

Honorary Life Member ScotDance Ontario



Marjorie-Anne Macleod Dent

Marjorie-Anne Macleod Dent was training as a singer and musician when the opportunity arose to take Highland Dancing lessons with Mr. Robert Rennie. Starting at the awkward age of 12 meant that the first few years were a bit suspect but, the joy of dance was there, and within 5 years she had completed all her exams and Teacher certification.

Fellow and Life Member of the BATD, Member SDTA, Member SOBHD Judges' Panel and Past Chair and Hon. Life Member of SDOntario, Marjorie-Anne MacLeod Dent is the founder and Artistic Director of the ***Macleod of Lewis Dance Studio*** in Hamilton, with a branch in Woodstock, Ont. and has been teaching with much success since 1964.

As a teaching professional Marjorie-Anne was elected by her peers to serve as Treasurer and then Chair of SDOntario, Chair of the Southern Ontario Adjudicators' Association and Chair of the Hamilton-Halton Highland Teachers' Association. In honour of her many years of service on the Executive and contribution to its development, Ms Dent was voted an Honorary Life Member of ScotDance Ontario.

Ms. Dent has produced many Championship calibre dancers and the MacLeod of Lewis Celtic Dancers are seasoned performers who have toured with Scotland's visiting performers "A Breath of Scotland", local Celtic group "Fiddlers 3", and the Scottish Dance Company of Canada and more. Their performances large and small also include numerous Military Tattoos.

Marjorie-Anne's greatest pride however, is the fact that her 2 daughters have continued the tradition. On the faculty at the Macleod of Lewis Dance Studio, as well as her work with pre-schoolers, beginners and pre-premier dancers, Sarah Dent Henshaw offers a program called "Danceability", a new syllabus designed for children with special needs. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and Education, and as a Member of the BATD, Sarah has been instructing for about 15 years.

Jessica Macleod-Dent, a highly successful competitor, respected choreographer and performer, was also a soloist at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and has danced for the Queen and Prince Charles on separate occasions. For several years, she was Director of the Dance Program at the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada in P.E.I.

This family connection is a testament to the love of the art form that Marjorie-Anne feels is the foundation of it all.

When not teaching dance, Marjorie-Anne teaches elementary school in Hamilton and in her spare time, enjoys participating in Musical Theatre, where, in addition to dancing, she can enjoy her other talents as a champion singer. This was evident in her performance in the production of "Old Tyme Music Hall", a vaudeville type variety show. Over the years, she has sung everything from Opera to Broadway and Pop tunes. She used to teach voice in addition to dancing, but due to time constraints, let it drift away.

Marjorie-Anne hopes you will all still be in love with Highland Dancing – the highs and the lows (for there are many) – 40 years or more from now! Sharon Hay-Pole, one of Marjorie-Anne's first students and a student for more than 25 years, who has become Marjorie-Anne's right-hand in addition to being a dear, personal friend, was pleased to accept this award on behalf of Marjorie-Anne.