

TARTAN PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association

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President's Message

Greetings to all our new and returning members. Welcome to the 2017-18 MHDA dance season. I am pleased to return for my 2nd year in the role of MHDA president. Our Board of Executives are made up of a group of dedicated, intelligent and hard-working individuals that make my job much easier. Thank you to our returning board members, Joan Holmstrom - Vice President, Bonnie Bain - Treasurer, Christine Foulkes - Competition Coordinator, Jennifer Lange - Fundraising Director & Gayle Roy - Membership Director. Welcome to our new Secretary, Cathy Laver-Wright.

I'd like to a moment to say goodbye and thank you to our exiting Past President/Webmaster, Keith Rempel and Secretary, Bailey Carey. Your contributions are appreciated. We wish you best of luck in your future endeavors.

What's new and returning this year?

We are pleased to offer a combined Tartan Press and competition program, giving you more value for the purchase price and a hard copy of the Tartan Press. You will continue to receive a full colour Tartan Press via email.

We are in full swing to host our first ever golf tournament in September 2018. Jennifer Lange and her committee are already working on the details and we look forward to what they come up with.

Our new website has been up and running at www.mbhighlanddance.com since Aug 1. Thank you to Barb Chabih for all her hard work on this. Check back often as it will be continually updated as new information and initiatives occur.

The Boys' Mentorship Program is going strong and will continue to meet throughout the season. This program has gained attention all over North America and is inspiring other associations to follow suit.

The Wine Raffle will be running starting in January. This made significant profits last year, with room to make even more.

The Tartan Tea is booked for Sunday, December 3 and returning to the Assiniboia Downs. The general feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The concerns about stage position are being looked into. This is just a few of the key things we can look forward to this year!

Call for nominations.

New this year, we are looking to award the Walter Hagbord Community Service Award. We recognized Walter, a grandfather to one of our dancers, at last year's Tartan Tea. He has been generously donating his time, expertise and materials to refurbish and repair a number of our perpetual trophies. In his honor, we have created this award to recognize others that have gone above and beyond to help the MHDA. This award is open to any person who demonstrates a high level of community leadership & volunteerism for the MHDA, as well as representing the MHDA in community events that promote Highland Dance. This individual should be active for a minimum of 2 years in helping further the MHDA mandate. The nomination must come from a current MHDA member. There is no age limit to this award. Please submit a detailed explanation of the nominee's contributions to me at president@mbhighlanddance.com by November 1 to allow the executive time to process and prepare for presentation at the Tartan Tea.

Once again this year, we also hope to induct a new Honourary Member. If you would like to nominate a long-time member that has made significant contributions or been a dedicated and reliable member, please send a brief write-up to me at president@mbhighlanddance.com by November 1.

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President's Message - Continued



Vacant Positions

Although we have many dedicated volunteers that have stepped up to fulfill the various board and committee positions, we still have unfilled positions. We are still looking for someone to step forward as our **Premier Head**

Marshaller. This person would be asked to check in with all marshallers at the start of the Premier portion of the competition to ensure they understand their role. As well, this person would be around to help troubleshoot and answer questions throughout the competition. This person may be asked to fill in the case a volunteer needs to step away from their position. This person is not expected to physically marshal dancers every time. An understanding of the marshalling process and how to determine fill-ins for reels would be an asset. Please contact myself or the Competition Coordinator if interested.

We also continue to search for an **Equipment Manager.** This position seems to intimidate a lot of people, but is actually fairly simple, yet vitally important. The most common part of this position is coordinating the transport, set up and

removal of the sound system to most of the competitions (at most 6 times per year). The judges platforms are also required at certain venues. The trailer and stage are used by the MHDA twice per year, at the Tartan Tea in December and MidCanada in June. The Equipment Manager does not necessarily have to be the one physically moving these items every time, but would be responsible for knowing where they are stored, arranging access and transport to & from the venue. This role would fulfill your volunteer commitments. It is a great way for a dance DAD to get involved. Please let me know if you want more information or would like to volunteer for this position.

The Highland Dance community in Manitoba is small but mighty. We repeatedly pull together to host fantastic events. We have a reputation for quality. Judges and visiting dancers consistently compliment us. It is a pleasure to sit as president of this organization and look forward to another fantastic season.

Happy dancing!

Lisa Omand
MHDA President

New Fundraising Initiative - Value Village Clothing Drive

Premier dancer and MHDA member Lauren Horvath is undertaking a fundraising initiative to fulfill her school community service requirement. A heartfelt thank you to both Lauren and her mom Kim for their generosity of spirit and giving back to your dance community.

Here is a portion of Lauren's letter to the MHDA board:

I would like the support and permission from the MHDA Board to run a Value Village fundraiser.

Essentially individuals and families collect their gently used, unwanted items and they are given to Value Village who in turn provides funds to MHDA.

My goal would be to collect a minimum of 100 bags of items to donate. Items should be bagged in clear bags and could be dropped off at the November and January competitions. Perhaps even at the Tartan Tea.

If families have a large number of bags that they are unable to bring on the collection dates, I can arrange to have them picked up.

In February I will turn over the collected bags to Value Village.

To make it easier for participants I will bring clear plastic bags and labels to the October competition. I am currently looking into the possibility of an incentive draw for all of those who have donated at least one bag of items. The draw could take place at the March MHDA competition.

Kim later confirmed:

We will have an incentive draw - for each garbage sized bag (or equivalent approximately 14 pounds of stuff) will get one ticket into the draw. Stay tuned for the incentive draw prize!

Also, we were thinking that the schools could have a bit of a competition. The school that provides the most bags will win a pizza party for their end of the year wind-up.

Lauren has the complete support of the MHDA board. Please contact Jennifer at: fundraising@mbhighlanddance.com with any questions. Both Lauren and Kim will be on hand at our October competition to answer any questions in person.

Thank you in advance for your support of this wonderful fundraising initiative. Let's see how many bags we can collect!

Out of Town Results

Apologies to the dancers who were missed as participants in the August edition. The following dancers attended SDCCS 2017 in Charlottetown, P.E.I. in July:

Kaitlin Flach – Beginner 13 Years & Over - 8th in Fling & Sword

Keira Wiebe – Novice, participation

Isla Anderson - Beginner 7, participation

Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games (Eagan, MN July 15, 2017)

Payton Young – Beginner

Fling - 5th

Lilt - 5th

Seann Triubhas - 5th

Ainsley Bosak – Beginner

Fling - 1st

Sword - 2nd

Lilt - 1st

Seann Triubhas - 1st

Winner of Beginner Aggregate Award

British Overseas Junior Championship (Scotland, August 11, 2017)

Laura Unruh, Premier

Fling - 4th

Sword - 3rd

Seann Triubhas - 3rd

Reel - 1st

Overall - 1st Runner Up

British Overseas Senior Championship (Scotland, August 11, 2017)

Allison Unruh, Premier

Sword - Championship points

Seann Triubhas - Championship points

British Open Championship (Scotland, August 13, 2017)

Laura Unruh, Premier 13

Fling - 3rd

Sword - 3rd

Seann Triubhas - 1st

Reel - 1st

Overall - Champion

Allison Unruh, Premier - participation

National Competition (Musselburgh, Scotland, August 13, 2017)

Laura Unruh, Premier 13

Blue Bonnets - 1st

Village Maid - 4th

Jig - 5th

Hornpipe - 4th

Overall - 3rd Place

National Competition (Musselburgh, Scotland, August 13, 2017)

Allison Unruh, Premier 16 & Under 18

Jig - 5th

Hornpipe - 5th

Stirling Highland Games (Scotland, August 19, 2017)

Emmaline & Annabelle Windsor – Novice, participation

Madelaine Baigrie, Premier 13 & Under 15

Fling - 3rd

Seann Triubhas - 4th

Jig - 3rd

Hornpipe - 3rd

Laura Unruh, Premier 13 & Under 15

Fling - 1st

Seann Triubhas - 1st

Jig - 2nd

Hornpipe - 1st

Tied for Overall Winner & Highest Aggregate Premier Dancer of the Day

Allison Unruh, Premier 17 & Over

Seann Triubhas - 2nd

Hornpipe - 3rd

Commonwealth Championships (August 20, Scotland)

Madelaine Baigrie, Premier 14

Fling - Championship points

Laura Unruh, Premier 13

Fling - 3rd

Sword - 3rd

Seann Triubhas - 2nd

Reel - 4th

Overall - 2nd Runner Up

Allison Unruh, participation

Crieff Highland Games (Scotland, August 20, 2017)

Emmaline Windsor – Novice

Sword - 7th

Annabelle Windsor – Novice

Fling - 7th

Seann Triubhas - 7th

Argyllshire Highland Gathering (Oban, Scotland, August 23, 2017)

Laurie Tyndall - Premier - a 3rd & 5th placings

Sarah Gage - Premier - 3 placings in highland dances

Lauren Horvath - Premier - Placings in highland dances

Continued on next page (Including pictures!)

Out of Town Results - Continued

Oban Highland Games (Scotland, August 24, 2017)

Madeline Baigrie, Premier 13 & Under 15

Fling - 2nd

Sword - 2nd

Seann Triubhas - 1st

Reel - 2nd

Overall Winner of Class & Winner of Best Juvenile Overseas Dancer

Kirsten Benidickson, Adult Premier

Fling - 1st

Sword - 6th

Seann Triubhas - 1st

Reel - 4th

Winner of Best Adult Overseas Dancer & Oban Silver Medal Challenge

Scottish Open Championship, Cowal Highland Games (Dunoon, Scotland, August 26, 2017)

Laura Unruh, Premier 13 Years

Fling - 5th

Sword - 4th

Seann Triubhas - 3rd

Reel - 3rd

Overall - 3rd Runner Up & Qualified for World Juvenile Championships

Madeline Baigrie, Premier, Participation

World Junior Championship Qualifier, Cowal Highland Games (Dunoon, Scotland, August 26, 2017)

Allison Unruh, Participation



Annabelle and Emmaline Windsor (Above and Right) showing off their medals they won while competing in Scotland this summer.

World Adult Championship Qualifier, Cowal Highland Games (Dunoon, Scotland, August 26, 2017)

Sarah Gage, Participation

World Juvenile Championships, Cowal Highland Games (Dunoon, Scotland, August 27, 2017)

Laura Unruh

Sword - Championship points

Seann Triubhas - 5th

Reel - Championship points

Calgary Highland Games (Calgary, September 2, 2017)

Laurie Tyndall - Restricted Premier 16 & over

Blue Bonnets - 1st

Village Maid - 2nd

Ear of Errol - 2nd

Jig - 1st

Winner - "Judith Marshall Schey Memorial, forever dancing" aggregate trophy

Jennifer Watt - Premier 18 & over

Blue Bonnets - 3rd

Village Maid - 3rd

Ear of Errol - 4th

Jig - 3rd

Jean Murdoch Simpson Seann Trubhias Challenge

Premier 16 & Over

Jennifer Watt - Winner 1st Place

Canmore Highland Games (Canmore, September 3, 2017)

Jennifer Watt - Premier 18 & Over

Lilt - 2nd

Blue Bonnets - 4th

Earl of Errol - 2nd



Ainsley Bosak and Payton Young at the Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games

Highland Dance Takes You Places

Julia Domke, a former MHDA dancer and student of Donna Cram was accepted to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and made the move to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian this fall.

Julia was one of 78 students accepted this year, out of more than 450 applicants. Highland dancing helped Julia follow her dreams, and the school even focused on it in the profile they wrote for her based on a survey she filled out.

Here are some excerpts from Julia's profile that mention highland dance:

"Her Awards included a Pembina Trails School Division Academic Excellence Award and a ScotDance Canada Championship Series Scholarship."

"Julia is a Scottish Highland dancer who enjoys teaching, performing and competing. She performed with the Ena Sutton Highland Dancers for several years."



Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Saturday, October 21, 2017 is the first competition hosted by MHDA for the 2017/18 highland dance season! Good luck to all dancers competing! Information on how to get to Central Plains Rec Plex in Southport MB were sent out to competitors by email.

Saturday, November 18, 2017

Saturday, November 18, 2017 will be the date for the second competition hosted by MHDA for the 2017/18 highland dance season. It will be at the Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre in Winnipeg. Registration opens Monday, Oct 23 at 9 p.m. and closes Thursday, Nov 9 at midnight. NO LATE ENTRIES.

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Save the date for the Annual Tartan Tea! It will be hosted at Assiniboia Downs once again in 2017. More details on tickets, volunteering and performances are coming soon.

Saturday, January 20, 2018

The first competition of 2018 will be hosted by MHDA on January 20. More details are coming soon!

Kids In Kilts Dancers Can't Get Enough of Highland Music



These Kids In Kilts highland dancers simply can't get enough of highland music during class and competitions, they joined local pipe and drum bands in addition to the other activities they enjoy!

McKenna Sharpe (pictured left) has been Highland dancing since she was 6 years old. Some of her most proud moments were competing at Canadians here in Winnipeg in July 2016 and at the Hawaiian Scottish Games in 2014. McKenna loves the challenges of learning new steps and dances.

At the age of 7 ½, McKenna started learning the chanter, she received her first set of bagpipes at the age of 9 and has competed as a chanter

student as well as a bag piper several times. As a member of the Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band she has been busy this past summer playing at various parades throughout Manitoba and at Folkorama. Her love of highland dance sparked her interest in playing the bagpipes and two of her favourite tunes to play are 'Orange and Blue' and 'Battle of the Somme' which you would recognize as the Fling and the Lilt. She is excited to travel to Scotland in 2019 to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships!

McKenna is also a jazz dancer, plays volleyball, is enrolled at RRC to complete the babysitters course and this year in Grade 6 was elected to the student council at her school in Portage la Prairie.

CJ Fontaine (pictured right) is a Novice dancer who has been dancing since she was 4 years old and is now in Grade 7. She started with the Transcona Pipes and Drums in the fall of 2015 after seeing their table set up at Folkorama and enjoying their performance. CJ quickly learned the tenor drum making her debut at the Robbie Burns Dinner in 2016. She has enjoyed performing at Folkorama, in parades and various other events with the Pipe and Drum band and also has been part of a Kids In Kilts Performance Troupe for the past several years dancing at the Manitoba Dance Festival, various dance outs around the area AND she pulls double duty at the Robbie Burns dinner by highland dancing and drumming for the audience.



CJ also loves to sing in her school choir (she has a love of Celtic music), is learning to play flute and has been doing martial arts at Kyungs St. Vital Taekwondo since the fall of 2016 (an activity she enjoys with her younger brother, pictured with her above) recently earning her yellow belt.

News from the McGregor Studio of Dance

McGregor Studio of Dance Trip to Scotland

By Laurie Tyndall on behalf of the McGregor Studio Scotland crew 2017

Our trip to Scotland took a lot of planning and meetings. Thanks to Gaelyn, who pulled it all together and created one great trip!

Dancers who participated : Sarah Gage, Kirsten Benedickson, Laurie Tyndall, Madelaine Baigrie, Laura Unruh, Allison Unruh and Lauren Horvath. Led by Gaelyn McGregor.

Every dancer came home with at least one medal!

Kirsten and Maddie both won their respective classes at the Oban Highland Games, Sarah danced in her first ever World Championships in Cowal, Laurie got 2 placings overseas for the first time in over 10 years and Laura got a callback for the World Championships.

"I have been lucky enough to travel to Scotland several times throughout my dance career, but this trip just seemed different. We laughed every single day, made so many memories, explored parts of the country I had never seen before, went on great adventures and it was all done together. We travelled with such a wonderful group and we all became so close in our wee caravan! Highlights for me include ; Sing-a-longs in the Picasso, Alisitiri leading us down "Church Road" (The road that went nowhere), mud, mud and more mud at the Stirling Highland Games. What a great tip! HASTE YE BACK! "

- Laurie Tyndall

"This trip created many lasting memories, however one of my highlights was exploring the beautiful and picturesque Isle of Arran, where we ate lots of cheese and oat cakes at the Arran Cheese Shop and even got to drive the Ferry on the ride back! I am very grateful to have gone on this trip, especially with such a



fantastic group of people!"

- Kirsten Benedickson

"I loved seeing a Highland "coo" up close and personal and dancing at the World's. As a lover of photography, I was so inspired by Scotland's gorgeous scenery, I can't wait to go back. My caravan buddies were amazing."

- Sarah Gage

This was my first time traveling to Scotland and it is definitely not a trip I will ever forget. Being able to dance in the World Championships and even placing in a Highland Games was an absolutely amazing experience. So many memories were made that I will cherish forever and I'm so thankful to have been able to spend time with some of my closest dance friends! Visiting the Isle of Arran and seeing (and selfie-ing with) a Highland "coo" up close and personal we're definite highlights. I can't wait for my next trip overseas!

Like Student, Like Teacher



39 years ago in 1978, Gaelyn McGregor won the Oban Silver Challenge Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban Scotland, awarded to the overall winner of the Adult class. This year Kirsten

Benedickson, a student of Gaelyn's (McGregor Studio of Dance) won the exact same medal for for winning the Adult class at the Argyllshire Gathering as well as the Best Overseas Dancer. Gaelyn couldn't have been more proud watching

Kirsten accept her award this past August! Pictured above are Gaelyn and Kirsten with their Oban Silver Challenge Medals.

Dancers at SDTA North American Conference



On the weekend of October 6th, 3 of the several dancers from the McGregor Studio that had been nominated to participate in the SDTA annual scholarship event, travelled to Vancouver to participate in the SDTA North American Scholarship and workshops. All three received recognition from the judges in classes reflecting a "record number of candidates". Kirsten Benidickson, who already has her Teacher's designation and so was ineligible to participate in

the Scholarship, also attended the conference.

Here are the results achieved by the 3 dancers:

Lauren Horvath: Junior Scholarship Event: Master Class- 3rd; Written paper – grade above 90%; Choreography- Judge's recognition

Madelaine Baigrie: Senior Scholarship Event: 4thOverall: Master Class – 2nd; Written Paper – grade above 90%; Tribute to JL McKenzie – 3rd; Choreography – Judge's recognition

Emily-Kate McIntosh: Senior Scholarship Event: Master Class – Judge's recognition

Rachel Unruh Reflects on Performing at Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Dancing in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo was by far the most amazing experience I've ever had in my dance career. Not only was I surrounded by a team of 50 people who loved to dance, I was surrounded by 50 people who loved to perform.

Despite the fact that we were dancing straight on cement (that wasn't the best in some places) and being poured on some nights, there was no better feeling than getting out in front of 9000 people every night. I had the honour of dancing for Prince Charles, Prince William, and Princess Anne, and the energy that came from everyone in the stands just flowed into our dancing.

I've made friendships with people from all across the world that I know will last a lifetime, and the memories I made will never fade.

See below for some photos of Rachel dancing at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Call for Tartan Tea Vendors and Scottish Auction Prizes

Plans are well underway for our annual MHDA holiday tradition – the Tartan Tea! The newly expanded Tartan Tea committee is excited to be learning the ropes from experienced Tea Coordinator, Lisa Omand, and we're looking forward to another wonderful afternoon of dancing, music, treats and more, on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at Assiniboia Downs!

Are you - or a friend, or neighbour – a small business owner with items to sell? Creative crafts, soaps, candles, jewelry and more? Vendor tables will once again be available at very reasonable rates of \$20/table plus a prize donation for MHDA members, and \$30/table plus a prize donation for non-MHDA members. Interested vendors please contact the Tartan Tea Committee for further information at tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com

As in past years, each dance school will be responsible for providing a basket for the always popular Scottish Auction. In addition, the Tartan Tea Committee gratefully welcomes donations of additional Auction and Door Prizes from both MHDA members and local businesses. It is a wonderful way to support the fundraising effort, and can also be a terrific source of advertising for a local business that you may be affiliated with.

Please contact the committee at tartantea@mbhighlanddance.com if you have an item to donate or know of a potential donor. Thank you for your support!

Look for further details about the Tea, including the Jar Bar, Silent Auction, Bake Table and MHDA dancing opportunity in the November issue of the Tartan Press.

See you on December 3!