

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As I sit down to write this message, it is late on the Sunday afternoon following the Tartan Ball.

I hope everyone had a great time at the Ball. The good company, the dances and the great music, as expected, resulted in a perfect evening. By the way, thank you Teachers, for the time spent on The Glasgow Highlanders and Struan Robertson's Reel. I could not help but notice that the spectators in the balcony were snapping photographs furiously during these dances!

The Tartan Ball is a hectic time for all involved in the planning and organizing of the event. Unfortunately, pages of my after-dinner notes stuck together and I completely forgot to publicly thank some very important people. To the Tartan Ball Committee and all their helpers, "Thank you!" You did a wonderful job.

The Association's new website should be uploaded very soon. Just a few little technical things need to be straightened out. The designers have done a nice job of bringing a refreshing new look to an important part of member services. I hope you like it!

March 11th is the Beginners Night Monthly Dance and this is always a popular night. Why don't you bring a friend along? If they have not started Scottish Country Dancing yet, it only costs a couple of dollars for a spectator, including refreshments at the break, and who knows, they may catch the bug.

Anyway, around 4:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, we will be heading to the airport to start a vacation in the sunny south. Have to go now - Shona cannot find the sunscreen or my swimsuit. Hasta luego!



A Tribute to John Christie



John Christie and Ian Paterson display the Scroll of Honour at the Tartan Ball

The RSCDS Toronto Association put John Christie's name forward to the Society to be awarded The Scroll of Honour and was delighted to present it to him at this year's Tartan Ball. Following is a tribute to John written by his friend, Sandy Bain.

A native of Cruden Bay in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, John and his wife, Margaret, danced regularly with the Scottish Country Dance Group in Peterhead prior to emigrating to Canada in 1951.

Involvement in country dancing continued in the mid-to-late 1950's with the Riverdale Group in Toronto where John became an active member of their Demonstration Team and participated in many demonstrations at concerts, senior's homes, hospitals, folk festivals and an appearance on the "King Ganam Show" on CBC TV. The Christies became members of the Toronto Branch when it was formed in 1957.

Transferred by Bell Canada to London, Ontario in 1959, John danced with the London Group and was an original member of the London Branch.

He was awarded his teaching certificate, while in London, from Miss Jean C. Milligan and taught classes for that branch and in the surrounding communities of Sarnia, Woodstock and Stratford. He also taught the London Branch Demonstration Team. On his return to Toronto in the late 1960's, he joined the Scarborough Scottish Country Dance Group and became their teacher until his retirement in 2004.

John's enjoyment and enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing permeated the classes and groups he taught. Together with his knowledge of dancing and leadership skills, all those combined in his success as a teacher and group leader. The Scarborough Group for many years was one of the largest and most enthusiastic within the Toronto Branch. Their dancers, in large numbers, supported enthusiastically the various events and activities of the Toronto Branch. John, through his leadership, imparted and instilled in the dancers the standards and traditions of Scottish Country Dancing. In addition, he created that sense of enjoyment and friendly social spirit that is so characteristic of our dancing. Many dancers in the Toronto area can remember the great Scarborough Team which performed at Gala Days, Metro Caravan and the CNE. They exhibited in full the enjoyment of dancing which John Christie had imparted through his association with the group.

As an active leader and participant in the Country Dance scene in Southern Ontario for the past fifty years, John has made a significant contribution to the enjoyment level of our dances and to the aims and objectives of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

April Monthly Dance

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2006
Time: 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave
Music: Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent
Hosts: Christ Church, Erin Mills Adult, St. Andrews of Brampton
 Please note that Crescent School has a no-nut policy

La Flora	8x32J	(27-10)
Starlight	8x32R	(44-1)
The Silver Tassie	8x32S	(lft)
The Express	8x40J	(20-11)
Argyll Strathspey	8x32S	(35-3)
Dumbarton Drums	8x32R	(5-2)
INTERVAL		
Hooper's Jig	8x32J	(MMM2-12)
Ye're Welcome Charly Stuart	8x32R	(7-1)
Anna Holden's Strathspey	6x32S	(42-2)
Light and Airy	8x32J	(4-5)
Lord Elgin's Reel	8x32S	(26-5)
De'il Amang the Tailors	8x32R	(14-7)
EXTRAS		
College Hornpipe	8x32R	(20-12)
The Frisky	8x32J	(26-10)

AGM Dance

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2006
Time: 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave
Music: Don Bartlett
Hosts: Bloorlea, Trinity, RSCDS Toronto Association Executive
 Please note that Crescent School has a no-nut policy

Duke of Atholl's Reel	6x32J	(16-3)
Happy Returns	8x32R	(MMM2-11)
From Scotia's Shores we're noo awa	8x32S	(lft)
Triumph	4x24R	(1-2)
The White Cockade	8x32R	(5-11)
The Frisky	8x32J	(26-10)
Sandy O'er the Lea	6x32S	(MMM2-34)
The Duke of Perth	8x32R	(1-8)
EXTRAS		
Hooper's Jig	8x32J	(MMM2-12)
General Stuart's Reel	8x32R	(10-3)

2006 Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS Toronto Association

April 22, 2006
 See insert for details

Motions under consideration:
 · Notice of motion to donate archives to York University.
(See page 4)
 · Notice of motion to change the head office to Toronto.

Report of Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is required under the terms of the Board's Procedures Manual to prepare a slate of nominees for each Board position. That slate of nominees appears below. However, the members of the Association (having seen the Nominations Committee's list of nominees) have the right to make additional nominations to any or all of the Board positions. There is a Director at Large position without a nomination. The Nomination Form is located on the insert sent with this newsletter.

The following names will be presented to the Annual General Meeting:

Chair: Ian Paterson
 Vice Chair: Jane Robinson
 Secretary: Brenda Hurst
 Treasurer: Wendy Fulton

Directors-
 Membership: John Clark
 Program: Ann Campbell
 Communications: Carole Bell
 Volunteers: Gordon Hamilton

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

The 2006 annual awards will be presented at the AGM. Any idea who will be chosen? Come and meet our first five recipients.

Upcoming Events

MARCH 18, 2006, West End Workshop, Streetsville Secondary School. Teachers are Nadine Gingrich, Waterloo, ON; Carole Skinner, Toronto; Alex Gray, UK. Contact Brien or Ishbel Thomson 905-826-7842.

MARCH 25, 2006, Blair SCD Spring Ball, Waterloo Police Banquet Hall, Cambridge ON. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Carolyn Barrs 519-743-9215; cbarrs64@hotmail.com.

MARCH 24 - 26, 2006, Vanisle 30th Anniversary Weekend and Ball, Victoria. Teachers are Mary Murray, Vancouver, BC; David Queen, England; Gary Thomas, Santa Rosa, CA. Music by Muriel Johnston and Keith Smith. Registration forms at www.viscds.ca. Contact Rosemary Balfour 250-598-6456; rpbalfour@shaw.ca or Janet Rice gjrice@shaw.ca.

APRIL 1, 2006, Hamilton Ball, Michelangelo Banquet Centre, 1555 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton. Dinner and Ball is \$70.00 Non-dancer is \$45.00 Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Fred Fordham 905-389-7006.

APRIL 1, 2006, The St. Andrew's Society presents An Evening of Ceilidh Dancing, Taylor Place, 1 Overland Drive, Don Mills. Cost is \$20. Reserve early by mailing a cheque, payable to the St. Andrew's Society, to Gordon MacDonal, 238 Maplewood Ave., Toronto, ON, M6C 1K2. For details, visit www.standrews-society.ca.

APRIL 8, 2006, Toronto Association Children's Festival.

APRIL 22, 2006, Ottawa Branch's 40th Anniversary Ruby Ball. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Lynda Pearson 613-526-5913; lynda.pearson@sympatico.ca or visit www.rscdsottawa.ca.

APRIL 29, 2006, West Acres Social Group's Spring Party, 65 Hinton Road, Rexdale. Music by "The Reel Thing". Tickets are \$12.00. For more information call Jim Archibald 905-792-4383 or Nora Sutherland 905-276-2602; nora.sutherland@sympatico.ca.

MAY 5 - 7, 2006, Boston Highland Ball. Contact Joan Hill 617-868-4578 or Ron MaDougald 781-259-0883; Hillwalden@aol.com.

MAY 6, 2006, St. Catherines Spring Dance. Music by Don Bartlett. Contact Jere Brubaker brubakerjp1@aol.com.

MAY 13, 2006, The Thistle Ball in Victoria, BC. Contact Kathryn Taylor 250-598-3490; kathryntaylorthomson@shaw.ca.

MAY 13, 2006, West Toronto Ball, Ramses Temple. Reception, dinner and dancing. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Some term this event "The Beginner's Ball", but there is also lots of challenge for experienced dancers. For tickets, contact Anna Rielly 519-927-5502; t.rielly@rogers.com.

MAY 19 - 21, 2006, Pawling Weekend @ Circle Lodge, Hopewell Junction, NY. Musicians are Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent and Jim Stevenson-Mathews. Teachers are Robert McOwen, MA; Elinor Vandergrift, Washington; Les Lambert, Renfrewshire, Scotland. More information next month or visit www.rscdsnewyork.org.

MAY 26 - 28, 2006, 4th Annual Youth Weekend West in Victoria, BC. Cost is \$98 for accomodation and all events. Teachers are Mairi Hand, Boise, ID; Fred DeMarse, San Francisco, CA; Ruth Jappy, Delta, BC. Musicians are Muriel Johnstone, Alex Jappy, Mary Ross & UVic's Ad Hoc Ceilidh Band. Contact Frankie Chao 250-381-4756; tuba_frank@hotmail.com or visit www.youthweekendwest.com.

JULY 3 - 7, 2006, Haliburton Summer School at Sir Sandford Fleming College. Instructors are Maggie and Duncan Keppie, NS. Call 1-866-353-6464 or visit www.haliburton.schoolofhearts.ca.

JULY 3 - 7, 2006, English-Scottish Pinewoods Session, Pinewoods Camp, near Plymouth, MA. Contact Marianne Taylor 603-463-7771.

JULY 16 - AUGUST 13, 2006, RSCDS Summer School at University Hall, Kennedy Gardens, St. Andrews, Scotland. Scholarship application forms are available from Brenda Hurst brenhurst@hotmail.com or by the Society's Bulletin or www.rscds.org.

JULY 29, 2006, White Heather Ball, Port Perry. Contact Marjorie Mason 905-649-3532.

NOVEMBER 11, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Toronto Association Annual Workshop. Contact Theresa Malek 416-535-4447; theresamalek@rogers.com.

Toronto Association Workshop Update

November 11, 2006

Teachers :

John Wilkinson - Berwickshire, Scotland
Carol Howe - Grimsby, ON
Georgina Findlay - Weston, ON

Musicians :

Bobby Brown
Laird Brown
Don Bartlett

Extension Classes for Newer Dancers

Please plan to join Association class teachers Vicki Zeltins, David Booz and Kathleen Kynoch for a fun series of classes this spring. You will practise many of the dances on the Dancing in the Park program and have the added pleasure of dancing to Bobby Brown on accordion. At \$8 per night that's a real deal!

PLACE: Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave., close to Chester Subway Station

DATES: Eight Thursdays starting April 6

TIME: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

COST: \$64 (including GST)

If you have any questions, please contact Carole Bell 416-221-1201 or carolewbell@sympatico.ca

Please send all submissions for SET & LINK and website to the Communications Director, Christine Bowers.

E-mail: cbowers@sympatico.ca

Telephone: 416-481-3975

Address: 52 Chatsworth Dr., Toronto ON M4R 1R5

Toronto Association Archives

York University's Clara Thomas Archives has expressed an interest in acquiring the archival records of the RSCDS Toronto Association. These records would make a nice addition to the Archives' holdings of dance-related collections, considered to be one of the most extensive in Canada and a good fit with the Master's in Fine Arts programme at York. (For a list of what they already have, see <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cem/ArchivesSpecialCollections/FindingAids/FineArts/Dance.htm>). Placing the Association's records in a professionally-managed archival institution would ensure that they would be preserved for posterity and available both to the public and to academic researchers.

There will be a motion at the AGM for the Toronto Association to donate their archives to York University's Clara Thomas Archives.

Missing Minutes

Are you a Hoarder? Do you have boxes in the basement that you haven't opened for years? Then you might be the person we are looking for. Would anyone with copies of Minutes of the Toronto RSCDS Executive/Board and their attachments from the years 1987 until April 1995 please contact Brenda Hurst, Secretary. This information is required to complete our archival records.

DO YOU WANT TO BE RICH AND FAMOUS?

Well, we can't do much about RICH, but you can be FAMOUS in RSCDS Toronto circles. Enter the competitions for the 50th Anniversary Year. (Dance and/or Logo.) See the insert in the February Set and Link or contact Jane Robinson for further information.

It is with joy that we send our warmest congratulations to SCD teacher Lorna Larmour Robertson and husband Walter upon the birth of baby Ian Maxwell Robertson. For more information and picture see our website.

2nd Annual Youth Ball Saturday, May 6, 2006

Last year was the 1st Annual Youth Ball. It was so successful that we are going to do it again! Youth aged 10 to 20ish from all over the GTA, and some from farther afield, will meet to dine and dance, and make new friends. It will be held from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Newtonbrook United Church, 53 Cummer Ave. Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained from any of the teachers of Children's Classes or from Deirdre Bark 905-822-1707; barkd@rogers.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Youth Ball Committee is asking for volunteers to come out and help to set up tables, serve food and to clear tables on May 6th. Your help will be needed from approximately 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please volunteer and support our young dancers. Contact Fiona Philip 905-785-8983 or colin@globalserve.net

Wanted!

Newsletter editor and proof-reader. Be a part of the Communications Team!

As newsletter editor, you will be responsible for producing 10 issues of SET & LINK. This job takes about 10 hours a month and you will be provided with a laptop and user-friendly software to make the job easy and fun.

As a proof-reader, you will be responsible for proof-reading SET & LINK before it goes to print. This takes about 2 hours a month.

Please contact Christine Bowers.

FOR SALE lady's kilt, size 8, length 26-28", made in Scotland, Dress MacPherson tartan. Asking \$75.00, or best offer. Please call Sybil Finlay 416-239-5927.



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don't forget...

- Deadline for April Newsletter is March 19th
- Beginners Monthly Dance March 11th
- AGM April 22, 2006

EDITOR'S NOTES...

WHO WANTS THIS JOB?