

RSCDS Toronto

www.dancescottish.ca

From the Chair...



Liz Clunie

This should have been my last chair letter, but until we have our AGM, and the slate of nominations is approved, you will still be hearing from me. Normally, the AGM would be held before the end of June, but it can be delayed until 90 days after the Ontario state of emergency is lifted. Of course, the big question is: When will it be lifted?

The preference would be to meet in person, but the executive has been considering the use of a virtual meeting via Zoom. However, there are some concerns in that some members who wish to attend the meeting might not be comfortable using a virtual medium. We are keeping our options open, and to that end you will be provided with assistance on the use of Zoom if necessary. Even if we don't use Zoom for a meeting, it is a terrific way to keep in touch with family and friends, so experiment with it using Rob's Zoom guide: www.dancescottish.ca/zooming.pdf

So, how are you all faring after six weeks of staying at home? I think a lot of people thought they could make the best of a bad situation by taking the opportunity to catch up on all those chores that have been delayed for so long — sorting out the basement, going through closets, organizing photo albums, filing the recipes. This list could go on, but other things have gotten in the way of good intentions: long phone or video calls to friends and family, and sharing videos of the numerous, creative ways that people have devised to keep in touch and active in their chosen activities.

The Scottish dancing community has been particularly innovative in that regard. The first RSCDS Dance Scottish at Home session on Zoom reached full capacity of participants with a thousand viewers who joined in a footwork lesson, while also using the chat function to send messages to dancers in all corners of the world.

With opportunities such as this, there is no excuse for not keeping in shape for the dancing season that we hope will recommence in September.

I wish you the best of health.

Liz

The AGM is postponed until a date and format are determined

An Unexpected Invitation



Melissa Das-Arp



Toronto Tabla Ensemble:

A charitable, non-profit organization promoting culture and art in Toronto. Their CDs and videos have won numerous awards.



Melissa Das-Arp of the Toronto Tabla Ensemble was intrigued by Rob's YouTube videos of Scottish country dancing. A project began to take shape.

She proposed producing a collaborative four-minute music video where Indian and Scottish dancers would perform together.



The video is to promote the ensemble's new CD album, called *Unexpected Guests**. We (RSCDS Toronto) thought this a good publicity opportunity — the Ensemble has an effective marketing system, and it was a chance for wider exposure to other cultural groups. The green light was given, and on January 26, Scottish and Indian dancers met for the first time.

We were introduced to the project and told how it would unfold. Most importantly, we heard the music: a unique fusion of bagpipes and Indian tabla. The tabla is a pair of small hand drums, one slightly larger than the other, played by using the fingers and palm of the hand to create different sounds. Through this constant drumbeat, the 'pulse' of the performing music, we hear the bagpipes.

The music track was supplied by Ritesh Das and Craig Downie, of the Celtic pop group Enter The Haggis (Craig is son-in-law of piper Peter Cotton, well known to Toronto dancers). The pipe tunes we would dance to were *Bonnie Ellen* (strathspey), *Durham Police* (pipe march), and *Sleepy Maggie* (reel). There was an initial challenge: Do we concentrate on the melody of the tune, or take our cue from the incessant beat of the tabla? The pipes, of course, won the day — the Scots side would not be found wanting! With both musical instruments strong and dynamic in their own right, you might wonder if they could

possibly blend. But blend they did and the result is striking and dramatic.

Arlene Koteff, along with Moira Korus, coordinated our dancing; Jaya Chawla led the Indian dancers. There was quite a range of ages in our sets as young

dancers from the Rosedale youth group were involved, and it was a pleasure how seamlessly we all blended together.

Video recording began in earnest on February 23 at Pie In The Sky Studios on Donlands Avenue. We arrived early in the morning, some of us desperate for coffee, and with great relief found it kindly provided.



Rehearsal photo by Donald Holmes

Continued on Page 3 >



Dancing in the Park 2020

The City of Toronto has cancelled all park permits until further notice, and the province has prohibited all gatherings. Perhaps next year we shall dance again on that green and pleasant land.

Dancing Not-in-the-Park

A 32-bar reel/strathspey for 4 couples by Ann Campbell*

- 1-8 1s+4s ADVANCE + RETIRE on the diagonal;
2s+3s dance BACK TO BACK
- 9-10 1s+2s also 3s+4s CIRCLE 4H round ½ way,
end in centre facing up or down
- 11-12 All join hands with partner & SET
- 13-16 2s+1s also 4s+3s dance ½ RIGHTS & LEFTS up & down,
end on sidelines, 1s & 3s facing down, 2s & 4s facing up
- 17-24 1s+2s+3s+4s REELS OF 4
- 25-32 1s+2s RIGHT HANDS ACROSS ½ way,
1s+3s LEFT HANDS ACROSS ½ way;
1s+4s RIGHT HANDS ACROSS ½ way,
2s+3s+4s+1s CROSS Left Hand to end on their own sides

Repeat with a new top couple.

* Devised by Ann Campbell on June 30th 2011 to thank Teresa Lockhart for her "Not-in-the-Park" night at Bishop Strachan School, to make up for a cancelled night of Dancing In The Park.

Thank you, Ann, for permission to include your dance.

We suggest trying this dance in your backyard, when conditions allow, or in your living room, or on Zoom, and tell us what you think.



Dance Scottish AT HOME



Debbie Morris

The Society in Edinburgh is working hard to keep us informed, active, and engaged with Scottish country dance, and the worldwide community that shares our passion.

Each week, they issue a lively *Dance Scottish at Home* electronic newsletter full of dance lore, info about online lessons, puzzles, podcasts, music, stories, and much more.

Debbie Morris, the Society's Communications & Marketing Officer, is a key player in this effort, and a good contact if you need to ask HQ about something, or contribute a story.

Contact Debbie at: debbie.morris@rscds.org

If you're not getting this e-zine each week, it's because HQ needs your email address. Contact Debbie or sign up here:

<https://www.rscds.org/get-involved/dance-scottish-home>

RSCDS Toronto Member Survey 2020

Although we are unable to dance at the moment, we look forward to getting on the dance floor once this crisis is over. To help with our planning, we ask that each of our members takes the time to complete a short on-line survey, which will be sent to you soon.



Of the 280 RSCDS members in the Toronto Association, fewer than 100 members participate in our many events. It is increasingly difficult to run events on a break-even basis. It is evident that we need to make some changes so we can continue to offer you a variety of dancing opportunities. Before we make any changes, we would like to hear from you, our members. We wish to offer activities that you enjoy. Here's your chance to let us know what you think.

We encourage you to complete this survey, even if you are no longer an active dancer. Knowing how many active dancers we have, and understanding your intentions regarding attending our events, will help our planning.

...Louis Racic, Vice-Chair



Dear Editor... Re: April Set & Link

Thank you:

Thank you, to the dedicated team for another great Set & Link. It is a very bright spot in our present no-dancing, rather gloomy world. Loved all the photos and news of past travel activities while sitting at home dreaming of my next walk or shopping expedition!

...Kind regards, Anne Anderson

Relieving Cabin Fever:

In these difficult and challenging times this was a wonderful breath of fresh air for me. I am missing all my dance activities so it was lovely to read about some special events that have been happening.

It was also exciting to get some links to other events and to online classes, etc. which will help to relieve the feeling of cabin fever.

...Very many thanks, Fiona Miller (Past Chair, TAC)

Extracts from *The Brookfield Bugle*

[*The Brookfield Bugle* is a self-satirical journal normally issued at Christmastide for the benefit of family and friends of the Lipchaks of Brookfield Road, Hogg's Hollow. Herewith, with permission, are extracts from the special Covid-19 edition of the *Bugle*.]

- An excellent cook, Susan has been testing new recipes and ingredients. "It's amazing what you can do with kumquats," she explained. Andy, bereft of any culinary skill, still likes to offer advice in the kitchen. "If you stir some coconut oil into the kale," he recently suggested, "it makes it easier to scrape it into the trash."
- Andy has musical aspirations, and hopes to add more recordings to his [website](#)*. "I practise when Susan is not around," Andy told the *Bugle*. "She's so picky with her hoity-toity talk about rhythm and needing to be in tune. What does she know?" Susan told the *Bugle* that she played in the Toronto Symphony for 40 years but that none of it had rubbed off on her husband.
- The still-cold weather has discouraged Susan and Andy from working in the garden. He waits for warmer weather to re-activate the pond and its waterfall. He told the *Bugle* he spent \$137 for electricity to keep the pond from freezing in the winter. This kept the seven fish alive, each of which had cost 39 cents. Susan said she is anxious to plant the 3,000 seedlings she started indoors before they reach the ceiling. Andy wants to know when she's going to plant the pasta.

* www.andylipchak.com



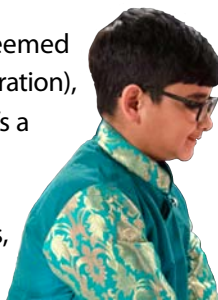
After the caffeine wake-up, it was time for the ladies' makeup and hair styling treatment. The men had it easy, they only had to endure a discreet touch of powder – if absolutely necessary! Then, beauty treatments completed, we waited. Once technicians finished testing for lighting, sound, camera angles, etc., they were ready for us.

Walking onto the film set seemed like entering a surreal world. Everything – floor, walls, ceiling – was painted white; long white drapes hung around the sides. If it wasn't for the unforgiving concrete floor, it was almost magical. Huge bright lights lit the area. The only things breaking up the whiteness were three dark pseudo rocks, one with a black tree behind it. We wondered if this scenery could represent RSCDS dances; *Rocks of Gibraltar*, or perhaps *The Haggis Tree*?

Our dancing instructions were strict: heads up, no looking at the camera, and smile... smile... smile. A technician reminded us, seriously, that the camera was on us ALL the time and from that moment, smiles were set on faces.

With the camera rolling, and after what seemed like 389 dance tries (perhaps a slight exaggeration), came the welcome words, "Thank you, that's a wrap".

Our short dancing piece (figure of eight, reel, setting and crossing, inverted triangles, hands across) was now "in the can".



The video would be edited and integrated with the Indian dancers and Tabla Ensemble's performance. We were finished, for now. We had a few hours free time while the crew recorded the tabla group, with dancers performing Dandiya Raas (*dandiya* are sticks, *raas* means emotions).

Late afternoon, and we're back again. We now joined the Indian group, and to the sound of bagpipes and tabla, we all danced together forming one large circle. As the drum beat gradually slowed down, so did we, and began dancing in Strathspey tempo. This change of pace signalled the performance was drawing to a close. It ended on a lovely multi-cultural note—a simple, yet very effective gesture of friendship. Our youngest dancer, Samira from Rosedale, and Syom, a 12-year-old Indian boy, meet in the centre of our circle where... [ah, but you must wait to see the video!]*

It was a great experience; nothing ventured, nothing gained. By stepping into a different world, we highlighted Scottish country dancing and introduced ourselves to new audiences. We hope they will enjoy the video as much as we enjoyed being part of this creative effort. ... Sheena Gilks

* The CD release date is June 19, 2020 – available on iTunes. The video will be posted on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram.
 • The CD release party is planned for Sept. 19, 2020, at the Harbourfront Centre. If social distancing is still in place, the back-up plan will be detailed in September's *Set&Link*.



Sheena's Seclusion Family

I'm in Nova Scotia. My family, along with three dogs and a feral cat, invited me to ride out COVID-19 with them.

As reality sets in, we realize it'll be quite a few weeks, but their house is large so we can disappear when needed to recharge batteries; and keep family interactions intact! We're in a remote spot so social distancing is not a problem. That's one good thing in these difficult times.

I've stepped into the role of assistant family cook. Checking out ingredients in the kitchen cupboard, I find myself going back to my Celtic roots as old family recipes come to mind. Potatoes and oats figure prominently in cooking; warm Irish soda bread spread with butter and raw honey (if my son hasn't eaten it all), becomes a staple; leftovers are used up the following day; and baking never-ending variations of shortbread. We're in 'cooking canny' mode right now.

For some totally unrealistic reason, I brought my dancing pumps with me. Not wanting them (or me) to get rusty, I take them out. I decide to warm up with a strathspey – a solo rendition of *The Birks of Invermay*. One of the family dogs, a Rottweiler-Mastiff mix, eyes me warily from a corner of the room. All fired up now, my legs are ready for more action. I turn the music up and tackle *Postie's Jig*, trying to keep formations in my head. The dog leaves in disgust. My uplifting Scottish moment is totally lost on him, but I'm leaving my cares behind as the upbeat, cheerful music plays.

There's just no denying it, the music we dance to can lift our spirits and that's such a blessing in these unsettling days. I've decided to make this a daily routine. Onwards and upwards from now on! ... *Sheena Gilks*



Sheena: "We're looking a bit 'edgy' as the cat had to be picked up for the photo and we're waiting for the claws to come out and the hissing to begin!"

BACK: • Victoria (daughter-in-law, red fleece) • Minou (feral cat, not happy)
• Ian (son, maroon fleece) • Cindy (small dog, white)

FRONT: • Jewels (large dog, red collar) • Sheena (blue jumper)
• Marshall (much larger dog, blue collar)

Keeping my hands busy rather than my feet



If you go online and try to do some research, you will find that 50% of the articles will tell you homemade masks can be somewhat beneficial, and 50% of the articles will be contradictory and say they shouldn't be used at all.

Feeling the need to do something productive that would help others, I decided to go with the first group.

I was prodded into action by two different friends sending me a link to Michael Garron Hospital's page requesting masks. I have also been sent a link saying the Yonge Street Mission wants them as well. One thing the research does seem to agree on is that quilting fabric (which tends to be high thread count, good quality cotton) is the best to use. As a quilter, I have fabric in abundance.

Choosing a pattern can be as overwhelming as working your way through all the research. Thankfully, a friend sent the instructions she liked best. I have now established my own assembly line, producing about 60 masks in the first week. So far, most have been distributed to family and friends.

I figure keeping my own community safe is also very important. I am happier going out knowing that should I sneeze or cough while doing my shopping, no one will glare at me and I am much less likely to pass anything along. For me, wearing a mask that is "somewhat" effective is better than no mask at all.

I am sad to say none of my hundreds of metres of fabric is plaid; however, it does make me happy to think of people wandering around with masks featuring beautiful batiks, Snoopy, brightly coloured coffee cups, and multi-coloured VWs, doing their bit to flatten the curve. The masks I kept for myself just happen to match the spring jacket I made last year; after all, if I'm going to wear one, I might as well be fashionable.


For anyone who is not fussy about colour, and willing to come and collect it, I am happy to make you a mask. ... *Fiona Alberti*

Dance, dance, wherever you may be: Ladies' Step Dancing* is ideal for isolation

LADIES' STEP DANCE

~ TORONTO ARCHIVES ~

• The Dusty Miller	• A Sprig o' Heather
• The Village Maid	• The Earl of Errol
• The Thistle	• Blue Bonnets (6/8)
• Highland Laddie	• Flora Macdonald's
• The Scottish Lilt	Fancy

PLAYLIST:  [Click to view](#)

In these days of home isolation and social distancing, some people are looking to fill the need to do Scottish country dancing by trying Ladies' Step Dancing. This makes perfect sense as these beautiful dances, performed to Scottish music, do not usually require a partner.

Ladies' Step Dances are traditional dances of Scotland, which were taught by Scotland's dancing masters in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. They are characterized by their gentle, balletic style.

I was fortunate in learning Ladies' Step Dances by attending weekly classes, in Newcastle upon Tyne, throughout my late teens and early twenties. The teacher was Irene Fidler, from whom I also learned Scottish country dancing. As the classes were held close to my home, I had no idea that, unlike Scottish country dancing, Ladies' Step Dances were not done everywhere.

In the 1990s, I taught Ladies' Step Dancing in the Toronto area, and at that time I made two videos of the dances I was teaching. These recordings were made as a reference for me, so that I could view them before I taught a dance. The videos were made in a small room, after work, with carpet and



furniture pushed back, and with an occasional work announcement over the music – not exactly professional.

I was very reluctant to post these videos on social media, despite people who had seen them encouraging me to do so. That reluctance changed, however, when I saw how people are now using social media to fill the gap in their dance lives. Now seems like the right time to post them. Thanks to Leo Roytman and Rob Lockhart, who worked so hard to convert the videos into a format that could be posted.

The videos are posted as *Practice Videos* for anyone trying Ladies' Step Dances at home [Ladies' Step Dances from Toronto Archives](#)

Instructions for most of the dances are available in *The St Andrews Collection of Step Dances* published by the RSCDS. There are accompanying CDs, with music by Muriel Johnstone.

The exceptions are the two non-traditional dances written by Irene Fidler: *The Thistle* and *A Sprig o' Heather*. These are published in *Ladies' Step Dances devised by Irene Fidler*. There is also a CD for this book, with music by Muriel Johnstone. [[books](#) • [recordings](#)]

I continue to teach Ladies' Step in Toronto on Saturdays at Rosedale Presbyterian Church, from 12 noon to 1:15 p.m. (following the Rosedale youth classes). Moira Korus has enthusiastically organized this Ladies' Step class for a number of years.

I am grateful to Moira, and to the keen dancers who attend for continuing to keep Ladies' Step Dancing alive in the Toronto area. I hope we will be able to get together in the not-too-distant future.

...Alma Smith

FYI: Kate Gentles of Cambridge, UK, teaches Ladies' Step Saturday mornings on Zoom. Contact me for details: asmith26@cogeco.ca

There must be a better way

With no Scottish country dancing, no Highland dancing, and no rollerblading, I undertook some household renovations necessitated by a flooded basement on January 11, 2020 – the night of the last monthly dance. Some tasks leave one free to ponder... *I wonder, who made the tools I am using? and Why were they created in the first place?* I discovered that four of the tools I needed were Canadian inventions.

THE INTERCHANGEABLE HEAD SCREWDRIVER with between six and eight heads stored in the handle was patented in 1965 by George H. Cluthe from Waterloo, Ontario. It's a rare project that has all screws alike, so it's always handy to have such a versatile collection in one's pocket.

THE CAULKING GUN is the oldest of the Canadian inventions and is used for countless applications in a house. It was invented by Theodore Witte from Chilliwack, B.C. and patented on January 16, 1894. It has a ratcheted piston to force putty through a nozzle. Originally called the "puttying tool," it is an adaptation of the much older cake decorator.

THE PAINT ROLLER replaces paint brushes with their characteristic artists' brush strokes. It's a big time saver, invented in 1940 by Norman Breakey from Toronto. It became so popular, so easily copied, and so cheap to produce that patent infringements prevented him from profiting from his invention.

THE ROBERTSON SCREWDRIVER is the king of all the tools. This is the screwdriver with the square head, quite possibly found in nearly every Canadian household, together with a selection of squarehead screws. The Robertson was created as a result of a personal injury to Peter Lymburner Robertson from Milton, Ontario, in 1908.



He was using a flathead screwdriver and screw (slit across the diameter of the head), when the screwdriver slipped out of the screw head and cut his hand.

"There must be a better way," he muttered.



One year later, he had the patent for his screwdriver with four distinct features: a squared recess in the screw, chamfered edges, tapered sides, and a pyramidal base.

It was disliked in Britain.

The Americans wanted it but only if they could own the patent. Robertson refused. Consequently, it remained a Canadian invention that stayed in Canada for many years, with the exception of the Fisher Body Company, who used it to make the Model T Ford. Today, the Robertson accounts for approximately 80% of the Canadian market in screwdrivers. Furthermore, it was voted by craftsmen as the Tool of the Millennium.

Plato in his dialogue, *Republic*, argued: "A need or problem encourages creative efforts to meet the need or solve the problem." While necessity is considered the mother of invention, so occasionally are accidents. In our current circumstances of COVID-19 staycations what, besides thought, care, and prayer, might be our creations? For me now, until we can be social and dance again, I'll leave my Robertson rant — *it's back to work*.

Ah, screw it!

...

Donald E. Holmes

Virtual Social Dancing with Zoom

Keith and Deirdre contacted their classes to see if they would be interested in getting together through Zoom for a virtual dance class. Keith and Deirdre had used both Zoom and Gotomeeting for meetings held over the internet, and had also seen musicians playing together over the internet. They thought it would be worth giving it a try for their dance groups. All classes had indicated a willingness to try, and on Tuesday, April 7, the first virtual Erin Mills Tuesday Class was held. Seventeen dancers attended the first session and danced four dances. Some households had two dancers whilst other locations had either one dancer or a spectator.

You have to imagine having one couple in one room, second man in another room, and second woman in a further room. Each dancer had to imagine the others being next to them in their set. The first dance was *The Dhoon*. It is an easy dance to picture, and to make it easier, each couple danced as if they were first couple. The only "joint" figure was the eight hands round and back at the end. The other three dances, *Deil Amang the Tailors*, *Lady Glasgow*, and *Petronella*, were modified to be 2-couple dances and we danced each twice through.



There was much laughter and gaiety between dances, but everybody enjoyed the exercise and the evening finished with a typical 30 minute goodbye.

The dancers are looking forward to next week's session, and the other two groups will each experience their first sessions.

...Keith & Deirdre MacCuish Bark

- Humbercrest Zooms Wednesdays.
- Woodglen Zooms Fridays.
- Level 1 classes Zoom Thursdays. >> Contact [Deirdre](#) or [Keith](#) for details.

Virtual Dancing with Humbercrest



I attended Deirdre and Keith's Humbercrest dance class via Zoom on Wednesday. They did a great job, given the constraints. I have not danced in a while due to knee and hip issues, so this was an excellent way to get back to it. Those fortunate enough to have a big space at home, and a real partner, had better luck. Next time, I will find a bigger space in the house.

To get ready for the dance, you need a room with enough space for yourself and your imaginary set. I have a laptop so it is easy to move to my dancing space. Deirdre worked with two couple parts mostly. She suggested putting pieces of cloth down for the imaginary people.

The "Men" dance with their right shoulder to the screen, ladies with their left shoulder (to get a visual mirror image). You fake it with a screen partner and it makes you feel you are part of the group. The dances included *Flowers of Edinburgh* and *De'il Amang the Tailors*. It was felt, if we knew the dances ahead, it would be easier to be prepared.

Our excellent teachers had well-thought-out choices of dance and music. Deirdre made it interactive by challenging dancers to identify the dance and to dance with a "partner" on the screen.

I've always thought Scottish country dancing was good for the mind as well as the body. Thinking about geography when you are on your own with only a screen is a challenge, and a great experience. Thanks to Deirdre and Keith!

...Carol Ritchie



The Woodglen Zooming Experience



Thanks Deirdre and Keith for the dancing last night. It was fun, easy to join in, and no pressure for perfection. Though, I will say that everyone's footwork appeared to be perfect — too bad we actually couldn't see it!

We had 9 people, and each person or couple was a square on the computer screen. If more people want to join in, I'm not sure how it all works, but

Keith can do magic, and we don't all have to be seen on screen. We just need to see Deirdre and Keith demonstrating.

I was hesitant at first because ...well....how the heck is this going to work? But it did.

I enjoyed just hearing everyone's voice again. I enjoyed the music, though it wobbled the odd time when my internet got tired. I was pleased that when I thought I should be turning my partner, there she was on the screen, turning. Magic!

The 2-couple dances worked well and the 3-couple dances really made us keep track of when to set for two after 8 beats of standing. It was good brain work. Pathetically, I found muscles that I had not been using lately.

Also, this was a factor for me: I was able to move my computer from my messy office to my nicer looking kitchen (though you hardly see anything in the background). All my hesitations were addressed and I had fun. Hence, I will be back next week and for as long as we keep doing this. Thanks!

... Lois Adams

PS: It's easy-peasy to join the RSCDS UK classes, Wednesdays at 2pm (1900 BST). I did, and it was just the teacher on his porch, full screen on my computer. It's easy to join in or leave whenever you like. These sessions are just exercises, not specific dancing, but they are definitely good for muscle memory.

... Lois

Update : Spring Fling/Fringe 2020

Spring Fling/Fringe 2020 Toronto has been cancelled because of the global pandemic and Toronto dancers deserve a wrap-up report.

Registrants have been refunded their fees. A few individuals chose to donate some or all of their refund as seed money towards a future similar event. Deposits for accommodation and halls will be forthcoming but may take some time as many of the university offices are currently closed. The scheduled teachers and musicians have all acknowledged cancellation of the event and, luckily, we only had one airfare needing to be refunded. The majority of those who previously donated money for the event have indicated their preference to leave the donation for a future Spring Fling.*

The Spring Fling team extends sincere appreciation to dancers, local social groups, the Toronto Association, other Branches, TAC, and the Society for their dedicated support throughout the planning of the Spring Fling/Fringe 2020 Toronto.

Stay safe, stay well.

...Youth Committee



* ScotlandShop.com, based in Edinburgh, was a generous sponsor.

Grace Notes



Don Lancaster

Died – 23 April 2020

Don was formerly a pilot for various airlines, including Air Canada. Don and his late wife Bette, danced at Glenview, Trinity, Shiftin' Bobbins, and with the SCD group in Sarasota, Florida. He was also a keen golfer in Florida and at Humber Valley. Over the years, he attended many RSCDS Toronto events such

as monthly dances and the Tartan Ball. He leaves behind many friends.

Our condolences to his five children and their extended families.

Given the pandemic, there will be no funeral. [Obituary](#)

Orillia Scottish Festival 2020: Update



We all had the feeling it was coming and the time has arrived. The Orillia Scottish Festival for 2020 is now officially CANCELLED.

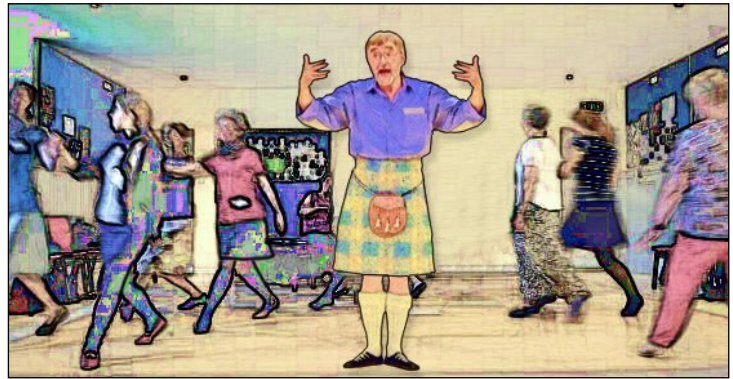
I would like to thank those who had agreed to be a part of Scottish Country Dancing for our event. Thanks also to those who may have been considering attendance.

Please keep the 2021 Orillia Festival (3rd week in July) in mind, with hopes and prayers. Stay Inside and Stay Safe.

...Will Kinghorn uilleam.ailean@gmail.com



Teacher Candidate Classes 2020-21



Toronto Association plans to conduct a Teacher Candidate Class in 2020-21, pending sufficient interest. Jean Noble will be the tutor.

Classes will likely take place every second Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Fall and Winter, culminating in an exam in early May, 2021. The class will prepare candidates for Unit 2 & Unit 3 as well as Unit 5. Course fees are tentatively set at \$350 for Unit 2 and Unit 3 each, and \$700 for Unit 5. Exam fees are payable in addition.

Prospective candidates are invited to record their preliminary interest by emailing Tony Szeto at aszeto2010@gmail.com at their earliest convenience.

Further details will be posted on our Association website when they become available, such as a firm registration deadline and other logistics.

... Tony Szeto, Education & Training

De-mystifying Dance Diagrams

THE TORONTO VOLUNTEERS			8x32 R	
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Deirdre MacCush Bark

3C/4C longwise set

Some dancers study diagrams to learn dances, or for a quick reminder just before that first chord. Dance diagrams were first popularized in that little green, sporan-size book by the late FL Pilling.

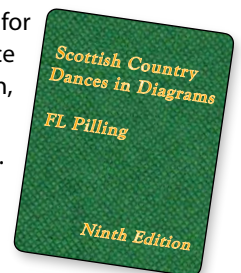
Keith Rose is the source of most diagrams today. Keith is a retired computer programmer from Bedford, England, who spends much of his time drawing dance diagrams. Keith graciously made custom diagrams for the 50th Tartan Ball in 2013.

Diagrams are loved by many; intimidating to many more. Acceptance is growing so, now that we enjoy the unexpected luxury of time, it may be an opportune time to crack the diagram code.

Lara Friedman-Shedlov, of the RSCDS Twin Cities Branch (Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota), has adapted material developed by Lois Mathiesen of the Oslo Scottish Country Dance Group and published a wonderful guide to understanding dance diagrams.

Download the guide in .pdf form here:

www.dancescottish.ca/Demystifying-Dance-Diagrams.pdf

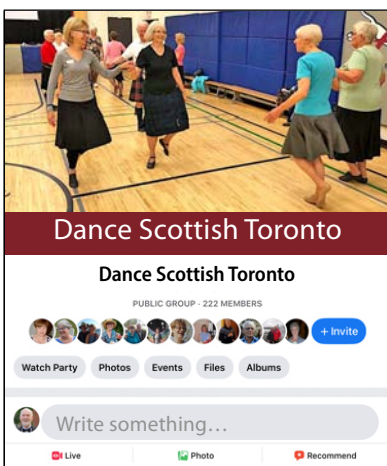


Social Media to Promote Scottish Dancing

I had avoided social media until taking on the Marketing role for Toronto Association a year ago. These platforms can reach people in many different ways. Our social media team (Kendra Beliveau, Theresa Malek, and John Clark) curates three popular platforms to attract more people to SCD.

Meetup — We have a paid subscription for Meetup so we can reach new people who are looking for activities. Our Meetup group has posts of events such as classes, Dancing in the Park, and ceilidhs. Click the website symbol, or load the Meetup app on your phone/tablet, and search for [Toronto Scottish Country Dancing](#). If any social group wants to promote an event or session, let me know.

Facebook — Facebook lets people connect in many ways with over two billion users, including millions in the GTA. For Facebook newcomers, either click the symbol on our website or download the Facebook app for your phone/tablet. To sign up, enter your name, and other required information — do not enter anything you don't wish to be public.



We have two Facebook pages - [RSCDS Toronto Association/ Dance Scottish Toronto](#) for existing dancers, and [Dance Scottish Toronto](#) to appeal to people not yet dancing.

When you first visit a group like ours, you may ask to join. Once approved, you can "Write something" (see photo) for the other 221 followers to enjoy. Scrolling down gives previous content, including a couple safely dancing at home with four ghosts, and a puzzle where you guess dance names from diagrams. The **INVITE** button shows people you know; those you click will be invited to join.

Also you can "like" and comment on other posts. Active groups attract more followers, so you help by reacting.



[www.dancescottish.ca](#) has new icons on each page header to connect with our presence on social media. Click to visit.

Facebook earns its money from paid ads that appear until a user gets rid of it. It costs the advertiser about a half a cent for one impression or view on a screen.

Ads can be in a variety of formats including, a video or carousel of images. Facebook lets advertisers target their audience according to location, age, status, and interests. It's possible to make several versions of an ad and find which gets the most clicks.

Instagram — This social media platform is especially popular with younger people. Instagram mostly carries square pictures and short videos. Click the symbol on our website, or load the app on your phone/tablet, and search for [dance_scottish_toronto](#)

Help? — Making social media ads that get attention is an art. If anyone has expertise with this, please contact me. Perhaps a young person studying marketing or art might enjoy an opportunity to show their creativity. It will be exciting to get ads prepared for when dancing starts again.

...Ron Macnaughton macnaughton@rogers.com

National Museums Scotland

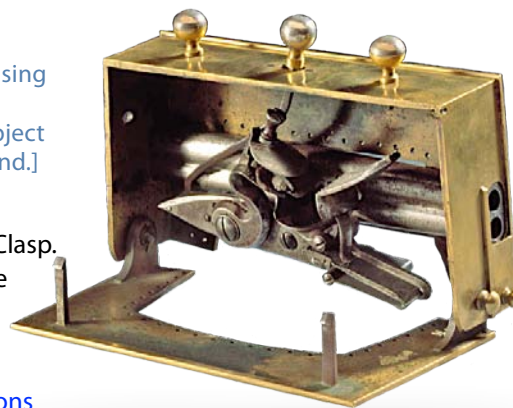
[Museum curators in Britain are currently amusing themselves, and their Twitter followers, with a #SassiestObject challenge. This remarkable object was tweeted by the National Museums Scotland.]

QUOTE:

"Our #SassiestObject has to be this Sporrán Clasp. It had 4 hidden pistols which would fire if the sporran was not opened correctly."

Stay home and explore our collections:

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections>



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Andrew Henderson
Rob Lockhart (webmaster)
Teresa Lockhart
Marian White
Judy Williams

Board Meetings
Members of RSCDS Toronto are welcome to audit Board meetings (i.e. silently observe). Details from: Fiona Alberti, fiona@alberti.ca
Remaining scheduled dates:
• May 14 • Jun 8

Please send submissions to Set&Link by the 10th of each month.

Send to Donald Holmes
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