

From the Chair...



I think we may be into Spring! Outside the sun is shining and our front garden is covered in tiny blue Scylla flowers. No sign of leaves on the trees, but it's early yet! The April Volunteer Dance took place April 8th, with a record

turnout, dancing Theresa Malek's winning 2017 Volunteer Dance programme to the music of Scotch Mist. Congratulations to the joint winners of this year's competition, Jane Robinson (2018) and Theresa Malek (2019).

Our dance season is winding down and summer is on the horizon. As a child in Inverness, summer meant Girl Guide camp. We were under canvas, in square bell tents. I suspect they were surplus army issue, as were our kitbags, in which we had to carry all the camping gear. Cooking was on an open fire with sausages, baked beans, and stew as regular diet. All easy to make, as each Guide patrol took it in turn to be cooks for a day. In the evenings we sat around the camp fire and sang songs, including the Canadian folksong, *Land of the Silver Birch*. I did not expect that, 16 years later, we would be moving to Canada.

It was through our Inverness Guide company that I encountered Scottish country dancing. Our Guide captain, Margaret Fraser, taught us, and she kindled the flame of interest as she trained the Guides for the Inverness music festival. Margaret is the reason I so love Scottish country dance, and I am indebted to her for those classes over 50 years ago.

We must thank Mrs Stewart of Fasnaclloch, Girl Guide Commissioner for Argyll and co-founder of the RSCDS. On seeing that the Scottish Guides were dancing English country dances, she thought they ought to learn the Scottish dances of her youth. Her determination resulted in the founding of the RSCDS with Miss Milligan in 1923.

I enjoyed my term as Chair, and I thank the Toronto Association Board and committees, who have been of tremendous help during my term of office.

Congratulations to our new Chair, Jean Lindsay, and the incoming Board.

Sláinte!

Deirdre

Volunteer Awards 2016-17



GLENNA MACDONALD

Glenna is a member of both the Glenview and Trinity social groups. She is an enthusiastic dancer. Glenna began as the class rep for the Association's beginner class at Swansea for six years and then in 2013 she became the Convenor for Association Classes and thus responsible for all levels of classes at Eastminster, Aurora, and St. Leonard's.

JOAN WOOD

Joan's dedication to the well-being of the Trinity Group has never flagged. She has served on the Committee running Trinity's affairs from her first involvement to the present day. Her commitment and good spirits have greatly strengthened the fabric of the Trinity Scottish Country Dance Group over the years.

MAY RALSTON

May's introduction to Scottish country dance was in Kingston, Jamaica. She has continued to dance regularly with the Don Mills social group at the Banbury Community Centre. May is a good ambassador for Scottish country dance. With her friendly nature, she has encouraged more than one person to join the fun of dancing Scottish.

For full citations visit: www.dancescottish.ca/Volunteer_Awards_2017.html

Dance Programme Devisor Initiative



Thank you to all those who submitted dance programmes for this season's Volunteer Appreciation Dance Programme Devisor Initiative. Two submissions met all the criteria equally, and so we have two winners. Congratulations to both Jane Robinson (left), whose programme will be danced at the 2018 Volunteer



Appreciation Dance, and to Theresa Malek (right), whose programme we'll dance at the 2019 Volunteer Appreciation Dance.

The Teachers' Panel will organize a workshop on "Devising a Dance Programme" during the upcoming dance season. In future, feedback will be provided for each submission if the candidate requests it. Watch for more details in *Set & Link* this autumn. Give consideration to creating a dance programme. It is a tremendous opportunity to experience the delight of fellow dancers in bringing your programme to life.

Happy Scottish Country Dancing!

...Maureen Richardson

Special Events

The West Toronto Ball

Saturday, May 13

Sala Caboto in Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave, Toronto

Come dance the night away at the 48th annual West Toronto Ball. The programme is devised with the beginner in mind but it's fun for all levels of dancers. Enjoy a full service sit-down meal, the Grand March, and dancing to the music of Scotch Mist. All-inclusive dinner and dance ticket \$85 per person. Ticket order forms available at your group or at www.dancescottish.ca

Info: Moira Loudoun at 905 274 0229 or mloudoun@bell.net

Calvin's Spring Dance

Tuesday, May 16

Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Avenue

Calvin SCD Group invites all dancers to join our Spring Celebration at our last dance of the season, with the wonderful music of Don Bartlett on piano. Your \$10 entry fee includes light refreshments at the interval. Contact Nancy Stokes naristo@rogers.com 416 425 2195 or Mary Baldwin 416 485 8280 mbaldwin456@hotmail.com

Glenview's Spring Dance

Wednesday, May 17

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue

Enjoy an evening of dancing to the live music of Fred Moyes at Glenview's end-of-season dance. Tickets \$15 at the door. Refreshments follow dancing. Everyone welcome. Starts 7:30 p.m.

Info: glenviewscdg.org

St. Andrew's of Brampton Spring Dance

Wednesday, May 24 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Andrew's Church, 44 Church St E, Brampton

Come and enjoy dancing on a great floor and of course there will be refreshments! The cost is \$8 at the door. The programme by Paul Maloney will be posted on the website along with a map.

White Heather Ball

Saturday, June 17

General Sikorski Hall in Oshawa, 1551 Stevenson Road

Tickets now available from Marjorie Mason 905 985 6573 or marjorie@weetartanshop.ca. Dinner & dance \$75. Music by Scotch Mist. Learn/practice the dances free on Thursdays, June 1, 8, and 15 at 7 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Port Perry.

Canada 150 Red & White Celebration

Saturday, June 24 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Grace Church-on-the Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd.

Celebrate Canada's sesquicentenary with a gala afternoon dance of Canadiana, whimsy, and cheer. Dancers, **please wear red & white**.

\$10, includes light refreshments. Space is limited, reserve with teresa.lockhart@rogers.com 416 759 9845. Programme with video links at www.dancescottish.ca

Calvin's 60th Anniversary Dance

Saturday, October 21, 2 p.m. - 4:30

Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Road (Yonge & St Clair)

The first-ever dance at Calvin was Oct 21, 1957 — exactly 60 years before this celebration. You are invited to the party. Don Bartlett will play piano and the programme will include dances collected over six decades, danced at the Assembly Balls we shared with Trinity, Calvin favourites, and popular new dances. There will be snacks and, of course, birthday cake. All this for only \$15. To reserve your ticket: dancescottishwithvicky@gmail.com

Dancing in the Park 2017



Every Tuesday evening in June, 7:00-dusk

2017 DITP Programme initiated by Nigel Keenan

Week 1 June 6 ~ Military Night

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Braveheart | 6 x 32 R | Clayperhands |
| Monymusk | 8 x 32 S | RSCDS Book 11 |
| Lieutenant Zachary Hicks RN | 4 x 32 R | Drewry, Bon Accord Book |
| Gay Gordons | 6 x 16 M | Trad., Collins Book |
| The White Cockade | 8 x 32 R | RSCDS Book 5 |
| Major Ian Stewart | 8 x 32 J | RSCDS Book 35 |
| The Blue Mess Jacket | 4 x 32 S | Kinclaven Pocket Book |
| Blue Bonnets | 6 x 32 J | Trad., RSCDS Book 3 |
| Military Two-Step | 6 x 16 M | Trad., Collins Book |
| Reel of the 51st Division | 8 x 32 R | Lt J Atkinson, RSCDS Book 13 |
| Extras | | |
| The Barmkin | 1 x 88 R | Goldring, 2nd Graded Book |
| The Wild Geese | 8 x 32 J | RSCDS Book 24 |

Week 2 June 13 ~ Romantic Night

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| The Lady Wynd | 8 x 32 J | Goldring, Graded & Social Dances 2 |
| Summer Wooing | 8 x 32 R | Alan MacPherson, RSCDS Book 38 |
| Fair Donald | 8 x 32 S | RSCDS Book 29 |
| See You Again | 5 x 32 J | Dottie Carr, Let's All Dance |
| The Kissing Bridge | 8 x 32 R | Romaine Butterfield, Rscds Book 47 |
| C'est l'Amour (The Flirt) | 8 x 32 J | 1830, RSCDS Book 34 |
| St Bernard's Waltz | 6 x 16 W | Wm Smith, Glasgow 1913, Collins Guide |
| Lass of Richmond Hill | 3 x 32 R | F Turnbull, Richmond Anniv. Book |
| The Trysting Place | 6 x 32 S | I Boyd, RSCDS Book 35/6 |
| Mairi's Wedding | 8 x 40 R | Cosh, 22 Scottish Country Dances |
| Extras | | |
| Scotland's Gardens | 8 x 32 R | Roy Goldring |
| Langholm Fair | 3 x 32 S | Jean Attwood, Alexander Book 3 |

Week 3 June 20 ~ Nautical Night

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Cutty Sark | 8 x 32 J | RSCDS Book 40 |
| The Sailor | 8 x 32 H | RSCDS Book 24/4 |
| The Dundee Whaler | 4 x 32 S | R Clowes, Ormskirk 1 |
| Circassian Circle (Orcadian style) | 5 x 32 R | Trad. |
| The Captain's House | 8 x 32 R | Holly Boyd, RSCDS Graded Book 3 |
| Over The Water to Charlie (new way) | 8 x 32 J | Trad. 1750, RSCDS Book 34 |
| Jessie's Hornpipe | 8 x 32 R | RSCDS Book 8 |
| The Minister On The Loch | 3 x 32 S | Goldring, 24 Graded & Social Dances |
| Britannia Two-Step | 6 x 16 M | Trad. |
| The Royal Yacht Britannia | 8 x 40 R | J Drewry, RSCDS Book 43 |
| Extras | | |
| The Tri-Mariner | 8 x 32 R | Ann Dix, RSCDS Book 48 |
| The Dhooon | 4 x 32 J | J Hamilton, SCDs for Children |
| The Swan & The Tay | 3 x 32 S | A Saunders, Perth 800 |

Week 4 June 27 ~ Down Under Night

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| Cabbages & Kings | 8 x 32 J | Romaine Butterfield, Harbour City Book |
| Kangaroo Paw | 8 x 32 R | John Brenchley, Kangaroo Paw |
| Cape Town Wedding | 8 x 32 S | Tom Kerr, RSCDS Book 39 |
| The Waratah Weaver | 4 x 32 J | Elma See, 2nd Book of Graded Dances |
| Flowers Of Edinburgh | 8 x 32 R | Traditional, RSCDS Book 1 / 6 |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | 4 x 64 J | B Fordyce, Morrison's Bush Collection |
| Catch The Wind | 8 x 32 R | Romaine Butterfield, RSCDS Book 45 |
| Bruce's Men | 3 x 32 S | Roy Goldring, Scotia Suite |
| Canadian Barn Dance | 6 x 16 M | Collins Guide |
| The Australian Ladies | 8 x 32 R | Bob Campbell, Glasgow Assembly |
| Extras | | |
| The Piper & The Penguin | 1 x 88 R | Roy Goldring, Scotia Suite |
| The Wandering Wallaby | 4 x 32 J | Peter Fish, RSCDS Book 50 |

The 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dance



The April 8, 2017, Volunteer Appreciation Dance was by far the most successful of the three we have run under the present format (free admission for volunteers). We had beautiful weather, so there was no problem getting to the dance; we had a great band, Scotch Mist; and the programme featured many familiar dances. Thank you, Theresa Malek. Our total attendance was 122, compared to three years ago, 88.

Admission was payment optional for volunteers but they still donated generously, which helped with our expenses.

Volunteer Awards were presented to May Ralston, Joan Wood, and Glenna MacDonald at the interval. The 50/50 draw

was won by Moira Korus. Jane Robinson and Theresa Malek both won the Design a Dance Programme contest.



Forbes Duncan

As the 2016-17 season draws to an end, I thank the dancers who faithfully attended the Monthly Dances, the teachers who briefed, the teams that ran the 50/50 draw and sold RSCDS Toronto merchandise, and the members of the Monthly Dance Committee: Ken McKinnon and Ken Adamson.

I hope to see everyone this autumn, back at Crescent School for more Monthly Dances with wonderful music and dancing.

...Forbes Duncan



The Toronto Volunteers, 8r32 by Deirdre MacCuish Bark ~ This wonderful dance of Deirdre's honours the volunteers who make RSCDS Toronto such a vibrant and effective community of kindred spirits. The dance was premiered, 4x, by Woodglen social group at the Burns Supper of Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church. Its first public outing was at the April 8 dance. It's a bit tricky, with a most unusual set & shadow link. But the assembled crowd got it, joyfully, 8x32 plus a reprise. The main tune, *The British Grenadiers*, is great. Videos are posted on YouTube and Facebook. To date, about 400 people have seen us dance it. Instructions, video, and a Keith Rose diagram are on Reuben Freemantle's www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com and kudos have arrived from around the world. Reuben wrote ... "it ticks a lot of boxes for me."

The Toronto Volunteers Alternative lyrics to *The British Grenadiers**

We revel in the music; the way it lifts our feet.

Thank all the fine musicians who play a stirring beat.

But without the organizers, no music would we hear.

Say: Thank you, *merci*, well done you! to Toronto's volunteers.

There's always a warm welcome at every monthly dance;

Someone is selling tickets; come on and take a chance.

Fundraising and accounting pays all the costs so dear.

Say: Thank you, *merci*, well done you! to Toronto's volunteers.

Come in out of the cold night; someone unlocked the door

And when the party's over, they stayed to sweep the floor;

They planned for insurance; booked permits year to year.

Say: Thank you, *merci*, well done you! to Toronto's volunteers.

It's an interesting programme, in a season full of fun.

This has required some planning and research by someone.

They searched the net for dances; watched YouTubes far and near.

Say: Thank you, *merci*, well done you! to Toronto's volunteers.

The jewel in the crown is the glittering Tartan Ball.

Without hardworking volunteers, it couldn't happen at all.

It's volunteers who fuel the fun for each event all year.

Say: Thank you, *merci*, well done you! to Toronto's volunteers.

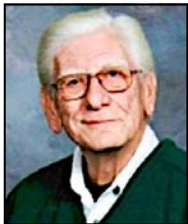
* Thanks to Kathryn Bralten for this witty tribute to Toronto's Volunteers



fifty-fifty draw

At the Volunteer Appreciation Night Dance, Moira Korus won \$141 in the 50/50 draw. Proceeds from 50/50 draws at Monthly Dances support Dancing In The Park.

#93 What's in a Name? *Granville Market*



Barry Pipes

It may well be that there are quite a number of dancers in RSCDS Toronto who have never heard of Granville Market. Being located in Vancouver may account for that. The fact remains that Granville Island and the attractions it contains, including the Granville Public Market, are among Vancouver's tourist pleasures, much like Seattle's Pike Place Market a couple of hundred miles to the south in Washington State.

I mention that comparison, because the deviser of this dance, Elinor Vandegrift, is a very well-known member of RSCDS Seattle. As well as being a Scottish country dance teacher of long standing in the Seattle area, Elinor is an examiner of teacher candidates and, I rather suspect, travels extensively throughout North America in that role. I would also think that Elinor is very familiar with Interstate Highway 5 which runs north to the Canadian border, where it connects with B.C. Highway 99, taking her into Vancouver and crossing Granville Island in the process.



As well as the Public Market, Granville Island itself has amenities such as an extensive marina, a boutique hotel, and several performing arts theatres, fine art galleries, and a variety of shopping areas plus a craft brewer, The Granville Island Brewing Co. The Public Market features a big farmers' market and many retailers selling a variety of artisan foods and hand-made crafts.

My personal interest in the Island (actually a peninsula), is that my oldest son is an ocean-going tug pilot out of Vancouver harbour, and my second son owns a quite popular (if I may say so!) sports bar in the Seattle community of Greenwood, using a strong Canadiana setting.

Over the years, I have visited both locations with some frequency and have even danced with Elinor's SCD Group.

Elinor's dance, *Granville Market*, is a 32-bar jig. I don't think I have ever danced it, but the opportunity will arise on June 24 when it will be performed at our celebratory Canada 150th birthday, Red & White dance programme at Grace Church-on-the-Hill. Let's have many of us in attendance at that event, all dressed up in red and white as has been requested.

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

Granville Market as danced at Toronto's 2015 Family Christmas: <https://goo.gl/zhc4Yc>



Link up with *Set & Link!*

Story teller? Researcher? Journalist?
Graphic Artist? Photographer?

If you say YES to any of these, please contact any of the newsletter team. We'd like to discuss your offered talents and ideas.

International Branch: *What & Why*



Fred DeMarse

When the RSCDS started in 1923, Branches were established in the UK and around the world to organize Scottish country dance activities and communications with Society headquarters in Edinburgh. The Society grew into a world-wide organization where dancers could communicate with other dancers, even in remote areas where there were no formal groups. The International Branch was created to represent those dancers

who did not have a local Branch or group to join.

International Branch started in 2004, with a small number of dancers in several countries. Currently, we have over 350 members from many countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Singapore, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, and Wales.

The International Branch is electronic. Its seven-member committee from different parts of the world conduct Branch business every two to three months via Skype. It has one annual face-to-face meeting during a luncheon hosted by the IB on the Saturday of the Society AGM in Scotland.

The IB website – www.rscds-ib.org – is well regarded for its ease of use and its content. We place all information the Branch Committee receives from RSCDS HQ on the website. The IB holds a week-long electronic AGM in December, conducted through the IB website, and members can comment on agenda topics and Committee reports. Our innovative AGM format has been copied by other Branches.

The IB produces a high-quality quarterly newsletter. Branch members take a group picture at any SCD event they attend and the photo is included in the newsletter. The IB organizes a weekend workshop every odd-numbered year. Workshop locations have included Estonia, Scotland, Czech Republic, Ireland, and Denmark. This year, we are in Pafos, Cyprus, at the end of April. Over 120 dancers will attend an exciting workshop with wonderful teachers and musicians.

Finally, the IB promotes Scottish dancers and musicians in remote parts of the world through the Susi Mayr Fund. She was a founding member, and the fund in her memory helps to finance individual dancers, musicians, and remote dance groups so they can pursue their aspirations to improve their Scottish dancing and music skills.

Contact us if you have questions. We would love to have you join the IB in this exciting activity: *Scottish country dancing*.

...Fred DeMarse





Le Papillon Among the Pringles!



Izzy

Have you ever had a Medal Test rehearsal among the Pringles? Danced a Grand Chain around the groceries? Well, one day I was at Longo's shopping with my Mummy and Teresa Lockhart glided by as we were putting potato chips into our cart! We were excited to see her, as she was my old dance teacher. Somehow she knew I had a test coming up and she asked me to walk *Le Papillon*. Then she asked me to talk through the other dances. (Rob was watching from across the aisles.)

Then we started to dance! Mummy was laughing because she never expected to see SCD in the grocery store! It was fun.

Then came Medal Test Day. We had to dance *Le Papillon*, *Brudenell Jig*, and *The Honeymoon*. I was nervous and so was my partner, Sophia. The examiners were friendly. Moira and Gavin were sitting nearby. We had to talk the dances through and we remembered everything! But I was still nervous! Then we did the dances.

Moira was 99% sure that Sophia and I had passed but I was still nervous!! I had such a good feeling when I found out that we had passed.

I am glad that I have such kind and funny teachers.

...Isabel Tessaro, Rosedale

[Ed: Isabel is 8 years old and danced, successfully, for a Level 1 medal this year.]



Sophia

22 Seasons of SCD at Queen Victoria



The 'Spirit of the Dance' was once again felt at Queen Victoria Public School as Scottish country and Ceilidh dancing launched its 22nd season. Forty-four interested Grades 2 and 3 students eagerly got permission slips signed by their parents, and handed in the day after they were given out.

Dancing takes place during lunch hour, three days a week for 40 minutes in the school's main foyer. Four kindergarten classes were added this year, at the request of their teachers, who wanted their pupils to participate. Once, sometimes twice, a week for 30 minutes students danced in their classrooms during class time. Occasionally, some fascinated parents and teachers also joined in.

The children can now execute simple formations such as turning by the left/right hand, circle round and back, chase, back-to-back, and forward for two and back for two. In a round-the-room dance, couple facing couple and progressing by moving forward to face another couple, as in *The Prince of Orange*, we called this formation *Meet New Friends* — which is now the QVPS other name for the dance. The children especially enjoy this dance as they also get to clap their hands, stamp their feet, and sway their bodies.

How delightful indeed to witness children of various ethnicity, some of them refugees with no formal school experience, feel the sense of belonging and have the opportunity to express their own individuality through this uplifting Scottish pastime.

... Lourdes Genosa

John Beckwith at 90: life, love, music, and dance

John Beckwith celebrated his 90th birthday on March 9 with many very interesting years to remember. His 2012 autobiography, *Unheard Of: Memoirs of a Canadian Composer*, tells his life story with extensive details about the composing of some of his major works.

He describes the challenges of family life, writing, teaching, guiding the Faculty of Music at University of Toronto, all the while following his passion for putting together new combinations of sounds. He has often used themes from heritage Canadian music in his work.

His increasing association with Faculty Librarian, Kathleen McMorro, led to a decision to share their life. He had already bought a bicycle so he could join her on long-distance tours, and after watching her in John Hurd's Trinity Scottish country dance class, he agreed to try that too. Weather permitting, they customarily ride their bicycles to Thursday night classes at Seeley Hall.

John is the holder of five honorary degrees and the Order of Canada. For the April 2013 Arts and Letters Club Award and Gala in his honour, he was asked to "compose something". With the Tartan Ball in his mind at the time, he wrote the charming *Sonatina on "Mairi's Wedding"* for flute and piano.

Commission of a special work to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's voyage to the Georgian Bay region gave John scope for research into French history and indigenous customs. The Toronto Consort's February presentation of John's *Wendake/Huron* with added choir, drummers, and storyteller was quite wonderful!

... Barbara McNutt



Kathleen McMorro and John Beckwith at the 2017 Tartan Ball. They did almost every dance that night. John Fraser, our Guest of Honour, started his remarks by saying he was honoured to be in the same room as John Beckwith – as are we all when John comes dancing.



Dear Editor...

Thank you

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to the Directors of the Toronto Association, and their individual committee members. During my term as Director of Education & Training, those on the Board were very generous in sharing their experience and expertise. It took a great deal of patience, as not only was I a new-comer to the Board but the position was newly created. They were very helpful in supporting the new initiatives of an Association Class in Aurora under the tutelage of Tony Szeto, and the Dancing Achievement Awards programme under the direction of Moira Korus and Barbara Taylor.



Maureen Richardson

The E&T position provided the opportunity to learn a great deal about all that goes into offering a wide variety of dancing experiences to those who want to dance. It was a pleasure meeting, and working with, those who volunteered in so many different capacities in the organization, and who gave so much of their time in their roles designated in the description of the Education & Training function.

There are a number of people who deserve recognition: Glenna MacDonald, Convenor of the Association Classes, and her team of volunteers for their dedicated time and effort in coordinating the classes at St. Leonard's, Eastminster, and in Aurora; Teresa Lockhart, and those on the Teachers' Panel, for their attention to detail in suggesting teachers for the classes, enlisting devisors for the Tartan Ball and monthly dance programmes and DITP programme, and keeping teachers updated on current practices; Moira Korus and the Youth Committee for their time and efforts coordinating the Family Ceilidh, the Youth Ball, and creating opportunities to attract young dancers.

Thank you to all the dancers who support, through their participation in so many ways, the activities of the Toronto Association, keeping Scottish Country Dancing vibrant for everyone to enjoy.

See you on the dance floor!

Kindest regards, Maureen Richardson

The Dream Catcher — comments from Australia

Friends of ours in Toronto (Lourdes and Nigel) regularly send us copies of *Set & Link*. We particularly enjoy the "What's in a Name?" segment, but I was mildly amused that Barry Pipes, in Vol. 13, #6 (Feb 2017) was surprised that *The Dream Catcher* was devised by a teacher from England. It could just as easily have been written by somebody from Australia. The dream catcher is probably as well known here as the Australian boomerang is in North America. Plastic versions are readily available in many "cheap shops", which specialise in all sorts of interesting items imported from China or some other Asian countries.

While most of us would not be able to tell that dream catchers come from the culture of the Ojibwa people, we would associate them with the North American First Nation people. Their purpose would also be understood, although people usually buy them as decoration. I don't know if they have similar shops in England, so Barry's theory about a visit to Canada is probably correct.

Don Chitts, Upwey, Victoria, Australia

Fashion Convenor Opportunity

Marie Duncan has done a great job selling our RSCDS Toronto T-shirts, sweats, polos, and other items at monthly dances and workshops. After nearly a decade, Marie is stepping down from her fashion convenor role. The Board thanks her for her dedication and efficiency.

We're looking for a volunteer to take over fashion sales. Many of you have bought our great RSCDS

branded shirts so you know they're casual and comfortable for dancing. They also promote SCD and help our bottom line.

If you're interested in helping please get in touch with any member of the Board or contact Marie: fmduncan@sympatico.ca



Shirts, and model, may not be exactly as shown



Tony Szeto's Teachable Moment!

One morning during March Break when my family GP was away, I woke up with what I thought to be indigestion. "Uh-oh," was my first thought. But then I had been coughing quite badly, so I said to Lorraine, "Can't be! I'm a picture of health. It's just my lungs."

We went to a local walk-in clinic rather than a hospital. ECG and blood tests were ordered, along with a chest X-ray. "Come back for a follow-up in a few days."

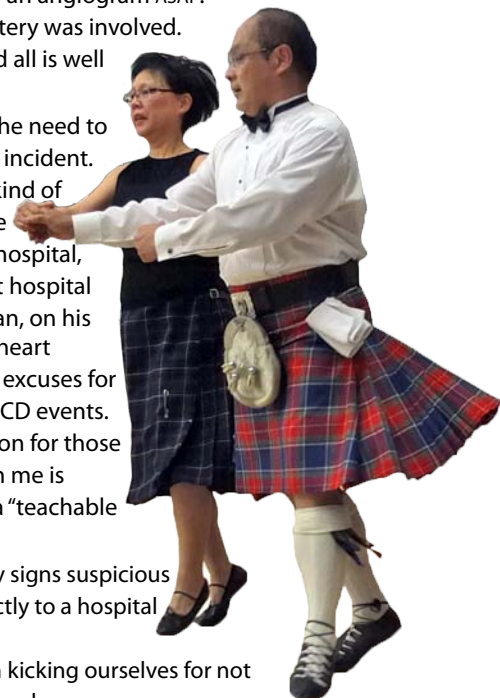
A good week later, when I saw my own doctor, he noticed something alarming in the ECG. He ordered more tests, yada yada ... The chance for early intervention was lost. Long story short: my doctor rushed an appointment with a cardiologist, who, after more tests, arranged for an angiogram ASAP. Good news: only one artery was involved. A stent was put in it, and all is well for now.

Initially I didn't see the need to tell everyone about this incident. But then my hand was kind of forced when, as Lorraine wheeled me out of the hospital, who did we run into but hospital volunteer, Forbes Duncan, on his way to help recovering heart patients. I had made up excuses for missing several recent SCD events. But here is the true reason for those absences. The teacher in me is seizing this incident as a "teachable moment."

If you should feel any signs suspicious of heart trouble, go directly to a hospital — DO NOT PASS GO!

Lorraine and I have been kicking ourselves for not having done so several weeks ago.

"Live long and prosper." ... Tony Szeto (shown dancing with Lorraine)



Let's Talk MEMBERSHIP (*are you with us?*)

Anselm Lingnau teaches the Frankfurt, Germany, SCD group, and he runs www.strathspey.org (a.k.a. the strathspey server), a wizard's cave of dance data and SCD info and services. Quoted below are comments he posted on Marjorie McLaughlin's Facebook page.

Anselm's comments prompted our Membership Director, Wayne Fraser, to reflect on membership issues. An interesting dialogue; food for thought.



Anselm Lingnau posted: I think many people (especially in Scotland) don't realise that the future of Scottish country dancing is actually not in any sort of danger. More people are doing it now than at any other previous time in history, in more places around the world than ever, and many people are committed enough to

volunteer their free time and their own money to become teachers or musicians, or write new dances and music, and so on.

There's a lot of doom and gloom in the RSCDS leadership about how membership numbers keep dropping, which is a real problem because the Society basically runs on membership dues, and inordinate amounts of time, energy, and money are being expended trying to make SCD "more popular". To fix the RSCDS membership problem, SCD doesn't need to be made more popular, we just need more of the dancers out there to join the Society! (Of course, having more dancers is always nice, but it should be much easier to sell RSCDS membership to people who already bought into the idea that SCD is worth doing, than to people who must be convinced to start SCD in the first place.)

In other words, even when the last Scottish country dancer in Scotland has succumbed to old age there will be young people in Canada and Germany and France and Russia and other places and we will continue to carry the torch – but still it would be nice to see the Society go on, too, so join today (if you aren't yet a member), and get a friend or two to join as well. It's worth it!



Wayne Fraser wrote to *Set & Link*: Lingnau's piece brings a positive and hopeful message to our obsession with membership numbers. It is likely true that more SCD is going on throughout the world than ever before; however, diminishing membership is a reality. I found it fascinating that he framed the "fix" as encouraging more dancers to become Members. This isn't RSCDS Toronto's reality.

Our problem is not number of members, but members who are not supporting dancing events. Our current membership comprises 378 potential dancers for any event. This includes our Juniors. I realize we don't know how many of that number are unable to dance. We had 159 attend the March Beginners' Night dance; 122 at the April Volunteer Appreciation Dance. These were wonderful evenings with great music — which were missed by at least half of our actively dancing members. Thus, our "fix" is more a challenge of rousing our members to bring feet to the dancing floor. Also, I observe it's mostly the same crowd at monthly dances, with maybe a 20% variation. Why? I don't know, but it motivates me to do another survey to try and capture the truth. I must admit to an occasional meddlesome anxiety as to who the future torch carriers will be.

Toronto members. . . What are your thoughts?

...Wayne, Membership Director

A Fond Farewell: John Christie



John Christie was formally presented the Scroll of Honour by Ian Paterson at the 2006 Tartan Ball

The Toronto Scottish dance community lost a well known and highly respected member on March 30, 2017, with the death of 91-year-old John Christie, who was born on March 21, 1927, in Cruden Bay, Scotland. For 36 years John taught the Scarborough Scottish dance group, which, under his tutelage from 1968 to 2004, grew to one of the largest groups in the Toronto Association. His demonstration team brought a sense of excitement to their performances and that excitement was evident each time they appeared at the Branch Gala Day. John created this sense of fun, and it came through in the dancing. The crowning glory for his distinguished years of teaching was the recognition and awarding in November 2005 of the Society's Scroll of Honour.

John and his wife Margaret began their Canadian involvement with Scottish country dancing in the fall of 1955 when a teacher, Alex Hay, recently arrived from Scotland. Hay started a class at Playter's Hall, 757 Broadview Avenue, in the Riverdale area of Toronto. The hall's third floor also became the east end place to dance nightly to big-name bands in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. Guy Lombardo's orchestra played at Playter's Hall regularly in the 1930s.

The class was an instant success, boosted by a goodly number of other recent arrivals from the UK. The Riverdale class demo team was formed in 1966, and John became an active member, participating in performances at various Scottish clubs and functions. The highlight was a live performance on CBC TV's *Country Hoedown*. John's teaching prowess came to the fore during the time he spent in London, Ontario, where he became an active member of the London Branch.

On the family's return to Toronto in 1968, they resided in Scarborough and so began John's association with the Scarborough class. In addition to country dancing, John was an enthusiastic tennis player and golfer. John Christie was a gentle man and a gentleman, and he will be sorely missed.

...Sandy Bain

*When death's dark stream I ferry o'er –
It is a time that surely shall come,
In Heaven itself, I will ask for no more
Than just a Highland welcome.*

...Robert Burns, Epigram: *On Parting With A Kind Host In The Highlands*

Upcoming Events: NEAR

May 5 - **South Simcoe Spring Fling**: Dance to a seasonal themed programme and enjoy a supper. \$10 Music by Laird Brown & Don Wood. 7:30 at Knox Presb., 160 King St. S., Alliston. Map and info: www.dancescottish.ca

May 6 - **The Youth Ball**: Young people ages 10-35 are invited to dance to music by Fred Moyes. Save the date. Programme and details at www.dancescottish.ca

May 13 - **The West Toronto Ball**: Get your ticket for the 48th annual West Toronto Ball. Music by Scotch Mist. Programme and details at www.dancescottish.ca

May 16 - **Calvin Spring Dance**: at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Avenue. Music: Don Bartlett. \$10. Info: Nancy Stokes 416 425 2195 naristo@rogers.com

May 17 - **Glenview Spring Dance**: Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue. Music: Fred Moyes. \$15. Info: glenviewscdg.org

May 23 - **Don Mills' Season Closer**: 7:30 p.m. at Banbury Community Centre, 120 Banbury Road, Don Mills. All are welcome. We dance on a good wood floor! Contact: May Ralston 416 391 5107 auntymay@teksavvy.com

May 24 - **St. Andrew's of Brampton Spring Dance**: 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, 44 Church St E, Brampton. \$8 at the door. Map and info at www.dancescottish.ca

May 25 - **Trinity Trials Potential New Book Dances**: All welcome. 8-10 p.m. at Seeley Hall, UofT, 6 Hoskin Ave.

June 17 - **Highlands of Durham White Heather Ball**: General Sikorski Hall in Oshawa. Tickets, \$75: Marjorie Mason 905 985 6573 or marjorie@weetartanshop.ca. Music by Scotch Mist. Free practices Thursdays, June 1, 8 & 15 at 7 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Port Perry.

June 24 - **Canada 150 Red & White Celebration Dance**: Saturday afternoon, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road, Forest Hill. \$10, reserve your space with teresa.lockhart@rogers.com 416 759 9845.

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Upcoming Events: FAR

May 6 - **London Spring Ball**. Venue: The Great Hall in Somerville House, Western University. Music by Scotch Mist. Program and briefs: www.rscdslondoncanada.org
Info: Anne and Alasdair Campbell, 519 641 3550 or atcampbell@hotmail.com

May 7 - **35th Anniversary Royal Tea Party**. Honouring 35 years of RSCDS Nova Scotia. Truro, NS. Information: Marlene Cormier-Cox at marblemuse.1@xplornet.com or www.rscdsnovascotia.ca

May 19 - **54th Annual Pawling Weekend**, RSCDS New York. Teachers: Antoine Rousseau, Arthur McNair, Rebecca Roman. We will have the music of Scotch Mist. Join us in the Berkshire Hills, Copake NY. Info: 201 694 4646. Info: www.rscdsnewyork.org

May 26-28 - **Peterborough's 33rd Annual Scottish Country Dance Weekend**. Now at Pine Vista Resort on Stoney Lake, Ont. Teacher: Sandy Gallamore, Richmond, Virginia. Music: Fred Moyes. Contact Joan Reeves 705 748 5255 or jfreeves@sympatico.ca

June 9-11- **Midwest Scottish Weekend**. Chicago, Madison, and Milwaukee welcome you to the Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Info: <https://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend>

July 7-10 & 10-15 - **Pinewoods Sessions** ~ Join Boston Branch in the woods of Plymouth and dance beneath the tall pines. Teachers: Fred DeMarse, Kate Nealley, Sue Ronald. Info: www.rscdsboston.org

Sept 8-9 - **Channel Islands Annual Ball** with a pre-ball practice night on September 7. Ticket price of £35 with a £5 for the pre-ball practice. For information visit scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com

Sept 29 - Oct 1 - **Golden Jubilee Weekend**, Gifu, Japan ~ Mary Murray will teach; Marian Anderson will play. Info: artnork@wh.commufa.jp

More events, near and far, at www.dancescottish.ca

40TH Annual Orillia Scottish Festival



Dancers of all ages are invited to dance three simple dances in the Opening Ceremonies of this joyful event. Sign up as a 4-couple set for an honorarium, or come on your own.

Parade 12 p.m. Opening Ceremonies 1:30.

RSVP to Will Kinghorn 705 259 3232, freshstart.wk@gmail.com



RSCDS Toronto
c/o Secretary
942 Yonge St., #113
Toronto ON M4W 3S8

Newsletter Committee:

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Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

St Andrews Summer School

Choice of 4 wks: 16 July - 6 Aug., 2017

St Andrews University

Multiple prominent teachers and musicians; dancers from all over the planet.
www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2017

TAC Summer School

July 23-30, 2017

University of BC, Vancouver

Teachers: Tracy Applebee, Gary Coull, Jean Noble, Andrew Smith
Info: www.tac-rscds.org
or <https://goo.gl/cnplK4>

May 26- 28: Stoney Lake Weekend

Teacher: Sandy Gallamore

Music: Fred Moyes

Workshop registration:

jfreeves@sympatico.ca
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