

From the Chair



Each month when I write this column I comment on some aspect of the work of the Board and its members in managing the affairs of RSCDS Toronto.

The early part of each Board meeting is now dedicated to a planning overview of one significant topic. So far, we have reviewed Dancing in the Park, and Margaret Rieger is leading a small committee to bring back recommendations.

Louis Racic made a strong presentation on the Tartan Ball and he and his committee are now working on implementing the new ideas.

Right now we are reviewing the Budget for 2010.

Soon we will deal with Outreach as a priority for all of us — not just the Communications team. The role of electronic and print communications is also up for review.

As the year progresses, we will also deal with Volunteers, Special Events, Monthly Dances, and Children and Youth programmes.

Many of the things we do have met with great success over many years. However, to avoid complacency and ensure future success, it makes sense to periodically review and evaluate our activities.

Please feel free to comment.

Meantime, thanks to all who contributed to the great success of the Toronto Workshop and Monthly Dance



In this issue we are highlighting Christmas gift ideas for family and friends. This Christmas tree indicates likely dance possibilities.

Tartan Ball Guests of Honour



Colin Mochrie and Debra McGrath, will be our Guests of Honour at the Tartan Ball.

ing feature films, television, and comedy theatre. She has been a TV series creator, television and comedy writer, performer, director, and improviser. You can watch Debra McGrath playing the mayor on the CBC's hit sitcom, *LITTLE MOSQUE ON THE PRAIRIE*.

We are absolutely delighted that they will join us. They thought the Tartan Ball would be fun to attend. They are right, because it is fun. Plan to come and join in the fun.

...Louis Racic, Tartan Ball Convenor

[Contact Louis to obtain a Tartan Ball Gift Certificate]



If you want a Music Workshop, sing out!

We all know that music is an essential part of dancing — it gives wings to the feet, as well as the soul. We plan a Music Workshop for teachers and dancers to examine such issues as:

- How do teachers (or devisors) pick tunes for the dances?

- Why do some tunes energize while others bring you down?

- Is it true? The music will tell you.

- What is a jig and how do you tell it from a reel?

- Who were Niel Gow and J. Scott Skinner, and what have they got to do with dancing?

Please indicate your interest with questions and comments to Kay Marsh: Kay@4villages.on.ca

Grace Notes

Sadly, Krystianna Laurence passed away Nov 25th at Sick Kids Hospital. Thus, the ceilidh for Krystianna is cancelled. Organisers will be in touch with those who contributed. For funeral details see the website. It will be Friday, Dec 4, 1:30.

January Dance

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2010
Time: 8:00 - 10:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent
Hosts: • Humbercrest • Newtonbrook • Scarborough

Well Done Jack	J 8 x 32	29/3
Dalkeith's Strathspey	S 8 x 32	9/6
Angus MacKinnon's Hornpipe	R 8 x 32	Dickson
The Wild Geese †	J 8 x 32	24/3
The Silver Strathspey	S 8 x 32	44/3
General Stuart's Reel	R 8 x 32	10/3

Interval

The Gilly Flower	J 8 x 32	36/8
Sir James Baird's Strathspey	S 8 x 32	R. Campbell
Johnnie's Welcome Home *	R 8 x 40	32/1
Follow Me Home	J 8 x 32	38/3
The Village Reel †	S 6 x 32	20/4
Swiss Lassie	R 8 x 32	39/1

Extras


A Trip to Glasgow	J 6 x 32	Leaflet/21
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* indicates Tartan Ball dances.

† Dances that will be briefed only.

Hand sanitizers will be available at Monthly Dances.

Wear one and start a conversation!

 Shirts with our new outreach logo are here — just in time for gift-giving to yourself or to your friends. Wear them with pride to the gym, tennis games, shopping, or any other activity where you can start a conversation about dancing.



Margaret Rieger and Jean Lindsay showed off their new polo shirts at the Toronto Workshop in November.

There is a choice of ten colours. At the special price of \$30 (incl. tax) they are a real bargain. Shirts at this price will be available at the December Monthly Dance. But don't wait 'til then: contact Carole Bell, 416-221-1201 carolewbell@sympatico.ca or Muriel Nicoll, 416-439-3293 rodnicoll@rogers.com

... Carole Bell

50-50 Draw

Proceeds for the 50/50 draws held at Monthly Dances support Dancing In The Park. At the dance on November 14, Margot Mackay won \$126. Margo is enthusiastically enrolled in Beginner classes at Eastminster.



Special Events

Calvin Christmas Dance

Tuesday, December 8, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.

Dance to the music of Don Bartlett at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave (Yonge and St Clair) The cost is \$10 and includes refreshments. Contact Ken Adamson at 416-763-0073 or ken.adamson@sympatico.ca

Scarborough Christmas Dinner Dance

Monday, December 14, 2009

Join Scarborough SCD for this popular annual Christmas dinner dance. We'll have wonderful music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. At Q-SSIS Banquet, 3474 Kingston Road. Tickets are \$45 from Marie Duncan, 416-266-3377.

Glenview Christmas Party & Dance

Wednesday, December 16, 2009 @ 8 p.m.

Join Glenview and enjoy the music of Fred Moyes for the annual Christmas dance at Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue, Toronto. Yonge St. (west side) south of Lawrence Ave. (enter church by side door on Glengrove Avenue). Tickets: \$15 at the door. www.glenviewscd.org/christmasdanceparty.htm


Erin Mills Christmas Dance

Friday, December 18, 2009 @ 8 p.m.

The Erin Mills Group invites you to take a break from Christmas shopping to attend the Christmas Dance celebrating "Homecoming Scotland 2009" at Cooksville United Church. "The Reel Thing" will provide the music. Tickets are \$15. Further details from the Hamiltons: 905-566-9599.

Erin Mills Hogmanay Ball

December 31, 2009

 Erin Mills' traditional Hogmanay Ball will be held at historic Clarke Hall in Port Credit. We start with a wine reception at 7.30 p.m. and then dance to the music of Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent from 8:00 until midnight. \$60 per person includes wine, punch, tea, coffee and snacks mid-evening. Contact Keith Bark 905-822-1707; barkk@rogers.com


Glenview's Tartan Ball Practices

February 10 & 17, 2010 @ 8.00 p.m.

Glenview will host two evening practices for the 2010 Tartan Ball. All are welcome to join us for great dancing and enjoyable sweets. At Glenview Presbyterian Church, (see directions above). Glenview members \$5; non-members \$6. www.glenviewscd.org

25th Anniversary West End Workshop

March 27, 2010

 Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for the 25th Annual West End Workshop, at Turner Fenton Secondary School, Brampton. Teachers: Elinor Vandergrift, Jody Williams, Alicia Manson. Musicians: Bobby Brown, Laird Brown, Don Bartlett. Classes morning and afternoon, hot lunch, and a tea dance after the workshop. Watch for registration information to follow.

If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Arran

What do the Arran ferry, Dunnotar Castle, the Glenfinnan Monument, and Auchtermuchty have in common? These are places where we danced in Scotland on the Dancing in Castles II trip led by Carole Skinner and Stewart Bennett.

Where else (and I freely admit my bias) could you find such stunning scenery for dancing? Over two weeks, we danced in a dozen locations, starting soon after we landed. We did *The Homecoming* in the superb walled garden at Culzean Castle ... in the rain. How Scottish is that? We even danced *Mairi's Wedding* on the ferry to Arran.

At the Ballachulish Hotel, Oban dancers joined us for a ceilidh, along with piper John MacCallum, who told a joke, piped a tune, told another joke, piped another tune ... you get the idea. That night we danced *That's the Ticket*, *Durham Dram*, *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*, and *Bobby Brown's Canadian Breakdown*. Even our bus driver, Dean Spencer, joined in with his amazing banjo and his George Formby tunes.

At the historic Glenfinnan Monument, we danced *The Clansmen* in the cold and wind. In the tiny town of Kenmore along Loch Tay,



Dunnotar Castle

we did the *Durham Dram* at the Kenmore Hotel (1572), the oldest in Scotland. On our way to Falkland Palace, we danced *Flowers of Edinburgh* in front of Sir Jimmy Shand's sculpture in Auchtermuchty. But probably one of the most breathtakingly beautiful places was Dunnotar Castle near

Aberdeen, where we danced *The Blooms of Bon Accord*. One place we didn't dance was on the Jacobite Steam Train; we were too busy looking at the spectacular scenery.



Photo by Carolyn Watt

There was a wee chill in the air as we danced at Dunnotar Castle

The Dundee dance was a trip highlight. Joined by Perth and Dundee dancers, we did reels and strathspeys, jigs and hornpipes, including *Alltshellach*, *James Senior of St. Andrews*, *Culla Bay*, and *Starry-Eyed Lassie*, to name a few. The evening – and the trip – ended much too soon.

... Marie Anne Miller

Note: This too-brief article doesn't do the trip justice, but if you ask any of the people who went, they'll happily share the trip with you. MM

Recognizing Volunteers: Brenda Hurst

This is the first in a series honouring volunteers. If you have a suggestion for this series, contact Tom Clark at 416.225-5222 tom.clark@kos.net

Some people just work away over the years in several places and it adds up to giving a lot for Scottish Country Dancing. Brenda Hurst is one of these people.

Brenda finished four years as our secretary in Toronto at last April's AGM. Members will recognize Brenda helping at the sign-in table at monthly dances – most recently selling 50-50 lottery tickets to raise funds for one of her causes – Dancing in the Park. Others in Toronto know her from her frequent dancing with the Toronto Association Demo Pool since it started. Brenda also dances with several Toronto groups – including Hillcrest, Glenview, Trinity, and Erin Mills. She supports many events around town and out of town.

Those who know her as secretary with the Toronto Association Board recognize fairness was always a prime consideration, in addition to hard-working, enthusiastic and amazingly well-organized. As someone said, "at times she would cut through to the heart of the matter. We would all be tossing around a subject at a Board meeting without a lot of insight and, suddenly, Brenda would make a statement – another point of view – and we'd all say "You're right, let's do that!" Her insights into a wide range of the associations' activities came from her work with associations in other cities before she settled in Toronto.

Brenda has supported the inclusion of beginners and newcomers at dances and has worked to ensure that seasoned dancers could also enjoy the events. She collaborated with those who proposed a nominee for the international society's scroll of honour, and was instrumental in assisting in assembling and editing the required information.

Brenda also promoted Scottish dancing in her association with the first Montreal class when it started in 1955, subsequently becoming a founding member of the Montreal Branch when it was formed in 1958.

She remained an active dancer and member there, serving as Branch Chair in 1987-88, until she moved to Ottawa in 1989 where she danced until she moved to Toronto. Over the years she has kept in touch with the other branches and joined them in major annual dances.



Brenda Hurst, second from right, helping to cut the cake at Montreal's 50th celebration.

Lots of dancers in Eastern Canada have a big thank you to pass on to Brenda Hurst for her passion for dancing and her ability at committee work. Thanks Brenda.

... Tom Clark

Christmas Gift Suggestions...



- TAC Summer School, August 8 - 15
- RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland
- Monthly Dance Gift Certificates
- West End Workshop Certificate
- Toronto Workshop Certificate
- Ceilidh Class or Beginner Class Certificates

Dance Etiquette: Talking During the Briefing



Have you got a pet peeve or perplexing puzzle you'd like Carole to talk about? Contact Carole at 416-386-1620 or carolebskinner@aol.com

There is nothing worse for a teacher or an MC to have to deal with than dancers talking while a dance is being briefed. In the first place, it is extremely bad manners, but, more importantly, your talking may distract someone who really needs the briefing to get through the dance. Many times the person briefing the dance loses his or her place because of noise from the floor. Briefing a dance is not easy, no matter how well some folks do it. If you don't believe me, ask your teacher to give you a chance to brief a dance (and that's among friends). Dancing is unquestionably social, but there is a time and a place for everything, and while a dance is being briefed is not the time to get caught up on gossip with your neighbour or partner. If we all think of others around us, we will create a better dancing experience.

...Carole Skinner

Tom Clark Reports on the "Get Together"



On October 25 eighteen representatives of 12 social groups, and branch classes, met with 6 Board members for a get-together aimed at maintaining liaison. Board Vice Chair Margaret Rieger chaired the meeting. Chair James Graham was absent at a family funeral. Here is a summary of the discussion.

- The policy for those dealing with children, youth and other vulnerable groups is in place and available. Toronto Branch now has an agreement to get a police check if asked.
- Membership is down 20 from last year at this time. A survey of social groups focused on retention of new members. About half the social groups replied and 51 out of 255 dancers were newcomers. Groups attracted members from Beach Celtic festival, ads, word of mouth, welcoming beginners. There was an offer of help for follow-up with past members.
- Scotland at the November AGM moved away from last year's New Zealand proposal for a dual membership fee. This year's AGM focused on "housekeeping". The fee question may be discussed prior to the AGM.
- Monthly dances are back on the second Saturday of the month. There will be a repeat of a night with briefed-only dances in April. There are four Level 1 classes across the city (a new one at Grace Church in the East), one Level 2 and one Level 3. The Board will keep Dancing in the Park, but will find ways of dealing with the high costs sustained as a result of adverse weather. This year's Tartan Ball aims to be special. Few places can put on an occasion with this splendour. Promote it!
- Special Events will host a Festival of Dance May 1, 2010. The Association will help RSCDS Scotland select dances for Book #46. A Youth Weekend is planned for 2011. Ceilidh Classes are one Friday a month. A live music Ceilidh dance has been tried.
- Financing faces an impending HST tax which adds a provincial 8% tax everywhere we pay the 5% GST, including event tickets but excluding membership. Toronto Association pays insurance for social groups. The latest interpretation bases the insurance on the number of participants – bodies present – not on the membership.
- Outreach aims to reach a balance where newcomers replace those who cease to be dancers. "Sowing seeds" occurs in many ways but especially word of mouth. The new outreach logo will be used on dance shirts and our new brochures – making outreach easy.
- The Board will be less formal with social group visits. There will be no speech unless the social group asks. The visit can be noted so that dancers can raise any issues with the Board member. Of course, social groups may invite Board members to visit as they wish!

...Submitted by Tom Clark, Social Group Liaison/Volunteers

Sunday Afternoons at Broadlands

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

\$5 for members; \$8 for non-members.

December 6: Deirdre MacCuish Bark will introduce dances from the Ruthven collection of Rob Sargent, a dancer/devisor who lives near Inverness in the north of Scotland, plus some other dances gleaned from this summer's wanderings through North America and Europe. The music of Colin Dewar will be used.

December 13: Keith Bark will teach a selection of lively demanding dances, including both old and modern dances involving traditional and new formations. As with all Scottish Country dancing, it will be enjoyable but both your brain and body will be taxed.

Broadlands Community Centre is in Don Mills, 19 Castlegrove Blvd. Check the website for a link to a map.

Ceilidh classes

Jan 15 • Feb 12 • Mar 12 • Apr 9

Fridays: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

St. Leonard's Anglican Church,
25 Wanless Ave.

Every ceilidh class has brought in new faces to experience the joy of Scottish dancing. You can help by attending, to be a strong partner, or by bringing a non-dancing friend. Ceilidh is also great for those in Beginner Classes to dance just for the fun of it. A gift certificate to a full season of Ceilidh would be a very different, and reasonably-priced gift for a friend or colleague. Ceilidh leader, Keith Bark assures us the evenings will be lively and fun. Adults \$8, Youth: \$2.

Info: Deirdre MacCuish Bark 905.822-1707, barkd@rogers.com or Carole Bell carolebell@sympatico.ca 416.221-1201.



Dancers kicking up their heels at the October ceilidh.

What's In A Name? *Flowers of Edinburgh*



We're back, having missed last month. At the deadline, I was with family in Kingussie enjoying the surrounding Cairngorms. Now let's get on with this floral tribute...

Ah! *The Flowers of Edinburgh!* Imagine strolling on a fine summer's day through an empty loch, now the beautiful park that runs parallel to Princes Street, overlooked by the castle. Is this a floral tribute that perhaps gives some strong competition to Aberdeen's Blooms of Bon Accord?...or a beautiful panorama that certainly deserves to have a dance devised in its honour?

Well, let's not be too hasty! If we transport ourselves back to Edinburgh two or three hundred years ago, "Athens of the North" it certainly was not. Carefully picking one's way through the sewage of Edinburgh's unpaved streets among the tenements

could be a hazardous undertaking, especially when the St. Giles Cathedral clock struck the evening hour of ten. That was the signal for the upper-floor tenement windows to be thrown open. Then, to shouts of "Gardy-loo", each home's liquid refuse in buckets, basins, and chamber pots was tipped out into the streets below. Suffice to say, in-house plumbing of any kind did not exist in those more primitive times. Edinburgh diarist James Boswell referred to this as the "evening effluvia", although the locals preferred the expression the "Flowers of Edinburgh".

Gardy-Loo? It was derived from the French *garde à l'eau* (beware of the water), or perhaps, *gardez l'eau*. These days we would probably say "heads up". In 1750, dashing to the shelter of the nearest doorway, instead of trying to dance a poussette, would have been the most sensible course of action.

That said, whatever its history, let's enjoy the ever-popular reel *Flowers of Edinburgh*, which will be included in the December Family Christmas Program.

...Barry Pipes, mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca



Dec 17 —

David Grant: Olympic Torch

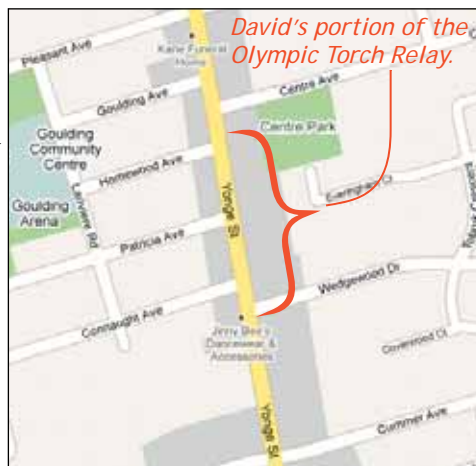
Come and cheer on one of our own as he carries the Olympic Torch on its journey to the Vancouver Games.

David will proudly bear the torch along Yonge Street, from Homewood Avenue (south of Centrepoint Mall), south to 6002 Yonge, near Connaught Avenue. Time: 2:06pm.

Gentlemen, you are requested to wear the kilt to show our support, and establish our presence.

David, poor chap, will have to make do with wearing his Olympic Torch Relay uniform.

Note that the end point of David's run is very close to Jinny Bee's Dance-wear and Accessories (worth a "snoop"!)



Winter Association Classes

St. Leonard's Anglican Church

25 Wanless Ave., near Lawrence station

LEVEL 1: Mondays, Jan. 4 - Mar. 8 .

Swansea Town Hall

95 Lavinia Ave., near Runnymede station

LEVEL 1: Wednesdays, Jan. 6 - Mar. 10.

LEVEL 3: Thursdays, Jan. 7 - Mar. 11.

Eastminster United Church

310 Danforth Ave., near Chester station

LEVEL 1: Thursdays, Jan. 7 - Mar. 11.

LEVEL 2: Thursdays, Jan. 7 - Mar. 11.

Grace Presbyterian Church

447 Port Union Rd., Scarborough.

LEVEL 1: Mondays, Jan. 4 - Mar. 8

All classes run from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$80 (GST included).

Cheques preferred, payable to RSCDS Toronto.

For information contact Sue Ann Bryce,

416-266-5423, sueann2@sympatico.ca



Why is this gal smiling?

She loves her tartan T and hoodie!

XS to 2XL men & women
green, navy, grey, red

- T-shirt \$20
- Fitted Hoodie \$45
- Unisex Hoodie \$50

Carolyn Watt: 905-473-9306

cw@carolynwatt.com



Upcoming events: NEAR

- DEC 6. **Dancing at Broadlands** for intermediate and advanced dancers. Deirdre MacCuish Bark: Ruthven Book dances. 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- DEC 8. **Calvin's Christmas Dance.**
- DEC 12. **Family Christmas Monthly Dance** at Crescent School, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.
- DEC 13. **Dancing at Broadlands** for intermediate and advanced dancers. Keith Bark: "Lively dances". 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- DEC 14. **Scarborough Christmas Dinner Dance.** Call Marie Duncan, 416-266-3377.
- DEC 16. **Glenview's Christmas Dance.**
- DEC 18. **Erin Mills' Christmas Dance.**
- DEC 31. **Erin Mills Hogmanay Dance.**
- JAN 9. **January Monthly Dance** at Crescent School, 8:00 - 10:30 p.m.
- JAN 15. **Ceilidh Class 01** at St. Leonard's, 7:30- 9:30 p.m.
- FEB. 10. **Tartan Ball Practice** at Glenview, 8:00 p.m. www.glenviewscd.org
- FEB. 12. **Ceilidh Class 02** at St. Leonard's, 7:30- 9:30 p.m.
- FEB. 13. **February Monthly Dance** at Crescent School, 8:00 - 10:30 p.m.
- FEB. 17. **Tartan Ball Practice** at Glenview, 8:00 p.m. www.glenviewscd.org
- FEB. 20. **The Tartan Ball** at the Fairmont Royal York, 5:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.
- MAR.. 12. **Ceilidh Class 03** at St. Leonard's, 7:30- 9:30 p.m.
- MAR. 13. **March Monthly Dance – Beginners' Night** at Crescent School, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.
- MAR. 27. **25th Anniversary West End Workshop**
- APR. 9. **Ceilidh Class 04** at St. Leonard's, 7:30- 9:30 p.m.
- MAY. 1. **Festival of Dance** at St Leonard's..

Demo Pool Practices

Sundays: Jan. 3, Jan. 10

At Broadlands Community Centre

- 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. for core and other dances
3:30 - 4:00 p.m. for more demanding dances and step dance

The Demo Pool welcomes interested dancers familiar with the basic formations.

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

Upcoming events: FAR

DEC 28-JAN. 5. **New Zealand 2009-10 SummerSchool** in Auckland. <http://ssakl.rscdsnz.org>.



FEB. 12-14. **Aloha Winter Weekend 2010** at Honolulu, Hawaii. www.rscdshawaii.org.

FEB. 20. **Sarasota Branch Annual Ball.** Sarasota Bayfront Community Center - 803 N. Tamiami Trail (U.S.41). Dinner followed by dancing to live music. 6.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m. Ticket price TBA. Marion Hoercher, 941-921-3284 or Mmhjake@aol.com

MAR. 5-7. **Belleville Workshop & Ball** with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Teachers TBA.



APR. 17.. **RSCDS Ottawa Branch Ball** with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Margaret & Harry MacKay, 613-740-0906, 191 Dunbarton Ct., Ottawa, K1K 4L7, hmackay@nfc.ca or www.rscdsottawa.ca

AUG. 1-15. **TAC Candidate Classes and Exams.** Units 2,3 & 5. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Information on the TAC web-site www.tac-rscds.org or contact Exam Co-ordinator Deirdre MacCuish Bark: barkd@rogers.com

AUG. 8-15. **2010.TAC Summer School** at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Information: www.tac-rscds.org or contact Summer School Director Marie Ziccarelli mrezz@roadrunner.com



Christmas around the world
City Hall Rotunda: Dec 5 & 6

Come and support the volunteers staffing the booth in City Hall.

Contact John Clark, 416-266-3609, clark62@sympatico.ca or Deirdre MacCuish Bark, 905-822-1707, barkd@rogers.com

Community Folk Arts Council, Toronto www.cfactoronto.com



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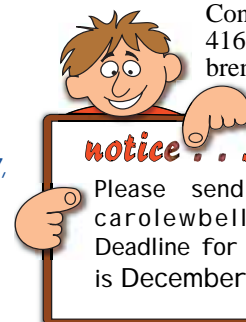
Garage Sale Items Wanted!

We're planning a spring Garage Sale in support of the upcoming Youth Weekend. Save your stuff! Details TBA (Contact Fiona Philip: 905.785-8983).

Advertise in Set & Link

Members can place a small ad in *Set & Link* FREE for one issue. It can be a "classified ad" of about 5 lines, or a business card advertising items of interest to dancers.

Contact Brenda Nunes
416-691-1764 or
brendajnunes@gmail.com



notice . . .

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

Curvaceous Consignments
Because every body is beautiful
Size 14+ Consignment Store
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