

RSCDS SET & LINK

Toronto

www.dancescottish.ca

RSCDS TORONTO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ December 2019

The 2019 Toronto Workshop

From the Chair...



Liz Clunie

Here we are in December and to get into the Christmas spirit please join us for the dance on December 14. An enjoyable evening is guaranteed with family members younger and older, friends, and new dancers who have been taking part in association and millennials classes.

We have been fortunate in securing the use of Branksome Hall school for this event. If you have not yet had the opportunity to attend Toronto Association workshops, which have been held there, you will be impressed with this beautiful facility. There is good parking and it's a five-minute walk from Sherbourne subway station, and a little more from Yonge and Bloor.

The very successful November workshop held at Branksome was attended by many from out of town, and I think that the reputation of this venue was a huge attraction – along with the fact that it is a well-organized and executed event. To that we owe our gratitude to Christy Barber and her team. Christy has had a long-term involvement with the workshop, having been on the committee for many years before assuming the leadership for the last three years.

It was a pleasure to meet many of our visitors throughout the day. I discovered that Kenny had flown from Chicago to attend the afternoon dance. It was a dual-purpose visit as he also comes to Toronto to take advantage of the best Chinese restaurants. A bonus for him was the purchase of a gently-used kilt at the Dancewear Bazaar.

The sale was also a huge success with some new dancers making kilt purchases, and older dancers adding items to their dance wardrobe. There were bargains galore. Thanks to Evelyn Holmberg, Margaret Rieger, and their team for all the collecting, sorting, storing, pricing, and transport of goods involved in such an undertaking. They have said it before, but this time I think they really mean it – this was their last year. The same applies to Christy, so we need new volunteers. Please consider making a New Year resolution to get involved.

Deirdre MacCuish Bark volunteered to stand for a position on the RSCDS Education & Training committee. The competition was stiff, but she was elected to a three-year term at the November AGM in Perth. Congratulations Deirdre, and many thanks for your commitment to the society.

I hope to wish many of you a Merry Christmas at the December 14 dance, but for those unable to attend please accept my best wishes for a healthy, happy holiday season.

Liz



Helen Bellé

Jennifer Dickie

Photo by Ron Macnaughton

What could possibly get me into the car at dawn on a cold Saturday morning to drive two hours into downtown Toronto? What else, but the Toronto Workshop and Afternoon Dance!

Once through the doors of Branksome Hall, we were enveloped in a warm and welcoming environment. The intermediate class started with Claire Collier and musician Fred Moyes, who soon had our limbs warmed up and ready to perform. The emphasis on footwork (when will we get that darned third position?) was followed by exercises and drills to prepare us for the *The Westminster Reel*, which includes the formation Set & Rotate. Being in the right place at the right time was absolutely crucial, especially at the end of the reel. We came away with a better understanding of how to pace ourselves through the dance. Thank you, Claire.

After a social break, including shopping at the Dancewear Bazaar, we reconvened with Angela Young (Aberdeen) and musicians Laird Brown and Don Wood. It was now time to practise our strathspey steps. "Bend those knees and reach," all while keeping our heads up and acknowledging our partners. *May Yarker's Strathspey* quickly tested our abilities with its 3-couple Knot.

Angela shared some interesting folklore: Why do we circle left first? To ward off the witches.

Next we learned one of her favourite dances, *Airymhall Delight*, written by her mother. Throughout the session, Angela reminded us to keep our sets wide to highlight the beautiful flow of each dance. As the session came to a close, we were sorry to part. *Continued on Page 4 ►*



Unwinding the Knot:

Halyna Sydorenko, Liz Clunie, Max Fothergill, Laurie McConachie, Forbes Duncan

Special Events

Sunday Special: Dances With a Difference



Sunday, Dec 1 ~ 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ~ \$6
Armour Heights Community Centre,
Activity Room, 2140 Avenue Road
Keith Bark will introduce **Dances With A Difference**: Not just 3, 4, and 5 couple, but also 6, 7 couple, and 9 person dances. For intermediate and advanced dancers.

South Simcoe's Christmas Dance

Friday, Dec. 6 ~ Starts at 7:30 p.m. ~ \$10



Knox Church, 160 King St. S., Alliston
 Enjoy an evening of Christmas-themed dances, followed by an indulgent light supper for only \$10! **LIVE MUSIC** by Laird Brown & Don Wood. Carpool to Alliston and dance the night away! SCDAlliston@gmail.com

Glenview's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday, December 11 ~ 6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue

It's been 40 years and well over 10,000 dances.

Come and help us celebrate. Not to worry, we won't expect you to do all 10,000 dances!

Music provided by the Scottish Heirs Duo.

Reception 6:30 p.m. Dancing 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Refreshments 9:30 p.m. Tickets are limited and

must be purchased in advance. \$20 (\$15 Glenview members).

Contact Fiona Alberti: fiona@alberti.ca www.glenviewscdg.org



St Clement's Christmas Treat

Monday, Dec. 16 ~ 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. ~ \$10

Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road

All are welcome to celebrate Christmas in dance, with Maestro Bartlett playing seasonal music to lift our spirits, and our heels.

Info: teresa.lockhart@rogers.com



Calvin's Christmas Dance

Tuesday, Dec. 17 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. ~ \$10

Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave.

Calvin invites all dancers to join our Christmas party. We'll have wonderful music by Don Bartlett on piano, and light refreshments at the interval. Info: Nancy Stokes 416.425-2195 or Mary Baldwin 416.485-8280

Sunday Special: Uncommon Formations

Sunday, Jan 19 ~ 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ~ \$6



Armour Heights Community Centre,
Activity Room, 2140 Avenue Road

Tony Szeto will teach dances with formations that may be unfamiliar even to experienced dancers. Less experienced dancers may wish to watch in amusement as others fall in a heap. Come be amused and challenged.

Target: whoever is game for a challenge.

January Monthly Dance



This season's programme was devised by Andrew Collins

Saturday, January 11 • Dancing starts at 8:00 p.m.

Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue

Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs

Host Groups: • Don Mills • South Simcoe • Trinity

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| The Jubilee Jig | 8 x 32 J | RSCDS Golden Jubilee Leaflet 19 |
| Save The Children | 8 x 32 S | M Bänninger, RSCDS Book 51 |
| The Inimitable Derek | 8 x 32 R | R Goldring, Three Dances, 2009 |
| Sound Of Cara | 8 x 32 J | Moir Stacey, Gigha Set |
| Green Grow The Rashes | 8 x 32 S | Johnson, RSCDS Book 12 |
| Starlight | 8 x 32 R | Ed Abdill, RSCDS Book 44 |

Interval

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--|
| Airyhall Delight | 8 x 32 J | Doris S Young, RSCDS Book 40 |
| Ice Crystals | 8 x 32 S | John De Chastelain, 25 Dances |
| Hedwig's Reel | 8 x 32 R | Stella Phillips, 2nd Book of Graded SCDs |
| The Express | 8 x 40 J | Button & Whittaker, RSCDS Book 20 |
| The Orchards of Co. Armagh | 3 x 32 S | Jinty Anderson, Belfast Platinum Anniv. |
| The Montgomeries' Rant | 8 x 32 R | RSCDS Book 10 |

Extra

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| The Grassmarket Reel | 6 x 32 R | Tim Wilson, 5 Dances 2009 |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------------|

*Members: \$27; non-Members: \$32; Young Adult Member (18-34): \$10;
 Youth Associate Member (<18) and Spectators: \$5
 Monthly Dances are NUT FREE and SCENT FREE.*



fifty-fifty draw

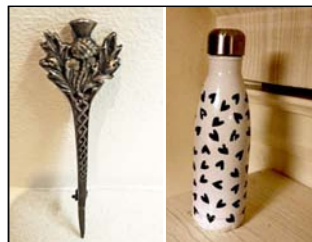
At the November Toronto Workshop and Afternoon Dance, Julia Callaby won \$94 in the 50/50 draw.

Dance Angel, Bill

The most recent issue of *TACTalk* (magazine of the Teachers' Association, Canada) presented this photo of the Intermediate DAA group at TAC Summer School, Calgary. One registered dancer had to withdraw, leaving the class short of a full set. They said thanks to Bill Barber: "an amazing volunteer who agreed to fill out the set."



Tutor Jim Stott, Heidi Jacobs, Bill Barber, Ute Hoppmann-Lacour, Akana Ma, Ron Krug, Sydney Thomson, MaryBeth Barrons, Gillian Mandel, Pat Zschoche



Left behind after the Workshop

If either of these treasures belongs to you, please contact Christy Barber:

barber72@sympatico.ca

57th Tartan Ball News



Photo by Ron Macnaughton

The Ball committee is working hard to plan another great event — the 57th Tartan Ball, February 15, 2020. This will be our second year at THE OLD MILL. Everyone enjoyed our new home, so if you weren't with us last year, I hope you will join us this time. The Tartan Ball is for everyone and is the highlight of the dance season. Don't miss it!

Extra Practices

To assist our newer dancers in preparing for the Ball, we will have three Sunday afternoon dance practices, 2-4 p.m. \$7 per class.

Dates: • Jan. 26 • Feb. 2 • Feb. 9

Place: Parkway Forest Community Centre, 55 Forest Manor Road, Second floor dance studio

Space is limited, so please reserve your spot: laurie-m@rogers.com

The Tartan Ball Application Form is now live on the website:

www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html

I look forward to seeing you all at the Ball.

...Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor

As Convenor of the Toronto Workshop, I thought we could expand our relationship with Branksome Hall.

Last spring, I approached the Director of Curriculum at this independent girls' school to inquire about the possibility of introducing Scottish country dancing to students. I was encouraged to connect with the Head of Phys Ed.

She invited a contingent from RSCDS Toronto to offer one of five choices students have for Fit Friday sessions.

Tony Szeto, with assistance from Lorraine Ng and me, held a half hour "speed dancing" lesson Oct. 18 and Nov. 1 with a group of 50 and 40 students, respectively.

Branksome is keen to bring us back this winter for two more classes of Scottish country dance fitness and fun.

...HISCD Christy Barber

Youth Outreach



Association Classes



All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto (but beginners are excused until their 2nd term).

The ten-week classes are \$100.

Please make cheques payable to "RSCDS Toronto."

A Class Registration Form can be downloaded from www.dancescottish.ca, completed, and brought to the first class (see link below).

All classes are 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Level 1 Beginner Classes: Dancers learn the five basic steps of Scottish country dance and a variety of formations. These elements are combined in learning simple dances that incorporate some of the various steps and formations taught.

Mondays: St. Leonard's Anglican Church Hall* Jan. 6– Mar. 16

Teacher: May Divers

Class Rep: Cheryl Catt cherylcatt47@gmail.com 416.484-9620

Thursdays: Eastminster United Church* Jan. 16– Mar. 19

(Hurndale Room, lower level of Eastminster United Church*)

Teacher: Keith Bark

Class Rep: Anne Bishop anne.e.bishop@outlook.com 647.234 4631

Level 2 Intermediate Classes: These classes build on steps and formations learned as a beginner and introduce more complex formations. Dancers become more confident in their skills and abilities and enjoy the challenge of more complex dances.

Thursdays at Eastminster United Church* Jan. 16 – Mar. 19

(Auditorium, upper level of Eastminster United Church*)

Class Rep: Anne Bishop anne.e.bishop@outlook.com 647.234-4631

* Location Addresses:

St Leonard's Anglican Church Hall, 25 Wanless Avenue

(2 minutes north from Lawrence and Yonge subway station, east side)

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue

(2 minutes west from Chester subway station)

www.dancescottish.ca/Classes-Registration-Form-2018.doc

Classes Convenor: Sue Ann Bryce: sueann2@sympatico.ca 416.266-5423

M Millennials' Classes Update M

At Millennials' Classes, the hall is filled with positive energy and enthusiasm, with two sets each night. More than half the dancers are new to Scottish country dancing; others have varying ranges of experience. Teacher, Moira Korus, has inspired all to enjoy the dance and its benefits.

Dancers learned basic steps: slip-step, skip-change-of-step, pas-de-Basque, and strathspey travelling and setting steps. They've been quick to pick up formations, taught within the context of dances on the Family Christmas Dance: advance and retire, back-to-back, figures of eight, reels, hands across, allemande, circle round and back, rights-and-lefts, corners.

Some of the Millennials attended both the 1-hour Intro Class, taught by Teresa Lockhart at the Workshop, and the Tea Dance that followed. We expect to see many of the class at the December 14 Family Christmas Dance, this year at Branksome Hall.

Dancers became aware of the classes mostly through word of mouth from family, friends — plus, social media, email, websites, community papers. When opportunity arises, please spread word of the joys and benefits of Scottish country dancing.

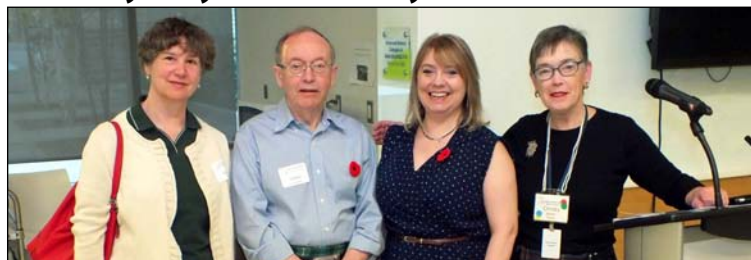
New Millennials' Classes will run prior to the March Monthly Dance and prior to SpringFling, in the same location: St Thomas's Anglican, 383 Huron Street. The classes will introduce the dances for these two events.

Your continued support of Youth initiatives is sincerely appreciated.

...The Toronto Association Youth Committee

Christy says: "Thank you, Team!"

Photo by Douglas Pickett



Our guest teachers, Claire Collier, Colin Campbell, and Angela Young, brought finesse and fun to the dance floor and contributed so much to the success of our annual event. With early snows arriving, we were thankful to have a dry day to get around the Branksome Hall campus, a venue which suits our dancing needs so well. Coincidentally, we welcomed exactly the same number of dancers as last year, but we saw several different faces (and feet, but of course we are not looking down).

For the second year, a free introductory one-hour class was offered. Teresa Lockhart expertly and enthusiastically engaged over 20 people, including a family with three boys. We hope to have caught their interest to learn more.



Intro Class

The music of Don Bartlett, Laird Brown, Fred Moyes, and Don Wood, and of Scotch Mist for the afternoon dance, was a pleasurable part of our dancing experiences.

As convenor, I was supported by an enthusiastic, hard working committee — and we had fun planning over the last six months. My thanks to:

- Jane Robinson - registrar
- Louise Buddle - communications coordinator
- Phil Buddle - musician and technical support coordinator
- Anne Moloney - bazaar liaison
- Anne Bishop - evaluation coordinator
- Wendy Tamminen - hospitality and teachers' gifts
- Jessie Garland - briefer, liaison/ gifts and teacher facilitator
- Bill Barber - name tags and parking coordinator
- Elizabeth Baird and Ulla Dagert - teacher facilitators



Back: Suzanne Dubeau, Joanne Racic, Evelyn Holmberg, Lorraine Hadden
Front: Sue Ann Bryce, Margaret Rieger, John Holmberg

Additional assistance was provided by:

- Program Director Kevin Moloney - budgeting and assurance
- Liz Martin - brochure design
- Rosalind Gilbert - registration
- Leo Roytman, Mike Morris, Paul Muther - musician and bazaar setup
- Andy Lipchak - parking
- Douglas Pickett and Ron Macnaughton - photography

Member hospitality was generously offered to out-of-town teachers, a musician, and some dancers. Thank you: Vicky Zeltins, Ulla Dagert and Paul Muther, Liz and Ian Clunie, and Janet and Ian Markham.

The Dancewear Bazaar, under the leadership of Margaret Rieger, celebrated 12 years of gathering and selling gently-used items to outfit both new and experienced dancers, by encouraging us to purge our wardrobes. The efforts of the volunteer team of Evelyn and John Holmberg, Sue Ann Bryce, Joanne Racic, Lorraine Hadden, and Suzanne Dubeau generated an amazing \$2300 in revenue. *Well done!* (and thanks to all the shoppers.)

The Afternoon Dance programme, by Andrew Collins, included some welcoming basic level dances. I am grateful to the teachers and teacher candidate who accepted the invitation to brief, and to Max Fothergill for handling some of the Afternoon Dance details.

It has been a pleasure to convene the Toronto Workshop and Afternoon Dance for my final year.
...HISCD Christy Barber

▶ 2019 Toronto Workshop *Continued from Page 1*

Our third and final session introduced us to Colin Campbell, accompanied by Fred Moyes. Colin taught us a dance I had never done before, *Ysobel Stewart of Fish Hoek*, which features the Tourbillon. This is a surprisingly difficult formation as it requires both long and short strathspey steps at just the right moment. Colin did a superb job of explaining how to do it and then helping us to complete it ourselves.

Clear and concise instruction can be so helpful. Before the session was done, Colin had us dancing *Lord MacDonald's Reel* to one of Fred's own compositions, *Draughty Breeks* (trousers). This was Colin's first time teaching at a workshop, and he was very good. Congratulations!

How do I sum up the three sessions?

Perhaps *Sprezzatura*: "a certain nonchalance, so as to conceal all art and {make} whatever one says appear to be without effort and almost without any thought about it." All of our teachers reinforced this concept in their own way: strive to make each dance look simple, easy, and effortless...and sometimes we almost succeeded!

It is always a wonderful day when we can spend time with friends and dance with so many new and familiar faces from all over Ontario and the US. Many thanks to the organizers, instructors, and musicians for making the day so informative, and so fun!

...Helen Bellé

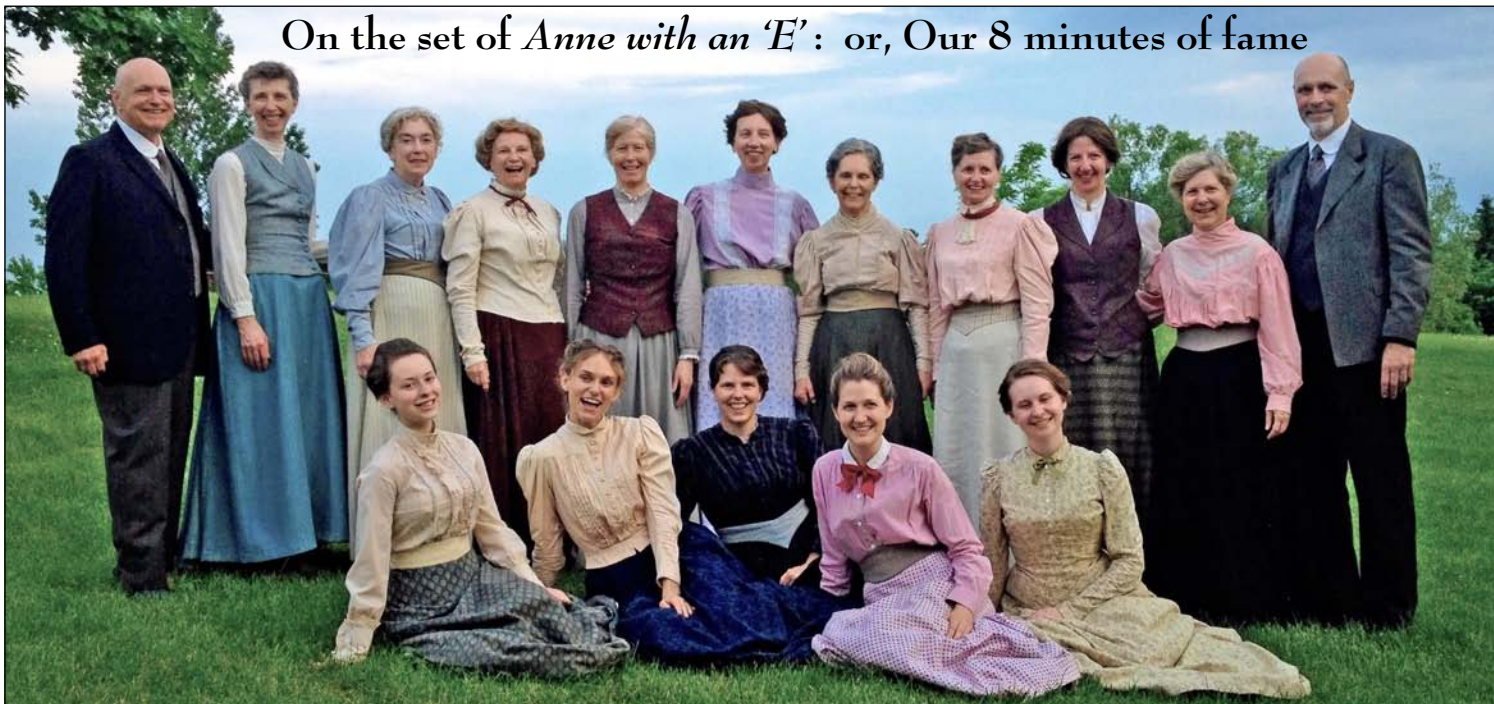


Intermediate Class



Advanced Class

On the set of *Anne with an 'E'*: or, Our 8 minutes of fame



Several Toronto area dancers were on the set of the CBC series *Anne with an 'E'*. We spent two days in Kitchener filming a traditional 1899 PEI barn dance scene. We were not permitted to share any photos until after the show was aired. [Series 3, Episode 6, aired on CBC October 27, 2019.] If you missed it, you can view the episode via the free CBC GEM streaming app.

Our two full days of filming resulted in an eight-minute scene of dancing. I'm amazed at how much effort goes into making eight minutes of film. However, I must say that they really captured the delight and excitement of a dance. It looked like a fast-paced evening of fun and frolic, even though it took many, many takes to get there.

A few dancers who saw the program mentioned they did not recognize many familiar dancers. One reason is that the cameras primarily focused on the main characters and their actions. We dancers were simply back-

ground extras. The dancing scenes move very quickly. With so much going on it's difficult to spot anyone. Also, we are in costume, and many of the women wore wigs or had hair tied up in a bun.

The photo above shows the Toronto area dancers and friends in period costumes. The Toronto dancers included me, Bill and Christy Barber, Moira Korus, Halyna Sydorenko, Rosie Coutts, Helen Bellé, Elizabeth Handley-Derry, Hilary Keachie, and Karen Hamilton. In the dancing scene, I am easy to spot because of my height. Moira and Bill are front and centre in some shots. I have examined the film frame-by-frame and all the Toronto dancers appear, briefly.

It felt very odd to see myself on TV. However, I am happy that we all ended up in the final cut of the show.

...Louis Racic

Grace Notes

Three Ladies of Dance

Sadly, the dancing community lost these three lovely ladies this year.

Jean Bull:
13 January 1935 - 14 November 2019

Ena Crampsey:
21 June 1920 - 10 March 2019

Mary Reilly:
30 November 1933 - 2 October 2019
This picture of happy times was taken at the Tartan Ball (c. 2002). All three ladies went to many balls and danced in various groups in and around Toronto – Hillcrest, Oshawa, Scarborough, Port Perry, Orillia, and Richmond Hill. Our condolences to each of their families.



Dear Editor...

Thanks for *Set & Link*, as usual. Gives me an opportunity to say how much I enjoy it. It is, without a doubt, the best SCD magazine I have ever seen or been involved with. It is so "international" in flavour where, more often than not, local mags tend only to talk about local events. I just love to hear about how much people are travelling and dancing in all kinds of interesting and sometimes exotic places. What a great hobby we all have.

...Nora Sutherland



Congratulations Victoria & Randy!

Victoria Shand (née Shortt) is the granddaughter of long-time Erin Mills dancer, David Hawkins. Victoria often attended the Erin Mills Tuesday class with her granddad, and many West Toronto Balls.

Victoria and Randy's beautiful baby son, Jude, was born November 7, 2019, weighing 8 lbs 15 oz.



Congratulations Katie & Alistair!

Alistair is the son of Joan Wood, who dances at Trinity. Katie is a Montreal dancer who has often attended our Tartan Ball. They met in dance and were married Sept. 28, 2019.

Montreal teacher, Holly Boyd, devised a dance that commemorates their meeting – *Across Kildonan Hall*.
vimeo.com/375155027/dbe14312ba

Deirdre MacCuish Bark reports on The Autumn Gathering (the Society's AGM)

Keith and I enjoyed a week of sunshine in the Western Isles, then rain once we crossed the Skye Bridge and drove through Kyle of Lochalsh. Lunch at Bruar, and a wet drive to Perth, and the Society's AGM, now termed The Autumn Gathering.

Regretfully, we missed the Friday Teachers' Conference, but we made the Friday night dance to the music of James Coutts' Scottish Band. The programme was primarily from the new book, *Popular Dances: Volume 2*, launched at the AGM, with two CDs for the 30 dances: James Coutts' music for CD#1; previously published music from several bands for CD#2.

Open Forum: Saturday morning began in the Coaching Hall of the Bell Sports Centre. Chair Elect, Lorna Ogilvie, outlined the work to date of the 100th Centenary Working Group. The Society turns 100 in 2023, and the group is planning to celebrate in suitable style, and create a lasting legacy. The group has representation from Europe, Canada, USA, and New Zealand, plus members from RSCDS committees.

Centenary celebration suggestions had been collected worldwide, and we were divided into small groups to discuss the list and to agree/disagree with each suggestion. Our completed lists were handed in for further consideration. Some ideas need Branch cooperation. Ideas must be affordable, manageable, and ensure all members a chance to be involved.

Lorna informed us of two anniversaries of national interest coinciding with the RSCDS 100th: The Flying Scotsman train will mark 100 years in 2023, and it will also be 200 years since the death of Henry Raeburn, whose painting, *The Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch*, is in the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh. These are both of wide interest and perhaps the RSCDS can use them too. The group Keith and I were in favoured making a video recording of dancing *The Minister on the Loch* at Toronto City Hall ice rink or the Rideau Canal in Ottawa.

The 2023 Autumn Gathering will be in Glasgow, where the first formative meeting of the Society was held in 1923, at the Athenaeum — a beautiful Art Deco building that is now a Hard Rock Café. It's suggested that on centenary day, a team should dance in there, as others dance outside in Buchanan Street.

2017-2020 Business Plan: Andrew Kellett (RSCDS Chair) presented. He said, 14 items have been completed, including:

- New website with improved content
- CTI (Core Training for Instructors), almost completed.
- More effective use of 12 Coates Crescent
- Financial incentive to Branches (two Branches founded, pending review of Management Committee Remits)

2020-2023 Business Plan:

- Get fit for the Centenary
- Branches to plan what they might do: Planning needs to start NOW!
- Strong Leadership
- Budget
- Ideas
- Enthusiasm

Membership Services Discussion: (led by Peter Knapman)

Mainly about results of a survey by the Membership Services Committee earlier this year. Only 18% of the members replied. Of those, 30% from Canada and US; 21% from Scotland. The 56 to 75 age group made 68% of replies, and 50% were from teachers (not all certificated).

- The majority of dancers who replied want new dance books — 25% said every year; 34% opted for alternate years.
- Briefing/re-caps of dances are thought helpful (and now RSCDS policy)
- Being inclusive of ceilidh and reeler dances in dance programmes
- *Popular Dances, Vol 2* from Membership Services, includes information about the history of the dances, the devisors, and the music.
- In future, Membership Services intends to explore dances relating to Sir Walter Scott, dress in 19th century garb, and perform some of the dances at Abbotsford, Scott's home — something that might attract the attention of a wider public.

Also on Saturday morning: Deb Lees taught a dance class with music by Angela Young, and there was an Archive Display with archivist, Alan MacPherson. Keith and I met International Branch for lunch in the Black Watch Museum café — wine with soup and sandwiches and lots of talking! Then back to the AGM.



AGM Meeting: The AGM began at 2 p.m. and finished at 3:05. A short meeting this year! Keith and I represented eight Branches between us: Toronto, Ottawa, St Catharines, Kitchener/Waterloo, Kingston, London, Buffalo, and Hamilton.

The Society Scroll of Honour was awarded to three persons. Mervyn Short (UK), and Jim Stott (Aberdeen) were present to receive the award. Catherine Elliott Shaw of London (ON) Branch will formally receive hers at the London Christmas Dance, Nov. 30.

Andrew Kellett reported that membership rose slightly this year. He asked that the

Branches respond to the Society's request for their financial reports. This gives the Society data on what each Branch does and what it achieves.

The motion to reduce the membership subscription fee by £2 to £18 was passed. The monies are to be retained by each Branch for use in advertising. One Branch was against the motion; they felt the money would be better spent by the Society. Andrew replied that the Society would run out of people before it ran out of money and people were more important.

Committee Elections: Neither Management Board (with 4 spaces) nor Membership Services Committee (with 3 spaces) had anyone willing to serve on these committees, so they shall co-opt people later.

- **EDUCATION & TRAINING:** Six people put their names forward for the available 4 spaces on that committee. Elected were: Mervyn Short (Berks/Hants/Surrey Border), Deirdre MacCuish Bark* (Toronto), and Anne Robertson (Oban & Lorn/Glasgow), all for 3 years, and Chris Ronald (New York) for 1 year.
- **YOUTH SERVICES:** Three people for three positions. A vote decided which should be for 3 years and which for one year. Malin Altenmüller and Philippa McKee both 3 years, and Margaret Lambourne for 1 year.

Saturday finished with a choice between a ball in the main hall, with music by Nicol McLaren and his Band, or a Nice 'n Easy Dance to Frank Thomson in the Coaching Hall.

We met up with lots of friends over the weekend: Fiona and David from Alberta, Lara from Minneapolis, Jamie from Norway – to mention a few. We also met dancers from last summer's Lews Castle weekend in Stornoway, and Hiroko from Toronto.

Sunday morning I was up early for a short Education & Training committee meeting at 9:15. Meanwhile, Keith attended Jimmie Hill's very interesting session on The Influence of Thomas Wilson on Country Dancing, with Mo Rutherford playing. There was also a dance class for the more energetic, taught by Janet Johnston to music by Susan Macfadyen.

Thence we drove to Glasgow for a flight home the next day.

Next year's Gathering is Saturday, 7th November 2020.

...Deirdre





Leamington Spa Class

I recently visited a couple of dance classes in England, near Coventry, that my friend, Keith Farrell, goes to regularly. The class, in Royal Leamington Spa, was taught by Margaret Baker and Jane Lewis.

I had met Jane before in St Andrews when she did her Level 5 Teacher's Certificate with Arlene Koteff at summer school 2017. It is always interesting to discover all the different connections in dancing, and how and where people have met. People all over the world become firm friends because of a shared passion for Scottish country dance.

Whenever Keith dances in Canada and bumps into Arlene, we always send a picture of him and Arlene back to Jane, and so, on this occasion, we took a picture of Keith and Jane to send back to Arlene.

I also danced with the Stoneleigh social group. Both groups were extremely friendly and welcoming.

Lovely to be able to travel and dance!

...Moira Korus

My Journey to East Asia

This past year, from December until August, I travelled around East Asia as part of my University of Toronto exchange. I began my journey in South Korea, where I spent just over a month attending classes at Yonsei University and studying Modern Korean Literature.

I then travelled to Hong Kong for two weeks of personal travel, before heading to Beijing, China, the main destination of my exchange. I lived in China for five months and worked as an English teacher for Grades 5 and 6 students at a private languages school. In total I taught over 300 students! While in China I took several courses, including Mandarin language, Kung Fu, calligraphy, Chinese paper cutting, and Chinese painting. Though based in Beijing, I was able to travel throughout Northern China to Xi'an, Chengde, Luoyang, and other areas. After completing my teaching in China, I travelled throughout Japan for three weeks.

My experience was extremely interesting, and enlightening in many ways. Though it was definitely challenging, I learnt a great deal, particularly around cultural differences, and my abilities as a teacher.

I had the opportunity to get a glimpse into new cultures. Each one of the countries I visited was so vastly different, and even within countries there was massive cultural diversity between regions.

Becoming enculturated was certainly a challenge: from learning how to greet people and purchase groceries, to understanding social codes, there were so many unexpected differences and challenges. All of these experiences allowed me to learn to understand the world in new ways. I began to shed the biases and ideas I had developed from my own cultural background, and to be open to different interpretations of the world around me.



Next, I also developed invaluable skills as a result of my teaching. My specialty at the University of Toronto is Education, and I have been a volunteer teacher in several schools in the TDSB.

My previous experience, however, could never have prepared me for the experience of teaching abroad. I had no curriculum and no assistants; it was simply me, with my classes of over 30 students, learning English together. Some of my classes spoke extremely good English, and indeed I could have full conversations with these students; with other classes, my students could not even say hello. I had to be creative in finding ways to connect with my students; to get to know my students to find out what interested them so I could create engaging lessons; and I had to hone my classroom management abilities. All of these skills will continue to serve me well in my future endeavours, and the experiences showed me what I am capable of as an individual and as a teacher.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed my experience — I met some interesting people, tried some incredible food, crossed a visit to The Great Wall off my bucket list, and learnt a great deal about myself and the world we live in!

...Jane Yearwood

Upcoming Events: NEAR

Dec 1 – Sunday Special: Dances With A Difference ~ Keith Bark will teach dances for not just 3, 4 and 5 couples, but 6 and 7 couple, and 9 person dances. 2-4 p.m. at Armour Heights Community Centre, Activity Room, 2140 Avenue Road. Not suitable for beginners. \$6

Dec 6 – South Simcoe's Christmas Dance ~ Enjoy an evening of Christmas-themed dances, followed by an indulgent light supper for only \$10. LIVE MUSIC by Laird Brown & Don Wood Knox Church, 160 King Street South, Alliston Dancing starts at 7:30 p.m. Carpool to Alliston and dance the night away!

Dec 8 – Shiftin' Bobbins with Maureen Richardson ~ Maureen will share interesting dances for intermediate and advanced dancers. 2-4 p.m. at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road. Info: www.shiftinbobbins.webs.com

Dec 11 – Glenview's 40th Anniversary Celebration ~ 6:30 p.m. – Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue. Music by The Scottish Heirs Duo. Reception 6:30, Dancing 7:30, Refreshments 9:30. \$20 (\$15 for members) Tickets must be purchased in advance from Fiona Alberti fiona@alberti.ca Info: www.glenviewscdg.org

Dec 14 – Family Christmas December Monthly Dance ~ 7:30 p.m. Music by Scotch Mist. This year at Branksome Hall, in the same beautiful gym as the recent Workshop: big black building on Elm Avenue – WEST side of Mt Pleasant Road. Parking on campus or neighbourhood streets.

Dec 16 – St Clement's Christmas Treat ~ Come to beautiful Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road, to celebrate Christmas in dance, with Maestro Bartlett playing seasonal music to lift our spirits – and our heels. 7 - 9:30 p.m. \$10 Info: teresa.lockhart@rogers.com

Dec 17 – Calvin's Christmas Dance ~ All dancers are invited to our Christmas party. We'll have wonderful music by Don Bartlett on piano, and light refreshments at the interval. At Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Nancy Stokes 416.425-2195 or Mary Baldwin 416.485-8280

Dec 31 – Glenview's Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh ~ 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd. Music by Scotch Mist. \$30 tickets to be purchased in advance from Valerie Fisher v.fisher@sympatico.ca www.glenviewscdg.org

Jan 11 – January Monthly Dance ~ What better way to work off those holiday calories than to dance the night away with great music, great company, and a great programme of interesting dances? 8:00 - 10:30 p.m. at Crescent School.

Feb 8 – South Simcoe's Valentine Workshop & Tea Dance Teachers: Arlene Koteff and Colin Campbell. LIVE MUSIC by Laird Brown and Don Wood. Enjoy a full day of dance and sustenance; refreshments, two workshop sessions, lunch, tea dance, and treats! \$50. Attendance limited to the first 50 registrants. Carpool to Alliston for this Valentine treat. Registration form and Tea Dance programme coming soon. Lower Level, Knox Church, 160 King Street South, Alliston.

Feb 15 – The Tartan Ball ~ Registration is now open. A beautiful event in our beautiful new home: The Old Mill.

Mar 28 – West End Workshop ~ Save the Date! This year, we have a new location in South Mississauga (Port Credit). Keep watch for further details.

Upcoming Events: FAR

Dec 7 – Hamilton Christmas Dance ~ Enjoy a light meal while mingling with friends, then dance to the live music of Laird Brown and Don Wood. All dancers are welcome - beginners to advanced (new dancers, too!) At MacNab Presbyterian Church, 116 MacNab Street S., Hamilton. Info: mrs.mck@hotmail.com or www.rscdshamilton.org

Dec 8 – Gleneagles Ball, Vancouver ~ Dance to the music of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra in the beautiful Ballroom of the historic Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Enjoy a delicious buffet lunch before dancing and, afterwards, a decadent dessert buffet. Info: Gillian Muir 778.279-3995 or <https://rscdsgleneagles.org/2019gleneaglesball>

Dec 14 – RSCDS Kitchener/Waterloo Christmas Dance ~ Please join us for a terrific night of dancing and festive cheer at our Annual Christmas Dance. We'll have music by Fred Moyes and his bionic accordion. 7:30 p.m. at historic St Paul's Church, 137 Queen St South, Kitchener. Info: www.rscds.kitchener.on.ca

Feb 14-16 – Isle of Wight Weekend School ~ What better place to experience a delightful early spring than on the beautiful Isle of Wight! Teachers: Fred deMarse and Diane Rooney. Music: Robert Mackay and Ian and Judith Muir, plus, for the social dances: Ian Muir & The Craigellachie Band. Info: Catherine Packwood-Bluett at 011+44+01980 621322

Feb 14-16 – Aloha Winter Weekend, Hawaii ~ Guest Teacher: Rachel Pusey. Music: Humuhumunukunapua'a and Strathspey Society Band. Info: www.rscdshawaii.org

Mar 21-22 – Heather Ball Weekend, Vancouver ~ Guest musicians: Colin Dewar and Alasdair Macleod. Info: www.rscdsvancouver.org

Jul 26- Aug 2 – 2020 TAC Summer School ~ Mount Royal University, Calgary. Teachers: Janet Johnston, Ron Wallace, Alan Twigg, Barbara Johnston. Musicians: Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser-Collins, Terry Traub, Mary Ross. Registration opens March 1, 2020. Info: tac-rscds.org

More events, near & far: www.dancescottish.ca



RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|
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Newsletter Committee:
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Andrew Henderson
Rob Lockhart (webmaster)
Teresa Lockhart
Marian White
Judy Williams

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

Summer School 2020

4 Weeks: 19 Jul - 16 Aug, 2020

St Andrews University, Scotland

About 700 dancers from around the world will gather for wonderful teachers, talented musicians, friendship, and fun.

www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2020

Glenview's Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh

Tuesday, December 31 ~ 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd.
If First Footing (especially by a dark male) brings luck at the beginning of the year, surely fancy footing with many kilted males to end the year must be even luckier.

Join your friends for an evening of dancing to Scotch Mist. Bring-and-share refreshments after dancing, prior to midnight, followed by a ceilidh. \$30 tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance from Valerie Fisher: v.fisher@sympatico.ca www.glenviewscdg.org

DEMO POOL PRACTICE DATES

- All practices are Sunday afternoons, 2-4 p.m.
- Parkway Forest Community Centre, Dance Studio
55 Forest Manor Road, Don Mills
- Dec. 8 • Jan. 5 • Jan. 12 • Mar 1 • April 5

Attend a Board Meeting

Members of RSCDS Toronto are welcome to audit Board meetings (i.e. sit in, and silently observe).

Contact Fiona Alberti, fiona@alberti.ca for details. Scheduled Dates:

- Dec 9 • Jan 9 • Feb 10 • Mar 12
- Apr 13 • May 14 • Jun 8



Please send submissions to Set&Link by the 10th of each month.

Send to Donald Holmes
deholmes@sympatico.ca

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