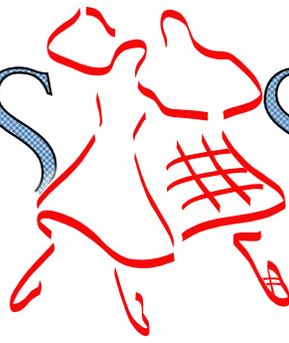


RSCDS SET & LINK

Toronto

www.dancescottish.ca



Congratulations, Deirdre!

From the Chair...



Liz Clunie

Dancers came from near and far for the November Workshop and the committee should be giving themselves a well-deserved pat on the back for a job well done. "Well done" really isn't adequate for

an event that was so efficiently organized and executed.

Attendance at the free introductory class exceeded expectations, and in conversations after the class some of the participants showed an interest in taking classes. It is initiatives such as this that have the potential to increase our membership.

Keith and Deirdre brought back some interesting information from the recent RSCDS AGM in Perth (See page 4). The Society's new Chair, Andrew Kellett, hosted an Open Forum where branches of the society shared their success stories and the positive effects on membership.

If, as a result of the introductory class, people attend classes and eventually become members, that would certainly be an inspiring success story for us to share.

On the subject of membership, Bill Barber is still awaiting some renewals!

Other news from the AGM (broadcast via live feed on YouTube) was that Moira Korus has been elected to the RSCDS Youth Committee.

The December Family Christmas Dance was scheduled earlier than usual this year. It is such a fun-filled way to kick off the Christmas season, so I hope that you enjoyed it. The New Year will also be off to an early start with the first monthly dance of 2019 on January 5th.

Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.



Liz

At the RSCDS AGM in Scotland, Deirdre MacCuish Bark was awarded the Society's highest distinction — The Scroll of Honour. Below is an edited version of the citation submitted by the Toronto Association.



Society President, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, presents The Scroll of Honour to Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Deirdre has been a Society member for 37 years, and for over 20 years she has served on committees supporting the Society locally and internationally.

She served on the RSCDS Toronto Association executive for 10 years, being Chair from 2015-2017; the Toronto Association's Teachers' Panel for 11 years, and the Toronto Area Teachers' Representative for the Teachers' Association Canada (TAC), where she organized Teacher Day Workshops with visiting teachers from overseas or elsewhere in North America.

She has served on the TAC Executive for 15 years, including ten years as the Director responsible for organizing the biennial North America Examinations Tour. Her time in that role started under the old system, through the transition years, and into the new system. She worked with Eileen Watt, former office manager of RSCDS Scotland, in scheduling, finding accommodation, booking internal flights, and being the contact for the examiners and the exam centres during the tour time. The tour was up to six weeks for some examiners. Deirdre also planned and organized four residential TAC Candidate courses and exams at TAC Summer School.

Deirdre has taught all levels, from children through adult beginners, to experienced dancers over the past 20+ years — as well as several sessions of Scottish country dancing at schools in Mississauga and Toronto. She has been the local Youth Coordinator and was an instigator of the Toronto Youth Ball that is now in its thirteenth year. She still teaches two classes per week.

Deirdre actively participated in the Strategic Planning sessions with the Society on behalf of TAC and the Toronto Association. She has been the representative for Toronto and other North American branches at the Society AGM, providing updates after the AGM.

Currently, she is involved in a TAC Working Group looking into incorporation. In Toronto, she is involved in organizing meetings of the Southern Great Lakes Group, a meeting for Branches and other Scottish country dance groups in southern Ontario.

Deirdre's dance *The Countess of Dunmore's Reel* was published by the Society. ■

Deirdre has devised many interesting dances, typically themed for the Isle of Harris. Her second most popular dance, *The Peat Road*, was on the 50th Tartan Ball and, so far, it has received over 2000 views on YouTube. She often asks musicians, both local and Scottish, to compose tunes in the Scottish idiom to complement her dances. Deirdre dances we've done at Monthly Dances include: *The Lincoln Imp* (i.e., Mr Bark) and *The Toronto Volunteers*.



The Peat Road at the 50th Tartan Ball

Special Events

South Simcoe's Christmas Dance



Friday, December 7 ~ 7:30 p.m.
Knox Presby. Church, 160 King St. S., Alliston
South Simcoe will bring in the Christmas season with the joy of dance. Refreshments will follow.

More info, contact: Susan & Ed Elliotson
519.941-2134

Calvin's Christmas Dance



Tuesday, December 11 ~ 7:30 p.m.
Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave.
Calvin SCD Group invites all dancers to join our Christmas party, with the wonderful music of Don Bartlett on piano. Your \$10 entry fee includes light refreshments at the interval. Contact Nancy Stokes 416.425-2195 naristo@rogers.com or Mary Baldwin 416.485-8280 mbaldwin456@hotmail.com

Glenview's Christmas Dance

Wednesday, December 12 ~ 7:30 p.m.
Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave
Have you ever wondered how Santa stays fit enough to do his job? He Scottish dances of course. Come get into the holiday spirit dancing to the music of The Scottish Heirs duo. Refreshments to follow provided by members of Glenview. \$15 at the door. Info: www.glenviewscdg.org



St Clement's Merry Mix of Dance Favourites



Monday, December 17 ~ 7 p.m. to 8:45-ish
Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road
Celebrate the Christmas season with St Clement's. We'll have a special guest musician, Don Bartlett, and dance a merry mix of favourites. Dancing starts promptly at 7pm and goes to 8:45-ish — followed by nibbles and natter in the beautiful Great Hall of Bishop Strachan School. \$10 at the door.

Questions: teresa.lockhart@rogers.com

Glenview's Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh



Monday, December 31 ~ 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd.
Start 2019 on the right foot (unless you are a man doing a poussette, in which case please start on your left foot). Join your friends for an evening of dancing to Scotch Mist. Bring-and-share refreshments at the end of dancing prior to midnight, followed by a ceilidh after midnight.

\$30 tickets to be purchased in advance from Valerie Fisher:

v.fisher@sympatico.ca

Info at www.glenviewscdg.org



fifty-fifty draw

At the November Monthly Dance,
Forbes Duncan won \$106 in the 50/50 draw.

January Monthly Dance



Saturday, January 5 • Dancing starts at 8:00 p.m.

Crescent School ~ Music: Scotch Mist

Programme: Deirdre MacCuish Bark

New Year Jig	8 x 32 J	M Robson, RSCDS Book 51
The Lea Rig	6 x 32 SR	RSCDS Book 21
The Fife Hunt (Wedderburn's Reel)	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book of Graded SCDs
Les Ramparts des Séville	8 x 32 J	Aliénor Latour, RSCDS Book 50
The Paisley Weavers	3 x 32 S	Derek Haynes, 3rd Graded Book
Scotia Sea	8 x 32 R	Roy Goldring, RSCDS Scotia Suite

Interval

Twa Roguish E'en	8 x 32 J	John Drewry, The Rondel Book
The Glasgow Highlanders	8 x 32 S	W Gillies, RSCDS Book 2
The Royal Deeside Railway	8 x 32 R	R Arrowsmith, RSCDS Book 40
The Lincoln Imp	8 x 32 J	Deirdre Bark, IB World Wide Weavings
Sandy's Scotch Broth	3 x 32 S	G Sibley, Katanutta Book
Orpington Caledonians	8 x 32 R	J Brenchley, RSCDS Book 49

Extra

Joie de Vivre	8 x 32 J	I van Maarseveen, RSCDS Book 39
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Members: \$22; non-Members: \$28; Students (18-25): \$10;
Youth (<18) and Spectators: \$5 ~ Beginners enrolled in Classes: \$10
Monthly Dances are NUT FREE and SCENT FREE.

Association Classes

New Classes begin in January. Whatever your level, beginner or improver, there is a class for you. All dancers, except for first-session beginners, must be members of RSCDS Toronto. The ten-week classes are \$100 (cheques payable to "RSCDS Toronto"). Classes Convenor: Catherine MacLean 416.996-1136 birchpoint123@gmail.com

All classes are 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Level 1 Beginner Classes: Dancers learn basic steps of Scottish country dance and a variety of common formations. These elements are combined in learning simple dances that incorporate steps and formations taught.

Mondays: Jan. 7 - Mar. 18 (No class on Feb. 19 - Family Day)
Teacher: May Divers at St. Leonard's Anglican Church*

Thursdays: Jan. 10 - Mar. 14
Teacher: Colin Philip at Eastminster United Church*

Level 2 Intermediate Classes: These classes build on steps and formations learned at the beginner level and introduce more complex formations. Dancers grow confident in their skills and enjoy the challenge of interesting dances.

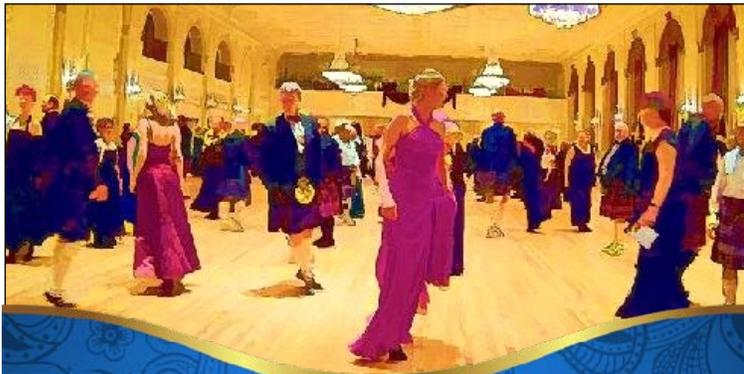
Thursdays: Jan. 10 - Mar. 14
Teacher: Sandra Scott at the Auditorium, Eastminster United Church*

* Location Addresses:

*St Leonard's: 25 Wanless Avenue (nr Lawrence subway station)
Class Representative: Cheryl Catt cherylcatt47@gmail.com

*Eastminster: 310 Danforth Avenue (2 minutes west of Chester station)
Class Representative: Anne Bishop anne.e.bishop@outlook.com 647.234-4631

56th Tartan Ball News



Feb. 16
The Old Mill - Brulé Ballrooms

The Tartan Ball committee continues to work hard on the details for February 16 to ensure that we all have a great time in our new venue: **The Old Mill - Brulé Ballrooms**. As you prepare for Christmas, consider buying someone a ticket to the Ball. A great gift!



Changes

There are some changes that everyone needs to be aware of for this Ball. There is no spectator area in the ballrooms, so you **MUST** have a ticket to gain entry to the Ball.

Volunteers Needed

We need line marshals that evening. Bill Barber can be reached at: william.barber054@sympatico.ca

Extra Practices

Finally, the Tartan Ball is for EVERYONE. If you are a new-ish dancer, I am excited to tell you Barbara Taylor will teach three extra practices so that you will feel well prepared. The cost is \$7 per class.

Dates: Sunday afternoons, 2-4 p.m., Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 10

Place: Parkway Forest Community Centre, 55 Forest Manor Rd.

This is a brand new facility, near Sheppard & Don Mills Road, and it has a beautiful dance studio!

Please email laurie-m@rogers.com to reserve your spot.

The excitement and thrill of the Ball are not to be missed.

...Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor

Auld Acquaintance was not forgot. . .



1-Donald Holmes 2-Maureen Richardson 3-Carl Groskorth 4-Wilma Groskorth 5-Keith Bark 6-Neil Harrison 7-Ann Harrison 8-Alex Sutton
9-Deirdre MacCuish Bark 10-Heather Nutbeam 11-Bob Johnston 12-Max Fothergill 13-Kathleen Kynoch 14-David Hawkins 15-Dorothy Lothian
16-Maureen Brown 17-Nancy Matheson 18-Yvonne Goudswaard 19-Lorna Hutchinson 20-John Hutchinson 21-John Catto 22-Tony Szeto
23-Marian Holmes 24-Arlene Koteff 25-Diana Hooper 26-Paddy Ann McHaffie 27-Ian McHaffie 28-Nancy Duffy 29-Margaret Catto

Ian McHaffie organized an "Auld Acquaintance Tea & Chat" for Nov. 25. The event was a lovely gathering of old friends, some of whom hadn't seen each other for years. In attendance were some thirty plus like-minded individuals who enjoyed reminiscing about the "good old days", to which Donald Holmes spoke a few words. Dance demonstrations were enjoyed by all, whether or not nimble of feet and mind. Walk-dances were a good way to bring most people to their feet.

It was inspiring to see that with good phrasing and handing, one could enjoy dancing without a great deal of physical exertion.

Inspiring because low-impact dancing/walking, if done well, is a perfectly good way to allow participation despite reduced physicality due to age or energy level. Teachers are already aware of this fact through their training. Perhaps more can be made of this in order to empower some dancers who feel they have passed their "use-by date". Re-join the fray. Come one, come all!

Music, demos, and dance instructions were organized by the Barks. Kudos to them and to Ian for having organized an enjoyable afternoon of reminiscence and conversation. All joined hands in singing *Auld Lang Syne* to conclude the event.

Social Group Liaison Meeting

A Social Group Liaison Meeting was held Saturday, November 17, at the Banbury Community Centre.

Representatives from 14 of our social groups and 8 board members were present. The round table discussion always gives us an insight into the financial and physical stability of each group and, as is to be expected, some are better than others. The concern of around 60% of the groups was the increases in rental cost for their facility, and more generally the numbers and age of their dancers.

So, what can we do to improve these issues? The cost of renting a hall will be a constant challenge, although it was mentioned that through the Parks & Recreation departments of some municipalities no payment is required. There is, however, a catch as the members of the group must be older than 55, which, on the surface, wouldn't appear to be a problem, but in trying to address the second issue of increasing numbers and attracting younger people, through outreach initiatives, a group with younger members would not qualify under Parks & Rec's rules.

The issue of falling numbers in the social groups is, in some ways, related to our ability to attract new people to Scottish country dancing through outreach. Lyn Barsevskis, our Marketing/Outreach director, has been working hard up in South Simcoe (Alliston, New Tecumseh) with a new initiative called Family Friendly Fridays, which they are offering in conjunction with the regular weekly social group. This is an eight-week programme for ages 12-16 at a cost of \$5 at the door running from 6:30 – 7:30, followed by their social group evening taught by Maureen Richardson. This idea may not appeal to all of our social groups, but it is something to consider, because we might get some younger dancers and, who knows, it might also generate some interest from their parents.

...Andrew (Andy) Henderson,
Communications Director

The 2018 Toronto Workshop & Afternoon Dance Report

The chill outside was early for November, but inside the warmth of the dance community was evident among the 127 people (25% from outside the GTA) who attended our Workshop and Afternoon Dance.

We appreciate the 74% evaluation response rate, with 94% rating their overall experience as excellent. Branksome Hall suits our purposes well, and 95% agreed.

Teachers Andrew Smith, Sara Posen, and David Booz greatly enriched our dancing experiences and contributed to the success of the day.

The music of Don Bartlett, Laird Brown, Fred Moyes, and Don Wood was also a key part of the RSCDS Toronto Workshop.

As Convenor, I felt very well supported by an enthusiastic and hard working committee: Jane Robinson; Kevin and Anne Moloney; Andy and Susan Lipchak; Bill Barber; Pat Brown; Louise and Phil Buddle; and Anne Bishop. Rob Lockhart provided brochure design and registration tech support. Thanks team. Thanks also to Leo Roytman, Mike Morris, and Paul Barber who helped out.

Out-of-towners were generously hosted by the Bark, Clunie, Markham, and Morris families.

We heard it was friendly experience for Basic level dancers, one of whom said, *"This was the first one that I have been able to attend and I thoroughly enjoyed myself! All of the teachers were so positive about teaching and a joy to watch dance. I know how much work must have gone into coordinating every last little detail – thank you so much for providing such a positive and friendly event! I look forward to attending more in the future"*. Intermediate and Advanced dancers also commented encouragingly: *"Always a pleasure!"* and *"Thanks for the fun"*. We will consider constructive criticisms as we wish for a satisfying experience for all dancers: guaranteeing musician setups and monitoring class selections are duly noted. Louise Buddle, in collaboration with the Committee, developed a Class Selector Tool for use at future events.

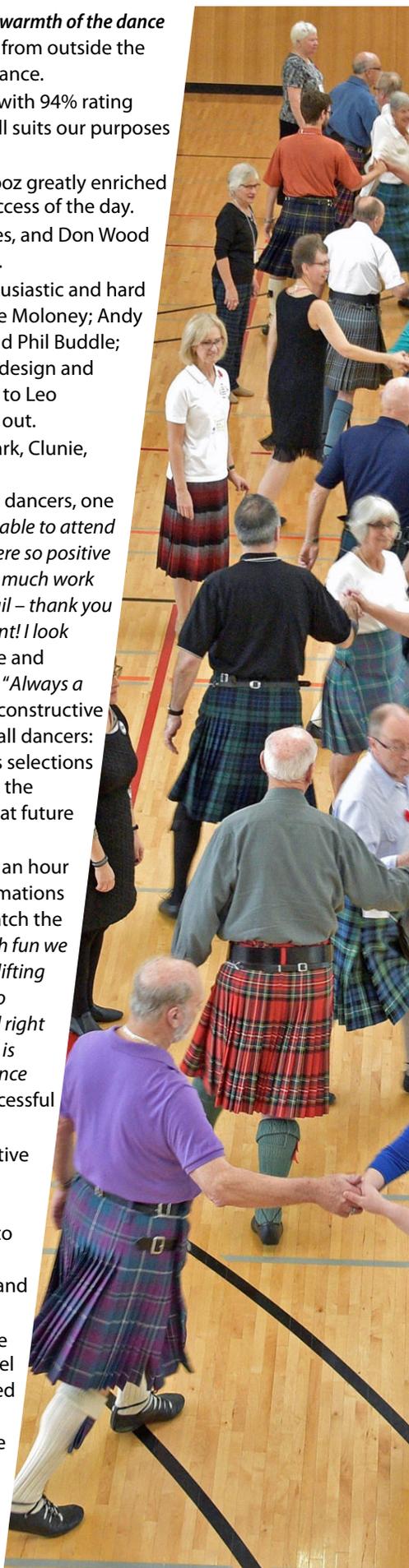
For the first time, a free Intro Class was offered for an hour after lunch. Moira Korus shared basic steps and formations with almost 20 people, many of whom stayed to watch the Afternoon Dance. One participant wrote, *"How much fun we all had at the Intro dance lesson. What a lively and uplifting event it was for all your participants. Everyone, with no exception, was friendly and inclusive and made us feel right at home. We (3 friends) decided that Scottish Dancing is more challenging than Bridge!! We're all giving the dance lessons for January 'serious' consideration."* It was successful outreach idea.

The Dancewear Bazaar, in its 11th year as an initiative of Margaret Rieger, raised \$1052, not including purchases made later by some keen Intro Class participants. Many thanks to all the shoppers, and to the other energetic volunteers: Evelyn and John Holmberg; Sue Ann Bryce; Joanne and Louis Racic; and Lorraine Hadden.

The Afternoon Dance program, devised by Deirdre MacCuish Bark, included some welcoming basic level dances. I am grateful to those teachers who accepted our invitation to brief, and to Forbes Duncan for handling some of the Afternoon Dance details. Time for repeats!

It was once again my pleasure to convene the Toronto Workshop and Afternoon Dance.

...HISCD Christy Barber



Two Perspectives on the 2018 Toronto Workshop Experience



Elizabeth Baird...

Beverley Bennett...

After a challenging drive, over snowy, slippery county roads and a 401 strewn with the forgot-how-to-drive-in-winter-drivers' cars, it was idyllic walking into the beautiful Branksome Hall Athletic and Wellness Centre with just enough snow falling to sparkle and dance in the sunshine.

The three teachers were different and wonderful in their own ways, yet I sensed a theme that ran throughout, one of the principles I learned during my first lessons: be in the right place at the right time.

Andrew Smith emphasized the social aspects of dancing and the need to share dancing moments with your partner and set team. He directing our attention to, and encouraged prolonged admiration of the beautiful floor in the large gym, then he admonished us *not to look at it again*. Right place; right time. Andrew lulled us in with a "What could be easier?" simple dance. Fear any teacher saying this. *The Sutters of Selkirk* was a deceptively simple dance that required technique, partnership, and teamwork. What a great start to the day!

"Precision pays!" David Booz' clear concise instruction enabled us to dance the intriguing, mathematical, and unusual *The Road to Mallaig*. It was terrific to be introduced to unique dances, with expert guidance. And the sense of accomplishment when dancing with precision pays and the dance just works; it was exhilarating!

Sara Posen passionately shared her knowledge and joy of Scottish social dancing, introducing "weasel reels" in *The White Rabbit*. Right-time-right-place and precision were required to make this fun dance work. But perhaps such playful reels need a sweeter animal name—perhaps "fluffy bunny" reels?

A very welcome and special addition to the Workshop this year was a free one-hour Intro Class taught by the enthusiastic and infinitely patient (I know from experience!) Moira Korus. There was a good turn-out for this first year offering, and from the number of participants who came to watch the tea dance, perhaps new devotees to Scottish social dancing!

The tea dance programme was lively, social, and exuberant. We may have been dancing on the beautiful floor in the large gym, but no one in any of my sets was aware of it. All gazes were for partners and set team mates; none were spared for the floor. The tea dance was highlighted by the privilege of hearing and dancing to Scotch Mist's first public performance of a new composition in which each of the Workshop musicians contributed a tune!

A workshop that runs this smoothly requires an incredible amount of organization and hard work. I congratulate workshop convenor Christy Barber and her committee for their time and commitment. Well done! I enjoyed the workshop immensely!
... Elizabeth Baird

It was the third Toronto workshop I have attended. Previously I was in beginner class; this year I found myself attending as an intermediate.

I felt excited and could hardly wait for the day to arrive, and I was not disappointed. I had three outstanding instructors who emphasized different aspects, figures, footwork and, of course, phrasing, looking at the other dancers, and making sure that you perform the figures of the dance in sync with one another.

Sara Posen was the first instructor for the intermediate class, and she put us through our paces with reels of three and reels of four. We did a dance I had never encountered before, but seeing as I am relatively new to Scottish country dancing and most dances are new to me this was not surprising. We danced *The Wind on Loch Fyne*. It's a lovely dance in a three-couple triangle formation with interlocking reels of four danced by all three couples at the same time. The next dance was *Swiss Lassie*, which also contains reels of four. These dances helped me to picture and dance the reels of four formations.

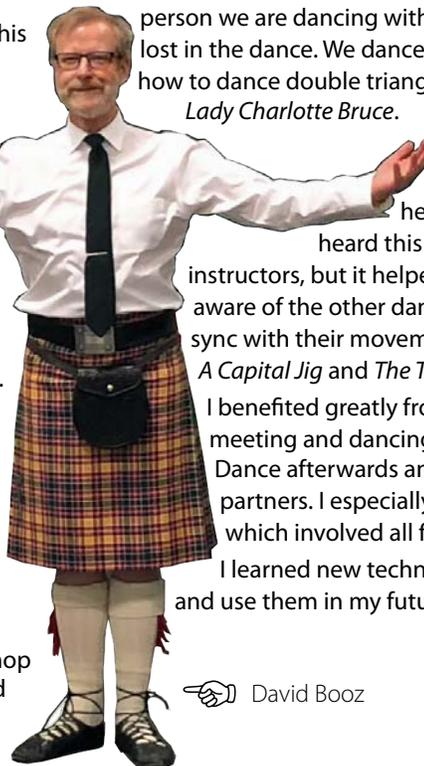
Andrew Smith was the second instructor for the intermediate class and he taught us that if you hold eyes with the person you are dancing with they'll not notice what you are doing down below. This is not something new. I just thought the wording was quaint. Ever since I started learning Scottish country dancing, all my instructors have emphasized the fact that we should look at, and smile at, the person we are dancing with. They can especially help us if we are lost in the dance. We danced *Lady Dumfries*, which showed us how to dance double triangles and the elegant strathspey *Lady Charlotte Bruce*.

David Booz was the third and final instructor the intermediate class, and he taught us about *phrasing*. I have heard this term many times from many instructors, but it helped me to pay attention and be more aware of the other dancers in the set and attempt to be in sync with their movement. David's dances for the class were *A Capital Jig* and *The Targe*.

I benefited greatly from attending the workshop and loved meeting and dancing with new people. I enjoyed the Tea Dance afterwards and enjoyed dancing with my many partners. I especially enjoyed dancing the *Balgeddie Reel*, which involved all five couples dancing continuously.

I learned new techniques and hope to remember them and use them in my future dancing.

... Beverley Bennett



David Booz

Over the Water to Charlie (RSCDS Book 34)

When you are about to dance *Over the Water to Charlie (New Way)*, how many times have you heard people cheekily utter, "Was there an Old Way"?

This comment was posed by Andrew Smith at the dance on the eve of the Toronto Workshop.

The OLD way is indeed recorded in *The Register of Dances at Castle Menzies 1749*, kept in the A. K. Bell Library in Perth. This manuscript of 18 dances includes *Montgomery's Rant* and *O'er the Watter to Charly*. The latter is copied verbatim, including spelling inconsistencies. The author uses that technique so infuriating even today of referring to figures or movements "as in" some other dance with which the reader is obviously expected to know, in this case, *The Lads of Dunce*.



O'er the Watter to Charly [quoted exactly from the Menzies m/s]

1st man follows the 1st woman, & she follows him back again, then the 1st pair dances down between the 2d pair, & up gain, & then turn each other half round; then the 1st man leads off the 2d woman to aside as in Lads of Dunce, & the 1st woman the 2d man & then turns each other; then the 1st and 2d woman leads through the 1st and 2d man, then the 1st and 2d man leads through them back to their own side again, then the 1st pair crosses over & figurs in, & goes right and left with the 2d pair

If *O'er the Watter to Charly* were to appear on a dance programme nowadays, we dancers who are accustomed to 8-bar phrases and standard RSCDS formations would be befuddled. Even if it were placed on a challenge dance program for experienced dancers, possibly we would accuse the emcee of imbibing too liberally.

We are fortunate to have the *New Way* specified with measured bars and standardized figures to help us enjoy the beauty of this and other Scottish country dances! Here is the *New Way* described by Minicrib:

Over The Water To Charlie (New Way) (J8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1-8 1s set, cast 1 place, dance down between 3s and cast back to 2nd place
- 9-16 2s+1s dance RH across ½ way, cross RH, dance LH across ½ way, 2s cross back LH as 1s turn LH to face 1st corners
- 17-24 1s set to and turn 1st corners 2H, set and turn 2nd corners 2H
- 25-32 1s dance reels of 3 on opposite sides giving LSh to 1st corners and cross RH to own sides

... Donald E. Holmes

Brigandeen
Awakens May 5*

* Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Grace Notes

Flora Crawford

16 Sept 1925 ~ 19 Oct 2018



Flora was a long-time dancer at Calvin group. With Isabelle MacPherson she established the afternoon Midtown Group at Trinity-St. Paul's and she was the Tea Lady. Her son Colin helped her pack her bundle buggy with tea kettle, tins of cookies, etc. to go on the subway. Flora participated in the 512-some in 1991 and even dragged Colin along although he couldn't dance. She was a very lively, warm-hearted lady and good conversationalist as she was very interested in people and their lives.

Margaret Bain

24 March 1930 ~ 21 Nov 2018



Margaret came to Canada in the mid-60s with her husband David and three young children, eventually settling in Willowdale. She worked as a product line manager at William E Coutts Hallmark Cards until her retirement. In retirement, Margaret continued an active lifestyle which included travelling, Scottish Country Dancing, and Tap Dancing in shows and competitions.

Margaret was grandmother to Mike Greenwood, the electronic communications wizard at RSCDS headquarters. We extend our condolences to Mike and to Margaret's many friends and family.



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Medium weight 13 oz

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2 sporrans \$75 each

2 pairs socks \$10 per pair

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paburnes@gmail.com



Blair Gerrie

Join the Tayside Dancers!

Are you a Scottish country dancer looking for a lively and fun-loving morning group? If you would rather not go out on a cold dark night to dance this winter, why not try the Tayside Morning SCD class?

We meet on Tuesdays (10:30 a.m.-noon) and we are happy to welcome new dancers – of any skill level.

Our instructor is Blair Gerrie, and we meet at Westview Presbyterian Church, 233 Westview Blvd. (nr. O'Connor & Bermondsey).

We'll dance until December 11 and resume January 8. Join us for a relaxing morning of SCD. All levels are most welcome. We hope to see you next Tuesday!

Info: Blair 416 651 8933 or Gillian Clinton gillian.clinton@sympatico.ca

Deirdre Reports: From the Isle of Harris to the Perth AGM

Sojourn in Harris

Our visit to Scotland coincided with Britain preparing for the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War, WW1, in November 1918.

After a quick visit with cousins in Inverness, we travelled to Portree in Skye and then by ferry from Uig to Tarbert, Isle of Harris. Throughout the week of our visit, Harris offered us 6 to 9°C temperatures and sunshine. However, wind chill lowered the temperatures felt, and we were glad of our Canadian jackets. It was lovely and windy — real Harris weather. Rain and hail seemed to occur overnight, leaving a sparkling countryside each morning.

A day in Stornoway in Lewis took us to the memorial of the wreck of HM Yacht *Iolaire* (Eagle). The ship carried almost 300 homeward-bound service men. They had survived the trenches, but, tragically, in the early hours of January 1st, 1919, within sight of Stornoway harbour and home, the vessel foundered on rocks known as The Beasts of Holm. Over 200 men perished and 80 were saved. It was said hardly a family in Lewis was not grieving.

It was not easy to find signs to the memorial, but a walk down a tarred path to the shore led to the memorial itself. They are now constructing a memorial wall, with stones from every township in Lewis for the centenary of the wreck.

Finsbay School, which my sister Morag and I attended in the mid 1950s, is now a family home and a bed & breakfast. Alan Ross and his wife were very welcoming. We discussed genealogy and found we are connected but not related. As genealogist Bill Lawson remarked: all the Harris families are connected in some way. Land for the school was given by Catherine, Dowager Countess of Dunmore in the 1870s, hence my interest (and the eponymous dance).



Iolaire Memorial,
Stornoway



Every year we come back from Harris with a pile of books. This year our luggage included a framed painting. My third cousin Margarita is an artist with a studio on the Bays side of Harris. She painted the view from her window, which includes the house that belonged to my family for many years. *Tigh Na Mara* (House by the Sea) was my aunt's house and

where all my holidays were spent as a child. We had to buy this painting! Fortunately, it fit into our largest case.

No visit to Scotland is complete without some dancing. The Tarbert dancers meet Wednesday nights and again allowed us to teach them a few dances, while they taught us several ceilidh ones. Our week passed very quickly. A storm was predicted and ferries were about to be cancelled, but we departed on the last sailing out of Tarbert on the Friday morning, on our way to Perth and the Society AGM.

2018 RSCDS AGM Weekend



Our timely arrival in Perth gave us time to settle in our usual hotel, before the Friday evening dance at the Bell's Sports Centre. The programme this year was devised by TAC and contained RSCDS dances by many TAC members.

The AGM this year was a special event for me, as a Society Scroll awardee. Five of us were honoured: Gabor Turi, from Hungary; Maureen Haynes, Sue Porter, and Di Rooney from the UK; and me from Canada. A delicious lunch was arranged for with Society office-bearers, at the Post Box restaurant in Perth. After that we all felt quite relaxed, and taxis got us back in time for the ceremony at the AGM.

It is somewhat unnerving to hear your achievements read out by Andrew Kellett, but very reassuring to be presented with the Scroll by the Society President Jean Martin. After the presentations, and the photographs, we could relax and enjoy the rest of our time.

The AGM was short, just over one hour. There was one motion only, to keep the subscription at its current level, and it passed easily. Keith and I, with 10 and 12 proxy votes each, had to read out the Branches we represented. Keith was proxy for Buffalo, Kingston, St Catharines, Hamilton, and Montreal; I was proxy for Toronto, Ottawa, and Kitchener-Waterloo. Between us we represented 22 votes.

Andrew Kellett is the new Society Chairman with Lorna Ogilvie as Chair-Elect. The only management committee requiring voting was Education & Training. Anne Taylor became E&T Convenor-Elect, with committee members Sue Porter, Deb Lees, and Muriel Bone. Our own Moira Korus, was elected to Youth Services.

At a reception prior to the Saturday evening Ball, Scroll awardees were introduced to the Lord Provost of Perth and Kinross. We even had a special reserved table — a huge difference from the usual rush to find spare seats. Our table afforded a good view of the Youth Demo team dancing. Jim Lindsay's Scottish Dance Band played for the Ball.

Saturday morning, Keith and I attended the Open Forum hosted by Andrew Kellett, who updated us on the Business Plan and the new teaching qualifications. Units 1 through 5 remain, with an added extra qualification for teaching social and general groups — to be implemented within 12 months.

They then shared Branch success stories. Eight Branches reported how they increased membership, with input from ten more Branches, given in a handout. Amongst the interesting ideas: "Don't under-estimate the power of goodies and food in the break!"

We then attended the Affiliated Groups Discussion led by Linda Gaul and Trevor Clarke. There was spirited discussion on:

1. One Member one Vote:
2. Bill Membership direct to the UK, and pay Branch membership separately.

Sunday morning, instead of a dance class and discussion, we chose to have a leisurely breakfast and repack our cases. All three were near the top weight limit, thanks to the painting and a heavy coffee table book, which has a photo of Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, co-founder of the Society.

We had an enjoyable weekend and a fabulous vacation.

... Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Upcoming Events: NEAR

Dec 7 - **South Simcoe's Christmas Dance** ~ Bring in the Christmas season with the joy of dance. Refreshments will follow. 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, 160 King Street S., Alliston Info: Susan & Ed Elliotson 519.941-2134

Dec 9 - **Shiftin' Bobbins with Alma Smith** ~Alma, "the Geordie Angel of the North" will feature Newcastle-upon-Tyne dances. All are welcome. Info: shiftingbobbins.webs.com 2 - 4 p.m. at Parish Hall, Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Russell Hill Road at Lonsdale. (\$5 for non-members)

Dec 11 - **Calvin's Christmas Dance**~7:30 p.m.- Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave. Music by Don Bartlett on piano. \$10 entry fee includes light refreshments at the interval. Contact Nancy Stokes 416.425-2195 naristo@rogers.com or Mary Baldwin 416.485-8280 mbaldwin456@hotmail.com

Dec 12 - **Glenview's Christmas Dance**~7:30 p.m. - Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue. Music by The Scottish Heirs Duo (Don Bartlett & Jimmy Darge). Refreshments to follow provided by members of Glenview. \$15 at the door. Info at: www.glenviewscdg.org

Dec 16 - **Glenview's Hogmanay Dance Practice** ~ Shiftin' Bobbins is hosting a practice, led by Moira Korus, for Glenview's Hogmanay Dance. 2 - 4 p.m. in the Gym, Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Russell Hill Road at Lonsdale Info: v.fisher@sympatico.ca

Dec 17 - **St Clements' Merry Mix of Favourites** ~ 7:00 p.m. to 8:45-ish. We'll have merry music played by Don Bartlett, and favourite dances, followed by nibbles & natter in the Great Hall of Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road. All are welcome. \$10. Teresa.Lockhart@rogers.com

Dec 31 - **Glenview's Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh**~ 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd. Music by Scotch Mist. Bring-and-share refreshments at the end of dancing prior to midnight followed by a ceilidh. \$30 tickets to be purchased in advance from Valerie Fisher v.fisher@sympatico.ca Info www.glenviewscdg.org

Jan 5 - **January Monthly Dance** ~ Scotch Mist will play, and this will be a fine chance to sharpen the performance of several Tartan Ball dances, including the magical, but daunting, Glasgow Highlanders. At Crescent School , 2365 Bayview Ave. Dancing starts promptly at 8 p.m. Cribs with video links at www.dancescottish.ca (What's on Near tab).



RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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Marian White	416.781-7795	marianwhite@sympatico.ca
Judy Williams	416.924-3658	junit@pathcom.com

Upcoming Events: FAR

Dec 9 - **The 55th Annual Gleneagles Ball, Vancouver**
Dance to the music of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra in the beautiful ballroom of the historic Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Enjoy a delicious buffet lunch before dancing and a decadent dessert buffet afterwards. <https://rscdsgleneagles.org/2018gleneaglesball/>

Dec 15 - **RSCDS London Christmas Dinner/Dance** ~ Music by Laird Brown and Scotch Mist. Come out and celebrate the holiday season with good food, good friends and a great evening of dancing. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org

Dec 15 - **RSCDS Kitchener-Waterloo Christmas Dinner & Dance** ~ Music by Fred Moyes. Celebrate the season with good food, good friends, and a great evening of dancing at historic St. Paul's Church, 137 Queen Street S. Kitchener
Tickets \$18 in advance ~ \$20 at the door. For more info: www.rscds.kitchener.on.ca dance@rscds.kitchener.on.ca

Mar 1-3 - **Belleville Workshop and Ball** ~ Belleville dancers cordially invite you to our workshop weekend. Our teacher is the legendary Atsuko Clement, so mark the date and book early. The Friday Social, Saturday classes, and Ball are all at the Masonic Temple with its fine wooden floor.
Info: David Aston david.aston@kos.net

Mar 29-31 - **Madison Scottish SCD Ball Weekend** ~ Great Hall, Memorial Union, UW-Madison Campus. Musicians: Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson with Dave Mullen.
Teachers: TBA. www.madisonscottishcountrydancers.org

Apr 13, 2020 - **Weekend Away in Chambéry** ~ A dance weekend for advanced dancers in the French Alps. Teacher: Ron Wallace. Music: Sarah-Jane Summers (fiddle) and James Grey (piano). Info: www.rscdsparis.fr

More events, near & far: www.dancescottish.ca
Join the RSCDS Toronto/Dance Scottish FB group:
www.facebook.com/groups/55880122664

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

Winter School

17-22 February 2019

Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Scotland

- 5 days of dancing and music with. . .
- Amazing teachers • Talented musicians
 - Friends from all over
 - A formal Ball at Blair Atholl Castle
- www.rscds.org/news/winter-school-2019

Summer School

21 July ~ 11 Aug, 2019

St Andrews University, Scotland

- Your choice of 4 weeks dancing & music with
- Amazing teachers • Talented musicians
 - Friends from all over
 - Dance in legendary Younger Hall
- www.rscds.org/article/book-now-for-summer-school-2019



T.A.C. Summer School ~ 28 July - 4 Aug ~ Calgary, Alberta

Teachers: Jimmy Hill • Linda Henderson • Geoffrey Selling • Moira Korus
Music: Andy Imbrie & Reel of Seven ~ **Place:** beautiful Mount Royal University
Info: <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school>

DEMO POOL PRACTICE DATES

Broadlands is closed for renovation.

*Our new home is Banbury CC,
120 Banbury Road, Don Mills*

- Dec 16 ~ 1:30-3:30 p.m. ~ Banbury Banquet Hall
- Jan 6 ~ 1:30-3:30 p.m. ~ Banbury Banquet Hall
- Jan 13 ~ 2-4 p.m. ~ Banbury Banquet Hall
- Mar 3 ~ 12-2 p.m. ~ Banbury Banquet Hall
- Mar 31 ~ 2-4 p.m. ~ Banbury Lounge



~ Attend a Board Meeting ~

Members of RSCDS Toronto are welcome to attend Board meetings (i.e. sit in, and silently observe). Please contact Secretary Nancy White at nawhite15@gmail.com for meeting details.

2018 Dates

- Wed. Dec. 5

