

History of Ontario Secondary School DANCEFEST

2003 - 2012 - The First Ten Years





(pictures for 2005 & 2011 missing)

2003 – 2012 – The First Ten Years

The idea of hosting “something similar to the SEARS Drama Festival for dancers” sprang from a Research Inquiry project presented by WRDSB teachers, Laurel Brown and Tabatha DeBruyn at the York University DANCE Additional Qualification course during the winter of 2002.

Upon completion of the AQ course, teachers from nine schools organized and brought a total of 125 secondary students to the first DANCEFEST held from May 22nd – 23rd, 2003 at Bluevale Collegiate Institute in Waterloo. Attending teachers were Laurel Brown, Waterloo; Tabatha DeBruyn & Janis Price, Kitchener; Melanie Randall & Melissa Fernandez, Chatham; Tara Duffy, Chatham/Toronto; Melissa Lolarga, Windsor; Dawn Ditchburn, Mississauga; Tina Robinson, Stratford; and, Jocelyn Bell, North Bay, who taught the AQ course at Rosedale Heights School of the Arts in Toronto.

The first DANCEFEST event was organized and hosted by BCI teacher, Laurel Brown, and students of her Grade 11 Dance course: Meghan Brown, Karly Descoteaux, Ashley Hill, Dan Huras, Katie Knowlton, Natasha Nancoff, Josh O’Hagan, Katie Rempel, Mike Schatz, Liene Thadara and Anita Velanoff.

DANCEFEST, generally a 4-day dance celebration, was held annually from 2003-2012 and hosted by a variety of schools:

2003	Bluevale Collegiate Institute, Waterloo	Host: Laurel Brown
2004	Widdifield Secondary School, North Bay	Host: Jocelyn Bell
2005	Bear Creek Secondary School, Barrie	Host: Deb Grant, Laura Bruno, Heather MacLachlan, Heather Robert
2006	St. Thomas of Villanova, Windsor	Host: Melissa Chiandussi, Cathy Harris
2007	Chatham Kent Secondary School, Chatham	Host: Melanie Randall
2008	Widdifield Secondary School, North Bay	Host: Jocelyn Bell, Marg McDiarmid
2009	Bear Creek Secondary School, Barrie	Host: Laura Bruno, Heather McNamara, Heather MacCormack
2010	Bluevale Collegiate Institute, Waterloo	Host: Laurel Brown
2011	Widdifield Secondary School, North Bay	Host: Jocelyn Bell, Marg McDiarmid
2012	St. Thomas of Villanova, Windsor	Host: Melissa Chiandussi, Cathy Harris