

Chair's Message



The November workshop and monthly dance are now in the past. The Friday night Old Time Dancing class with Ruth and Alex Jappy was a great success. Many thanks to Valerie Fisher and her committee for the excellent organizing and running of Saturday's workshop. A well attended monthly dance rounded out a wonderful day.

The Board has decided that the 50th Anniversary Year is a good time to start to avail ourselves of the RSCDS Branch Awards. While the Branch applies for them they are awarded by Scotland. Our first recipient is Dianne Lask who has spent time on the Executive as Monthly Dance Convener, helped out at Association Classes, volunteered at her social groups, been our #1 proof reader, and supported most RSCDS TA functions over the years. Congratulations to Dianne. We hope this will be the beginning of many such awards. This special presentation occurred at Saturday's dance. Thanks to John Clark for organizing the demonstration of the strathspey *Dianne's Smile* devised by May Macfarlane and to Keith Bark for the recorded music.

Our amazing cookbook is now out, thanks to Theresa Malek's hard work. We have lots of 50th anniversary items for stocking stuffers. Contact Vicky Zeltins at zeltvic@idirect.com or 416.489.8725. Wouldn't Tartan Ball tickets make a lovely Christmas present!

The December monthly dance honours families and youth. Bring your young folk as well as your older friends. Note that the dance starts at 7:30 p.m.

May you each have a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Jane

My First Tartan Ball

by Rob Lockhart



Thrilling! That's the word for my first Tartan Ball. There I was, a rank beginner, comfortably ensconced in the balcony of the Concert Hall at the Royal York with a glass of wine and a few beginner classmates, observing. The pipes began to wail for the Grand March. Two-by-two dancers marched into the ballroom, and skirted the perimeter. Didn't they look fine! Ladies in beautiful gowns and tartan sashes; gentlemen in kilt and Bonnie Prince Charlies! They looped down the centre of the ballroom, joined in lines, looped again, joined again. Marshals split them left and right. Magically, when the pipes ended, the dancers were arranged in sets. It was the finest display I'd seen since the Edinburgh Tattoo.

The first dance started. We gasped to see everyone cross in synchrony. We marvelled when everyone turned gracefully, as one, left, then right again. Our beginner class had never seen such elegance and expertise in a group of dancers. What a standard to aspire to!

We picked out people we knew. . . our teachers, and some folk from Sunday stooging. They looked splendid! And their dancing was wonderful! In particular, I noticed Teresa, a young lady I knew only slightly from the stooging. She was resplendent in a sparkling long gown but she looked rather tense. I didn't know this was her first Tartan Ball. Nor did I know that one year hence, I would not only be dancing at my first Tartan Ball, but celebrating my engagement to that same young lady! What better occasion to 'pop the question'? Who could have a grander party to celebrate with friends? We marked the anniversary of our engagement at last year's Tartan Ball.

Celebration is what the Tartan Ball is all about. We celebrate the fellowship of the dance. We rejoice in the music, and the ritual. We meet friends, old and new. We carry on the decades of grand traditions of the Tartan Ball. We chase away winter's dark gloom and renew our spirits.

Last year's Tartan Ball attracted dancers from across Canada and the USA. One couple flew in from Tokyo specifically to attend the Ball! That's how esteemed our Tartan Ball is. This year, Members of the Toronto Association have special reason to celebrate, it will be 50 years since we joined the Royal Scottish Dance Society in Edinburgh, and it will be 45 years since the very first Tartan Ball. Let's make it a highlight of our celebration year and fill the Concert Hall to overflowing! Besides. . . my lovely bride and I want to share the happy memories of our engagement three Tartan Balls ago.

January Monthly Dance

Date: Saturday, January 12, 2008

Time: 8:00 - 10:30 p.m.

Place: Crescent School
2365 Bayview Avenue

Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent

Hosts: Scarborough, Trinity, Bloorlea

St Andrew's Fair*	8x32 J	5 for '82
The Grants' New Rant*	8x32 S	15 Social Dances
The Rakish Highlandman*	8x40 J	Bk.19-6
The Music Makars*	8x32 R	Bk.33-1
St Andrews Links	3x40 S	Lft.
The Montgomeries' Rant*†	8x32 R	Bk.10-1
~Interval~		
Just as I was in the Morning*	6x40 J	Bk.19-3
Auld Lang Syne*	8x32 S	Bk.27-12
A Jig for the 50th	8x32 J	Golden Ghillies
Let's Have a Ceilidh*	4x32 R	Glasgow Assembly
Mrs. Hamilton of Eaglemount*	3x40 S	Golden Ghillies
Memory Lane*	8x32 R	Ena Smith, Memory L.
~ Extras~		
Falconer Hall	4x48 J	SD Archives
MacDonald of the Isles	3x32 S	2nd Carnforth
Clydeside Lassies	6x32 R	Misc.1

* Tartan Ball dances

† Dances that will be briefed only.

50th Anniversary Dances

Jean Hamilton explains the background to dances of special significance in the Monthly Dance program.

The Grants' New Rant – Strathspey devised by Roy Goldring and published in 15 Social Dances.

Titled *The New Rant* to distinguish it from the reel *Grants' Rant* in book 12, Roy Goldring presented this strathspey to his friends, David and Betty Grant, for their Golden Wedding in August 1997.

David was Chair of the Toronto Branch from 1975 to 1977 when membership was over one thousand. He and Betty worked tirelessly to promote Scottish Country dancing. They were honoured guests at the CNE for the Scottish World Festival where massed Scottish Country Dancing was presented for the second time, with David as Chairman and Bob Millar as coordinator.

David and Betty were annual participants in the RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews, where they met Roy and Doreen Goldring and became fast friends. The Grants were joint recipients of the Scroll of Honour for their contribution to Scottish Country dancing.

St. Andrews Links – Strathspey devised by Georgina Finlay

Georgina was born in St. Andrews and, like her late husband, Tom, is an avid golfer who has often tested her skill on the famous golf course. Georgina, a recent recipient of the Scroll of Honour, is well known for her instruction of young people in the art and joy of Scottish Country dancing. She formed the Weston Adult Group in 1955 and a children's class in 1960. Currently she teaches Old Time Dancing and continues to travel to St. Andrews during the Summer School.

A Jig for the 50th – Jig devised by Betty and David Grant

After Betty's death, David completed this dance based on ideas Betty had noted for further development. It was awarded Honourable Mention in the 50th Anniversary Competition.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? *Balquhiddier Strathspey*

Pronounce it incorrectly as Bal-kw-iddier, and you may have to be removed from the set and suffer a five-minute penalty by sitting out the next two dances. The correct pronunciation is Bal-wh-iddier. From the Gaelic *Both Chuidir*, the village of Balquhiddier is to be found at the head of Loch Voil in the rugged Trossachs area, just off the A84 as you travel north from Stirling via Callander. And while often spelled on dance programs without the "h", the Ordnance Survey folks seem to have it correct on their maps.

Originally, it was Clan MacLaren territory, until they were ousted by the MacGregors a few hundred years ago. Now! Whom do you know as the most infamous MacGregor in Scottish history? Why, it is Rob Roy, of course! A staunch supporter of the Jacobite cause, he was very much "front & centre" in the 1715 Rebellion. Unfortunate circumstances caused him and his clansmen to become cattle thieves throughout the Trossachs. For greater story detail, check out the movie *Rob Roy* in which Hollywood featured an Irishman (ouch!) named Liam Neeson.

Rob Roy MacGregor died in Balquhiddier in 1734 at around the age of 64. His grave, together with his wife's and children's, is located in the local kirkyard. The headstone is marked defiantly with the words "MacGregor Despite Them".

There are other dances celebrating beautiful Balquhiddier. (*The Braes of...* and *A Wedding in...*). However, the *Balquhiddier Strathspey* (RSCDS Book 24, issued 1968) remains one of my favourites and is a welcome addition to the December Monthly Dance.



The graves of Rob Roy and his family are found in the Balquhiddier Kirkyard. The name MacGregor was once banned in Scotland.

Demo Pool: 2008 Practices

Sundays, February 10 & March 9 from 1 - 2 p.m. and Sunday April 13 from 2-4 p.m. have been added to the schedule of Demo Pool practices at Broadlands.

Contact Deirdre MacCuish Bark at barkd@rogers.com or 905-822-1707.

... Barry Pipes

Board of Directors

Director-at-Large: Special Events

Deirdre MacCuish Bark



My parents participated in Country Dancing in Edinburgh when I was young, mainly in conjunction with the various Highland Balls, and I have several early editions of dance books that belonged

to my father. I was initially attracted to SCD when we were living in Inverness and our Girl Guide Company decided to compete in the Inverness Music Festival, the same year as the publication of Book 20. The Guides sang in Gaelic in that Festival, the words taught by my father who was a native speaker.

No SCD was forthcoming in either my Edinburgh Boarding School or Teacher Training College, so it was not until we had been in Canada for 18 months with 4 small children that I found SCD again, dancing as much as possible over the next 20 years. I gained my Teacher's Certificate in 2001 and dance and teach in various parts of North America, serving on several Toronto and TAC committees.

I also find time to indulge in genealogy and collecting children's books. Four generations of booksellers, printers, and librarians have left their mark!

Tartan Ball 2008

This is the highlight event in the Toronto Association calendar. We'll enjoy dance, music, and an excellent meal in the company of friends, old and new.



Salad: Tender baby Greens, Mandarin Segments, Ginger candied Pecans, Grape tomatoes, Passion Fruit Vinaigrette.

Entree: Spinach & Boursin Cheese Stuffed Free Range Chicken Breast, Caramelized Sweet Potatoes, Winter Vegetable Medley.

Dessert: Passion Fruit Cheesecake, Seasonal Berry Compote Egnog Crème Anglaise, Cognac Ice Cream.

If you have any dietary concerns, please mark them on your registration.

Notes from the November Monthly Dance

A big thank you to the participating host groups, St. Andrew's of Brampton, Hillcrest, and South Simcoe, and also for the excellent briefing by May Divers, Jean Noble, and Paul Maloney.

There was free draw for two pairs of tickets for the upcoming Celtic Christmas Concert, courtesy of Peter Ian McCutcheon. Winners were Ruth Taylor of Brockville and Theresa Malek of Toronto.

The Trivia Question was won by Deirdre MacCuish Bark, who knew that Irene Bennett, our Guest of Honour at the Tartan Ball, is currently the Chair of the RSCDS in Edinburgh. I would like to see more people participate in the Trivia Contest. Out of 130 attending the dance, only 21 submitted entries. The entry forms are at the sign-in desk and the questions are not difficult. The prize is a voucher for admittance to any upcoming Monthly Dance.

A man's woollen sweater and a number of trays were left behind after the dance. They can be picked up at the December dance.

A reminder that the December 15 dance is Family Night, music is by Don Bartlett, and dancing starts at 7:30 p.m.

... Forbes Duncan

Dancing in the Castles - Scotland 2007



The video ended with yet another fire at the castle, leaving us wondering what was left of it! Then the screen slipped up to the ceiling, the drapes opened, and there sat Urquhart Castle picture perfect in all its glory. This was one of many castle sites for the roaming Toronto dancers to dance in. Yes, we danced in the castle grounds and in Grant's Tower where we danced *Grant's Reel*.

Stirling, Edinburgh, Inverary, Dunvegan, Eilean Donan were all castles on our itinerary, and dance we did at most of them. There were even castle ruins to dance in such as Duntulinn Castle on the Isle of Skye (a little on the windy side). We didn't limit ourselves to castles, however. We danced in the Glencoe visitor centre, on the Rogie Falls suspension bridge (and what else could one dance there but *The Falls of Rogie*), in the parking lot on the way to Castle Campbell, and at Fort George. Our amazing

coach driver Elwyn Jones took the coach in places that I wouldn't have tried driving my station wagon.

Our first dance was Rest and Be Thankful which we danced at ... *Rest and Be Thankful*, aptly named when you were in the presence of such gorgeous scenery. Naturally there had to be a distillery on the tour—we are talking Scotland now—and yes, we danced in the visitor centre at the Glenfarclas Distillery. Something tells me it was after the tasting!

Our final dance was at Newport where we joined the Dundee group who had a live band, a lovely Scottish meal (steak pie anyone?) and do those folks know how to bur!

It was a wonderful trip, well planned by Carole Skinner and Stewart Bennett. Thank you...it is a forever happy memory.

... Carolyn Watt



First Branch Award

Dianne Lask was presented with Toronto's first RSCDS Branch Award at the Monthly Dance in November. It was awarded for her many contributions to the Toronto Association. Below, is a letter (edited) Dianne sent to Jane.

Many thanks for my Branch Award.

When I was first diagnosed with lung cancer, May 30, 2005, I asked May Macfarlane to devise a dance for me. She presented it to me the next day. Shortly thereafter, I attended one of her Tayside morning classes where we danced it for the first time. That July, at Trinity, Ian McHaffie had it on his programme. It's a dance I love, not only because of its name, but also for the formations, and, of course, its deviser.

I am so honoured to have been chosen for this award.

Two years ago, I had half a lung and four lymph nodes removed. Now the cancer has spread.

Most people think I'm silly dancing three nights a week and Sunday afternoons, but Scottish Country Dancing is my therapy. I'm with people I love, doing what I want to do. It keeps me happy.

Thanks so much to the demo dancers, too. You did a wonderful job.



Anniversary Mementoes

50 years is something to celebrate. To remind you of this special year, we have numerous 50th anniversary items for sale: magnetic pins, water bottles, clip boards, teddy bears and more (c/o Vicky Zeltins at zeltvic@idirect.com 416.489.8725), not to mention the cookbook (c/o Theresa Malek), the *Golden Ghillies* dance book and the 50th Anniversary book (c/o Jane Robinson: janer1@sympatico.ca 416.463.5016).



Letters to the Editor

From Retirement To Rejuvenation

Edited from a letter submitted by Jennifer and Graham Bentley

In recent years, with retirement creeping up on us, we spoke many times of what we would do with all of the free time we would have. We expected to spend most of our time continuing to look after our grandchildren but we knew we should find something that we could enjoy together.

We sat for hours talking about different hobbies and then we remembered the fun we had had in 1989 when we had taken Scottish Country Dance classes with Isabel Macpherson. Our decision was made.

Joining the Toronto Branch of the RSCDS has been one of the best experiences of our lives. We have been so very fortunate. We have made some wonderful friends and have found a social life that we would never before have even considered. Dancing has consumed our lives – our daughters will often joke that they have to make an appointment with us to get together now, rather than just drop in knowing that we would always be home.

We would like all of those who have helped us this past year to know how much we appreciate their time and patience. We are so very grateful for the advice given from the many experienced dancers who have assisted us and offered their input – it is graciously received.

We look forward to many years of dancing, learning new techniques, and continuing to enjoy the fellowship of the RSCDS.

From Dorothy Wilson in New Zealand

Thank you for your interesting October Newsletter. Coincidentally, I had *Rest and Be Thankful* on my Club programme recently. It is a favourite, and I give the “real” meaning of the title, not the one they often assume! I learn from your letter all sorts of information even though it is years since I danced in Toronto.

Auckland Region is at the end of a very busy year celebrating its 50th Anniversary. I recently returned from Labour Weekend School where there were 16+ sets on the floor for the Saturday Ball, and we had a wonderful Anniversary Dinner on the Sunday evening. This Weekend School was the culmination of a series of events throughout the year. A group of the dancers is now planning a trip to St Andrews Summer School in 2008.

Now we set our sights on Summer School here in Wellington.

From Newmarket High School

From the staff and students of the Newmarket High School class who prepare your Set&Link newsletter for mailing. The students collate, staple and fold the newsletter, and stuff, seal, address and stamp the envelopes. They use the money earned for class trips.

Thank you for the opportunity to do the Newsletter for you again. This year, we have eight students in our class who all have a role in the preparation of your monthly newsletter.

Some of the activities we have been able to do this semester are: lunch at Swiss Chalet, bowling, snack at Tim Hortons, a trip to the Science Centre and a trip to the Royal Ontario Museum.

We would like to wish you all happy holidays!



Winter Association Classes

Beat the winter blahs! Come to an Association class to hone your dancing skills, enjoy the music, and make new friends.

St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave., 2 minutes from Lawrence subway.

LEVEL 1: Basic level for inexperienced dancers on Mondays, Jan. 7 - Mar. 10, inclusive, from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Ave., 7 minute walk from Runnymede station.

LEVEL 1: Wednesdays, Jan. 9 - March 12, inclusive, from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

LEVEL 3: Advanced level for experienced dancers on Thursdays*, Jan. 10 - Mar. 20 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave., 2 minutes from Chester station

LEVELS 1 & 2: Thursdays*, Jan. 10 - Mar. 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd., North York,

LEVEL 4**: Sundays, Jan. 13 - Mar. 16, 2-4 p.m. (Includes Feb. 17 after the Tartan Ball)

Notes:

* NO BRANCH CLASSES FEBRUARY 14 – On Thursday, Feb. 14, Irene Bennett, Chair of RSCDS, and Guest of Honour at the Tartan Ball, will teach a special evening class. Trinity group has kindly agreed to let us use its class time and wonderful Seeley Hall for this. Association classes are cancelled that evening so everyone will can come.

**Jean Noble will teach the Level IV Advanced Class on Sunday afternoons at Broadlands Community Centre. She will determine if any dancer needs more practice before joining this class. Dancers must have solid knowledge of the following:

1. Allemande (for three and four couples)
2. Promenade (for two and four couples)
3. Promenade for two or three couples followed by cast off for first
4. Petronella setting (in strathspey, reel or jig)
5. Ladies' chain; half ladies' chain
6. Set to corners
7. Set to and turn corners
8. Set to corners and partner
9. Double figures of eight
10. Double triangles
11. Half reels of three; half reels of four
12. Six bar reels of three with correct entries and from all positions
13. Diagonal reels of four; half diagonal reels of four
14. Poussette right round (strathspey); half poussette (strathspey)
15. The knot (for two or three couples)
16. The rondel
17. Corners chain
18. Four hands across (3 bars), back (3 bars), cast off
19. Grand chain (3 couples)
20. Set and link

Classes run for 10 weeks. Cost is \$80 (GST included). Cheques preferred, payable to RSCDS Toronto. For information on all classes, contact Alice Chase 416-410-7078 (leave a message) chase_al@hotmail.com



Passport Issues

We are very pleased to recognize sponsors for our 50th Passport programme.

You'll recall the Duke of York pub on Prince Arthur was our first sponsor, offering dinner for two. Did you know the pub is decorated with framed bagpipe lessons – of Peter Cotton of Trinity and St Clement's?

Darren Purse of Cairngorm Scottish Imports on Avenue Road has also stepped forward.

Darren says, "I would really like to send a clear message to all your members that Cairngorm Scottish Imports support Royal Scottish Country Dancers within Ontario. With that in mind, we offer as part of your 50th celebration:

A custom-made Gents Kilt 8 Yard Hand Sewn & Flashes, Tartan of choice, Weight of choice & Style of choice OR a custom-made Ladies Evening Kilt in Tartan of choice with matching Sash."

Through the good graces of Al Pollard of Woodglen, we have word from Scottish Development Agency that Hugh Boyle of Zoom Airlines has offered return tickets to Glasgow. This is subject to confirmation, and some restrictions apply – more details next month.

So, dancers, make sure you have a valid passport (travel document) – and fill out your 50th Dance Passport: attend at least 50 dance events in our 50th year. Remember to *sign in for each event, and pick up your sticker*. We'll

strengthen our organization and we'll all have a great time.



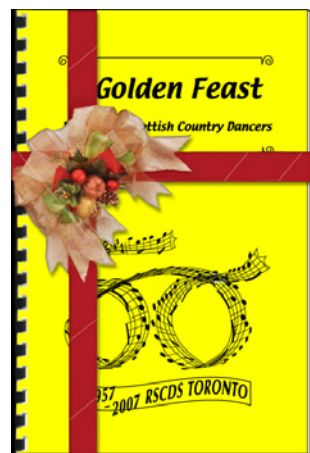
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50th Anniversary Cookbook

The RSCDS Cookbook is now on sale for only \$10. Be sure to pick one up at the December Monthly Dance or give Theresa a call and she will do her best to get them out to you. They make great Stocking Stuffers and Santa will love you for helping to make Christmas extra special.

Theresa Malek 416-535-4447 or theresamalek@rogers.com



Upcoming Events

NEAR

DEC. 10, 2007. Scarborough Christmas Dinner Dance will be held in Q-SSIS Banquet Hall, 3474 Kingston Road, Scarborough. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Tickets \$40. Call Margaret at 416-283-4790.



DEC. 12, 2007. Glenview Christmas Dance. 8–10:30 p.m. at Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Ave. Music by Fred Moyes. Tickets at the door: \$15; students under 18: \$5. Dance followed by finger food buffet. Contact Graeme Jones, 416 925-5126.



DEC. 14, 2007. Erin Mills' Christmas Dance will be held at 8 p.m. at Cooksville United Church. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Tickets/Crib \$18 each. For information and tickets contact the Hamiltons 905 566-9599.



DEC. 31, 2007. Erin Mills Hogmanay Dinner and Dance at Clarke Hall. Port Credit, Mississauga. Dance to Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Tickets \$80. Contact Keith R Bark 905-822-1707 barkk@rogers.com



DEC. 31, 2007. Glenview Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh, 8–12:30 a.m. at Rosedale Presby. Church, 129 Mount Pleasant Rd. (South Drive and Mount Pleasant Rd.) Music by Fred Moyes. Dance followed by finger food buffet and ceilidh. Tickets, \$15. Contact Ian Clunie, 416 486-6582.



Let's Have a Ceilidh!

March 15, 2008



We are looking for singers, musicians, dancers, and skits with a mix of serious and spoof items. The Special

Events committee is hosting a Hidden Talent/Ceilidh Night. Here dancers can showcase their other entertainment skills.

The cost will be \$10, location to be announced.

Think about what you could contribute, and contact Theresa Malek (416) 535-4447 theresamalek@rogers.com

DEC. 31, 2007. Highlands of Durham Hogmanay at Latcham Centre in downtown Port Perry. All types of dancing, including Scottish Country. Midnight Buffet. Tickets \$25 Contact: Marjorie Mason 905 649-3532 mmason@bellnet.ca or Stewart Bennett 905 985-6573 stewart@theweetartanshop.com

JAN. 26, 2008. Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance at Scugog Community Centre, Port Perry. Traditional roast beef dinner, musical entertainment by Claidhmor, ceilidh and Scottish Country dancing. Tickets \$50. Contact: Marjorie Mason 905 649-3532 mmason@bellnet.ca or Stewart Bennett 905 985-6573 stewart@theweetartanshop.com

FEB. 9, 2008. South Simcoe Valentine Workshop & Afternoon Tea Dance will be held 9.00 am - 3 pm at Knox Church Hall, 180 King St. S., Alliston. Teachers are Elizabeth McDonald, London, and Keith Bark, Mississauga. \$15 per person (includes refreshments, lunch, and afternoon tea. Contact David Wilson dproto@sympatico.ca

FAR

FEB. 29, MARCH 1-2, 2008. Belleville Scottish Country Dancers' Workshop and Ball with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Teachers: To be announced. Contact Bill and Jan Cunningham, 613-965-4212 or Michael and Linda McCarey, lmccarey@sympatico.ca or 613-967-1827

APRIL 18-20, 2008. Ottawa Branch Workshop and Ball Weekend with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Teachers: Jean Noble, Toronto; Mary Murray, Vancouver; Ian Souter, Hamilton. Contact Bill Low lowbd@rogers.com or Katie Shaw, kmkbsshaw@rogers.com

MAY 2-4, 2008. Youth Weekend. RSCDS Toronto invites young dancers from all over North America to a weekend of Scottish Country Dancing at beautiful Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. There will be a Friday evening Welcome Dance, classes Saturday, a Saturday evening dance, and classes Sunday morning. Teachers are Cathy Bertics from California, Rebecca Roman from Buffalo, and Colin Philip from Toronto. Live music by Fred Moyes. Contact Deirdre Bark, 905-822-1707. barkd@rogers.com

Encore!

By popular demand, The Festival of Dance is back! Social Groups, Branch Classes and Demo groups will "showcase" their favourite dance(s). Saturday, April 5, 2008 at St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave. More information to come. Contact Deirdre Bark 905-822-1707 barkd@rogers.com



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notice . . .

Please send submissions to carolewbell@sympatico.ca. Deadline for January is December 10.