ratio of approximately 100:1. This can be a daunting environment, especially for boys entering the tween years.

It is proposed for the group to meet 3 to 4 times per dance year for approximately an hour or so. Kathy Ramesar has graciously offered her studio for the first session. We are currently working on scheduling a date. End of April/early May is being looked at. We also have three male dancers who have committed their time as mentors for this program.

These sessions will begin with the older dancers doing a demonstration for the more inexperienced boys, followed by participation together doing basic movements and exercises. During this interaction, the focus would be on inspiration and participation rather than teaching.

There will be time set aside for question and answer and/or visiting. The younger boys will leave with a small participation award. The older participants will have some time to interact before the end of the session. Parents will be able to visit in a separate area and have an opportunity to discuss costume needs/challenges.

This provides an excellent opportunity for all ages of males to participate in some way. I would suggest a minimum age requirement of 3 for participation.

My personal involvement in this mentorship is related to my son having been the odd man out in highland dance for several years. I enrolled him in ballet at RWB as a support and to find other male dancers for him to socialize with. They have a mentorship program where the principal dancers take time out of their busy schedules to mentor the younger boys and visit with them and it is absolutely inspiring to see how this encourages continued participation. This helps keep the boys dancing into their teens and beyond.

My hope is to provide our current community of males the opportunity to connect and to expand our numbers by inviting family and friends to participate, so spread the word! I have noticed that we have some young male dancers starting out and would like the opportunity to encourage their continued participation through mentorship.

I would encourage all who are interested in the program to contact me to help better prepare for our numbers. We will be circulating a date early in April.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Jennifer Lange - fundraising@mbhighlanddance.com

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday March 18, 2017

The annual March MHDA competition takes place at Balmoral Hall. Pre-Premier dancers register at 9:00 a.m., to dance at 9:30 a.m. Premier dancers register at 12:15 p.m., dance following morning results.

### Thursday, April 6, 2017

The MHDA has been invited to perform at the annual Tartan Day celebrations. Contact Lauren at danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com to sign up!

### Saturday, April 8, 2017

ScotDance Manitoba will host a competition for dancers at St. Andrews River Heights United Church. Registration is now open and closes March 27, 2017.

### Saturday, May 6, 2017

The MHDA will host its annual closed Pre-Premier and Premier Provincial Selection Championship competition. The entry form is now available at mbhighlanddance.com - entries open on Monday, April 10, 2017!

### Sunday May 28, 2017

If you're thinking of attending the ScotDance Canada Championship Series event in PEI this summer - your deadline to register is on May 28, 2017! Check out sdccs.ca for more information.

### Sat June 10 & Sun June 11, 2017

The annual MHDA Mid-Canada Competition (including Championship and Premiership) will take place at the Forks under the canopy. More information about registration is coming soon!

## Volunteers Wanted for New and Vacant MHDA Positions

**1.** The MHDA is looking for a 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 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 Dancers Making Waves At Out of Town Competitions

Congratulations to Jennifer Watt and Madelaine Baigrie who travelled to the Queen Mary Championships in California on February 18 and 19, 2017 and represented Manitoba very well against some very tough competition consisting of World and North American champions.

Mya Pilat also travelled to Phoenix earlier this month and brought home some hardware! See their results below!



**Jennifer Watt (left, in red)**

### **Queen Mary Championship**

Premier 18 & Over

Fling - 4th  
Sword - 5th  
Seann Trubhias - 5th  
Reel - 4th

**Overall - 4th Runner Up**

### **Queen Mary Premiership**

Premier 16 & Over

Hornpipe- 5th  
Highland Laddie - 5th  
**Overall - 5th Runner Up**



**Madelaine Baigrie (2nd from left, in blue)**

### **Queen Mary Championship**

Premier 14 & Under 16

Fling - 6th  
Sword - Championship Points

### **Queen Mary Premiership**

Premier 14 & Under 16

Village Maid- Championship Points  
Highland Laddie - Championship Points



**Mya Pilat (pictured left)**

### **Phoenix Open Championship**

**March 4, 2017**

Premier 7 & Under 12

Fling - 2nd  
Sword - 3rd  
Seann Trubhias - 2nd

**Overall - 2nd Runner up**

## Manitoba Dancer Chosen to Dance at Edinburgh Tattoo

Congratulations to Premier dancer Rachel Unruh who was selected to be part of the dance team at the Royal Military Edinburgh Tattoo.

The Royal Military Edinburgh Tattoo is a long standing tradition that takes place every summer at the Edinburgh castle in Scotland.

This year's show runs from August 4 to 26 - be sure to check it out if you're travelling across the pond to Scotland this summer and cheer Rachel on!





## Dancing for a Cause

*Submitted by Kathy Ramesar*

The Ramesar School of Highland dancers were extremely proud to participate in a fundraising event put on by one of our dancers, Adrienne Gill. Adrienne is a member of the "Free the Children" club at her school, and this year they have been involved with raising funds for health care in Ecuador through WE Charity. She was inspired to go a step further, and organized a Coffee House Fund-raiser on March 11, 2017.

Over two hundred people enjoyed an evening of tremendous entertainment by some great singers, instrumentalists and of course, Highland Dancers! The fabulous MC was Charlotte Gill – Adrienne's older sister and fellow Highland Dancer. We also loved discovering Miss Rielle McLeod from the Susan French School of Dance has a beautiful singing voice! There was coffee, tea and hot chocolate, as well as delicious baking, along with door and silent auction prizes.

Adrienne's event raised over \$3000 for WE! Congratulations Adrienne – we are all so proud of you!

## ScotDance Canada JL McKenzie Scholarship Program

First awarded in 1996 this fund was set up to honour Mr. James L. McKenzie, of Aberdeen Scotland. Mr. McKenzie was instrumental in introducing to, and developing in Canada the techniques of the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing.

The intent of the fund is to assist in the development of a promising dancer who displays not only the competitive spirit, but community spirit, as well as a love and enjoyment of, and dedication to Highland Dance. Guidelines for the award have been set to give dancers equal opportunity to win the award. Award winners are encouraged to use the funds to further their dance activities.

Monies for this fund are acquired through donations (provincial or personal). As well, 1% of all ScotDance Canada's portion of dancer registrations collected is allocated to this fund.

The Award is open to Premier dancers who complete the application process, which includes a demonstration of the Tribute to JL McKenzie.

Manitoba is home to six award winners! They are: Tara Christie, George Hamilton, Reagan Robertson, Kaylee Campbell, Kirsten Henry and Stacie Nixon.

Premier dancers who are interested should contact their teacher for more information.

## Folklorama's Pavilion of Scotland Seeking a Youth Ambassador

The Pavillion of Scotland is looking for 1 more Youth Ambassador aged 14-17 for Folklorama. Duties include representing the Pavilion of Scotland visiting other pavilions during week 1 and working at the Pavilion of Scotland for week 2, plus various other pre-Folklorama events and training. Please see details and apply at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSclr5Xi8nD21xJK8O-l3dlf9aWNaJrbOOFqQirjmkY2TlcyJg/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Or contact [dcarey.manitoba@gmail.com](mailto:dcarey.manitoba@gmail.com) with questions.