

## From the Chair...



Liz Clunie

Although social groups have been meeting regularly since the beginning of September, the dance season started with gusto at the October monthly dance under the watchful eye of our new convenor, Max Fothergill. Max has taken over the task from Forbes Duncan, who had an impressive thirteen-year tenure.

The November workshop is almost upon us. Maybe it is not too late to squeeze in a last-minute application for this major association event. It really is too good to miss; terrific teachers, great location, good food, and an opportunity to pick up a bargain at the gently used clothing sale.

On November 30 not only Scots will be celebrating St. Andrew's Day. Other countries also celebrate the saint with various traditions, including Romania, where garlic is used to ward off the ghosts and young girls sleep with tree branches under their pillows to forecast when they will marry. Here in Toronto the St. Andrew's Society celebrates with dancing and haggis at the annual ball co-hosted by the 48th Highlanders.

RSCDS Toronto has had a long association with the society going back to the days when the ball featured Scottish country dancing in a separate room. Ceilidh dancing is now the main feature, and it is our teachers who conduct four practices, and Michael Noble has been involved for 40 years charged with the task of arranging tables. Like us, the society has had to find an alternate venue to the Royal York, and it has chosen The Carlu, which by all accounts is a spectacular venue. The ball is a charity event supporting numerous charities in the city, and a tax receipt is available for a portion of the ticket. What better way to mark this occasion than by joining in this entertaining evening and supporting the work of the society.

Did you remember to watch *Anne With an E* on October 27? Several of our members responded to a last-minute call to volunteer for duty in June as extras for a dance scene. I wonder if you managed to identify any of the participants; that is, assuming their scene did not end up on the cutting room floor! Once the segment has been aired, we can publish pictures of the event, but even then, you will be challenged to recognize who they are.

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Ron Bell on October 7. Our condolences to Carole and the family. We will all miss him.

Liz

## Ron Bell: 1935-2019 A Scottish Country Dance Ambassador



The Toronto Scottish country dance community was saddened to learn of the death of Ron Bell on October 7.

Ron and Carole began dancing 30 years ago, first joining the Erin Mills Friday class with Jean Hamilton as teacher. Jean said, "They became part of The Ceilidh Scottish Dance Group, our demonstration group, and were an invaluable part of the many events." Ron loved conversing with people. He included non-dancers, particularly those in retirement homes, in audience participation dances.

In his early dancing, Jean said, Ron, like many, had difficulty mastering the pas de Basque

until, knowing he was a golfer, she came up with the strategy: "and SINK THAT PUTT, SINK THAT PUTT". They later joined Jean Noble's Hillcrest group, where they also danced for many years.

Ron served as chair of RSCDS Toronto from 1999 to 2001 and was instrumental in initiating the procedures for incorporation. Previous to becoming chair, he was on various committees, including the Tartan Ball committee. In 1996 he was Chief Marshal as well as being on the Branch executive. In 1998 and 1999, he was both the Branch vice chair and chair of the Tartan Ball committee (also an executive position at that time). In all, he was on the Tartan Ball committee in various roles from 1996 to at least 2002. When Ron and Carole attended the ball they often took a room at the Royal York. Ron loved a party and their room became party central for many dancers after the ball.

Deirdre MacCuish Bark pointed out that Ron and Carole attended the Society AGM in Perth, Scotland, previous to Keith and Deirdre first going in 2001 and acted as guides for them that year.

Ron was noted for welcoming new dancers to the Association and for visiting and keeping in contact with former dancers who were no longer participating. Jean said, "His phone calls could always improve my day as we reminisced about old times." Ann Campbell, who devised *The Dancing Bells* in 2004 to mark significant birthdays celebrated by Ron and Carole, said he never forgot to send her a birthday card. She also said that when she became Tartan Ball chair and program director she could always rely on him and considered him to be a wonderful mentor.

Despite his failing memory, Jean said, while watching Ron dance at the last AGM with caring partners, he "was proof that we can include the less agile and quick thinking dancers who can enjoy the chance to participate and experience something of the excitement of Scottish country dancing with the help of friends."

When Ron took up SCD, he discovered his Scottish roots. His father came from Scotland and Ron, born in 1935, was raised in the Beach area of Toronto, but the Scottish connection was not a big part of his upbringing. This connection became of much greater interest to Ron through his dancing.

In his youth he was involved in YMCA activities and his working career as YMCA recreation director, working with children and adults, brought him many long-standing friendships. He was a great fan of the Maple Leafs and the Blue Jays, and he also attended the Toronto Santa Claus parades, never missing one in the last 30 years at least. He considered the Christie Street area the best for viewing because he could be guaranteed the bands would all be playing as they passed by that location.

# Special Events

## A Social Dance Evening with Angela Young

Friday, Nov 8 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. ~ \$10

Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road

Angela will teach; Don Bartlett will play. Join us for a relaxed evening of social dance led by this joyful, talented teacher – with lively music by Maestro Bartlett. Space is limited; please let Teresa know you are coming: [teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com)



## Toronto Workshop & Afternoon Dance

Saturday, Nov. 9 ~ 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Branksome Hall Athletics and Wellness Centre, 10 Elm Avenue

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to kick up your heels, improve your dancing style under the eye of expert teachers: Angela Young, Claire Collier, and Colin

Campbell. Classes for all levels; live music for all classes, and Scotch Mist will inspire you at the afternoon dance.

Complete info at [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca) (Workshop tab).

Registrar: Jane Robinson 416.463-5016 [janer1@sympatico.ca](mailto:janer1@sympatico.ca)

Convenor: Christy Barber 416.540-4311 [Barber72@sympatico.ca](mailto:Barber72@sympatico.ca)

## Free Class: Intro to SCD

Saturday, Nov. 9 ~ 1-2 p.m. at the Toronto Workshop

Bring a friend to a special free class with teacher Teresa Lockhart.

Participants are also invited to be spectators at the afternoon dance at 2:30 p.m., part of the annual Workshop at Branksome Hall.

For info or to register, contact Christy Barber 416.540-4311 [Barber72@sympatico.ca](mailto:Barber72@sympatico.ca)

## Teachers' Workshop with Angela Young

Sunday, Nov. 10 ~ 2:15 - 4:45 \$15 at the door.

Westway United Church, 8 Templar Drive, Etobicoke M9R 3C7

Teachers and teacher candidates are invited. Angela Young will share her vast experience and Don Bartlett will play. Food contributions appreciated. Info: [vickyzeltins@gmail.com](mailto:vickyzeltins@gmail.com)

## 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.

## Calvin's Christmas Dance

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



# Family Christmas Dance



This season's programme was devised by Andrew Collins

Saturday, December 14 • Dancing starts at 7:30 p.m.

Branksome Hall Athletics & Wellness Centre,

10 Elm Ave. (Note change in location)

Music by Scotch Mist

Host Groups: • Aurora St Andrew's • Glenview • Humbercrest

New Year Jig	8 x 32 J	M Robson, RSCDS Book 51
The Cabrach	8 x 32 S	Roy Goldring, 24 Graded & Social Dances
Calver Lodge	8 x 24 R	RSCDS Book 8
Barley Bree	4 x 40 J	RSCDS Book 13
Ross Meor	8 x 32 S	Johnson, RSCDS Book 29
The Edinburgh Castle Reel	8 x 32 R	SCD For Children

### Interval

The Edinburgh Toy Shop	8 x 32 J	Ethan Bailey, RSCDS Book 51
Bedrule	8 x 32 S	Betty Grant, RSCDS Book 33
Crom Allt (The Crooked Burn)	8 x 32 R	Goldring, 3rd Book of Graded & Social
Well Done Jack	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 29
Seann Truibhas Willichan	6 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 27
A Christmas Ceilidh	8 x 40 R	New Forest SCD

### Extra

See You Again	5 x 32 R	D Carr, Let's All Dance
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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.

## Glenview's 40th Anniversary Celebration

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

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue

It has 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 pm. Dancing 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Party. 9:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. \$20 (\$15 Glenview members). Contact Fiona Alberti [fiona@alberti.ca](mailto:fiona@alberti.ca) Info: [www.glenviewscdg.org](http://www.glenviewscdg.org)



## Glenview's Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh

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

Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road

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 at the

end of 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](mailto:v.fisher@sympatico.ca) Info: [www.glenviewscdg.org](http://www.glenviewscdg.org)







# October Dance

*At the October Monthly Dance we danced to great music by Don Bartlett on keyboard, with Laird Brown on accordion, and Blair Mackenzie on fiddle.*

Our Chair, Liz Clunie, welcomed us to this first big dance of the new season. She thanked Kevin Moloney for his efforts to secure Crescent School for the dance; welcomed Max Fothergill as the new Monthly Dance Convenor; and expressed her appreciation to Forbes Duncan for his service in that capacity for many years.

Dancers came from far and wide: London (ON), Peterborough, Barrie, and Warsaw (ON). We also welcomed a cheerful visitor from Chicago, Kenny Chau, who was in Arlene Koteff's Very Advanced High Impact 'A' class at St Andrews this past summer, for which Don played the music. Kenny was impressed that Toronto gets to dance to live music.

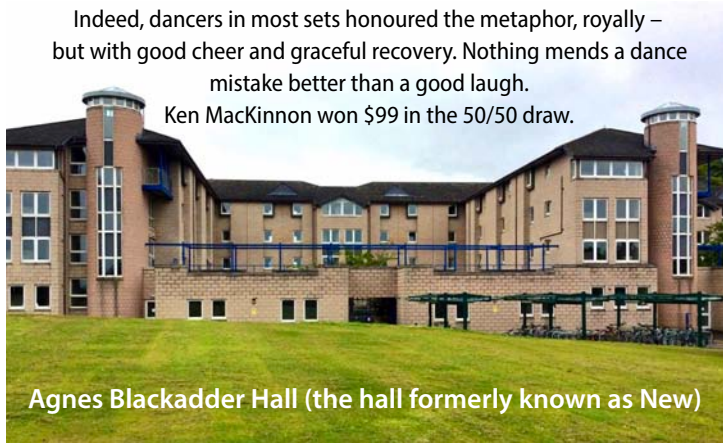
An interesting exchange occurred at the briefing of *Ways In New Hall*:  
**Arlene:** "New Hall was the temporary name of the newest residence at St Andrews, where I was this summer. The \*temporary name\* [air quotes] lasted from 1993 to 2012 – a very long temporary name. It's now Agnes Blackadder Hall, where Don stayed for one night, and so did Blair [Mackenzie]. Agnes Blackadder was the first female graduate of St Andrews in 1895. [cheers from the dancers!]"

**Don:** "The story of the dance is that New Hall is very confusing to get around in. It's reported the design of it was taken from a prison. And I can tell you that trying to get from place A to place B in New Hall I got lost, and turned around totally. It's quite confusing. And that is where the dance comes from."

**Arlene:** "And probably the figures in the dance, too. Agnes Blackadder was a physician. She had certificates in various other things, including "insanity". So, good luck to us all!"

Indeed, dancers in most sets honoured the metaphor, royally – but with good cheer and graceful recovery. Nothing mends a dance mistake better than a good laugh.

Ken MacKinnon won \$99 in the 50/50 draw.



Agnes Blackadder Hall (the hall formerly known as New)

## Dancewear Bazaar... Gently Used Clothing Sale

The popular Workshop sale delights dancers who can save on gently used kilts, gowns, jackets, and other great finds. Equally pleased are those who donate garments and related dancing accessories. Clear your closets, shop on the day, and help support RSCDS Toronto.

For more info, or to donate, please contact Evelyn Holmberg 416 694 1218 or [holmberg\\_evelyn@hotmail.com](mailto:holmberg_evelyn@hotmail.com)



## Starts Nov 21: Level 3 Classes

All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto  
 Level 3 classes are \$50 for 5 weeks.  
 Please make cheques payable to "RSCDS Toronto."

**Level 3 Advanced Classes:** These classes continue to build on the skill base of dancers. New formations and dances of more complexity in their combination of patterns are introduced to challenge the experienced dancer.

Thursdays ~ Nov. 21 – Dec. 19 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Eastminster United Church

310 Danforth Avenue (near Chester station)

Teacher: Moira Korus

Class Rep: Anne Bishop [anne.e.bishop@outlook.com](mailto:anne.e.bishop@outlook.com) 647.234-4631

Convenor: Sue Ann Bryce [sueann2@sympatico.ca](mailto:sueann2@sympatico.ca) or 416.266-542



## DAA Advanced: Are you in?

Toronto Association is planning to offer a Dancing Achievement Award (DAA) course in 2020, provided we have sufficient interest.

• Sunday afternoons 2-4 p.m.

• March 22 to May 3 (except Easter Sunday, April 12). Venue TBA.

We seek qualified participants at the Advanced level. Candidates are required to attend all classes. Information on syllabus, logistics, and application can be found here: [www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa](http://www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa)

The "Associated Fees" refers to assessment fees levied by HQ. In addition, there are instructional fees to cover our expenses.

Potential candidates are strongly advised to ask their teachers if they are ready for such a course. Cost is \$140 for instruction (\$110) and assessment (\$30), nonrefundable and payable in advance.

If interested, please email Tony Szeto [aszeto2010@gmail.com](mailto:aszeto2010@gmail.com) with name and contact info, Social Group/Association Class, by noon on Jan 15, 2020. We will contact you regarding next steps. ... Tony Szeto

## ~ Congratulations ~



Congratulations from members of the Toronto Association to Marie and Forbes Duncan on celebrating your 60th wedding anniversary.



# Glenview is Turning 40

*Those of us relatively new to dancing have an image in mind of how an evening progresses.*

The teacher arrives, sets up his/her computer, people trickle in, and the evening begins. In many groups, refreshments will appear at a break, usually set up by one or two people at the start. It all seems relatively simple and straightforward.

Imagine 40 years ago when Glenview began. There were written procedures and committees to help with the smooth running of all aspects of the evening. The sound system had to be unlocked. The teacher would arrive with the music chosen and the appropriate tapes in hand. Bill Stoddart, who was a founding member and Glenview's teacher for the first 15 years, had a collection of 500 tapes to choose from. Comments were made about trying to find a system where it was possible to change the speed to suit the speed of the dancers. Instructions were given for refreshments, how much juice, ginger ale, and milk to buy, and closing up at the end of the night. The break included hot tea, something we now only serve at parties. There was a move to get rid of styrofoam cups as the church had policies about garbage. Those were the days when a bank statement included a whole \$0.80 in bank charges. From the beginning, Glenview has had an executive committee and regular meetings. Thanks to the minutes from those meetings, I was able to get a sense of what the group had been like in its earlier days.

At its peak in 1994, there were 103 Glenview members (thankfully for everyone's toes, on any given evening only five or so sets were assembled with a note stating that nine sets was the maximum for comfort). They were a very social bunch. Themed evenings happened about once a month (with the men bringing the cookies for Valentine's Day). The Social Committee was responsible for arriving early and making sure that the hall was suitably decorated to match the theme. There was a ski weekend, and a Spring Ball.

## Ron Bell *Continued from Page 1*

As an avid golfer, he and a group of friends who shared his passion began each season with a trip, which Ron organized for 10 years, to Pinehurst in North Carolina before the courses here were ready to play. Barbara Taylor devised a dance, *The Pinehurst Eight*, for this group. He also golfed at various courses in Britain when he and Carole travelled there for Carole to visit family.

In notes Ron wrote for his 75th birthday celebration he said that SCD was "a worldwide activity where fun and friendships multiply endlessly. From Level 1 beginner dancer, to chairman of Toronto Branch and beyond, SCD has made my day. Our SCD family has developed lifelong friendships, branching into many other activities such as travel, cycling, hiking, golf, theatre, and special recognition occasions, i.e., significant birthdays, anniversaries. The friendships are world-wide with the GLUE of SCD!"

Ron was a loving husband and father, and a proud grandfather to his immediate family. To his SCD family he was a good friend, a mentor, an encouraging presence, an enthusiastic participant, and an ambassador for the activity he loved.

The Toronto Association extends its condolences to Carole, to Ron's daughters, to his grandson, and to his brother and sister in their loss of Ron. A fine man indeed.

...Marian White

with Jean Hamilton, Ann Campbell, Ken Adamson, and Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Set & Link ~ November 2019 ~ Page 4



Glenview *Al fresco*

The group began at Havergal College, moved to Glenview Presbyterian, migrated to Lawrence Park Community Church, and has once again landed at Glenview.

I first came to Glenview in early 2015 to do the practices for the Tartan Ball. Once the Ball was over, I decided I would like to return. I had been doing classes for a while and was ready to try a social group (or two, or three). The location and day were perfect for me and the

people were friendly during the practices. I very quickly discovered that it was indeed an enjoyable social place to be.

The numbers may have decreased in the last decade or two, but the spirit remains the same. As

giggles fill the hall, you realize one of the sets has gone slightly wrong. The concerns expressed in an early set of Glenview's minutes that the barometric pressure, the heat in the hall, and the lack of oxygen were all affecting people's ability to dance (it can't possibly be us who messed up!) appear not to have changed at all. I'm so glad it isn't me, but circumstances beyond my control.

Here's to another four decades of fun at Glenview.

...Fiona Alberti



Glenview at Lawrence Park Community Church, 2007



2015, Hillcrest's 40th Anniversary



## Culture Days 2019

Once again, for Canada Culture Days, RSCDS Toronto hosted a lighthearted intro to Scottish country dance at St Barnabas on the Danforth Anglican Church with teachers Keith and Deirdre MacCuish Bark. In spite of wet weather, the sound of the pipes, played by Ellen Mole, lured passers-by into the clutches of our greeters-on-the-street, who directed them into the hall. Led by Ron Macnaughton, the greeters were: Rosalind Gilbert, Bill Barber, Anne Bishop (with her tartan umbrella), and Leo Roytman. Once in the hall, the captive class found it hard to leave and some stayed all afternoon. Keith and Deirdre took turns instructing short sampler dance sessions. Each session lasted

30 minutes and consisted of a ceilidh dance for all, then a basic step which became a formation and built up into a dance. Each mini-session ended with a demo dance for all the country dancers who were willing. Then the process began again, focusing on different steps, dances, etc. As many as 20 people were on the floor at any time; visitors augmented by willing dancers who came to help.

In a break from dance, participants were encouraged to sample treats, brought by volunteers: shortbread, Scottish tablet, Belgium/Empire biscuits, and more. The hall was decorated with tartan, flags, and banners, with displays of Toronto SCD and Society history, genealogy charts, and Scottish history along one side.

An information table was manned by Sue Ann Bryce, Liz Clunie, John Clark, and others. In between, they all joined in the dancing to encourage the visitors. The afternoon attracted at least one dancer who used to dance and intends to start again, and a couple who were interested in attending the Millennials classes.

Thanks are due to Sue Ann Bryce who organized the event and to all the volunteers who brought goodies, helped to set up, and danced the afternoon away.

A bright hall, a good floor, and yummy treats. What more is needed?

...Deirdre MacCuish Bark



Photo by John Clark



### RE: 2019 Culture Days

Our participation in the cross-Canada celebration of the Canadian mosaic took place Saturday, September 28 at St Barnabas Anglican Church on the Danforth. Despite the dismal afternoon, and because of our wonderful volunteers, we had a successful event.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event successful. Perhaps, next year the weather will co-operate as well.

... Sue Ann Bryce, Convenor

## The Keppie Gathering\*



**BACK:** Ron Macnaughton, Maggie Sutherland, Bill Scott, Jean Rittenhouse, Morag MacIntosh, Kathleen Mackenzie, Iza Matsumoto, Steve Hartman, Barbara Taylor, Nigel Keenan, Arlene Koteff, Ken Edwards, Jeanne McGregor, Gord McGregor, Ken Adamson, Jeanne Codrington, Suzanne Batt, Lois Logan, Chris Lafrance, Sheila Macdonald, Paul Lafrance, Sue Hunwicks (inset, and photographer)  
**MIDDLE:** Evelyn Holmberg, Ann Currie, Gail Gault, Audrie Cossar, Maggie Keppie, Duncan Keppie, Jill Smith, Margaret Rieger, June Jacklin  
**FRONT:** John Holmberg, Susan Scott, Lois Urquhart-Musselman, Elizabeth McMahon, Kathy Armstrong, Jane Robinson, Jim Armstrong, Glenna MacDonald

*Like a gathering of the clans*, four sets of dancers journeyed from various homes in Ontario and New York to share in the warmth, generosity, creativity, knowledge, and spirit that comprises the Keppies of Nova Scotia. Truly, *their* journey became *our* journey.

The entire experience was rife with Celtic connections: dancing OVER THE HEATHER, the ANCIENT POUSETTE, HAND-IN-HAND REELS, and the HIGH GATES figure. These were carefully plaited with newer formations such as CORNERS PASS AND TURN and DIAGONAL RIGHTS AND LEFTS, thus giving us connections with old and new. Also woven into the fabric of the gathering were the new connections we made and the rekindling of auld acquaintances. Indeed, we danced Roy Goldring's *Auld Friends Meet* on Saturday afternoon.

Maggie and Duncan's careful crafting of dances and music led to a traditional post-lunch discussion of the four seasons that were represented in dance and music in the final afternoon's dances. In their words:

- ◆ *Miss June MacGregor*, Co-Chair of the Clan MacGregor of Canada, to celebrate Imbolc, the start of spring;
- ◆ *The Green Man*, to celebrate Beltane, the start of the summer season, when we for many years danced in Haliburton, and to honour this 2019 reunion;
- ◆ *Harvest Home*, to celebrate Lughnasadh, the start of the harvest, and to celebrate the incredibly rich harvest of friendship gleaned through many years of shared dance, music, and song. And, of course, danced on the day of the Fall Equinox;
- ◆ *Spark O' Water*, named for the reflected stars that 'sparkle & spin'. For the great cosmic cycles where we all live, interweaving, turning, meeting, making connections and relationships, ultimately moving on to new vantage points.

Not lost on us was the infinity of the reels, leaving us with a satisfying feeling that we dancers will continue to add threads to the tapestry of Scottish country dancing even as we move through our own seasons.

...Arlene Koteff

- \* The Keppies of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, are renowned for teaching a week-long course of Scottish country dancing, including music and history, that ran for many years at the Fleming School of Arts & Design in Haliburton. Most attendees at The Keppie Gathering were dancers and "retired" dancers who previously attended the summer sessions.



# Summer Postcard: Dvorana Scottish Dance Week in Prague



**Karen and Liz: wet but smiling**

dancing and tours with an international group of about 40 from places as far away as New Zealand, South Africa, California, and countries all over Europe. The week ended with a ball, and Highland Games at Sychrov Castle about an hour into the country.

Our workshop leader was Ron Wallace of Santa Rosa. He really bonded the group with his wonderful style, passion for Scottish country dancing and music, and his great ability to teach all levels. He was joined by pianist Gary Thomas and violinist Lisa Doyle. They played for our workshops and the ball. It was a privilege to dance to live music every day.

Each day started with a generous buffet breakfast at the Hotel Beranek, located just outside the old town and a fifteen-minute walk to our dance hall. Nothing like a full stomach and a great morning walk past a beautiful old church and the vistas of Prague to set the stage for a great day of dancing.

We danced every day at least until noon, with two of the days being full days. There were quite a few delicious lunches included. Some days we chose our own venue, and enjoyed a great variety of food and beer (always included in the lunch!).

The first morning began with *The Young Lady of Threadneedle Street* and we never looked back. By the end of the week we had a full ball programme including *The Edinburgh Toy Shop*, *Miss Milligan's Strathspey*, *General Stuart's Reel*, *The Wild Geese*, *The Minister on the Loch*, *The De'il Amang the Tailors*, and many more!

**It took two beginners from the Toronto Association a day or so to decide to go to Prague.** After conversations with Cheryl Catt, Barbara and Michael Taylor, plus a few emails to clarify dance expectations with Jan Pumpr of the Dvorana dance school in Prague, we booked our trip. We are so glad we did!

It was a fabulous week of

A highlight was the opportunity to learn *Dvorana*, a dance written by Ron Wallace and Gary Thomas for the Prague dance school. It is a beautiful dance for four couples in a square and was a clear class favourite.

On day two, we had a boat tour (in the pouring rain!) including dinner. All the thunder and lightning gave Prague a wonderful visual perspective. We also had a walking tour of the cathedral and castle and somehow managed to fit in a visit to Orlik Castle, where Ron and some of his students from California played the pipes for us.

We visited a Czech farm in a charming country setting with a dance studio (owned by Jitka, the dance school leader). We were welcomed with the traditional bread and salt, followed by a full country meal. We made some traditional cookies,

hiked, and ended the evening learning some wonderful Czech folk dances. It was great fun! Some of the participants in Prague had been to TAC,

including Soulia from France, who had done a workshop with our own Moira Korus. Christopher Harris (a.k.a. Swiss Chris) of the International Branch was also present and may be known to some in the Toronto Association from their own travels.

The week ended with the ball, and a visit to the Highland Games at Sychrov Castle about an hour outside Prague. These games are quite large (468 men in kilts, a record for them!) — with all that one would expect, including caber tossing, dancing, pipes, haggis, a crafts fair, and of course a whisky tasting. The week ended on Sunday with many heartfelt goodbyes to new friends and promises to meet again at the next opportunity in 2022. We highly recommend putting this event in your calendar!

Information can be obtained from Jan Pumpr at email

[dvorana@dvorana.cz](mailto:dvorana@dvorana.cz), or website [www.dvorana.cz](http://www.dvorana.cz)

... Liz Szonyi and Karen Toon



Ron Wallace, Lisa Doyle, Gary Thomas



Liz Szonyi, Chris Harris, Karen Toon



## The Machine Without Horses



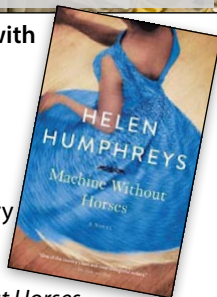
AT TABLE: *Simona Liu, H Belle, Helen Humphreys*  
STANDING: *Dave Martin, Bill Scott, Susan Scott, Beth Steffler, Rosemary Hodge, Maureen Richardson, Will Kinghorn, Judy Doyle, Lyn Barsevskis*

An audience of over 100 shared a delightful evening with Helen Humphreys, author of *Machine Without Horses*, hosted by the New Tecumseth Public Library at the Nottawasaga Inn Resort. The book is a story of Megan Boyd, who lived in rural Scotland and became a legend for her effective, hand-made salmon fishing lures. Her main escape from constant fly tying was Scottish country dancing in the village hall — hence the title.

The South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers opened the programme with demonstrations of *Machine Without Horses*, *Saint John River*, and *De'il Amang the Tailors*, followed by the author's informative talk and readings, then more dancing with *Postie's Jig*. The library presented Helen with a clever picture of Megan Boyd reading *Machine Without Horses*, and a fishing fly brooch.

Through an engaging book chat, followed by a fly-tying demonstration by Istvan Nemenyi, a local expert, and dancing, we may have caught ourselves some new dancers.

... Lyn Barsevskis



## A Wee Taste of Scottish Dancing



L-R: Nancy Greenwood, Paul Greenwood, Iris Sedore, Nigel Keenan

*I have always been fascinated with Scottish dancing.*

I have seen it danced at weddings where dancers made circle, square, and line formations. It DID look like fun, and I wanted to join the merriment, but I was too young and shy. However, I promised myself that I would learn to dance. The opportunity came after watching Nigel and Lourdes dance at Lions Harbour Park in Goderich. I was intrigued by their graceful movements as they executed steps and formations to a variety of pipe music by the Celtic Blue Highlanders, Goderich's local pipe band.

One day during Goderich's annual Celtic College and Celtic Roots Festival, I noticed posters advertising Scottish country dancing on Tuesday evenings at MacKay's Seniors' Centre during July and August. I pointed them out to my husband and expressed my interest in participating. Initially, he did not share my enthusiasm.

One Tuesday, we went to an introductory class. We were immediately welcomed by the dancers who had already congregated. We were enthralled by the music, the lilting Scottish reels, jigs, and marches, and unknowingly we tapped our toes to the music. Nigel, our dance master, invited us to take the floor, and showed us basic formations, foot positions, hand movements, and patterns that were to be used in the dances that evening.

Some of the steps were easy to follow and some were daunting, but Nigel patiently showed us techniques to overcome our apprehensions when we encountered complicated formations such as the "meanwhile" in *The Australian Ladies*.

We had fun and felt that the experience was worthwhile, although at the end of each dance, we were huffing and puffing. Intermission gave us the opportunity to chat with other dancers who shared their own experience. Needless to say, we were already determined to return for the following sessions.

My footwear that evening was a pair of rubber-soled sandals. Dancing while wearing them was difficult. When I got home I searched the shops in Goderich for proper dance shoes — ballet slippers for women and ghillies for men. Alas, Huron County, one of the most rural counties in Ontario, had no ballet shoes, ghillies, or any other dance shoe, so I must search elsewhere, and by next summer, I hope to move gracefully and quickly in appropriate footwear and without blisters through the steps of Scottish country dancing.

...Nancy Greenwood

## Southern Great Lakes Groups



*Margaret Rieger, Toronto Vice Chair at the time, initiated the first Conference of RSCDS Branches and Affiliated Groups in the Southern Great Lakes Area, April 2011.*

The Group comprises 12 RSCDS Branches and 8 affiliated groups in the Great Lakes area (in both Canada and the USA). Various Chairs and other representatives attend, and report the discussions to their own groups. They meet twice yearly: in the fall and the spring. Meeting minutes are subsequently sent to the group.

The group's purpose is to discuss topics of general interest, to try to avoid running major events on the same date, and to discuss the relevant motions offered by the RSCDS at the November AGM in Scotland. Recent topics included:

- The Society motion to be voted on at the Society's Autumn Gathering in Perth;
- A suggestion that a list be made for a Regional Young Dancers Demo Pool, for when it was preferable to have young dancers demonstrating at an event;
- RSCDS Spring Fling/Fringe in Toronto in May 2020;
- *Brigadoon* dance demonstrations over the summer, which were a joint Branches initiative and received some RSCDS funding;
- Reviving the Great Lakes electronic calendar;
- A discussion on how Buffalo teaches three levels of class during an evening in one room, with several teachers and a Formation Sequence;
- Possible future topics, including the RSCDS 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.

The meeting closed with an ongoing discussion on how to attract new members to class — after which refreshments were served.

...Deirdre MacCuish Bark





Society scholarships are available to young people (<26yrs) to attend SpringFling2020. Funding is, typically, for the event and lodging; not for travel. The RSCDS also offers scholarships for St Andrews Summer School, and for teacher training. Full info here:

[www.rscds.org/get-involved/scholarships](http://www.rscds.org/get-involved/scholarships)

👉 Explore the possibilities and qualifications NOW, because Scholarship application deadlines are tight.

*Spring Fling is a weekend of dance for young people.  
A parallel Spring Fringe is for those over 35.*

Registration is now open ~ Early Bird prices end 31 Jan 2020.

Booking and info at: <http://www.springfling2020.com/toronto>

Flingers and Fringers both stay in residence at New College, University of Toronto. There are joint Fling/Fringe events, and some exotic Harry-Potterish venues have been booked for classes, all on or near UofT, and handy to transit.



## The Spring Fling / Fringe Committee

L-R: Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Regina Zaripova, Keith Bark, Tristan Gerrie, Moira Korus, Erica deGannes, Leo Roytman, Halyna Sydorenko, Tony Szeto, Maureen Richardson, John Clark

Planning events like the Spring Fling and Fringe requires a lot of behind-the-scenes planning. Thankfully, the RSCDS Toronto Youth Committee is up to the task. Here they are, taking a break from their hard work, to show off some Canadian pride. The committee can't wait to see you at Spring Fling/Fringe 2020 in Toronto!

## re-MEMBER me!



Bill Barber

We enjoy some of the very best of Scottish country dancing in the world. Your membership makes this possible. Most of you have renewed. Thank you.

To renew your Membership, visit:

[www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca) and click on **Membership**.

You can renew online or download a Form, fill it in, and post it to me. ...Bill Barber

## Roy Goldring Workshop - 21 October 1999



*Twenty years ago, Toronto hosted a special evening workshop with Roy Goldring, the legendary Scottish country dance teacher and dance devisor. Over one hundred dancers turned out on a Thursday evening at Hodgson Public School to enjoy dances taught by the dancing master himself.*

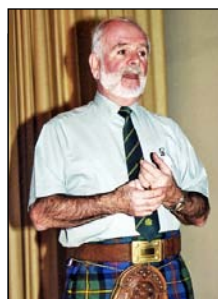


Photos by Paul Barber

Keith Bark remembers the evening well. One dance Goldring taught that night was the five-couple reel, *A Reel for Alice* — which became the title of the last collection of his dances.

Many Scottish country dance programmes include dances by Roy Goldring, and some include several. His dances tend to be based on standard dance formations, making them excellent teaching material. In fact, we probably dance more Goldring dances than we may realize. For example, two Goldring dances, *EH3 7AF* and *Shores of Solway*, appeared on the October monthly dance. Other favourites dances by Goldring include *Reel of the Royal Scots*, *St Andrews Fair*, *The Music Makars*, *John of Bon Accord*, *The Minister On The Loch*, and *The Piper and the Penguin*.

Roy Goldring died in September, 2007. At the time of his death he was Chairman of the Leeds Branch. ...Paul Barber



## Grace Notes

**William (Bill) Marr McLennan**  
Sept. 5, 1930 - Sept. 26, 2019

Bill, a long-time RSCDS dancer and teacher in the London (Canada) Branch, was known to some Toronto area dancers. Our condolences go to his wife Marie and his family.



## Upcoming Events: NEAR

Nov 3 – **Sunday Special: Fall Fun/Belated Hallowe'en** ~ May Divers invites you to get into the spirit of autumn with some fun-kin spice dances (bring your own latte). 2-4 p.m. at Armour Heights Community Centre, Activity Room, 2140 Avenue Road. For intermediate and advanced dancers. \$6

Nov 8 – **Social Dance Evening with Angela Young** ~ Don Bartlett will play. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road. Space is limited; book with [teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com)

Nov 9 – **The Toronto Workshop** ~ 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Branksome Hall Athletics and Wellness Centre, 10 Elm Ave. [The Workshop page](#) has teacher bios and other info, including Registration and payment options.

Nov 9 – **RSCDS Toronto Workshop Afternoon Dance** ~ 2:30 p.m. at Branksome Hall. Tickets at the door. The dance is part of the workshop, but if you can't Workshop, enjoy the Afternoon Dance in the beautiful gym. Music by Scotch Mist.

Nov 10 – **Teachers' Workshop with Angela Young** ~ Angela Young will share her vast experience and Don Bartlett will play. Open to teachers and teacher candidates. \$15 at the door (and please contribute a small comestible).

2:15 - 4:45pm at Westway United Church, 8 Templar Drive, Etobicoke M9R 3C7. Info: [vickyzeltins@gmail.com](mailto:vickyzeltins@gmail.com)

Nov 23 – **Shifftin' Bobbins St Andrew's Dance & Buffet** ~ Dance to the live music of Scotch Mist. 7:30 p.m. to Midnight ~ Grace Church-on-the-Hill (Parish Hall), 300 Lonsdale Road. Info: [www.shifftinbobbins.webs.com](http://www.shifftinbobbins.webs.com)

Nov 24 – **Social Group Liaison Meeting** ~ 2-4 p.m. at Armour Heights Community Centre, Rooms 1&2, 2140 Avenue Road, (west side, just south of 401).

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 8 – **Shifftin' 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.shifftinbobbins.webs.com](http://www.shifftinbobbins.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, Party 9:30 – 10:30p.m. \$20 (\$15 for members) Tickets must be purchased in advance from Fiona Alberti [fiona@alberti.ca](mailto:fiona@alberti.ca) Info: [www.glenviewscdg.org](http://www.glenviewscdg.org)

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 Info: 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](mailto:v.fisher@sympatico.ca) [www.glenviewscdg.org](http://www.glenviewscdg.org)

Mar 28 – **West End Workshop** ~ Save the Date! New Location this year is South Mississauga (Port Credit). Keep watch for further details.

## RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

Chair: Liz Clunie	416.486-6582	<a href="mailto:eclunie@rogers.com">eclunie@rogers.com</a>
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Education/Training: Tony Szeto	416.566-9386	<a href="mailto:aszeto2010@gmail.com">aszeto2010@gmail.com</a>

## Upcoming Events: FAR

Nov 30 – **RSCDS London (Ont) Christmas Dinner & Dance** ~ Marvellous food, followed by an evening of dancing to the famously marvellous music of Scotch Mist. Polish Combatants Hall, 80 Ann Street, London. Info: [rscdslondoncanada.org](http://rscdslondoncanada.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 <http://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](http://www.rscds.kitchener.on.ca)

Dec 28 - Jan 5 – **New Zealand Summer School** ~ Escape the northern winter for a summer dancing holiday. For many dancers, a trip to NZ is a once-in-a-lifetime event and we are going all out to make it a memorable experience. Info: <http://ss2019.dancescottish.org.nz>

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](http://www.rscdshawaii.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](http://tac-rscds.org)

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

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

## DEMO POOL PRACTICE DATES

All practices are Sunday afternoons, 2-4 p.m.

Nov. 17	Armour Heights CC:	Activity Room
Dec. 8	Parkway Forest CC:	Dance Studio
Jan. 5	Parkway Forest CC:	Dance Studio
Jan. 12	Parkway Forest CC:	Dance Studio
Mar 1	Parkway Forest CC	Dance Studio
April 5	Parkway Forest CC	Dance Studio

• **Armour Heights Community Centre:**  
2140 Avenue Rd. (west side, just south of 401)

• **Parkway Forest Community Centre:**  
55 Forest Manor Road, Don Mills



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 (Editor at Large)	416.759-9845
Marian White	416.781-7795
Judy Williams	416.924-3658

## Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

### Winter School

16-21 February 2020

Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Scotland

- 5 days of dancing and music with . . .
- Amazing teachers • Talented musicians
- Friends from all over
- A formal Ball at Blair Atholl Castle

[www.rscds.org/events/winter-school-2020](http://www.rscds.org/events/winter-school-2020)

### 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](http://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2020)

## St Andrew's Charity Ball: Nov 30, 2019



Our friends at St Andrew's Society of Toronto host this exuberant celebration of Scots dance and culture. It's been a Toronto tradition for generations. You'll have a typical Scottish meal and enjoy dancing to the Pipes & Drums of the 48th Highlanders. The dances are ceilidh favourites such as *Strip The Willow* and *Eightsome Reel*. Info: [www.standrews-society.ca](http://www.standrews-society.ca)

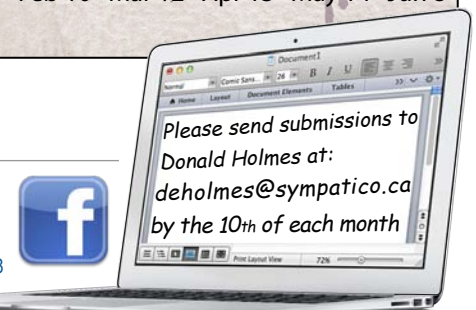


## ~Attend a Board Meeting~

Members of RSCDS Toronto are welcome to audit Board meetings (i.e. sit in, and silently observe). Contact our Secretary, Fiona Alberti, at [fiona@alberti.ca](mailto:fiona@alberti.ca) for details.

### Scheduled Dates

Nov 7 Dec 9 Jan 9  
Feb 10 Mar 12 Apr 13 May 14 Jun 8



Please send submissions to  
Donald Holmes at:  
[deholmes@sympatico.ca](mailto:deholmes@sympatico.ca)  
by the 10th of each month

[deholmes@sympatico.ca](mailto:deholmes@sympatico.ca)  
[hendersona033@gmail.com](mailto:hendersona033@gmail.com)  
[robblockhart@rogers.com](mailto:robblockhart@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)





## International Scottish Social Dance Festival for 12-35 yr olds

*A dance event for young people from all over.  
A residential weekend at U of Toronto, downtown.*

☆ Live music ☆ Great teachers ☆ Beautiful venues

*A parallel SpringFringe is for over 35s.*

[www.springfling2020.com/toronto](http://www.springfling2020.com/toronto)

RSCDS Toronto Association is a non-profit cultural organization



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