RSCD Toronto www.dancescottish.ca

From the Chair...



Paul Barber

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society originally came into existence on November 26, 1923 at a public meeting at the Athenaeum in Glasgow. Details of that meeting, which included the participation of the two key founders for the RSCDS, Jean Milligan and Ysobel Stewart (of Fasnacloich), can be found here: https://www.rscds.org/about/history. This month marks the start

of the 100th year of Scottish country dancing world-wide, including here in Toronto, where our beginnings are rooted more in the second half of the 20th century. The RSCDS has many plans for its centenary, including a video of the *Flying Scotsman* featuring submissions from local branches (see article on p. 4 about Toronto's contribution). The full list of events and celebrations planned by the RSCDS can be found on their webpage: https://www.rscds.org/blog/rscds-centenary. A key event is the Spring Fling in Toronto taking place May 26-28 at Glendon College. We all look forward to the Fling and the Fringe event that will accompany it.

Another Toronto project to mark the RSCDS Centenary (and Toronto's 65th year) will be the publication of a book of locally written dances, many of which were originally submitted as part of the process initiated by the RSCDS to create *Book 53*, to be published by the Society during 2023.

Despite these significant events, the Association and social groups struggle to return to normal: many social groups have experienced lagging attendance; there are those who still fear Covid while others are reluctant to mask. I think those who were there would regard the October Monthly Dance at our new location at Havergal College as an artistic success – and great fun. However, attendance was only 44 and we will need more dancers to break even. Traditionally we have done well at our December dance, which is coming up on Saturday December 10. I hope to see many of you there.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Erica de Gannes on her successful election to the RSCDS Youth Services Committee at the AGM.

(Erratum: in my previous column, I erred in saying the Calvin group was coming to an end after 60 years; in fact, they were founded in 1957, 65 years ago.)

... Paul Barber



The Kitchener-Waterloo Group nominated Fred Moyes to be a recipient of the Scroll of Honour. It was presented at their ball by KW Branch Chair Kathryn Lecocq on November 5. This is the citation that was read by Stuart McTavish (In the background) at the ball.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Scroll of Honour award is the highest accolade to be presented to an RSCDS member by the National RSCDS. This is awarded to those few individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the RSCDS

To quote: "For outstanding service and loyalty to the Society; maintenance of the aims of preserving the standards and traditions of Scottish Country Dancing; and encouragement in others of the knowledge and enjoyment of Scotland's heritage of dance and music."

Our recipient of this award has certainly done all of that.

In 1958 he became a fully qualified RSCDS dance teacher under the watchful eye of Miss Milligan, his examiner. On the music side, he taught himself to play the accordion as a boy and, after emigrating to Canada in 1987, he started playing almost exclusively for Scottish Country Dance classes.

He has since gone on to play at many RSCDS functions and dances worldwide, including countless cities across Canada and the USA, Germany (four times), Japan (five times), Hong Kong, and, of course, Scotland. He has played extensively for RSCDS teaching weekends and for Candidate classes throughout North America, as well as for a six-week examinations tour in Japan. In addition, he has played regularly at RSCDS Summer Schools in Canada for over 12 years and St. Andrews, Scotland for almost a decade. He is still in demand; we all enjoy his music.

Speaking of his music, he is also a prolific composer of Scottish Country Dance music, has recorded three CDs, and has written a book for musicians interested in learning how to play Scottish Country Dance music, which is still in demand today.

As most of you have already guessed the recipient of this Scroll of Honour is Fred Moyes.

...Stuart McTavish

We add our hearty congratulations to Fred on his well-deserved award.

January Dance

This year's programme was devised by Pat Coyle.



Saturday, January 14, 2023
Havergal College Junior School, 460 Rosewell Ave. kmap
(Parking and entrance is off Rosewell, 1 block east of Avenue Rd., south of Lawrence.)

Doors open at 7:15 p.m. Dancing 8-10 p.m. Music: Don Bartlett & the Scottish Heirs

If possible, in order to reduce paper use, please print your own crib sheets from the website

2023-January-cribs.pdf.

COVID Policy in effect.

West's Hornpipe	R 4 x 32	RSCDS 5 Traditional SCDs
	Extra	
The Dancing Man	R 8x32	Goldring, 10 Social Dances
Triple Happiness	S 3x32	RSCDS Book 52
Just As I Was in the Morning	J 6x40	RSCDS Book 19
Biurns' Hornpipe	R 4x32	RSCDS Book 27
Frae A'the Airs	Med 8x(S16+R16)	RSCDS Leaflet
The Starry-Eyed Lassie	J 8x32	RSCDS Book 23
Lady Susan Stewarts's Reel	R 8x32	RSCDS Book 5
Sauchie Laugh	S 6x32	RSCDS Leaflet
Pelorus Jack	J 8x32	RSCDS Book 41
Hedwig's Reel	R 8x32	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book
Fair Donald	S 8x32	RSCDS Book 29
It's All Right	J 8x32	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book

Members: \$27; non-Members: \$32; Young Adult Member (18-34): \$10; Youth Associate Member (<18) and Spectators: \$5

Monthly Dances are SCENT FREE.

COVID Policy

As we welcome everyone to a new dancing season, the following protocols will be in effect.

- Social groups are responsible for masking and any other protocols they may wish to adopt, or are requirements of the space they rent.
- 2. For RSCDS Toronto Association programs the following public health protocols will be:
 - (a) Masks are required for indoor events.
 - (b) Vaccination is mandatory.
 - (c) Hand sanitizer must be provided.
 - (d) Attestation forms must be filled out by participants.
- 3. COVID-19 policies and protocols will be continuously reviewed and updated by RSCDS Toronto Association as required.

Special Events

South Simcoe's Christmas Dance

Friday, December 2 ~ 7:30 p.m. ~ \$20



Knox Church Hall, 160 King
Street S., Alliston <map>
South Simcoe Scottish Country
Dancers are holding their
Christmas Dance followed by Tea
and Goodies. Live music with
Laird Brown and Donny Wood.

Glenview's Christmas Dance

Wednesday, December 14 ~ 7:30 p.m. ~ \$20 at the door < map >

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview

Ave.

Join us for our Christmas Dance with music by Don Bartlett.

Program. Refreshments provided following the dance.

Please wear masks when dancing. Info: Valerie Fisher

Glenview's Hogmanay Dance

Cost: \$40 in advance from Valerie Fisher
Glenview Presbyterian Church,

1 Glenview Ave. (Note new location)

Welcome 2023 with a lively Hogmanay dance

to the music of Laird Brown and Donny Wood. <u>Program</u> Refreshments provided following the dance. Please wear masks when dancing.

Family Ceilidh

January 21, 2023 ~ Dancing from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., followed by a pizza dinner

Glenview Presbyterian Church – 1 Glenview Ave, Toronto

Cost – \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, up to a total of \$30 per family.

Join us for a fun afternoon of easy ceilidh and country dancing led by Keith Bark and Deirdre MacCuish Bark. The Family Ceilidh is a great opportunity to introduce friends, family members, and neighbours to the joy of Scottish country dancing!

No experience required.

West End Workshop

March 25 New location TBA

Save the Date! Plans are underway to hold the West End Workshop. The teacher from overseas is David Hall and our local teacher is Marion Hamilton.

Association Classes



All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto (beginners are excused until their 2nd term). The ten-week sessions are \$100.

Please make cheques payable to "RSCDS Toronto."

Classes Convenor: **Anne Bishop COVID** related policy in place.

Level 1 Beginner Classes: Dancers learn the five basic steps of Scottish country dance and a variety of formations. These elements are combined in learning simple dances that incorporate some of the various steps and formations taught.

Mondays at St. Leonard's Anglican Church* <a href="mailto: ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Pre-register and bring a **COVID ATTESTATION** to class.

Dates: Jan 9 to March 20, 2023 (no class Feb 20, Family Day)

Teacher: David Booz Class Rep: Cheryl Catt

Mondays at Alderwood Community Centre, Etobicoke * < map > (Meeting Room, Lots of free parking) ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Pre-register and bring a **COVID ATTESTATION** to class.

Dates: Jan 9 to March 20, 2023 (no class Feb 20, Family Day)

Teacher: Alma Smith **Email contact:** Tony Szeto

Thursdays at Eastminster United Church* <map>. ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m. (Gymnasium - enter east side doors, go downstairs and follow signs.)

Pre-register and bring a COVID ATTESTATION to class.

Dates: Jan 12 to March 16, 2023

Teacher: Keith Bark Class Rep: Anne Bishop

Level 2 Intermediate Classes: These classes build on steps and formations learned at the beginner level and introduce more complex formations. Dancers become more confident in their skills and abilities and enjoy the challenge of more complex dances.

Thursdays at Eastminster United Church* < map > ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m.

(Hurndale Room - enter east side door, go downstairs and follow signs) **Pre-register** and bring a **COVID ATTESTATION** to class.

Dates: Jan 12 to March 16, 2023 **Teacher:** Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Class Rep: Anne Bishop

* Location Addresses:

St Leonard's Anglican Church Hall, 25 Wanless Avenue (2 minutes north from Lawrence and Yonge subway station, east side)

Alderwood Community Centre, 2 Orianna Dr., Etobicoke, near Brown's Line and Horner Ave.

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue (2 minutes west from Chester subway station)



COUNTDOWN TO SPRING FLING 2023 **TORONTO:**

LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT **IDEA?**

As announced in last month's issue, Spring Fling/ Spring Fringe will be held in Midtown Toronto, at Glendon Campus of York University. All dance functions, as well as meals, banquet, and accommodation, will be on campus.

The May 26-28 event will comprise a Friday night welcome dance, regular classes Saturday morning and themed classes in the afternoon, a Saturday evening banquet and ball, and a combined class Sunday morning. The cost of the weekend includes accommodation and all meals, from Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast. Once registration opens, early bird rates will be available until February 15, 2023:

https://www.springfling2023.ca.

The Fling part of the event is for dancers aged



12-35. Do you know of a Flingage dancer who would love to attend the Toronto event, but doesn't have the resources to do so? If you're looking for that perfect Christmas gift for a young person who dances, consider gifting them the experience of dancing at the Toronto Fling.

Spring Fling/Spring Fringe 2023 Toronto is less than six

months, or 176 days, away. Christmas is even closer. So put on your St. Nicholas hat and make a young dancer's dream come true!

... Halyna Sydorenko

February Dance

Because the Tartan Ball will not take place in 2023, a monthly dance has been scheduled for February 18. The programme has been revised and will be published in the January issue of Set & Link and on the website.

The Flying Scotsman



The Flying Scotsman is a Scottish country dance named after "the major express passenger train service that has plied over the railway between London and Edinburgh since 1862". As part of its centenary the RSCDS requested branches to send in video of local dancers performing the dance in a scenic or locally distinctive setting to be edited by the RSCDS into a single version with a global flavour, to be displayed on RSCDS platforms and externally.

In Toronto a group of (mostly) younger dancers under the direction of Moira Korus gathered on a sunny late October afternoon in Garrison Park near Old Fort York to provide Toronto's contribution. Dancers included Gavin Keachie, Letitia Biagi, Kathleen Slemon, Max Fothergill, Kate Roytman, Nicholas Silver, Grace Silver, and Leo Roytman. The location allowed two cameras to capture the dancing with the iconic CN Tower visible in the background.

While raw video has been submitted to Scotland, Paul Barber will create an edited version of the dance that will be available on the website and can be used in promoting the Spring Fling to be held in Toronto May 26-28 2023.

Congratulations Erica...



Congratulations to
Erica de Gannes, who has
been elected to the RSCDS Youth Services
Committee in Scotland.

Our support of her nomination and voting has helped this along. Another positive step to building interest in SCD, with focus on young dancers.

Erica has been dancing for seven years. She has been the co-chair of our Youth

Committee since 2020 and is part of the group planning the 2023 Spring Fling. She dances at Glenview, maintains the Glenview website, and is working on becoming an instructor. We're extremely proud that Erica is now on the Youth Services Committee where she can work on sharing her ideas about the importance of young dancers to the future of SCD.

October Monthly Dance



Our first monthly dance of this new season was held in the new location in the gymnasium at the Havergal College Junior School on Roswell Avenue in the Lawrence and Avenue Road area.

Forty-four people, including three nonmembers, three students, and two spectators attended.

Scotch Mist with Laird Brown, Don Wood, and Warren Beesley provided lively music. For this occasion, they were

joined by Rowan (see page 5). The band was very happy with the ease of access to the facility.

Pat Coyle, the devisor of this year's programmes, briefed and related entertaining stories about the first six dances. Moira Korus and Tristan Gerrie each briefed three dances.

We are looking forward to seeing many more of our members at the December dance on Saturday, December 10.

...Max Fothergill Photos: Carolyn Watt





Scotch Mist with Laird Brown, Warren Beesley, Don Wood, and Rowan in the centre.



Rowan's Journey



The Toronto Branch was joined by a special guest at the end of October – Rowan! Rowan is the RSCDS Young Dancers mascot, and is travelling around the world to help celebrate the society's centenary.

Rowan had a busy week in Toronto, where he visited social groups, attended a monthly dance, and danced with our young adults class. A highlight of the trip was participating

in the Rosedale group's Halloween party, where Rowan even got into costume to help celebrate the occasion!

Before he arrived in Toronto, Rowan visited Scottish country dancers in Buenos Aires and Vancouver. After his time with us, he will travel on to San Francisco for the Asilomar Weekend. Rowan is hoping that his travel schedule will allow him to return to Toronto for our Spring Fling in 2023.

If you'd like to follow along with Rowan's journey, you can visit the RSCDS Young Dancers Facebook page and Instagram (@RSCDS_Young_dancers).)

Erica de Gannes and Tristan Gerrie Co-Chairs of the Toronto Association Youth Committee

Rowan with...



Back row Heather, Moira, Julie, Rhys, Gavin and Leo Front row, Molly, Seren, Anika, Kate and, of course, Rowan in the middle!









Arianna, Anna, Joshua, Gavin, Kate, Rowan, James, Lily, Anika, and Leo



We did a few Halloween dances that were based on Halloween stories at the start. Then we all took a picture with the Scottish sheep mascot named Rowan! He was holding a bowl full of candy and he was more than willing to share it with us at the end when we were leaving! We all had a wonderful time with Rowan the sheep!

Lily (10)

This Scottish dance was quite a feat, and our mighty sheep was quite a treat!
We did our lively dances for quite the time as we celebrated the scary time known as Halloween.









On Friday, October 29, Rowan was invited along with Moira Korus to do an hour of Ceilidh dancing at Grace Church on Jarvis Street for their youth party. The party was from 7-10 p.m. and included one hour of board games, one hour of Scottish ceilidh dancing, and one hour of karaoke. More than 100 young people between the ages of 20-35 were at the church and we had at least 70 participating for the hour of Scottish dancing. Leo and Kate Roytman came along to help out as no one in the hall had experienced Scottish country dancing before!

A chaotic, fun, and energetic hour ensued! The group got through Festival Interceltique, The Sewing Thread, The Military Two Step, The Kingston Flyer, and The Dashing White Sergeant!

Grace Notes



Pamela Finlay July 23, 1927-Sept. 26, 2022

Pam was born in Barbados and studied Occupational Therapy at the U of T. She was a gifted watercolourist specializing in botanicals, and she was a long-time supporter of the Donkey Society of Canada in Guelph. Pam, together with her late husband Jack, danced at St. Clement's Church with Grace Harris. We extend our

condolences to her family, especially Cameron, MaryEllen, and Meg, all of whom were Scottish country dancers.



May Ralston Aug. 8, 1934 – Oct. 7, 2022

May was born in Lanark, Scotland. After marrying, she and her husband Jimmy moved to Jamaica where May participated in Scottish country dancing and was member of the Royal Jamaica Yacht Club and the Caledonia Society. In 1991 May moved to Canada where she continued to dance, most recently with the Don Mills Group. She was proud to say she was Don Bartlett's mother-in-law. We extend our condolences

to Elizabeth, Don, and May's extended family. Obit



Douglas Smith 1932 - Nov 5, 2022

Douglas Smith was on the RSCDS Toronto executive for twelve years; he was Treasurer, and he served as Chair of the branch 1995-1997.

Douglas danced regularly at Midtown, Glenview, and Calvin social groups. He was a faithful dancer at Calvin since 1985 and stopped only because of the

pandemic. We extend our condolences to his son Marc.

Having a Ball



Bill Barber (Toronto) and Susan Gower (Goderich) enjoying a dance

I enjoyed my first ball in 2 ½ years at the Alpine Club in Kitchener. The Blair and Kitchener-Waterloo groups combined for an excellent evening with a great program including many familiar dances, lively music from Don

music from Don Bartlett with two fiddlers, and

infectious enthusiasm by dancers from London, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Chicago, and a good contingent from Toronto.

Looking forward to more balls here, including the West Toronto Ball on April 22. Such a wonderful experience.

...Ron Macnaughton

Anniversaries



As we celebrate RSCDS Toronto Association's 65th anniversary, with memories of Erin Mills' 50th not far removed (as well as the late Queen's platinum anniversary), we look forward to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's 100th party in 2023 (details TBA). And another anniversary of great significance for Scottish country dancing might also be remembered.

In August, 1822, King George IV visited Edinburgh, becoming the first reigning British monarch to visit Scotland in almost 200 years. Sir Walter Scott organized the jamboree and included tartan pageantry, with highland dress being highly recommended. Always the wizard of the word, Scott wrote a pamphlet, "Hints Addressed to the Inhabitants of Edinburgh, and Others, In Prospect of His Majesty's Visit. By an Old Citizen".

The king's arrival is often parodied by artists and cartoonists as he arrived in a ridiculously short Royal Stewart kilt (perhaps the origin of the mini skirt?) and pink tights. The wearing of the kilt had been proscribed following the 1745 Jacobite Rising, but the king's tartan attire signalled the re-emergence of tartan and the kilt as an acceptable part of Scottish heritage. Knees be praised!

Kilted Kulture Conference for Year of Stories 2022

Kilted Kulture presented four events throughout Year of Stories 2022. The last event takes place on Saturday, December 10 and focuses on **All Things Uniquely Scottish**.

The discussions will be presented by four speakers.

- Dr Nick Fiddes will discuss Tartan Scotland's Gift to the World
- Paula Duncan, a master kilt maker will present Kiltmaking as a Heritage Craft
- Carol Jackson, the founder of ELJ Drinks Ltd., which produces Ellis Gin will speak about Gin: Scotland's Newest Favourite Drink
- Chef Gary MacLean, Scotland's national chef will cook up something from Scotland's Larder

Register at: https://www.genealogyvic.com/event-5024890



A selection of Scottish items including kilts, jackets, and shoes is being offered for sale.

All good quality and reasonably priced. For further information contact Kathryn McCallum Pipes at kathryn@ccplus.ca

Ladies' kilt skirts available.

- two short McLeod (dress tartan, dance tartan) made by seamstress
- floor length Flower of Scotland with plaid (custom made Royal Mile)
- floor length McQueen with plaid. (Custom made Royal Mile)

Email KatheFerra@gmail.com for pics and sizes.

Sir James Walker Walker's Shortbread



Michael Noble with his good friend, Sir James Walker, chairman of Walkers Shortbread.

It was over a hundred years ago that the Walker family started making shortbread in the Speyside village of Aberlour. Joseph Walker founded the company when he opened his village bakery in 1898. Now it's his grandchildren and great grandchildren who continue the tradition.

Sir James Walker, grandson of founder, Joseph, and childhood friend of longtime Society member, Michael Noble, was knighted in recognition of his services to the food industry in the Queen's birthday honours list back in June. He was also recognized for bringing international success to a once small family business and for supporting both the local community and economy of Aberlour.

Today, Walkers exports to over 100 markets worldwide and is instantly recognisable as one of Scotland's greatest exports. A great success story!

From the *Tartan Thistle* - Nov 2022 (St Andrew's Society e-zine)



Upcoming Events: NEAR

Jan. 29 - Shiftin' Bobbins with Tony Seto (Richmond Hill)~ 2 to 4 p.m. Parish Hall, Grace Church on-the-Hill, 200 Lonsdale Rd. & Russell Hill Road. Easily accessed by TTC. Ample parking. Info: Shiftin Bobbins or contact Tristan Gerrie or Secretary



Mar. 25 – West End Workshop ~ Save the Date! Plans are underway to hold the West End Workshop. The teacher from overseas is David Hall and our local teacher is Marion Hamilton. At a new location this year to be named the near future. Keep watch for further details.

Apr. 22 - West Toronto Ball Returns ~ Please save the date. More information closer to the event.

May 26-28, 2023 – Spring Fling 2023 ~ at York University's Glendon Campus. This young-adult-oriented event is definitely a go! Teachers are Fiona Mackie (Scotland), Linda Henderson (USA), Gavin Keachie (Toronto). Music by Don Bartlett, Laird Brown, Donny Wood, and Mara Shea on fiddle (USA). More details to follow.

For up-to-date info on events near, visit dancescottish.ca





Check this link to the Scottish website for info about the centenary of RSCDS:

https://www.rscds.org/blog/rscds-centenary

Upcoming Events: FAR

Dec 28 - Jan 5 - New Zealand Summer School, **Auckland NZ** ~ A nine-day gathering of classes, socials, workshops, excursions and evening events. Learn, practise, improve, and broaden your dance and music skills. We especially welcome first-timers, and less experienced dancers. There are classes for all abilities. More info: Facebook page and website.

Feb 10 - 12 - Edmonton Caledonian Branch 51st Annual Workshop and Ball ~ At the beautiful Château Lacombe, Edmonton, Alberta. Teachers: Geoffrey Selling, Raphaëlle Orgeret, and Louise McGillivray. Musicians: Tartan Ties: (Judi Nicolson, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser-Collins, Fred Collins, and Mary Ross). Info and registration: edmontonballchair@gmail.com

Feb 19-24 ~ Winter School 2023, Pitlochry, Scotland ~ Attendees enjoy a 4-star stay in the Atholl Palace Hotel, with a range of classes, social dances, tours and, of course, the famous ball at Blair Castle. Info & updates

March 25 - RSCDS Centenary Ball, Edinburgh ~ Members from around the world are invited to join our Centenary celebrations at a special Ball hosted in Edinburgh's stunning Assembly Rooms. Places are limited so book early. Music will be provided by some of the best Scottish country dance musicians, and dancers will be able to move between the Ballroom and the Music Room throughout the evening to enjoy both Marian Anderson's Band and David Oswald's Band. Info and Registration: Centenary Ball Download: Ball programme

For other away events, visit: dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Far.html



TA's 65th Anniversary **RSCDS Toronto**

became a Branch in the fall of 1957.

Please send submissions to Set&Link by the 10th of each month. Send to Sheena Gilks sheena.gilks@gmail.com

> Scheduled Dates of **Board Meetings** 2022-2023 season

> > Dec. 5 Jan. 4 Feb. 6 Mar. 6 Apr. 5 May 16 June 19

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