

According to the complete set of results published in CLRG's *Ceim Magazine*, the following *Eastern Canadian* dancers placed at **1983 CLRG World Irish Dancing Championships** (held at the Mansion House in Dublin, Ireland from March 30 to April 4):

1. Ladies 17-19 Paula Doherty, Butler Academy – **7<sup>th</sup> Place**
2. Boys 15-17 Brian Grant, Grant School – **1<sup>st</sup> Place WORLD CHAMPION**
3. Boys 9-11 Michael McCloskey, McCloskey School – **Overseas Award**

### Overseas Award

This award (usually a piece of Irish crystal or a plaque) was awarded to the highest-placing dancer not resident in Ireland and/or the UK for solo events, and to the highest-placing teams not resident in Ireland. This began as the Bord Failte award in 1972 (and was re-branded as the Aer Lingus award in 1974) as a way to guarantee recognition to dancers from all over the world, when the majority of prizes (at least in the early years) remained in Ireland. NOTE: The award was never presented to a dancer or team that placed first!

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**Jig champion:** Brian Grant, 17, with his whopping pile of trophies. How does a Mississauga teen become an international Irish dancing champ? Easily — when your mom funis a school that teaches it.

## He's reeled way to world dance title

By Cheryl Agoston

MISSISSAUGA — A Mississauga teenager has become a world champion in Irish dancing. Brian Grant, 17, beat 41 other contestants from around the globe in the junior men's category at the recent Irish Dancing World Championships in Dublin.

It hasn't hurt to have his mother as a teacher. Since the age of 3, Brian has taken lessons from his mother, Brigid, at the Grant School of Irish Dancing.

"She doesn't give special preference to me, but I admit I do go down and join her when she's dancing in the basement," Brian says.

Brian's den overflows with trophies in dancing. Last year he won a third place prize at the world championships. He has been in the championships for seven years.

"He might have done even better in the past but it seemed some little thing wasn't right every year — like once he lost his shoe," his father, William Grant, says.

When Brian attends competitions, Grant foots the bill. With both Brian and daughter Colleen dancing, Grant estimates he puts about \$10,000 a year into the dancing.

"I don't mind because we enjoy it and it preserves the Irish culture

in our family," he says. The family also enjoys singing Irish songs.

Although they met in Canada, both Grant and his wife come from County Kilkenny in Ireland.

Brian has spent the past few summers touring North America for shows and competitions, with Grant, a Toronto Transit Commission driver, as chauffeur. And when Brian goes, everybody goes.

"We have a camper and we usually make a real weekend of it; it keeps the kids away from the plazas," Grant says. The kids are Brian, Colleen, 15, and David, 19.

Brian hasn't much time to hang around plazas. He works part-time in a music store, teaches piano, plays the accordion, saxophone and piano, and works furiously on his homework. He's a Grade 11 student at St. Martin's High School and wants to be a doctor.

"Sometimes when I do have spare time, I look around and say 'What do I do now?' — but then I just do some more practising," he says. He practises his Irish reels and jigs more than 10 hours a week, and feels sluggish if he misses as much as two days' practice.

"It's lively dancing — a lot of jumping up and down," he says. "I can jog for miles and not get as tired as I do in 45 minutes' dancing."