

TARTAN PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association



SDCCS 2016
Recap!

New Online
Volunteer Sign-
Up!



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

Technical Advisors

Susan French and Kathy Hopper

Message from our Past President

Way back in 2004, Meghan started on this road of highland dance. At that time I was always anxious to jump in with both feet and help out where ever I could. That led me to taking over the website and redesigning it. And if you had noticed over the years, there have been a few different designs.

From there Angel took over as registrar, and I saw the need to move ahead with online entries, to make it easier for the registrar as well as the registrants. This has led to where registration is today, online only. We moved membership registration online as well over the past few years, as well as other items.

I have always seen the need to step up when required, and a few years ago a vice president was needed, and no one was filling the spot, so I stood up then. As we moved forward through the years, things were seen to be needing to

be done and or changed. One of those was to change the workings of the board and start reviewing the constitution and by-laws after a number of years. That process was started 3 years ago, and we are continuing to streamline it even today. Sometimes decisions may have been made that were not always the most popular, but necessary for the organization to grow and move forward. I started off on this board with a declining membership, and happy to report that our numbers are actually starting to increase again, as you will hear in the reports. Our money situation when I started was down, sometimes bad decisions being made on how to save money, but things have turned around and we are doing well financially wise as an organization. This is due in part to the amazing board that I have had the pleasure to work with over that time.

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Past President's Message - continued

They have all made my job as president quite easy and pleasurable. We topped off my final year with assisting as an organization to help put on an amazing Championship Series in partnership with the ScotDance Manitoba crew. It was wonderful to see each person of this organization step up, like the Manitobans we are, and show the country how well we can put together a solid event. Thanks to Susanne Robertson and Donna Cram for leading the way for us all once again, and to the Kathys' for their leadership and go to it Ness with everything behind the scenes. It was great to be partners with you in this endeavour, which I believe was a success, both financially, as well as how it ran overall. Well done Manitoba!

I have enjoyed my time getting to know all the moms and dancers throughout my time as president. It is such a pleasure to hand out the awards to each Dancer, whether it is 1 st place or 7 th place. The joy and excitement on each of the dancers faces as the came towards me to get their ribbon or medal proves to me that in the end this organization truly does have a purpose and place in Highland Dance in Manitoba.

And to the board that I have worked tirelessly with over the past 5 years, thank you. To Diana, those long phone calls or BBM conversations at 11:30 at night about business, because we knew each other would be up anyways, it has been a pleasure to work side by side with you. Couldn't have done it without your expertise and constitutional prowess. To our treasurer Bonnie, for stepping in and taking a firm grasp of our financial situation, and managing it, it is such a blessing having someone like you on the board.

I know this organization will be in good financial hands moving forward. To Lisa...someone who is always there for a quick call about fundraising, Tartan tea, or just to bounce ideas off, someone who steps up when the need is there to make sure we continue to be a success, Thank you. To the rest of the board, you are awesome to work with. Different ideas and possibilities is what will continue to make this organization grow, and I want to express my gratitude for stepping up and volunteering your time. Being on the board as a whole can be a little daunting and seem like a thankless job, but it is the dedication of each of these individuals that result in the wonderful organization we have today.

And to the teachers who I have worked with over the years, thank you for your patience and guiding as we

worked at implementing different ideas and goals. You are the heart of the dancing in Manitoba. We as parents want to see our kids have as much opportunity as they can, hence this association, but it is you who keep those kids' feet flinging and reeling across the floor, working long and tireless hours with the knowledge and dedication you have to make these dancers of ours that much better. And it proves it when we see dancers like Laura Unruh succeed not only in Manitoba, but across the country and world stages. Thank you for your time and effort. I ask that you continue to support the association just as much as we usher in a new group of individuals to take up the reins and keep this association headed down the road.

And to those that are stepping up that either are new completely or new to positions, there are a number that are leaving, but we are always here if there are any questions. We wouldn't have been doing this if we didn't have a place in our heart for Highland Dance and our daughters or sons. To you I extend my best wishes in upcoming years, and am excited to see where the road leads you.

To the parents and members of this organization, thank you for giving me this opportunity to be your president. It actually is a great responsibility, but there is so much reward in the faces and hearts of our children. And in the end, let it be remembered that they are who we do this for. Not ourselves, not for title or prestige, certainly not that, but for the kids today and those that will hopefully start dancing in the future.

Thank you

Keith Rempel

MHDA President 2013-2016



Court and Ramesar Schools holding Pointsetta fundraiser



The Court and Ramesar Schools will be holding their Holiday fundraiser again this year. Poinsettia's (in multiple colours) and wreaths from Shelmardine's are being joined by Bothwell cheese (yum!).



Delivery will be at the Tartan Tea once again. Funds are going toward travel to PEI for SDCCS 2017. Order forms will be at the November MHDA competition or please let us know if you would like to be notified when order forms are available. (kathyramesar@gmail.com or gimlit@mymts.net)



New online volunteer sign-up for MHDA competitions!

The new online volunteer sign-up process has been a HUGE SUCCESS thus far! THANK YOU to those members that have signed up for shifts at the October and November competitions! There are still a couple of shifts that need to be filled, so please revisit the sign-up (link is provided below) and consider whether you are able to help out. Also, just a reminder that signups for the remaining competitions are still being created, and will be sent out as soon as they're available. Thanks, everyone.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4caeab2aa6fd0-201617>

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 22, 2016

MHDA Open Competition at Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre (5 de Bourmont Ave, Winnipeg).

Premier Registration 9:00 a.m.

Pre-Premier Registration 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, November 12, 2016

MHDA Closed Competition at Balmoral Hall School (630 Westminster Avenue, Winnipeg)

Pre-Premier Registration 9:00 a.m.

Premier Registration 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, November 13, 2016

ScotDance Manitoba Professional & Premier Dancer Championship Workshops at Prairie Theatre Exchange (3rd floor, Portage Place, Winnipeg)

Professionals 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Premier Dancers 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 4, 2016

SAVE THE DATE! This year's Tartan Tea will be on Sunday, December 4, 2016. More details coming soon!

Saturday, January 21, 2017

MHDA Closed Competition at St. James Civic Centre in Winnipeg. Entries will open on December 14, 2016 and close on January 11, 2017.



Ramesar School Dancers Invited to SDTA Conference

Submitted by Kathy Ramesar

We would like to congratulate Alexandra Finnbogason, Charlotte Gill and Gillian Mitchell-Lawson on their nominations to

the SDTA Scholarship competition 2016. While not able to make the trip to New Brunswick this year, the girls impressed

by achieving this accomplishment on their very first theory exams. Well done dancers!



Manitoba proves to be a great host once again!

To all MHDA members, family members and countless friends...

What is it about Manitoba that once again allowed us to showcase perhaps one of the very best ScotDance Canada Championship Series?

After all was said and done at the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre from July 6 to 10, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive!! We received countless accolades and thank-you's during the event; even more flooded in and were posted on social media afterwards, and they continued well beyond the event....everyone from dancers, their families and their teachers to judges and pipers...all seemed to agree...Manitoba hosted a fantastically organized and super enjoyable SDCCS!

We don't need to ask why this is, we know...it's our people!! MHDA members and SDM teachers, both current and past, stepped up and chaired committees, joined committees, putting in countless hours of planning in advance, working long long hours at the event including well into the night to clean up our great venue and finally, after a brief summer rest, preparing committee reports to

help future hosts of this mega-event.

And it didn't stop there....you brought along friends and family members who joined community members who had no connection to highland dance to supply the hundreds of volunteers required for an event of this size! And best of all, we met amazing people and formed new friendships that will continue to be enjoyed in the years to come.

So thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped us become such proud hosts! The financial success, that resulted from all the tremendous volunteerism, will allow us to continue to support our Manitoba dancers in the coming years.

We hope it inspired dancers and parents alike so even more Manitoba dancers and their families plan to experience the next SDC Championship Series...see you in Charlottetown PEI in 2017 and Calgary AB in 2018!

Thank you sincerely from your SDCCS 2016 Steering Committee members: Donna Cram, Susanne Robertson, Kathy Ramesar, Kathy Hopper, Bonnie Bain

MHDA Changing Stamping Method For Pre-Premiers At Competitions in 2016/17

For this upcoming dance season, the MHDA is going to issue stamps for PrePremier dance cards in a different way than past competitions. We will be moving to the system used for SDCCS 2016. All dancers will continue to be required to show their SOBHD dance card upon registration. However, they will now keep their card with them throughout the competition. At the end of the awards, a station will be set up for all eligible dancers to collect their earned stamps. It will be the responsibility of the dancer (and their parents) to ensure they check in and get the stamp prior to leaving the competition. A tracking sheet will be given to the volunteer issuing stamps. Only eligible dancers will be awarded stamps.

Stamps will be issued according to SOBHD rules:

- * maximum 1 stamp per dancer per competition
- * Beginners may only earn a stamp for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in the Highland category only (Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas and Reel).
- * Novice and Intermediates may earn a stamp for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in any dance (National or Highland)



Local Dancer Finds Success Out West

Congratulations to Jenny Watt from the Donna Cram School for her success out west at the Calgary and Canmore Highland Games this summer.

CALGARY HIGHLAND GAMES

September 3, 2016

Premier 19 & Over

Blue Bonnets - 2nd

Village Maid - 2nd

Earl of Errol - 4th

Hornpipe - 3rd

Jean Murdoch Simpson Seann Truibhas Challenge - 2nd

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

September 4, 2016

Premier 16-21 Years

Lilt - 2nd

Blue Bonnets - 3rd

Village Maid - 3rd

Earl of Errol - 2nd

Jig - 3rd

Members of the Susan French School of Highland Dance also travelled to Scotland this summer where they brought back lots of hardware! **A reminder to submit ALL out of town results to the Tartan Press if you'd like to have the dancers recognized in the MHDA newsletter!**

Costumes For Sale



****Hat is sold****

Hornpipe Navy Blue Outfit.

Great condition only worn a few times.

Pants have a 28" inseam and 35" side length Seam.

Top is 32" to 34".

Asking \$100.00 but willing to negotiate.

Please call 204-996-4919.



Red jig costume.

33" length comes with white apron and white under skirt (not pictured).

Asking \$50.00.

Please call 204-996-4919 for any inquiries.



Burgundy vest and Dress Sterling Kilt.

Vest is 14" across the bust and 19" from the high shoulder point to the hem point.

Kilt is 21.5" in length.

Comes with matching Dress Sterling Socks (not pictured here).

Asking \$250.00 for all three pieces but willing to negotiate and sell vest separately.

For inquiries please call 204-996-4919.

Success at SDCCS and beyond



Submitted by Joan Holmstrom

For the second year in a row, a member of the MHDA can call herself Canadian Champion. On July 8, 2016, Laura Unruh won the championship in the 12 and under 14 category. Her sister, Allison Unruh, won the 4th runner up title in the 16 and under 18 category. Other MHDA members (Mya Pilat, Madelaine Baigrie, Jennifer Watt and Alia Cappellani) earned judge's points and placings on this day and details can be found at <http://sdccs.ca/assets/2016/07/index1.htm>.

These dancers also received recognition on other days of

the competition along with many other MHDA members. Details of these accomplishments can be found at <http://sdccs.ca/results-2016/>. Notable results include: Taryn Watson winner of 14 and under 16 Nationals Competition; Stacie Nixon winner of 24 and over Nationals Competition; Mya Pilat winner of 10 year old PreChampionship; Jennifer Watt, 2nd runner up in 19 year SDC Open Championship; Julia Domke 4th runner up in 19 year SDC open championship; Lauren McCombe, 4th runner up in 21 and over SDC open championship; Rachel Unruh, 5th runner up in 18 year SDC Open Championship; Allison Unruh, 5th runner up in 16 year SDC Open Championship; Laura Unruh, winner of Premier 12 year Highlands Competition, Winner of 12 and under 15 Heart of Canada Reel Event, Champion in the 12 year SDC Championship.

Laura's dancing accomplishments did not end at SDCCS. Less that a week later, she and her sisters attended the USIR in Michigan. Jennifer Watt was there too. Jennifer Watt was the winner of the 16 and Over solo choreography competition, the 5th runner up in the 18 and under 22 Pearl Magnuson Memorial Premiership, and the 4th runner up in the 18 and over grand Rapids Championship. Laura was the 2nd runner up in the 12 and under premiership and the champion in the 12 and under 14 Championship. Allison was 3rd runner up in the 16 and under 18 Premiership.

Laura had a short break before continuing on to Scotland to compete in the Commonwealth Championship in Sterling where she won the 12 year old Championship. She competed the following weekend at Cowal winning the 12 year old Scottish Championship and qualifying for "worlds" in the juvenile category where she received a 6th place in the sword.

Well done Laura!



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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MBHIGHLANDDANCE



THE MHDA RED RIVER CO-OP # IS 346810
 Quote the code a couple of times a month!