

RSCDS SET & LINK

TORONTO ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2007



Chair's Message



I am honoured to be the new Chair of the Toronto Association. I am also grateful that all the members of the Board

have stayed on. The new face we welcome is our Vice Chair, James Graham, who returns to the Board after an absence of several years. I look forward to working with this excellent group to provide you with an eventful year of dancing. Many thanks to Ian Paterson for his years on the Board, especially as Chair. I am sure he will miss our meetings, but we will keep him involved.

Another wonderful dancing year is drawing to a close. Do finish it off by coming to Dancing in the Park every Tuesday from May 29 to June 26 at 7 p.m. in Edwards' Gardens. Also remember there is summer dancing at Trinity on Thursdays, plus a few special events around the area.

We are preparing for our 50th Anniversary Year. Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of events for next year. Please encourage all the dancers you know to support these events. For the Gala on September 15, we would love to have everyone who ever danced in Toronto attend either the afternoon reception or evening dance or both. The only way those who no longer dance or receive the newsletter can know of events is if you tell them. (Perhaps you might also offer them a drive or a bed!)

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board or committees to offer comments or suggestions.

Enjoy the summer.

May Macfarlane is Retiring

by Dianne Lask



May Macfarlane with the Fallingbrook SCD group.

May Macfarlane was introduced to Scottish Country Dancing at school and Girl Guides in Perth, Scotland. She emigrated to Canada in 1952 and a few years later learned that classes in Scottish Country Dancing were being held in Toronto. She attended classes taught by Ann Sinclair at the Pape Community Centre and by Marion Staden at the White Heather social group. She enrolled in Branch technique classes, workshops, summer school in St. Andrews, Scotland, and attended yearly Tartan Balls. May received her Preliminary Teacher's Certificate in 1983 and her Full Teacher's Certificate in 1985.

She served on the RSCDS Toronto Branch Executive Committee: Newsletter and Publications Secretary, 1990 - 1991; Vice-Chairman 1996 - 1997; Chairman 1997 - 1999; Past-Chairman 1999 - 2000.

In 1983, May began the Tayside Dancers and in 1984 began a second Tayside group in the mornings for seniors. She taught a seniors' group at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse and began teaching the Fallingbrook group in 1987. From 1992 - 1994, she taught Level Two Toronto Branch classes and the St. Mark's group from 2002 - 2006. May served on the Teachers' Committee, was Chairman of TATA, chaired the first Toronto Branch Music Workshop, served on several Toronto Branch Workshop committees and on the Toronto Branch Geneva Park committee in 1997.

May's dancers have participated in demonstrations at seniors' homes, churches, shopping centres and Burns' dinners, among others. They also danced in the 512-Some at the Toronto International Festival Tattoo held at the CNE in 1991, and at SkyDome in 1993.

May has devised dozens of dances and published three dance books (1998, 2003, and in 2006). Often, her dances commemorate friends. Such dances include: *Keeper of the Purse* for Chris Smithers, treasurer of Tayside; *Silver Memories* for the 25th wedding anniversary of Sandra and Jim Russell; *Happy 50th Anniversary* for May and Sidney Richardson's 50th; *The Happy Anniversary Jig* for Esther and Bill Goodfellow's 30th; and *Dianne's Smile* for me, Dianne Lask. To quote some of our dancers:

"May has a friendly approach; she welcomes new dancers; is kind and gentle; has the patience of Job, she inspires me; she is never rattled; May has a lovely smile." May is truly our Lady of Dance.



May Macfarlane & Dianne Lask

Awards for Outstanding Volunteers

Gordon Hamilton

Prior to the AGM on April 28, 2007, Association Chair Ian Paterson presented four awards recognizing the contributions of outstanding volunteers:

Catherine Cunningham

Cathie served on the Branch Executive for a number of years, during which time she organized Children's Gala Day. She took on the responsibility of archivist until recently, when the archives were relocated to York University. We hear from York that Cathie did a wonderful job of keeping our records straight and in excellent order.



Catherine Cunningham, Barry Pipes, Jean Hamilton and Dianne Lask with certificates.

Barry Pipes

Barry Pipes is a keen ambassador for RSCDS events and is very active within the Petronella group, organizing demonstrations for local activities. He is knowledgeable about many things Scottish which he shares with the Toronto Association members through *Set & Link* in a regular column.

Barry has single-handedly increased our membership by encouraging non-member dancers to join and forwarding their membership information. He has served on the Executive Committee, was actively involved with Dancing in the Park and was a member of other committees including Membership.

Jean Hamilton

Jean's volunteer involvement in the organisation and as teacher at Erin Mills over the last twenty-five years is well known. She organized the Ceilidh Demonstration Group that entertained at various locations throughout the GTA. She worked with the committee for the Erin Mills Hogmanay dance for 25 years, was one of the group of teachers who started the West Toronto Workshop, and has been actively involved in the West Toronto Ball.

She has supported local musicians and invited out-of-town teachers to teach her Friday night class. She has supported all Branch/Association functions, taught Branch classes, served on the teachers' panel, taught at out-of-town locations, and has been invited to prepare monthly dance programmes, including those for our 50th Anniversary year.

Dianne Lask

For many years Dianne volunteered on the Executive Committee and was a most diligent convenor of the Monthly Dance.

She is treasurer of the Fallingbrook SCD social group and participates in demonstrations for the Toronto Association. She volunteered for a couple of years at Eastminster levels 1 and 2 classes. Very regular and reliable in attendance, she danced when required if there were odd numbers in class and acted as Association liaison with level 2. Georgina Finlay reported how pleased she was with the proofreading Dianne did for Georgina's crib sheets. She will likely recommend Dianne to the Teachers' Panel to continue that work with the next program deviser.

Rod Nicoll

We extend sympathy to Muriel and the Nicoll family on the death of Rod Nicoll, who passed away in mid-May. Rod was a 2006 recipient of the Volunteer Award and a long-standing member of RSCDS Toronto. The November 2005 issue of *Set&Link* had an article about Rod's love of dancing, and the dance, *The Dundee Wheeler*, devised for him by daughter Carole Skinner on the occasion of his 70th birthday.



Letter to the Editor

Following is a letter from the students of Room 233 at Newmarket High School. They have the job of folding and stuffing your newsletter for distribution.

Dear RSCDS Membership:

Thank you for letting us put together your monthly newsletter. This helped us to go the Swiss Chalet and Tim Horton's. We also had Yogen Früz and on Friday we are having a BBQ! We really enjoyed going to the zoo and watching the High School Musical. We are also to go bowling and swimming. In class we made pancakes, nachos and cheese, and spaghetti and salad.

...Your friends from Room 233



Were You There?

A video of the **Festival of the Dance** is online at www.insidetoronto.com

Choose a region (ie. North York), find 'video', click on it. Scroll through the list of videos to find "All the Right Moves".



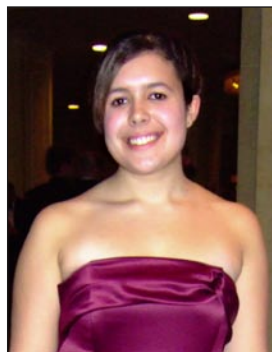
Woodglen Dancers say "Thank you!" to all who attended our Scottish Country Tea. It was a fun, successful event. A cheque for \$800 was sent to RSCDS Toronto to pay for live music for the Youth Ball (another fun event). Above: John Clark serves Nori Voght & Eleanor Reyes an exotic blend.

Sarah Norris Awarded Junior Scholarship

Sarah Norris, a dancer with the Rosedale Children's Group, has been awarded the "Junior Scholarship" to attend Summer School in St Andrews, Scotland this year. The Scholarship is awarded by RSCDS Scotland to dancers aged 16-20 and will cover some of Sarah's expenses in attending Summer School.

Sarah has been with the Rosedale Saturday morning group for the last 4 years. She is an accomplished dancer who dances on the Rosedale demonstration team, and this year she joined the Toronto Branch Demo Team. Sarah enjoys attending the monthly dances and this year she went to the St Andrew's Ball for the first time.

Sarah will attend St. Andrews Summer School with three of her fellow dancers, Eleanor Bishop, Samantha Mephram and Gavin Keachie. Congratulations Sarah!



Sarah, at the 2006 St. Andrew's Ball

... Moira Korus

Request For Nominations For the Scroll of Honour



The Society's Scroll of Honour is only awarded to a limited number of people and is given for outstanding services. Nominees must be supported by a detailed case, which should cover outstanding service and loyalty to the Society; preserving the standards and traditions of Scottish Country Dancing; and encouraging in others knowledge and enjoyment of Scotland's heritage of dance and music. Long service in the Society is taken into consideration but might not, in itself, merit the Scroll. If there's someone you think should be nominated, consult the Branch Secretary for the requirements of the process. Nominations are only considered if made from a Branch. Nominations should be addressed to Brenda Hurst, Secretary of the Toronto Association, and should be received by December 1, 2007.



50th Anniversary Celebrations

Gala Event: Sept 15, 2007

TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW!

Please help us contact all former Toronto dancers! Either let them know yourself or send their addresses to Donald Holmes at 416-226-6081 deholmes@sympatico.ca

Challenge To All Members

RSCDS Toronto challenges you to participate in 50 Scottish Country dance events in the 2007-2008 year. (Classes count.) Passports will be available this fall. Count yourself in!

Thank you...

...from the Youth Committee



On behalf of the Youth Committee I extend our thanks to all the wonderful people who gave up a considerable amount of time to make our 3rd Youth Ball a great event.

Thanks also Blair & Sandra Scott for their great work in the kitchen, and to Dennis Ridley for taking photos.

We couldn't have done it without you.
... Margaret Anne Hunter

...to the Stoooges

The candidates express their thanks to those people who stooaged at the Teacher Candidate exams at Rosedale Presbyterian Church in April. Special thanks also to Marie Duncan, Carole Bell and Muriel Nicoll who kept us fed and watered during the exam evenings.



... Jean Noble

Demo Pool Practices

There will be practices for Demo Pool Dancers at Broadlands Community Centre Sunday, September 9 and Sunday, September 23, 2007, from 2:00 to 4 p.m.

The Demo Pool is open to all Toronto members. You are asked to learn and dance a core of 17 dances, which are used in demonstrations in and around Toronto. There are roughly 6 practices per year and you should attend as many as you can. This is for fun, but can be good dancing as well. Interested dancers, contact Deirdre MacCuish Bark at barkd@rogers.com 905-822-1707 and come to the September practices.

Dancing in the Park Practice



Tayside invites you to come and learn the "Dancing in the Park" programme. Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. 'til noon, at Westview Presby.

Church, 233 Westview Blvd., East York. Cost is \$3, which includes coffee and cookies. Contact May Macfarlane 416-757-7846 or maymac1@sympatico.ca

Summer Dancing at Trinity

Trinity Scottish Country Dance Group will once again host Scottish Country Dancing through the summer, with guest teachers. Join us on Thursdays from June 21 to August 9 at 8 p.m. 'til 10 in Seeley Hall, Trinity College, 6 Hoskin Avenue, University of Toronto. More info

on the Trinity web site: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/barber.malcolmson/>

Dance Books

Do you find you are missing some of the RSCDS Dance Books? Jane Robinson has a supply for sale at a good price. Call 416-463-5016 or janer1@sympatico.ca

West Toronto Ball

Saturday, May 12, at Rameses Shrine Temple on Keele Street in North York was the occasion of the 38th annual West Toronto Ball. It was a wonderful evening of food, fellowship and dancing with just under 240 in attendance. There was a new caterer this year, and the efficiency of the serving staff and the re-arrangement of the tables instituted last year combined to ensure that everyone's meal was served smoothly and efficiently. Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent performed in their usual fine manner, and the satisfaction of the dancers with the programme was evidenced by the large number of participants still present and on the floor at the end of the evening. . . . *Steve Coombs*

David Arikado: "I am very grateful"

David Arikado (right), an enthusiastic member of RSCDS for over 50 years, danced with John & Margaret Christie in Scarborough, and with other groups. David took beautiful photographs of many past activities, including Gala Days, Children's Festivals, and the Tartan Ball. Some of his photos will appear in the 50th Anniversary Book. Below, is a letter David recently sent to Margaret and John Christie.



David Arikado, enthusiastic dancer and fine photographer

Dear Margaret and John,

Over 2 1/2 year I have missed news of Scottish Country Dance since I moved into Yee Hong geriatric. Total of 375 Chinese and 25 Japanese resident. They take good care of us.

In a way, using wheel chair and lost way of conversation. Over fifty years of Scottish Country Dancing kept me alive for 93 years. I am very grateful for many people I dance with and your superb teaching. I send \$1000 donation to Toronto Scottish Country Dance Society Headquarter.

Your sincerely, David Arikado.

{Thank you, David. We'll make sure you get a newsletter from now on! — Editor}.

Grand Ceilidh at The Granite Club

RSCDS Toronto is expanding its relationships with other groups involved in areas of Scottish culture. To this end, we are jointly participating in this event at the prestigious Granite Club. (More info in the newsletter insert.) The Grand Ceilidh happens the day before our 50th Anniversary Gala – it will be a memorable weekend, indeed!

When: Friday, Sept. 14, 2007

Time 6 p.m.

Cost: \$70, includes dinner (salmon or roast beef)

Come and enjoy the Band of the 48th Highlanders; a wonderful fiddler, 18-year-old Stefanie Hutka; lyric tenors from the Burns Club: David Campbell and Rev. Malcolm Sinclair; storytellers: Malcolm Sinclair and Gordon Hepburn; lots of dancing (to the 48th), plus audience participation ceilidh dances. Free practices on the two Saturdays prior to the event.

Calvin Celebrates 50 Years of Dancing

On May 8, 2007 the Calvin Scottish Country Dance Group held its 50th Anniversary Dance Party. This was a very successful event, well supported by the Toronto Association Board and many of the Social Groups. It was a great night of partying and socializing, and we danced to the wonderful music of Don Bartlett.

Many thanks to all who attended (over 100!), to the Calvin Committee, to the ladies of Calvin who helped set out the food, and to those who did the decorations.

Speeches were made by the Reverend Ian MacDonald, minister of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Douglas Smith, and Isabelle MacPherson, who recognized the late Edgar Hanson for his donation to the Calvin Group that made the evening possible. . . . *Frances Gray*



Cutting the cake

Left to right:

Founding members of Calvin SCD:

Ed Mason, Margaret Birnie and Forbes Brown, with Douglas Smith, Chairman of the Calvin Group, cutting the cake on the occasion of Calvin's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

What's in a Name? *Bratach Bana*

Usually, we think of a white flag as a symbol of surrender. So it might be a little confusing to know that *Bratach Bana* is the Gaelic for "White Banner(s)".

The sea-faring Gaelic song by that name, more fully "The Son of the Earl of the White Banners", includes neither any apparent indications of "surrender" nor who exactly the Earl of the White Banners was. Lost in the mists of time perhaps!

Another *Bratach Bana* legend makes a connection with the Isle of Skye's Dunvegan Castle, in which there is a tattered and torn banner referred to as the "Fairy Flag". Although certainly not white, the "Fairy Flag" has a mystique going back centuries. For those interested in Gaelic legend, it's worth doing a bit of Google research on the topic, but my advisor on matters Gaelic believes that the "Fairy Flag" story has nothing to do with *Bratach Bana*.

One might wonder what dance deviser John Drewry would think, for it was he who created that wonderful SCD reel. While it is an absolute joy to perform, new dancers who attempt *Bratach Bana* with trepidation might feel like "surrendering" well before they reach its conclusion. . . . *Barry Pipes*



Dunvegan Castle, the ancestral home of Clan MacLeod for almost 800 years, was once surrounded by salt water.

Wi' 100 Dancers, an' a', an' a'!

100 or more dancers are needed to participate in the mass demonstration at the Scottish Festival at Couchiching Beach in Orillia on Saturday, July 21. Come as a set, couple or individual. Contact Lindaa@osoinc.com

RSCDS Winter School 2008

In the beautiful Scottish Highlands lies the Victorian village of Pitlochry. Here, every year at the end of February, the RSCDS holds Winter School.

Pitlochry, located on the river Tummel, is ideal for shopping, hiking, sightseeing, golf, and Scottish Country Dancing.

Winter School dancers are accommodated in the Atholl Palace Hotel. Originally built for hydropathic cures where you could come and "take the waters", it is now a year-round resort and convention centre.



The Atholl Palace Hotel, located in the Scottish Highlands in Pitlochry, overlooks the town and wooded parkland.

The School starts on Thursday with registration in the afternoon followed by a wine reception and a social dance in the evening. It ends with a Ball on Monday at Blair Castle, the historic home of the Dukes of Atholl.

Classes are held every morning with three levels: Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced. The afternoons are 'free time' but there are events such as a talk on music or the history of Highland Dress. Every evening there is a social dance.

Winter School 2008 will be held in Pitlochry, February 21-26. Application forms will be available to download from the RSCDS Edinburgh website on Monday, June 25 from noon, local time. Applications will close on Friday, July 20 but are not processed until September.

Winter School is a unique experience. The group is small and participants get to know one another quickly. Everyone is very friendly and makes newcomers feel at home. It is an experience not to be missed. The School fills up very quickly so if you are interested, get your applications in. . . . *Douglas Worling*

Upcoming Events

NEAR

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007. **Dancing in the Park** with the St. Catharines Branch of the RSCDS on Tuesday evenings in June, from 7:30 to dusk. in the pavilion at Montebello Park, Ontario and Lake Streets, St. Catharines. \$5 per person for dancers; free for newcomers. Contact Pat Coyle, 295-1234 or patcoyle@vaxxine.com

JUNE 9, 2007. **Georgetown Highland Games** at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. Dancers who want to participate in the mass demonstration, should assemble near the main field at 11 a.m. for a practice. The demo is immediately after the opening ceremonies, around 1:15 p.m. Contact Nora Sutherland, 905-276-2602.



JUNE 25-AUG 22. **Summer Dancing at Oshawa** — easy, fun dances until 9 p.m., followed by more challenging dances. Fernhill Community Centre. Guest teachers. 7:25-9:30 p.m. Cold drinks and treats at interval. Cost \$4. Maureen Remington 905-623-1263.

SEPT. 1, 2007. **The Tartan Scramble**, a 9-hole "best ball" scramble for golfers and non-golfers, followed by dinner and dance at Calerin. \$78 for everything, \$30 if you don't golf. Contact Ian Paterson 416-346-9628 ianpat@cogeco.ca.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2007. **50th Anniversary Gala Day** at the Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele St. Afternoon: Social with tea and memorabilia. Evening: Dance with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent Tickets: Afternoon, \$20 Evening, \$50 (includes afternoon social). Contact: Dennis Ridley, 3005-38 Lee Centre Dr., Toronto, ON, M1H 3J7, 416-431-0143 or dennisridley9@hotmail.com

SEPTEMBER 29, 2007. **Guelph SCD 50th Anniversary Dance** at the Evergreen Seniors' Centre, 683 Woolwich St, Guelph at 8 p.m. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Light refreshments follow dancing. Tickets \$22 per person. Contact: Doreen Cherry, 519-822-4612 or Lou Emslie at lemslie@sympatico.ca

OCTOBER 6, 2007. **The White Heather Ball**, hosted by Highlands of Durham SCD, will be held at Trafalgar Castle School, Whitby, Ontario. See the insert with this newsletter.

OCTOBER 12-13, 2007. **RSCDS Hamilton Branch Annual Weekend** in a Burlington High School (wood floor). Teachers: Tracey Applebee, Cincinnati and Claire Collier, Hamilton. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact Cate Reid, 2227 Previn Court, Burlington, ON, L7P 4J3, caterstoall@hotmail.com or 905-332-2049

FAR

JUNE 25-29 and JULY 2-6, 2007. **Ontario School of Piping and Drumming** at St. Andrew's College, Aurora. World-class instruction for pipers and drummers of all ages. Contact 416-489-6414 or robcrabtree@sympatico.ca or kilby.sac.on.ca/ontpiping

JULY 6-14, 2007. **Pinewoods 2007** sponsored by SCDS Boston Branch. July 6-9, Session I. July 9-14, Session II. Information at www.rscdsboston.org/events-pinewoods.html

JULY 22, 2007-AUG. 19, 2007. **RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland**. Contact Brenda Hurst brenhurst@hotmail.com or 416-925-6982 or visit www.rscds.org

JULY 25-29, 2007. **International Scottish Country Dance School**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. Contact Lydia Hedge 902-827-2033.

JULY 29-AUGUST 5, 2007. **T.A.C. Summer School 2007**. Details on the T.A.C. website http://tac-rscds.org

SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2007. **Saskatchewan Branch 27th Annual Workshop, Banquet and Ball** at Kenosee Resort Hotel, Moose Mountain Provincial Park, Saskatchewan. Teachers: Keith Bark & Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Mississauga, Ontario. Musicians: Ron Krug & Ken Natrass, Winnipeg. Contact Fran Zerr, Regina Sask. 306-569-8509 afzerr@accesscomm.ca

OCTOBER 13-14, 2007. **Ottawa Valley Workshop** in Almonte, 20 minutes west of Ottawa. Teachers: Keith Bark, Fiona Miller, Ron Wallace. Musicians: Hanneke Cassel & Dave Wiesler. Contact Jody & Craig Williams, Kanata, Ontario. 613-592-2099; Fax 613-254-7247 or register@ottawadancescottish.org

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2007. **78th Annual Conference Weekend and AGM** (November 3rd) for the Royal Scottish Dance Society, Perth, Scotland. Contact Brenda Hurst 416-925-6982; brenhurst@hotmail.com

DECEMBER 28, 2007-JANUARY 6, 2008. **New Zealand Summer School**, Wellington, NZ. Information: www.rscdsnz.org.nz or contact Elaine Laidlaw at ss07@rscdsnz.org.nz

FEBRUARY 21-26, 2008. **RSCDS Winter School 2008**, Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Perthshire. Contact Jill Henderson at jill.henderson@rscds.org. See article, page 5.



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notice . . .

Please send submissions to
marianwhite@sympatico.
ca. Deadline for September
is August 10.