THE HISTORY OF THE OAKVILLE FEIS

The first feis, held in 1991, was originally called Feis Mississauga and was run by the McCloskey School of Irish Dance. It was held for about eight years at the University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus. Instead of hotel accommodations, families rented the University townhouse residences and the feis was half inside and half outside.

The first feis chairman was Edmund McCloskey and Jean Goggin (Barb Goggin’s mother) was on the first executive of the feis. When Sally McCloskey closed her school in approximately 1997, the feis continued under the direction of some dedicated parents until 1999. At that time the feis was turned over to the Goggin School (now the Goggin-Carroll School).

The Oakville Feis has since been held at the Iroquois Ridge High School, the Hamilton Convention Centre, the Clarkson Community Centre, and 8 years at the Pine Glen Indoor Soccer Club. In 2017 we moved to the Toronto Rock Athletic Centre on Invicta Drive and launched a very successful inaugural Irish Cultural Day, now having completed its second year.

Originally, the celtic crosses for the trophies were imported from Ireland and were made of compressed peat/Irish turf. About 20 years ago, the OIHA (Oakville Irish Heritage Association) had molds of the celtic crosses made by a Canadian manufacturer.
The Terry Skrien Memorial Trophy

Terry Skrien was a teacher for many years, a first-class adventurer, comfortable paddling and backpacking in the wilderness, a wonderful husband and Dad. The father of two Irish dancing daughters, Terry was frequently seen driving to weekly lessons, feisanna near and far, carrying dresses, patiently awaiting results and always supportive of his girls. Terry was a longtime supporter of The Oakville Feis, always quick to volunteer his services when needed – building stages, setting up tables and chairs, working the entries and results tables, managing parking and security, driving adjudicators and musicians to and from the airport… Terry did it all. The Terry Skrien Memorial Trophy honours the memory of Terry who is sadly missed by his friends and family.

First Place Winner in Open Championship U17 (previously U16).

Previous Winners

2020  Catherine Hoare (GC)
2019  Taylor Kane (BFOC)
2018  Patrick Grant (BFOC)
2017  Robert McAleese (BFOC)
2016  Sophie Grey (Rochester)
2015  Zachary Bernier (GC)
2014  Brynna McVittie (GC)
2013  Julia Cousins (GC)
2012  Niamh Bryson (Woodgate Shamrock)
2011  Brooke Ezekiel (GC)
2010  Michaela Hinds (BFOC)
2009  Erinn Brown (McGinley)
2008  Corinne Gallibois (BFOC)
2007  Kait Andrushko (Shamrock)
2006  Shannon Rushe (Grant)
2005  Lauren Stewart (GC)/Yvonne Herber (Shamrock)/Julia Costigan (Doyle)
2004  Kimberly Babyn (NFOC)
2003  Emily Penner (Butler Fearon)
2002  Rachel Scava (T. O’Hare)
2001  Caitlin O’Hara (Short)
The Oakville Irish Dance Association
Perpetual Trophies

First Place Open Championship U14

Previous Winners:

2020   Abby Hennessy (GC)
2019   Abby Hennessy (GC)
2018   Ainsley Smith (Fay Healy)
2017   Catherine Hoare (GC)
2016   Taylor Kane (BFOC)
2015   Lillian Pich (Woodgate Shamrock)
2014   Julia Sullivan (Doyle)
2013   Isabella Simms (GC)
2012   Meghan Hachey (BFOC)
2011   Avery McNair (BFOC)
2010   Claire Galliboi (BFOC)
2009   Niamh Bryson (Woodgate Shamrock)
2008   Rose White (RNT)

First Place Preliminary Championship U12

Previous Winners:

2020   Angelika Niedzwiecki (Miller)
2019   Aaden Hahn (GC)
2018   Miranda Kolodzieg (GC)
2017   Siobhan Swatton (BFOC)
2016   Kyra Mediratta (GC)
2015   Kaitlyn Unitas (NFOC)
2014   Aydan Chavis (Francis Academy)
2013   Macayla Stephenson (BFOC)
2012   Brenna Allore (GC)
2011   Paige MacIntosh (GC)
2010   Julia Sullivan (Doyle)
2009   Nessa Curran (BFOC)
2008   Ayla Reid (NFOC)
The Margaret Murray Memorial Trophy
In loving memory of a remarkable Irish woman

Margaret Murray was born in Belfast and worked as a tailoress before marrying her first love, Jackie Murray in 1954. Together the Murphys had eight children, four boys and four girls and Margaret instilled a love of Irish culture in all of them. While the girls did Irish dancing from an early age (along with the “wee girl” up the street who is none other than Mary McAlleese, the current President of Ireland), the boys played Gaelic football and hurling for the famous Ard-eoin Kickhams. The girls also attended the Ghaeltacht to learn to speak Irish and the boys, whether they liked it or not, attended ceili's at the local GAA Club!

Margaret’s concern for others also reached into the community. When the local government refused to fund a playgroup for preschoolers, Margaret didn’t take no for an answer and arranged to use the local parish hall. With the help of other women volunteers, the Ard-eoin playgroup was born in 1969. The playgroup has had as many as 70 children attending daily and operates to this day. The community was then inspired to set up an Irish-speaking Kindergarten for children as young as three.

As a lifelong learner, Margaret completed a degree in Child Psychology at Rupert Stanley College in her late fifties – going against the norms for women of the day. On her 60th birthday, she also bought herself a car and passed her driving test! Her sudden death on April 5, 1996 was far too soon, but the legacy of her love for family, community and our Irish culture lives on; in her Belfast community, in the hearts of her children and 20 grandchildren, and now also, in this memorial trophy in her honour.

May its recipients follow the inspiring example of Margaret Murray
First Place Winner in the Preliminary Championship U14

Previous Winners:

2020  Kayenna Sheir (Costello)
2019  Sarah Rice (Taylor Academy)
2018  Lily Rowbotham (Yvonne Kelly Dance Academy)
2017  Kyra Odell (Trillium Academy)
2016  Sarah Kelly (Fay-Healy)
2015  Fiona Murphy (Rince Na Tiarna)
2014  Maeve McFall (Rince Na Tiarna)
2013  Hannah Stoneman (Glenn Simpson's Druid Academy)
2012  Holly Hicks (GC)
2011  Julia Cousins (GC)
2010  Colleen Haughey (BFOC)
2009  Aine O'Neill (GC)
2008  Jennifer Doyle (WS)
2007  Michelle Gardin (GC)/ Sarah Paterson (Gilchrist)
2006  Emily Wood (GC)
2005  Kyra Reilly (Shamrock)
2004  Carly DiSera (NFOC)
2003  Nicole Wilson (Reaney)
2002  Lauren Stewart (Goggin)
2001  Emily Babyn (NFOC)
The Eunice Carey Perpetual Trophy

The most important things to Eunice were family, friends and faith - she found great peace and happiness in each. Being part of the Irish dance community and especially the Goggin-Carroll family brought her great joy and many wonderful experiences. She never missed a feis and travelled as far as Great Britain to cheer on her granddaughter, Jacqueline who was the light of her life. Eunice loved each of the dancers as if they were her own. She celebrated their victories, shared in their disappointments and was always there to support and encourage.

This crystal trophy was created in Nova Scotia where Eunice was born and loved to return to visit her family. It symbolizes her grace, courage, and elegance and most of all, the twinkle in her eyes.

The Eunice Carey Perpetual trophy honours Eunice’s remarkable caring and giving spirit.

First Place Open Championship U19
(previously Under 18)

Previous Winners:

2020  Sarah Campeau (BFOC)
2019  Hilary Nixon (WBD)
2018  Zachary Bernier (GC)
2017  Tara Rochester (BFOC)
2016  Jenna Shepley (McGinley)
2015  James Houghton (Short)
2014  Maeve Allore (GC)
2013  Lucas Lawton (Short)
2012  Corinne Gallibois (BFOC)
2011  Corinne Gallibois (BFOC)
2010  Corinne Gallibois (BFOC)
2009  Sarah Jamestee (GC)
Laurie O’Brien Memorial Trophy

Laurie O’Brien was the “Mom of Goggin-Carroll” and a friend of so many. Always at every feis, major competition and social event to cherish every moment of her two children, Siobhan and Connor O’Brien in Irish dance and to cheer on everyone else and share in the triumph and tears. Laurie fought a three-year fight with determination, class, beauty and with a smile that never left her face. Laurie lived her life with an enthusiasm and positivity that we all envied. She was a tireless volunteer annually at this feis. Laurie raised two beautiful children and touched so many of lives. The C13 Perpetual trophy is significant as it was the age Connor retired from dancing and the age category of Connor’s ceili team that won the North American Nationals in Providence Rhode Island.

This award has been crafted from one of Laurie’s cherished Waterford Crystal bowls, with a base designed by a talented Goggin-Carroll dad.

The Laurie O’Brien Memorial Trophy honours Laurie’s never ending determination and positivity.

First Place Open Championship U13

Previous Winners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Brynn Parker (BFOC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Clare Maher (GC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Abby Hennessy (GC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OAKVILLE FEIS PERPETUAL TROPHIES
Male Reel Dance-Offs
Donated by Ryan Carroll, T.C.R.G., A.D.C.R.G.

The perpetual trophies donated by Ryan are from the 1978 Cleveland Feis where he won the Boys Novice U6 Reel, Treble Jig and Hornpipe. Ryan went on to win seven World medals, two North American titles and ten regional titles; all earned as a student of the Butler Academy. In 1996 Ryan starting touring with Riverdance - The Show, where he was both a troupe dancer and understudy to the male lead. Ryan is donating the trophies to promote strong competition for all boys in all levels.

First Place Male Reel Dance-Off Beginner / Advanced Beginner

Winners:
2020  Competition did not occur (COVID)
2019  Tiarnan Kilgannon (O’Donnell)
2018  Conall Kilgannon (O’Donnell)
2017  Darcy Cronin (Druid)
2016  Peter Stankaitis (Finnegan)

First Place Male Reel Dance-Off Novice / Prizewinner

Winners:
2020  Competition did not occur (COVID)
2019  Brendan Shaw (Rochester Academy)
2018  Cooper Lake (The Academy)
2017  Will St. James (GC)
2016  Iain Attewell (Cornell)

First Place Male Reel Dance-Off Preliminary / Open Championships

Winners:
2020  Competition did not occur (COVID)
2019  Connor Labo (GC)
2018  Zachary Bernier (GC)
2017  Gavin McCarthy-Willoughby (GC)
2016  Spencer McMurray (Gilchrist-Canavan)