



From the Chair



Mo! Ho! Ho!
The holiday season seems to be starting earlier and earlier each year. With our November Monthly Dance and our very successful Workshop just behind us, we're on to the Children's Workshop, the St. Andrew's Ball, budgets, Christmas, and Hogmanay parties; the pace never lets up.

The Board is working on next year's budget, mindful of the need for fiscal responsibility in planning for the coming year. The continued enthusiastic support of all our members ensures our success.

On December 10th, our Family Night of dancing will take place at Crescent School. Share your enjoyment of the dance by 'Bringing a Friend Along' for this evening of fun. The programme has easier dances that, with a bit of help, a novice can manage. Give them a gentle introduction to the many wonderful benefits of Scottish country dancing.

As you compile your Christmas list, consider giving gift certificates* or tickets to Monthly Dances, the 49th Tartan Ball, or for Association classes to those folks on your list who 'are hard to buy for'.

Enjoy the holiday season. Linger with friends, appreciate family, and dance the season in at the many SCD Christmas celebrations planned.

Heinz and I wish you, your family and friends, joy, peace, and friendship this Christmas season and a New Year of hope, good health, happiness, and lots of dancing.

Cheers,

Margaret

* Gift Certificates: see back page for more info.

RSCDS Toronto on Facebook



Join your dancing friends in the Toronto Association Facebook group. You can set up automatic alerts so that whenever a posting is made you are notified. You can also post comments yourself if you have something to say or an event to promote.

Visit: www.facebook.com/groups/55880122664

Jean Hamilton's Star Shines at the AGM

Keith Bark Writes — October/November is not the best time of year to visit Scotland, but once again, Deirdre and I took a vacation in Scotland so we could attend the RSCDS AGM Weekend, and make some family visits.

Though late in the season, there were still many tourists about, but our worst traffic jam was on the Isle of Harris when we encountered a crofter taking 20 or so sheep along the road, possibly to a fank*. We had to stop. . . then proceed *cautiously* as dogs moved the sheep along. After Harris, we headed back to the mainland and Inverness. The ferry this year was only gently rocking and rolling — last year we sailed through a force 10 gale!

Inverness was dry and mild, ideal for shopping. Deirdre added to her acquisitions in Harris and, as usual, we had to buy another suitcase for our journey home. We were to drive Deirdre's cousin Fiona to the AGM in Glasgow so this extra case caused a problem in our hire car. We had to fit various cases and bags in the back seat alongside Fiona. Luckily, Fiona travels light, so her case was quite small!

Unfortunately, our journey was delayed due a family friend's funeral so we missed the Lord Provost's reception. However, we made Glasgow in time for the AGM Ball. The Ball was 21 dances long, with music by Ian Muir and his band. This year Ball dances were briefed (a first!), which made dancers more comfortable but resulted in a couple of dances being dropped because of lack of time.

The RSCDS AGM was Saturday afternoon and Toronto had five delegates: Deirdre and me, Jon Friend, Jean Noble, and Jean Hamilton. Early on the agenda was Scroll of Honour presentations — of which Jean Hamilton was one of five recipients.

Toronto put forward a motion requesting the Society provide funding towards the cost of running examination centres. The motion generated much discussion and, though it failed, there was interest in the proposal and suggestions were made on how it could be changed and presented in future.

Saturday evening featured another dance of 18 dances with music provided by the Lothian Band with George Meikle. There were about 700 dancers on the floor that evening.

Things Deirdre and I enjoy most about the AGM Weekend are the two dances, one formal and one casual, with such good numbers of dancers. It's wonderful to meet dancers we only see once a year or so, and great to match faces with names. We have met and made many friends over the 11 years we've been attending the AGM. We certainly recommend it as an event dancers should attend at least once in their dancing years. . . . Keith

Jon Friend Writes — Over 500 dancers from all continents arrived in Glasgow to participate in the 82nd RSCDS Annual General Meeting and Conference Weekend, held this year in the impressive splendour of historic Kelvin Hall in the gothic shadow of Glasgow University.



Jean Hamilton at the AGM

I was privileged once again to be a delegate for RSCDS Toronto Association along with Keith and Deirdre Bark and the 'pair of Jeans' — Noble and Hamilton. Although centred on Society business, the meeting comprised other events. There were dance and music workshops, together with lectures and Q&A sessions, and a youth forum.

November weather in Glasgow was as expected. But while clouds loomed over the ancient city, inside Kelvin Hall the sun shone brightly upon Jean Hamilton who was to receive the Society's Scroll of Honour. Thunderous applause rang through the hall when "Mrs. Hamilton of Eaglemount", as we endearingly know her, stepped up to accept her scroll from the Society Chairman. A well-deserved tribute for a respected and gracious teacher in the RSCDS tradition.

The social part of the weekend began with a Civic Reception at the awe-inspiring Glasgow City Chambers in George Square. Then off to Kelvin Hall for the formal ball MC'd by Mervyn Short with music by the Ian Muir Band. The next night the enormous hall was packed as we danced to the music of the renowned George Meikle and the Lothian Band. After 45 dances in two nights, it is fair to say that the feet did require some TLC!

Having the opportunity to meet so many names associated with RSCDS reinforces its fine work not just in Scotland but around the world. The 2011 AGM was a truly memorable experience and well worth the trip to Glasgow — as, I am sure, will be the 2012 AGM to be held in Aberdeen.

I'm going, will you?

. . . Jon



A pair of Jeans with a Friend at the AGM (See also photo on p. 5)

* A 'fank' is a sheep pen (and the root word of 'fankle').

Photo by Jon Friend

Photo by Stephen Webb, RSCDS London

January Monthly Dance

Date & Time: Sat., Jan. 14 – Dancing starts at 8:00 p.m.
Place: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: The Scottish Accent
Host Groups: • Glenview • St Andrew's of Brampton • Erin Mills (Tues)

Berwick Johnnie	J 8x32	4 cpl	Book of Graded SCDs
The Lochalsh Reel	R 8x40	4 cpl	Skye Collection II
Culla Bay †	S 4x32	Sq set	Bk 41 / 2
The Clansman †	R 6x32	3 cpl	Bk 32 / 8
Green Grow the Rashes	S 8x32	4 cpl	Bk 12 / 2
The Sailor †*	R 8x32	4 cpl	Bk 24 / 4
>>> Intermission			
The Immigrant Lass †	J 4x32	4 cpl	Bk 39 / 5
Sauchie Haugh †	S 6x32	3 cpl	RSCDS Leaflet
The Laird of Milton's Daughter *	J 8x32	4 cpl	Bk 22 / 10
The Anderson Rant	R 8x32	4 cpl	MMMM
Argyll Strathspey	S 8x32	4 cpl	Bk 35 / 3
Mairi's Wedding †	R 8x40	4 cpl	Cosh 22 SCDs
>>> Extras			
The New Rigged Ship	J 8x48	4 cpl	Bk 9 / 7
West's Hornpipe	R 4x32	4 cpl	Five Trad. SCDs for 1965

*The Monthly Dance is a scent-free and nut-free environment.
 Hand sanitizers will be available.*

Price of Entry (incl. HST): • Members - \$22 • Non-members - \$28
 • Student members - \$10 • Youth/Spectators - \$5

† Tartan Ball dances. * Brief only dances

50-50 Draw

Proceeds from the 50/50 draws held at Monthly Dances support Dancing In The Park.
 At the November 12 dance Theresa Malek won \$130.

Positions Available

- * Director of Program
- * Director of Communications

According to the Constitution of RSCDS Toronto, the incumbents, Ann Campbell & Carole Bell, have come to the end of their respective terms. Therefore these positions need to be filled at the next AGM in April 2012.

If you are interested in either position, or if you can suggest someone who might be, please be in touch with Jane Robinson at 416-463-5016 or janer1@sympatico.ca

Job descriptions are available.

Special Events

Sunday Dancing at Broadlands

Sundays: 2 - p.m. • Dec. 4 • Jan. 29 • Feb. 26 • Mar. 18
Broadlands Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills (DVP & Lawrence E.)

Warm up the winter with these delightful Sunday afternoon events. Enjoy four afternoons of interesting and unusual dancing at Broadlands for intermediate and advanced dancers. Members: \$5.50; non members: \$8.50.

- **December 4** Keith Bark will teach "dances from the archives" and also some lesser known RSCDS dances.
- **January 29** Teresa Lockhart will teach "mystery, action, and adventure in dance."
- **February 26** Andrew Collins will teach "meanwhile and other unusual reels".
- **March 18** Paul Maloney will teach dances by Barry Priddey, deviser of *The Sands of Morar* and creator of the Tourbillon.



Scarborough's Christmas Dance

Monday, Dec. 12 at 6:15 p.m.

Q-SSIS Banquet Hall, 3474 Kingston Road

Join Scarborough for its Christmas dance and cap a banner year in which the group celebrated its 50th Anniversary. There will be great music by The Scottish Accent. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets \$50 from Jean Quinn 416-264-4017 or Marie Duncan 416-266-3377.



Calvin's Christmas Dance

Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave. (Yonge & St. Clair)

Calvin SCD Group invites all dancers to join our holiday celebration. Come and dance to the music of Don Bartlett on piano. Your \$10 entry includes refreshments. Contact Nancy Stokes naristo@rogers.com 416-425-2195 or Mary Baldwin at mbaldwin456@hotmail.com 416-485-8280.

Glenview's Annual Christmas Dance

Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m.

**Glenview Presbyterian Church,
 1 Glenview Ave. (Yonge St. below Lawrence)**



Always a great dance program (walked and briefed) to the live music of Fred Moyes and, capping the evening, the renowned Glenview table of goodies. All this for just \$15. Tickets and crib sheets will be available ahead of time — or pay at the door.

Erin Mills Group Christmas Dance

Friday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m.

Mississauga Seniors' Centre.



The Erin Mills Group invites you to *let the Christmas Spirit move you* with the help of "The Reel Thing".

For Tickets (briefsheet, \$15) and further information, please contact the [Hamiltons of Eaglemount](#) at 905- 566-9599.

Glenview's Hogmanay Dance & Ceilidh

Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. until Late

Rosedale Presbyterian Church

129 Mount Pleasant Rd. at South Drive



Glenview's Hogmanay dance and ceilidh is always a great way to see out the old year and celebrate the new. Tickets are \$15. They are selling fast and must be reserved by contacting Liz Clunie, 416-486-6582 eclunie@rogers.com

They made the Workshop great!

Photo by Carole Bell



Jean Lindsay
Co-convenor

Deirdre
MacCuish Bark

Helen Russell

Ian Souter

Valerie Fisher
Co-convenor

"It's a beautiful school." This and other comments confirmed to the Workshop Committee it had chosen a great location for the Toronto Association workshop, held Saturday, November 12, at historic Bishop Strachan School in lovely Forest Hill Village.

Despite a slow start in registrations, 115 dancers attended, and although there was a wee bit of confusion to begin with, dancers soon found their way around the school with little difficulty.

The three teachers were excellent – Helen Russell, from Yorkshire, UK; Ian Souter from Hamilton; and Deirdre MacCuish Bark from Toronto (well, Mississauga).

Our wonderful musicians, Don Bartlett, Laird Brown, and Jim Darge, provided lively music as the teachers put dancers through their paces. A special thank you to John Hunter, who stepped in to help Andrew Henderson set up the sound equipment.

Feedback on the food was positive, "excellent and plentiful". The foot care clinic was well attended.

The popular used clothing sale was a workshop highlight, with many beautiful bargains for attendees.

Feedback comments were excellent -- "first time, would go again", "liked the venue", "everyone was really helpful", "registration was perfection, e-mail with PayPal was great", "first time and thought it was very well done."

In short, a great day. Thanks to all.

... The Toronto Association Workshop Committee

Gently Used Clothing sale

Thank you to all the donors who supplied the treasures, to all the buyers who treasured their finds, and to everyone who worked behind the scenes and on the day to join the two. At the latest tally, the sale realized \$1326 for the Toronto Association.

... Margaret Rieger



2nd Southern Great Lakes Chairs' Conference

On Oct. 20, 2011, the 2nd Southern Great Lakes Chairs' Conference was held in Toronto, with eight Branches and four Affiliated Groups represented.

The program began with a workshop given by Ian Souter from the Blair Group on the Provision of Dance Music by Computers. The comprehensive two-hour session covered the topic from music storage to tempo modifications, and all areas in between. It provided a lot of useful information and stimulated discussion.

After lunch, the group met for general discussion of common issues such as, local event scheduling and intergroup conflicts, member recruitment and retention, community publicity, musician mentoring and support.

Neil Harrison (Oakville) agreed to chair the next meeting, to be scheduled for March/April 2012.

Overall, the group felt that these forums were very useful in broadening understanding and fostering support among groups in the Southern Great Lakes area.

... Margaret Rieger

Special Events cont.

Burns Night at the Granite Club

Saturday, January 21

The Robert Burns Club and Scottish Studies Foundation invite you to a rousing celebration of Scotland's Bard. We promise an exciting evening of 1st-class entertainment: the soul-stirring sounds of the pipes and drums, the inspiring words of Robert Burns, and traditional toasts. Special guest, Ronnie O'Byrne, will treat us to a unique rendition of *Tam o' Shanter*. \$95/person. Book early: with Gordon Paterson at 905-642-6262, gapaterson@rogers.com More info: www.scottishstudies.com



Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance

Saturday, January 28 @ Sikorski Hall

Highlands of Durham are hosting a Burns Dinner and Dance at beautiful Sikorski Hall, north Oshawa. In addition to Burns' poetry, there will be good food, good music, good company, and a great wood floor to dance on. For more info, contact Marjorie Mason 905-649-3532 mmason@bellnet.ca or call the Wee Tartan Shop 905-985-6573.



South Simcoe Valentine Workshop

Saturday, Feb 11 @ Knox Church, Alliston

Come to the beautiful countryside of Alliston for our traditional Valentine Workshop. Our teachers: Jean Noble and Nigel Keenan, will each lead a class to improve your technique and grace. Entry includes a tasty country lunch, followed by an afternoon tea dance. Registration: 9-9:30am. Cost is \$20 per person; \$10 for the tea dance alone. Book early: event limited to 60 dancers. Contact Irene Wilson (705) 435-2361. [More info on website.](#)

West End Workshop

March 24, 2012 @ Turner Fenton Secondary School, Brampton

Save the date! We have a new (comfortably danceable) WOOD FLOOR, come and try it out this year! More info to follow, soon.

Dance Competition for the 2013 Book

From the 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh website:

As our 90th anniversary approaches in 2013, we invite all our members to consider submitting a dance for inclusion in a celebration edition. We aim to create a publication that reflects our objectives of fun and sociability, as well as the breadth and depth of dance and our amazing international Society. Dances do not have to be new, and may be submitted with or without music. Selection will follow a process similar to that used for Book 46.

[Download Guidelines for Submission here.](#) [clickable links in Acrobat version]

Each entry must be accompanied by a Submission Form: [Download here.](#)

Updates on the project will be published as we progress through the evaluation and selection process.

The first milestone is January 31, 2012, for submission of dances.



49th Tartan Ball - 2012



Tartan Ball — Past

FROM THE ARCHIVES... Digging through old NEWSletters, I came across this article, an excerpt from the November 1996 Newsletter which, in turn, was reprinted from the Ardbrae Newsletter of April 1996, with kind permission from the author. It is an out-of-towner's perspective of the 33rd Annual Tartan Ball, a mere sixteen years ago. Many dancers came from Ottawa in support of our guest of honour that year, General John de Chastelain.

So there I was, a veteran dancer of 11 years, preparing to "experience" the Toronto Tartan Ball, and feeling like a beginner again! I wasn't 100% sure of all the dances on the programme; so many of the faces in the ballroom were unfamiliar, and I was certain I'd never find a partner.

The Tartan Ball, possibly the largest Scottish Country dance ball in Canada, is held each year in February, at the Royal York Hotel. Much larger than the Chateau Laurier, the Royal York is equally grand, providing a splendid atmosphere for a formal affair. The huge Concert Hall in which we danced, with its enormous chandeliers and dark oak floors, easily accommodated the 500 attendees -- yes, 500! [Not quite! Ed.] Ottawa residents General John de Chastelain and his wife MaryAnn were guests-of-honour this year.

Surrounded by all this splendour and with such inspiring music, did I get a chance to dance? I certainly did -- and most often with excellent partners in excellent sets. I found that, if one comes well prepared, a few seconds will suffice to recall figures, and the rest of the interval can be spent socializing. In sum, the Tartan Ball is a very glamorous event and a very enjoyable one. I recommend it.

Elaine Hoag, Ottawa

Tartan Ball — Present

Plan to attend the 49th Tartan Ball - February 18, 2012



Michael MacMillan

Our Guests of Honour at the 49th Tartan Ball will be philanthropist Michael MacMillan and his wife Cathy Spoel. Michael was the Scot of the Year in 1999. The Scottish Studies Society's "Scot of the Year Award" honours individuals with a Scottish connection who have achieved distinction through their contribution to Canadian society or the international community at large. Pro-

ducer and entertainment pioneer Michael MacMillan is co-founder of Atlantis Films, which grew to become production powerhouse Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc. He has produced over 1000 films, for which he has earned over 600 Canadian and international awards including an Academy Award and Daytime Emmy Award. He has recently received an honorary degree from Ryerson University, Faculty of Communication and Design. Please come and welcome our distinguished Guests of Honour.

The Tartan Ball is now just over two months away and our committee is working hard to ensure a successful event. This year we are providing a complimentary coat check. Once again, we will have a door prize for a Tartan Ball Getaway — consisting of two tickets to next year's Tartan Ball and a complimentary room at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. The Invitation and order form for tickets was included with last month's *Set & Link*. You can also download it from our website.

A special welcome is extended to dancers who have not yet attended the ball. We encourage you to come, and be part of something grand. Throughout the dancing season, our social group teachers prepare us for this ball. The ball dances are sprinkled through the monthly dance programs, so there is plenty of opportunity to dance them. Closer to the evening, there are special Tartan Ball practices to prepare us for the ball. Plan to attend.

Requesting Billets: Out-of-town dancers have always made the Tartan Ball special. People have come from as far away as Japan to share our grand evening. We're looking for volunteers to provide billets for out-of-towners. If you would like to make new friends (who might reciprocate your hospitality), and are able to provide billeting for out-of-town dancers, please contact Jane Robinson at (416) 463-5016 or janer1@sympatico.ca. See you at the ball.

Tartan Ball — Future

PREPARING FOR THE 50TH ANNUAL TARTAN BALL... Do you have any photos from the first Tartan Ball? Actually, we are looking for photos taken at any previous Tartan Balls. We would like a collection from each of the five decades. All photos are welcome. We are especially interested in photographs from the first three decades. So get out the old albums, look in your cupboards, basement, wherever you stack things. We will happily accept scanned photos, or the actual photographs. We will scan them and return your originals or if you wish we can add them to our archives. Please contact Louis Racic. 416 253-6018 racic@sympatico.ca

Tartan Ball 50th Anniversary Dance Contest

TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH TARTAN BALL in February, 2013, in traditional Scottish country dance style, we are holding a contest to devise a special celebration dance. The dance may be a jig, reel, or strathspey. Each devisor may submit up to two dances and the contest is open to all members of RSCDS Toronto.

Please forward all submissions to the Tartan Ball Committee Secretary, Arlene Koteff amkoteff@yahoo.ca. Submissions will be accepted until Friday, January 6, 2012.

We are justifiably proud of achieving 50 years of excellence, and we will be proud to include the winning dance in the 50th Tartan Ball dance programme.

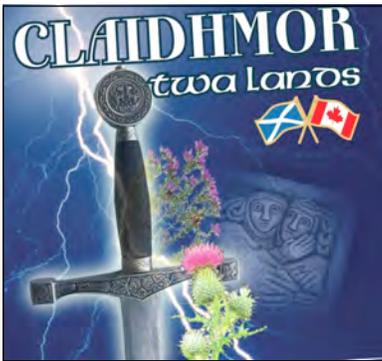
... Louis Racic, Tartan Ball Convenor

A voice from the past:

If you will give your Branch your wholehearted support, we can put on functions that no other Branch in North America can equal since none of them has our number, resources or facilities. However, if you choose to withhold your support or give it elsewhere, our success can only be partial.

... George C Armstrong, Chairman 1961-1963
Report to the 1963 Annual General Meeting

Claidhmor releases *Twa Lands*



As some of you know, our talented Director of Special Events, Stewart Bennett, has recently accomplished a very special event. His singing group, Claidhmor, has just released a new CD called *Twa Lands*. Stewart said,

"The CD features songs that are very dear to our love of Canada and Scotland. It features an EAST COAST MEDLEY which

salutes our old friend John Allan Cameron. There are some great tunes that we enjoy performing, such as HALLELUJAH, WE RISE AGAIN and, of course, THE HAGGIS SONG. Not sure if you can dance to many of the tunes but it will get your foot tapping."

You can order *Twa Lands* at www.theweetartanshop.com

Tartan Ball Programs 50th Anniversary (2013)

Only 1965 & 1966 still to be located

In an amazingly short time, we have collected 48 of the 50 Tartan Ball programs. Thanks go to Barbara Taylor for supplying the 1974 program. If you can think of anyone who might have the programs for 1965 and 1966, please contact Donald Holmes at deholmes@sympatico.ca or at 416-226-6081. Your booklet can be copied and returned to you, or you may donate it to the RSCDS Archives at York University.



Jean Hamilton receives her Scroll of Honour

Ruth Beattie, Chair of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Edinburgh, presents our Jean with her Scroll at the Society's recent AGM in Glasgow. Thanks to Elspeth Gray at 12 Coates Crescent for this official photograph.

Grace Notes



Photographed at the 2006
Glenview Hogmanay

Marguerite Elizabeth Agnew (at left): Jan. 17, 1920 – Nov. 16, 2011
Marguerite was an active member of at least four Scottish country dance groups in Toronto: Glenview, Hillcrest, Newtonbrook, and Richmond Hill. We remember her for her cheerful wit, her poetry recitations, her whimsical stories of Little Albert (borrowed from Stanley Holloway) delivered in a perfect Mancunian accent, and for her flowered hat which she wore while presiding over the tea table. We extend condolences to her family.



Ian Powrie

Born: 26 May 1923, in Perthshire.

Died: 5 October 2011, in Australia, aged 88

Ian Powrie was a young Perthshire ploughman whose brand of traditional Scottish country dance music would come to delight audiences around the world for decades, particularly through his appearances with the White Heather Club. He began to learn the fiddle at age 5. As an adult, he was often a judge at fiddle competitions.

Powrie could not seem to decide whether he was a farmer or a fiddler; he swithered between the professions. He was similarly undecided as to whether he was a Scot or an Australian. He emigrated to Australia, *twice*. His identity crisis is perhaps unintentionally portrayed metaphorically in the dance, well-known to confuse and delight Scottish country dancers: i.e. *Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder*. Alas, Ian made few modern recordings, if you want to enjoy his music you have to hunt for rare vinyl records.

Toronto Association Classes

All classes run for 10 weeks, from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$85 (HST included). Cheques preferred, payable to RSCDS Toronto.

Contact: Sue Ann Bryce, (416) 266-5423, sueann2@sympatico.ca

Level 1 Beginner Classes: for inexperienced dancers

- Mondays:** Grace Presbyterian Church,
447 Port Union Rd., Scarborough.
Jan. 9 - Mar. 19 (No class Family Day, Feb. 20)
Teacher: Wendy Loberg
- St. Leonard's Anglican Church,
25 Wanless Ave., 2 minutes from Lawrence station.
Jan. 9 - Mar. 19 (No class Family Day, Feb. 20)
Teacher: Jean Noble
- Wednesdays:** Swansea Town Hall,
95 Lavinia Ave., 7 min walk from Runnymede station.
Jan. 11 - Mar. 14
Teacher: May Divers
- Thursdays:** Eastminster United Church,
310 Danforth Ave., 2 minutes from the Chester station.
Jan. 12 - Mar. 15
Teacher: Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Level 2 Classes: for dancers wishing to improve knowledge of basic formations, and expand their experience

- Mondays:** Glenview Presbyterian Church,
1 Glenview Ave.
A 5-minute walk south from Lawrence station at the top of the hill.
Jan. 9 - Mar. 19 (No class Family Day, Feb. 20)
Teacher: Andrew Collins
- Thursdays:** Eastminster United Church,
Jan. 12 - Mar. 15
Teacher: Moira Korus

Level 3 Classes: advanced level for experienced dancers

- Thursdays:** Swansea Town Hall,
Jan. 12 - Mar. 15
Teacher: Fiona Philip

What's in a Name? Portnacraig

Here's an intriguing name! Is it geographical or historical? *Portnacraig* is a 32-bar reel devised by Perthshire's Linda Gaul around 20 years ago and published in Book 36. As it happens, this reel was included in the November Monthly Dance program for all to enjoy.



The lady herself needs no introduction. Linda was Chair of the RSCDS organization at Edinburgh around the turn of the century, and would be very clearly identified in any "Who's Who" of celebrities at RSCDS' Coates Crescent, Edinburgh HQ. Currently, she manages the advertising in your *Scottish Country Dancer* magazine.

Back to Portnacraig! Should you ever have the opportunity of checking out the sights around the delightful town of Pitlochry, which is just off the A9 north of Perth, take a stroll down by the River Tummel and you may come upon the Port Na Craig Inn (Note: *three* words!) Established in 1650, it is at the site of an old ferry which goes way back to the 13th century when local monks operated the crossing service for the price of a coin dropped into a nearby wishing well. The ferry is long gone, having been replaced by a suspension bridge in 1913.

Does this mean that Linda Gaul may be quite familiar with Pitlochry and environs? Well, it so happens that around every late February/ early March, RSCDS holds its Winter School at Pitlochry's Atholl Palace Hotel. What's the betting that Linda has long been a regular attendee?

As for me, I just missed the opportunity to see the Port Na Craig Inn. Kathryn and I actually stopped at Pitlochry in mid-October on the way back from having visited family just up the A9 in Kingussie. With regret, I did not know of the dance or the ferry location at that time, but did you notice how I started this piece a few lines back? . . . geographical or historical? The answer, as you can see, is both! . . . *Barry Pipes, mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca*

SCOTTISH FORMAL ATTIRE FOR SALE



Montrose Doublet + Jabot + Removable Cuffs
Size Approx. 38 to 42
Anderson Kilt
MacGregor Kilt (needs repair)
Fur Sporran
Kilt Belt with Buckle
Sgian Dubh
Wool Hose



Ladies' MacGregor Long Kilt
MacGregor Sash
Anderson Sash
Blouse
Black Velvet Waistcoat
Size 14



Contact Margaret Wilson at edmar@rogers.com



The Port Na Craig Inn beside the River Tummel was established nearly a hundred years before the battle of Culloden.



Wanted: Donations of Yarn

for the Queen Victoria Public School Knitting and Crochet Club (left-overs from your projects will do).
Contact: Lourdes Genosa at: bonniestronshiray@yahoo.com

The Beginner

December 10th, at the Christmas Family Night Monthly Dance, we will welcome beginner dancers, young dancers, and some who have never danced. This poem by Pat Batt captures what they, and all of us, will or have experienced. This was also one of Marguerite Agnew's party pieces.

*I joined a Scottish Dancing Class,
We started last September.*

*I'm trying hard – I really am,
There's so much to remember.*

*I know the experienced dancers,
It's very easy to spot 'em.
They gaily stand at the top of the set
And I slink down to the bottom.*

*I keep one eye on the teacher
And one on the rest of the set,
I try to watch my partner as well,
But haven't succeeded yet.*

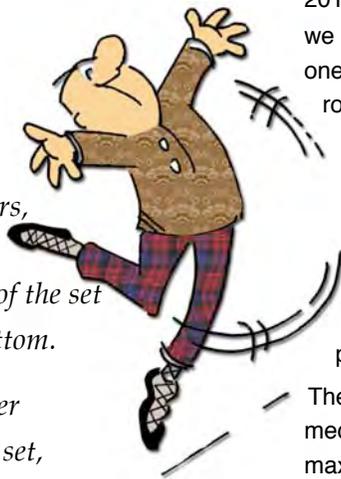
*It's very important to know the start
Of the dance about to be done.
If you're not quite sure of the first eight bars
You are bound to be number one.*

*Everyone's very helpful
And tells me what to do,
But I get mixed up with my sexes,
When ladies are men, wouldn't you?*

*And when it's reels we are doing
I'm soon a total loss,
There's reels of four and reels of three,
Reels down and reels across.*

*There even are diagonal reels!
But when our teacher said
"Don't do an eight bar reel in six"
My brain reeled in my head!*

*But I'm going to keep on trying,
The music is lovely to hear,
And maybe I'll know which corner is which
At the end of the dancing year.*



Media Liaison

After five years as Media Contact for the Communications Committee, Brenda Nunes will be vacating the position at the end of the 2011/2012 season. Thus, we are looking for someone to fill this important role.



The task involves contacting various types of media to take advantage of free advertising in community newspapers, newsletters, magazines, radio, and websites to promote events which will attract new dancers, for example, Dancing in the Park, Association classes, ceilidhs, etc. Also, when paid ads are placed, either by, or with us, the Media Liaison is the principal contact.

There is now considerable scope to increase publicity in the social media, Facebook, Twitter, etc., which needs to be explored and maximized. Brenda's assistance and files will be available to her successor. And, BTW, we are very grateful to Brenda for the effective way she has fulfilled this task.

Interested? Please contact [Carole Bell](#), 416-221-1201



Youth & Parent Workshop (Nov 26)

Thanks to the enthusiastic and excellent teachings of Keith Bark, who taught our young dancers, to Deirdre MacCuish Bark, who taught their parents; and to Teresa Lockhart, who organized the event. Thanks also to the fabulous volunteers who made it smooth sailing: Karen Bulkowski, Julia Callaby, May Divers, Moira Korus, Rob Lockhart, Stella & Andrew Henderson, Dot Henry, and Vicky Zeltins. To George & Garlene Boyce – a special thanks.

And, Thank You, parents and youth who came to dance, and left smiling.

Pat Batt's ditties are based on personal experiences and observation of human foibles in SCD put into rhyme. Though writing for fun, she often makes a pithy point. Go to a dance party, or ceilidh, and you will invariably hear one of her poems recited, with great drama. Pat passed away at the age of 85 in 2006.

... Stephen Webb, RSCDS London (UK), June 2011

...Pat Batt

From the RSCDS London (UK) Branch website.

Upcoming Events: NEAR

- DEC. 4 **Sunday Dancing at Broadlands:** Keith Bark will introduce some dances from the archives and some lesser known dances.
- DEC. 10 **Family Christmas Dance:** Bring a kid, bring a friend, bring yourself. . . Great fun and great music by The Scottish Accent at **Crescent School**. Dancing starts at 7:30 p.m.
- DEC. 12 **Scarborough SCD Christmas Dinner & Dance** with music by The Scottish Accent. \$50 at **Q-SSIS Banquet Hall**. Contact Jean Quinn: (416) 264-4017.
- DEC. 13 **Calvin's Christmas Dance** with music by Don Bartlett. \$10 at Calvin Presbyterian. Contact Nancy Stokes: (416) 425-2195.
- DEC. 14 **Glenview's Annual Christmas Dance** at 8 p.m. **Glenview Presbyterian Church**, 1 Glenview Ave (Yonge St. S. of Lawrence Ave)
- DEC. 16 **Erin Mills' Christmas Dance.** Music by The Reel Thing. 8 p.m. at **Mississauga Seniors' Centre**. Contact the Hamiltons: (905) 566-9599.
- DEC. 31 **Glenview's Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh** at 8 p.m. **Rosedale Presbyterian Church**, 129 Mount Pleasant Rd. at South Dr.
- JAN. 23 **Highlands of Durham's Robbie Burns Dinner and Dance**, Sikorski Hall, Oshawa
- JAN. 29 **Sunday Dancing at Broadlands:** Teresa Lockhart will offer "mystery, action, and adventure in dance".
- FEB. 11 **South Simcoe Valentine Workshop:** Jean Noble and Nigel Keenan will be teach the Workshop and lead the tea dance following. Registration begins at 9 a.m. \$20, at Knox Church Hall, Alliston. Full details [on the website](#), or contact **Irene Wilson**: (705) 435-2361.
- FEB. 26 **Sunday Dancing at Broadlands:** Andrew Collins will be teaching "meanwhile and other unusual reels".
- MAR. 18 **Sunday Dancing at Broadlands:** Paul Maloney will be teaching dances by Barry Priddey, devisor of *The Sands of Morar* and creator of the Tourbillon figure.
- MAR. 24 **West End Workshop** at Turner Fenton Second School, Brampton.
- JUN. 23 **Highlands of Durham's White Heather Ball**, Sikorski Hall, Oshawa.

Demo Pool Practices

Sundays: 2 - 4 p.m. at Broadlands CC

19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills

• January 8 • January 15

• February 19 • March 11 • April 15

The Demo Pool welcomes interested dancers familiar with the basic formations.

Contact: Deirdre MacCuish Bark 905-822-1707



Upcoming Events: FAR

- DEC. 10 **RSCDS St Catharines Christmas Dance.** At the Ukrainian Black Sea Hall, 455 Welland Ave. Music by *Terpsichore*. Tickets \$25. Contact Isobelle: (905) 937-5392 or visit: <http://www.rscdsstcatharines.ca>
- DEC. 28, 2011-JAN. 5, 2012. **RSCDS New Zealand Summer School.** Classes for all levels. Teachers and musicians from NZ and UK. Info on website: <http://rscdsnz.org.nz>
- JAN. 27-29 **Ardbrae Dancers of Ottawa Ball Weekend.** Enjoy a winter weekend get-away in Canada's capital! The weekend includes a Welcome Dance, a formal ball with a catered buffet followed by dancing to the music of Laird Brown & The Scottish Accent Band under the grand dome of the Glebe Community Centre Ball Room (sprung floor!), and a relaxed Sunday brunch. Tickets: \$90 (non-dancing \$55). Hospitality available. Contact: ardbraeball@ardbrae.org www.ardbrae.org
- JAN. 27-29 **A Weekend Away in St Andrews.** A star-studded group of teachers and musicians, at the 5-star Fairmont St Andrews Hotel. Formal Ball on Saturday night. Info: www.rscdsedinburgh.org
- FEB. 17-19. **Annual Aloha Winter Weekend** in Honolulu, Hawaii. A full weekend of classes and dancing. Teacher: Eileen Hsu. Music: The Humuhumunukunua'ia and Strathspey Society Band. Information: MLindsay@hawaii.r.com or visit RSCDSHawaii.org
- MAR. 2-4. **Belleville Workshop & Ball.** Music by the The Scottish Accent. Teachers TBA.
- APR. 28. **John Middleton RSCDS Ball 2012 Hamilton.** Information: Annette Sabourin, 10 Kyle Court, R.R. #1, Lynden, Ontario L0R 1T0 (519) 647-3055 annette1sabourin@hotmail.com
- MAY 25 - 27. **2012 Peterborough SCD Society Workshop and Ball.** Guest teacher is Ruth Jappy, with music by Fred Moyes. Accommodation at the Irwin Inn on beautiful Stoney Lake. Contact Barry Diceman, 826 Hewitt Dr., Peterborough, K9K 2K1 or bdiceman@cogeco.ca
- MAR. 31. **Blair Scottish Country Dancers' Annual Ball** in Cambridge, ON. Music by The Scottish Accent. Information: BlairSCD@hotmail.com. Or visit: www.blairscottishcountrydancers.ca
- JUN. 15-17 **'Simply Scottish' on Saltspring Is.** Teachers: Elaine Brunken, Mary Murray, Geoffrey Selling. Musicians: John Taylor (a fabulous fiddler) and David Mostardi. Info: simplyscottish@shaw.ca

Gift Certificates

Reward, thank, impress, obligate, nominate, dragoon, acknowledge, or otherwise treat your friends to a wonderful Christmas present. What could be better than a Gift Certificate to the Tartan Ball? Or, even to the Monthly Dance? Or to Beginner Classes?

To order your gifts in time for Santa, contact our Treasurer, Wendy Fulton: wbfulton@allstream.net



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notice . . .

Please send submissions to **Carole Bell**. Deadline for the January issue is December 10.