

Honorary Life Member

ScotDance Ontario

February 2005



Joy Allen Tolev

Joy was only three when she started dancing under the instruction of Evelyn Murray, Toronto. Ms. Murray was one of the founding members of the Eastern Canada Highland Dancers' Alliance. Joy successfully competed throughout Canada and the U.S., winning several major awards. In 1978, when the Ontario Oscar Awards first began, Joy was the first recipient in the Adult section.

Joy has been the director and principal instructor of the Joy Allen Tolev School of Highland Dancing in Toronto for 27 years. Over the years, through her school, she has organized various trips for her dancers to competitions and events around the globe. She has produced numerous high caliber dancers, who have won titles in the Ontario, Canadian, Scottish, Commonwealth and World Championships. In 2002 her dancers included a Canadian Champion and Runner up, Scottish Champion in the 10 yr category, Commonwealth Champion in the adult category and 2 runners-up in the under 11 yrs section. Her dancers continue to win many top prizes, including current Adult World Champion, Colleen Rintamaki, who now holds over 160 championship titles including being a world record holder with 10 World Championship titles.

A Fellow/Examiner of the BATD, North American BATD Co-ordinator, Adjudicator on the SOBHD Judges Panel, Joy is also Chair of the Judges' Committee for the Province of Ontario. She judges and conducts at many competitions and workshops across North America, Scotland, Australia, and New Zealand.

Joy is still residing in the Toronto area with husband Pete Tolev and daughters, Stephanie and Jessalynn, also both successful Highland dancers. We salute Pete in his role as President of the Eastern Canadian Highland Dancers Association and for his on-going support of the Highland dancing community. Mother, Gladys Allen, also works as a Committee member on the ECHDA and Joy in her capacity as the Professional Member, is quite involved as well – pretty much a dancing family, making a difference to Ontario dancers and Highland dancing in general.