Another great dancing season is winding down for the summer. May has been a busy month. Social Groups have had their closing parties; the West Toronto Ball was a huge success; many of our dancers attended the Balls of the London and Oakville Branches; our dedicated Teacher Candidates have done their exams; and Extension Classes have prepared us for June’s evenings in the gardens. Some of us escaped to China and danced on the Great Wall and with the Hong Kong Reelers at their Closing Ball.

We also said good-bye to some old friends this May, Bobby Brown, a keen supporter of the Toronto Association, introduced beginners to Scottish music in Branch Classes, helped many teacher candidates through their exams, and transported us to greater heights of dancing through his music.

At the end of May, two Past Chairs of the Toronto Association passed away: James Kynoch (1973 to 1975) and our immediate Past Chair, and my mentor, James Graham (2009 to 2011).

James and Eileen Graham took up Scottish country dancing at the urging of their friends, Dorothy and Douglas Freer. Once bitten, they were keenly committed, learning with Grace Harris, dancing with Jeanette Todd’s Petronella Group and then with Jean Noble’s Hillcrest Group. James joined the Board again as Vice-Chair in 2007.

James brought his extensive business experience and connections to the leadership of the Toronto Association. Fiscal responsibility is essential for the on-going well-being of any group. As a Board, he challenged us to examine old and new issues objectively, to question the efficacy of what was, and to seek new and innovative solutions — all to enhance the fun and fellowship of dancing.

James was always “Sunny Jim the Cheerleader.” He took great pleasure in attending special events and occasions as well as routine social classes. How proud he was to host Isabelle MacPherson, a Scroll of Honour recipient, and Colin Mochrie and Debra McGrath at the Tartan Ball in 2010. How honoured he was to attend the Youth Ball and Children’s Workshop that year as well. Even when housebound this past year, he was always the positive force behind the Board and the eager participant when possible, chairing the April Board meeting in his home. James will be missed.

Happiness is Scottish country dancing! Take your dancing shoes along with some Bobby Brown CDs with you this summer — to Summer School(s), to Highland Games, to the beach, on picnics, on holidays... wherever fun with family and friends happens. Keep their legacy growing.

Have a safe and joyful summer.

Margaret Rieger

From the Chair

Remembering Bobby Brown

You cannot have danced in Toronto without knowing Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent band — they have been part of RSCDS Toronto since 1977. Robert Watt Brown, was born in Denny-loanhead, Scotland, in 1941. He was proud of the name Watt; one of his forebears was James Watt (1736-1819), inventor of the steam engine.

Bobby grew up in a family devoted to Scottish music. His mother, Jean Day, was known throughout Scotland as a concert soprano, often performing with Harry Lauder and Will Fyffe. His father was a fiddler, and several uncles were pipers and drummers. Uncle John Day formed one of the early dance bands. As children of a nationally known singer and a “passing fair” violinist, Bobby and his sisters all had music lessons. As a wee boy, Bobby played the mouth organ, and later the piano. He emigrated to Canada in 1957, joining his sisters Christine and Jean. Since he could only afford to buy an accordion, he learned to play it and was self-taught.

Through Jean, he met a trio of Scots musicians playing for Scottish country dancing in Hamilton. Two of these were Stan Hamilton and Bobby Frew, both new immigrants to Canada. Soon Bobby Brown was added as second accordionist.

For the next 17 years, the two Bobbys and Stan, with an evolving back-row of bass and drum players, comprised the great band known first as “The Clansman” and later as “The Flying Scotsman.” Despite a full-time career, Bobby maintained a gruelling schedule as an individual performer and a key member of one of North America’s most respected bands. This band appeared at the New York World’s Fair, Grand Bahamas hotel, numerous Scottish country dances, Burns suppers, Highland games, Celtic heritage festivals across Canada and USA, and on national television.

In the early '70s, Bobby became a full-time musician. He formed the Cape Breton Symphony Fiddlers and The Scottish Accent band and worked on stage with Scottish and Canadian performers, including: Moira Anderson, Andy Stewart, Hamish Imlach, Robin Brock, Alex Beaton, Peter Glen, John Carmichael, Billy Meek, Rita MacNeil, Edith Butler, Rankins, Ashley MacIsaac. Bobby was heard on radio and appeared on television. His recording company produced recordings of Scottish Canadian Music by various artists. The Scottish Accent and The Cape Breton Symphony recorded over 20 albums. His company leased rights to produce Scottish recordings in Canada by Jimmy Shand, Jim MacLeod, and Ron Gonnella.

When the Toronto Branch was involved in BBC Radio Scotland’s “Take the Floor” with Robbie Shepherd, Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent broadcast live from Toronto. Bobby was musician for many candidate and branch classes. Countless newcomers have experienced him as their first musician and a number of teacher candidates will recall that noisy chord when he thought they had been talking too long.

It’s been a great privilege for Toronto-area dancers to have known Bobby and enjoyed his music. He will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathy to Lisa and to Laird.

Bobby Brown: July 13, 1941 – May 3, 2011

Set & Link ~ June 2011 ~ Page 1
Dancing in the Park

Date & Time: Tuesdays, June 7, 14, & 21 – 7:00 - Dusk
Place: Edwards Gardens / Toronto Botanical Gardens
Lawrence Ave. East at Leslie
Rain Location: St. Bonaventure School (Note: Not available June 14)
Parking: Free for both locations in Edwards Gardens lot
Music: The Scottish Accent

Special Events

Scarborough’s 50th Anniversary
Monday: September 26, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.
At St Peter’s Anglican Church 776 Brimley Rd.

CALLING ALL SCARBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS...

Scarborough Scottish Country dancers are celebrating our 50th anniversary this year and we are throwing ourselves a party. If you have ever been a member of the Scarborough group, you are invited to join us.

We have lost touch with many of our former dancers so we are hoping that word-of-mouth will reach those who were the foundation of our club. If we have the time and the stamina Donald McDonald will lead us in an hour or so of the dances made dear to our hearts by the likes of John Christie.

We are fortunate to still have one of our founding members with us — Tom and Margaret Cunningham started it all in 1961 and we will acknowledge Margaret’s integral position in our club. Contacts: Jean, 416-264-4017, Garry, 416-289-7453 or Sheila, 416-298-8708.

The Toronto Workshop
Save this date – November 12, 2011

Although the dancing season is winding down, the Toronto Workshop committee is already hard at work planning the November workshop. We’ll have a complete article in the September Set & Link with full details so stay tuned. However, we want to give you a heads up about some of the new, exciting things we’re planning:

- a new venue.
- a different menu.
- a revised, easier-to-use application form.
- teachers Helen Russell, Ian Souter, Deirdre MacCuish Bark (their bios will be featured on the website closer to the day).
- information sheets to help dancers choose the right level of class to join.
- Return of the popular health session.

New Season Alerts...

Classes:
- Association Classes begin the week of September 19th.
- The usual Level 1 and Level 2 classes will be in the usual locations around Toronto, at the usual time: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- Fiona Philip will teach a Level 3 Class, beginning Sept. 22, at Swansea Town Hall.

Monthly Dance Schedule: [ Subject to confirmation of school availability.]
- October 1  •  November 12  •  December 10
- January 14  •  March 10  •  April 14  •  April 28
Royal Romance in St Andrews for Toronto Dancers

Around 2,000 people attending the Royal Wedding celebrations in St Andrews, Scotland – where Kate Middleton and Prince William met – were treated to the debut of a new Scottish country dance on April 29. Romance in St Andrews was devised by Canadian Shelley McElney (nee Gibbs) and performed by the demonstration team of the St Andrews branch of the RSCDS.

The dance was written to mark the occasion of the Royal Wedding, as well as to celebrate Shelley’s own romantic association with the town. Both she and fellow Torontonian Fiona Collinson (nee Jamison) – another member of the demonstration team – came with a group of Finlay dancers from Toronto over a decade ago to attend Summer School at St Andrews University. It was there that they met their future Scottish husbands, and eventually settled.

“It’s a three-couple strathspey representing the union of my husband Rab and me, Fiona and her husband Alex and, of course, William and Kate,” says Shelley. “It begins with a formation devised by Bob Campbell and the next eight bars represent the wedding ceremony.

“The reel of four depicts one’s journey through life, and the strathspey poussette at the end requires the couple to dance as one, with intricate footwork and a precise relationship with the other dancing couple. Like married life?” Shelley suggests.

The team also performed the jig St Andrews Fair, and the reel Mairi’s Wedding.

Along with leading the demonstration team and designing both the dance and outfits, Shelley teaches a beginners’ class, is Vice Chair of the St Andrews Branch of the RSCDS, and she maintains the branch website.

Clips of the St Andrews event appeared on nationwide TV, thanks to the numerous news crews that were in town to cover Kate and William’s own experience of ‘Romance in St Andrews’.

...Marion Finlay

Dear Editor:

On behalf of my family, I would like to say how grateful we were for the very kind support of all those Scottish Country dancers who were present to share our grief at the visitation and funeral of my late husband, Douglas Freel.

As a member of RSCDS Toronto for over 30 years, it gave me much comfort to know that, in my time of great sadness, I was surrounded by more friends than I could imagine.

Sincerely, Dorothy Freel

Dear RSCDS Membership,

Thanks so much for giving us the opportunity to prepare your newsletter for the mail every month for the past many years. We have learned a lot of new skills like folding, labeling and stamping and have enjoyed our times around the tables of the classroom getting the letter ready for you each month. We’d like to wish everyone all the best and hope you all have a great summer! Thanks again and farewell!!

The Staff and Students of N.H.S. Community Class

Dear Editor:

We have just heard that Erin Mills’ Jean Hamilton has been awarded the Scroll of Honour. Congratulations, Jean... Well deserved!

Editor: The Newsletter Committee appreciates the assistance of the students in helping to prepare Set & Link for delivery for many years.

ROMANCE IN ST ANDREWS*

A 3x32 Strathspey for 3 Couples in a 3-Couple set

Bars

1-8 1s & 2s dance the burrell
(1st M and 2nd L set advancing, ½ turn BH, pulling RS back to finish in the centre L facing up, M down while their partners dance ACW ¾ round the set to face them. All set and turn ½ BH to finish on the sidelines having changed places)

9 - 16 1s dance down for 2 NH, turn BH for 2, dance up for 2 NH, turn LH for 2 finishing facing first corners.

17 - 24 1s dance a diagonal reel of 4 with first corners, finishing on the sidelines, 1st couple acknowledge each other as they curve into place (RS back).

25-28 All three couples set & turn with both hands, 1s & 3s finishing ready for 1/2 pousette.

29-32 1s & 3s 1/2 pousette.

* Devised by Canadian Shelley McElney (nee Gibbs) and performed by the demonstration team of the St Andrews branch of the RSCDS. The dance marks the occasion of the 2011 Royal Wedding of William & Kate as well as celebrating Shelley’s own romantic association with the town.”
Carole Skinner was my first Scottish Country Dance teacher. I later joined one of her social groups and have been on two of her trips to Scotland.

Carole began SCD at school in Inverness in 1965, and learned Highland dancing when she came to Canada in 1966. With her parents, Muriel and Roddy Nicoll, she attended the Scarborogh SCD group. At the St. Andrews summer school in 1974, she danced a hornpipe for Jean Milligan, who called Carole her ‘little sailor boy’. That summer, Bob Blackie and Betty and David Grant took her under their wing. Later, Carole and her husband danced under the guidance of Bob Millar with the East York demo team.

Carole has been active in the Toronto, Montreal, and Tucson branches of the RSCDS. In Montreal, she was on the committee for their annual weekend and later Membership Secretary. In 1993, after taking her preliminary teacher’s test at St. Andrews, she started the Montreal children’s group in Dorval. In Tucson, she taught SCD as one of three qualified teachers in that branch. As a Highland dance teacher, choreographer, and costume designer, she helped promote traditional Scottish music and dance throughout the southwestern United States, and helped organize a trip to Scotland for members and dancers. In 1997, by invitation of Ron Wallace, she took her teacher’s certificate examination in San Francisco. She served on the Tucson branch board of directors, and became Chair of the branch in 1999.

Back in Toronto, Carole taught the Petronella and South Simcoe groups, and the newly formed Highlands of Durham group in Port Perry, which she helped become part of the Toronto Association. She served on the Teachers’ Panel of the Toronto Association for several years and as Panel Chair for two consecutive terms. She has taught beginners’ classes, workshops, and weekends, and adjudicated the Toronto Association’s Children’s Festival Day of Dance (2006-10). For the 2011-12 dancing season, she is preparing the monthly dance and Tartan Ball programs.

Over the last decade, Carole has continued promoting SCD through public performances at the Seniors’ Jubilee at Roy Thomson Hall and the Uxbridge Highland Games. She taught dances to the cast of Brigadoon for the Scugog Choral Society’s production. At the Rogers Centre in Toronto, she choreographed Scottish Country and Highland dancing for Scottish appreciation day at Blue Jays baseball games (2008-9). The resulting St. Andrew’s cross formation on the field was an exceptional display that drew on many dancers from Toronto and across Ontario. She has coordinated Burns Night demonstrations with the Petronella group at seniors’ homes and festivals, making the special costumes and creating the dances. She has arranged dance segments in variety shows and demonstrations including the Peterborough and Oshawa Celtic community festival. Carole has written many dances and is collecting them for publication by the Toronto Association.

In 2007, 2009, and 2010, along with Stewart Bennett, Carole took groups of Toronto dancers and friends on tours of Scotland, where they danced in castles, on the islands, on the deck of the Royal Yacht Britannia, and with dancers from Oban, Inverness, Dundee, and Perth. For each tour, she published a book of dances inspired by memorable people, places, and events. The 2011 trip is scheduled for September and 2012 is currently in the planning stage. Not all the guests on the tours were dancers when they began, but quite a few of them are now active new members of the Toronto Association.

She is a wonderful ambassador for Scottish Country Dancing – a lady with grace, talent, a pleasant personality, and an infectious laugh.

...Jennifer Bentley

Douglas Freel

Douglas Freel, husband of dancer Dorothy Freel, passed away 15 May 2011. He was born in Dundee, Scotland, and immigrated to Canada with his family in 1969. Douglas was a brilliant architect, and he loved writing, golf, and being with his family. He and Dorothy were married 51 years. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Dorothy and her family.

James Graham

We have lost another beloved member of our association. James Graham, until recently Chair of RSCDS Toronto, passed away Tuesday, 31 May 2011. James was born and educated in Scotland before immigrating to Canada. Our sympathy is extended to Eileen and her family.

James Kynoch

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of James Kynoch, a life member and former Chair of the Toronto Branch (1973-75). He was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and immigrated to Canada with Kathleen in 1957. Jim’s passions were cycling, golfing, Scottish country dancing, and entertaining family and friends. We extend sincere sympathy to Kathleen, SCD teacher at Newtonbrook.

Gordon Hepburn

Gordon Hepburn died 4 June 2011. A director of Scottish Studies Foundation which endows the Chair of Scottish Studies at Guelph University, Gordon worked with RSCDS Toronto to enhance co-operation between Scottish heritage organizations and, through the Burns Club suppers, he brought Scottish dance back to the Granite Club.

Maxwell’s Rant ~ A Postscript

My column (What’s In a Name?) in last month’s Set & Link provided a little background about Clan Maxwell. I referred to the holding of the Maxwells in Glasgow called Pollok House, which was included in a lovely park. This park was part of the Pollok Estate (Pollok being a sept of Clan Maxwell), and in 1966, it was donated to the City of Glasgow. The donation included Pollok House, an art collection, a library, and 361 acres of surrounding land. Acting for the Estate was Dame Anne Maxwell Macdonald, the 11th Baronetess of Pollok. The Maxwells of Pollok had owned this property for over seven centuries since the year 1270.

Why is this worth mentioning at this point? Because shortly after I had written the Maxwell article, Dame Anne Maxwell Macdonald died in her 105th year. Talk about lifetime achievements!

A small point of interest! I was not too familiar with the word “baronetess” and thought it was the same as “baroness” (like Maggie Thatcher!). Here’s the difference for those interested in the British aristocracy. A baroness is the lowest form of nobility among the “peers of the realm” (the highest being a duke), whereas a baronetess is a commoner, albeit one of the higher ranks of the non-royals within the class system in Britain. Well, how about that!

...Barry Pipes, mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca
Edmund Gary Maidlow

Gary came to Scottish Country Dancing after seeing the exuberance of the dancers and the dancing one summery evening at Dancing in the Park. He continues to dance with many of the social groups around Toronto and in cottage country, supporting them and their teachers not only with his enthusiastic participation dancing and chauffeuring, but also by providing services often as treasurer when required.

As a semi-retired Certified General Accountant, Gary has provided continued support and expertise to the Toronto Association as a member of the Finance Committee since 2005, often travelling great distances to attend the financial committee meetings. His knowledge of budgeting, reporting and accounting processes has proved invaluable in assisting with and implementing the changes required by the incorporation of the Association under the terms of the Trillium Grant. He provided the product support expertise when the accounting records were originally converted to the QuickBooks software application. He has been the extra set of eyes for the Treasurer in the proofreading and reasonability tests of annual budgets and financial reports. Gary’s professional knowledge has been invaluable for the internal audit function of the Finance Committee.

Marian White and Judy Williams

Marian White and Judy Williams are people who go quietly but reliably and diligently about their work as part of the team helping make Set & Link happen month by month.

They have both been important players on the newsletter team for 5 years. Set & Link, with its informative content and pleasing appearance, is widely appreciated within our Toronto Association and beyond. The Association has already recognized some of our members in part for their work with the newsletter team: Barry Pipes (2006); Rob Lockhart (2009); Donald Holmes (2010). Marian and Judy are also an important part of the success of the newsletter and deserve a share of the credit for its success.

Marian deals with the terror of the empty page. She shapes all the articles and images supplied into pages with a coherent logical presentation. She gathers needed information from the internet and by emailing people who have not sent enough. It’s demanding and time-consuming. These proposed pages and the editorial content are discussed in committee and edited.

Judy is an editor by profession. She is the central proofreader on the team and injects insightful opinions into discussions. She also serves as one of two secretaries for the newsletter committee, taking notes on the meetings.

The newsletter committee meetings themselves are more work. Except for the summer, the newsletter team meets monthly to review content, to edit and to finalize each issue. The reviewed and edited pages are then sent to Rob for tidy up, addition of photos, refinement of typography and design, and preparation for publishing. In addition to this central work for the newsletter, Marion was membership secretary for Glenview Scottish Country Dancers for 3 years. Judy served as chair of Trinity Scottish Country Dance Group for 2 years.

These two steady hardworking members deserve a volunteer award for their contributions to the health of the Toronto Association through the newsletter team and at their social groups.

---

Congratulations, Lourdes & Nigel

Your friends in RSCDS Toronto wish you many years of health, happiness, and dancing!

August 17 is the 20th anniversary of the Guinness World Records event “The 512some” at the CNE Grandstand. If you don’t know what this is, watch for the story in September’s Set & Link. If you do know what it is, relive the event in Barry Pipes’ lively account.
**Upcoming Events: NEAR**

- **JUNE 14.** Dancing in the Park  
- **JUNE 19.** Highlands of Durham White Heather Ball dinner and dance at General Sikorski Hall, 1551 Stevenson Road, North Oshawa. Reception at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. Contact Marjorie Mason: mmason@bellnet.ca or The Wee Tartan Shop 905-985-6573.
- **JUNE 21.** Dancing in the Park  

**JUNE 25 & 26.** Canadian Military Tattoo at Copps Coliseum, Hamilton. 1-888-523-1753

- **JULY 11 - 15.** Youth Dance Camp at Hawkesstone. Contact Linda Argent: 705.487-5866
- **JULY 16.** Orillia Scottish Festival - Dance in the Opening Ceremonies, free. Contact Linda Argent: 705.487-5866
- **SEPT. 26.** Scarborough’s 50th Anniversary at 6:00 p.m. at St. Peter’s Anglican Church, 776 Brimley Road.
- **NOV. 12.** Toronto Workshop  
  
  For a complete listing see What’s On web page.

**Upcoming Events: FAR**

- **JULY 10.** Perth Kilt Run at Perth Ontario, trying to break last year’s record. Kilt included in Registration, info: www.perthkiltrun.ca
- **JULY 24-31.** T.A.C. Summer School at Bishop’s University, Sherbrooke, Quebec. Registration is filling up, register ASAP. Info at www.tac-rscds.org or contact Jody Williams: jwilliams@storm.ca

**Photo Contest**

On your summer travels, remember to take a picture featuring your lovely RSCDS Toronto shirt in exotic (and recognizable!) locations.

Send pictures to Carole Bell. All shots will be professionally adjudicated and a winner will be announced this fall.

The prize is still to be determined but let’s put it this way… We’re talking to Louis…

**The White Heather Ball ~ June 18**

Highlands of Durham group invites you to The White Heather Ball (dinner & dance). The location is the General Sikorski Hall, 1551 Stevenson Road, North Oshawa. The hall has a great wooden floor, and air conditioning! Music by The Scottish Accent.

Reception at 6pm; Dinner at 7:00. Cost is $75. For more info contact Marjorie Mason or The Wee Tartan Shop; (905) 985-6573.

THANK YOU DANCE ANGELS!  
As the Teacher Candidates anxiously await their results, they express their appreciation to those who graciously gave their time and dance skills to “stooge” for the practices at Broadlands and for the adjudications.

**Board of Directors**

- **Chair:** Margaret Rieger  
  416.467-9083 margaretrieger@rogers.com
- **Vice Chair:** John Clark  
  416.286-3609 clark62@sympatico.ca
- **Secretary:** Pat Clark  
  416.225-5222 pat.clark@kos.net
- **Treasurer:** Wendy Fulton  
  416.951-5029 wbfulton@allstream.com
- **Membership Director:** Tom Clark  
  416.225-5222 tom.clark@kos.net
- **Program Director:** Ann Campbell  
  905.459-5213 ann.campbell@rogers.com
- **Communications Director:** Carole Bell  
  416.221-1201 carolebell@sympatico.ca
- **Director at Large, Social Group Liaison/ Volunteers:** Nancy Duffy  
  416.915-1417 sutton_duffy@rogers.com
- **Director at Large, Special Events:** Stewart Bennett  
  905.985-6573 tartanshop@on.aibn.com

**Newsletter Committee**

- **Chair:** Carole Bell  
  416.221-1201 carolebell@sympatico.ca
- **Vice Chair:** Donald Holmes  
  416.226-6081 deholmes@sympatico.ca
- **Program Director:** Rob Lockhart  
  416.759-9845 RobLockhart@rogers.com
- **Treasurer:** Mariano White  
  416.781-7795 marianwhite@sympatico.ca
- **Secretary:** Judy Williams  
  416.924-3858 judy.williams@rogers.com
- **Media Contact:** Brenda Nunes  
  647.348-0690 brendajnunes@gmail.com

**Advertise in Set & Link**

Members can place a small ad in Set & Link FREE for one issue. Contact Brenda Nunes 647-347-1585 brendajnunes@gmail.com

To sign up for email delivery of Set&Link with live links to all internet references, contact Membership Director, Tom Clark: Tom.clark@kos.net

Remember to report changes in your telephone, and/or email.

Please send submissions to Carole Bell. Deadline for the September issue is August 10.