

TARTAN PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Highland Dancer's Association

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MHDA Votes in 2019/20 Board of Directors

At the MHDA AGM, the following people were voted in as Board of Directors for the 2019/20 season. If anyone is interested in the Vacant President position, please contact Lisa Omand.

Board of Directors

Lisa Omand - **Past President**

VACANT - President

Joan Holmstrom - **Vice President**

Tamara Coutu - **Secretary**

Bonnie Bain - **Treasurer**

Christine Foulkes & Lorraine Lamb - **Competition Coordinators**

Cathy Laver-Wright - **Fundraising Director**

Gayle Roy - **Membership Director**



SAVE THE DATE: Annual Tartan Tea December 7

We are very excited to put on our annual Tartan Tea this year once again at the beautiful Petrus Hall and it will take place on Saturday, December 7th from 12:30-4.

As always we will feature our dancers on stage, have dainties & treats to nibble on, Scottish Auction, Jar Bar, 50/50, Bake Sale items to tempt you with and more!

Tickets are \$10 (you can get them from your favourite dancer)!

At this event we like to both induct a new Honorary Member and present the Walter Harborg Award for Community Service. If you have someone in mind you feel would be worthy of either honour, please let Lisa Omand (president@mbhighlanddance.com) know before November 15th.

More details in November's Tartan Press but if you would like to contribute or be a part of this year's Tartan Tea Committee, please contact me.

Cathy Laver-Wright

MHDA Fundraising Chair/Tartan Tea Coordinator
fundraising@mbhighlanddance.com



Out of Town Results (more pictures on MHDA's Facebook!)



Glengarry Highland Games Open Championship - Aug 3 2019 (Maxville, ON)

Laura Unruh: Fling - 6th, Sword - 4th, ST - 4, Reel - 4th - Overall - 3rd Runner Up

British Overseas Championship - Aug 9, 2019 (Musselburgh, SCOT)

Jennifer Watt: Fling - 2nd, Sword - 4, ST - 2, Reel - 2 - Overall - 1st Runner up

Fergus Scottish Festival - Aug 10, 2019

(Fergus, ON)

Madelaine Baigrie: 4th Runner Up - Premier 16 years championship



Tayport Competition - Aug 10, 2019 (Newport, SCOT)

Jennifer Watt: Fling - 2nd, Sword - 2nd, ST - 1st, Reel - 2nd, Blue Bonnets - 2nd, Flora - 1st, Lilt - 1st, Hornpipe - 3rd Overall Winner, Third Overall Premier & Best Overseas

British Open Championship - Aug 11, 2019

(Musselburgh, SCOT)

Jennifer Watt: Fling - 4th, Sword - 6th, ST - CP, Reel - 6th - Overall - 4th Runner up

RSPBA Championship - Aug 17, 2019 (Glasgow, SCOT)

Celeste Roy: Johnny - 2nd, Laddie - 5th



Laura Unruh: Sword - CP, ST - CP, Reel - 5th

Jennifer Watt: Fling - 5th, Sword - 3rd, ST - 4th, Reel - CP - Overall - 5th Runner up

Crieff Highland Games - Aug 18, 2019 (Crieff, SCOT)

Natasha Roy: Fling - 7th, Sword - 6th, Lilt - 5th

Celeste Roy: Hornpipe - 5th, Fling - 5th, Jig - 5th

Laura Unruh: Jig - 4th, Fling -

8th, ST - 4th, Reel - 4th

Jennifer Watt: Hornpipe - 9th, Jig - 5th, Fling - 2nd, ST - 4th, Reel - 3rd

Lauren McCombe: Hornpipe - 6th, Fling - 5th, Reel - 6th

Rachel Unruh: Jig - 6th, Fling - 8th, Reel - 8th

Oban Highland Games - Aug 22, 2019 (Oban, SCOT)

Celeste Roy: Sword - 3rd, ST - 4th, Reel - 3rd

Jennifer Watt: Fling - 2nd, Sword - 1st, ST - 3rd, Reel - 1st

Glenisla Highland Games - Aug 23, 2019 (Glenisla, SCOT)

Celeste Roy: Fling - 2nd, Sword - 1st, ST - 3rd

Strathardle Highland Games - Aug 24, 2019 (Blairgowrie, SCOT)

Natasha Roy: Lilt - 4th

Celeste Roy: Fling - 7th, Sword - 3rd, ST - 6th, Reel - 3rd, Jig - 3rd, Hornpipe - 5th

Cumnock Highland Games - Aug 24, 2019 (Cumnock, SCOT)

Natasha Roy: ST - 5th

Celeste Roy: Sword - 5th, Flora - 10th, Lilt - 1st

Bute Open Championship - Aug 24, 2019 (Rothesay, SCOT)

Jennifer Watt: Fling - 4th, Sword - 4th, ST - 4th, Reel - 2nd - Overall - 2nd Runner Up



Commonwealth

Championship - Aug 25, 2019 (Stirling, SCOT)

Laura Unruh: Fling - 6th, Sword - CP, ST - CP, Reel - 4th

Jennifer Watt: Fling - 6th, Sword - CP, Reel - 6th



Aug 29, 2019 - Junior and Adult World Qualifiers (Dunoon, SCOT)

Laura Unruh: Qualified for Juniors

Jennifer Watt: Qualified for Adults

Lauren McCombe: Championship points - Reel

Aug 31, 2019 - Adult World Highland Dance Championship (Dunoon, SCOT)

Jennifer Watt: Reel - Championship Points

September 1, 2019 - Canmore Highland Games

Terryn Shiells: Laddie - 6th

Laura Unruh's Cowal Experience



My Cowal experience this year was more than I could have asked for. It was filled with hard work, sweat, determination, accomplishing goals, and cake. My goal this year was to qualify for the World Championships, but my expectations were low for a couple of reasons. I had to change from the Junior steps to the Senior steps since my 16th birthday was on the qualifier day. I also hadn't danced for a good part of the year due to my knee injuries which meant I hadn't learned the adult steps until after Canadians in July. I worked hard all summer practicing both sets of steps seeing as I still had to compete in several championships with the Junior steps. My number for Cowal was the same number that had been lucky for my sister, Allison when she was a runner-up at Canadians in 2016 and I thought maybe this would be a lucky number for me too. I was surprised and very excited on August 29th when my number was called as one of the 10 people who qualified in my heat of over 40 dancers to dance in the Junior World Championship. That evening Rachel, Lauren, my mom and I celebrated my 16th birthday and my success at qualifying for World's with a pink cake.

On the day of the World championships, I received a certificate and was recognized as one of the 20 finalists to dance in the Junior World Championships. I was proud when they

announced that I was from Manitoba in Canada since we have such a small number of dancers compared to other provinces and Scotland, and yet both Jennifer Watt and I qualified as finalists. I was very proud of how I danced despite falling in my reel on the propel pivot turn. Everyone was concerned that I had hurt myself when I fell, but other than my pride, I was okay. Even though I did not place in the World championships, I felt successful because dancing in the world's is truly a one of a kind experience that I feel honored to have been given the opportunity to do. To be able to dance next to all the best dancers in the world is an amazing feeling. It is breathtaking to sit and watch the grace and effortlessness of the 3 World Champions dancing the Fling after they won. It was especially exciting this year, since one of my close Scottish friends, Rosey Watt, won the Juvenile World Championship. As a tradition, to celebrate her win with her and my dance friends from Scotland, Ontario and the US, we all shared a drink from her cup. We had been talking about being able to celebrate this way when and if one of us ever won the World's and it was like a dream come true for all of us.

I know that qualifying for the World championships would not have been possible without the help of my teacher, Gaelyn McGregor. She stuck by me and encouraged me throughout the year with all the setbacks I had due to my injuries over the past year. She continuously made me think positively and to practice in different ways both mentally and physically to keep the dream of qualifying for world's a possibility. I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for helping me accomplish my goals and dreams.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 19, 2019 - MHDA's first competition of the year - Pre-Premier dancers are in the morning and Premier in the afternoon. Good luck to everyone competing!

November 2 & 3, 2019 - The Regina Highland Dance Association is hosting an open competition and workshops this weekend. Entry form available on MHDA's Facebook page.

November 6, 2019 - Deadline to register for the open November MHDA competition. No late entries will be accepted. Please visit www.mbhighlanddance.com to register.

November 16, 2019 - Open MHDA competition being held at Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre. Registration info is online at www.mbhighlanddance.com

November 21, 2019 - Dance out at the Manitoba Club around 8 p.m. Watch your email for more information. If interested, email danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com.

November 22, 2019 - Scottish Gentleman's Dinner dance out, also around 8 p.m. More details will be sent out via email soon. If interested, email danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com.

November 23, 2019 - The Thunder Bay Highland Dance Association is hosting an open competition and workshop. The entry form was emailed out to all teachers, so if you would like more information please ask your teacher.

December 7, 2019 - The Annual Tartan Tea takes place on Saturday, December 7 at Petrus Hall. More information will be coming in the November Tartan Press.

Folklorama 2019

This year Folklorama celebrated 50 years of showcasing many different cultures & entertaining thousands of people in our province and beyond (many travel to come to this unique event). Once again our MHDA dancers helped promote Scottish Culture and had a great time this year at Folklorama.



Week 1 saw the Susan French School of Highland Dance at the United Kingdom Pavilion where they were a part of the Main Stage show representing Scotland as well as providing some entertainment in the cultural area with traditional dances. Thank you to Susan & Gayle for their hard work in leading the Scottish contingent this year at the UK Pavilion!



Week 2 some of our MHDA members performed with the Ena Sutton Highland Dancers in the Pavilion of Scotland's Main Stage show and many MHDA dancers participated nightly with traditional dancing and a few special highland choreography dance numbers performed in the Cultural Room. A new venue this year



changed things up a bit but the MHDA dancers were flexible and performed with smiles, entertaining many visitors. Thank you to Lorraine & Alana for once again organizing the performances in the Cultural Room & Christine for leading the Ena Sutton dancers. Over the 2 weeks with many performances, we couldn't ask for a more energetic representation of highland dance - there is always so much fun & friendship that happens during this annual event.

A huge thank you to the families and friends who volunteered at the pavilions over the two weeks and worked behind the scenes with the dancers, your efforts and support are vital in running the pavilions and the shows, it couldn't happen without you! We can't wait to do it all again next year so mark August 2nd-15th, 2020 on your calendars!

Jennifer Watt's Cowal Experience



This summer I had the opportunity to travel to Scotland and compete at the World Highland Dance Championships in Dunoon. In the months leading up to my journey across the pond I was working hard in and out of class, as well as attending many competitions across North America to get more practice competing against different dancers. My goal was to be in the top 6 at the Canadian Championships in Moncton and having achieved that I was feeling more confident going into Worlds. It has always been my dream to qualify for finals, however knowing the high caliber of dancers within the Adult class each year, I was prepared for either outcome. I went into the Qualifiers with no expectations, focused on those 4 dances we had worked hard all year on. Hearing my number being called as one of the top 10 in a heat of nearly 40 talented dancers was a dream come true. Finals day was an amazing experience and I'm so grateful for all the friends and family that tuned in early that morning to watch. To top off the whole experience I ended up receiving a judge's placing in the reel, one of my favorite dances.

I am so unbelievably thankful for the countless messages and support I received from back home while I was abroad, especially from my teacher, Donna Cram. Donna has always inspired me through her own dancing accomplishments, and as I continue reaching new goals, I'm glad to have her by my side every step of the way. We have such a tight knit community within Manitoba, and I am honored to represent our Province every time I travel. A big thank you to MHDA for providing us dancers that competed this summer the opportunity to share our successes and hopefully inspire younger dancers to continue working hard to reach their own competitive goals.

Thank you to our sponsors

Thank you to the companies below for providing sponsorship to the MHDA for the 2019/20 dance season! If you or your company/group would like to be a sponsor this year, please contact Treasurer@mbhighlanddance.com

Van Houtte Coffee Services:



The Scottish Gentlemen's Club:



Stewart Trophies:



MHDA dancers pictured above at a dance out.

MHDA Available for Performances!

Do you know of or are you involved with a daycare, preschool, or kids program that would like to have MHDA perform traditional highland dancing?

Contact the MHDA at danceouts@mbhighlanddance.com and we can arrange a danceout free of charge for your daycare, preschool or kids program!

Stay In Touch with the MHDA



NEW! Follow us on Instagram: [@mbhighlanddancersassoc](https://www.instagram.com/mbhighlanddancersassoc)

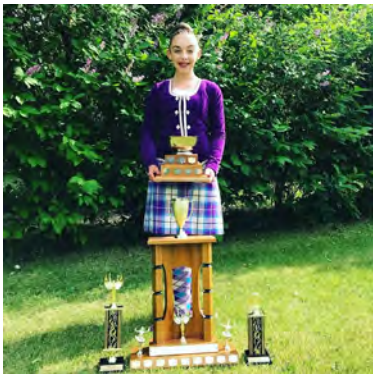


Find us on Facebook: [@mbhighlanddance](https://www.facebook.com/mbhighlanddance)



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Celeste Roy Ambassador for The Highland Dancer



Congratulations to Céleste on becoming an official Brand Ambassador for The Highland Dancer! Watch for upcoming posts and discount codes for items and follow Cél on Facebook and her new IG dance account @celeste.dance_

Good Luck at Disney Competition

Kids in Kilts students, Katherine Bell, Veronica Daniel, Rachel Gerhard, Isabelle Jayko, Allyson Stubbe, Katherine Walc, Morgan Weiss, Keira Wiebe, Emma Windsor, Grey Windsor, Olivia Yarnell, and Payton Young are beyond excited for their upcoming trip to the International Gathering of Scottish Highland Dance on October 26th in Orlando, Florida. They have prepared 24 choreographies and are very excited to showcase their Disney-inspired costumes. Good luck dancers!

The KIK IGSHD team in their All-Age School Group choreography, The Lion King



Lauren McCombe & Rachel UnRuh's Edinburgh Tattoo Experiences

Lauren had an amazing experience dancing for 6 weeks in Scotland this summer. She had the privilege of being part of the Tattoo Dance Company in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. She was in 6 acts during the show, so she did a lot of running, costume changes and hair changes throughout. Some highlights include performing for thousands of people, spending everyday with her dance friends, visiting the VIP booth, and leaping down the Esplanade. Lauren highly recommends performing in a tattoo as an adult dancer. Performing to amazing music for thousands of people brings a rush that can't be replicated another way. She has made amazing friendships with people from across the world, with whom she will always share a bond. She is so thankful to everyone from the Scottish community who came to see the show at the theatre, and for those who have supported her throughout this journey. Your words of kindness do not go unnoticed. Lauren also found time to compete at the Crieff Highland Games on her day off ~ something she has wanted to do ever since she got her kilt in the Dress Red Crieff tartan 10 years ago. She was then able to finish her trip by dancing at Cowal for the first time. She was thrilled to receive a judges placing in the adult qualifier, even after a month of dancing in the cold and on wet cement!



Rachel: This summer I got the opportunity to spend my third summer dancing with the Tattoo Dance Company in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Stepping back out onto the esplanade felt amazing and like I had never left. It's been super cool to see the differences and similarities between the shows the last three years, and I've loved each one for different reasons! One thing I thought was really cool this year was that I got to start the show off by walking over the drawbridge of the castle, something I had never done in the show before! This year's team had many new dancers as well as a bunch of returning members, so I got to see friends from previous years, as well as make new friends! It was also lots of fun having Lauren McCombe on the team with me this year! The theme for this year's show was Kaleidoscope, with acts from Nigeria, France, Germany, Trinidad and Tobago, New Zealand, and China. My favourite part of the show was when the entire cast performed a dance to "The Greatest Show" in the finale, and I loved the nights when I knew people from back home would be watching! Overall it was another amazing summer spent dancing in Edinburgh.

