

Arlene Bain, Alberta

Arlene Bain started teaching dancing in 1954 at the age of eleven, and 64 years later is still teaching highland to a few students.

Arlene is a member of SDTA and took her judges exam in 1970. She has judged many competitions and championships primarily in Canada, the United States and the World Championship at Cowal Gathering in Scotland. Arlene retired from judging in 2015.

Arlene started highland at the age of 5. Her first teacher was her mother, who had taken highland dancing and wanted to pass it on to her daughter. At the age of seven, Arlene took highland and tap dancing from Rita Emmett in Lacombe. After Rita moved away Arlene continued her lessons under the instruction of Loree Martin Vellner.

Marion Clay Reid became her highland teacher at the age of 10 as Marion drove to Lacombe to teach. Arlene first taught highland in Lacombe and later in Ponoka when Marion had moved to Edmonton. Marion helped Arlene once a month with choreography and gave her lessons.

Arlene started teaching with Loree Martin Vellner in Red Deer in 1963 when she was eighteen and when Loree retired from teaching, Arlene opened her own studio Bain School of Dancing in 1968. She taught highland, tap and jazz. Over the years of her teaching she has taught over 500 children to highland dance. Many of her dancers competed at the championship level. A few won several championships. A number of her students went on to become highland teachers and a few went on to take judges exams.

Arlene loves the self control, the degree of difficulty, and life skills that the discipline of highland dancing offers to children.

Submitted by Joyce Munawych (mother of Carmen and Jacqueline Munawych)