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Glengarry Highland Games

GLENGARRY'S QUEEN OF THE DANCE, RAE MACCULLOCH, INDUCTED INTO FEO HALL OF FAME

Each year, Festivals & Events Ontario presents the association's Hall of Fame award acknowledging leaders in Ontario's festivals and events industry. Recipients are recognized for "above and beyond" achievements, their dedication to advancing the interests of the industry, and the respect they have earned from their peers. This year's Award winner was Rae MacCulloch, Glengarry County's Queen of the Dance, who passed away last December after a courageous fight with cancer.

Rae MacCulloch started her school of Scottish Highland Dancing in her kitchen in Glengarry in 1955 and from that small beginning, her dance troupe spread out to perform world-wide. A sought-after group at every cultural festival at home and around the globe, the MacCulloch Dancers wowed audiences with their colourful portrayals and flawless performances of our Canadian dancing traditions. One of Rae's proudest accomplishments was celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the MacCulloch School of Dance by setting a Guinness World Record at the 2004 Glengarry Highland Games when more than 500 of her dancers past and present joined her in a massed highland fling. As late as last fall, Rae was seen at a local wedding reception demonstrating a few steps to willing learners. An ardent supporter of Glengarry County and the Glengarry Highland Games, Rae would never say no when a request was made to have her MacCulloch Dancers perform to a group of ten or ten thousand.

Rae received many laurels to mark her accomplishments, including induction into both the Glengarry Sports Hall of Fame and the Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame. A recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, she also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cornwall and Area Chamber of Commerce.

On Saturday, March 6th, Festivals & Events Ontario presented the 2010 Hall of Fame Award to members of Rae's family during a special luncheon at the association's annual

conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario. Gary Masters, Executive Director, Festivals & Events Ontario, states "Festivals & Events Ontario (FEO) is honoured to acknowledge and welcome the late Rae MacCulloch into the FEO Hall of Fame. Rae joins a select group of 22 others who have "made a difference" within our industry and received this special recognition."

These sentiments are echoed by Donaldson MacLeod, President of the Glengarry Highland Games, the group that nominated Rae, when he says, "Rae MacCulloch is a most fitting recipient of this award. For over 50 years, the MacCulloch Dancers under Rae's guiding hand, have brought fame to Glengarry County and all of Ontario as they performed around the world. Even though Rae and her dancers performed before the Queen of England and danced in Red Square in Russia, she was never happier nor prouder than to be home dancing at the Glengarry Highland Games. A truer ambassador of tourism for Ontario could never be found."

[Attached photo: On Saturday, March 6, 2010, at their annual conference in Ottawa, Festivals and Events Ontario inducted Rae MacCulloch of the MacCulloch Dancers into their FEO Hall of Fame. Sarah Wood, President, Festivals and Events Ontario, is seen presenting the Award to Heather Forbes, Rae's daughter.](#)