



**Alberta Pride Award Finalist
Great Canadian Barn Dance, Hillspring**

Celebrating Alberta's rural roots

The Great Canadian Barn Dance continues a true Western tradition, bringing family and friends together to kick up their heels to live country music performed by the Kunkel family, for more than 25 years.

“I think our success has come largely because we provide a unique and authentic experience for the whole family,” says co-owner Trevor Kunkel. “They come for an experience they can’t get on a regular basis anywhere else. We also give visitors to the area something to do in the evening, after sightseeing or hiking all day.”

Since the Barn Dance’s humble beginnings, staff has kept track of visitor statistics and their reaction to the experience. In response to this valuable feedback, co-owners Lloyd Kunkel and his son Trevor have added a multi-generational music camp, Frisbee golf, a new playground and a school educational sleepover program. Facilities at the resort, only a stone’s-throw from Waterton Lakes National Park, have grown to include a full-service campground and RV resort, a bed and breakfast lodge, facilities for family reunions, an outdoor stage, gift shop and snack concession.

The Kunkel’s formula for success involves a family-first attitude, close co-operation with industry partners, a willingness to explore new ventures such as the upcoming Métis Music Camp, giving back to their community, and above all else, enjoying what they do. It’s working. Visitation has grown from a few hundred people a season to more than 11,000.

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Sponsored by Legislative Assembly Office of the Alberta Legislature, the Alberta Pride Alto Award recognizes Alberta is a diverse and vibrant province, and these qualities are reflected in the tourism products and services offered. The Alberta Pride Award captures the essence of the whole Alberta experience.