

= Canada 's Walk of Fame =

Canada 's Walk of Fame (French : Allée des célébrités canadiennes) , located in Toronto , Ontario , Canada , is a walk of fame that acknowledges the achievements and accomplishments of successful Canadians . It consists of a series of maple leaf @-@ like stars embedded in 13 designated blocks ' worth of sidewalks in Toronto , located in front of Roy Thomson Hall , The Princess of Wales Theatre , and The Royal Alexandra Theatre on King Street as well as Simcoe Street .

The first group of members was inducted in 1998 , and to date 163 Canadians have been inducted into Canada 's Walk of Fame . These Inductees include athletes ; coaches ; actors , directors , writers and producers of movies , television and stage ; singers , songwriters and musicians ; playwrights ; authors ; comedians ; cartoonists and models .

= = History = =

The Walk of Fame was first conceived in 1996 when co @-@ founder , Peter Soumalias , suggested the idea of a Walk of Fame for famous Torontonians to the board of the Toronto Entertainment District Association . They rejected his idea , but he went on to establish a Walk of Fame for Canadians in partnership with Bill Ballard , Dusty Cohl and Gary Slaight . In spite of a lack of funds , research and no media plan , they managed to succeed and the first class of inductees was inducted in 1998 . Canada 's Walk of Fame has since become a popular tourist attraction in Toronto and has been named the number one Canadian recognition event .

= = Walk of Fame = =

= = = Induction process = = =

Canada 's Walk of Fame accepts nominations for potential inductees from the public year round , culminating with their National Nomination Promotion during the month of April . In 2000 , prior to the introduction of the online voting system , over 30 @,@ 000 nominations were received via letters , fax and e @-@ mail . Now submissions are accepted on the official Canada 's Walk of Fame website and thousands of nominations are received every year , which are then sent to selection committee for consideration .

The committee then analyzes the nominees based on the following criteria : the nominee was born in Canada or has spent their formative or creative years in Canada ; they have had a minimum of 10 years experience in their field ; they have had a national or international impact on Canada ? s Cultural heritage . Following the Selection Committee 's evaluation , the nominees that meet all of the requirements are forwarded to the board of directors , who then select the inductees .

The process differs greatly from that of the Hollywood Walk of Fame . The Hollywood version allows only celebrities of the silver screen , television , radio , live theatre and singers / musicians , while Canada 's Walk allows people of more diverse occupations , as listed above . While most celebrities on the Hollywood Walk of Fame are American or have achieved their fame in the United States , Canada 's Walk of Fame is exclusive to Canadians . For someone to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame , they must be nominated by a sponsor who must agree to field the approximately \$ 25 @,@ 000 cost of installing a star . From there , the names are submitted to a nominating committee of five people , who pick 10 ? 15 names to award stars to annually . The only criteria for it are : " professional achievement , longevity of five years or more , contributions to the community and the guarantee that the celebrity will attend the dedication ceremony if selected . "

Canadian stars are inducted in an annual group ceremony ; while the Hollywood Walk of Fame rarely inducts more than two major stars at a time . Celebrities can have more than one star on the Hollywood Walk , the same celebrity can receive as many as five stars under the various categories . This does not happen with Canada 's Walk of Fame , although some may have an individual star

but are also included as part of a larger group , such as John Candy , Martin Short , Eugene Levy and Catherine O 'Hara who have their own star but also were in Second City Television .

= = = Induction ceremony = = =

New inductees are inducted annually at an unveiling ceremony where their star , a stylized maple leaf , is revealed . The first was held in 1998 and only four of the twelve living inductees attended : Karen Kain , Norman Jewison , Barbara Ann Scott and Rich Little . The 2007 ceremony was held at Toronto 's Hummingbird Centre , was attended by all seven inductees and was hosted by Eugene Levy .

Past hosts include Trish Stratus , Tom Green , Jann Arden , Kurt Browning and Catriona Le May Doan . The ceremony was broadcast by CTV until 2008 . Beginning in 2009 the ceremony was broadcast by Global . The first ceremony on the network was hosted by Anne Murray while Howie Mandel hosted for the following two years . Paul Shaffer hosted the event in 2012 .

= = Awards = =

= = = Cineplex Legends Award = = =

Established in 2008 , the Cineplex Legends Award is posthumously awarded to " Canadian pioneers in film , music , sport , arts , and innovation . " Sponsored by Cineplex Entertainment , the first recipients of the award were siblings Norma and Douglas Shearer . The award recipients are also given stars on the Walk of Fame .

= = = Allan Slaight Award = = =

First awarded in 2010 , the Allan Slaight Award , named after the leading figure in the Canadian radio industry , is awarded to a young Canadian for " making a positive impact in the fields of music , film , literature , visual or performing arts , sports , innovation or philanthropy . " Recipients receive an honorarium of \$ 10 @, @ 000 from the Slaight Foundation , but are not considered inductees of the Walk of Fame . So far , recipients of the Slaight award have been Nikki Yanofsky , Drake , Melanie Fiona , Carly Rae Jepsen , The Weeknd and Shawn Mendes .

= = Initiatives & Programs = =

In recent years , Canada 's Walk of Fame undertaken several new initiatives and programs .

= = = Canada 's Walk of Fame Festival = = =

The Canada 's Walk of Fame Festival was established in 2010 . The festival spans 3 days , culminating with the Canada 's Walk of Fame Awards Show . Since its inaugural year , the festival has included musical performances from Canadian artists such as Sarah McLachlan , Serena Ryder , Crystal Shawanda , Tom Cochrane and Melanie Fiona . In addition to the musical performances , the festival has included both screenings of Canadian films , as well as comedy programming from Canadian comedy acts .

= = = RBC Emerging Artist Music Mentorship Prize = = =

In 2012 , in partnership with RBC , Canada 's Walk of Fame launched the RBC Emerging Artist Music Mentorship Prize competition . Valued at more than \$ 100 @, @ 000 , the initiative aims to support the next generation of gifted Canadian musicians . Aspiring young musicians are asked to submit a 60 sec. musical audio or video performance for their chance to win the Grand Prize of \$ 25

@, @ 000 cash , recording time , performance opportunities and much more . Taylor Kurta was the competitions inaugural Grand Prize Winner . The 2014 RBC Emerging Artist Music Mentorship Prize was awarded to NEFE (Sarah Felker) from Guelph , ON .

= = Criticism = =

In 1998 , Laurie Brown of the CBC criticized the Walk of Fame , calling it " just an attraction to lure tourists to theatres in the area . " She claimed that it would only honour Canadians with international impact , saying " if it was truly for Canadians , then I think there would be more of a national bend to the whole thing . But I doubt I 'm going to see a star on the Walk of Fame that is only a known @-@ name here in Canada . "

In September 2010 , William Shatner commented on Twitter regarding damage to his star on the Walk of Fame : " I hear my star on the Canadian Walk of Fame is a bit frazzled ... but , then again , so am I. I wonder if anybody hovering around that area can tell me what ? s wrong with it and what needs fixing . " The family of Gordie Howe also commented on the damage to Gordie 's star . The Canadian Press reported that " A number of celebrities ' stars are looking a bit rough around the edges . " The president of the Walk of Fame stated that damage was due to the freezing and thawing during Canadian winters and also sidewalk snowplows . It was announced that the city of Toronto would replace Shatner and Howe 's damaged tiles , and the Walk of Fame was looking into an alternative to installing the plaques on a sidewalk where they are subjected to harsh environmental conditions .