

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I am honoured to be your new Chair. My contribution to your Association over the next couple of years remains to be seen. However, if I can achieve half as much as all my predecessors, things should work out alright.

Since the AGM, your Board and numerous Committee members have been busy working on the tasks that will strengthen your Association and increase our membership.

At the May 1st meeting with the Social Group Teachers, we reported on the status of the Trillium Work Plan, and presentations were given by the Communications, Program, and Volunteer Directors. Grey areas to do with the allocation of Trillium funds were cleared up, and the "Open Forum" session produced some wonderful ideas to explore and further the interest in Scottish Country Dancing.

We received approval from the Trillium Foundation to extend our Work Plan completion date until December 31, 2005, and reallocate the use of funds for items which your Board specified. What does this mean? Without this approval, \$10,000 would have gone down the drain!

The Youth Ball on May 7th was a tremendous success. Participants were overheard exchanging e-mail addresses and saying, "See you again next year". Congratulations to all involved with this venture.

Don't forget to support Dancing In The Park and the Demo Pool at their Carassauga debut.

Have a wonderful summer.

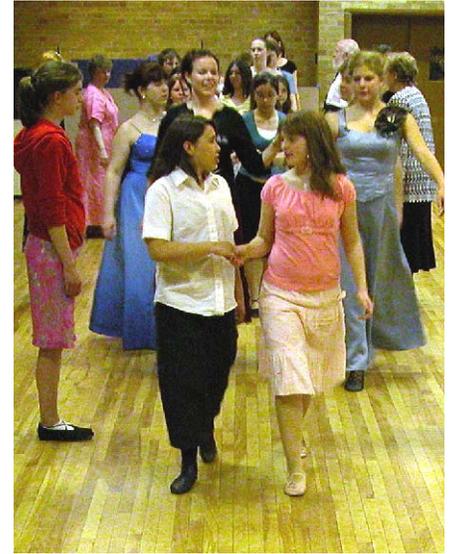


Youth Ball 2005

By Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Youth Convenor



Dancers enjoying the First Toronto Association Youth Ball



Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing !

The First Toronto Association Youth Ball was held on the evening of Saturday, May 7 at Newtonbrook United Church.

Forty-six youth dancers between the ages of 10 and 24 attended the Ball along with 16 adults. The evening began with a reception of cold punch and savoury snacks followed by a full sit-down dinner masterminded and cooked by Blair Scott and his helpers.

The dance part of the evening opened with a Grand March to the music of the pipes played by Tristan Gerrie. Then we flew through a programme of twelve dances

and one impromptu waltz to fill up the intermission. The dancers had a wonderful time; they were from Buffalo, Kingston, Peterborough, Port Perry, Mississauga and Toronto. The young people showed what was best in the social aspect of Scottish Country Dancing, mixing with each other with a great deal of fun, laughter and spirit. Many new friendships were formed and several e-mail addresses were exchanged. The evening finished with Auld Lang Syne.

Thank you to the Toronto Association, ASTA and Georgina Finlay, who supplied decorations and thanks also to the piper Tristan Gerrie. Thank you to Blair for the stalwart job he did in buying food supplies and cooking the meal. Our thanks to the shifts of volunteers, who helped decorate the hall, set up the tables, served and cleared the meal and cleaned up afterwards.



(L to R)
Fiona,
Avery and
Emma
enjoying the
sit-down
dinner

Finally, a big thank you to the Youth Committee who planned the evening from its beginnings.

When asked, the young dancers said they would like to see it happen again. Success!

Do-Wop Kings Debut for RSCDS Toronto

Thinking SCD music? Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent come to mind. Thinking of Elvis, the Platters, jive and swing? How about the Do-Wops?

Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent are well known for their fabulous Scottish Country Dance music. Perhaps less well known is their experience in other musical genres. Now Toronto area Scottish Country Dancers will have an opportunity to see members of The Scottish Accent playing a completely different style! Two years ago, drummer and vocalist Warren Beasley mounted a fund raising event featuring the pop music of the 1950's with the newly formed "Do-Wop Kings", who have generously offered to perform a similar fund-raiser for Toronto RSCDS.

So, come and dance to the music of the 50's featuring the "Do-Wop Kings" (members of The Scottish Accent band and friends) with a mixture of early Rock & Roll music and ballads. This dance evening featuring Hits of the 50's will be held at the Argonaut Club (1225 Lakeshore Blvd. West, just west of Jamieson) on Friday, October 21, 2005, at 8 p.m. This is a great opportunity for RSCDS members, guests and friends to see a new side to members of The Scottish Accent, to support RSCDS activities and to enjoy a fun night dancing (not SCD!) to music from the 1950's. More details will be available as tickets go on sale in September. Mark your calendars for a great evening you won't want to miss, and start looking for your poodle skirts and letter sweaters or leather jacket and saddle shoes!

Golden Anniversary

As you already know, RSCDS Toronto Scottish Country Dance Association will be observing its fiftieth anniversary during the dancing year 2007-2008. One major event for the year will be the selection of a Signature Dance for the celebrations. Therefore, with the approval of the Board, your committee announces a competition (open only to RSCDS Toronto Association members) for the devising of a "signature dance" for the 50th Anniversary celebrations. Only one submission per member will be permitted, and that submission will be a Jig, Reel or Strathspey of any length and of any configuration. The submissions will be judged anonymously by a committee made up of an equal number of teachers and non-teacher dancers, and each of the submissions will be danced. The deadline for submission is February 28, 2006. The evaluations will take place during March, April and May. The final selection will be made by June 2006. It is the suggestion of the committee that the selected dance be included in the monthly dance programmes for the season 2007-2008, and that it be the "theme dance" for the 2008 Tartan Ball. Bobby Brown has agreed to compose a tune for the dance when it is selected.

Look for more information on this and other anniversary events in upcoming issues of Set & Link.

Happiness

Submitted by
David Grant H.I.S.C.D!

Yesterday, I was reading some copies of the New Zealand Scottish Country Dancer that had been given to Betty by Margaret McClean many years ago. In the 1961 issue I found the following letter:

Dear New Zealand and Friends,

When Miss Stewart and I launched the Scottish Country Dance Society, we envisaged Scotland learning and enjoying once more her lovely old national dances, but we never dreamed of our effort spreading across the world and becoming part of the life of Scots overseas. It thrills me tremendously to think of you all meeting together all these thousands of miles away to dance and enjoy the good old Scottish dances.

I should like to say one or two things to you.

First of all remember that "happiness" is the main object and if your dancing doesn't give a real feeling of social gaiety then there is something wrong.

At the same time the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society has had to set standards. If you could envisage the terrible way in which the dances were being performed when we began to revive them, you would realize how necessary these standards of technique and performance are if the dances are to live. Another reason for these standards is that should people from various parts of the world meet, they should find that they have all been able to do the same thing and can join in with any company.

After all, we can enjoy the dances though we may not be Pavlovas; but truly, the better that you do them, the more you can enjoy them. Technique is not dancing taken by itself. We need the feeling, thought for others, good phrasing and a real love for music.

May you have a lovely Summer School. I will be thinking of you with much interest and with much affection.

Jean Milligan

Upcoming Events

JUNE 7-28, 2005, Dancing in the Park at Edwards Gardens, corner of Leslie St. and Lawrence Av., every Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to dusk. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact John Holmberg 416-694-1218. Call 416-410-7078 after 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for notification of cancellations due to weather. Check www.rscdstoronto.org for the programme and crib sheets.

JUNE 11, 2005, Banks O'Couchiching Scottish Ball, Orillia. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Reservations by May 13th. Contact Donna Gowland 705-325-6623; dmgowland@encode.com or Linda Ashe 705-487-5868; lindaa@osonic.com

JUNE 23-AUGUST 4, 2005, Summer Dancing every Thursday evening at breezy Seeley Hall, Trinity College, 6 Hoskin Av, University of Toronto. Various guest teachers will brief the dances. Contact Paul Barber 416-534-0516; visit www3.sympatico.ca/barber/malcolmson.

JULY 3-8, 2005, Thistle School of Scottish Country Dancing's 25th year at Lees McRae College, North Carolina. Teachers are John and J'ina Middleton, Hamilton, ON; Keith Bark, Mississauga, ON; Mary MacConnell and David Gilliam, NC; Elizabeth Lee Barnes, Washington, DC. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent and Peter Campbell. Followed by the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Contact Elizabeth Lee Barnes 202-966-3595; thistledance@starpower.net.

JULY 4-8, 2005, A fun-filled week of Scottish Country Dancing for intermediate and advanced dancers at Haliburton School of the Arts, Haliburton, ON. Instructor is Mike Turner. For information visit www.HaliburtonSchoolofTheArts.ca For registration call 1-866-353-6464 and ask for Haliburton campus.

JULY 16, 2005, White Heather Ball in the Highlands of Durham at the Scugog Community Centre, Port Perry. Dinner followed by entertainment and dancing. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Marjorie 905-649-3532; mmason@bellnet.ca or Stewart 905-985-6573; tartanshop@on.aibn.com.

AUGUST 20, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Woodglen Scottish Country Dancers 3rd Annual Summer Dance at Harcourt Park Community Centre (between Haliburton & Bancroft).

Contact Ron & Betty 416-698-2760 (city); 705-44-9021 (cottage).

SEPTEMBER 10, 2005, 8:00 p.m., The Toronto Association's Monthly Dance at Crescent School. Check the web site and the September issue of Set & Link for more information.

FEBRUARY 18, 2006, The 43rd Annual Tartan Ball at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto.

FEBRUARY 25, 2006, The Oakville Scottish Country Dance Group's 50th Anniversary Ball at Le Dome in Oakville. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Liz Walton 905-338-0798; mjewalton@sprint.ca.

The Many Faces of Markham

The Petronella Scottish Country Dancers of Thornhill were pleased to be invited to participate in a multiracial variety show at Markham Theatre in early April, sponsored by the Markham Race Relations Committee.

The purpose of the event was to bring together singers, dancers and musicians for a show that would highlight the numerous ethnic groups located in the Markham area. In addition to SCD, the evening's programme featured Chinese musicians playing ancient instruments, Hindu singers and dancers, Spanish flamenco dancers, Punjabi dancers, an Italian singer, a Jewish Klezmer band (a form of Middle Eastern jazz) and several others.

In the Petronella team's first performance, we demonstrated the "Blooms of Bon Accord" followed by an abbreviated version of "Bonnie Stronshiray". Our second performance featured "The Piper & The Penguin" and "The Robertson Rant". The evening's house was jam-packed and the enthusiastic audience included several political dignitaries, amongst them, Don Cousens, the Mayor of Markham.

All in all, good visibility for Scottish Country Dancing was achieved on this entertaining occasion in Markham.

Submitted by Barry Pipes

Scottish Fiddle Orchestra

July 16th, 2005 - 8pm

Hummingbird Centre
for the Performing Arts

Phone 416-872-2262 for tickets
OR for groups of 14 or more
416-393-7463!

Quote the word 'fiddler' when
buying tickets to receive 15%
off! Quote the name 'Jennifer'
when buying group tickets to
receive a free ticket!

www.hummingbirdcentre.com

**Please note that the Annual
Conference Weekend and AGM
for the Royal Scottish Country
Dance Society will take place on
November 4-6, 2005
(AGM Saturday 5th).**

The dates given in last month's
newsletter were based on incorrect
information provided to us by
Edinburgh and they apologize for
any inconvenience.

Anyone requiring details of the
weekend's events and activities can
contact
Brenda Hurst 416-925-6982.

Mark your calendars!
The Toronto Workshop
will be held on
Saturday, November 12, 2005.
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Teachers will be Ellie Briscoe,
Mel Briscoe and J'ina
Middleton.
Music by Bobby Brown, Laird
Brown and Fred Moyes.
Contact Theresa Malek
416-535-4447
theresamalek@rogers.com

*If you have an event that you would like
posted in our Upcoming Events, contact
Christine Bowers.*

Membership Renewal

This year the membership form will be sent with the September newsletter to start the dancing season. Forms will also be available at Dancing in the Park in June for those who wish to renew early. Please take the time to complete both sides of the page. The volunteer information and other questions are very important.

For the past few years we have included a question on whether you would want an e-mail newsletter as opposed to a paper one. The results have been unclear, so we are hoping that this year's question will obtain the required information. Taking the newsletter by e-mail would save us some money, but there are difficulties. There is no point in us pursuing the idea if the members do not want it. Please note that the paper format will be available to anyone wanting it even if we do go ahead with the e-mail format.

Also, we ask that, when the dancing year is finished, please keep your nametag for future use.

~ The Membership Committee

Volunteer News

The Volunteer Committee wishes to establish a way of acknowledging volunteers. This will be accomplished by awarding certificates to individuals who have made a significant contribution to SCD. While we appreciate that a lot has been done by a great number of people over the years the intention is to start by looking back over the past 5 years.

The Volunteer Committee will invite the Board and the teachers of social groups to nominate individuals who may have been unrecognised in the past. The nominations are not restricted to members of the RSCDS or to people who have organized major events. The hope is that we will acknowledge people who have been providing valuable assistance over the years while remaining in the background.

~ The Volunteer Committee

Candidate Classes

Jean Noble and the members of the Teacher Candidate class would like to thank all the dancers who came out on Sunday afternoons this winter and who also came to the examination evenings to be our "stooges". We want you to know how much you were needed and appreciated. Thanks too, to Bobby Brown for his patience and understanding. Without the music there would be no dance.

Keith Bark was there to assist when needed with his "electronic" music and dancing expertise.

A special thanks to Carole Bell and her helpers in the kitchen during the exams. Those snacks and cups of tea and coffee kept us going through the busy three evenings.

We are happy to report that the Toronto Association now has three new Preliminary teachers :

May Divers, Teresa Kowalczyk and Wendy Loberg

We also have six new fully Certificated teachers :

Jason Argent, Linda Ashe, Moira Korus, Leslie McNeil, Sandra Scott and Vicky Zeltins.

A lot of hard work goes into the preparation for the examinations and these new teachers deserve our sincere congratulations.

Social Group Listing

Teachers and Social Group Contacts please submit all changes to the Social Group Listing by JULY 1, 2005. All information is to be submitted to Jane Robinson, Membership Director, at janer1@sympatico.ca or 416-463-5016.

Dancing In The Park

Dancing in the Park is enjoyed by all and despite subsidies from the Toronto Musician's Fund and other fundraising, it is still a costly event. We count on your support and hope you will make a generous donation for an evening of dancing to the live music of Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent.



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don't forget...

- Check the phone line for up-to-the-minute DIP information
- Deadline for September Newsletter is August 12th
- Next Monthly Dance is September 10, 2005.

EDITOR'S NOTES...

Sadly, this will be the last newsletter until the fall. Have a great summer and see you at the September Monthly Dance. No, that is not a mistake - there really is one. See "Upcoming Events".