



# RSCDS SET & LINK Toronto



## From the Chair...



Jean Lindsay

**The 55th Tartan Ball**, the last at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, will be especially wonderful this year.

At the pre-ball reception in the foyer of the Concert Hall you can greet old friends and meet new ones.

We have a very interesting Guest of Honour this year: The Reverend Arthur W. M. J. MacRae.

He has a fascinating background, in the church, the military, and in education. He is a multi-linguist, of prominent languages, and some that are very exotic. I look forward to hearing him speak.

Rev'd MacRae also likes mystery novels, especially those of Peter May, a Scottish novelist. I personally enjoy reading them as well.

I hope you all have a wonderful time dancing in the Concert Hall. Fifty-five years of dancing at the Royal York Hotel has been special!

Warm regards.

*Jean*

*Allow yourself to trust joy and embrace it.*

*You will find you dance with everything!*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **Memo to The Central Committee, R.S.C.D.S. Toronto Branch, Nov 4, 1963 Ball Committee Recommendations:**

"The Tartan Ball" is recommended as a suitable title (suggested by Mr. Iain Macfarlane). The committee suggests that it is a suitable title to retain year after year.

Arrangements with the Royal York Hotel include the use of the Concert Hall, Balcony and Salon B.

A sit-down supper will be served between 10.30 and 11.30 P.M. Guests to be seated at 30 tables arranged in six rows ... and 7 tables on the balcony. Each table will seat 8 guests. The supper to consist of fruit cocktail, roast chicken, dauphine potatoes, green peas, frozen Scottish roll with berries and coffee or tea. Wine stewards will be in attendance during supper. Popular brands of liquor will be 75¢ per drink plus tax. Music to be provided by Stan Hamilton's Clansmen.

**Thus began the glorious tradition** we embrace once more at the 55th Tartan Ball in the glittering Concert Hall of the Royal York. Alas, hotel renovations will make the Concert Hall unavailable in future, and we need to find a new venue for next year (your suggestions are welcome). In these modern times we eat first, but most everything else (except, notably, the price of drinks) will be the same as 55 years ago.

Tradition continues with the music. The Clansmen played the first ball, and for years after. Then Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent for years. Bobby was in the Clansmen; his son Laird now leads our current band, Scotch Mist. Don Wood, a key member of Scotch Mist, also played with Stan Hamilton's band. The beat goes on and we inherit the tradition.

Originally, Tartan Ball dances were simply announced then danced. Today, with many more dances to know – over 20,000 and counting – ball dances are briefed (but not walked). There are special Tartan Ball classes to prepare us, and we have video to reassure us. We shall complete this historic chapter with panache and joy. ... Rob Lockhart



# Special Events

## Valentine Workshop & Tea Dance



**Saturday, February 10 at 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**  
**Knox Presby. Church, 160 King St. S., Alliston**  
 Warm up your winter with a wonderful day of SCD in Alliston with teacher Alicia Manson and her husband, Ian. The day consists of 2 classes, snacks, lunch and desserts, followed by a tea dance. All for only \$45! Registration is limited to 50 people. Carpool with your friends!

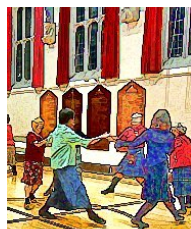
Learning, Live Music (Laird Brown & Don Wood), and the Love of your Life (SCD) is the best way to beat the winter blues.

Tickets: Maureen Richardson [schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com](mailto:schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com)

## Tartan Ball Practices

Various times and places. Listed on Page 3.

## St Clement's Family Day Fun Dance



**Monday, February 19. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. ~ \$6**  
**Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road**

Come join us for a light evening of great dances in the beautiful Great Hall of BSS. All dances will be walked. Music by international artists (ie. digital). Light refreshments included.

Info: [teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com) 416 759 9845

## Special Practice for Orillia Festival

**Sunday, March 11. 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ~ free**

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

Maureen Richardson will teach the dances and protocols for the Opening Ceremonies — plus extra fun dances. Pre-register by Mar. 4 with Will Kinghorn: 705 259 3232 [uilleam.alean@gmail.com](mailto:uilleam.alean@gmail.com)

## Erin Mills (Fri.) Pre-Workshop Dance

**Evening of Friday, March 23. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. ~ \$10**

**Mississauga Seniors' Centre, Olga Tyne Auditorium, 1389 Cawthra Rd**

William Williamson, guest teacher from Scotland, will kindle our enthusiasm with some interesting dances in anticipation of the 33rd West End Workshop. We'll have the added pleasure of Don Bartlett's music. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

Directions/info: Jean Hamilton 905 566 9599

## West End Workshop & Tea Dance

**Saturday, March 24, Turner Fenton School, Brampton**



**See page 5.**

Three great teachers: William Williamson from Scotland; Marie Zicarelli from Buffalo; Alma Smith from Oakville.

Brochure/Application Forms are available from your teacher, or download from: [www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html](http://www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html)

## Teachers' Workshop

**Sunday, March 25. 2:00 - 4:30/5:00 p.m. ~ \$15**

**Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore Rd. W., Mississauga (Clarkson)**

William Williamson from Dumfries, Scotland, will share his wealth of teaching experience and suggestions for advancing the cause, plus a few dances. Don Bartlett will play for this event. Further info: Deirdre MacCuish Bark [barkd@rogers.com](mailto:barkd@rogers.com)



# Beginner Night Dances



2017-18 Programme by David Booz

**Date:** Saturday, March 10

**Place:** Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave. Dancing starts at 7:30 p.m.

**Music:** Scotch Mist

**Hosts:** • Hillcrest • Woodglen • Trinity

**Briefs:** [www.dancescottish.ca/2018-March-Monthly-Dance-briefs+video.pdf](http://www.dancescottish.ca/2018-March-Monthly-Dance-briefs+video.pdf)

It's Nae Bother	6 x 32 J	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book
Longfield Reel	8 x 32 R	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book
Keppoch's Rant	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 17
One Step Forward	8 x 32 R	Skelton, Milestones
Wisp Of Thistle	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 37
The Kelloholm Jig	8 x 32 J	Hyssett, RSCDS Leaflet

### Interval

Two And Two	6 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 19
The Haar On Skye	8 x 32 S	RSCDS 3rd Graded Book
A Reel For Alice	5 x 32 R	Goldring
Collichur	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 30
Inveraray	8 x 32 S	Miss Milligan's Miscellany 1
Shiftin' Bobbins	8 x 32 R	Clowes, Ormskirk 6

### Extra

Happy Returns	8 x 32 R	Miss Milligan's Miscellany 2
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*All dances will be walked and briefed.*

*Members: \$22; non-Members: \$28; Students (18-25): \$10;*

*Youth (<18) and Spectators: \$5 Dancers in Beginner Classes: \$10*

*Monthly Dances are NUT FREE and SCENT FREE.*

## January Monthly Dance



Forbes Duncan

Attendance at our January Dance was disappointing. Only 83 dancers came — and they had a wonderfully enjoyable evening. Scotch Mist was in top form; the programme had a nice mixture of dances, and there was lots of room to dance with exuberance. The cheerful and competent dancers attending enabled three new videos for dances that had no decent video previously, including a dance on the Tartan Ball.

Cheryl Waith-Taylor's prize in the 50/50 draw was \$105.

There was some good news at the January Dance. . . Laird Brown was able to confirm Jimmy Darge and his accordion fit for service.

Our next dance is March 10, with a 7:30 p.m. start. Scotch Mist will supply the music.

This is our Beginners' Dance; please make an effort to come out to encourage and support our new dancers. . . . Forbes





# Tartan Ball Practices

**Calvin: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30**

Jan. 30: Dances that follow the 2nd Interval

Feb. 6: Dances that follow the 1st Interval

Feb. 13: Dances before the 1st Interval

Calvin Presby. Church, 26 Delisle Avenue

Info: [vickyzeltins@gmail.com](mailto:vickyzeltins@gmail.com)

**Glenview: Wednesdays, 7:30-9:15**

Feb. 7: First half of the programme

Feb. 14: Second half of the programme

Glenview Presby. Church, 1 Glenview Avenue

Info: [v.fisher@sympatico.ca](mailto:v.fisher@sympatico.ca)

**St Clement's: Monday, Feb. 12, 6:30-9:30**

Teresa Lockhart will dance you through the entire ball programme, in order.

Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road

Info: [teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com)

**Broadlands: Sundays, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11**

Barbara Taylor will prepare newer dancers for the ball. 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Broadlands CC, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills

You must reserve with Laurie McConachie:

Info: [laurie-m@rogers.com](mailto:laurie-m@rogers.com)



## Tartan Ball ~ Be part of the magic

On February 17, at the 55th Tartan Ball, we shall dance in the glorious Concert Hall of the Royal York for the last time. The hotel has grand renovation plans; the hall will no longer be available. The Tartan Ball will continue into the future, but the 2018 ball is an historic turning point, and your last chance to enjoy the ambience, the glittering chandeliers, and forgiving wood floor of the Concert Hall. Don't miss the experience.

Tickets are almost gone. Hurry to: [www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan\\_Ball.html](http://www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html)

We have a wonderful, dancer-friendly programme by David Booz, and we'll have stirring music by Scotch Mist. In the lead up, most social groups will feature the dances, and some have announced dedicated ball practices (listed at left).

### Volunteers are needed: Decorations and Line Marshals

Contact Lois Adams at [loisorangevan@aol.com](mailto:loisorangevan@aol.com) to help decorate.

Contact Bill Barber [william.barber054@sympatico.ca](mailto:william.barber054@sympatico.ca) to be a marshal.

## Tartan Ball Protocols and Etiquette

**Dress is Highland Formal:** Jacket & kilt for men (or tuxedo). Many ladies will wear long gowns, but some, especially young people, will go shorter. Fancy gloves optional.

**Grand March:** Assemble in the foyer in rows of four, behind the Head Table guests.

### Dancing:

- Anyone can ask anyone to dance; anyone can decline with a polite excuse.
- Sets should not be formed until requested by the emcee.
- Join sets at the bottom. Once in a set, stay until the dance is over.
- It is permissible for couples to request 4th place to quell uncertainty.
- Top man (even if a lady) counts the line. The marshal will display couples needed.
- Thank your partner and set at the end of a dance — then clear the floor.
- If you're inclined to hang out at the front of the hall, try the back (and *vice versa*).
- Be gracious about mistakes, others' and yours. If you must cue, do it silently.







## OUTREACH AMBASSADOR TRAINING

### **Connected with a school, church, or community group?**

If you knew how, might you enjoy introducing SCD in an informal way without being a certificated teacher? Here's your chance.

Outreach Ambassador Training will prepare you for such an event.

Pre-registration is required by emailing Tony Szeto [aszeto2010@gmail.com](mailto:aszeto2010@gmail.com) by noon, Feb. 26, 2018 (the earlier the better).

**Sunday, March 4, 2:00 -5:00 p.m.**

Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills  
Free of charge. INSTRUCTOR: Maureen Richardson



## PREP COURSE for Dancing Achievement Award

### **Are you are interested in the Dancing Achievement Award?**

If so, there will be a DAA prep course. The fee is \$40 in advance.

**Sunday afternoons, 2-4 p.m. April 8, 15, 22, 29**  
at Broadlands CC, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills.

Participants will be put through their paces *as if* in an actual DAA, except: there will be no test.

Under the expert instruction of Moira Korus, you will learn to improve personal dancing and teamwork, and to prepare for a DAA assessment. Dancers can expect individual critique and feedback and the course will give you a fair notion of your readiness for an official DAA course, be it Intermediate, Advanced, or Very Advanced.

REGISTER, with Maureen Richardson [schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com](mailto:schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com)  
Further info from Tony Szeto: [aszeto2010@gmail.com](mailto:aszeto2010@gmail.com)



## Demo Pool Co-Convenor

The demo pool needs a co-convenor for the 2018/19 season. To find out more about what is involved in this position, please contact Stella Henderson at 416 498 1940.

I will be happy to involve a co-convenor in planning the rest of this season and to share responsibilities for next season's gigs.  
...Stella Henderson

# Board Bulletins

## Nominations: Board Positions

**Here's a chance to shape the destiny of RSCDS Toronto!**

One position on the Board of Directors is open, but, members are reminded any position can be proposed:

- Membership /Volunteer Director

Elections to the Board take place at our AGM, April 28.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or wish to suggest someone, contact a member of the Nominations Committee. Download a Nomination Form from the website (Members' Home Page) or ask Nancy White. Submit form to Deirdre MacCuish Bark or Nancy White by: **February 20.**

All Board positions imply commitment to at least two consecutive one-year terms.

The Vice Chair position should be filled by someone who:

- has previously served as a member of the Board,
- has been a former Executive member,
- has been a Convenor or,
- has been a Committee Chair.

The incumbent Vice-Chair is expected to fill the position of Chair, with a two-year commitment in each role.

**More info:** Secretary, Nancy White [nawhite15@gmail.com](mailto:nawhite15@gmail.com)  
or Nominations Comm. Chair, Deirdre MacCuish Bark:  
[barkd@rogers.com](mailto:barkd@rogers.com) 905 822-1707

## AGM Motions Deadline: March 1



**March 1 is the deadline** for submission of motions from the membership for the 2018 Annual General Meeting. Submissions must have the support of 10 full members as indicated by their signature.

Send motions to: Nancy White [nawhite15@gmail.com](mailto:nawhite15@gmail.com)

Motions received will be posted 30 days prior to AGM.

## Volunteer Appreciation Awards

At the April 14 Volunteer Appreciation Dance we will show our gratitude to people we could not do without.



Individual members, social groups, and the Board can nominate members who deserve recognition for contributing to RSCDS Toronto and /or our social groups.

Download a **Volunteer Nomination Form** from the website, Members' Home page. The VIP section has many examples of citations for your guidance.

Please take time to consider and nominate a fellow dancer whose volunteer efforts you admire. If you have questions or need assistance, feel free to contact Wayne Fraser: [waynefraser@me.com](mailto:waynefraser@me.com) or 416-465-3433.

**Download:**

[www.dancescottish.ca/Volunteer-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf](http://www.dancescottish.ca/Volunteer-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf)

**Deadline, 28 Feb. 2018:** Submit nominations and details of service to Jane Robinson [janer1@sympatico.ca](mailto:janer1@sympatico.ca)



Keep it handy... Give it away... Repeat...



**Spread the word...** The Marketing Committee has hundreds of these folded, card-size, brochures. Please keep one or two in your wallet, purse, or pocket and when the topic of Scottish country dance comes up (as surely it will), pass them along. Available for pick-up at various dance events and social groups.



In the December 2016 *Set & Link*, Wayne Ellwood's article, *Money Maze*, reported on financial help available from the Society in Edinburgh. The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund is the biggest source of funds and a number of youth members in Toronto have received grants.

Any member, branch, or affiliated group may apply:  
<https://www.rscds.org/article/jean-milligan-memorial-fund-jmmf>

**RCSDS Toronto is also developing Scholarships and Awards.** Tony Szeto, your Education & Training director, is working on parameters for this initiative. Details will be published.

Meanwhile, further to the Social Group meeting of October 2017, the Board discussed funding for Social Groups and the following policy was approved by the Board January 11, 2018:

### **Funding for Social Groups**

Board funding, in the form of a loan, could be made available to a Social Group that is:

- 1) starting up;
- 2) trying an initiative to increase membership (and for TA); or
- 3) facing a short-term crisis (e.g., a sudden rent increase).

Application should be made in writing / email to any Board member explaining the circumstances, the amount of funding/loan required, and the anticipated timing for reimbursement to the Association. Any request would be discussed at the next Board or Special Executive Committee meeting and an answer will be provided to the applicant in a timely manner.

...Andrew Henderson, Communication Director



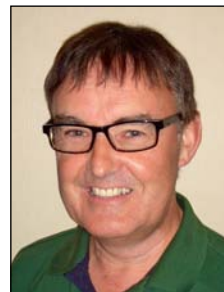
### **Irn-Bru Panic in Scotland!**

Devotees of Scotland's national drink are "panic-buying" cans of Irn-Bru, leaving supermarket shelves bare of the orange fizzy drink. The anxiety is prompted by plans to change the secret recipe for the first time in 117 years [shock, horror!] To avoid a new sugar tax which kicks in this April, Irn-Bru's sugar content will be cut down from 10.3g/100ml to just 4.7g.

Analysts fear the measure may prompt a shortage of skinny girders.

## **West End Workshop: March 24**

### **William Williamson – Dumfriesshire, Scotland**



William learned Scottish Highland and Country Dancing as a child and sang as a chorister at St. John's Episcopal Church in Dumfries where he became choirmaster after graduating. William studied music at Napier College and Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh and then took up a teaching post at Moffat Academy. Away from education, William was a freelance broadcaster with the local BBC radio station.

He has also been a guest on *Take The Floor*, BBC's Saturday night dance music programme. Scottish country dance has always played a large part in William's life and he performs and teaches in many parts of the world and the Society's AGM, Winter School, and Summer School events. In 1980 he danced for the Royal Family at Holyrood Palace for the Queen Mother's 80th birthday. He is a long-time member of RSCDS Dumfries Branch.

William and his wife Linda live in Amisfield. The village is a vibrant community where William and Linda teach Scottish country dance. William enjoys walking in the hills and promoting the culture of Scotland.

### **Marie Zicarelli – Buffalo, New York**



Marie has danced, taught school, or taught dancing for most of her life. Her early training in ballet, modern technique, and musical theatre led to continued studies in dance education and choreography in college. A love of dancing and music of all styles and forms eventually led her to a Scottish country dance class where she enjoyed the challenge of learning the engaging reels, jigs, and strathspeys.

Marie received her Full Certificate in 2003 and has taught workshops in the US and Canada. She served on the Executive Committee of TAC including two years as TAC Chairman. Recently retired from teaching sixth grade, Marie looks forward to having more time to "border hop" for dancing.

### **Alma Smith – Oakville, Ontario**



Alma started Scottish country dancing at age 7, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. At the age of 18 she was invited to join the branch demonstration team. Alma was also active in Ladies' Step Dancing in Newcastle.

On leaving Newcastle, Alma moved to Edinburgh, and then to Canada, eventually settling in Ontario in 1986. Alma has always been active in Scottish country dance and has been a member of a number of groups. She received her Full Certificate in 1999.

In Canada, Alma expanded her love of dance to include international folk dance. She danced in a number of performing groups and received her Folk Dance teaching certificate in 1987.

Alma has taught Scottish country dance in Oakville since 2000, initially teaching a children's class, and then the social class. She periodically teaches Scottish step dance (formerly known as ladies' step) in the Toronto area, as well as international folk dancing to children.

Alma is always excited to share her love of dance.

Download: [www.dancescottish.ca/2018-West-End-Workshop.pdf](http://www.dancescottish.ca/2018-West-End-Workshop.pdf)



# Grace Notes



## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Orillia Scottish Festival: Saturday, July 21 Parade at noon; Opening Ceremonies at 1:30

Dancers of all ages and experience are invited to join the mass dancing of the Opening Ceremonies. Sign up as a 4-couple set from your dance group or come on your own. We'll do three short, simple dances.

There will also be dancing, 2:00-4:00 in the picturesque Pavilion by Lake Couchiching. We invite your dance group to demo a few dances and to lead audience participation ceilidh dances.

There's a Friday evening Welcome Ceilidh at the local Legion Branch 34, from 6-12 p.m. Call for tickets: 705 487 5868.

On Sunday the 22nd there is a wee party bash at the Royal Canadian Legion with live entertainment – FREE!

Special Practice at Broadlands, March 11 (Pre-register with Will by March 4)

More info: **Will Kinghorn 705-259-3232, uilleam.ailean@gmail.com**

Download: [www.dancescottish.ca/2018-Orillia-Scottish-Festival-Dancers-info.pdf](http://www.dancescottish.ca/2018-Orillia-Scottish-Festival-Dancers-info.pdf)



## Dear Editor...

### RE: Cape Town Wedding

I have just received a copy of the December *Set & Link* sent to me by Halyna Sydorenko.

I was interested to read your article on *Cape Town Wedding* and delighted you should think so highly of it. However, there are two discrepancies in the article. I learned my dancing at school in Edinburgh in 1935, as did everyone else at that time; it was part of the school curriculum. Having enjoyed it so much, I just kept on dancing. In 1956, when I went to work in the oilfields in Iran, there was a class already going but the teacher was retiring in a few weeks so he asked me, as the most experienced dancer in the group, to take over as teacher. Never having taught dancing before, I felt I was thrown in at the deep end. However, I had been well taught and so coped successfully.

Prior to Iran, I had been in Marine Engineering in Edinburgh and designing ships' stabilisers. Among the ships I worked on was the *Royal Yacht Britannia*. So I can claim to having PREVENTED the Queen from becoming seasick. I most certainly did not cure her of being so.

As a member of the Cape Town Branch, I am proud to claim that Cape Town was the very first equal overseas Branch of the Society. The other first equal Branch was Boston. Both groups were accepted as Branches at the same Headquarters meeting in October, 1950.

I am still devising dances and hope to have a second book of dances ready for printing later in 2018. I hope it proves to be as popular as the first book.

...Tom Kerr, Cape Town Branch



### From *The Reel* (RSCDS London) Sept., 1951

*The number of men wearing the kilt... gave added colour to an already animated scene. Where, save at a Scottish Country Dance, could one find such joie de vivre, such enthusiasm, élan, such vigour of performance?*



### Coll Black

25 Aug. 1927 - 26 Dec. 2017

Coll passed away suddenly at age 91. Coll enjoyed a professional career as a Certified General Accountant. He will be remembered as someone with a lifelong passion for fitness and

health. In the early 1950s, he began the Wilket Creek running group and taught fitness classes at the YMCA.

During this time, he also taught Scottish country dancing at Trinity-St. Paul's and Calvin. Coll was an avid skier and was a ski Instructor with the High Park Ski Club for many years. Over the past 20 years, he was a member of the Glendon Athletic Club and participated in fitness classes every day. We extend our condolences to his family.



### Kim Malcolmson

12 Dec. 1934 ~ 28 Jan. 2018

Kim, the wife of Paul Barber, danced many years at Trinity until poor health caused her to withdraw from dance. Kim had a profound warmth and empathy for everyone she met, creating innumerable

life-long bonds. Her humanity was reflected in her progressive approach to Christianity and politics, and in her deep feminism. She touched the lives of all those who knew her.

We extend our sympathy to Paul, and the family.

To learn more about Kim, visit her blog:

<https://cluesbykim.wordpress.com>

**Celebration of Life ~ Saturday, Feb. 10 at 11:30 a.m.**  
St Anne's Anglican Church, 270 Gladstone Ave, Toronto

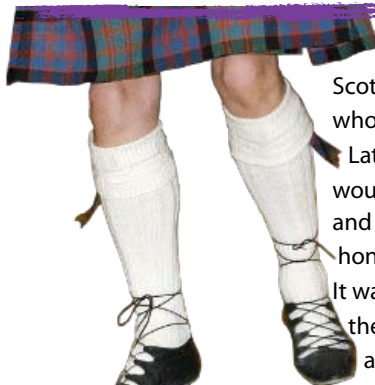


## What's Missing in this picture?

35 Saltoun Street, Glasgow\*

\*Miss Milligan lived here. Where's the plaque?

# GHILLIE — Human or Shoe



A **ghillie** – if you should live outside Scotland – is, historically, a man or boy who was a Highland chief's attendant. Later it referred to somebody who would accompany others on hunting and fishing trips. Being a ghillie was an honourable profession but a hard one. It was the ghillie's lot to carry the guns, the rods (and on occasion their owners) across a sodden bog or bubbling burn.

And they walked. Across bogs and rivers, and through bracken and heather, scaling the highlands or scrambling the lowlands, they walked. If the walking was hard on the man, it was hell on his footwear. So came the ghillie brogue.

The **ghillie brogue** started out as a shoe that would drain water and dry quickly. Each shoe had a patterned network of fine holes, known as brogueing, punched in the leather. This was no designer's frippery – far from it – it was essential.

Simply, it was a practical means of draining water from the shoe. Modern brogues imitate the drainage pattern but not the function. Rapid drainage is why a ghillie shoe has no tongue.



In the original ghillie brogue, the laces were tied above the ankle so the shoes wouldn't get stuck in the mud. Despite the general lack of muck on the dance floor, SCD ghillies continue to be laced high.

The term *ghillie* references Ghillie Dhu, derived from *gille*, Scottish Gaelic for "servant" or a "lad". In English, the term was, and is still applied to those assisting in deer stalking, or fly fishing expeditions in the Highlands. The connection with hunting led to another development.

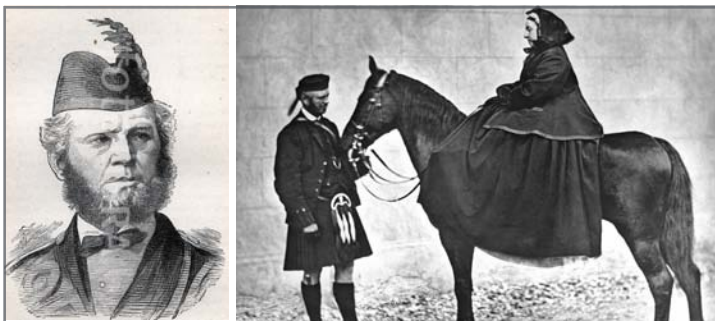
Scottish gamekeepers (i.e. ghillies) saw the need for a portable hunting blind so as to approach stealthily or hide from the wary eye of the red deer. Thus was invented the **ghillie suit**. wearable camouflage



ghillie suits

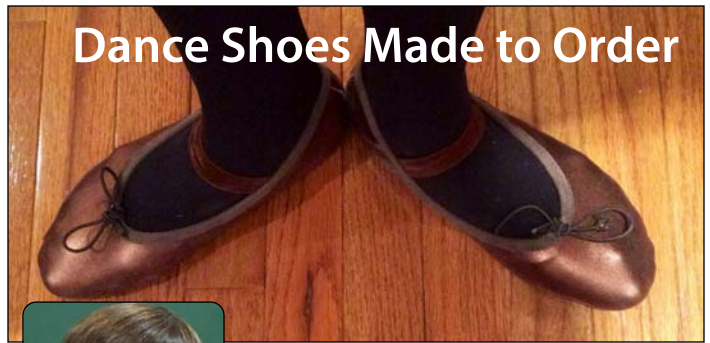
to break up your shape and allow you to blend into the landscape. The Lovat Scouts, a Highland regiment formed by the British Army during the Second Boer War (11 October 1899—31 May 1902), is the first known military unit to use ghillie suits.

Luckily, for Scottish country dancers, that particular ghillie tradition has not transitioned to the dance floor. ...Donald E. Holmes



The most famous Ghillie: John Brown – ghillie and trusted servant to Queen Victoria

## Dance Shoes Made to Order



Fiona Alberti

All of us take our feet for granted, only becoming aware of them after a long night on a hard floor. Finding the perfect shoe, one that lets our feet look elegant, while gently cushioning them from the constant pounding pas de basque and skip change require, can be a difficult task.

This summer I was in Glenrothes, home to Thistle Shoes. A carefully planned detour into the middle of nowhere would be a more accurate description. I had e-mailed to see if it was possible to be fitted at the factory. It was. After trying a few pairs to find the perfect size, and then choosing from an array of colours, I ordered my shoes. I was then offered a chance to see how these "made in Scotland" shoes are produced.

It takes three people, and about 40 minutes, to produce a pair of ladies' country dance shoes. Alec uses a large die-cutting machine to stamp out the leather uppers. These are passed along to Jean, who sews the back seam, hammers it open so it won't irritate our feet, and then covers it with another patch of leather to hide it. Turning to her second machine, in one motion she attaches the binding while inserting the elastic needed to tighten the shoe around our feet.

The shoes then pass into a small room where Dave takes over. He is in charge of our soles. Having carefully stretched the shoe over a last, he glues on the inner sole. My dance shoes don't have pleats along the bottom, but it was fascinating to watch how quickly and neatly Dave accomplished beautifully even pleats using a pair of pliers to pull at the leather as he folded it. From there, more glue is put on, the outer sole attached, and the shoe disappears into a mysterious chamber. I was told how many pounds of pressure are applied; the number meant nothing to me, but the awe in Dave's voice as he pronounced it made me realize I was meant to be impressed. The shoe comes out, sole firmly attached, ready for an evening of jigs, strathspeys, and reels.

...Fiona Alberti

## Scottish Step into the New Year

The first three Scottish Step Classes held at Rosedale were a great success with up to 16 dancers of all ages attending. We learned *Blue Bonnets* and *The Scottish Lilt*. The wonderful lilting music and Alma Smith's patient and clear, excellent instruction have us all wanting more. Thus, we offer two groups of three classes in 2018.

**1st Group:** January 27, February 4, February 10  
**2nd Group:** March 3, March 10, and March 17  
 Saturdays, Rosedale Presbyterian Church ~ 12 - 1:15 p.m.  
**Info:** Moira Korus [smkorus@sympatico.ca](mailto:smkorus@sympatico.ca)





## Upcoming Events: NEAR

Feb 10 - **South Simcoe's Valentine Workshop and Tea Dance** ~ 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Knox Presby. Church, 160 King St. S., Alliston. Teachers: Alicia & Ian Manson. Tickets: Maureen Richardson [schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com](mailto:schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com)

Feb 11 - **Shiftin' Bobbins: Moira Korus** ~ At Grace Church-On-The-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road. 2-4 p.m. Intermediate and advanced dancers only, please.

Feb 17 - **The 55th Tartan Ball** ~ Music by **Scotch Mist** ~ At the Concert Hall, Royal York Hotel. Complete info and tickets at: [www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan\\_Ball.html](http://www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html)

Mar 4 - **Outreach Ambassador Training** ~ Learn how to teach Scottish country dance. Teacher: Maureen Richardson 2-5 p.m. at Broadlands. Register no later than Feb. 26 with Tony Szeto: [aszeto2010@gmail.com](mailto:aszeto2010@gmail.com)

Mar 11 - **Special Practice for the Orillia Scottish Festival at Broadlands** ~ Maureen Richardson will teach the dances and protocols for the SCD demo at the Festival Opening Ceremonies. 2-4:00 p.m. (no charge).

Mar 23 - **Erin Mills (Fri.) hosts Pre-Workshop Dance** ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Mississauga Seniors' Centre, 1389 Cawthra Rd. Guest teacher: William Williamson. Musician: Don Bartlett. \$10 Info: 905-566-9599

Mar 24 - **The West End Workshop & Tea Dance** ~ 9 - 5 at Turner Fenton School, Brampton. Teachers: William Williamson (Scotland); Marie Ziccarelli (USA); Alma Smith (Canada). [www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html](http://www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html)

Mar 25 - **Teachers' Workshop** - 2-4:30/5:00 p.m. at Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore Rd. W., Mississauga. \$15 Teacher: William Williamson, Musician: Don Bartlett

Apr 8, 15, 22, 29 - **Prep Class for DAA** ~ Sunday afternoons at Broadlands. Teacher Moira Korus. Register with Maureen: [schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com](mailto:schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com)



May 5 - **Youth Ball**. All young dancers (10-35 yrs) and all Rosedale alumni and associates, and supporters of Youth Dancing are invited to a sit-down supper and ball with music by Fred Moyes. Info: Moira [smkorus@sympatico.ca](mailto:smkorus@sympatico.ca)

May 12 - **The West Toronto Ball** ~ Save the date for the 49th annual West Toronto Ball held at the beautiful Sala Caboto in Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave, Toronto. Music by Scotch Mist. More details anon.

### RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

<b>Chair:</b> Jean Lindsay	416.413-9418	<a href="mailto:jlind.1949@gmail.com">jlind.1949@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Chair:</b> Liz Clunie	416.486-6582	<a href="mailto:eclunie@rogers.com">eclunie@rogers.com</a>
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<b>Program:</b> Louis Racic	905.430-1255	<a href="mailto:louis.racic@gmail.com">louis.racic@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership:</b> Wayne Fraser	416.465-3433	<a href="mailto:waynefraser@me.com">waynefraser@me.com</a>
<b>Communications:</b> Andrew Henderson	416.498-1940	<a href="mailto:hendersona033@gmail.com">hendersona033@gmail.com</a>
<b>Marketing:</b> Lyn Barsevskis	705.458-1006	<a href="mailto:barsevskis@gmail.com">barsevskis@gmail.com</a>
<b>Education/Training:</b> Tony Szeto	416.566-9386	<a href="mailto:aszeto2010@gmail.com">aszeto2010@gmail.com</a>

## Upcoming Events: FAR

Feb 10-11 - **Ardbrae Ball Weekend, Ottawa** ~ Music by Torridon Scottish Dance Band, Winterlude time in Ottawa. [www.ardbrae.org/](http://www.ardbrae.org/) Info from Doug: 613 851 2874

Feb 16-18 - **Isle of Wight Weekend School** ~ Teachers Pat Houghton, Edinburgh, and Fred DeMarse, San Francisco. Musicians include Craigellachie Band and Robert MacKay. Info: [catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk) 44+ 01980 621322

Feb 16-18 - **Aloha Winter Weekend** ~ Guest Instructor Mary Murray from Vancouver. Music by The Humuhumunukunua'pua'a Society and Strathspey Band from San Francisco. Info: [www.rscdshawaii.org](http://www.rscdshawaii.org) or email Melissa [mlindsay@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mlindsay@hawaii.rr.com) (808) 256-3347

Feb 24 - **London Workshop & Tea Dance** ~ Guest Teacher David Tague of the Strathleven Scottish Dancers. B.C. and Michigan. Polish Combatants Hall, 80 Ann St. London. Info: email [maryhoward@sympatico.ca](mailto:maryhoward@sympatico.ca) 519 660 4430

Mar 2-4 - **Belleville Workshop Weekend** ~ Guest Instructors Mary Murray from Vancouver and Jean Noble, Toronto. Music by Scotch Mist. Info: Bill and Jan Cunningham at 613-965-4212 or David Aston at [david.aston@kos.net](mailto:david.aston@kos.net)

Apr 6-8 - **Dancing In New Places: Nikko, Japan** ~ Teachers: Graham Donald & Yoshiaki Oyama. Music by Jim Lindsay & Hiroko Kokai. Info: Katalin Konya: [kkonyakatalin@gmail.com](mailto:kkonyakatalin@gmail.com)

Apr 7 - **John Middleton Ball** ~ RSCDS Hamilton invites you to dance to the music of Scotch Mist at the atmospheric Scottish Rite, 4 Queen St. S. Tickets and info: [www.rscdshamilton.org/events](http://www.rscdshamilton.org/events)

Apr 14 - **The annual RSCDS Ottawa Branch Ball** will be held in the Ottawa Conference & Event Centre. Tickets: Hugh & Rosy Carter: [carterr@rogers.com](mailto:carterr@rogers.com) [rscdsottawa.ca](http://rscdsottawa.ca)

May 11-13 - **Pawling Weekend** - Dance in the beautiful Berkshire Hills with New York Branch. Teachers include: William Williamson, Linda Henderson, Ellie Briscoe. Music by Hanneke Cassel and Dave "tangled up in reels" Wiesler. Info: [www.rscdsnewyork.org/events.html](http://www.rscdsnewyork.org/events.html)

May 25-27 - **34th Annual Stoney Lake Workshop** - Dance with guest teacher Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and musician Fred Moyes. Enjoy the beauty and recreation of Pine Vista Resort. Info: [www.pscds-on.org](http://www.pscds-on.org) or Tom Kunza, Chair, PSCDS [tkunza@cogeco.ca](mailto:tkunza@cogeco.ca)

June 1-3 - **Dancing In New Places: Rovaniemi, Finland** ~ Teacher: Jim Stott of Aberdeen & St Andrews. Music by Muriel Johnstone & Keith Smith. Intermediate & Advanced dancers. Info: Katalin Konya: [kkonyakatalin@gmail.com](mailto:kkonyakatalin@gmail.com)

More events, near & far: [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

Please join the RSCDS Toronto Facebook Group: [www.facebook.com/groups/55880122664/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/55880122664/)

You will receive automatic alerts about class cancellations due to weather - and lots of more cheerful and interesting things.



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

### Newsletter Committee:

Donald Holmes (Chair)	416.226-6081
Andrew Henderson	416.498-1940
Rob Lockhart (webmaster)	416.759-9845
Teresa Lockhart (youth scene)	416.759-9845
Marian White	416.781-7795
Judy Williams	416.924-3658

## Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

### Spring Fling

20-22 April 2018  
Glasgow, Scotland

Scottish Country Dance Festival for young dancers, 12-35. Subsidies and scholarships are available for young people to attend; and there is a concurrent Spring Fringe for those over 35.

[www.rscds.org/article/spring-fling-2018](http://www.rscds.org/article/spring-fling-2018)

## St Andrews Summer School

15 July ~ Aug 11 2018  
St Andrews University

Experience the ambiance of a beautiful town, a panoply of SCD superstars, talented musicians, and exotic options.

Dance SCD or ceilidh each evening and enjoy one evening of talents on display.

Week 1: Geared to Very Advanced

Week 2: Geared Starters & Advanced

Week 3: Geared to Youth, Advanced, DAA

Week 4: Starters, Advanced, DAA

[www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2018](http://www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2018)



[deholmes@sympatico.ca](mailto:deholmes@sympatico.ca)  
[hendersona033@gmail.com](mailto:hendersona033@gmail.com)  
[roblokhart@rogers.com](mailto:roblokhart@rogers.com)  
[teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com)  
[marianwhite@sympatico.ca](mailto:marianwhite@sympatico.ca)  
[junit@pathcom.com](mailto:junit@pathcom.com)