

JUNIOR JIG

RSCDStoronto.org We are always interested in your comments and suggestions ~ Teresa Lockhart, Editor

Art by Emily Kinsey



Children's Festival 2008

This year's Children's Festival will be held Saturday, February 23, at Westway United Church, 8 Templar Drive, in Etobicoke. Doors open at 12:30 pm and the event begins at 1:15 pm.

The Children's Festival is an opportunity for our youth groups to demonstrate what they have learned. Dancers will be grouped by age and experience. We will have teams of dancers: under 8, 8-11, 12-plus, a mixed age group with less than one year dancing experience, and a mixed age group with more than one year's experience. Dancers will be given feedback on how well they perform, and what requires attention.

We invite the adult dancing community to come out and support our youth dancers. Bring your children or grandchildren along – they will be able to join in the easy communal dances interspersed throughout the afternoon. You may be introducing them to something they too can enjoy all their life!

Audience admission is \$2 for children, \$5 for adults, \$10 for family (2 adults and up to 4 children). Children under 8 are free. . . .Moira Korus

Workshop Workout

A big *Bravo!* to all those who danced and learned from Fiona Philip and Linda Ashe at the annual Youth



Workshop at Swansea Town Hall.

Great fun was had at both the youth and the parent classes. For some of the older members of the under 10 group, the dancing was "a bit too easy," and the division of age groups was "just a little awkward." Camille Walters (lower photo, right) thought "I would have liked something more challenging. It was good too because I met some new faces." Classmate, Ella Brett-Turner (top picture), "enjoyed the snacks and timbits" and also remarked that the "class level was too easy. I couldn't

dance my best because there wasn't very much space" in the well attended under-10 group.

Pascale, Camille's older sister (in pink), joined the over-10 group and "really liked the challenge of the class and the dances taught. They were really fun." She also found "enough time before and after the dancing to meet people."

Youth Passports

Our youth dancers say "Cool!" to the Toronto RSCDS' 50th Anniversary challenge to participate in at least 25 dance events. Every time you attend a dance event, you get a sticker. Extra stickers are given for extra effort, such as volunteering an article or picture to *Junior Jig*, bringing a friend on Bring-a-Friend Days, or participating in demonstrations.

Each completed passport of 25 stickers will go into a draw at year's end. The prizes are determined by the individual youth groups, and chosen with the assistance of the youth members.



Youth Weekend East

MAY 2 - 4, 2008

RSCDS Toronto invites young dancers, ages 15 - 30, to a fabulous weekend of Scottish Country Dancing at beautiful Trent University, Peterborough, ON. Teachers are Cathy

Bertics of California; Rebecca Roman of Buffalo; & Colin Philip, Toronto. Come dance to the exciting live music of Fred Moyes. Food and accommodation are included and there will be an extensive program of social dances and classes for both beginners and more experienced dancers.

Contact Deirdre Bark, 905-822-1707, barkd@rogers.com

Dancing In St Andrews



For most of us in Scottish Country dancing, summer is a break time; a time when we rest and maybe even sleep in now and again. For Sam, Gavin, Eleanor, and me, this past summer meant the busiest week of dancing we have ever experienced.

We left Hamilton Airport on one of the hottest days of summer and, after flying through the night, arrived in cool, rainy Edinburgh, Scotland. After one night of rest, we continued on to St. Andrews, where we were to spend the next week. We settled into beautiful rooms in the university residences (photo below),

ate too much of the delicious food, and prepared ourselves for the week of intense dancing ahead.

We had Scottish Country dance classes in the



morning every day,

and we had two fabulous teachers: Jenny Greene and Grace Hill, as well as two talented musicians: Bernie Hewitt and John White. Both teachers kept us very busy, always watching our feet and our hands for technique, and you would think that by the afternoon we would be ready for a break. However, come afternoon when all the other dancers were taking advantage of the time off, the four of us decided to take part in an optional Highland dance class, taught by Joyce Anderson and accompanied by Ken Martlew on piano. And so, from our very first day, we proceeded to dance about six hours a day, plus a two-hour social dance some nights.

Even with all the dancing, we managed to find time to explore St. Andrews. We took daily walks on the pier, and



walked along the seaweed-encrusted rock at low tide, which would usually be underwater. We used one evening to take a very interesting (and spooky) historic ghost tour through the old streets, and even made ourselves sick riding all the rides at the traveling carnival that was in town.

Our week in St. Andrews flew by, but when it ended the fun wasn't over! We traveled back to Edinburgh where we did another week of sightseeing, and



even tried a bit more dancing – unfortunately the dancing was rained out. We saw all we could in Edinburgh from historical sites, such as the Castle and Holyrood Palace (the summer home

of Queen Elizabeth II), to not-so-historical sites, such as the many shops and restaurants. We even got a bit of exercise climbing Arthur's Seat (photo above), a steep volcanic hill on the outskirts of the city.

Our time in Scotland flew by and before we knew it we were home again, with tired feet, but better steps. The week of dancing was intense and tiring, but would I do it again? *In an instant!* . . . Sarah Norris, Rosedale SCD

Tax Savings

Beginning in 2007, the government of Canada introduced a non-refundable tax credit for physical fitness programs – and Scottish Country dancing qualifies! Specific requirements are:

- Eligible amounts of up to \$500 paid by parents registering a child under 16.
- On-going program with at least one session per week with a minimum of eight weeks duration.

The deduction applies to fees paid in 2007. Don't forget to ask your teacher for a receipt.



Brampton loves dancing!

A group of young Scottish Country dancers from Cardinal Newman Elementary School (photo left) participated in Education week at Lester B. Pearson Theatre in May, 2007. "This was very much a beginner's group, who worked really hard learning skip change of step and slip step, in order to dance *Roundabout* and *The Kingston Flyer*", says teacher May Divers (far right in photo). "The group has been practicing since February, 2007. They enjoy it so much they all wish to continue dancing in the 2007-2008 school year. They also hope to join fellow youth dancers at the RSCDS Toronto Children's Festival in February."