

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Let me quote some Century Old Wisdom, from Consult Me, 1902.

Few exercises are more beneficial to the body than dancing. It preserves and restores health, if used in moderation; it gives exercise to the organs of life and elasticity to the muscles; the lungs are expanded, the circulation of the blood is promoted; it gives tone to the stomach.

This was certainly evident yesterday (March 19) at the West End Workshop. This was the 20th anniversary of this event, 17 of which had been held in the same location - Streetsville Secondary School. It was my pleasure, as Chairman, to bring greetings and congratulations from the Association to the organizers and those in attendance. It was a great workshop, with Jean Martin (past Chairman of RSCDS) as one of the teachers. One of the highlights of the day was the visit of Hazel McCallion, Mayor of Mississauga. Her Worship was piped into the hall, and up onto the stage by George Duncan. She offered her congratulations to the organizers and brought greetings from the city. From the stage, she was piped into the Cafeteria where she cut the celebratory cake. Each of the 147 participants at the workshop received a commemorative shoe bag, in the traditional Scottish blue colour. In addition, each of the Basic Class registrants received a Bobby Brown CD. This is a fine workshop with a long history, and we are pleased that it has become an Affiliated Social Activity under our new governance model.

Steve

We're moving to the music!

By Lisa Mitchell, Program Director



Members of the Demonstration Pool at the Swansea Sidewalk Festival

RSCDS Toronto Association dancers are on the move: we are going out into the community and we are dancing!

Part of the Trillium Initiative in developing a mission for Toronto Association was to create awareness of Toronto Association and promote voluntary action. Nowhere is it more evident than in the newly established "Toronto Association Demonstration Pool". It was created to put more dancers out in the community, dancing at events, publicizing the Association and encouraging people to try the best kept secret - Scottish Country Dancing! The Toronto Association Demonstration Pool has supplemented the displays of existing demonstration teams. Our approach has been that the demo pool is primarily about promotion and recruitment, not performance and entertainment.

While we want to show "quality dancing" and have fun entertaining, the understanding is that we are not a demo team seeking perfection, but a group of people sharing a vision for more involvement and expansion of Toronto Association.

Taking our new promotional tagline, "Let the Music Move You", to heart, over 50 people have volunteered to participate! This group reflects the diversity of the Toronto Association - a range of ages, dancing ability and experience. Participating dancers attended six workshops to learn and polish a standard repertoire of nine dances (supplemented by two "Burns appropriate" dances in January). Since the official launch last fall, groups of dancers have danced at 16 different events! We've represented the Toronto Association at street fairs (including Dundas Square and Swansea Festival), a city councillor's picnic, a clan society, and other community organizations (such as the Alzheimer Society Walk and a horticultural society). We've had some "professional performances" for corporate events and danced at a travel show to promote Scotland! Our volunteer spirit has been shown through our displays at many seniors' homes. There are always "behind the scenes" comical moments - such as dancing a strathspey to our own CD supplemented by a duo playing the spoons! When we have the opportunity, we offer insight into the history of Scottish Country Dancing and some of the dances, and we encourage people to try it! If we can get the audience to move to the music, we try simple participation dances and then promote our association's beginner's classes and area groups. Most importantly, we are sharing our love for, and joy of, Scottish Country Dancing.

The success of the Pool has depended on many people – Fiona Philip, our teacher, encouraging and helping us to learn the demo repertoire at workshops; Deirdre Bark, our tireless coordinator, helping to book events and dancers and attending most demos as the on-site contact; Keith Bark, our technical “music man”, arranging music sets and creating CDs for the dances; Christine Bowers, Communications Director, providing brochures and publicity material, including the TA banner at most events; various other helpers who provided photocopying and MC-ing of events; PLUS all the dancers who have generously given of their time to practice and dance at as many community events as possible where we can spread the word about Scottish Country Dancing! I am thrilled to see one of my visions for the future of dancing in Toronto Association becoming an exciting reality!

As mentioned before, we have over 50 people participating in our demonstration pool, but we still need you! There is minimal commitment (no weekly practices) to learn the repertoire and to dance as often as you are willing. We will be offering workshops in preparation for dancing in the fall. Help us to spread the word! If you are willing to dance at community events and help us build the Toronto Association's image, contact me, Lisa Mitchell, Program Director.

Let the music move you!

Dancing In the Park

Five Tuesdays starting May 31st

Join us from 7pm to dusk at Edwards Gardens. Dance to the music of Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent.

Watch May's issue for more details.

AGM Dance

Date: Saturday, April 23, 2005
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave
Music: Don Bartlett and The Scottish Heirs
Hosts: Calvin, Fallingbrook, Highlands of Durham
Please note that Crescent School has a no nut policy

The Wild Geese	J 8x32	Bk 24/3
Strathmore	S 4x40	Bk 43/5
The College Hornpipe	R 8x32	Bk 20/12
+ Crossing the Bay	S 8x32	Haynes
+ Mairi's Wedding	S 8x40	Cosh
INTERVAL		
+ The Irish Rover	R 8x32	Cosh
Light and Airy	J 8x32	Bk 4/5
The Argyll Strathspey	S 8x32	Bk 35/3
The Montgomeries' Rant	R 8x32	Bk 10/1
EXTRAS		
Major Ian Stewart	J 8x32	Bk 35/4
Summer Wooing	R 8x32	Bk 38/6
The Village Reel	S 6x32	Bk 20/4
+ Non-RSCDS		

Come Celebrate World Day of Dance 2005

The Society, in association with Conseil International de la Dance, is encouraging branches around the world to participate in World Day of Dance to draw attention to the art of dance.

RSCDS Toronto Scottish Country Dance Association will participate in this celebration on Friday April 29, 2005, with a dance for all ages and levels of experience. Come dance to the music of Don Bartlett from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m. The evening will be hosted by Erin Mills social group at Cooksville United Church (2500 Mimosa Row, north of QEW, off Hurontario). Tickets are \$10.

For those unable to attend the dance in Mississauga, social groups on the east side of the GTA will welcome dancers that evening as well! Consider attending Fallingbrook at Westview Presbyterian Church or Woodglen at Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church (address details are on the web) for dancing on World Day of Dance.

We all know the importance of dance for its health benefits, social interaction and pure enjoyment! Why not celebrate dance and all that it means to you by attending one of our events? More details are available on the website and will be at the April monthly dance.

Put a Spring in your Step at World Day of Dance 2005!

Contacts:

Jean or Gordon Hamilton, Erin Mills
 905-566-9599;

g.s.hamilton@sympatico.ca.

Lisa Mitchell, Program Director
 416-699-2480;

ldmitchell@sympatico.ca

Extension Classes

Eight Thursdays starting April 7 at 7:30pm.

Contact Carole Bell for more information 416-221-1201; carolewbell@sympatico.ca

Upcoming Events

NEAR

APRIL 2, 2005, Glenview Scottish Country Dance Group's 25th Anniversary Celebration, 7:30 p.m. at Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Av. Music by The Scottish Experience. Catered refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$25. Contact Catherine O'May 416-482-6690.

APRIL 2, 2005, Hamilton Branch R.S.C.D.S. 50th Anniversary Ball at Michelangelo Banquet Centre, Hamilton. Tickets \$70 and \$45 for non-dancers. Contact Margaret Leckie 905-627-0652 or Jina Middleton jjeilidh@sympatico.ca.

APRIL 9, 2005, Toronto Association Children's Festival, St. Joseph's Separate School, 5555 Creditview Rd. Mississauga. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and dancing starts at 1:30 p.m. Suggested \$4 donation per spectator. All children are free. Contact Colin or Fiona Philip 905-785-8983.

APRIL 23, 2005, RSCDS Toronto Association Annual General Meeting at Crescent School, at approximately 9:00 p.m. (during the interval between dances).

APRIL 23, 2005, Ottawa Spring Ball. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Dancers \$75 and non-dancers \$50 includes Friday Pre-ball Social and Sunday Brunch. Contact John & Barbara Bottreil 613-836-2305; johnbarb@magma.ca.

APRIL 23, 2005, Prince Edward County Scottish Country Dancers Saturday Afternoon Workshop at the Picton Town Hall. Music by Fred Moyes. Teacher is Terry Glasspool, Binghamton, NY. The workshop is suitable for advanced/experienced dancers. Space is limited. Contact Sheila Keller 613-393-2955; ckeller@sympatico.ca.

APRIL 24, 2005, Tartan Tea. Afternoon Tea Dance at Prince Edward Yacht Club, Picton. Music by Fred Moyes. Refreshments served and cost is \$20. Contact Sheila Keller 613-393-2955; ckeller@sympatico.ca.

MAY 2, 2005, 7:30 p.m., Scarborough Scottish Country Dance Group's End of Season Dance, St. Andrew's Church, 115 St. Andrew's Rd. Music by Don Bartlett. Tickets \$10 at the door.

MAY 6, 2005, 8:00-11:00 p.m., Trinity Spring Dance at Seeley Hall, Trinity College,

6 Hoskin Av. Sponsored by the Trinity SCD Group. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Light refreshments. \$30. Contact Joanne or Louis Racic 416-253-6018; racic@sympatico.ca

MAY 6, 2005, 7:30 p.m., South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers' Spring Dance at Knox Church, King St. South, Alliston. Music by The Scottish Experience with Gary Seagrave. \$10 at the door. Contact Debbie MacFayden 905-729-4883 or Grace Graham 705-435-3689 or dproto@sympatico.ca.

MAY 7, 2005. The first Toronto Association Youth Ball for dancers aged 10 to 20 at Newtonbrook United Church, Yonge St. and Cummer Av. Reception, dinner and dancing. Cost is \$20. Contact Fiona Philip 905-785-8983.

MAY 14, 2005, West Toronto Ball at Ramses Temple, 3100 Keele St., Toronto. Reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 (catered by Occasions), dancing 8:30-12:30. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Dances will be briefed, but not walked. Tickets are \$60 for adults and \$40 for youth 14+. Contact Julie Hatch 905-844-9964; julie.hatch@cogeco.ca.

MAY 27-29, 2005, 21st Scottish Country Dance Weekend at Stoney Lake. Teacher is Ian Paterson, Georgetown, ON. For registration, contact Elizabeth McMahon 705-748-0396; bvon@sympatico.ca. For information, contact Krystyna Perron 705-741-1472; dank@sympatico.ca.

MAY 27-29, 2005, The Association for Scottish Traditions and Arts - ASTA - will host the Scotland pavilion at Carrassauga - Mississauga's annual multi-cultural festival, at Rivergrove Community Centre, 5800 River Grove Av, Mississauga. Contact Patricia Heaney 1-905-877-5754 or Helen Ferguson 416-244-9538.

JULY 16, 2005, White Heather Ball in the Highlands of Durham at the Scugog Community Centre, Port Perry. Dinner followed by entertainment and dancing. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Marjorie 905-649-3532; mmason@bellnet.ca or Stewart 905-985-6573; tartanshop@on.aibn.com.

FAR

APRIL 16, 2005, RSCS Montreal Ball Weekend, Montreal. Music by Sylvie Miskoe,

R.P. Hale and Vince O'Donnell. Contact Don Nemiroff 514-288-0992; ball@rscdsmontreal.org.; or visit www.rscdsmontreal.org.

MAY 13-16, 2005, Budapest Scottish Dance Club International Weekend Course, Budapest, Hungary. Teacher is Linda Gaul. Music by Robert Mackay, piano and Dave Cunningham and his SCD Band. Optional tourist program available. Contact in Toronto, Lisa Mitchell 416-699-2480; ldmitchell@sympatico.ca

MAY 14, 2005, the inaugural Thistle Ball, sponsored jointly by Victoria, Seattle and Vancouver at Squamish Nation Recreation Centre, North Vancouver. Music by Marian Anderson and Her band, from Scotland. Cost is \$45. Further information to follow.

MAY 20-22, 2005, Youth Weekend West, at UBC in Vancouver, BC for dancers 15-30ish. Friday night BBQ, Saturday and Sunday morning classes, Saturday night ceilidh and dance, and Sunday afternoon tea dance which is open to all ages. Teachers are Sue Porter, Oban, Scotland; Anne and Neil Harrison, Oakville, ON; Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Langley, BC. Contact Louise Imstein@sfu.ca; 604-464-5818. Visit www.youthweekend.com.

MAY 20-22, 2005, New York Branch Pawling Weekend, Hopewell Junction, NY. Teachers are Elaine Brunken, MD; Muriel Johnstone, TX; John Wilkenon, Scotland. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Music for beginner class by Jim Stevenson. Visit www.rscdsnewyork.org.

JUNE 3-5, 2005, RSCDS Montreal Branch Weekend Workshop at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC. Teachers are Stella Fogg, Richmond, VA; Ian Paterson, Georgetown, ON; Elinor Vandergrift, Kenmore, WA. Dance and reception music by Laura Risk & friends. Gala dance music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Peter White 514-488-2509; scdmntl@yahoo.com; www.rscdmontreal.org.

JULY 9-16, 2005, Scottish Country Dance Week, Prague, Czech Republic with Ron Wallace and the Dunsmuir Dancers. Music by Gary Thomas. Program includes classes and sightseeing activities. Visit www.dvorana.cz or contact dvorana@mbox.vol.cz.

If you have an event that you would like to post here, contact Christine Bowers, Communications Director.

The RSCDS Toronto Association presents

2005 Children's Festival

Saturday April 9th at

St. Joseph's Separate School
5555 Creditview Rd,
Mississauga.

Dancing starts at 1:30

Doors open at 12:30
Suggested \$4 donation per spectator. All children FREE.

Come show your support for our children and appreciation of their accomplishments in this afternoon of demonstration dancing.

Program

- Warm up dance.
- Junior Teams perform and receive commentary from adjudicators.
- Intermediate and Senior teams perform and receive commentary from adjudicators.
- Social Dance.
- Presentation of Awards.

For more information please contact your teacher or
Colin & Fiona Philip
905-785-8983.

Volunteer News

As the weather warms and the snow melts, the words "Dancing in the Park" start popping up in our special vocabulary. It is at D.I.P. that you will first hear about renewing your membership.

Last year's membership form included a section titled 'Volunteer Profile'. This section invited members to indicate the skills and interests which they could offer our Association. It is disappointing to note that only one member in five completed this.

Let's not forget how volunteering works. Your Association needs certain skills from its members and there is a specific time when that help is needed. When these things come together, we have a VOLUNTEER. It's okay to say, "Yes", and it's okay to say, "No, not now".

Scottish Country Dancing depends on volunteer members, so when this year's membership renewal form arrives in your hands, please take the time to complete the Volunteer Profile. It may be your opportunity to learn new skills and make new friends.

Thanks,
Volunteer Committee.

don't forget...

- Deadline for May Newsletter: April 18th
- Annual General Meeting April 23, 2005 at Crescent School.
- Youth Ball May 7, 2005

Monthly Dance

Lost:

Bright green ballet slipper size 7 with orthotic insole

Found:

One Black Shoe Lace
Black Plastic Tray
Round Blue Plastic Tray
Navy Tea Towel
Wicker Basket
Bag with 1 black dance slipper

Contact Dianne Lask 416-751-4850; diannelask@rogers.com



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EDITOR'S NOTES...

Last month I reminded everyone about the May Monthly Dance. I should have remembered: there is no May Monthly Dance. Sorry!