

RSCDS Toronto SET & LINK

RSCDS TORONTO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ March 2020

www.dancescottish.ca

From the Chair...



Liz Clunie

We are all aware that there are several different tartans within a clan, but I was amazed when delving into tartanregister.gov.uk that it revealed no less than 31 results for MacPherson. My research was being

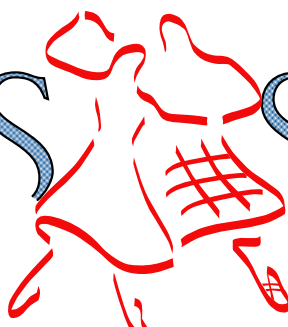
carried out on behalf of Toronto Tabla Ensemble, who asked for Scottish country dancers to take part in the filming of a video to promote the release of a new album. The director wanted to know about the colours in the men's kilts, and I naively thought that by simply giving her the name of the tartan that she could check it out on the internet.

I quickly realized that was not going to be very helpful, as those 31 results revealed a wide range of colours. The problem was solved by asking for a photo of the kilts involved. You may well be wondering: What does Indian tabla drumming have in common with Scottish country dancing and bagpipes? Read all about it in the next issue of *Set & Link*, after the filming has taken place.

A constant concern among the dancing community is the decline in membership and reduced numbers taking part in events. Attendance at our recent ball was less than last year, and monthly dances struggle to break even. There are, however, some promising signs. The Christmas dance was well attended by members and a combination of 35 beginners, youth, and students, and the latest report from Association classes is that 47 are enrolled in the two beginner classes and 16 in level 2. Now all we need is for to us to entice them to the March beginners' dance, and for them to have such a positive experience and generally wonderful time that they will be hooked for life. Dare we dream as to what effect that would have on our membership numbers?

Let's make the dream a reality.

Liz



Howard Kingsland has become a familiar figure, watching from the sidelines at monthly dances and the Tartan Ball.

He and his daughter, Wendy Tamminen, came to watch Dancing in the Park a few years ago. He became an immediate fan of Scottish music and was intrigued by the dances. He was by then into his 90s. Wendy began classes and became an active member, and Howard is now a regular non-dancing attendee. After this year's Tartan Ball, *Set & Link* asked Howard to share his impressions as an observer of Scottish country dance.

As a spectator at some of the RSCDS Toronto dances over the past several years, I have had the privilege of observing the various dance routines, and they have been of considerable enjoyment to me. Here are some of my observations from the perspective of a spectator.

When the music to a reel or jig is played, it sets up an inspiration to the dancers to get into the spirit of a lively dance, with the dancers unable to resist the urge to energetically engage in the steps of the routine. It is wonderful to see a couple gleefully skipping down the centre of the dance with an outstretched stride and proceeding as though there was no end in sight — except that after the fourth bar they must turn around and return to their place in the set!

When the music to a strathspey is played, the intricate motion of the basic step is readily displayed. The way the foot is put forward, with the toe angled towards the floor and the foot extended while gliding lower to the floor, is a mark of elegance.

When three couples in a dance all move at the same time, it appears to be organized chaos as dancers intertwine between one other on each side of the set, moving individually or with others, and eventually meeting again with their partners. In dances that require three couples to form a circle to slip-step one way then back, it looks very impressive, especially when each set is seen performing the routine in unison.

In general, an evening of dance is captivating to watch, and the style of music that accompanies Scottish dancing is exhilarating. At the end of the evening, the dancers have had a good workout and an enjoyable event.



Andrew Collins

The Tartan Ball encompasses all of the above but takes it all to a higher level. The ladies are in ball gowns and the men are in full Scottish regalia. There is the sound of the piper leading head table guests in and out of the room before and after the dinner, and also accompanying everyone during the Grand March that precedes the start of dancing. These extra formalities further enrich the experience for an observer, and for the dancers themselves. They will have fond memories long after "Carriages".

...Howard R. Kingsland

The 2020 Tartan Ball — FUN and LAUGHTER

The Tartan Ball was a kaleidoscope of colour — a blur of hues, ballgowns, formal attire, and movement as dancers flashed by dancing jigs and reels, then stately strathspeys — *joie de vivre* and *élégance* blended. As Betty Grant acclaimed in her dance, H.I.S.C.D. — Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing. It is, *n'est-ce pas?*

The evening of dance was led by the good music of Laird Brown's band, Scotch Mist. There was laughter when a dance was done well; and laughter about silly mistakes — followed by quick (or not-so-quick) recoveries. Dancers laughed happily, and we sideliners enjoyed their enthusiasm, and chuckled at mix-ups.

Some dancers I had not seen for a while stopped to chat with me, which was an added pleasure.

My general impression of the 2020 Tartan Ball was of the dancers' joy and laughter when the dances were well executed, and their occasional chagrin at slight, or not-so-slight slip-ups made — but easily forgotten as they blended into the fun and happiness of dancing.



...Marian Holmes

From the Sidelines



Howard K.

Wendy T.

Special Events

West End Workshop Events

Workshop Welcome Social Dance

Friday, Mar 27 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. • \$10 at the door

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

Jean Hamilton welcomes everyone to an evening of social dance, led by the three Workshop teachers. Music by "Best of the Bands".

Contact: Jean Hamilton 905.566-9599

West End Workshop



Saturday, Mar 28 ~ 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 (followed by Tea Dance at 3:00)

Clarke Hall and adjacent Christ First Church, Port Credit (Mississauga)
Great new location, with a great wood floor.

Teachers: David Queen, Cheshire, England; Marion Hamilton, Ottawa; May Divers, Toronto. Two class levels: Basic/Intermediate or Intermediate/Advanced. Brochures are available from your social group teacher. For details and a downloadable registration form visit www.dancescottish.ca (Whats-On-Near tab)

West End Workshop Tea Dance

Saturday, Mar 29 ~ 3:00 p.m. (dancing starts promptly) \$20 at the door

Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore Rd. W., Mississauga

This popular après-workshop dance is open to all dancers. We'll have live music, and great dancing to a programme of mostly favourites, followed by tea and treats. Info and briefs from:

www.dancescottish.ca (Whats-On-Near tab)

Teachers' Workshop

Sunday, Mar 29 ~ 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. \$15

Doors open at 1:30

Clarke Memorial Hall,
161 Lakeshore Rd. W., Mississauga

Special guest teacher is David Queen.

Don Bartlett will play for the class.

Open to teachers and teacher candidates.

Info : Arlene Koteff amkoteff@hotmail.com

Tartan Day

Monday, April 6 ~ All Day!

All across Canada

Wear the Tartan, go shopping in your kilt, keep a pamphlet in your sporrán (because people will surely talk to you).

Tartan Day marks the proclamation, of *The Declaration of Arbroath*, April 6, 1320. It's an eloquent assertion of liberty.

Tartan Day was the inspiration of Clan Lamont's Jean Watson, of Nova Scotia, and it's now celebrated worldwide.



AGM & Volunteer Appreciation Dance



Programme by Jane Robinson as revised by the TA Board

Date: Saturday, April 25 ~ 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 (and out by 11:00)

Place: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue

Music: Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs

Hosts: • Erin Mills • Hillcrest • St Andrew's of Brampton

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8 x 32 J	Lord Craigmyle, RSCDS Book 22
Starlight	8 x 32 R	Ed Abdill, RSCDS Book 44
Village Reel	8 x 32 S	William Campbell, RSCDS Book 20
Follow Me Home	8 x 32 J	Ellie Briscoe, RSCDS Book 38
Drumelzier	4 x 32 S	Christopher Blair, 2 SCDs
The Toronto Volunteers	8 x 32 R	Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Leaflet

Interval and the AGM

Hooper's Jig	8 x 32 J	Miss Milligan's Miscellany 2
Fair Donald	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 29
General Stuart's Reel	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 10

Extras

Shifftin' Bobbins	8 x 32 R	Roy Clowes, Ormskirk Book 6
Seann Truibhas Willichan	6 x 32 S	Thomas Wilson (18C), RSCDS Book 27
Petronella	8 x 32 R	(Trad.), RSCDS Book 1
The Silver Tassie	8 x 32 S	John Drewry, RSCDS Leaflet
A Trip To Bavaria	4 x 32 R	MacGregor-Brown, Guide To SCD (ex-Collins)

All dances will be walked and briefed.

Please make the dance SCENT FREE, and NUT FREE.

Several dancers are allergic.

Looking Back-some: August, 1991



A memory, recently retrieved and digitized*

Some Calvin dancers at the World Record 512-some at the CNE

L-R: Philip Noble, Vicky Zeltins, Forbes Brown, Flora Crawford, Ian Clunie, Nancy Duffy, Liz Clunie, and... (does anyone know?)

An amazing RSCDS Toronto memory you can watch:

It was the largest group of Scottish country dancers ever assembled...

Paul Barber edited and posted a video record of the Toronto International Festival Tattoo at SkyDome, 1993:

<https://youtu.be/O96XWcNCRic>

New Millennials' Classes: Feb 27 - May 7



Millennial Classes have resumed. The first four classes will focus on dances for the March 21st Beginners' Night Dance. The balance of the ten-week session will be dedicated to dances for the Spring Fling/Fringe Weekend of May 15 to May 17.

Location: Saint Thomas's Anglican Church, 383 Huron Street M5S 2G5 (a 5-minute walk from St. George subway station)

Dates: February 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 16, 23, 30; May 7

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per class (\$8 for students)

Teachers: Moira Korus and Maureen Richardson

Info: smkorus@sympatico.ca

www.dancescottish.ca/millennials.html



Spring Fling/Fringe

Visit the Spring Fling/Fringe website springfling2020.com/toronto/ for information and regular updates for the Spring Fling/Fringe Weekend.

Registration for 'Fling' dancers, who do not require accommodation, became available on February 1. For 'Fringe' dancers, not requiring accommodation, registration will open April 1.

Limited spaces are still available for the Fling. The Fringe is now waitlisted, contact springfling2020.toronto.wl@gmail.com

All dancers will enjoy classes taught by outstanding teachers: Gary Coull (Scotland), Linda Henderson (California), and Fiona Philip (Toronto). Music will be provided by the talented Mara Shea (North Carolina), Laura Risk (Montreal), and Nicholas Williams (Montreal). Music for the Saturday evening dance will be provided by our own renowned Laird Brown and Scotch Mist.

We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor. Thank you for your continued support. ...Toronto Association Youth Committee

SCOTTISH STEP CLASSES

Saturdays, 12-1:15 p.m. Feb 29, April 4, 18, 25
(Note: Additional dates)

Alma Smith teaches this traditional, graceful, Scottish dance genre which combines elements of Scottish country dance, ballet, and Highland.

\$10/class Rosedale Presbyterian Church, South Drive at Mt Pleasant
Info: Moira Korus smkorus@sympatico.ca 647.378-5753

Extension Classes and Level 3



All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto. 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.

Extension Classes are a bridge between the end of regular classes and the start of Dancing in the Park. The classes extend your dance experience by reviewing steps and formations previously taught, and introducing new ones.

Thursdays: April 2 - May 28 (8 weeks: \$80)
Three teachers will share teaching duties
Eastminster United Church*

Level 3 Advanced Classes build on your skill base as a dancer. New formations and dances of more complexity in their combination of patterns are introduced to challenge the more experienced dancer.

Thursdays: April 2 - May 7 (5 weeks: \$50)
Teacher: Moira Korus
Eastminster United Church*

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

* Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave.
(2 minute walk east from Chester station)

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

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

Nominations: Board Positions 2020 - 2021

The Nominations Committee is mandated to prepare a slate of nominees for Board positions and to present its recommendations for member approval at the Annual General Meeting. At the AGM on April 25, 2020, the following are proposed for Board positions.

Chair	Louis Racic
Vice Chair	Paul Barber
Treasurer	Wendy Fulton
Secretary	Fiona Alberti
Membership Director	Bill Barber
Program Director	Kevin Moloney
Marketing/Outreach Director	Ron Macnaughton
Education & Training Director	Tony Szeto
Communications Director	(position still to be filled)

For all Board positions, be prepared to commit to at least two consecutive one-year terms. The Secretary, Membership Director, Program Director, Communications Director, and the two Directors-at-Large (Marketing, and Education & Training) may be re-elected for up to five additional one-year terms. The Treasurer can be re-elected indefinitely until a suitable qualified person is nominated.

The Vice Chair position should be filled by someone who:

- has previously served as a member of the Board
- has been a former executive member
- has been a convenor, or
- has been a Committee Chair

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

More information: Deirdre MacCuish Bark (Nomination Committee Chair) barkd@rogers.com 905.822-1707

or Fiona Alberti (Secretary) fiona@alberti.ca

Tartan Ball Afterglow

A Magical evening at the Old Mill



The day started with decorating the ballroom.

We put up shields and the banner above three fireplaces and placed plants and flowers on tables. Catherine Maclean suggested, prior to my first Tartan Ball three years ago, that it would be fun to help the decorating team. I enjoyed seeing the hall transformed, so I volunteered again.

Catherine was there — she came all the way from Nova Scotia to join us, and it was great to see her.

That evening, everything looked magical, especially with fires in two of the fireplaces. Everyone looked splendid in their evening wear. People look so different when they dress up grandly, it was difficult to recognize some. Everywhere I looked people were having a good time — talking and laughing, and catching up with the news.

I was seated at table with Bill and Christy Barber, as at my first Tartan Ball, but this was different because now I knew all the other people at the table.

The food was delicious and the service was outstanding. Two bottles of wine at each table was a nice touch. After the meal we lined up for the Grand March, ready for dancing. The long line of dancers entering the hall was a sight to behold. Ken Adamson escorted our former Chair, Margaret Rieger, in the Grand March.

We formed sets and started dancing to the music of Scotch Mist. The floor was a dream to dance on. The briefers did an excellent job of reminding us of each dance that we had practised in our social groups and during the special ball practices. Ann Pennington, President of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto, was in a couple of my sets. She danced all evening.



Visitors from away had no trouble finding dance partners. It was a lovely experience to see everyone warmly welcomed.

Mrs. Rieger was seated beside the fire, visiting with people during the dancing. Many people stopped to chat and reminisce with her. It was a magical evening of fun. ...Beverley Bennett

Kudos from the Staff

It was about 1:15 a.m. Almost everyone had gone home.

A few of us were in the ballroom packing up the tartans, shields, signs, and other decorations. I stopped to talk to one of the waitresses and apologized for keeping her up so late. Her answer was not what I expected.

She proceeded to tell me how much fun it was to be working that night. Apparently, we are a rare group. She had enjoyed watching us dancing together, and seeing how much fun we were having. She was impressed by how much we interacted with one another. What struck her most was that during breaks we were communicating with each other, and not with our phones. It's something she almost never gets to see.

She said we needed to come back more often because she wants to work our event again.

...Fiona Alberti



The 57th Tartan Ball was a great success. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate this grand event. A number of first time attendees conquered many of the dances.

A delicious dinner was enjoyed by all — fresh salad, followed by a juicy piece of chicken, followed by a light and airy cheesecake, which I think everyone devoured.

Scotch Mist was in fine form and kept everyone engaged on the dance floor.

And finally, a hot cup of tea, a light snack, and then off to home to rest our weary bones.

For those of us staying at the Inn, a breakfast shared with warm fellowship made us forget about our aching feet.

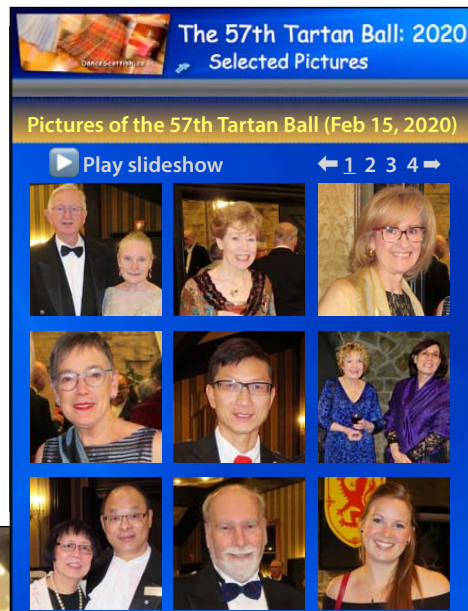
What a wonderful community we are blessed to be part of.

...Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor

Pictures are posted for viewing & download

There are 100 selected images now posted.

- Visit the Tartan Ball Pictures page:
dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball_Pictures.html
- Click any thumbnail to see an image full size.
- Click **Play Slideshow** to sit back as all the images cycle through, full screen.
- Download any image you wish.





VALENTINE WORKSHOP

South Simcoe's Valentine Workshop & Tea Dance was so sweet—smiles everywhere. Thank you for coming to Alliston. Thank you also to our teachers, Arlene Koteff and Colin Campbell. Thanks to our musicians, Laird Brown and Don Wood (who will return May 1 for our Bluebell Spring Dance). Finally, appreciation to all our contributors. We look forward to seeing you next year.



A Gay Gordons Collie



Last year, I told our Robbie Burns Event organizer, Mary Jane Zisoff, that I had been to a St. Patrick's Day fund raiser where a woman had her Irish Wolfhound greeting attendees. Mary Jane knew our own Robbie Burns crowd would enjoy contact with a Rough Coated Collie, with lace at his throat and wearing a plaidie.

So in 2019, Bracken and I, dressed in our MacKenzie Tartan, met people at the door. They loved it. After the event, Jean MacGreger jokingly said, "Can he dance too?" I responded that I bet he could learn to dance the *Gay Gordons*. The challenge was on!

Having a collie at a Robbie Burns event is certainly appropriate — many paintings of Burns feature him with a Scots Collie. Bracken and I went to work. Bracken is a sweet gentleman who lives to perform for anyone who will applaud or laugh. Having earned titles in US and Canada in Rally Obedience, we already had the moves. A Canadian Grand Champion in Conformation, Bracken was used to crowds.

Welcoming folk this year was a lot of fun. After greetings at the door, Bracken and I were played into the main room by the band. The intro music sounded, and off we danced: forward and back, spins, etc., on a runner of nonslip mats. Though not quite as sprightly as in his younger days (he's 10½), Bracken played to the crowd with great enjoyment, tail wagging and a happy smile on his face. After a bow and curtsy, we marched out. Our Ceilidh MC, Gord MacGreger, then said to the audience, "Now, you are going to dance the *Gay Gordons*. If a dog can do it, so can you." And they did!

PHOTO 1 Waiting for the music

PHOTO 2 Marching backward

PHOTO 3 The third time through. When he did the spin, Bracken decided to go to the crowd. I am seen here diving for his leash. A true Scot, he knew to change partners for the next dance.

Like most of us seniors, after energetic pursuits, Bracky needed a nap. He slept away the remainder of the event in his crate, dreaming of who knows what? Was he dreaming of younger days? Did he see himself racing through the heather with collie friends, or could it have been that he was eating all the delicious haggis, the aroma from which was wafting from the event kitchen?

Scottish country dancing, even for dogs, is a joyful healthy pursuit that tunes up our bodies and keeps our brains sharp. Coming out of retirement to dance resulted in one veteran collie having a little more pride in his bearing and a little more bounce in his step.

...Carolyn Pearce



CAROLYN (R) ALSO DANCES WITH PEOPLE

Serious Burns...

WOODGLEN BURNS SUPPER ~ 25 January 2020



The Woodglen Scottish Country Dancers meet at Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church on Friday evenings. For the last few years, they have participated in a Burns Supper, organized by the Church.

The hall and the tables are decorated with a Scottish tartan theme, and a delicious

home-cooked meal is served to between 80 and 90 people each year.

The *Address to a Haggis* was given by Norm White, who comes from the Island of Lewis. The Haggis was carried in by Woodglen dancers Jim Stark and John Clark, led by a piper. The gentlemen all sang *I Love a Lassie* and then drank a toast to the ladies. We all joined in the chorus of *The Star of Rabbie Burns*, followed by a toast to The Bard.

While the hall was cleared, everyone took part in a singsong and then Liz Stark, Master of Ceremonies, led the ceilidh. The Woodglen dancers performed three dances throughout the evening.

Our theme this year was DANCES FROM COUNTRIES WHERE BURNS SUPPERS ARE BEING HELD, THIS VERY NIGHT.

- Canada: *A Kindred Spirit* (reel – see below)
- Australia: *Glengarry Homestead* (strathspey from the *Kangaroo Paw* book)
- Scotland: *A Trip to Crinan* (jig by Mairi & Andrew Collins, Coast To Coast)

The audience was invited to join in ceilidh dances interspersed throughout the programme. We were also entertained by Highland dancers, a piper, singer, violin solo, and a Burns reading.

We all had a good time. The evening finished with a spirited rendering of *Auld Lang Syne*.

...Deirdre MacCuish Bark



A Kindred Spirit : 32 bar Reel : 3C/4C set

1 – 4 ~ 1st couple, dance a Half Figure of 8 around the standing 2nd couple

5 – 6 ~ 1W & 2M with Right hand and 1M & 2W with Left hand: half turn to change places

7 – 8 ~ 1W & 3M with LH and 1M & 3W with RH dance a full 2 bar turn:

1st couple finish in 2nd place on opposite sides, facing up & out:

9 – 16 ~ 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance reels of three on opposite sides

(Mirror reels of 3): 1st couple dancing out & up to begin. On bars 15 & 16 the 1st couple dance from 3rd place on opposite sides diagonally up and across to 2nd place on their own sides, as the 2nd and 3rd couples finish the reels, 1W passing in front of her partner.

17 – 24 ~ 2nd and 1st couples dance Switch & Rotate (non-progressive form of Set & Rotate) 1-2: 2nd & 1st couples set / 3-4: 2s & 1s: pull R shoulder back and cast one place clockwise / 5-6: 2s & 1s: RH across ½ way / 7-8: 2s & 1s: chase one place clockwise to original places.

25 – 32 ~ 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance 6 hands round and back.

Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Isle of Harris, October 31st 2019

For Teresa Lockhart and the other followers of "Anne", in celebration marking the Scottish Country Dancers who danced in the series *Anne With An "E"*.

DEMO POOL AT VILLAGE MOSAIC ~ 22 January 2020



Phil Buddle
& Keith Bark

A group of dancers from the Demo Pool performed at Village Mosaic (Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto) on Lakeshore Boulevard. Mosaic, we learned, is a place where seniors come together to share interests and make new friends through the many activities offered.

Being a Burns demo, the haggis presentation was a major part of the event. It was piped in, and reverently carried by Keith Bark and Phil Buddle. Hovering over the exotic Scottish fare with knife threateningly

in hand, Joe Shortt began his *Address To A Haggis*.

As the rendition neared conclusion, the knife, now waving around in the air above the haggis for dramatic effect, jokingly strayed in Keith's direction — a touch too close for his comfort! All done, of course, in good fun and the audience thoroughly enjoyed it.

Keith and Deirdre had organized the demo programme and the dancing began. Despite a 'cozy' dance floor area (a perfect opportunity to practise control of step length), our dances went really well. Only one minor hiccup — let's put it down to a mismatch between our laptop and the sound system — the dance came to an end, the music didn't. It happily continued for a

while. We had a great audience and no one seemed to mind at all. Not only were they enthusiastic and happy to watch us perform, they were also happy when it came to the audience participation part of our program. They eagerly came on the dance floor and, despite lack of space (or perhaps because of it), everyone had great fun.

The afternoon ended with refreshments. The *pièce de résistance* was a large sponge cake decorated in blue and white icing to portray the Saltire flag of Scotland. An impressive tasty treat.

This event was another success in our busy Burns demo season, and we left feeling satisfied we'd given a lot of pleasure to a lot of people.

...Sheena Gilks



Joe Shortt

*Ye Pow'r's wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a Haggis!*

A SCARBOROUGH BURNS NIGHT TRADITION

The Scarborough Scottish Country Dancers, who meet at Westview Presbyterian Church on Monday evenings, maintained their traditional Burns celebration with a haggis, and an address thereto.





The Demo Pool recently danced at the East York Curling Club on Cosburn Avenue. It was a new request for the group, and the invitation came about thanks to Lyn Barsevskis, whose friend is a curler there.

The well-established curling club (in 2010 it celebrated its 50th anniversary), is known for its friendly curlers and social as well as competitive curling. The demo programme, organized by Halyna Sydorenko, took place during their Burns lunch. The curlers would be returning to the ice after the meal, which meant we had about half an hour to perform, a much shorter demo than usual.

Under Halyna's direction, the reels, jigs, and strathspey went well. At the first programme break our MC, Ian Gentles, sang *My Love Is Like A Red Red Rose*, Robert Burns' familiar poetic romantic song, and it was well received.

Perhaps the highlight of the event was audience participation. During the second break, curlers literally jumped out of their seats to come onto the dance floor, all eager for the *Circassian Circle*. It was a real treat to have such a large number of people enthusiastically embrace Scottish country dancing — who knows, perhaps we've planted a seed. For a short, happy time the curlers enjoyed themselves on the crowded dance floor. The ice and the curling would have to wait just a little bit longer. ...Sheena Gilks with Halyna Sydorenko

Newcastle Festival 2020 ~ Video Playlist



The Winner is: Mary Poppins depicted in Scottish country dance

The annual Newcastle Festival invites teams to offer special display dances — something different, just for fun, using SCD tropes. This year, the Edinburgh team won for [their portrayal of Mary Poppins](#).

The Festival is also about serious competition between international teams for the best execution of Scottish country dances, and dancing. Often, the skill displayed is breath-taking.

Martina Mueller-Franz has compiled a YouTube Playlist of the dances at the 2020 Newcastle Festival. (*Martina, thanks for making it easy.*)

Pour yourself a cup of tea, and enjoy some inspiring videos:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk2mmmlnvouVKQb9kS5Xw3zQNwt-tzUbe



Kendra Beliveau

Toronto took part in the 6th annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate, with a twist.

The kilt skate thus far has been at the rink at Nathan Philips Square, and it has had the unfortunate luck of being on an extremely cold winter day. So this year, the event was held at the Coca-Cola Coliseum. This is the very same ice that our AHL team, the Toronto Marlies, play on. The event this year also differed in that it was ticketed. But the mere \$10 admission was for the added perk of discounted seats to the Toronto Marlies vs. Rochester Americans' game.

St. Andrew's Society Toronto and the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) welcomed everyone with a few tunes from the bagpiper and two performances from the Highland dancers. We then had half an hour to skate to our hearts' content and listen to the occasional bagpipe tune as we went.

The kilts were out in full force and many a bare knee could be seen. A great improvement to see kilt wearers enjoying themselves and the piper able to play without freezing hands in bitter cold air.

What better collaboration could there be than to combine kilts, skates, and a good old hockey game?

...Kendra Beliveau

Grace Notes

Col. John Catto CD

5 August 1933 – 20 February 2020

John was a Life Member of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto, and President 1981-83.

He loved Scottish country dancing and was a graceful dance partner at the annual ball.

John and his wife Margie danced at Glenview, as does their daughter Cathy.

Our condolences to the family.

John's impressive accomplishments and interests are listed here:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theglobeandmail/obituary.aspx?n=col-john-catto&pid=195497983>

Notes on St Andrews Summer School, 1964 – Hugh Foss*

The social side of Scottish country dancing was emphasised by Miss Milligan this year. At dances one should not continually dance with the same partner, nor in the same set, nor even in the same part of the room.

Upcoming Events: NEAR

Mar 21 - **Beginners' Night Dance** ~ High energy fun is expected. Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs. Crescent School, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Mar 27 - **West End Workshop Social Welcome Dance** ~ All three Workshop teachers will lead the dancing to 'best of the bands'. All are welcome. \$10 at the door. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Mississauga Seniors' Centre, 1389 Cawthra Road. Info: Jean Hamilton 905.566-9599.

Mar 28 - **West End Workshop** ~ New location: Clarke Hall and adjacent Christ First Church, Port Credit (Mississauga) Teachers: David Queen, Cheshire, England; Marion Hamilton, Ottawa; May Divers, Toronto. Class levels: Basic/Intermediate or Intermediate/Advanced.

Mar 29 - **Teachers' Workshop** ~ 2:00-4:30 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$15. Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore Rd. W., Mississauga. Special guest teacher is David Queen. Don Bartlett will play for the class. Open to teachers and teacher candidates. Info: Arlene Koteff amkoteff@hotmail.com

Apr 25 - **AGM and April Volunteer Appreciation Dance** ~ Dancing starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. Crescent School. Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs.

May 1 - **Bluebell Spring Dance and Light Supper** ~ 7:30 p.m. Knox Presbyterian Church, 100 King St. S., Alliston. Music by Laird Brown & Don Wood.

May 9 - **West Toronto Ball** ~ Sala Caboto, Toronto. Music by Scotch Mist. [Details now on dancescottish.ca](http://dancescottish.ca)

May 13 - **Glenview's Spring Dance** ~ Glenview Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Dance to the live music of Fred Moyes. Tickets \$15 at the door. Refreshments following dancing. Info: glenviewscdg.org

May 19 - **Calvin's Spring Dance** ~ Calvin Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. at 7:30 p.m. Live music by Don Bartlett. Tickets \$10 at the door, refreshments included. Info: Nancy Stokes 416.425-2195 or Mary Baldwin 416.485-8280

May 15-17 - **Spring Fling 2020** ~ springfling2020.com/toronto

May 20 - **St Andrew's Brampton Spring Dance** ~ 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 44 Church St. E., Brampton Info: <http://www.maloney.ca/SAB/index.html>



Spread the word... Download and print the .pdf of this wallet-sized bookmark/brochure:

www.dancescottish.ca/resources.html

Keep a few in your wallet, or pocket and when, inevitably, the topic of Scottish country dance comes up, pass one along.

RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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Newsletter Committee:
Donald Holmes (Chair)
Andrew Henderson
Rob Lockhart (webmaster)
Teresa Lockhart
Marian White
Judy Williams

Upcoming Events: FAR

Mar 5-8 - **Belleville Ball and Workshop** at the Masonic Temple, Belleville. Teacher: Fiona Grant, Bristol, England. Music: Laird Brown and Scotch Mist. Info: Bill and Jan Cunningham drbill210@hotmail.com or David Aston david.aston@kos.net or visit: www.rscdskingston.org/belleville.htm

Mar 7 - **Stratford Spring Tea Dance** ~ \$20 1-4 pm at Avondale United Church. Music by Fred Moyes. Info: cmacdoug23@gmail.com

Mar 14 - **Blair Spring Tea Dance** ~ \$10 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 137 Queen Street, Kitchener. Info: <http://www.blairscottishcountrydancers.ca>

Mar 21-22 - **Heather Ball Weekend, Vancouver** ~ at the Scottish Cultural Centre, Vancouver. Champagne reception, dinner, and dance. Come and dance to the wonderful music by guest musicians Colin Dewar and Alasdair Macleod. Info: www.rscdsvancouver.org

Mar 21-22 - **Highland Ball and Workshops, Pittsburgh** ~ Washington Elks Lodge ballroom in Washington, PA. Teacher: Tine MacKay. Music: Highland Square. Info: <http://www.pscds.org/>

Mar 28 - **Border Cities Workshop, Windsor** ~ Teachers: Moira Korus & David Tague. Music: Fred Moyes. Info: <https://rscdswindsor.org/events/>

Apr 13 - **Easter Weekend School in Lyon, France** ~ Teacher: Mathias Ferber. Music: Sarah-Jane Summers (fiddle) and James Gray (piano). Info: www.rscdsparis.fr

Apr 17-19 - **SCD Weekend Away in Chambéry, France** ~ Teacher: Ron Wallace. Music: Matthias Rank and Silke Grosholz. Info: <https://rscds-lyon.fr>

Apr 25 - **RSCDS Ottawa Spring Ball** ~ at the R A Centre, Clark Hall, 2451 Riverside Dr. Enjoy a three course meal and dancing to the Torridon Scottish Dance Band. Info: Elspeth Paulin 613.729-6161 or elspeth_p@hotmail.co or rscdsottawa.ca

May 2 - **60th Anniversary, St Catharines: Allan McKenzie Ball** ~ 2020 marks 60 years of dancing in St Catharines! To celebrate, we invite you to the inaugural Allan McKenzie Ball. There will be live music and a family-style dinner. Tickets: \$75 for dancers. Info: www.rscdscatharines.ca

May 29-30 - **Stoney Lake Weekend** ~ Teacher: Fiona Miller. Music: Fred Moyes. Dance in the historic Sunset Pavilion. Saturday dinner & Ball. Pine Vista Resort www.pinevista.com To arrange accommodation, call Julie & Kevin Drain 1-800.634-2848 or 705.877-2108. Info: www.pscds.ca

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 now open. Info: tac-rscds.org

Dec 13 - **The 57th Annual Gleneagles Ball** ~ in the Pacific Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver at 1:30 pm. Includes a lavish luncheon buffet, dancing to the acclaimed Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra and a decadent dessert buffet following the dancing. Tickets: Gillian at 778-279-3995 or muirnet@shaw.ca Info: <http://rscdsgleneagles.org>

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

Registration is open: rscds.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
- 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:

- Mar 12 • Apr 13
- May 14 • Jun 8



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