

# *Honorary Life Member*

## *ScotDance Ontario*

*February 2006*



### **Gillian Macdonald (nee Luxton)**

In addition to teaching and judging Highland Dancing, Gillian has served on the Executive Committees of the Ottawa Highland Dancing Assoc. (OHDA) as Teacher Rep and ScotDance Ontario as President and was the Chair of the ScotDance Canada Championship Series – Ottawa 99. In the year 2000, she instigated Canada's Capital City Open Championship for Ottawa.

She was also at the helm in creating a new forum for awarding the ScotDance Ontario Oscar awards for the province of Ontario, a program recognizing excellence in Highland dancing at the Championship level. With approx. 1600 dancers within the province, one of Gillian's main goals is to raise the profile of Highland dancing with the general public. As a way of acknowledging the accomplishment of our many dancers and the dedication and support of Highland dancing of others within the province in general, Gillian came up with the idea of ScotDance Ontario hosting a Gala Celebration event. Beginning in 2003, commemorating the outstanding success of having 3 World Championship titles won by Ontario dancers, the ScotDance Ontario Gala celebration of Highland Dancing received excellent response and is now a very exciting event held annually within the province at the end of February. Everyone who is interested in the pursuit and acknowledgement of what is going on in the Highland dance community of Ontario, is invited to attend.

As a dancer, in addition to her competitive successes, her proudest moments included performing at the Edinburgh Military tattoo in 1981 and 1986 with the Canadiana Dancers under the direction of Donna Jean Ostrander and Sandra Bald Jones.

Fellow Member of the S.D.T.A. Gillian is an active member of the S.O.B.H.D. Judges Panel. She enjoys judging events across Canada, the US and Scotland as well as teaching workshops. Most recently, she became involved with the creation of a performing group, "Team Ottawa" for the initial purpose of submitting an entry for the Choreography Challenge, SDCCS Calgary ,06. Along with fellow colleagues, Terri Kember and Fiona Champagne, also from Ottawa, the group was successful in making the final 10 to go on and compete during a live, televised broadcast in which they finished 4th overall.

Married to Doug Macdonald, Civilian Member with the RCMP, they reside in Ottawa. Together, they have 2 daughters, Kirsty and Kayleigh, both successful, champion dancers, winning numerous awards from across Canada, the US and Scotland. There have been many proud moments between their various activities and within their Highland dancing careers, including first championship wins and when Kayleigh went on to win the Ontario Championship in 2003 and then the Canadian Inter-Provincial title in 2005.

When not teaching dancing, Gillian instructs in E.S.L. and Special Education in Elementary School in Ottawa.