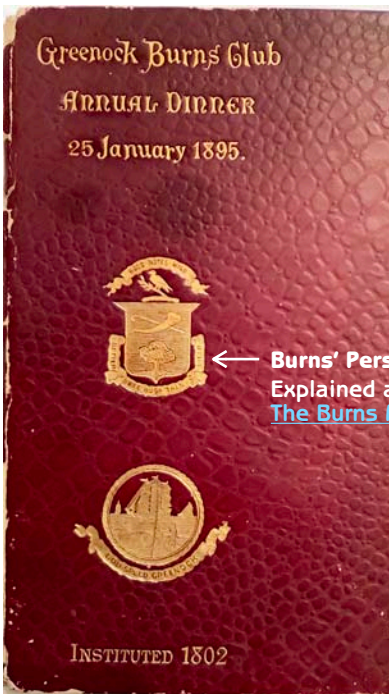


RSCDS SET & LINK

Toronto

www.dancescottish.ca

From the Chair...



← Burns' Personal Seal Explained at: [The Burns Museum](#)



Louis Racic

If this were any other year, I would be waxing poetical on the fun we just had at a Burns' Supper, and then we would be

looking forward to the joys of dancing at the upcoming Tartan Ball. Alas, this year we will have to rely on our memories. Here is a Burns' dinner memory of long ago. Well, sort of...

A number of years ago,

Joanne and I were heading to Stratford, Ontario. On the way there, we passed through the village of Shakespeare and stopped to poke about some of its antique shops. I discovered a small hard-cover booklet, which was a "Souvenir and Menu of the Anniversary Dinner" of the Greenock Burns' Club, Scotland. This was its annual Burns' dinner, held on January 25, 1895. I had not known of this Burns' Club, but I soon learned that it was the first Burns' Club, and thus the oldest in the world, and it is often referred to as the Mother Club.



I bought the booklet, as I was interested to see how this Burns' dinner, now 126 years ago, compared to Burns' dinners today. For one thing, the menu was quite rich. On their 'Bill-O-Fare' there were two soups: Sheep Heid Broth and Clear Turtle, and two types of fish: Dressed Sole, and Turbot with Lobster Sauce. There was Scotch Haggis, of course, and numerous joints of meat, including Roast Beef, Gigot of Mutton, Turkey, Steak and Kidney Pie, Chicken, Ox Tongue, and Ham. The Sweets course included prunes, Garrick Trifle, apple tart, Culzean puddings, Ellisland creams, and Mosgiel jellies. The dessert course included Home and Foreign Fruits. Now there is a Burns' dinner for you.

The order of events during the evening, the Toast List, was quite long. I counted thirty individuals listed in the program who would either speak or sing or play an instrument. The first toast was for the Queen. The first speech was the Memory of Robert Burns.

Halfway through the list was the *Address to the Haggis*. The evening ended with *Auld Lang Syne*. It is interesting how a casual stop at an antique shop could produce such an interesting window into the past. Keep safe,

...Louis Racic



D.T. Holmes, Esq., who was the "President in the Chair" at the 1895 Greenock Burns' Club Anniversary Dinner, is not an ancestor of Donald E. Holmes, managing editor of *Set & Link*. Who was Daniel T. Holmes? See page 6.

Virtual Classes

TUESDAY EVENINGS:

Erin Mills / Bloorlea ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Keith Bark and Arlene Koteff teach week about.

All are welcome. To join, contact [Keith](#) or [Arlene](#)

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS:

Humbercrest ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Deirdre MacCuish Bark teaches.

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

Glenview ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Moir Korus teaches. All are welcome.

To join, contact [Erica de Gannes](#)

THURSDAY EVENINGS:

Basic Technique Classes ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Keith Bark teaches Basic Technique based on his

Level 1 and Level 2 Toronto Association classes.

All are welcome. To join, contact [Keith](#)

FRIDAY EVENINGS:

Woodglen ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Deirdre MacCuish Bark teaches.

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

SATURDAY MORNINGS:

Rosedale Youth

Saturday Mornings ~ specific times for different classes

Family Class: 9:30am (30 mins)

Young children can dance at home with parents/siblings.

Intermediate Class (age 8+) 10:15am

New dancers are welcome.

Contact [Moir Korus](#) 647.378-5753

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS:

Scottish Step Dance for Beginners

2 p.m. - 3:00 (starts January 9)

Scottish Step Dance (a.k.a. Ladies' Step) is typically done solo; thus it's well suited to Zoom classes. Teacher Alma Smith introduces basic steps and a variety of step dances, plus Highland steps used in Scottish country dance.

Contact Alma Smith: asmith26@cogeco.ca

LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH:

Ceilidh Dancing ~ 8 p.m. - 9:00

If you're missing the fun of the Saint Andrew's Ball this year, come join me (Alan Rosenthal) for some virtual ceilidh dancing. Beginners welcome. You don't need a partner.

Register with Alan at ceilidh@alanr.ca

More info: www.alanr.ca/dance/virtualceilidh.html

Special Zoom Event



West End Workshop & Tea Dance

Saturday, March 27 ~ 12:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Toronto time)

As the joys of Spring approach, plant some spring into your step with cheerful instruction from these splendid teachers, both of whom are Scroll of Honour recipients: [\[Biographies on Page 4\]](#)

- ◆ Sue Porter (Oban, Scotland)
- ◆ Fiona Miller (Lethbridge, Alberta)
- ◆ The talented Don Bartlett will play music for the Tea Dance

Programme: Two Classes (attend one or both as desired):

- 1st class for Basic/Intermediate
- 2nd class for Intermediate/Advanced,

Tea Dance at 3:00 p.m. ~ Socializing Time between events.

BYO tea & treats! ☕ 🍰

Venue: Suitable space in your home. No travelling required!

Registration fee: \$5 per person • [Download the brochure](#)

Please register early as the number of device connections is limited.

Registration and other information online at :

www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html

Or contact theresamalek@rogers.com

N.B. This virtual workshop is one day only.

We hope to return to the usual three-day event in 2022.

The Tea Dance Programme

Saturday, March 27 • 3:00 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Chez vous via Zoom ~ Programme by Deirdre MacCuish Bark

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| Light & Airy | 3 x 32 J | RSCDS Book 4 |
| Fair Donald | 3 x 32 S | RSCDS Book 29 |
| Mary Erskine | 3 x 32 R | Roy Goldring, RSCDS Graded Book 2 |
| The Shetland Shepherdess | 3 x 32 J | Ron Wallace, RSCDS Graded Book 3 |
| Save The Children | 3 x 32 S | Minnie Bänninger, RSCDS Book 51 |
| Castle of Mey | 3 x 32 R | John Walton, RSCDS Queen's Diamond Jubilee |
| The Luckenbooth Brooch | 3 x 32 J | John Bowie Dickson, Glendarroch Sh 28 |
| Seann Truibhas Willichan | 2 x 32 S | Thomas Wilson (18C), RSCDS Book 27 |
| Staying Home with an Imp | 3 x 32 J | Deirdre MacCuish Bark, The Peat Road & Other Dances |
| The Montgomeries' Rant | 3 x 32 R | Castle Menzies (1749) RSCDS Book 10 |

Download: [Tea Dance cribs and video links](#)

Teachers' Pet Dances: Blair Gerrie



Blair Gerrie

Thank you for asking me to submit five of my favourite dances. I have more than 100 dances on my favourites' list, so choosing five was no mean feat. Most were chosen because they flow so nicely, have interesting or unique formations or are just a lot of fun to do. I chose five that have special significance.

The Royal Wedding (32S3C) devised by Gene MacKinnon.

Written for the wedding of Charles and Diana in 1981, this dance reminds me of a happier time in the world. The dance was devised around the time Patricia and I began dancing with the Toronto Branch after having started dancing in Montreal and Scotland, respectively. We always danced it together whenever it was on programmes, as it is Patricia's favourite dance. It was also danced at our wedding reception.

Blue Tartan (40R3C) devised by Ian Barbour.

This dance was one of the favourites of my Sunday Miscellany Class, which I taught for several years on Sunday afternoons for dancers who wanted to discover more interesting and obscure dances. This dance is such fun to do and has the creative touch of doing "over and under" on the diagonal.

A Candle for Mary (32S3C) devised by John Drewry.

We danced this after the death of Mary Veitch, a valued and much-loved member of the Tayside Group. I turned out the lights in the hall, and we danced it by candle light. At the end of the dance, there was absolute silence... and hardly a dry eye in the class. Although it is a John Drewry dance, it is not overly complicated, which allowed dancers to think of Mary while they danced. Its flowing figures and special significance make it a favourite of the Tayside evening class.



Mary Veitch

Welcome to Nova Scotia (32S3C) devised by John Drewry.

I like this dance because it's about a Canadian location, but especially because it has a story that fits the formations in the dance perfectly. Dancers mimic the swirling of the water, the Halifax Harbour Bridges, and the St. Andrew's Cross from the flag of Nova Scotia.

Sunday Miscellany (32S4C) devised by Jean Attwood.

Jean Attwood is my favourite dance deviser, and I could have easily chosen all five of my dances from amongst hers. Anyone who attended my Sunday Miscellany classes will remember that, over time, we danced all of her compositions. I struck up a pen-pal relationship with her. She was pleased to know that a group in Canada was enjoying her dances, and she wrote this dance specially for the class. ■

... Blair Gerrie, Toronto

Crib Confusion

[Posted to the Scottish Country Dance Teachers Facebook Group]

"Someone in my local neighbourhood group just posted that they're looking for a mini crib. It took me a while to realize they wanted a travel bed for a baby; not a dance instruction.

... Connie Kent, Burlington, Vermont



The stranger gazed deeply into Mrs. Claus' eyes as he asked her to dance. Her husband had been spending long hours in the workshop and away from home, making her feel lonely and neglected. It was the same every year. He even claimed to be too tired to join her tonight.

The stranger's piercing eyes saw into her soul; her every desire. He knew... dancing Love is in the Air would make her his.

"What's your name?" he dared.

"Santina", she managed breathlessly, "Who are you?"

"They call me the Dashing White Sergeant."

SANTA'S VERSION OF EVENTS: Before the musicians could play a note, a jolly "Ho Ho Ho" echoed throughout the hall. Santa wrapped her in his arms. "I missed you so much," he whispered. "I made your favourites, warm apple cider and Reindeer Poop." She smiled. In front of a crackling fire, they reacquainted themselves with each other.

SANTINA'S VERSION OF EVENTS: Before the musicians could play a note, she sprinted outside and asked Rudolph to take her home. As Santa dozed and watched another Reindeer game, she wrapped her arms around him and whispered, "I missed you so much. Let's make our favourites: warm apple cider and chocolate truffles." They smiled. In front of a crackling fire, they reacquainted themselves with each other. A jolly "Ho Ho Ho" echoed throughout the hall.

THE CLOCK CHIMES 12 TIMES... A Happy New Year! ■ ...Angus

THE HAGGIS TREE

S8x32: 2C(4C Set) by John Drewry

- 1- 8 1s Set & Cross RH; 1s+2s Set; 1L+2L Cross to other sides as 1M+2M cast dn/up(to right of other Lady)
- 9-16 1s+2s Set, dance La Baratte with opp person to change sides
- 17-24 1s+2s Set, RHA 1¼ times, 1s Dance out thru orig place & Cast to 2nd pl as 2s ½-Turn RH to end 1st pl own side
- 25-32 2s+1s Set, Circle 4H round to left ½ way, Turn prtnr 2H, opening out to Circle 4H round to left; end on own sides

JOHN DREWRY'S NOTE ABOUT THIS DANCE: "My father's mother claimed to belong to the same family as Sir Isaac Newton (she came from the same part of Lincolnshire). I think that there must be some truth in this claim because, one day while I was sitting under a Haggis Tree, a haggis fell on my head, making me gravitate towards Scottish Country Dancing!" ■

West End Workshop Bios...



SUE PORTER — I was brought up initially in Paisley, near Glasgow, before moving to the Borders. I learned to dance and it has been a part of my life from the age of three, whether it be ballet, tap, jazz, SCD, ceilidh, or ballroom, and I find it hard to sit still when music is playing.

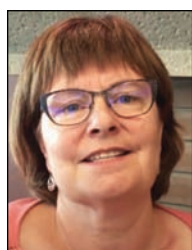
In 1973, while doing my Bachelor of Education degree in Dundee, I ventured across the Firth of Tay

to RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews to take my RSCDS Teacher Certificate. This was where I met my husband Gordon. Wherever I have lived, I have taught dance to school children, adults, beginners, demo teams. I settled in Oban, Argyll, on the west coast nearly 40 years ago.

I have been fortunate in being able to accept invitations to teach in Canada, USA, Europe, New Zealand, and Japan. For several years, I have regularly taught at RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews.

I have held various posts for the RSCDS, including Convenor of the Education & Training Committee, Co-ordinator of Winter School in Pitlochry, and Youth Director. Currently, I am a tutor and examiner for Teacher Certificate courses, Medal Test Assessor, and CPD trainer (Continuing Personal Development) for school teachers. In 2018, I was honoured to receive the RSCDS Scroll.

I try to impart my enthusiasm for Scottish country dancing to others through my teaching, always aware that, while helping dancers to achieve their personal potential, it must still be a fun hobby. ■



FIONA MILLER — Born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland, Fiona learned to dance almost as soon as she could walk. Her Scottish country dance enthusiast parents were her first teachers. Fiona trained at Dunfermline College in Physical Education & Health, and in 1978 took her Teacher Certificate under the watchful eye of Miss Milligan. Fiona and her husband, David, immigrated to

Lethbridge, Alberta, in 1981, and have raised two children, Emma Claire and Keith, both of whom are Scottish country dancers.

As the founding teacher, Fiona has taught the social class, seniors, children, technique, and the demo group for the Lethbridge Scottish Country Dance Club, now celebrating its 40th Anniversary.

She has taught at the TAC Summer School and many week-long summer camps and weekend workshops throughout North America. Fiona has tutored and mentored candidates to take their RSCDS Teacher Certification.

Fiona retired from teaching English as a Second Language to middle-school-aged refugee children and loves being a Nona to five-year-old Machlan and three-year-old Avianna.

Fiona is the Past Chair of TAC— the Teachers' Association (Canada)—having completed three years as Director of Summer Events running the TAC Summer Schools.

It is Fiona's philosophy that everyone should have fun dancing, while learning a little bit about Scottish culture. ■



DON BARTLETT — Don's talents are well known and his music well loved by Toronto area dancers. He's been playing for SCD since he was a teenager. When he is not at his keyboard, or leading his band, The Scottish Heirs, he can be seen on the dance floor, reeling and jigging with expertise and enthusiasm. As a dancer, he understands how the music informs and uplifts dance performance. ■

Lady Nairne, another Scots Poet



Keith R Bark

In January each year we celebrate the Scots Bard Robert Burns, but there are many others whose works are equally as popular. One in particular is Lady Nairne, a.k.a. Mrs Bogan of Bogan. Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne) was born August 16, 1766, and named Carolina after Charles Edward Stuart. Needless to say, her family had been strong supporters of the Jacobite

cause. Her great grandfather, Lord Nairne, narrowly missed execution following the Jacobite rising of 1715. Bonnie Prince Charlie breakfasted at Gask House, the home of the Oliphants, on September 11, 1745. Shortly after, the Oliphants and Nairnes were again accused of high treason and forced to flee Scotland.

Carolina's parents met and married at Versailles in June 1755. In 1764, under general pardoning, they were allowed to return to Gask House in Scotland. In 1806, Carolina married Major William Murray Nairne, and they lived in Edinburgh. In 1822, when Sir Walter Scott arranged the visit of George IV to Edinburgh, the King was persuaded to restore some of the forfeited peerages. William and Carolina became Lord and Lady Nairne.

Lady Nairne loved the old Scottish tunes, but the words were too rough for the polite 18th-century society. Consequently, Carolina



Lady Nairne and her son

wrote new words to the old tunes. Jacobitism had ceased to be considered a danger, so many of her songs about Jacobite times became very popular. However, it was not considered proper for a lady of her rank to take an interest in writing songs, so she had to keep her activities secret from everybody, including her husband. She used the pen-name Mrs Bogan of

Bogan and went in disguise to the publisher.

Lady (Carolina) Nairne died in 1845. Her identity as the writer was not revealed until two years after her death when her sister put together a collection called *Lays of Strathearn* and published it under her real name. It was an immediate success.

Lady Nairne wrote over 100 songs. Some of her very popular songs are:

- *The Land of the Leal* (same tune as *Scots Wha Hae*)
- *Charlie is My Darling* • *Will Ye No Come Back Again*
- *Caller Herrin'* • *The Hundred Pipers* • *The Rowan Tree*

A portrait of Lady Nairne with her son hangs in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. ■

... Keith R Bark, Mississauga

2020 in Goderich and Toronto: *The best of times in the worst of times*



Lourdes taking a break from taming the garden

The year just past came with limitations that hindered most of our health-affirming routines (swimming and golf) that target the heart and lungs and create those joyously surging endorphins. We could not go Scottish country dancing, which gives us a great cardio workout, tunes up our bodies, and tasks our intelligence (think of the tournée), and is said to stave off dementia. The Shaw, Stratford, and County Playwright festivals, which offer significant emotional and mental stimulation, were out of com-

mission. Library visits were off and on. It was also impossible to attend church where we could quietly reflect and sing inspirational hymns that deviate our minds from the surreal world we are in.

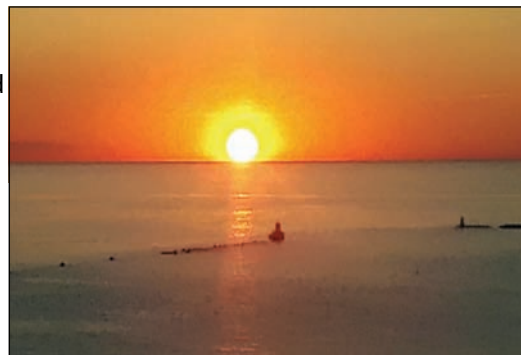
A sound mind in a sound body has been difficult to achieve, but in spite of negatives we have not despaired.

In early spring, we went to our secondary residence in Goderich. We focused on our garden... blanketed with dandelions, thistles, shamrocks, and Creeping Charlie (all God's creations). With hardly any horticultural experience, we toiled daily, spending many hours under the torrid summer sun. Our enthusiasm, along with basic gardening tools and a wheelbarrow with a rheumatoid leg, helped us transform our garden into an Eden, a thing of beauty. Through our dedication we discovered the therapeutic value of working in a

garden and the joy of putting our hands in the earth, a very grounding and satisfying experience.

When in Toronto, we took daily walks. One morning, along the Martin Goodman Trail by Lake Ontario, we saw an exceptionally beautiful sunrise. With the CN Tower in the background, against azure skies, the pumpkin-coloured sun looked like a perfectly prepared sunny-side-up egg laid on a Wedgwood blue plate. It was a deliciously exhilarating sight. You may guess what we had for breakfast that morning.

In Goderich, we viewed the breathtaking, world renowned double sunsets of Huron County, one from the Harbour Beach on our waterfront, and within 30 minutes, another



from the bluff 100 feet above the shore by the lighthouse.

In mid-summer, we hosted very small gatherings of local friends and neighbours and our Huron County SCD family in our backyard patio, respecting mandated guidelines and protocols.

Although the situation is still far from normal, we triumphed over some of the limitations 2020 brought us and we are happy. Helen Keller said, "The marvellous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome." Lesson learned:

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever. ■

...Lourdes Genosa and Nigel Keenan



Dear Editor...

Quantum Dance

Thank you for such an interesting and informative newsletter to keep in touch and keep up interest during this challenging time. As the wife of a physicist working on the Quantum Initiative, I also really enjoyed the "Quantum Dance" article!

... Mady Newfield, Chicago Branch

Hogmanay & War Cake

► I really enjoyed Donald Holmes' article about Hogmanay in PEI. My husband and I danced with Donald and Marian at Newtonbrook until it closed. I especially liked his memories of War Cake as my mother used to make that too. I can tell Donald missed the fruit — he makes such a great fruit cake himself (and sold them for years as a benefit for his church).

... Anne Curtis, Toronto

► Donald, I really enjoyed your article and the detailed description of your family celebrations of Hogmanay throughout the years — and also learning that you started life on a PEI dairy farm. My mother-in-law was a Scot and Hogmanay was always by far the biggest day in the calendar year for her. Let's hope for a return to celebrating together in 2021.

... Susan Pollak, Ottawa

Ghillies Ball and Serindipidance

Many thanks. This [Jan. S&L] is a most interesting start to the new year. I'm glad Michael's story found a place in it.

It was interesting to read the background to *General Ritchie's Reel*. Gordon and I used to attend the Oakville Class when Bob Campbell was the teacher. He introduced the class to *Shiftin' Bobbins* and, at my request, wrote instructions for the dance on a piece of paper. Subsequently, the dance became a favourite on many programmes. This was not, as you know, one of his many self devised dances.

... Jean Hamilton, Mississauga

Jess Houseley: Happy Memories

Thank you very much for the flattering tribute in the January 2021 *Set & Link*. It has been wonderful to have participated in Scottish country dance. In the past 25 years I have learned both from dancers and teachers and have been privileged to make many friends. Dancing off into the sunset, I leave with fond memories.

Sincerely, ... Jess Houseley, Thornhill

When we dance again

When we, one world-wide RSCDS family, are dancing together again, our spirits lifted by that joyous music, we will sing *Auld Lang Syne* to honour the loved ones that have gone before, and we will take hands with new dancers and welcome them. Such is the Spirit of the Dance!

Sincerely, ... Carolyn Pearce, Rosseau ON

Daniel T. Holmes (1863-1955)

[This information is from a family memoir, written by Holmes' grandson Tony Benn, politician and writer, who served as a Cabinet minister in the 1960s and 1970s as a member of the Labour Party. His recollection was published in the *Glasgow Herald*.]



Daniel Turner Holmes entered Parliament as a Liberal MP for the Govan division of Glasgow in a by-election in 1911, serving until defeated in 1918. He was not really a politician at all, but a scholar who had been persuaded to stand because of his popularity as a lecturer who could hold audiences spellbound with his accounts of historical events and the light that they threw on current affairs. In that capacity he

represented perfectly the deep commitment of his fellow countrymen and women to education and the importance of learning, describing himself as "a worshipper at learning's shrine," more interested in his books than in anything else, and as an author and poet.

Born in Irvine in 1863, he was the son of James Holmes, a steeplejack, and Elizabeth Turner. Daniel was so keen to learn that from the age of three he insisted on going to school with his elder brother. Later, sitting for an external degree at London University, he came first among all the examinees from all over the country. He continued his studies at the Sorbonne and became the head of the English department at Paisley Grammar School.

His book, *Literary Tours in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*, is an account of his travels around Scotland from 1904 to 1908 by train, steam boat, mail coach, horse bus, pony trap, wagon, cart, and foot, in all weather lecturing at local literary societies to encourage public education. He estimated that he had spoken to more than 40,000 people. Everywhere he found a great passion

for learning. He noted that when speaking to a meeting of miners at Stirling "the proceedings resembled a University Graduation Ceremony". Of the weavers he commented that they "were typical of all that was intellectual in Scotland. They had, indeed, far clearer views on politics than most of their legislators." During a discussion on the Mull ferry on 'Has the Deity unlimited Free Will' some of the ship's crew joined in. Upon docking at Tobermory they all retired to sum up in the local bar.

He argued for free school meals for children on the grounds that "Bairns must not be allowed to study on an empty stomach", and for a literary knowledge of the Gaelic language to be encouraged.

In his maiden speech in the House of Commons on the *Temperance (Scotland) Bill* he held his fellow MPs with his humour saying: "I do not expect that, in our generation at least, alcohol will ever be out of date and when I look at the history and even the climate of my native country I know quite well that my fellow countrymen will never be sickeningly abstemious or ostentatiously teetotal . . ."

He was also known as the "Poet Laureate of the House of Commons," leaving a notebook full of amusing verses about his colleagues and contemporary affairs. In one of them, written no doubt to comfort himself at the time of his own defeat, he wrote:

Though politicians dream of fame
And hope to win a deathless name
Time strews upon them when they've gone
The poppy of oblivion.

Tony Benn, remembering his grandfather, wrote, "There are not many scholars in Parliament, which is a great pity, for politics seems today to have degenerated into abuse as a substitute for exposition and our society is the poorer for it. Though grandfather never held office again or left his name on any Act of Parliament, he did something that may be more important — he represented, faithfully, in the House of Commons that passion for learning that has "always characterised the Scots." ■

...Tony Benn

Grace Notes



Sarah Dickie Beattie

6 July 1926 - 1 January 2021

Sarah contracted Covid in December 2019. She had an enormous following of people who were dear to her and she to them. She corresponded with cards and letters. She was an exceptional seamstress.

We will miss her funny ways, her bossy style, her enthusiasm, her generosity, and

her constant pride at being born in Scotland, which she never failed to share with anyone who would care to listen. We extend condolences to her family, and fellow dancers from Thornhill Presbyterian Church, Newtonbrook, and Celtic Connections.



Catherine Lois Leonard

25 January 1931 - 19 January 2021

Lois was a gentle-natured, keen, long-time dancer with Celtic Connections in Richmond Hill. A devout member of Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, she organized teas and annual Burns' suppers. She was much appreciated for her baking skills and financial acumen. Lois readily participated in demonstration dances

at seniors' homes, Gala Days, and church events.

We extend condolences to her husband Graham and family.

Lois can be seen dancing as 4th Lady in a Gala Day video of *A Jig for Midge*: https://youtu.be/_8vxjaJBL9E

How Did It All Start?



BILL GOODFELLOW — Scottish country dancing started for my wife, Esther, and me (as many dancers will tell you) with an invitation. Back in 1974, my Mum and Dad were here on a



Esther

visit, when David McKendrick, a friend and former neighbour, invited us all to an afternoon garden party at the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home in Richmond Hill, where there would be Scottish music and dancing. So, on a Saturday afternoon in June, we found ourselves enjoying the music and watching the



Bob Millar

East York demonstration team, led by Bob Millar, dance reels, jigs, and strathspeys. My Mum and Dad were thrilled to be there and enjoyed the entertainment. Esther and I were also taken with the demonstration. Kathleen and Bob Keene,

whom we had known for a few years, also attended. Bob sensed that both Esther and I were interested in getting involved in this form of dance. I had done some SCD in secondary school in Aberdeen; Esther had ballet lessons both as a child and as an adult, and we both enjoyed ballroom dancing, so why not try this?

One Monday evening, Bob and Kathleen arrived at our door, supplied us with ghillies, and whisked us off to join the Scarborough group in Glen Ravine school. We were welcomed with open arms. John Christie was the teacher.

We made it through the night, with many laughs, and help from people offering comments such as: "No, this way. Round that way. Take my hand. Oh, you'll get the hang of it." It wasn't long before



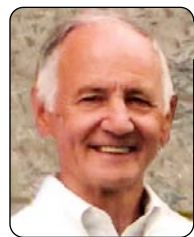
John Christie

we were dancing three nights per week, Monday with John, Wednesday with Grace Harris at Thorncliffe, and Friday with Frances Gray at Fallingbrook, but Scarborough remained our home group. Two years later we volunteered to make the tea at the break — we made tea for over 100 dancers, each week for two years. We also made many new friends. We not only danced but went on car rallies, cross country ski weekends at Geneva Park, curling, Halloween and Christmas Dances, Gala Days, parties at member's homes, as well as many summer activities. Scarborough was a very lively group.

I think it was David Grant who coined the phrase "Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing". It's much more than that. It's the friendships we've formed these many years. Yes, some may have stopped dancing for one reason or another, but we still keep in touch. One former member of our Scarborough group organizes a lunch every now and then, where we meet and generally catch up on one another's lives and activities.

When John Christie arranged the plan for dancing the 512-some reel at the CNE in August of 1991, he used as his pattern three rings — aptly named "The Three Rings of Friendship in Scottish Country Dancing." It still rings true today. ■

Freddy Collins: *Drums along the Danforth, and other musical tales*



[Fred Collins has played drums for the past 70 years, and for decades has been the most sought after drummer for Scottish country dance bands in North America. He began in his home town of Dundee, Scotland, with the "Gie Gordons" at age 16, and he played with such notables as Sir Jimmy Shand, Angus Fitchet, and John Ellis... to name but a few.]

FRED COLLINS — The current pandemic has

provided much time for reflection and reminiscing and has therefore finally inspired me to put some memories to print. Since immigrating to Canada in 1954, I have had the pleasure of playing with many Scottish dance bands and musicians. My friendship and association with these musicians over the years have many stories attached, some worth telling; some perhaps better left to history.

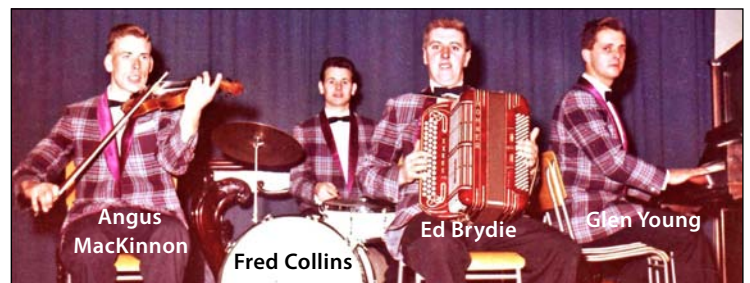
Shortly after arriving, I became a member of the Toronto Scottish Pipe Band, and it was at their Christmas Dance, dancing to the music of the Four Scots band, that I first met accordionist Ed Brydie. Early in 1955, the Four Scots' drummer returned to Scotland, and I was asked to join them.

At this particular time, Canada was at the height of emigration from Britain, and Scottish country dancing was in its infancy; hence, most of our engagements were for Sons of Scotland, Daughters of Scotland, Pipe Band dances, and weddings. About weddings... following the bride and groom's opening waltz, Ed would always break into a quickstep with the tune *Who's Sorry Now!* We often wondered who, if anyone, shared his sense of humour.

Our first SCD engagement was in 1956 when we played for Professor Ronald Smith's classes at Rosedale Presbyterian Church. I believe this was the first live music for SCD in Toronto.

One of our early Montreal Ball engagements (not sure of the year), saw us travelling by train along with an enthusiastic group of dancers. We had a car to ourselves and so had a lovely social time going. However, the return trip was a little more boisterous. Once we left Montreal, the band set up at one end of the car and dancing got underway in the aisle. Even the conductor and passengers from neighbouring cars joined in the fun. Approaching the latter part of our trip, one of the dancers (who shall remain nameless) spun around and, falling backwards, landed on my snare drum — thereby sending both me and my drum crashing to the floor. My snare suffered a fractured batter head, but we were having so much fun I really wasn't concerned. Upon arrival at Union Station, I was handed a sum of money which the dancers had collected for the damage. What a lovely gesture!

I had a great musical and personal relationship with Ed Brydie, and I have many great memories of our times together. He would regularly call from his home at Pape and Danforth and say "Drums along the Danforth?" That meant — are you coming over? And we always did! I treasure my time with this band and our many trips, many of them firsts for live SCD music on this continent. ■



Board Bulletins

Nominations: Board Positions

The Nomination Committee is mandated by the Toronto Association's Procedures Manual to prepare a slate of nominees for each Board position and to present its recommendations to the members for approval at the **Annual General Meeting April 24, 2021**. Members are reminded any position can be proposed. Currently **Membership** is open.

If you are interested in serving on the Board or wish to nominate someone, contact the chair of the Nomination Committee, Liz Clunie, or download a Nomination Form from the website (Members Home page) to be submitted by February 20, 2021.

For all Board positions nominees should 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 four additional one-year terms. The Treasurer can be re-elected indefinitely until another 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.

New non-board positions are also available:

1. Assistant Treasurer for the general administration of the Toronto Association's finances. Basic accounting knowledge and intermediate Excel required.

2. Insurance Administrator for preparation and distribution of Certificates, requires use of basic Excel.

More information: Liz Clunie elcunie@rogers.com 416.418-5494

AGM Motions Deadline: Feb. 5

February 5 is the deadline for submission of motions from the Membership for the 2021 Annual General Meeting. Submissions must have the support of 10 full members as indicated by their signature.

Send motions to Fiona Alberti at fiona@alberti.ca

Motions received will be posted 60 days prior to the AGM.

Board Meetings, Scheduled Dates:

Feb 8 Mar 11 Apr 7 May 10 Jun 10

April 24, 2021 Draft AGM Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Scrutineers
3. Motion to Accept the Agenda
4. Motion to Accept the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
5. Motion to Accept the Minutes of the November 2020 Special General Meeting
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
7. Reports from the Board
8. Motion regarding financial engagement for the year.
9. Report of the Nominations Committee
10. Election of the Board of Directors
11. New Business
12. Motion for Adjournment

Motion: The Board moved that the financial engagement of the financial records of RSCDS Toronto Scottish Country Dance Association for the 2021 fiscal year be a compilation engagement.

The deadline for motions from members is **February 5, 2021**.

Should any motions be proposed by members they will be published on the website in early February and appear in the March Set & Link.

Hoped For Events

St Andrews Summer School 2021

The Society Board hopes this will go ahead. Keep checking.

<https://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2021>

TAC Summer School 2021, Calgary: July 25 - Aug 1

- Classes for all levels • Teacher Candidate Courses (units 2, 3, 5)

Teachers: Janet Johnston, Ron Wallace, Alan Twigg, Barbara Johnston **Musicians:** Judi Nicolson, Ian Muir, Fred & Kathy Fraser-Collins, Terry Traub, Mary Ross Check updates: www.tac-rscds.org

Australian Winter School 2022: Sept 25 - Oct 2

Originally Scheduled for Sept 2020 <https://winterschool2020.com>



Names add spice to Scots food [Globe & Mail, Feb, 19, 1976]

Scots in Canada have always been willing, with very little encouragement, to reminisce about the quality of things Scottish: the whisky, the marmalade, the wool, even the rain. But there is a great silence about Scottish cooking. When the subject is raised, there is confusion, evasion, until finally haggis is mentioned, but this is usually described as something that you are dared rather than encouraged to eat...

Rumbledethumps

From Christopher North, *Noctes Ambrosianae*, c. 1825

NORTH: "May I ask, with all due solemnity, what are Rumbledethumps?"



SHEPHERD: "Something like Mr Hazlitt's character of Shakespeare. Take a peck of potatoes, and put them in a boyne [large pot] – at them with a beetle [heavy mallet] – a dab of butter – the beetle again – another dab – then cabbage – potato – beetle and dab – saut [salt] meanwhile – and a shake o' common black pepper feenally, cabbage and purtato throughithee – pree [taste], and you'll fin' them decent rumbledethumps."

More prosaic cooks should mash equal amounts of boiled potatoes and cabbage with chopped chives and boiled onions.

Cover with grated cheese and brown in the oven.

The results are pale green and delicious.

RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Chair: Louis Racic | 905.430-1255 | louis.racic@gmail.com |
| Vice-Chair: Paul Barber | 416.534-0516 | paulbarber48@gmail.com |
| Secretary: Fiona Alberti | 416.483-2213 | fiona@alberti.ca |
| Treasurer: Wendy Fulton | 416.951-5029 | wbfulton@hotmail.com |
| Program: Kevin Moloney | 416.425-1416 | kevinmoloney@sympatico.ca |
| Membership: Bill Barber | 416.540-4311 | tobillbarber@gmail.com |
| Communications: Sheena Gilks | 647.390-1076 | sheena.gilks@gmail.com |
| Marketing: Ron Macnaughton | 416.884-1631 | macnaughton@rogers.com |
| Education/Training: Tony Szeto | 416.566-9386 | aszeto2010@gmail.com |



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Newsletter Committee:

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|--------------------------|--------------|
| Donald Holmes (Chair) | 416.226-6081 |
| Sheena Gilks | 647.390-1076 |
| Rob Lockhart (webmaster) | 416.759-9845 |
| Teresa Lockhart | 416.759-9845 |
| Marian White | 416.781-7795 |
| Judy Williams | 416.924-3658 |

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

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