

## HEATHER JOLLEY

Heather began her Highland dancing at an early age by dancing in the “back row” at her mother classes in Victoria, BC. Her father, Ian from Methlick, Aberdeenshire was a piper and her mother, Adeline, was the well-known and respected Highland dance teacher and judge. It was, therefore, only natural that Heather would be expected to dance. What followed was a very successful competitive career at competitions all over Canada and the US. At 21, and in Scotland for the first time, both Heather and her mother took the quite new SOBHD Adjudicator’s examination and became two of the first Canadians to successfully pass this test.

Heather has followed in her mother’s footsteps with teaching being a passion for over fifty years. She too has taught two World Champions, Estelle Clewes and Fiona Lee as well as numerous dancers who have won Championships all over Canada, the US, Australia and Scotland. Her own travels have extended to judging positions in most of the major competitions worldwide and workshops in many locations. Having lived in many of Canada’s major cities, Heather taught many dancers who are now internationally recognized in the Highland dancing world. She has also had the precious opportunity to make many lasting friendships in Canada, the US, Scotland and Australia through her participation in Highland dancing activities.

Heather was instrumental in bringing James L. McKenzie to Canada to conduct medal tests for the Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance. As a favour for his kindness in giving her numerous gratis lessons she organized many of his first tours across North America. She also was the organizer of the highly successful Banff Gathering which was probably the first major competition and workshop with Scottish and Australian judges and instructors ever held in Canada.

In 2006 Heather was honoured to receive the beautiful Atholl Clasp in recognition of her contribution to Highland dancing. She is presently an Independent Member of ScotDance Canada having been one of its founders and a Past President of the organization, she is a member of the SOBHD Adjudicator’s panel, a Life Member of the BATD and a member of the UKA. In addition she still is active on the executive of the BC Highland Dancing Association.

Heather is the owner of the well-known “Tartantown Ltd.” suppliers to all Highland dancers, pipers, drummers and the Scottish community in Vancouver, BC. She continues to teach very successful dancers on a regular basis with assistance from her pupil Jeanette Bonar and her cousin and pupil, Fiona Lee.