

SET & LINK

The 50th West Toronto Ball inspires the Muse of Terpsichore

From the Chair...



Liz Clunie

Although the official dancing season is over don't push your dancing shoes to the back of the closet. There are still opportunities to take part in events where we are highly visible to the public — giving

us an excellent chance to promote Scottish country dancing. As usual, there is Dancing in the Park in June where passers-by can't help but be attracted by the lively music of Scotch Mist. After that, it just takes an invitation or gentle persuasion to get people to join in the audience participation and easier dances. Similarly, at Dufferin Grove in August, there is a chance to reach out to those attending the farmers' market.

On June 16 two sets of demo pool dancers and their supporters will be heading to Niagara-On-The-Lake to perform for the audience attending the matinée performance of *Brigadoon* at the Shaw Festival. With a contingent of over forty dressed in kilts and tartans, we should make quite an impression, and provide inspiration for onlookers and theatre goers to explore what we and other branches have to offer. Theatre goers at all Shaw productions will see an advertisement in their programme, and Rob Lockhart has designed a new home page on our website to provide further information.

Another opportunity to "strut our stuff" in front of a large audience is the Orillia Scottish Festival in July. We hope the Toronto area will be well represented by sending sets to perform at the opening ceremonies and by doing demonstrations with audience participation in the pavilion.

This summer, spread the word about the joys of dancing by arming yourself with a supply of the handouts designed by the marketing/outreach committee and give them to people you meet on your summer travels or at any of the events that you will be attending in the next few months.

Liz

Photo: Ron Macnaughton



~ MOSTLY MILLENNIALS ~

• Maureen • Erica • Heather • Claire • Gavin • Hilary • Amanda • Regina • Ayla • Marina • Halyna

Sometimes when the Set & Link Committee meets to plan a new issue, the cupboard is almost bare. Not so this month: The 50th West Toronto Ball, the millennials6 classes, and the Youth Ball produced a plethora of interesting and different perspectives. Enjoy!

... The Editor



Claire Steep

Friendship set to music...

The two years I have danced Scottish have been characterised by a warm sociability I have seldom found elsewhere. The West Toronto Ball was no different. From the first, everyone was only too willing to advise and help. Here were the ribbons marking me as a beginner, there were the tickets, and here is my assigned table. Somewhere in the middle of dinner, all the Millennials were duly warned we would need partners in the Grand March.

That set the tone for the evening. There was a terrifying moment in which it came home that the dances were *briefed only*, and I worried in the way I always do that, notwithstanding practice classes, I would go hopelessly, irredeemably wrong. I needn't have worried. Not only were there too many moving parts to any given dance for it to hinge on any one person, but there were, as ever, any number of gracious people who conspired to coach me around corners, through reels, and generally kept me abreast of the geography of the dances. Dancing, Scottish dancing especially, remained a communal effort, and, encouraged, I dared to relax into the dances. Indeed it worked out that I danced more than I sat out. As I was looking down the sets for my fellow Millennials, it seemed their experience wasn't dissimilar. The 50th West Toronto Ball remained as convivial and inviting as any of the monthly dances I had previously attended.

It was a lovely evening. The highlight, to my mind, came as our Millennials' class regrouped to dance *Australian Ladies*. I don't know that we always got it right, but it did typify the idiom that dancing is friendship set to music. Granted, I think it was first said of square dancing, but I hazard that was only because the original speaker hadn't danced Scottish.

... Claire Steep



Sheena Gilks

Mind over matter...

We stand to attention, lines straight, the battle is about to commence.

A beginner's worst fear is being realized: no walk-through. The briefer begins, and I command the brain to concentrate. But it's in a perverse mood and instead plants an annoying seed: Did I leave the dog out in the backyard when I left home tonight? It's cold and ...oh my goodness... I can't remember. For heaven's sake stop; stop right now; the briefer's talking. *Focus!*

Across the set my partner smiles encouragingly. I grimace back; my concentration on the briefer is causing mental anguish and a full-blown grin is simply out of the question.

Special Events



The White Heather Ball

Sunday, June 9 ~ 2-5 p.m.

General Sikorski Hall,
1551 Stevenson Rd., North Oshawa

Afternoon dancing followed by dinner. Dancing & dinner: \$75pp.
Dancing only: \$40pp. Dinner only: \$40pp. Info/tickets from: Alan Graham
hdscd.membership@gmail.com
www.dancescottishportperry.com



St Clement's Closer

Monday, June 10 ~ 7-9:30 p.m.

Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Rd

Close out the dance season in style by dancing to the joyous music of Don Bartlett in the stately Great Hall of historic Bishop Strachan School.

The programme will include some mischief and a certain *Smiling Lila*. All dances will be walked and briefed. \$10 at the door.

Info: teresa.lockhart@rogers.com

Dancing in the Park ~ wks 3&4



Tuesday, June 18: ~ Dancing starts at 7 p.m. and goes until dusk

Place: Edwards Gardens Music: Scotch Mist

Rain Location: Church of the Ascension, 33 Overland Drive

The Jubilee Jig	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Leaflet 19
The Bramble Circle	5 x 32 R	E Vandegrift, Let's all Dance
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8 x 32 S	Derek Haynes, RSCDS Leaflet
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	6 x 32 J	Skillern, RSCDS Book 16
Catch The Wind	8 x 32 R	R Butterfield, RSCDS Book 45

Interval

Flowers of Edinburgh	8 x 32 R	Traditional, RSCDS Book 1
Waltz Country Dance	4 x 40 W	RSCDS Book 4
The Brudenell Jig	6 x 32 J	B Burnell, RSCDS 2nd Graded Book
Miss Eleanor	3 x 32 S	Ann Dix, RSCDS Book 49
Maxwell's Rant	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 18

Extras

Jessie's Hornpipe	8 x 32 H	RSCDS Book 8
Hooper's Jig	8 x 32 J	Miss Milligan's Miscellany II

Tuesday, June 25: ~ Dancing starts at 7 p.m. and goes until dusk

Place: Edwards Gardens Music: Scotch Mist

Rain Location: Church of the Ascension, 33 Overland Drive

Joie de Vivre	8 x 32 J	I van Maarseveen, RSCDS Book 39
The Tri-Mariner	8 x 32 R	Ann Dix, RSCDS Book 48
A Highland Welcome	5 x 32 R	B Forbes, Craigievar Book 1
Wisp of Thistle	8 x 32 S	Pat Kent, RSCDS Book 37
Crom Allt (The Crooked Burn)	8 x 32 R	Goldring, 3rd Graded & Social Book

Interval

The Waratah Weaver	4 x 32 J	Elma See, 2nd Graded Book
The Birks of Invermay	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 16
Circassian Circle	5 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 1
Mrs Hamilton of Eglemount	3 x 40 S	Jean Noble, Golden Ghillies Book
The Reel of the 51st Division	8 x 32 R	Lt. J.E.M. Atkinson, RSCDS Book 13

Extras

It's All Right	8 x 32 J	Elma See, 2nd Graded Book
General Stuart's Reel	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 10



Summer Dancing at Trinity

Thursdays, June 27 - August 1 ~ 8-10 p.m.

Seeley Hall is reserved for the traditional Trinity Summer Dancing programme. Each week we welcome a guest teacher to teach summer-suitable fun dances for all levels. Please come, and invite friends, to these light-hearted evenings in beautiful, breezy Seeley Hall, Trinity College, University of Toronto, 6 Hoskin Avenue (St George and Museum stations are close by).

Orillia Scottish Festival

Saturday, July 20 ~ Noon, Couchiching Beach Park, Orillia

Dancers of all ages are invited to join in the mass dancing of the Opening Ceremonies and to promote Scottish country dancing. Sign up as a 4-couple set representing your dance group or come on your own. Individual dancers will be matched up to form sets (if enough numbers). We'll dance three short, simple dances.

Parade at noon. Opening Ceremonies at 1:30pm.

Info: Will Kinghorn 705 259 3232 uilleam.alean@gmail.com

Dance Dufferin Grove

Thursday, August 29 • 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Dufferin Grove Park

Dance Scottish in the most community-oriented park in Toronto. Also enjoy the Farmers' Market. Keith & Deirdre Bark will lead the dancing, mostly easy SCDs — all audience participation.

Dancing in the Park



When: Tuesdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25 ~ 7 p.m. to dusk.
Where: Edwards Gardens (on The Green, behind the barn)
Music: Scotch Mist

Come, join the fun, and please bring a friend. This is one of our most popular outreach events. All are welcome — dancers, would-be dancers, and spectators alike. There is no official charge, but your contribution to the donation box helps keep the tradition going.

We dance on the green (behind the barn) at Edwards Gardens (Leslie and Lawrence Ave. East), weather permitting. If rain threatens, a notice will be posted on the website by 4 p.m. giving the indoor location of the hall to be used for the evening.

Rain Location, all weeks this is a change):

Church of the Ascension, 33 Overland Drive (south of Donway West)
 ...Dave Drewette, Convenor DITP

AGM Dance



Forbes Duncan

Our Annual General Meeting Dance had a total of 71 attending. The meeting was handled efficiently, and as a result we completed the dance programme plus an extra. Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs provided lively music, and it was an enjoyable night of dancing.

This concludes our season; keep checking the website for information on dates for next year.

Thanks to Deirdre for this year's programme and also to my committee, Ken MacKinnon, Ken Adamson, and Marie Duncan, for all their help. Also thank you to all the briefers, host groups, and all those that supported the dances throughout the year.

...Forbes Duncan and the Monthly Dance Committee



fifty-fifty draw

At the April AGM Dance, Carole Bell won \$84.50 in the 50/50 draw.

Social & Recreation

Scottish Country Dancing

Demo & Dance Night



Thurs., May 23 • 7:30 pm

Doing pilates, outside on the Granite Club's Astroturf Common, I thought. . .

How fun would it be to engage Granite Club members in some dancing on the "grass"?

It might spark interest in Dancing in the Park at nearby Edwards Gardens.

I was surprised to learn the city restricts amplified music outside the club walls. So, instead, on May 23rd we got ready for "reel" fun in the Regency Ballroom.

Amy Cochrane, Events Manager,

and her team coordinated and promoted the event with flair (as the poster shows), and our demo dancers were welcomed. About 20 participants between 8 to 80 enthusiastically accepted invitations to dance, and their smiles conveyed their enjoyment. Some Club members, that day, had been on excursion to Brigadoon at the Shaw Festival, arrived back just in time to carry on the theme. Liz Clunie, Chair of RSCDS Toronto also joined in.

A sincere thank you to Stella Henderson and the 16 members of the demo pool who devoted their evening and dance skill. Andy Henderson was music meister for the event.

Thanks also to Arlene Koteff, our demo pool teacher, who led us through a fun programme. We hope we have enticed some people to meet us again on the dance floor (or grass, as may be the case).

...Christy Barber ~ H.I.S.C.D.



Breaking news. . .

The following candidates passed their recent assessments:

Unit 2:

Sue Batt, Tara Bolker, Kathryn Bralten, Halyna Sydorenko

Unit 3:

Sue Batt, Tara Bolker, Kathryn Lecocq, Halyna Sydorenko

Unit 5:

Gordon Hayburn, Gavin Keachie

Gordon and Gavin are now fully certificated teachers.

Hearty congratulations to all candidates, as well as Jean Noble and Moira Korus for their wonderful guidance.

... Tony Szeto



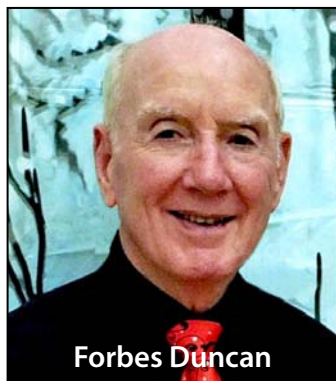
Family Ceilidh: Sept 21

Save the date. Bring family and friends to the annual Family Ceilidh! Enjoy an afternoon of dance led by Keith Bark, followed by refreshments.

4:00 - 6:30 p.m. at St Leonard's

\$6/person, under-fives are free.

Info: dancescottish.ca/Ceilidh.html



Forbes Duncan Dance Convenor Retires

"I have enjoyed the dances, especially if things have gone well, and we have had a good night of dancing," says Forbes Duncan who retired after 13 years as convenor of the monthly dances. Preparation at the beginning of the year, getting briefers, host groups, and dates from Crescent School was "a bit of a pain" but after a successful night it is all worth it.

Flexibility is paramount when unplanned circumstances arise, as they inevitably will. Forbes recalled four. In November 2006, we were notified there was a burst water main on Bayview Avenue and Crescent School therefore was not available for the workshop and the monthly dance that Saturday night. Fortunately, we were able to relocate to the Toronto French School and carry on.

In March 2009, the Beginners' Night Dance was cancelled because of a heavy snowstorm. Forbes received many comments that no monthly dance had ever before been cancelled. More recently, October 2017, an electric power failure at Crescent School necessitated evacuation of the building after three dances. Strangely, no one complained. Finally, an April 2018 ice storm forced cancellation of the Volunteer Appreciation Dance. Forbes handled these annoyances efficiently with professional, level-headed leadership. Positive outcomes, however, far outweigh a host of glitches and annoyances.

At the Beginners' dance of March 2007, Forbes and his reception committee were thrilled to welcome 203 dancers. Many beginners were there for their first monthly dance; for some it was their first time dancing to live music. Family Night, December 2008, was a different scenario: heavy snow was falling and with 10 minutes to go before the dance was to start, there were only enough dancers for two sets! Gradually, as brave souls arrived out of the snow, the company grew to 126 dancers — thus an ominous start resolved in Yuletide glee.

In 2010, Santa Claus made his first appearance at the Family Night dance, and he has been a regular ever since. Forbes hopes this tradition will endure. The floor was packed, and we all enjoyed a great evening of dance and camaraderie at the December 2011 Family Night dance where 192 dancers were present. Many of them were children who became instant fans of Mr. Claus.

"I thank my committee over the years: at the beginning, John Clark, Steve Donald, and Marie Duncan; then Douglas Worling; and now Ken MacKinnon and Ken Adamson. It has been great working with them."

Forbes, you are a class act—an exemplar of sincere volunteerism—thank you for your work. We love your ever-ready, subtle wit, although you do keep us guessing with your admission of "I like Fake News!"

...Donald E. Holmes

"I thank my committee over the years: at the beginning, John Clark, Steve Donald, and Marie Duncan; then Douglas Worling; and now Ken MacKinnon and Ken Adamson. It has been great working with them."

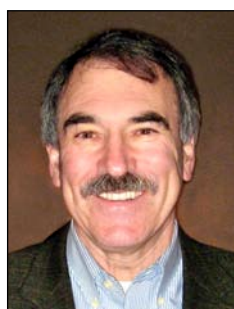
New Board Members

At the AGM in April several new board members were elected.



Fiona Alberti: Secretary

With a name like Fiona you'd expect some Scottish blood in me. My maternal grandmother's family lived in Banff, Scotland (but she grew up in Mauritius). In elementary school, I believe I did Scottish dancing once a week at lunch for a year. The only thing I remember is having to take my kilt to school. I did ballet for 4 years (when young), figure skated for 30 years, and then moved to the world of ballroom dancing. It was there I met the Anne and Kevin Moloney, who introduced me to Scottish dancing four years ago. How I wish I had rediscovered it sooner! As I seem to have opinions on many matters, when asked if I would be secretary for the Association, I thought I had better put my money where my mouth is and say yes.

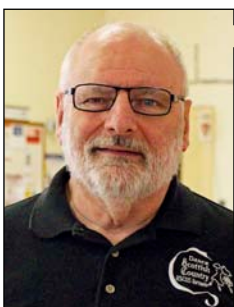


Kevin Moloney: Program

Work took my niece to Glasgow, where she met and married a Glaswegian. In preparation for the Irish/Scottish wedding, Anne and I signed up for the St. Andrews Ball, which came with four introductory classes in ceilidh dancing. At the Ball, Rosalind Gilbert recruited Ian and Janet Markham to sign up for Scottish country dancing. Ian mentioned it to me, and I asked him, "What's Scottish country dancing?" The rest is history — with thanks to the wonderful teaching of Barbara Taylor and the enthusiastic members who encouraged us all the way.

I was immediately struck by the structure of the organization with the focus on the enjoyment of dancing and realized how it was all put together by volunteers. I volunteered for the Workshop and Finance committees, before being asked to join the Board as Program Director. It is a great honour to serve all the dedicated members of RSCDS.

Caoimhín O'Maoldomhnaigh – mo ainm as Gaeilge ~ that is my Celtic name and that's as close as I can get to a Scottish link.



Ron Macnaughton: Marketing

Two decades ago, in a bar after a monthly dance, I heard about St Andrews Summer School. What an experience, dancing with people from around the world! After that, I drove to the Highlands. A highlight was visiting my clan museum and hearing that Cameron of Lochiel interrupted tree planting to persuade Bonnie Prince Charlie to leave. Instead, my clan joined the rebellion and the row of trees is still not completed.

I started the Toronto Branch website and am pleased I could get away with posting dance briefs online. In 1999, a group including Kim Malcolmson and me looked into SCD growth issues, including talking to several lapsed dancers.

My other hobby is astronomy, and I've set up my telescope for dancers several times.



March 2007 Beginners' Night

Musings of Terpsichore: West Toronto Ball & Millennials Classes (cont. from page 1)

Mind over matter. . . (Sheena Gilks continues)

Surreptitiously, I glance at the other dancers.

Some study the floor pattern. Some close their eyes in deep concentration. Some glance heavenwards seeking assistance. Another rogue thought bursts in unannounced: it's not all that frigid outside, the dog might just survive. Enough! Focus!

The time has come, the game's afoot, and the mind's gone blank. What on earth comes after we've set, cast, and turned first corner? Perhaps the briefer will repeat instructions if I ask really nicely. What, just for me? I doubt it. The dance begins. I mutter my mantra 'I know what I'm doing' and, with a nervously executed pas-de-Basque, away we go. To my amazement everything flows as nature (or rather formations) intended. I find myself in the right place at the right time. and the dance is completed without confusion. There's a great smile of satisfaction on my face. It's actually been fun. I can't wait for the next dance. And the dog? Oh, nothing to worry about, just remembered he's with my son tonight.

Mind, indeed, over matter.

...Sheena Gilks

An excellent experience. . .



Amanda Stock

Reel... Jig... Strathspey... Before the recent Social Dancing for Millennials classes, I could not tell the difference. Learning a new style of dance came with new vocabulary: pas-de-Basque, setting, casting, right hand reel, poussette, allemande... Luckily, it was easy to pick up thanks to clear teaching by Gavin Keachie and a friendly class environment where everyone felt welcome to ask questions.

A rotating cast of experienced dancers who came to fill out sets and share their love of Scottish country dance was also extremely informative. It was great to meet existing members of the society who were enthusiastic about welcoming us newbies.

Gavin taught six fast-paced, fun, and approachable lessons for those with no prior SCD experience. The drop-in format of the classes was convenient for students and young professionals with busy or uncertain schedules, and each week brought out a slightly different group. This really added to the social aspect because we met new people of diverse backgrounds and professions every time. There was also a nice chance to chat and relax during the break halfway through each two-hour lesson.

The Youth Ball. . .

The 15th Youth Ball was May 4 at Willowdale Emmanuel United Church. It started with a reception of lively conversation, photo ops, and reviewing the pas-de-Basque. A delicious meal followed.

With tables cleared, Tristan Gerrie piped for the Grand March. Fred Moyes lit up his bionic accordion, and we danced Deirdre MacCuish Bark's wonderful programme. Dancers included Rosedale youth, taught by Moira Korus and Gavin Keachie; young adults from the GTA, Buffalo, and Rochester. TA Chair Liz Clunie was a special guest, as were teacher candidate examiners Ellie Briscoe and Jean Martin (yes, of Aberdeen!), and tutor Jean Noble.

The Youth Committee extends sincere appreciation to the TA Board for its support, to the teachers for preparing dancers, to parents for their support, to dancers for their dedication to SCD, and to the volunteers who worked so diligently behind the scenes.

Next season, over the May long weekend, our traditional Youth Ball will be pre-empted by SpringFling2020. Toronto is hosting this special event, open to dancers from around the world, being held in North America for the first time. Watch for more details of SpringFling2020 over summer in early Fall.

...Maureen Richardson



Photo: Ron Macnaughton

Amanda Stock

One goal of the lessons was to prepare new dancers for the West Toronto Ball. The thirteen dances we learned were all on the ball programme, and suitable for beginners. A few students, myself included, managed to make the majority of the drop-in classes and attended the ball. We had a fabulous time, and really got a taste for what it's like to go out for an evening of Scottish country dancing.

It felt a bit like trial by fire at some points, especially when dances we hadn't covered in class came up! However, everyone was very welcoming, and it wasn't difficult to find a partner. Some of us managed every single dance, including ones we hadn't learned. The other dancers in a set were more than happy to help us out and point us in the right direction when we forgot.

Dancing to the wonderful live music of Scotch Mist was a real treat and definitely deepened my appreciation for this style of dance. I'm sure my classmates would say the same. All attendees seemed to have a grand time regardless of age or experience. It got us newer dancers excited about doing more dancing! On the whole, the Social Dancing for Millennials class was an excellent experience, and which I happily recommend to young people looking for a fun new social activity to try.

...Amanda Stock

Teaching 6 Classes for Millennials. . .

For six weeks, a group of young adults met at Church of the Redeemer to work through dances for the West Toronto Ball.

This class was intended to give young adults a taste of Scottish dancing and to introduce them to the vibrant community. We focused mostly on learning the dances, but with some step work at the beginning of each class. The students did wonderfully!

In the first class we did poussette and by the end we were doing crossover reels and the Rondel. It was a steep learning curve, but they handled it with grace, humour, and aplomb. The young adults kept coming back, and some brought friends. On our biggest week we had 15 students, plus various hangers-on and helpers, allowing us to make up three 3-couple sets. Several of the students attended the West Toronto Ball and managed beautifully – despite only having practised most dances once, and a couple of them not at all. The other attendees were very welcoming and everyone had an awesome time! I hope they keep dancing!



...Gavin Keachie

A Dance Down Memory Lane at the 2019 Briars Ceilidh



More photos: www.ceilidh2019.weebly.com

Back: Bob Waugh, Laura Longhurst, Terry Hill, Patrick Longhurst, Ruth Macleod, Jim Fitzpatrick, Mike Rothery, Robin Wood, Don Rome, Nancy Matheson, Gary Seagrave, Sandy Robertson, Alex Sutton

Middle: Betty Pellegrin, Tricia Donaldson, Sandy McPherson, Shirley Rothery, Marg Rome, Sharon Wood, Georgina Finlay, Jo Robertson, David Younger, Nancy Duffy

Front: Mary Seagrave, Nora Sutherland, Kay Wylie, Pat Fitzpatrick, Miyuki Wood, Betty Mackenzie-Hill, Jean Hamilton, John Whittaker **Missing:** Martha Wood, Claire Levick

On April 28, 2019, a group of old and new friends met at The Briars resort at Jackson's Point, Lake Simcoe, for a traditional Scottish ceilidh.



Miyuki Wood

But this was not the first Scottish event at The Briars. Starting in the winter of 1978, Scottish country dancers and dancing friends met annually at The Briars for a weekend of music, dancing, films, cross country skiing, and other fun in the snow.

Known as The Northern Meeting, the event grew in popularity until up to 100 guests made the winter trip to The Briars. The last time they met was in 1992.

It may have taken 27 years, but the Scots returned! Over 30 friends enjoyed a buffet lunch on the Sunday afternoon, and a delicious sit-down dinner in the evening.

Dinner was followed by a lively ceilidh full of laughter and camaraderie. There was Scottish country and old-time dancing; sing-alongs; poetry; Highland dancing demonstrations; and piano, harmonica, and fiddle music.

A buffet breakfast the next morning gave the group another opportunity to reminisce about past Northern Meetings and swap stories about the previous night's ceilidh before heading back to Toronto, Oakville and other destinations.



Marg Rome, Nancy Matheson, Georgina Finlay, Mike Rothery, Pat Fitzpatrick, Sharon Wood

... Marion Finlay



Thank you, Jean ~ Awarded Life Membership

At the April AGM a motion was passed acknowledging Jean Lindsay for her dedication and contributions to the RSCDS Toronto Association and that she be awarded an Honorary Life Membership. Nancy White and Liz Clunie presented Jean with a quach, along with the Life Membership, on behalf of the Toronto Association.

~ ~ ~

Picture at right shows Jean with her granddaughter, Montana, at the 2017 St Andrew's Ball.





[Ed: Fiona Miller teaches SCD in Lethbridge and is Chair of TAC (Teachers' Association of Canada). When she said at a TAC Board meeting she and her husband, David, were going to the SpringFling2019 in Paris, we asked her for an article for *Set & Link*. Her article is abbreviated here. The missing text offers her suggestions for event improvement, which have been shared with the SpringFling2020 Toronto Committee. Thank you, Fiona.]

Just before Easter David and I arrived in Paris for the RSCDS SpringFling 2019 and its associated SpringFringe. What better city to enjoy in spring?

We had never attended a SpringFling/Fringe before, nor had we visited Paris, so were a little unsure what to expect.

As someone who has planned many dance workshops, I tend to look at such events with a level of experienced expectation.

We had heard that we would be impressed with the energy level of such a large number of young people dancing together and we were, totally. It was wonderful to be in a dance hall with over 100 dancers under the age of 35 plus another 50 or so who were no longer considered youth. The energy and enthusiasm were infectious and everyone seemed to be having a great time. I was delighted to see how the different age groups mixed. There was never an appearance of the "young folk" trying to stick together as I have seen on other occasions. Everyone just wanted to dance — and dance they did.

The programmes for both the Friday Welcome Dance and the Saturday Ball were a wonderful mix of old and familiar plus new local favourites. All the dances were expertly briefed and a couple of the less familiar dances were given a quick walk through. There were 18 dances on each programme plus 1 extra. Several dances were encored, which

meant long evenings. We old folks are not used to such programmes, but the young folk were always ready for more.

The music was supplied by an ever-changing variety of fabulous musicians. The musicians seemed to be having as much fun as the dancers. They sounded as if they had worked together for some time, although many were meeting for the first time at the weekend. Such a wealth of talent.

On both Saturday and Sunday mornings, Fling and Fringe dancers had separate classes with live music. We had Keith Smith and Rodger McAndrew. My classes were very ably taught by William Williamson from Scotland and Corinne Hilpert, a brand new teacher from France. Each afternoon there were optional classes for dancers. David and I chose not to attend. Instead we roamed Paris and enjoyed some of the sights in that fabulous city. We also enjoyed a lovely cruise on the River Seine.

SpringFling/Fringe was certainly a wonderful experience, and we would both be willing to attend again.

Once the weekend was up and running, everything flowed smoothly and we were certainly made to feel welcome. It was a wonderful exciting and exhausting weekend.

...Fiona S. Miller,

lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org, chairman@tac-rscds.org, www.tac-rscds.org



Grace Notes



Jack Finlay

27 March 1922 – 14 May 2019

Jack Finlay was a lover of things Scottish — bagpipes, dance, Scotch, and parties. He and his wife, Pam, danced for many years with Grace Harris at St Clement's Church.

As Chief of Gastroenterology at Toronto General Hospital, he helped pioneer endoscopy procedures in Canada for which he received the Distinguished Service Award for the Development of Gastroenterology (1994). In 1975 he earned a Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding achievement in gastroenterology.

At one time three generations of this family danced Scottish: Jack and Pam, their son Cameron and Cam's wife MaryEllen at St Clement's, and his granddaughter, Meg, with the Rosedale children's class.

We extend condolences to the entire Finlay family.

Thank you Petronella Dancers

I thank you all for your dedication, enthusiasm, and support over the past few years. It has been a great pleasure teaching you and dancing with you. I look forward to dancing with you at the various dance opportunities provided by the Toronto Association and other Social Groups.

Happy Dancing!

Fond regards,

Maureen Richardson



FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN ~ AND ACROSS THE YEARS

Alan Mair, former Chairman of the Society and sometime visitor to Toronto, lost his beloved wife, Christine, in late March. Our Chair, Liz Clunie, sent Alan a message of condolence on behalf of RSCDS Toronto. In response, Alan sent Liz this very fine letter of appreciation and recounting memories of Toronto dancers and their friendship.

PROVOST WYND,
CUPAR, FIFE
12TH MAY, 2019

Dear Liz,

Thank you for the good wishes expressed in the card you sent to me recently on behalf of the Toronto Association. As has been the case with many communications I have received over recent weeks, it has made me look back over many years and recall the many occasions when our paths have crossed.

It began as far back as 1974 when Christine found herself in the same Prelim Certificate Class at St Andrews Summer School as David and Betty Grant. I was there too, doing the Full Certificate (Christine never forgave me for doing it before her but I had not been pregnant in 1973!). We met them annually for several years after and swapped Xmas cards until David's death in 2013. They painted wonderful pictures in our minds of dancing in Toronto and I think you could say that we dreamed that one day we just might!! They also plied us with LPs of Stan Hamilton recordings which we have enjoyed over the years – as have class-members in the days when we transferred tracks to cassettes if there was no musician.

When I began to take an interest in RSCDS politics, the Grants became a great source of encouragement and advice – it was never very difficult to find out David's views on the latest crisis.

It was always my intention when I became Chairman to visit as many Branches as possible – not an easy task when you think that there are only 104 week-ends in a two-year stint, 40 of which the (then) Constitution required the Chairman and Vice Chairman to attend meetings in Edinburgh – and over 170 Branches and Associations. Very few people realise that all the visiting I did was at my own expense – expect for one. Thanks to the generosity of Heinz and Margaret Rieger, who I had already met in Budapest, we were given flights to pay a visit to Toronto and attend the 39th Tartan Ball in 2002. As Guests of Honour, we were presented with a souvenir book with pictures of Toronto in warmer months. I suggested that it would mean much more to me if as many as possible of the dancers were to sign it so it was put up on the stage and people queued up to sign and add comments. I have truly valued that book above all other mementoes of my time as Chairman. I have copied one page to prove that you were there too.

It was during that visit to Toronto that David and Betty organised a lunch at the Granite Club and took great pains to make sure I was seated next to Bobby Brown because David and I were determined that Bobby should do a recording for the Society. Nothing with Bobby was ever straightforward so it didn't happen over-night but eventually the first (and I think still the only) Society recording by a non-UK band was conceived.



At the 2003 Tartan Ball

L-R: • David Grant • Christine Mair • Betty Grant • Alan Mair

I know that Toronto Association and TAC are not the same thing but I am going to mention the first time I attended a TAC Summer School in St Jerome's just a few months after the Tartan Ball visit. I had not been told that on the formal evening there was a plan to give an award to Stan Hamilton so was pleasantly surprised to be introduced to him and Anne at the start of the evening. I was familiar with the history of the Auchincruive Estate as my father comes from Stair so we had plenty to talk about. At the end of the evening "back at the fireside" Stan began to play the piano with Muriel Johnstone providing the left hand and so, ever since, we have been able to say that we have danced to Stan Hamilton live – a huge privilege!!

It was always our intention to return for another Tartan Ball and might well have delayed too long had we not heard that the 50th was to happen in 2013. We were very pleased that three others from our small monthly group in Giffordtown, Howe of Fife, decided to come with us. We had hoped for a few more – and how they wish they had when we came back with all our tales. Truly the best SCD Ball in the world!!

Sadly, for me the prospects of long-haul holidays have gone a full circle and the dreams of 1974 are replaced by memories – wonderful happy memories.

Thank you for being part of them.

Best regards,



Pat Coyle • Alan Mair



Dancers at the 2019 Winter School Ball at Blair Castle



After an overseas flight that seemed but a hop, skip, and a jump, Air Transat delivered me safely to Glasgow, from whence I set off on my latest dance adventure – Winter School in Pitlochry.

Dancing friend, Tom Kerr, of Cape Town Wedding fame, greeted me at the airport with a smile and

a hug and we headed up through Perthshire to our destination.

At last! We pass through a gate and start a circular climb round the perimeter of a huge hill. At the top, in the midst of beguiling Gaelic scenery, sits the Atholl Palace Hotel – our home for the next five days of dance.

An annual event in the third week of February, Winter School 2019 attracted about 75 percent return dancers and 25 percent first timers. From Canada to Cypress, from the UK to the US, dancers came from over a dozen countries to join in the joy of social dance, Scottish style.

Celebrating its 20th running this year, Winter School offered dancers a roster of outstanding teachers – Pat Houghton, Graham Houston-Donald, Sue Porter, and William Williamson – along with an SCD Who's Who of musicians – Marian Anderson, Muriel Johnstone, Jim Lindsey, and Ian Robertson.

Unless the morning class happened to be at the hotel, there was no need for a warm-up. Three of the four class venues were in town so a brisk 20-minute walk did the trick. Weather was spring-like this year. Snow and ice were replaced by yellow and purple crocuses.

Afternoon activities included some dancing, as well as a trip to Scone Palace, the crowning place of Scottish Kings and the venue for a visit in the 1840s by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Imagine, the palace spent two years on meticulous preparations for a visit that lasted but 24 hours!

Evening dances were briefed only. If you had done your homework, you had nothing to fear. On the fourth evening, a concert by SCD's Fab Four was an affair to remember and was followed in the hotel lounge by singing and more music, courtesy of William and Muriel.

Winter School closed with its traditional Ball at Blair Castle, where dancers were joined by RSCDS Chair Andrew Kellett in a Victorian-era hall decorated with antlers, weaponry, and military garb from centuries past.

Arriving in time for Winter School from across the pond means giving up the Tartan Ball. But take heart – Pitlochry's Old Mill Inn is a welcoming spot to

enjoy a delicious meal, as Tom and I did just hours before my fellow Torontonians stepped out in their finery at the Tartan Ball at its new home – The Old Mill in Toronto.

Winter School 2019 was sold out quickly.

For Winter School 2020, there is no advance list; registration is first come, first served. Online bookings open at 9 a.m. GMT September 1, 2019. If you are interested, mark your calendar and set your alarm clock for 3:55 a.m. Toronto time.



...Halyna Sydorenko

Winter School 2020 is February 16-21. More info (and booking as of Sept 1) at: <https://www.rscds.org/events/winter-school-2020>

Upcoming Events: NEAR

June 4, 11, 18, 25 - **Dancing in the Park** ~ 7pm - dusk

June 9 - **The White Heather Ball** ~ General Sikorski Hall, 1551 Stevenson Rd., North Oshawa. Afternoon dancing 2 - 5 p.m., followed by dinner. Dancing & dinner: \$75pp. Dancing only: \$40pp. Dinner only: \$40pp. Info/tickets from: Alan Graham hdsd.membership@gmail.com

June 10 - **St Clement's Closer with Don Bartlett** ~ Close out the dance season in style by dancing in the stately Great Hall of historic Bishop Strachan School. Music by Don Bartlett. \$10 Info: teresa.lockhart@rogers.com

June 16 - **Demo Pool at Shaw Festival** ~ Inspired by the musical, *Brigadoon*, our Demo Pool will awaken interest in SC with a performance in the courtyard of the Festival Theatre prior to the June 16 (Fathers' Day) matinee.

Brigadoon tickets: www.shawfest.com/playbill/brigadoon/

June 27 - Aug 1 - **Summer Dancing at Trinity** ~ Thursday evenings in beautiful, breezy, Harry-Potterish, Seeley Hall. Trinity College, Uoft, 6 Hoskin Ave. 8-10 p.m. All are welcome!

Sept 20 - 21 - **The Keppies' Last Chance Tour, CD Launch, and Haliburton Reunion** ~ Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore Blvd. Port Credit. Details: www.dancescottish.ca

Sept 21 - **Family Ceilidh** ~ Keith Bark will lead this fun dance event and pizza party, 4-6:30 at St Leonard's Church Hall, 25 Wanless Ave.



~ Attend a Board Meeting ~

Members of RSCDS Toronto are welcome to audit Board meetings (i.e. sit in, and silently observe). Please contact our Secretary Fiona Alberti at fiona@alberti.ca

Scheduled Dates

- Jun 10 • Sep 9 • Oct 10 • Nov 7
- Dec 9 • Jan 9 • Feb 10 • Mar 12
- Apr 13 • May 14 • Jun 8

All meetings are currently scheduled for Rosedale Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events: FAR

June 8 - **Spring Social** ~ Sault Ste Marie ~ Dinner at 6:00 followed by dancing to the music of Julie Schryer and Aine Schryer-O'Gorman \$35 pp <https://tinyurl.com/ssmscdancers>

June 28-30 - **RSCDS New Mexico Workshop & Ball** ~ Join us in the original Las Vegas! At Montezuma Castle. Teachers: Tim Wilson & Jeanne Moody. Music: Liz Donaldson & friends. www.nmscottishdance.weebly.com/workshop-and-ball.html

July 5-13 - **Pinewoods Sessions** ~ RSCDS Boston invites you to the piney woods: www.rscdsboston.org/pinewoods.html

July 7-13 - **Australian Winter School** ~ Enjoy dancing in beautiful Melbourne, with great teachers and musicians. Info: www.melbourne2019ws.com/home

Aug 18 - **Scottish Dance Week in Prague** ~ Enjoy the teaching of Ron Wallace and the music of Muriel Johnstone. Week includes the North Bohemia Highland Games.

Info: http://dvorana.cz/dance/ or dvorana@dvorana.cz

Sept - 6-8 - **Fort Worden Workshop Weekend, Washington** ~ Join us at Fort Worden State Park for RSCDS Seattle's annual workshop. Welcome dance and ceilidh on Friday. Teachers: Jimmie Hill, Marjorie McLaughlin, Robert McOwen. Info and programs:

<https://rscds-seattle.org/fort-worden-workshop-main/>

Sept - 7 - **Jersey Weekend & Ball, Channel Islands** ~ Dance to the music of Strathallan. One walk through for each dance. Our Ball is in the beautiful Town Hall of Hillier.

Oct 5 - **Hamilton Work Shop** ~ Basic and Intermediate Advance classes as well as a tea dance. Teachers: Robert McOwen (Boston) and Claire Collier (Lewiston NY) \$60.

Oct 26-27 - **Kingston Ball Weekend** ~ Teacher: Arthur McNair (Pittsburgh). Ball Music by Torridon Scottish Dance Band. New Venue: Zorbas Banquet Hall, 1474 Bath Rd, Kingston. Info: www.rscdskingston.org/

Dec 8 - **The 56th Annual Gleneagles Ball** ~ Save the date for the Gleneagles Ball in the grand Pacific Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver at 1:30 p.m. Info: 778.279-3995 or muirnet@shaw.ca

More events, near & far: www.dancescottish.ca
Join the Toronto/Dance Scottish FB group:
www.facebook.com/groups/55880122664

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

Summer School

21 July ~ 11 Aug, 2019

St Andrews University, Scotland

Your choice of 4 weeks dancing & music with

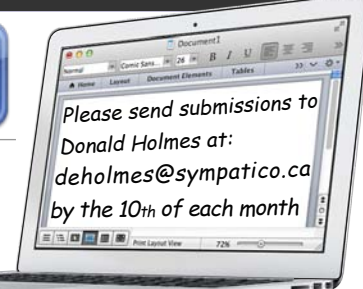
- Amazing teachers • Talented musicians
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- Exploring the beautiful, historic, tranquil, and most agreeable town in Scotland.

www.rscds.org/article/book-now-for-summer-school-2019



Toronto: May 15-17
St Petersburg: May 1-3 Spring Fling 2020

TWO CITIES
ONE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE FESTIVAL



42nd Annual Orillia Scottish Festival: Saturday, July 20



Parade noon; Opening Ceremonies 1:30

See you there...



Info: Will Kinghorn
uilleam.ailan@gmail.com

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