

# RSCDS Toronto

[www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

## From the Chair...



**Louis Racic**

At long last we held our first in-person Toronto Association event. Hurrah! As noted, in November's *Set&Link*, we planned a trial refresher dance class with a maximum of 48 dancers on November 23rd. How did it turn out? Very well. Thirty enthusiastic dancers were the first to try our in-person refresher class.

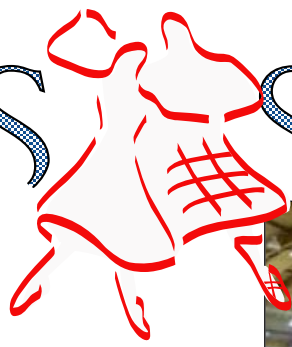
Pre-screening was required. We used an online screening questionnaire to speed up the process, which worked quite well. The church required us to take everyone's temperature. Of course, masks had to be worn. Amid all of these restrictions, there was dancing.

It was good to see so many dancers in person. From the din before the class, you could tell everyone was quite happy to see all the other dancers. Jean Noble was up to the task of gently putting everyone through their paces. As expected, most dancers were out of practice. The finer dancing points need work, some walked the dances, but that did not matter. Dancers were dancing together and having fun. This is the *raison d'être* of Scottish country dancing. Thanks once again to all the dancers who participated. I extend a special thank you to Sue Ann Bryce for coordinating the class and Anne Bishop for helping screen everyone. Each journey starts with a small step. This was a small step forward. Hurrah!

We look forward to the upcoming Virtual Christmas Dance on December 11, 2021. I will be happy to see everyone. A sincere thank you to Keith Bark for organizing this event once more. We ardently hope that next Christmas' dance will be an in-person dance.

Our plans for the new year are still evolving. As this is very much a transition year, our dancing schedule will be different from before. We are planning to run a number of association classes starting in the new year. We expect that some social groups will also be resuming in 2022. We will determine if we need to run additional refresher classes.

I wish each and every one of you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. ...Louis Racic



# SET & LINK

*There was this thing...  
...and I went!*



## Special correspondent, Fiona Miller, reports on the Autumn Gathering:

It was surreal – truly *surreal*. For the last 19 months I have done no more than a few dance steps in my kitchen with phantoms, chairs, and the occasional puppy. Now I was standing in the Bell's Sports Centre in Perth, with its incredible domed ceiling and awful, sticky, rubber floor. Onstage, musicians were creating fabulous music, and in front of me close to 300 people were dancing reels, and poussettes, corner patterns, wheeling, and turning. It took my breath away.

I intended to walk just a couple of dances — surely, after months of Zooming I wouldn't have stamina to dance anything like an 8x32 Jig. That thought lasted for about 64 bars!

The music for both the Welcome Dance and the Ball was so wonderful, I couldn't help myself. It just made me want to fly across the floor. Huge kudos to the Marian Anderson Band and Jim Lindsay & His Band for sets of tunes that carried the dancers through the programs.

Over the years, I've enjoyed attending the Autumn Gathering. Dancing and connecting with people from all over the world has always been a terrific draw. Along with that, the Society holds its AGM during this weekend and, as a delegate from Southern Alberta, it let me feel as though I was partaking in a little bit of the organization's management.

This year was an in-person gathering again since the pandemic sent it online last fall, but because of uncertainty surrounding hosting events, the decision was made to have a hybrid AGM. The discussions and voting were done online ahead of time. Thus the meeting was streamlined and moved forward quickly as the Chair, Lorna Ogilvie, announced polling results for each item. One piece of levity came when outgoing Treasurer, Bill Cant used props to assist with his financial report. With a series of ever-decreasing-sized boxes he explained the various accounts and what they were used for. By the end of his report he was almost completely hidden on the stage. [\[see page 5\]](#)

For me, the highlight came with the introduction and presentation of the Scroll of Honour. This year, four of us were present to receive our Scrolls. We had all been nominated last year but chose to wait until we could receive them in person. This turned out to be even more special with the realization that we were the last recipients to be presented our Scrolls from Jean Martin, who has now stepped down as President of the RSCDS.

Jean gave some wonderful closing remarks and with that it was on with the dancing.

I am still revelling in the after-glow.



**Fiona Miller**

**Jean Martin**

# Beginners/Improvers

## IN PERSON "BRANCH" CLASSES

All applicable COVID-19 protocols will be followed:

- Pre-registration required: [on-line](#) or email [Sue Ann Bryce](#)
- Proof of full vaccination
- Temperature checks, and attestation forms at the door
- Masks while dancing; no food; bring your own water
- Details about classes and procedures: [dancescottish.ca](#)

### MONDAY EVENINGS AT ST LEONARD'S

#### LEVEL 1: BEGINNER CLASSES ~ 7:30 - 9:30pm

January 17 ~ March 21 • 10 classes for \$100

St Leonard's Church, [25 Wanless Ave](#) (Lawrence Station)

David Booz teaches beginners the basic steps, formations, and etiquette of Scottish country dance.

### THURSDAY EVENINGS AT EASTMINSTER

#### LEVEL 1: BEGINNER CLASSES ~ 7:30 - 9:30pm

January 20 ~ March 24 • 10 classes for \$100

Eastminster United Church, [310 Danforth Ave](#) (Chester Station)

Hurndale Room (enter side door, go down stairs, turn right)

Keith Bark teaches beginners the basic steps, formations, and etiquette of Scottish country dance.

#### LEVEL 2: IMPROVER CLASSES ~ 7:30 - 9:30pm

January 20 ~ March 24 • 10 classes for \$100

Eastminster United Church, [310 Danforth Ave](#) (Chester Station)

Gymnasium (enter side door, go down stairs, turn left)

Deirdre MacCuish Bark will improve your execution of basic steps, and teach more challenging formations and dances.

# Classes for Members

## MONDAY EVENINGS: IN PERSON

Scarborough ~ 7:30 - 9:30pm

Westview Presbyterian Church, 233 Westview Blvd, East York

Proof of vaccine, completed covid attestation forms, and masks are required to attend classes. [details](#)

All are welcome. Contact: [Nigel Keenan](#)

## TUESDAY EVENINGS: ZOOM

Erin Mills / Bloorlea ~ 8pm 60-90 mins

Keith Bark and Arlene Koteff teach week about.

All are welcome. Contact: [Keith](#) or [Arlene](#)

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: ZOOM

Humbercrest ~ 8pm 60-90 mins

Deirdre MacCuish Bark teaches.

All are welcome. Contact: [Deirdre](#)

Glenview ~ 8:00 - 9:00pm


Maira Korus teaches social dancing for dancers with some SCD experience. Contact: [Erica](#)

## THURSDAY EVENINGS: ZOOM

Basic Technique ~ 7:30 - 8:30pm

Keith Bark teaches basic technique for Levels 1 and 2.

Contact: [Keith](#)

 This class will be superseded in January by the in-person classes at Eastminster, listed at left.

## FRIDAY EVENINGS: ZOOM

Woodglen ~ 8:00pm ~ 60-90 mins

Deirdre MacCuish Bark teaches.

All are welcome. To join: [Deirdre](#)

## SATURDAY AFTERNOONS: ZOOM

Alma's Scottish Step Classes ~ 2:00 - 3:00pm

Full dances will be taught over a number of weeks. Classes include teaching of traditional Highland Steps, in the Ladies Step Dance style. All are welcome. Contact: [Alma](#)

## SATURDAY MORNINGS: ZOOM & IN PERSON\*

Rosedale Kids Classes

**Zoom:** Under 12s: 8:45 - 9:30am

Children under 12 and/or families are welcome.

\* **In Person:** Dancers age 12+ dance 10:15 - 11:30am

All 12+ and 20-somethings are welcome!

Proof of vaccine, completed covid attestation forms, and masks are required to attend classes.

Contact [Maira Korus](#) for info or Zoom link.

TO BE IS TO DO

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DO BE DO BE DO

## Virtual Christmas Dance

**It's that time again!**

Kick off or pas-de-basque into the holiday season with our Christmas on-line dance:

**Saturday, Dec. 11th ~ 7:30pm**

Put on your finery and join us for a fun dancing evening with break-out chat rooms.

Please register with [Keith Bark](#)

AS A BONUS, PERFECT DANCING TECHNIQUE IS NOT REQUIRED!!

...Sheena Gilks

[2021-Xmas-Virtual-Dance-Briefs+video.pdf](#)



## Teachers' Pet Dances: Kathleen Kynoch

Kathleen Kynoch has known Sandy "from forever" and remembers when he was her Intermediate Branch Class teacher. Both share a love of dance and teaching SCD. Interestingly, they also share a birthday just one day apart.

[[Set & Link, Apr, 2013](#) has a lovely profile of Kathleen.]

Note: Click on blue dance titles to invoke video of the dance



Kathleen Kynoch

[The Glasgow Highlanders](#) (S8x32, *Book 2*) is a strathspey showpiece with an unusual progression, but its signature setting step is its redeeming feature. A turn can be executed in the step, but care should be taken not to back into your partner. Alternatively, Highland Fling steps can be substituted, but unless they can be correctly danced, dancers should perform the suggested setting step for this dance.

[The Hamilton Rant](#) (R8x48, Robert M Campbell, *Book 22*) I danced this reel with John Drewry, and he always gave his partner an extra turn to face corners. It was great fun, but you would have to be an experienced dancer to dance it this way. The music was composed by Stan Hamilton and alternative music was composed by Bobby Frew.

[Kynoch of Bucksburn](#) (S8x32, John Drewry, *Bankhead Book 4*) At the request of my sister, Bella Cox, John Drewry devised this strathspey to celebrate the Ruby wedding (40 years) of my husband Jim and me on October 17, 1993. Jim, a past Chairman of the Toronto Branch, lived in Bucksburn, as did John Drewry when he was teaching at Aberdeen University.

[The Shepherd's Crook](#) (S72, *Macnab Dances*) This is an entertaining demonstration dance for a Gala or special occasion where one man and two women execute a combination of Scottish country and Highland steps in strathspey tempo. I danced it at a Gala day and the Commonwealth Ceilidh in 2014 with Donald Holmes and Ella Allison. Age meant nothing, but disciplined Highland dance training did — Donald was in his 60s, I was in my 80s, and Ella was in her 90s. The dance was a joy to practise and a striking surprise to the audience.

[The Rothesay Rant](#) (J4x32, square set, Anna Holden, *Birmingham Book*) This happy, four-couple jig is a great dance to end a good night at a weekly class. Its basic formations (half Ladies' Chain and half Rights and Lefts), beg for cooperation in both good timing and good covering, and everyone is dancing most of the time.



Kathleen & Jim (centre cpl) at a Drewry workshop, c. 1980's [RSCDS Toronto ~ Set & Link ~ December 2021 ~ Page 3](#)

## Teachers' Pet Dances: Sandy Bain

Alexander "Sandy" Bain is a highly respected (now retired) Scottish country dancer and teacher who taught many workshops and was greatly involved with TAC. When asked for a highlight of his dancing career, he mentioned the Hamilton Ball of 1956 [[Set & Link, May, 2008](#)]. Recently, Sandy was asked for his favourite top 5 dances. Without missing a beat, this is what he said:



Sandy Bain

[The Montgomeries Rant](#), R8x32, comes right at the top of the list; the music and dance have a lot of appeal.

[Mrs MacLeod](#), R8x32, chosen again because of the music.

[Maxwell's Rant](#), R8x32. The reels on the opposite side then reels on your own side get you immediately into the dance, and then you flow from the start to the finish. It gives you an exhilarating feeling.

[Hooper's Jig](#), J8x32, because it's a lively dance, a going dance, and the music is great. Music makes the dance, in my opinion.

[The Birks of Invermay](#), S8x32. It is not a complex dance. Dancers can easily do it and enjoy it, from its two-hand turn, then the promenade. A dance everyone can do without any real thought, not worrying about what comes next. The dance flows from one eight-bar movement into the next. I also enjoy its very old tune.

I haven't been dancing for a while, but I do enjoy listening to the great dance music, including Eddie Brydie, Stan Hamilton, and Bobby Brown & Bobby Frew. I appreciate the music; it lends itself to the above dance choices. As soon as I hear the tune, I know what dance it is. The music excites me, the rhythm lends itself to the movements of the dance.

[Alba Place](#) is a building located on Atholl Road in Pitlochry. The block was built by Sandy's maternal grandfather, Alexander Robertson, at the beginning of the 20th century. The Bain family lived at #1 Alba Place from 1940 to 1948. Sandy devised the dance to commemorate the reunion in 1995 of the four "Bain Bairns" — their first reunion in 41 years. Music: [Sandy Bain of Pitlochry](#), was written by Bobby Frew for Sandy's 50th birthday.

### ALBA PLACE

(R4x32) 4C set ~ by Sandy Bain, *All Around the Circle* book

- 1-8 All set advancing & turn partner 2H to face up, 1s followed by 2s+3s+4s dance up & cast to 4 3 2 1
- 9-16 All repeat bars 1-8 to original places
- 17-24 1s+2s RH across 1/2 way, 1s+3s RH across 1/2 way, 1s+4s RH across 1/2 way, all cross RH
- 25-32 All Circle 8H round & back

# First Steps. . . The Refresher Class

Photos: Kevin Moloney



After months of dancing on Zoom, I was looking forward to dancing in person at the Nov 23 Refresher Class and finding out if wearing a mask while dancing was problematic. The class was a lot of fun, with much conversation and laughter during the evening. Thirty dancers enjoyed Jean Noble's teaching and selection of easy dances. I discovered I had no difficulty wearing a mask while dancing. The COVID protocols in place were efficiently handled. I thought the class was a great way to ease into the return to in-person dancing.  
...Julia Callaby

If I hadn't pre-registered and agreed to meet a friend, I wouldn't have gone. I mean, you've gone nowhere for so long, I almost didn't want to make the effort. But I knew I had to go to the class. Protocol was followed, but we didn't dance in the larger gym as advertised. We danced in a smaller space and had large white pillars to get around. At first, it felt like you weren't dancing for a hundred years. When the music started, it was as if I never was away. I was totally blown away that I felt like I was dancing just yesterday. And it was great fun.  
...Muriel Nicoll (dancing in TO for 50 years)

I enjoyed the class. I just had trouble breathing because of the mask, but I did dance five of the six dances. Hands were given and taken. Everyone was masked. I felt safe. I knew and loved *Monymusk* — I've known the dance my entire life, having learned it in primary school as a child, and then teaching it to young teenage girls in New Brunswick when I was twenty.  
...Fiona Morton

I think everybody enjoyed the socializing as well as the dancing. I must say I had mixed feelings about teaching the class, but once we got going I enjoyed being back in harness. It was a very mixed class level, but I had chosen dances\* so that experienced dancers could help those less experienced. It took me a while to remember how to make up playlists and how to use my wireless speaker, but in the end it all came together.  
...Jean Noble

\*The dances enjoyed:

*New Year Jig,*  
*Society Piper (R),*  
*Callander Bridge (S),*  
*The Laird of Milton's*  
*Daughter (J),*  
*Trip to Bavaria (R),*  
*Monymusk (S),*  
*Maxwell's Rant (R)*



## Grace Notes



**Kathy Shields**  
01 Nov 1943 ~ 28 Oct 2021

Kathy used to dance in Toronto with Grace Harris, and was on Grace's demo team. Later Kathy moved to Hamilton, where she continued to dance Scottish for many years.

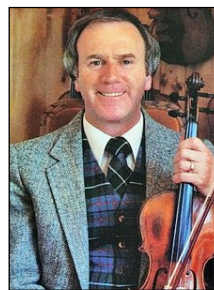
[Published obituary](#)



**Margaret Horner**  
22 Mar 1935 ~ 19 Nov 2021

Margaret danced with John Christie's Scarborough group, Grace Harris's Pickering group, and Vi Knight's social group. She also danced in the 512some. The Toronto SCD community sends deep sympathy to Donald, her husband of 57 years.

[Published obituary](#)



**Hugh Alexander "Sandy" MacIntyre**  
17 Apr 1935 ~ 24 Nov 2021

A master of Cape Breton fiddle music, and teacher of Step Dance, Sandy played with the Cape Breton Symphony Fiddlers for many years and performed on CTV's John Allan Cameron show with symphony director Bobby Brown, Buddy MacMaster, John Donald Cameron, and Wilfred Gillis.

[Published obituary](#)



## We get letters...

RE: *Dance With Me* book —

Thank you, *Set&Link*, for the help I receive for not only the dance book matter, but all the support you have given me.

After nearly 60 years of SCD activities, all the good memories with other dancers from all over the world fill my heart. Many of those have passed away, leaving a stronger feeling toward them.

May I tell you I am double eight this year, and Mac and I have been married for 60 years?  
... Kim Horne

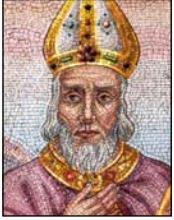


~ Kim & Mac Horne on a recent Zoom meeting ~  
*Dance With Me* is \$10 from Kim: [khorne56@sympatico.ca](mailto:khorne56@sympatico.ca)



# Christmas in Scotland... *Bah, Humbug!*

Christmas in Scotland was called Yule, a Scots word derived from Old Norse *jól*, the word for winter solstice festivities. Yule was not merely a single day's celebration but a seasonal one beginning before Christmas and lasting into the new year — approximating the winter solstice festival of Celtic pagans beginning on December 21 or 22, meant to appease the gods and bring light to the dark days. Yule closely paralleled the twelve days of Christmas.



Saint Ninian

Christianity in Scotland dates to 400 CE with Saint Ninian, although it did not become the established church until 1560. In the fifth century Saint Columba arrived in Iona, and founded a monastic community, and two centuries later the Celtic branch of the church gave way to the Roman tradition.

With John Knox [1514-1572], as leader of the Scottish Reformation in 1559/60, Scotland formally split ties with the Roman Catholic Church and as a result anti-Catholic sentiment toward feast days and church holidays was high. The 1640 *Act of Estates of Parliament* records: *the Kirk within this kingdom is now purged of all superstitious observation of days . . . and simply discharges the foresaid Yule vacation and revised and annulled all acts and ordinances and all observation thereof in time coming.* (English translation from Middle Scots).



John Knox

Knox banned Christmas in Scotland and favoured Hogmanay as the time to celebrate new life. Consequently, Christmas was banned in Scotland for over 400 years. It was merely another working day. On December 25, 1958, the ban was lifted and Christmas was declared a public holiday in Scotland. Boxing Day was finally recognized as a holiday in 1974.

## The Mince Pie Persecution and Tart Rebellion



Resistance emerged because of the ban. On December 27, 1583, five Glaswegians were brought before the Kirk session and sternly ordered to make public repentance for "Keeping Yule". In the same year, the Kirk forbade bakers from preparing mince pies, a pre-Reformation Christmas tradition. Not only that, but bakers were encouraged to inform on customers who placed orders for or made purchases of such pies. Over time, mince pies were made smaller (easier to hide).

The Protestant code of honour was not working well. The ire persisted and in 1605 five Aberdonians were prosecuted for going through the town "maskit and dancing with bellis". It would be well over two centuries before Ebenezer Scrooge, in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (1843), would state his curmudgeonly displeasure with Christmas — *Bah, Humbug!*



Not to be outdone, Edinburgh University students wrote a letter: *The Scots Demonstration of Their Abhorrence of Popery, with all its Adherents*. The letter stated: "Our Chriftmafs, this morning very pleasantly began" and continued to describe how they burned an effigy of the Pope. Although the ban on Christmas was eventually repealed in 1712, the church continued to frown upon festive celebrations.

Currently, Scots celebrate Christmas in much the same way as everyone else in Europe and North America — midnight church services, concerts, feasts, and gift giving. And Santa Claus prefers Scotland where his treats are not milk and cookies but whisky and mince pie. Like the Aberdonians of yore who were "maskit and dancing," we too are now masked and longing to dance, albeit for different reasons.

...Donald E. Holmes



## Edinburgh's 'Norwegian' Tree

Following the Second World War, Norway annually acknowledged at Christmastime the support the Scots had provided them and donated a Sitka spruce Christmas tree to Edinburgh, a gift of the people of the Norwegian county of Hordaland. Since 2008, the tree has been of Scottish origin but is still considered a gift from Norway.

...DEH



## Congratulations!

Donald and Marian Holmes celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on November 6 with a group of friends at their home.



## Bill Cant's AGM Report

The outgoing Treasurer of the RSCDS had surprisingly good news about the state of the Society's finances. The exchequer is in better shape than predicted, and Bill's report was both witty and informative. A new fund will [subsidize young musicians](#) who want "...a week's holiday in St Andrews learning to play for SCD." Bill challenged each branch to encourage local musicians to apply.

[ [Watch Bill Cant's report](#) ]

# Fiona Alberti: Unique Opportunity Leads to Pandemic Travel

Since the pandemic began, I have more or less been a hermit. I run errands, and I am willing to sit outside on a patio to meet friends, but beyond that I have stuck very close to home.

In the summer my father broached the idea of heading to Germany in October. He had been invited to attend the premiere of a play *Papierjungs* (The Paper Boys), at a community theatre in his birth town. He asked if I had any interest in joining him. He knows I'm interested in the family history; he wanted company and my translating skills. While travelling in the midst of a pandemic doesn't seem like the logical thing to do, it really was a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. October 13 saw us both at Pearson International for the first time in two years.

My father was born in Koblenz, a small town on the Rhine. His father was the third-generation owner of M. Mayer, Stationery Factory and Export, an envelope and luxury paper business. At its peak the factory employed 600 people, the largest employer in the town. Their products were sold across Europe and throughout the Americas.

In 1938, in keeping with Aryanization policies, they were forced to sell the factory at rock-bottom prices. After a brief internment in Dachau, my grandfather headed to England where he was joined in 1939 by my grandmother, father, and uncle.

Much of the factory was destroyed in the war. What was left was used as a warehouse, but by the end of the 1970s the building was empty. A group of squatters moved in and in the 1980s the idea of creating a "Kulturfabrik" (culture factory) was born. The play we were invited to see was the tale of the squatters intermingled with the tale of the family who had first opened the factory. Dad, as the last living member of the family to have visited the building while it was still M. Mayer, was invited to the play as an honoured guest.

The play was staged throughout the building, the audience being moved from room to room. Vignettes from the '80s alternated with scenes from the family's and the factory's history. While I appreciated the creativity and enthusiasm brought to the project, it was nonetheless, an odd experience to be walking from one scene to another only to be passing photos of your grandparents as part of the set décor. Seeing strangers play the parts of my much-loved grandparents, at a time long before I knew them, was thought provoking. Would my grandmother have acted that way? Did my grandfather really consider cancelling the 75th anniversary celebrations in 1937? Did his cousin truly



believe that, despite being a Jewish family, everything would be all right?

The play ended with the entire audience gathering in one space while some of the actors circled the room, telling what happened to various family members.

Every time I heard, "Dr. Peter Alberti is 87 and lives in Toronto," I wanted to point to him and say, "He's here; he's here."

It was a long way to go (physically and emotionally) to see a play, but a number of people came up to dad to tell him they were honoured to meet him, making the visit worthwhile.

For those wishing to head out into the world again, pandemic travel is not nearly

as bad as I imagined. Our Ontario vaccine receipts were good enough to get us into restaurants, hotels, and museums. We weren't asked for them any more than we would be at home. I did have to wear my mask for 12 hours straight (minus meals) on travel days and never before have I had to Google "Covid tests for tourists" while away (you need a negative test to get on a plane to come home again), my usual is chocolate shops or cafés. We were fortunate on our arrival back at Pearson that no other international flights landed when we did. The rumoured 2-3 hours on the tarmac waiting to disembark didn't happen. I am now starting to think about where I wish to go next.

...Fiona Alberti

<https://www.kufa-koblenz.de/programm/veranstaltung/papierjungs-3-1-4>



Dr. Peter Alberti

"He's here;  
he's here."



# Musings in a Hot Tub

I'm in Perth (the Ontario one) enjoying a mini break with my family in the countryside. The historic stone house we're staying in, set on expansive property on the outskirts of town, was built (c. 1855) by the son of an early Scottish immigrant. At the same time, he purchased a large portion of the surrounding land on which he built a sawmill and gristmill. It's a great break from Toronto's constant buzz. The silence here is palpable, at least it was before being interrupted by road repairs in our lane a few days into our stay. We accept the disruption with good humour. "At least it's not like the disturbance of Toronto's road repairs."

We smile, "The noise is really quite muted." A surprising comment; benevolence isn't the first word that generally springs to mind about roadworks. Fresh air is the culprit, it has put us in too placid a state of mind. And another thing, it sets the household yawning by 9 pm, quite overcome with exhaustion brought on by idleness.

Not wanting the fresh air to totally drain me of ambition, I check out the surrounding property. Exploration takes me to the stream by the once-active grist mill, over a tiny stone bridge crossing a creek, and a walk along the fallow fields skirting the property. As early evening approaches, I stroll over to the large outdoor swimming pool. The sun is just beginning to set, but the day has been hot so surely some of its heat has reached the pool. Tentatively, I test the water by the shallow end steps. It's pleasantly warm so I take the plunge. Swimming slowly, I reach the middle of the pool. I hear a plop. In front of me is a floating pool thermometer — in the shape of a polar bear reclining on a tiny rubber swimming ring — and sitting there is a frog. Bobbing up and down, we eye each other. The family watches in amusement before the frog is finally scooped up with the pool net and away it hops.



I continue leisurely towards the deep end and enter a frigid zone. Shocked into action, I do a swift U-turn and race to the shallow end. Visions of hot toddies swim before me. Shivering, I dash across the lawn towards the house and plunge into the hot tub on the patio. Bliss.

Thawing out, I ponder the history of this area. Google has informed me that, "The end of the Napoleonic wars left many of Scotland's craftsmen in a near state of ruin. With little work available and vastly reduced wages, many felt they could improve their lot by emigrating to Canada. The British government was only too happy to oblige. Scottish immigrants settled in and around the village of Perth, which at that time was a military settlement. Nearby Grant's Creek flowed into the Tay River, providing ample water power resources, and before long the countryside was dotted with grist and sawmills kept busy by burgeoning lumber and farming industries."

We owe a lot to those intrepid folk.

Meanwhile, in the tub the colour spectrum cycle has been turned on and the water bubbles away in ever-changing hues. The only thing ruining the perfect moment is the chlorine puck.



It moves around constantly. Up and down it bobs as if doing a frantic schottische before crashing to the side for a rest — like the dancing couple who, having done their part, scoot to the end of the set for a moment's relief from all the action.

Gazing up at the dusk sky, I think about the Scottish and Irish settlers journeying across the Atlantic to settle here more than 200 years ago. How difficult it must have been for them as they toiled away. It occurs to me they'd have appreciated a hot tub!

...Sheena Gilks



## \* STORM WARNING \*

STORM is a giant 10 m tall Scottish puppet created entirely out of recycled and natural resources rumoured to have emerged from the sea. She was designed by Vision Mechanics of Leith, and she is operated by eight puppeteers. Her hair is made with kelp and her voice is a symphony of blended ocean noises. Prompted by the COP26 conference in Glasgow, STORM has been walking through Scotland to inspire us all to act on climate change.



# Events & Aspirations

**2021: Nov 30 ~ Start of the Haggis Hunting Season**  
Stock your larder for Robbie Burns celebrations, Jan 25.



**2021: Dec 5 ~ Shiftn' Bobbins Season Closer**  
Moira Korus will teach; live music by Laird Brown & Donny Wood.  
1:45 - 4pm; \$10 at the door but pre-registration required: [Info and protocols](#) Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road, Toronto

**2022: Jan 21 - St Andrew's Society Burns Dinner**  
We are delighted to once again be holding our traditional Burns Dinner in conjunction with (and at) the University Club of Toronto. Come join us and banish the mid-winter blahs with some "richt guid" cheer! All are welcome, whether member or not.  
Info/registration at: [EVENTBRIGHT](#)



**2022: July 24-31 ~ TAC Summer School, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta** Welcoming, supportive classes for dancers of all levels. Daily classes, evening social dances, formal ball and banquet. Evening after parties, ceilidh, silent auction. Teachers: Raphaëlle Orgeret (France), Robert McOwen (USA), Jeanne Moody (USA), Barbara Johnston (Canada). Musicians: Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins, Terry Traub, and Mary Ross. Info/registration at: [tac-rscds.org/](#)

**2022: Sept 30-Oct 3 ~ International Branch's Italy 2022**  
International Branch invites you to come and discover the charm of Le Marche and Emilia-Romagna. Teachers are Antoine Rousseau (France), Zsófia József (Scotland & Hungary), and Samuele Graziani (Italy). Live music by Elke Baker, Andy Imbrie, and Phill Jones. Optional tourism programme. Info: [International Branch website](#)

## RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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

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## Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

### Video of the Nov 25 AGM

To know what transpired at the Society AGM (the formal proceedings) the video is available here:  
<https://youtu.be/g39iYvABgvU>

### Winter School 2022

**February 20-25 at Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry**  
Teachers: Fiona Mackie, Sue Porter, William Williamson, David Hall | Musicians: Mo Rutherford, Shona MacFadyen, Adam Brady, Neil Copland  
<https://www.rscds.org/events/winter-school-2022>

### Summer School at St Andrews 24 July ~ 14 August

Three weeks of dancing fun and instruction in beautiful St Andrews. Directors Jim Stott & Janet Johnston. Morning classes at all levels, optional afternoon classes, evening social dances, and serendipitous ceilidh evening fun.  
<https://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2022>

## Selected Outcomes Passed at the AGM

- For the year from 1st July 2022, the basic full annual subscription will be increased to £25 per annum.
- Voted on to the Management Board: Andrew Nolan, Helen McGinley, Simon Wales.
- Voted on to the Membership Services Committee: Julie Grainger (3 years), Andrew Smith (3 years), Paul McKnight (1 year) and Maureen Daniel (1 year).
- Education & Training Committee or Youth Services:
  - Philippa McKee, Convenor for Youth Services
  - Deb Lees Convenor Elect for Education & Training.
  - Lizzy Condor confirmed as the new Treasurer.

[ [full report](#) ]

## Scheduled Dates of Board Meetings, 2021-2022 season

Dec 9	Jan 5	Feb 7	Mar 10
Apr 6	May 9	Jun 9	

