



Hillcrest's 40th Anniversary Dance

From the Chair...



Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Welcome back to the dance floor and to 2016, after Christmas and New Year celebrations. I hope you have made some New Year resolutions. Mine mainly concern dancing and more of it! Keith and I particularly anticipate another splendid Tartan Ball.

The Winter Solstice with the shortest day has passed and the days become longer. Growing up in the north of Scotland meant going to school in the dark. At 4 p.m. when school finished, night would be drawing in again. However, there is a great deal of Scotland north of Inverness, which encounters considerably less daylight during winter months, the compensation being that in high summer daylight lasts until after 11 p.m. and the sun rises again in the very early morning. In Shetland, it hardly gets dark with its White Nights.

With much winter still to come, the Scottish community enjoys a respite in January with celebrations surrounding the life of the ploughboy poet, Robert Burns.

The demo pool dancers will participate in at least 14 events and likely more before they are finished. Some of the social groups have their own demonstrations in January and, in addition, many of us attend Burns Suppers and luncheons. The dancing activities help to offset the effects of heaps of haggis, neeps, and tatties.

Although there are Burns Societies world wide, I acquired most of my knowledge and book collection on Robert Burns after arriving in Canada. At school in Inverness, we must have had some of his poetry but we were far more knowledgeable about the works of Burns' contemporary, the novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott — particularly Scott's narrative poems, *Marmion* and *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*. We had to memorize sections of these works, some of which I can still recall.

Our premier event of the year, The Tartan Ball, is imminent. Now is the time to practise the dances. Several groups are running special ball practices in February and special ball practices for newer dancers begin in late January at Broadlands. Come and join us!

Slàinte.

Hillcrest Social Group celebrated 40 years on Tuesday, December 15th, at Grace Church on-the-Hill. Jean Noble started Hillcrest forty years ago and has taught the group continuously since then. Her first set was six people, but on the last regular Tuesday night before the Anniversary Dance, there were 48 people dancing at Hillcrest. For the 40th there was a capacity crowd of 80. It was a fabulous night of dancing and reminiscing. The music by members of Scotch Mist – Laird Brown, Don Wood, and Warren Beesley — was wonderful. Jean said "I feel the band excelled themselves and gave us flight". Though, to the amusement of the group, when introducing the band, Jean thanked "Bobby" for coming. She recovered gracefully, with a wink and a smile, saying Laird was still "wee Bobby" to her!

The dances Jean chose were "Hillcrest favourites over the years". She said that when she looked over the program that resulted she thought, "This isn't really very well balanced". But she decided that made sense since the teacher was a bit unbalanced too!

Three of the original set of six danced at the Anniversary: Joan and Bert Carr, and Jean's husband, Michael Noble. Several people who started dancing at Hillcrest in the late 70s are still regulars at Hillcrest. And, along with folks who joined over the ensuing years, there were five newer dancers who started classes after 2011 and joined Hillcrest in 2014 or 2015.

Jean Hamilton and Kathleen Kynoch were there; with Jean Noble the trio earned their full certificates as the notorious "Class of '80".



Branch Award presented to Jean Noble



Jean with Joan and Bert Carr, two of the original Hillcrest members



Ron Bell presented Jean with roses and card from Hillcrest dancers.

At the end of the interval, there were three surprise presentations to Jean. First, Ron Bell, on behalf of Hillcrest dancers, gave her a card and a dozen long-stemmed "ruby" roses. Holding the bouquet, Jean said she felt like a bride, and she shared that she had met Michael for the first time in that very hall.

Next, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, on behalf of the Toronto Association, presented Jean with a Branch Award. Jean was overwhelmed, saying how very much it meant to her to be recognized by the Association in this way. Deirdre noted that fully half of the currently active teachers in Toronto had been trained in Jean's

Candidate Classes, and that if one counted those who teach occasionally, the number was two-thirds! What a service to our dancing community.

Finally, Jean's daughter Fiona Philip presented Jean with *Hillcrest's Ruby Gem*,* a 32-bar strathspey danced in a square set, devised by Carole Skinner, music composed by Laird Brown — who noted that Don Wood actually composed the main theme. Typically, any complaints about the music were to go to Donny, but any praise to Laird! Barbara Taylor briefed the dance, which had been leaked by email in advance, so there were seven or eight sets dancing. It is a lovely, graceful dance, with all couples dancing throughout.

At one point in the evening Jean complained there were so many people chattering while she was trying to brief that it sounded like a Tuesday night at Hillcrest. Then she realized it was a Hillcrest Tuesday night. Possibly the best one in 40 years!

...Pat Clark

*Hillcrest's Ruby Gem is described on page 6.

Special Events



South Simcoe Valentine Workshop and Tea Dance

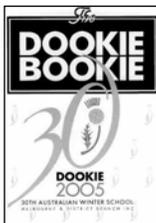
Saturday, February 13 ~ 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, 160 King Street S., Alliston

If it's Valentine's then it's time to attend South Simcoe's 13th annual Valentine Workshop and Tea Dance! Our inspiring instructors are Barbara Taylor and Tony Szeto. Reels, jigs, and strathspeys will be played by Laird Brown and Don Wood. Bring your sweetie; bring your friends. Come for the full day (with a superb country lunch) or come for an afternoon of dance and tea from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. More info: South Simcoe Facebook page (<https://goo.gl/ORXMfa>), or Maureen Richardson 416 520 1705 schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com

Sunday afternoon at Broadlands: Paul Maloney presents *The Dookie Bookie*

Sunday, February 28 ~ 2 - 4 p.m. \$5 at the door



**Broadlands Community Centre,
19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills**

Paul Maloney will teach dances from *The Dookie Bookie* and *Another Dookie Bookie*. These books were produced, respectively, as part of the 30th and the 37th Australian Winter School, both held at Dookie Agricultural College, U. of Melbourne.

Experienced dancers are invited to enjoy a programme of dances from these books. Come and discover an unexpected Toronto Association connection!

31st Annual West End Workshop

Saturday, April 2 ~ 8:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Turner Fenton Secondary School, 7935 Kennedy Rd., Brampton
Easy access from 401 ~ Lots of free parking ~ Comfortable wood floor!



Teachers: Gary Coull (Scotland), Sara Posen (St. Catharines), Jean Noble (Toronto). Musicians: Don Bartlett, Laird Brown
Cost: \$63 Workshop incl. Lunch and Tea dance, \$30 Youth (14+), \$20 Tea Dance only. Vendors will be available during breaks and at lunch (TAC Books, RSCDS Toronto shirts, CDs), cash or cheque only please.

Registration will be available at www.dancescottish.ca or contact theresamalek@rogers.com Don't miss out on the fun!

No ball gowns at the January dance

The planned offering of gently used ball gowns at the January Monthly Dance has been cancelled due to low inventory. However, if in preparing for the Tartan Ball you decide to retire your old gown, we will be happy to accept it for future sales. ... Margaret Rieger

Toronto Association Classes ~ Winter/Spring Session ~

The RSCDS Toronto Association offers classes for adults of all ages and dancing abilities, including those who are just beginning, those who have danced for decades, and everyone in between.

Level 1 – The Basic Level Classes ~ Dancers will learn the five basic steps of Scottish country dance, and a variety of formations. These two elements will be combined in learning simple dances that incorporate some of the various steps and formations taught.

Level 2 – Intermediate Classes build on the steps and formations learned at the Basic Level, and introduce more complex formations. The dancers become more confident in their skills and abilities, and enjoy the challenge of more complex dances.

Level 3 – Advanced Classes, conducted over 5 weeks in late Spring, continue to build on the skill base of the dancers. New formations and dances of more complexity in their combination of patterns are introduced to challenge the more experienced dancer.

Extension Classes are offered over 8 weeks in the Spring, as a bridge between the end of regular classes and the beginning of the 4 weeks of Dancing in the Park. The classes also extend the learning experience, as dancers review the steps and formations previously taught and are introduced to new ones. Dances are reviewed and new ones taught, some of which may be on the programmes for the West Toronto Ball or Dancing in the Park, held Tuesday evenings in June at Edwards Gardens.

Come join us and share the wonderful experience of Scottish country dance! I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

...Maureen Richardson, Education & Training Director

The Winter/Spring Session offers the following options:

Thursday Evenings, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
January 7 - March 10

- Basic Level (10 classes) – Teacher, Vicky Zeltins
- Intermediate Level (10 classes) – Teacher, May Divers

March 24 - April 21

- Advanced Level (5 classes) – Teacher, Keith Bark (downstairs in the Hurndale Room)

March 24 - May 12

- Extension Classes (8 classes) - Teaching is shared among Basic and Intermediate Class teachers (upstairs in the auditorium)

Monday Evenings, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Avenue, Toronto
January 4 - March 14

- Basic Level (10 classes) – Teacher, Barbara Taylor

Aurora Seniors' Centre, 100 John West Way, Aurora
January 4 - March 14

- Basic Level (10 classes) – Teacher, Maureen Richardson

Please visit www.DanceScottish.ca for more details.

53rd Tartan Ball News

Hi Dancers:

There are a few things we would like to remind you of as the New Year begins.

Practices for Newer Dancers

There are three Tartan Ball special practices for newer dancers at the Broadlands Community Centre January 24, 31, and February 7.

Barbara Taylor will have you in tip-top shape in no time flat and ready to dance the night away. Space is limited so please email laurie-m@rogers.com to reserve your spot (see below).

Stay at the Royal York!

We have negotiated a special room rate of \$189 to stay at the Hotel the night of the Ball. Take advantage of it!
[Call 1-800-441-1414 and specify group "Tartan Ball"]

Win a Trip To Scotland!

Someone at the Ball will win two free tickets to Scotland courtesy Air Canada Rouge and VisitScotland.

Meet our Guest of Honour

We have a wonderful, interesting, and remarkably accomplished Guest of Honour who will share a few words with us, and a few dances — Dr. Kirsty Duncan. More about her next month.

... Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor



Special Tartan Ball Practices for Newer Dancers

Sunday afternoons 2-4 p.m. January 24, 31, and February 7
~ \$5/class (Reserve by email)

Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills



Laurie McConachie

These special practices for newer dancers will be taught by Barbara Taylor. The classes will be comfortably paced and focussed on building skill and confidence with the exciting, and very do-able, Ball programme.

Space is limited. Please email me, Laurie McConachie, to reserve your spot (laurie-m@rogers.com).

The 53rd Tartan Ball

Date & Time: Saturday, February 20, 2016

Place: Fairmont Royal York

Music: Scotch Mist

A Trip to Crinan	8x32 J	Coast to Coast
Lady Glasgow	8x32 S	MMM
Catch the Wind	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 45/5
Napier's Index	8x40 J	RSCDS Book 45/8
The Rose of the North	8x32 S	Goldring, Leeds Silver Jubilee
Rest And Be Thankful	8x32 R	Grampian Collection
Interval		
Red House	6x40 R	RSCDS Book 7/2
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8x32 S	RSCDS Leaflet 10
Bill Clement MBE	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 47/1
Glasgow Country Dance	S16+R16 M	RSCDS Book 23/6
Mrs MacLeod	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 6/11
Interval		
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 49/12
EH3 7AF	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 40/6
Merchant City	3x32 S	A Thorn, Glasgow 90th Anniv.
Postie's Jig	4x32 J	Collins Book
Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 18/10
Extras		
The Wild Geese	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 24/3
Polka Dot	5x32 R	Minicrib
Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	Goldring, 24 Graded & Social

Download: www.dancescottish.ca/2016-Tartan-Ball-briefs+video-links.pdf

At the Tartan Ball, please consider those who are allergic to perfumes.

Tartan Ball Practices Calvin's Tartan Ball Practices

Tuesdays, January 26 & February 2 and 9 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. \$6

Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Rd. (nr. Yonge & St. Clair)

We will learn and practise the dances and the figures within them! Everyone is welcome. January 26 we will do the last 5 dances, February 2 we will do the middle 5 dances, and February 9 we will do the first 6 dances.

Glenview's Tartan Ball Practices

Wednesdays, February 10 & 17 ~ 7:30 p.m. \$6

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. (Lawrence & Yonge)

Prepare for the event of the year by going through the complete ball programme over the two-week period with the Glenview SCD. More info: www.glenviewscd.org

St Clement's Tartan Ball Run-through

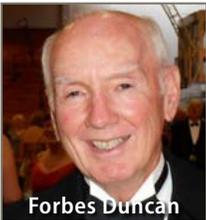
Monday, February 15 ~ 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. \$6

The Great Hall of Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Rd, Forest Hill

Preparedness is key to success. Test your Tartan Ball readiness with a run-through of the programme, in order, top to bottom. We'll have a fun night of dancing while reviewing the dances.

The Family Night Christmas Dance

Santa pictures by Alison Booz



Perhaps we should change the name of the Family Night Dance to the Fun Night Dance. We had 178 dancers there, and wherever you looked, they were having Fun. Whether a new dancer, a young dancer, or an older dancer, everyone was laughing. The music was wonderful. Scotch Mist, with the addition of Karen Reid on the fiddle, was so full of enthusiasm you couldn't keep still. We also had a visit from Santa Claus. Thank you to David Studholme for getting him there on time and safely. Santa even danced *The Sailor*.

Our host groups, Glenview, Woodglan, and Humbercrest, put on a wonderful feast for us at the interval, thank you. Our briefers, Wendy Loberg, Moira Korus, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, and Jane Yearwood (from the Rosedale Children's Group), did an excellent job of running the programme. The next dance is January 16, 2016, at 8 p.m. at Crescent School with Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs providing the music — and there will be no shortage of FUN! (Besides, there are 5 Tartan Ball dances on the programme.) Hope to see many of you there.

... Forbes Duncan



The Demo Pool
Performed at the Christmas Market
in the Distillery District (see also page 7)



Dear Editor...

The young lady who briefed at Family Night did an excellent job. I would like to believe that her briefing means that any other person who wished to brief (and was competent) would also be given the opportunity, or that teachers could designate a non-teacher to brief in their place.

... Jane Robinson

50/50 Draw

Proceeds from 50/50 draws at Monthly Dances support Dancing In The Park. At the December Family Night Dance Stella Henderson won \$160.



What's in a Name? *The Countess of Dunmore's Reel*

It's quite a rare occasion when I get to write a piece about a dance devised by one of our very own. This is one of those infrequent events, the dance having been created by none other than Deirdre MacCuish Bark, well known to many of us, and the current Chair of the RSCDS Toronto Association.

Other than Deirdre, did anyone else know who the Countess of Dunmore was? And Deirdre's interest in her? What was that all about? Then, I remembered Deirdre telling *Set & Link* readers recently about her trip with hubby Keith to visit family on the Hebridean island of Harris (which is not to forget Lewis, the northern half). That's Deirdre's family of course, the MacCuishes. Keith himself hails from the English county of Lincolnshire, which is perhaps better known in some quarters for its poachers — but I digress, and that is a story for another time.

With a lead like that, however, it didn't take me long to find a connection with both the Countess of Dunmore and the internationally known key product of the isle of Harris, which is of course Harris Tweed, a rough, closely woven woollen fabric. Incidentally, Dunmore itself is quite a small Scottish community far from the Hebrides, located between Falkirk and Stirling.

Born to an English peer and his Russian wife in 1814, Lady Catherine Herbert was married at the age of 22 to Alexander Murray, who in turn ultimately inherited the title Earl of Dunmore. After 11 years of marriage, Alexander died. Among other holdings, Catherine Murray, now Countess of Dunmore, inherited 150,000 acres in Harris. And as those who are familiar with the British aristocracy also may know, the wife of an Earl usually takes the

courtesy title of Countess.

Catherine, the now widowed Countess, decided to take a strong interest in the Harris Tweed industry, which in the 1840s was somewhat in the doldrums. To overcome this situation, she recognized that some revolutionary changes were necessary to combat the competition that had sprung up between the spinning and weaving of Harris Tweed, which was all done by hand, and the rapid growth of machine-made cloth. She was so successful in this endeavour that sales burgeoned and Harris Tweed was well on the way to international acclaim.

Enough about the Countess' history, what about the dance?

I must admit that the first time I saw it being performed I thought that I was looking at *Linnea's Strathspey* being danced in reel tempo. I have since learned that I was looking at a progression common to both dances, called, somewhat quaintly in my view, a chaperoned promenade chain. Chaperoned? No, one does not need to have one's mother-in-law in attendance, but I hope that I got the name of that progression right. Whatever, I have indeed danced it a time or two at this point, without embarrassment. It is a very satisfying progression to achieve competently when you have your wits about you.

Well done, Deirdre! RSCDS saw fit to include your *Countess of Dunmore's Reel* in its relatively new *Book 49*. We Toronto area dancers should be very proud of your accomplishment in devising this interesting dance.

...Barry Pipes, mccallum.pipes@rogers.com



West Acres Seniors' Class Convocates



Photo & caption: Patricia Young

West Acres class. Sorry to see it ending. They were the Golden Years.

It is with great regret I must announce that the West Acres Seniors' Class will not continue in 2016. It has been an enormous pleasure dancing with, and later teaching, this class of "golden years" dancers which was started by Jess Bryden in the early '90s. The seniors' centre is being integrated into Toronto Parks and Recreation and next year will be part of the newly renovated and expanded Kipling Acres Seniors' Complex.

All this contributed to a decision to finish now, and to take everyone out for a celebratory lunch at the local Mandarin in December, rather than nibble away at our rather small reserve fund, which we would have to use to subsidize the rent in the new year.

Thank you to all the dancers who have supported the group over the years. I'll miss you all and would like to think we can have a reunion in the spring!

... Nora Sutherland

Hillcrest's Ruby Gem

4x32 Strathspey in a Square set

1-8 All four couples giving a right hand change places with their corner person, giving a left hand turn the next person all the way around. Giving a right hand to your corner person change places, giving a left hand to your partner turn them all the way round. Finish in original places, women facing in, men facing out.

9-16 All 4 couples dance a ladies' chain. Men as written, women dance ½ right hands across while passing through the middle to turn the opposite man giving a left hand, repeat back to place turning partner by the left and finish in original places.

17-32 Set, Link & Progress

All 4 couples Set and Link, women casting into partners' places (as written), men travel 1 place on, counter-clockwise to face the next woman. 1M – 4W, 2M – 1W, 3M – 2W, 4M – 3W.

Set to that person and turn with two hands 1¼ times so the men finish on the women's right. (Women are still in partners' original places.)

All 4 couples Set and Link, men casting into place as the women travel counter-clockwise to face their own partner.

Set to partners and turn them 1¼ to finish in your new place.

Repeat from new positions.

(Devised by Carole Skinner for the occasion of Hillcrest's 40th Anniversary Dance, December 15, 2015)

Video of the dance: <https://youtu.be/iv2JNFr0Qeg>

A Lesson From Scottish Country Dancing

By Jamie Tanner

When we dance as a group and you give me your hand,
It doesn't matter if your skin is dark or light
If you are old or young
If you are gay or straight
If you are a man or woman
If you are Christian or Atheist
If you are Liberal or Conservative or NDP.*
None of that matters as we dance.
I care that your grip is firm;
That you support me as I support you;
That you help me when I forget a step and I'm ready to
help you if you need it;
That we work together with all the people in our set
To make the dance happen, to make it work;
That you smile at me when I smile at you.
That set of dancers is our little world for a few minutes,
One made up of different people getting along and
making something wonderful happen.
For that short time we dance together in harmony
With smiles and laughter.
If only we could remember this when we exit the dance
floor and leave the hall,
And try to dance through Life
With all these diverse and wonderful people
With smiles and laughter.

(The original text says "Democrat or Republican".
Jamie Tanner is with San Francisco Branch)*

Grace Notes



To Jacquie Floyd and her husband, Matthew, a baby daughter born on November 19th.

Lila Floyd was 8 lb 2 oz at birth.

Jacquie is Don Bartlett's daughter and plays fiddle with The Scottish Heirs.



Millie McConnell
20 Dec 1916 ~ 8 Dec 2015

Millie almost made it to 99. She gave up dancing just about a year ago. Latterly, she danced mainly at Tayside but the tales of her lifelong dancing adventures would fill a most entertaining volume. We extend our condolences to her family.

Ed: If you have any anecdotes about Millie send to carolewb@sympatico.ca



Hughina Wilson
d. Dec 20, 2015 ~ age 90

Hughina taught kids to dance at Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church, where Woodglen dances. Her star pupils are Don Bartlett and Andrew Collins. Alas, her teaching career was cut short by a car accident which left her unable to dance. Hughina always came to Rosedale on party days to see the young people dance. She was there Dec 12.

Going to the Tartan Ball? Go in style with this Quality Scottish regalia



- 1. Formal Regalia Set**
 - Prince Charlie jacket & vest (44")
 - 2 XL white pleated shirts, 33"-34" sleeve
 - Detachable lace jabot
 - Gold & Mother of Pearl cufflinks & matching studs
 - MacIntosh kilt & matching flashes (waist: 42", length: 26")
 - Faux fur sporran with silver top
 - Skean dhu, black & silver with amber stone
- 2. Versatile Evening/Day Kit**
 - Black evening/day jacket size 42-44"
 - XL long sleeved white shirt
 - Black leather sporran with chain & leather belt
 - Millennium Kilt (red, green, white) & matching flashes
 - Small skean dhu
- 3. Day Wear**
 - Green Lovatt day jacket, Size 42-44"
 - 2 XL white, short-sleeved shirts
 - Brown leather sporran
 - Wide leather belt with silver MacLeod crest buckle
- 4. Kilt Casual Wear**
 - XL beige ghillie shirt
 - XL green ghillie shirt with hood
 - Green suede vest with laced sides

These items are for sale as the groupings detailed;
no bits & pieces, please. Reasonable offers considered.
Please contact Betty Coombs, 905 639 3534
or email bcoombs@cogeco.ca



Devise a Dance Programme

Deadline extended to Jan 15, 2016

You still have an opportunity to devise the programme for the April 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dance.

Contact Maureen Richardson schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com or Wayne Fraser waynefraser@me.com for further information.

Volunteer Awards



Does your Social Group have special people who volunteer all the time?

Are there people your group could not do without?

Is there someone in the Toronto Association you think is indispensable?

RSCDS Toronto wishes to honour those people.

The Toronto Association asks you to show your gratitude to someone who has given extensive and exceptional unpaid service by nominating them for a Volunteer Award. Nominations may be made by the Board, Social Groups, or by individual RSCDS TA members. At the Volunteer Dance April 9, 2016, we will display the names of those who have contributed their time and energy to Association committees, and we will present framed certificates to those chosen to receive a Volunteer Award.

The criteria plus a list of previous recipients can be viewed on the website — Members' Home page, under VIPs.

Please send nominations to Jane Robinson at janer1@sympatico.ca or to post to Jane at 14 Dearbourne Ave., Toronto M4K 1M7.

Deadline for submissions is February 29, 2016.

YOU COULD BE CONVENOR OF DANCING IN THE PARK

We are looking for a new Convenor for Dancing in the Park. Dancing in the Park takes place at Edwards Gardens on four Tuesday evenings in June. It is a great outreach activity — fun for dancers of all levels of experience and all ages.

Consider volunteering your time and talent to run this event. Please contact me for more info, I will be happy to answer any questions.

I extend my gratitude to Graham Anderson for successfully coordinating the Dancing in the Park for the last five years.

... *Louis Racic, Program Director: 905 430 1255 louis.racic@gmail.com*

Demo Pool Practice Dates

2-4 p.m. Sunday afternoons at Broadlands
♦ Jan 3 ♦ Jan 17 ♦ Feb 21 ♦ Mar 20 ♦ Apr 17

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

Contact: Stella Henderson 416 498 1940

Procedures Manual Update



After long meetings and many hours of discussion, the Procedures Manual of the RSCDS Toronto Association has been updated. Changes recommended by the Board need membership approval by a majority vote at our AGM in 2016.

The document is now posted on our website on the Members' Home Page (dancescottish.ca/Members_Home.html). Please look at these

changes when you have a moment. If you don't have internet access, contact TA Secretary Nancy White (416 923 4392) to have a copy of the proposed changes mailed to you.

Members may also make their own recommendations for changes to the procedures. But note: these must be submitted to the Board by March 1, 2016 and be supported by ten (10) full members of the Toronto Association.

The Procedures Manual is part of our Yellow Book – a collection of the Association's By-Laws, Procedures, and Operations. These three components of the Yellow Book essentially outline how we get things done. Neither the By-Laws nor the Operations Manual is being changed at this time.

These changes to the Procedures Manual are a result of:

- the recent appointment of two Directors-at-Large (Marketing and Education & Training) and the subsequent changes in the job description of the Program Director;
- the impact of constitutional changes made by the Society in Scotland on how the we (and other Branches) designate delegates/proxies for the RSCDS AGM.

... *Nancy White, Secretary & Jean Lindsay, Vice Chair*



Demo Pool at the Christmas Market in the Distillery District

Video: <https://youtu.be/bV50I1bXBs>

Upcoming Events: NEAR

Jan. 10 ~ **Shiftin' Bobbins** ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill. Moira Korus teaching.

www.shiftinbobbins.webs.com

Jan. 16 ~ **January Monthly Dance** ~ 8:00 p.m. at Crescent School. Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs.

Feb. 14 ~ **Shiftin' Bobbins** ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill. Tony Szeto teaching.

Feb. 20 ~ **The 53rd Tartan Ball** – The best Scottish Country Dance Ball anywhere! Music by Scotch Mist. Tickets online at www.dancescottish.ca or contact Laurie McConachie laurie-m@rogers.com

March 12 ~ **March Monthly Dance Beginners' Night** ~ 7:30 p.m. at Crescent School. Music by Scotch Mist.

Mar. 13 ~ **Shiftin' Bobbins** ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill. Andrew Collins teaching.

Apr. 2 ~ **31st Annual West End Workshop** ~ Turner Fenton Secondary School, Brampton.

Apr. 3 ~ **Teachers' Workshop** ~ Gary Couil will lead this workshop for teachers and teacher candidates. Details TBA.

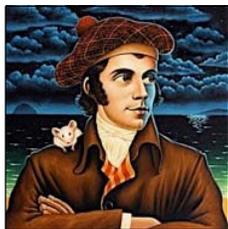
Apr. 10 ~ **Shiftin' Bobbins** ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill. Season Closer with MC Christine Bassnet and music by Fred Moyes.

Apr. 16 ~ **The Young Dancers' Ball** ~ Dancers 35 yrs and under are invited to Cummer Ave United Church to dance to music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs.

May 7 – **RSCDS Toronto Gala Day** ~ Save the date. Social groups will share and demo interesting dances.

May 14 – **47th Annual West Toronto Ball** ~ Save the date for the 47th Annual West Toronto Ball held at the beautiful Sala Caboto in Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave., Toronto. Music by Scotch Mist. Free parking. Tickets are limited due to space and popularity. Order yours early. Dance program and additional details available soon. Info: Moira Loudoun at mldoudoun@bell.net

ASTA's Annual Burns Dinner: Saturday, January 23



Brae Ben Golf Course, 5700 Terry Fox Way, Mississauga. Experience the Address to the Haggis, time-honoured Burns toasts, and a Ceilidh featuring Scotch Mist with Laird Brown and Don Wood. Info & Tickets: Margaret Shortt 905 257 0941

RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

Chair: Deirdre MacCuish Bark	905.822-1707	barkd@rogers.com
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Upcoming Events: FAR

Jan. 23 ~ **RSCDS Buffalo Branch Burns Celebration** at Amherst Community Church, 77 Washington Hwy. Amherst, N.Y. Reception and Raffle 4:30 Dinner at 5:15 \$45 US (\$55 Cdn.) Complete info, including application, dance program, and briefs on our website:

www.rscdsbuffalo.com/burns.html

Feb. 12 - 14 ~ **Annual Weekend of SCD in Hawaii**. Join us in Honolulu for a weekend of dance lessons, social dancing to live music and a semi-formal ball and ceilidh. Teacher: Linda Henderson (California). Music: Humuhumunukunua'ia and Strathspey Society Band. www.rscdshawaii.org

Feb. 21 - 28 ~ **The Sunday Class Dance Holiday, Cadiz**. Join Amada Peart (of The Sunday Class fame) at a beautiful hotel by the sea in sunny Spain. Six dancing nights and two excursions are offered.

Info at: www.thesundayclass.org.uk

Feb. 26 - 27 ~ **RSCDS London (Canada) Workshop Weekend**. Workshop on Feb 27 at Polish Combatants Hall. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org

Mar. 3 - 10 ~ **The Sunday Class Dance Holiday, Conil**. Join Amada Peart (of The Sunday Class fame) at a beautiful hotel by the sea in sunny Spain. Music by Marian Anderson and her band. www.thesundayclass.org.uk

Mar. 4-6 ~ **Belleville Annual Workshop and Ball**. Music by Scotch Mist. Teachers TBA.

Mar. 5 ~ **Hamilton Workshop & Tea Dance**. Teacher: Teresa Lockhart, music by Don Bartlett. 2 - 5 p.m. at Erskine Presb. Church, www.rscdshamilton.org

Mar. 26 - 28 ~ **Paris Branch's Rendez-Vous à Vichy**. An Easter Advanced Weekend. Teacher: Graham Donald. Music: Muriel Johnstone, Jim Lindsay, Ian Robertson. Three classes, 2 evening dances, gala dinner in the spectacular Napoleon III room of the Palais des Congrès. More info: <http://vichy.rscdsparis.fr>

Apr. 8 - 10 ~ **RSCDS Lyon (France) 30th Anniversary Weekend**. Teachers: Roberta Gotfried, Fred DeMarse. Musicians: The Flying Kiwis. Welcome ceilidh Friday evening. Highland, cultural, and gastronomic options. www.rscds-lyon.fr/en

May 7 ~ **RSCDS London (Canada) Annual Spring Ball**. Great Hall Western University. Music by Scotch Mist. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org

June 24 - 30 ~ **Prague Scottish Country Dance Week**. Five days of intensive dancing. Teachers: Ron Wallace and Muriel Johnstone on piano. Optional sight-seeing tour to southern Bohemia. Details: <http://www.dvorana.cz/>

More events, near and far, are listed on the website: www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html
www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Far.html



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Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

Winter School

21-26 February, 2016

Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Scotland

5 days of dancing and music with

Janet Johnston, Ron Wallace,

Jim Lindsay, Ian Robertson, and others.

www.rscds.org/article/winter-school-2016-event

BROADLANDS

2-4 p.m. Sunday afternoon at Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills

♦ Feb 28: **The Dookie Bookie** and **Another Dookie Bookie** with Paul Maloney (details on page 3)

♦ Apr 24: Moira Korus will teach.



Scotland's National Tourism Organisation
www.visitscotland.com

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A VIP TRIP TO SCOTLAND!



Website visitors can win a stay in Scotland for 5 nights. Prize includes entry to must-visit attractions such as Abbotsford, VIP foodie experiences, overnight stays in 5-star accommodation including Dalhousie Castle, and much more!

Attend a Board Meeting

Any member of RSCDS Toronto is welcome to attend a Board meeting as a silent observer.

Arrange attendance with Secretary, Nancy White: nawhite15@gmail.com

