

Why join the Friends?

- The opportunity of making an important difference to help preserve and foster growth within the highland dancing community
- Priority seating at the annual ScotDance Canada Championship Series event
- A charitable receipt for donations

How much does it cost to be a Friend?

Friends of ScotDance Canada pay an annual membership fee of \$50 for individuals, \$75 for couples and families or \$100 for Corporate/ Organization membership. Fees may be paid online through our dedicated and secure donation payment site. A charitable tax receipt will be generated from the donation payment page for donations greater than \$20.

How do I join the Friends?

Join Friends of ScotDance by accessing the 'donate now' button on our website: www.scotdance.ca

Who are the Friends?

The Friends of ScotDance Canada are a group of people who value and actively support the culture and tradition of highland dancing in Canada. They recognize the importance of retaining the cultural traditions the Scots brought with them when they emigrated to Canada. The Friends also cherish the heritage value of Scottish highland dancing, and seek to ensure that these traditions can be appreciated by future generations.

What do the Friends do?

The Friends of ScotDance Canada fulfill three main roles:

1. They are ambassadors to the community to widen both support for ScotDance Canada and awareness of its importance to the cultural and social life within the highland dancing community.
2. They provide opportunities through their expertise, skills, and networks to support ScotDance Canada's mission statement.
3. Through their annual donations, they provide ScotDance Canada with additional financial support in its marketing campaigns to raise awareness of highland dancing throughout Canada, helping to further the growth of highland dancing and provide educational support for its professional members.

ScotDance Canada's Mission

ScotDance Canada is a federal Charity, whose objectives are to oversee the preservation and promotion of Scottish highland dancing through competitions, specifically the ScotDance Canada Championship Series, featuring the Canadian Championships. By involving thousands of dancers across Canada and around the world, ScotDance Canada, through competitions and demonstrations, works to ensure that the general public is educated around the correct technique of Scottish highland dancing. We strive to ensure that a safe, all-inclusive environment exists for our professional membership, competitive and non-competitive dancers, and competition organizers.



Friends of ScotDance Canada

an invitation to join



Introduction

Recognizing the need for a national body to oversee the continuity of the "Canadian Inter-Provincial Championships", **ScotDance Canada (Scottish Cultural Organization for Traditional Dance in Canada)** was formed in July 1987 in Regina, Saskatchewan with its constitution receiving formal acceptance in Hamilton, Ontario in July 1988. Since November 1990, ScotDance Canada has been an Affiliated Member of the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing (RSOBHD) and has acted as the Registration Agent for Canadian dancers and competition organizers participating in the Worldwide Registration System since January 1994. In January 1996 the RSOBHD recognized ScotDance Canada as the principal organization and means of communication with the RSOBHD in Canada.

ScotDance Canada Association was granted Incorporation Status under the Canada Corporations Act by the Minister of Industry Canada on January 24, 1994 and received Charitable Status in 1995.

ScotDance Canada awards two scholarships annually; the "James L. McKenzie Memorial Fund" scholarship in memory of James L. McKenzie of Aberdeen, Scotland, a devoted supporter of the Canadian highland dancing community, awarded to deserving recipients in Canada for highland dance enhancement and the "Loree Martin Vellner" scholarship for recipients holding professional teaching status and post-secondary education aspirations.



In keeping with ScotDance Canada's vision to promote and foster highland dancing in Canada through competitions, education and professional development, we are continually seeking new initiatives to promote growth amongst our professional members, dancers, and the highland dancing community at large. We are proactive in our efforts to better the community of highland dancing in Canada both in a duty of care capacity as well as adopting marketing policies to meet our vision for growth of this time honoured cultural art form and sport.

History of Highland Dancing

Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Upper Canada experienced approximately 15,000 Highland Scots settling into these regions, where the majority of whom came from the islands in Scotland or the western Highlands.

Highland dancing is both an art form and sport which adheres to highly-developed technique, endurance and unique style. Scottish migrants shared their national dance technique across the globe, showcased at outdoor highland games and indoor highland dancing competitions. These events are now organized not only in Canada, but in Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Europe and the United States. The roots of these established dances date back to when the Scottish warriors imitated deeds and adventures in Scottish folklore.

In order to ease the task of judges choosing the best competitors, the selection of highland dances gradually narrowed over the course of the decades that followed. As a result, many traditional dances became obsolete. In addition, what was once an exclusive male activity, highland dancing now includes more than 95% female participants.

The four standard highland dances now performed at competitions are, the Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Seann Triubhas and Reels. Over the years highland dancing has evolved and has undergone many changes, with its movements more refined than the dances once performed which were entrenched in centuries of old tradition.

Also included at competitions are the "Scottish National" dances such as the Scottish Lilt, Earl of Erroll, Blue Bonnets, Highland Laddie, Scotch Measure, Flora MacDonald's Fancy, Village Maid, and Barracks Johnny, all of which illustrate the history of highland dancing and other aspects of Scottish culture, folklore and history. Other dances now included in the highland dancing repertoire regularly performed at highland games and competitions, are the Sailor's Hornpipe, and Irish Jig.

Choreography events have now become mainstream at festivals and competitions across Canada, which have proven to be extremely popular for both dancers and audience alike. Basic highland dance, National, Hornpipe and Jig movements are incorporated to create unique steps performed solo, duo, trio, or as a group, accompanied by traditional or non-traditional celtic-style music, helping to express the 'story' of the choreography.

To view more history of highland dancing, visit our website at: www.scotdance.ca

