

RSCDS SET & LINK

Toronto

THE TORONTO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ September 2011



From the Chair



Margaret Rieger

September and Labour Day are here!

As much as Labour Day, the CNE and the Air Show herald the end of this record-breaking summer, they also bring with them the anticipation and excitement for the new "year" ahead. Our Canadian

clocks from our earliest days at school are programmed to "go off" with the school bell at the start of September. We are ready for the new ghillies and the routine to structure our lives and activities.

Congratulations to the Scarborough Scottish Country Dance group. This September marks the 50th Anniversary of their founding and will be celebrated on Monday, September 26.

Congratulations to Jean Hamilton for being awarded the Scroll of Honour by the Society. We have all benefited from her vast knowledge of SCD and its history, her precise teaching methods, and her enthusiastic support of our Association.

Congratulations to all our members who renew their membership commitment to the Toronto Association by September 30, 2011. The membership form will be included in this mailing, but can also be accessed on the internet. Payment can also be easily done on line - just follow the links. Save a bit and sign up to receive your *Set and Link* electronically as well. And do check out our website for Facebook and Twitter links too.

Crescent School, Saturday October 1st is our first Monthly Dance of the season. By then we will all be prepared by our Social Group teachers for the fun and joy of the evening's dance programme, for the opportunity of greeting dancing friends, and for the comfort of being settled into our fall routine once again.

See you on the dance floor,

Cheers.



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Membership Director, Tom Clark: tom.clark@kos.net



This is the story of the 512-Some Reel that was executed by Scottish Country dancers from all over Southern Ontario at Toronto's CNE Grandstand in 1991. It was a world record and became an entry in The Guinness Book of Records.

It all goes back to 1988. At Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., the University's Pipe Band holds a biennial Highland Arts Festival featuring piping, drumming, and Scottish dancing. Formed in 1965, the band had become a respected institution that brought fame to B.C. through its continual capture of national and international prizes. As part of its 1988 festival, the band piped for what was then the world's largest Scottish Country dance, a 256-Some Reel. This was submitted to The Guinness Book of Records and accepted.

Now, for the more competitive among us, that would be a challenge worth taking on ... and at that time, RSCDS Toronto had such a person in its ranks. Esther Goodfellow (at right) and her husband Bill were dancers from the Scarborough Social Group. Esther was an indomitable lady who was making a name for herself in the organization. She had a wealth of public relations and communication skills, which were being used to advantage by what at that time was called the Toronto Branch of RSCDS.



Having a very positive viewpoint on most matters, Esther made it known that "We can beat that!" - "we" being the Toronto Branch - and so the project was launched. A committee was raised to support Esther, including John Christie, Andrew Collins, Bob Blackie, Robin Wood, Douglas Smith, Vi and Frank Knight, and Sandra Binns-Johnstone. The CNE Grandstand was identified as an appropriate venue and a date was set to include this record-setting event in conjunction with the CNE's Warriors' Day Parade on August 17, 1991.

So where did the dancers come from? Well, there were participants from 18 of the Toronto Social Groups, plus Ontario contingents from Hamilton, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, and St. Catharines. Teams also came from Vancouver, Winnipeg, Buffalo, and one or two individuals from Virginia, California, England, and New Zealand. By April of 1991, commitments had been made by 512 registered dancers with another 37 spares in the event of illnesses, etc. Not to forget a host of volunteers needed to cover all eventualities! Recognition should also go to our good friend Denis Snowdon, who gave us great advertising support on his radio program "A Little Breath of Scotland" on Radio AM740.

And then the big question! How was this going to be performed? Thanks to Esther's connection with the Scarborough group, their teacher John Christie became a tower of strength. His vision and ability to put it all together was truly remarkable. Using a conventional Eightsome Reel as the basis for everything, he envisioned three concentric circles, with a 32-some in the centre, surrounded by 13 sixteensomes, with 34 eightsomes around the perimeter of the dance. Practices? Oh, yes, there were practices galore.

Of course, The Guinness Book of Records required independent authentication, which was provided by Mayor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga and the Reverend Sylvia Hamilton, Chaplain of the St. Andrews Society. >>> *Continued on page 4* >>>

October Monthly Dance

Date & Time: Saturday, Oct 1, 2011 – 8:00 p.m.
Place: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: The Scottish Accent
Host Groups: • Bloorlea • Calvin • South Simcoe

Cutty Sark†	J 8x32 – 4 cpl	Bk 40 / 2
Davy Nick Nack	R 8x32 – 4 cpl	Glasgow Assembly
Cuillins of Skye†	S 8x32 – 4 cpl	4 SCDs 1978
*The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J 6x32 – 3 cpl	Bk 16 / 3
Silver Tassie†	S 8x32 – 4 cpl	RSCDS leaflet
The Royal Yacht Britannia†	R 8x40 – 4 cpl	Bk 43 / 3

>>> Intermission

Oh Whistle and I'll Come Tae Ye My Lad†	J 8x32 – 4 cpl	Bk 24 / 6
Miss Florence Adams †	S 8x32 – 4 cpl	Bk 38 / 7
*The Ladies of Dunse	R 8x40 – 4 cpl	Bk 26 / 11
Auchinellan Jig	J 8x32 – 4 cpl	Auchinellan Collection
Miss Ogilvie's Fancy	S 8x32 – 4 cpl	Bk 20 / 8
The Montgomeries' Rant †	R 8x32 – 4 cpl	Bk 10 / 1

>>> Extras

Old Nick's Lumber Room	J 8x32 – 4 cpl	Bk 26 / 6
Shiftn' Bobbins	R 8x32 – 4 cpl	Ormskirk, Bk 6

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

* Brief only dances † Tartan Ball dances

Monthly Dance Dates

Mark your Calendar Now

- Oct. 1, 8 p.m. • Nov. 12, 8 p.m.
- Dec. 10 Family Night, 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 14, 8 p.m. • Mar. 10 Beginners' Night, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 14, 8 p.m. • Apr 28 AGM, 7:30 p.m.

We in Toronto are especially lucky. . . At our Monthly Dances we get to dance to wonderful, exciting, live music by talented musicians steeped in the tradition of Scottish Country Dance. Very few of the many branches of the RSCDS enjoy such a privilege and treat. At the Oct. 1st, and AGM dances our musicians will be Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs. For the other Monthly Dances we'll have The Scottish Accent led by Laird Brown. After one Monthly Dance last year, a dancer was heard to say, "I don't know what they put in that music Saturday but I was flying. . . I was in another zone. . . I was on another planet! It was fabulous!"

We are also lucky to have the dance programmes for this season prepared by talented dance deviser and experienced choreographer Carole Skinner. You are sure to enjoy the dances, which will include some from Carole's new book, now being prepared for publication by RSCDS Toronto. All dances are briefed, and most are walked. On Family and Beginners' Nights all dances are walked. The Monthly Dance is a great way to spend a Saturday evening, and help keep the tradition of live music strong.

. . .Forbes Duncan

Special Events

Scarborough's 50th Anniversary

Monday: September 26, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.
At St Peter's Anglican Church, 776 Brimley Rd.



CALLING ALL SCARBOROUGH DANCERS. . .

Scarborough dancers celebrate our 50th anniversary this year and we are throwing ourselves a party. If you've ever been a member of the Scarborough group, you are invited to join us.

Our piper will welcome you as you greet old friends and peruse memorabilia of our 50 years. Partake of refreshments as you sit back and wallow in sentimental nostalgia with our Scottish singer, and enjoy a laugh or two from our storyteller.

We've lost touch with many of our former dancers so we are hoping word-of-mouth will reach those who were the foundation of our club. If we have time and stamina, Donalda McDonald will lead us in an hour or so of the dances made dear to our hearts by the likes of John Christie.

We are fortunate to still have one of our founding members with us — we will acknowledge Margaret Cunninham — Tom and Margaret Cunningham started it all in 1961. Contacts: Jean, 416-264-4017, Garry, 416-289-7453 or Sheila, 416-298-8708.

Sunday Dancing at Broadlands

Sundays: 2 - p.m. ~ Oct. 30 • Nov. 20 • Dec. 4
Broadlands Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills
(DVP & Lawrence East)

Want a Sunday afternoon treat? Enjoy three afternoons of interesting and unusual dancing at Broadlands for intermediate and advanced dancers. Members: \$5.50; non members: \$8.50.

- **October 30** Carole Skinner will teach dances from her new book, *Eternal Friendship*.
- **November 20** Blair Gerrie will teach a Sunday Miscellany.
- **December 4** Keith Bark will teach 'dances from the archives' and also some lesser known RSCDS dances.

Culture Days Ceilidh

October 1st, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Eastminster Church,
310 Danforth Avenue, Toronto



Culture Days is a pan-Canadian volunteer movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation, and engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. To that end, Deirdre MacCuish Bark will lead an afternoon ceilidh, **free to all-comers**, to introduce the traditional dance of Scotland. Encourage your non-dancing friends, especially those of other cultures, to come along and have as much fun as we always do. Don't send them — bring them. Remind them to dress cool and wear soft shoes. (See p. 6.)



St Andrew's Charity Ball

Saturday, Nov 26, at the Fairmont Royal York
 Celebrate 175 years of the St Andrew's Society, and 120 years of the 48th Highlanders with this glorious and historic ball. Dance to the wonderful music of The Scottish Accent in the Scottish Country Dance room. See *What's On web page* for more info.



Dear Editor. . .

Thank You

A very warm thank you for all the flowers, cards, emails and messages I received during Bobby's illness and after his death. It was overwhelming to be flooded with love and support from around the world. At last count I had received about 311 cards, and over 670 emails and Facebook messages from 9 countries, during the 10 weeks Bobby was ill and in the weeks following his funeral. My thanks also to the many Toronto area dancers who helped with the funeral reception. It was a lot of work to feed the nearly 500 people attending the service, and I thank you for your efforts.

I also want to thank the Toronto Branch for its donation to Ian Anderson House, and those who made individual donations. I am very grateful to you for honouring Bobby in this way. Bobby was special and unique. There was no one in this world like him, not only musically, but in the depth of his compassion, kindness, caring, and love — and, of course, his humour. The grief and sadness has been difficult to bear but it is of some comfort to know that Bobby touched so many people and made such an impact with his music. While this is a devastating personal loss, it is also a tremendous loss to Scottish music and the Scottish Country Dance community. There will never be another Bobby Brown!

. . . Lisa Brown

Ed.: On May 7, 2011, Lisa and Laird accepted on Bobby's behalf the RSCDS Branch Award, nominated by London, Canada, branch, for his "outstanding contribution to the preservation and performance of traditional Scottish music". As mentioned in the March issue of Set & Link, Bobby was also recognized by the Box & Fiddle award of the NAAFC (National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs). Lisa and Laird also accepted this award, June 26 in Perth, Scotland. At the presentation, both spoke of his passion for his music. Other musicians honoured over the years by NAAFC include Sir Jimmie Shand, Ian Powrie, Bobby Macleod, Andrew Rankine, Jim Johnstone, and John Carmichael — to name a few. Thus, Bobby joined a "distinguished" group! There are photos of both award events on Facebook and on the Bobby Brown Band website.



Dancing in Hong Kong

Arthur McNeill, dance teacher of the Hong Kong Highlanders Association, sent the following letter to Margaret Rieger after a group of Toronto dancers, and friends from Australia and Ottawa, visited their group for an evening social.

It was such a pleasure to meet you and your fellow dancers from Toronto at our May Dance in Hong Kong. We were all amazed by the sheer energy of your group, having coped with a punishing schedule during the three weeks of touring in China. The local HK dancers greatly appreciated your inclusive style of dancing and the encouragement you gave. You definitely left us inspired!

I drove home from the dance playing the CD you gave us of Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent, thinking about how we might build on the night's success. We'll certainly enjoy trying some of the Ann Campbell dances from *Who's Who in Toronto*. Thank you very much indeed for these gifts. They'll be put to good use.

I wouldn't be surprised if you see some of our Hong Kong Chinese dancers at a future dance event in Toronto. Some have relatives there.

I hope our paths cross again soon. And haste ye back!

. . . Arthur McNeill

News from Sendai

The following note was received by Keith and Deirdre Bark regarding the funds that were raised by RSCDS Toronto members and the June 12 TAC Dance for Sendai Relief and that were sent to Sendai, Japan.

Wasn't it a wonderful afternoon and didn't everyone have a good time? Thanks for your hard work organizing the event.

You will be pleased to hear that all the money that Ontario dancers sent directly to Sendai has been helping the dancers who lost so much. The RSCDS money was used to replace SCD equipments and CDs.

The Japanese government received a lot of funds from other countries, as did other agencies such as the Red Cross but, after nearly three months, their money has not yet been distributed to individual victims because the local residential records were lost and they cannot find a way to distribute the funds properly. There seems to be some official guideline of percentage of payment for level of damage but they are still seeking a solution of how to distribute the funds. Meanwhile people need immediate help for daily living and recovering. Thus the money we have sent directly to the Sendai dance group has been very much appreciated.

The Sendai SCD group held its regular dance last month in order to keep spirits up — particularly those who had lost a lot due to the tsunami and earthquake.

. . . Kim Horne



Stylish ladies at the TAC Dance for Sendai (L-R):

Liz Stark, Susan Clark, Muriel Nicoll, J'ina Middleton, Sue Ann Bryce.



Some of the Hong Kong Reelers at their social in May, where they welcomed Toronto dancers.

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.
Sept. 19 - Nov 28 (No class Thanksgiving, Oct. 10)
Teacher: Carole Skinner

St. Leonard's Anglican Church,
25 Wanless Ave., 2 minutes from Lawrence station.
Sept. 19 - Nov 28 (No class Thanksgiving, Oct. 10)
Teacher: Jean Noble

Wednesdays: Swansea Town Hall,
95 Lavinia Ave., 7 min walk from Runnymede station.
Sept. 21 - Nov. 23
Teacher: May Divers

Thursdays: Eastminster United Church,
310 Danforth Ave., 2 minutes from the Chester station.
Sept. 22 - Nov. 24
Teacher: Deirdre MacCuish Bark

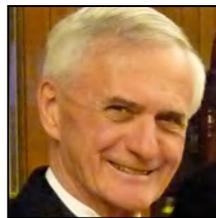
Level 2 Classes: for dancers wishing to improve knowledge of basic formations, and expand their dance experience

Mondays: Glenview Presbyterian Church,
1 Glenview Ave.
A 5-minute walk south from Lawrence station
at the top of the hill.
Sept. 19 - Nov 28 (No class Thanksgiving, Oct. 10)
Teacher: Andrew Collins

Thursdays: Eastminster United Church,
Sept. 22 - Nov. 24
Teacher: Moira Korus

Level 3 Classes: advanced level for experienced dancers

Thursdays: Swansea Town Hall,
Sept. 23 - Nov. 25
Teacher: Fiona Philip



Ron Baker



Ruth Blogg



Bette Lancaster



Chris Milne



Amy Mitchell



Jane Pratt

This has been a summer of loss for the Scottish Country Dance community. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the individuals listed here. And to those who have gone. . . Thanks for the memories, and the dances.

Ron Baker (d. July 22, 2011). Ron could always be counted on for a cheery smile and an encouraging word. Woodglen in particular will miss Ron. His inspired, and very popular Scottish Country Tea has been a great support to SCD youth.

Ruth Blogg (April 24, 1928 - July 22, 2011). Ruth was an enthusiastic dancer with Glenview and Newtonbrook, she loved the Tartan Ball, and she was a Dancing in the Park greeter in 2010.

Dorothy Gardner (July 22, 1926 - Aug. 8, 2011) danced with the Calvin group.

Elizabeth Lancaster (June, 1935 - Aug. 12, 2011). Bette danced at Glenview, Trinity, and Erin Mills.

Chris Milne (Mar. 5, 1926 - July 29, 2011). Chris danced at Scarborough, Newtonbrook, and Petronella.

Amy Mitchell (June 13, 1929 - July 24, 2011). Amy was a long-time dancer with her late husband Jim Mitchell at Hillcrest.

Jane Pratt passed away this summer in Scotland, in her 94th year. She was a member of the Tayside group and danced at Dancing in the Park well into her 90s.

512-some, continued from page 1. .

So everything was planned to perfection? And the lead-up to the event was smoothly handled? . . . Not on your life!

Stumbling blocks were encountered at every step of the way, but such was the perseverance of Esther and her committee that any problems were elbowed aside. The big day arrived. It was August 17, 1991 at 12.30 p.m., and to the pre-recorded music of *Captain Cameron's March*, played by our own Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent, the 512-Some Reel was under way. It was executed with enthusiasm and flair so that this world record could be entered into the 1993 Guinness Book of Records.

We have just passed 20 years since that remarkable event took place, so it is well worth the reminiscence. Many, many RSCDS Toronto people deserve a round of applause for their unstinting efforts, some of whom are no longer with us, and others no longer dancing.

Esther Goodfellow herself is the one who should be able to step forward and take a bow. Even though that is not possible, the memory of her momentous achievement lives on! As a wee tribute to Esther, here's a limerick written shortly after by Glenview's Nancy Matheson.

*When we danced in the 512-Some reel,
Which our Esther promoted with zeal.
Did you feel the manoeuvre,
To topple Vancouver.
Was a thrill like inventing the wheel?*

. . . Barry Pipes, with Bill Goodfellow

A 512-some postscript. . .

Our world record stood until September 2004. On that date, according to the Guinness Book of Records, 1254 Scottish students and staff of Ellon Academy in Aberdeenshire performed the biggest ceilidh dance ever, called "The Reely Big Reel."

Now there's a challenge!

. . . Barry Pipes

Been there. . .

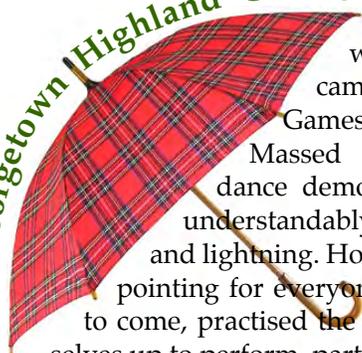
Done that. . .

Got the T-shirt!

Douglas Worling proudly wears the souvenir T-shirt he earned by participating in the 512-some at the CNE.



Georgetown Highland Games



Rain. . . AGAIN! Just as we lined up ready to go on, it came stoatin' down. The Games officials cancelled both the Massed Highland Fling and our dance demonstration – probably, and understandably, because of local thunder and lightning. However, it was sooooo disappointing for everyone who had made an effort to come, practised the dances and psyched themselves up to perform, particularly the first-timers.

Talk about an anti-climax!

Thanks to everyone who was willing and dripping: to Keith for the music; Deirdre Bark, Barbara Taylor, Ian Paterson, Mari Thompson, Jean Hamilton, and Anne Harrison for encouraging their dancers to come; Theresa Malek for lots of ponchos; and Francis Hulme of the Georgetown Games Committee who generously, as always, supplied free passes for demo dancers.

. . . Nora Sutherland

Membership Renewal Made Easy

A strong membership benefits all dancers. September is membership renewal time, and now you can sign up and pay online. The procedure is easy. First, visit RSCDStoronto.org/membership.html download or open the [Membership Profile.pdf](#) file and save it to your hard drive. Give it a distinctive new name: *YourName.pdf*

Open *YourName.pdf* in [Acrobat Reader](#) and fill it in, then Save. At this point you have two choices:

- You can print the form, and mail it in with your cheque. Or,
- You can pay online via PayPal.

If you choose PayPal (which is highly recommended!) you can initiate payment by simply clicking on the **Pay Now** button on the form — this will take you to [PayPal Canada](#).

If you have a Paypal account, follow the prompts to complete payment (*note: you must type the amount payable in the first PayPal screen*). Then email *YourName.pdf*, to Tom Clark: tom.clark@kos.net.

If you don't yet have a PayPal account you'll be prompted to set one up. You must provide credit card info, but you also have the option of direct debit. (*Each time you buy something you can make that choice.*) Once your account is established, you can type in the amount payable and complete payment. Then email your file, *YourName.pdf*, to Tom Clark at tom.clark@kos.net.

If you have any questions or problems, contact Gary Maidlow, our PayPal co-ordinator: garymaidlow@gmail.com

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- Pictures are vibrant, and type can be as big as you like.
- You can print as many copies of S&L as you wish.

Now is the time to go green. Opt for electronic delivery of your Set&Link when you complete your Membership Profile included in this month's mailing. Questions??? Contact our Membership Director, Tom Clark: tom.clark@kos.net

Gear up for The Toronto Workshop! Nov 12



Summer is almost over and the new dance season is beginning. Which means. . . it won't be long before the annual Toronto Association Workshop arrives on Saturday, November 12.

We have a great day planned – once again a mix of old and new. The [Workshop Registration form](#) in this issue explains it all.

We have an exciting new venue: Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road, in the heart of Forest Hill— the prettiest neighbourhood in Toronto. The Registration fee includes lunch (with a brand new lunch menu) and refreshments for the breaks. Your package optionally includes the November Monthly dance at Crescent School, with the exciting music of The Scottish Accent.

Your Workshop teachers are:

- Helen Russell, Yorkshire, UK
- Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Toronto, Ontario
- Ian Souter, Hamilton, Ontario

[Check the website](#) for the teachers' impressive bios.

Class musicians are Don Bartlett, Laird Brown and Jim Darge.

Thanks to the good feedback you gave us, the foot care clinic we offered for the first time last year is returning, and you can choose between it and the combined class.

Something totally new (see the Registration form) is a document explaining the levels expected in each workshop class. The website also gives these details.

Once again, we're happy to offer Registrants our popular Gently-Used Dance Clothing Market. Dancing *and* bargain shopping — what a day of great highlights!

Hospitality billeting is available for those coming from out of town. For more information, please e-mail Valerie Fisher at v.fisher@sympatico.ca.

We've also made improvements to paying on line – see the Registration form – although, if you prefer, you can still go the traditional route and mail in an application form with your cheque (Payable to RSCDS Toronto, please).

We're hoping all this has captured your interest. *Mark the day and we'll see you there.*

. . . Your Toronto Workshop Committee

Teacher Workshop: Sunday 13 Nov @ 2 p.m.

Our Guest Instructor will be Helen Russell from the UK, who will have taught at the Toronto Workshop, the previous day.

At Westway United Church, 8 Templar Drive, Etobicoke

Doors open 1:30; class begins 2:00 to about 4:30/5:00.

What's in Your Closet?

The popular "Gently Used Dancing Clothing Market" will take place again at the November Workshop.

Donations, clean and in good repair, gladly accepted. Call Margaret Rieger at: (416) 467-9083.



TAC Summer School at Sherbrooke

The 39th annual T.A.C. Summer School in Quebec this year was only the fifth outside Ontario. Sherbrooke provided hot, hot weather and little air-conditioning, but good dancing floors and excellent meals kept participants in good humour.

They came from all over the world: Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Japan, UK, Norway, Canada, U.S.A. Eight of ten teachers and musicians came from "offshore"; Music Director Muriel Johnstone and her husband, teacher Bill Zobel, came from BC. In the presence of the collective passion of the teachers and musicians for Celtic music and Scottish dancing, it was impossible not to learn and enjoy. We were inspired by live music in every class and a variety of teaching emphases, and the level of dancing improved day by day.

Twelve other qualified people joined in providing 29 one-hour afternoon sessions on a great variety of subjects. With increasing interest in the history and form of music for dancing, Muriel's two sessions were crowded. Time was given to formations, transitions, tips for teachers, and ball dances.

Musicians who had never played together worked hard and successfully to provide spirited accompaniment for five social evenings, including the ball. Then, instead of resting after their long day, they set up and kept on playing at the after party!

A special, first-night concert was a delight. Muriel played her haunting memorial in honour of Bobby Brown, and the other musicians joined her in a tribute to four "Canadian" SCD music composers: Bobby, Stan Hamilton, Don Bartlett and Bobby Frew.

Next year, the 40th, in beautiful Portland, Oregon, city of roses.

. . .Barbara McNutt



2011 TAC Summer School musicians (L-R):

James Gray, Elke Baker, Keith Smith, Muriel Johnstone, David Cunningham



Travelling in Style (for the Photo Contest)

Carole Bell, and her shirt, went on a cruise in Shanghai, China. Here they add a splash of colour to the spectacular skyline. This is an example of the kind of photo we want from you (Carole, obviously, is not eligible since she is running the contest!) So, where did you take your shirt?

Photo Contest

Ed.: On your summer travels, did you remember to take pictures featuring your lovely RSCDS Toronto or Pilling shirt in exotic, recognizable locations? Please send in your shots by Sept 31. All images will be professionally adjudicated and a winner will be announced this fall. The prize will be a shirt of your choice.

In a related development. . . below is a letter sent by Kath and Alan Burn from the Canterbury Caledonian Society SCD Club, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Dear Carole,

Lydia Hedge of Nova Scotia has told us about your competition, and said that we *must* enter a photo of the tee-shirt she kindly gave us when she was visiting New Zealand Summer School.

So, I'm sending this picture of me and my wife Kath at our club night, at our new venue (in a very suitable old church hall in the suburbs of Christchurch), which has been necessary because our usual place fell over as a result of the recent earthquake. The future is very much up in the air, and we were lucky to find this alternative hall, where we are likely to be for at least a couple of years until decisions can be made about rebuilding Christchurch CBD generally and the replacement (if any) of our original club base, which was owned by the Canterbury Caledonian Society.

Anyway, our club season has begun, belatedly, and we are pleased to have found the temporary(?) place in an unaffected part of town.

You may be interested to know how we introduced the tee-shirt last night but first I need to explain that, in our opinion, dancers in New Zealand are very much spoon-fed with briefings and thorough walkings-through before the music is put on, and they almost universally rely on this procedure at club nights and at more formal occasions too.

Kath, who is one of the club's tutors, called for sets to be made up without announcing the name of the dance, and ensured that an experienced couple was stationed in first place of each set. She said she wasn't going to brief or walk the dance, but that the instructions could be found on my T-shirt, which I then unveiled for the first time. There were a number of interesting reactions!

Some of the older dancers who had grown up with 'Pilling' recognised the secret code, and were quickly able to interpret the instructions.

However, some of this vintage/level of experience had a problem because they hadn't brought their glasses.

The eyes of some of those who were used to always being told exactly what to do showed evidence of something not far short of blind panic.

Those who didn't know Pilling thought the hieroglyphics were something to do with the Tai Chi classes held in the same hall.

One couple in my set was able to update the information they required as they passed me by during their turn.

Anyway, all the sets successfully completed the dance, and Kath took pleasure in pointing out to them afterwards that they were capable of dancing without either a brief or a walk-through — without even knowing the name of the dance!

With best wishes for the success of your competition, and greetings to all your dancers, from Christchurch, New Zealand.

. . . Alan & Kath Burn



Dancers, we need your help to promote our free, public outreach event on Saturday, October 1...

We are participating in Culture Days this year, just the second year that it has been organized. 'It' is a 3-day period when the many cultural organizations across Canada are invited to promote their activities to their local communities by offering a free activity in which the public can participate. You might call it 'a taster'.

So here is another great opportunity: to show what a fun, friendly, physically active group we are; to reveal that 'best kept secret' that is Scottish Country Dancing. You can help by encouraging family, friends, and acquaintances to investigate the locally sponsored events in Culture Days — making sure to mention our own event of course.

If you have access to the internet, go to www.culturedays.ca and search by category or region to see the wide range of events

available in the GTA. It's really quite fascinating. . . there are over 200 local events! (If you are not on the internet, look for information in the Globe and Mail; the CBC also promotes Culture Days.)

Under the Dance category look for 'Traditional Social Dancing of Scotland' to find our details. . . or, type this strange tiny URL: <http://tinyurl.com/3uqoqh5>:

(Details can also be found on our own website under What's On.)

Saturday, October 1, from 1 – 4 p.m. Deirdre MacCuish Bark will lead a fun-filled introduction for all ages to Scottish Country Dance at Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue, near Chester station.

So help to spread the word: Send out glittering Tweets, or invite friends via Facebook. Do what you can to advertise this fun experience to family and friends. Join our Toronto Association Facebook page and add your comments.

... Carole Bell



Dufferin Grove Reunion

Meena and Jennifer, seen here with Lourdes Genosa, participated in Scottish Country Dancing at Dufferin Grove on Thursday, August 25th. Both girls were members of the SCD club that Lourdes ran at Queen Victoria Public School in Parkdale. They were first introduced to Scottish dancing when they were in Grade 2. They are now in Grade 11 and still have good recollection of some of the formations and the great time they had dancing as very young girls.



Stylish Dance Shirts

Our spiffy dance shirts and sweats will be available for order at our first monthly dance on October 1. T-shirts are \$30 and collared shirts are \$38. Pilling Tees are \$30; Pilling sweats are \$30. Order now – these bargains can't last. Contact Muriel Nicoll, rodfnicholl@rogers.com or Marie Duncan, fmduncan@sympatico.ca See you at Crescent School!



Mairi's Wedding on the Great Wall of China

Dancers on the China trip caused a stir when they danced Mairi's Wedding on a terrace of the Great Wall. Notice how many of them are wearing their distinctive RSCDS Toronto shirts. China photos by Donald Horner.



Upcoming Events: NEAR

SEPT. 26. **Scarborough's 50th Anniversary** at 6:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 776 Brimley Road.

OCT. 30 **Sunday Dancing at Broadlands:** Carole Skinner will teach dances from her new book, *Eternal Friendship*.

NOV.12 **Toronto Workshop.** See page 5.

NOV.13 **Teachers' Workshop.** See page 5.

NOV. 20 **Sunday Dancing at Broadlands:** Blair Gerrie will present a Sunday Miscellany.

NOV. 26 **St Andrew's Ball:** This year, let's fill up the Scottish country dance room.

NOV. 27 **Demo Pool Practice**

DEC. 4 **Sunday Dancing at Broadlands:** Keith Bark will introduce some dances from the archives and some lesser known dances.

For a complete listing see *What's On web page*.

Demo Pool Practices

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

19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills

• September 18 • October 23 • November 27

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

Contact: Deirdre MacCuish Bark 905-822-1707

Classes for Kids

• Rosedale, Saturday mornings

Contact Moira Korus: (416) 924-9616

• Woodglen, Friday evenings

Contact Betty Baker: (416) 286-9755

• Erin Mills Youth, Tuesday evenings

Contact Keith or Deirdre Bark: (905) 822-1707

Check the website (Groups page) for details.

Heintzman Piano For Sale

1960 Heintzman *Richmond* "grand piano in vertical form" in very good condition, with walnut case and hinged bench. Carefully used and professionally maintained. Nice keyboard action, lovely sound. If this model were built now it would sell for \$12,000-\$15,000. Asking \$2,000.

Phone Barbara McNutt or Alison Booz: 416.699-0269

(Bill Goodfellow may have been the first person to tune this piano at the Heintzman & Co. factory, as well as the most recent.)



Upcoming Events: FAR

SEPT. 10. **RSCDS St. Catharines Branch Welcome Dance** at Ukrainian Black Sea Hall, 455 Welland Ave. at 8 p.m. Music: Fred Moyes. Information: Sue at 905-641-1101, or Maggie at 905-641-2470 www.rscdstcatharines.ca email rscdstcatharines@gmail.com

SEPT 30 - OCT.2. **RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch Workshop.** Information: www.rscdsask.org/

Oct 14-16 **RSCDS Calgary: St Giles Ceilidh.** Enjoy a different Scottish dance experience. Teachers: Bob Anderson, John Bertram, and Ruth Jappy. Music by the Heather Cameron band: Mercat Cross. For info visit RSCDS Calgary website.

OCT. 22. **The White Cockade** at MacNabb Presb. Church, 116 MacNabb St., Hamilton. 8-11 p.m. \$7/non-member. Guest teacher: Teresa Lockhart.

OCT. 29. **RSCDS Windsor Annual Ball** at Masonic Temple, 986 Ouellette Ave., Windsor, ON. Dance to follow dinner and features music by The Scottish Accent. Information: www.rscdsWindsor.org or the registrar tara.fuerth@geccdsb.on.ca

NOV. 4 - 6. **RSCDS Kingston Ontario Branch 45th Annual Weekend Workshop & Ball** at Frontenac Secondary School, 1789 Bath Road Kingston, ON. Teachers: Simon Scott, West Vancouver, BC; Elizabeth McMahon, Lakefield, ON; Moira Korus, Toronto, ON. Music: The Scottish Accent. Registrar: Barbara Kisilevsky (613-547-4931) or registrar@rscdskingston.org

NOV. 5-6. **New York's Jeannie Carmichael Ball.** Music: Parcel of Rogues (Susie Petrov, Calum Pasqua and Dan Houghton). At the historic Thayer Hotel, on the grounds of the US Military Academy at West Point — a scenic location overlooking the Hudson River about 40 miles north of New York, info: www.rscdsnewyork.org, or contact Wendy Pally: 646-263-0999 WendyLpally@verizon.net

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.



Wanted

A gently used Argyle day jacket in Charcoal size 44r / 46r. Contact Graham at twoscots@rogers.com

Kilt For Sale

Baird Modern (lightweight) tartan, complete with matching fly plaid, tie and flashes.

Waist 34-36" length 23"

Excellent condition, great price: \$200

Contact Jon Allen-Friend: 416.483-1541

Kilt For Sale

MacDonald of the Isles Hunting tartan

Waist 32-37", length 25"

Also day jacket, light green tweed.

Contact Les James at 647-788-1757



www.RSCDStoronto

RSCDS Toronto
c/o Elmhurst,
207 Elmhurst Ave.
Toronto ON
M2N 1S2
(416) 225-5222

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Chair: Carole Bell
416.221-1201 carolewbell@sympatico.ca

Donald Holmes: deholmes@sympatico.ca
416.226-6081

Rob Lockhart: RobLockhart@rogers.com
416.759-9845

Marian White: marianwhite@sympatico.ca
416.781-7795

Judy Williams: junit@pathcom.com
416.924-3658

Teresa Lockhart [Junior Jig]: Teresa.Lockhart@rogers.com
416.759-9845

Media Contact: Brenda Nunes: brendajnunes@gmail.com
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RSCDS Toronto

Join your dancing friends in the Toronto Association Facebook group. You can set up automatic alerts whenever a posting is made so you can keep up to date.

Visit:

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notice . . .

Please send submissions to **Carole Bell**. Deadline for the October issue is September 10.