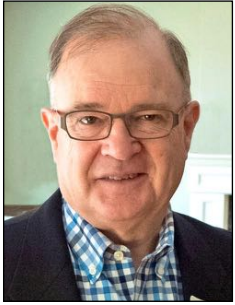


RSCDS Toronto SET & LINK

www.dancescottish.ca

From the Chair...



Paul Barber

As we restart dancing in social groups, and monthly dances in our new location at Havergal College, we find ourselves still dealing with the ongoing pressures of COVID-19. Masking and vaccination remain mandatory, although there are some who don't wish to dance if they must wear a mask. I can sympathize; I have a chronic respiratory condition (an allergy to dust) that further restricts breathing. On the other hand, we have many older dancers who have a legitimate fear of what a bout of COVID might bring. While we trust our members to keep their vaccinations up to date, the meaning of full vaccination depends on individual circumstances. (I recently had my fifth dose.) My daughter-in-law had her fourth dose in August but my son did not because he had previously had COVID. Following the illness, he was required to wait three months before becoming eligible for another shot. The executive committee is continually reviewing the circumstances of COVID with a view to eliminating restrictions as soon as possible consistent with good public health practices.

A book I read recently quoted a British historian, who described a previous post-pandemic period as characterized by "painful adjustment" and "demoralization". Finding our way back to a pre-pandemic normal is difficult: We are not planning to have a Tartan Ball this year and there is no Workshop, but being able to dance at all lifts the morale of all of us.

One of the sad pieces of news received this year by Scottish country dancers in Toronto was the Calvin Scottish Country Dance Group's decision to close after 60 years. Calvin had some money in the bank and generously donated this amount to the Toronto Association. They have expressed a wish that the funds be used to support Dancing in the Park, a request that will be respected. On behalf of all Toronto Scottish country dancers, I wish to thank the Calvin group for their donation and acknowledge their generosity.

... Paul Barber

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." –
Helen Keller

Erin Mills 50th Anniversary Dance and Social



With just one short of 60 attending, a very enjoyable evening of dancing and chatting was held on October 15.

The age range was from eleven months to over 90, with the youngest dancer being five years old. We had two families with three generations of dancers and others who had not danced for several years. One ex-dancer was from as far away as Vancouver! Several dancers were from the Erin Mills class taught by Jean Hamilton on Fridays with Gordon as her "music man".

The evening started with general social gathering and some comments on how young people looked in the photographs and



videos. One young dancer proudly announced he had seen his Grandmother in a video and pointed it out to others near him. After a group photograph, dancing started with *Festival Interceltique* to the music of Laird Brown and Donny Wood.

Almost everybody was up for this dance. We continued with two more audience participation dances before dancing *Glen Erin Jig* devised by Wes Clindinning, the founder of the Erin Mills Group. Wes' daughter Sharon then cut the anniversary cake and we had a further social break with refreshments. This was followed by



one more audience participation dance and three dances associated with the Erin Mills group and the evening finished with *The Dashing White Sergeant*.

It was hard to call an end to the evening because people were still dancing and talking. As people were leaving, some asked if we were going to organize another event!

... Keith and Deirdre MacCuish Bark



December Family Christmas Dance

This year's programme was devised by Pat Coyle.



Saturday, December 10

Havergal College Junior School, 460 Rosewell Ave. [<map>](#)

(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: Scotch Mist

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

[2022-December-cribs.pdf](#)

COVID Policy in effect.

Lamb Skinnit	J 8x32	RSCDS Book 14
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
Round Reel of Eight	R 1x88	RSCDS Book 2
Kendall's Hornpipe	J 6x32	RSCDS Book of Graded SCD
Glasgow Country Dance	Med 8x(S16+R16)	RSCDS Book 23
Mrs MacLeod	R 8x32	RSCDS Book 6

Joie de Vivre	J 8x32	RSCDS Book 39
Spirit of the Dance	S 8x32	TAC 50th Anniversary
The Triumph	R 4x24	RSCDS Book 1
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J 8x32	RSCDS Book 22
The Paisley Weavers	S 3x32	RSCDS 3rd Graded Book
Crom Allt	R 8x32	RSCDS 3rd Graded Book

Extra

Ha! Ha! The Woin' O' It	R 6 x 32	RSCDS MMM
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Members: \$27; non-Members: \$32; Young Adult Member (18-34): \$10;
Youth Associate Member (<18) and Spectators: \$5

Monthly Dances are SCENT FREE.

COVID Policy

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

1. 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. Refreshments provided

following the dance. Please wear masks when dancing.

Info: v.fisher@sympatico.ca

Glenview's Hogmanay Dance



Saturday, December 31 ~ 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Cost: \$40 in advance from Valerie

Fisher

v.fisher@sympatico.ca

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. 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.

Grace Notes



Barry Pipes
September 26, 2022

Barry Pipes danced with Petronella and other groups, hosted several Gala Days, and performed in the Seniors Jubilee, famously singing "Go Home With Bonnie Jean". He also wrote the popular "What's In A Name?" column in *Set&Link*.

Those columns have been assembled in a flip book, which can be viewed at [What's In A Name? Barry Pipes' 100 Dance Tales](#). In May 2005, Carole Skinner devised the dance [Sir Barry Pipes](#). In her dedication she wrote, "The title of Sir is not official, but as far as I am concerned it is well earned and well deserved. In Barry's job as Chairman of the Petronella group he has often been my knight in shining armour. He has dedicated himself to the smooth running and the organization of the group. Barry is officially retiring his position as Chairman, but I have a feeling that Petronella will have the benefit of his expertise for a long time to come." Condolences to Kathryn, and sons Martin, Tim, and Stephen.. [<Obit>](#)



We got letters...

RE: Remembering Barry Pipes

I am sad to learn another dancer has left us. Like many, I enjoyed Barry Pipes' "What's in a Name?" column. I remember Barry from a few White Heather Balls in the Oshawa area, but I first met him at one of my early West Toronto Balls. I was in a set with Barry when his Sgian Dubh caught my nylons. After making contact, the dagger ended up spinning on the floor. Meanwhile, my nylons ended up "running away".

Fun memories from the dance floor.

Fond memories of Barry.

... Halyna Sydorenko

Barry used to do recitations often between dances to let us get our breath back. His party piece was *The Lion and Albert* where, of course, he had the dialect down pat. I think years ago it was done by Stanley Holloway.

... Muriel Nicoll



Barry with the Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers at the Seniors Jubilee. The photo was taken August 19, 2005 at Roy Thompson Hall. L-R: Forbes Duncan, Donald Holmes, John Kennedy, Mairwen Thornley, Donald Horner, Stewart Bennett, Barry Pipes

Photo by Ian White



COUNTDOWN TO SPRING FLING 2023 TORONTO:

JIGSAW PUZZLE FILLING IN NICELY

This month, on behalf of the Spring Fling Toronto Committee, I am delighted to announce that the three main components of Spring Fling/Spring Fringe – teachers, musicians, and venues – are all falling into place. The dance venue is the last missing piece of the puzzle, but after more than a couple of hiccups, our Fling/Fringe jigsaw puzzle is filling in nicely.

We will host the event, both dancing and accommodation, at York University's Glendon Campus, located just north of Sunnybrook Hospital. Dancers will take their lead from Fiona Mackie (Scotland), Linda Henderson (USA), and Toronto's own,



Fiona Mackie



Gavin Keachie



Linda Henderson

Fling-age teacher, Gavin Keachie. And they will dance to the music of our own Don Bartlett, Laird Brown and Donny Wood, and also Mara Shea on fiddle (USA).

Our event website is due to go live mid-November, but for now, we have the following placeholder:

<https://www.springfling2023.ca>.

Our Committee thanks the RSCDS TA for sponsoring the Saturday banquet at the Spring Fling/Spring Fringe weekend. For anyone looking to sponsor any part of the event, please contact Fling Treasurer Linda Steggles at

lindafsteggles@gmail.com

The countdown to Spring Fling/Spring Fringe Toronto continues at a good, marching pace and as we enter November, we have 206 days to go!

... Halyna Sydorenko



“Volun-tiering”: It takes you to a whole new level!



What comes to mind when you think about SCD and what you love about it?

Monthly dances with live music? The camaraderie of Association classes? The satisfaction of performing formations well, of painting a moving picture of shapes, cooperation, phrasing, of arriving “just in time”, as taught in your social groups? Dressing up for and attending grand balls? Is it receiving your *Set & Link* and tucking in with delight? Hopefully it’s not just the refreshments!

When I first began attending monthly dances and balls, I was awed by the sense of community and the shared joy evidenced by smiles, eye contact, and gracious acknowledgement of partners with bows and curtsies. However, I also just went and enjoyed the evening and applauded along with everyone else, not realizing the effort that went into organizing, planning, and running an event, whether it is a social group class, a workshop, a monthly dance, or Dancing in the Park.

No matter what your feelings are about dancing, there is a common thread...people. This is, after all, social dancing. As is aptly stated in the title of one of Ann Campbell’s dances in *Who’s Who in Toronto, I Cannot Dance Alone*. * How true, Zoom dancing excepted.

The people connection goes further: As a not-for-profit (NFP) organization, none of our activities can take place without the gift of volunteers.

Again, it was Ann Campbell who stepped in to sort me out about this, inviting me to join the Tartan Ball Committee that she was chairing at the time. And, thus, my eyes were opened and my commitment to contributing to SCD through volunteering was established.

In March 2020, many of us thought we would be shut down for a couple of weeks! We all know how that played out. Still, work went on behind the scenes: The dedicated *Set & Link* committee kept us in touch with engaging articles, the website was maintained, and Scotland and some GTA social groups Zoomed along to keep us dancing and connected with dancers from far and wide.

This fall, we are returning to a fuller schedule of in-person social group dancing, monthly dances, and Association classes. We hope to infect new dancers with this most beneficial bug that is SCD.

We all know, I hope, that SCD has many benefits for our physical and mental health (1). Its social nature and the music also contribute to our well-being. It reduces stress and anxiety (unless you haven’t studied the dances ahead of time!) and may positively influence cognitive function through its benefits on neuroplasticity (2).

Ditto for volunteerism, especially for older adults (3, 4).

Since both SCD and volunteering are highly beneficial to our health, re-introducing both into our lives will have a synergistic and powerful effect on our well-being. However, it is sensible that we take steps to re-introduce dancing and volunteering carefully and thoughtfully. Let’s understand that the pandemic has impacted us all in different ways, listen to and respect what dancers consider an acceptable risk level, and acknowledge that we are all juggling our own priorities. Indeed, this process will be challenging, requiring flexibility, creativity, and patience, but I am confident we can come back in time.

If in-person volunteering doesn’t suit you, you can still contribute on-line, by email, phone, or Zoom. Or think long-term, so we can once again host a Toronto Workshop, which takes time to organize.

For those of you who are ready to emerge from the chrysalis and just need a nudge, please reach out to me, especially if you have some creative ideas to rejuvenate SCD activities or are willing to take on a role, without being asked! See the [Volunteer Page](#) for additional info, contact details, and my pre-pandemic photo!

While SCD may be a minor entity in the current scheme of the world, I hope reading this will re-ignite your enthusiasm to get involved.

Dancers are our volunteers — they go hand in hand!

... Arlene Koteff, Vice Chair

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?” – Martin Luther King, Jr.



John McCrae: *In Flanders Fields*

John McCrae, soldier, physician, and poet was born November 30, 1872 in Guelph, Ontario the descendant of Scottish Immigrants. He received his bachelor’s degree (1894) and medical degree (1898) from the

University of Toronto. While a student, McCrae published poetry in several Canadian and British publications and later co-authored *A Text-book of Pathology for Students of Medicine*.

After serving in the South African War he took up further studies at McGill followed by a distinguished medical career.

When Britain declared war against Germany on August 4, 1914, John McCrae was en route to England by ship to take a rare holiday. Upon his arrival he rushed to offer his services to the army. He was 41 years old. He was offered a position as a Medical Officer in the 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

At the Second Battle of Ypres, the horrific death of his 22-year-old friend and fellow McGill graduate, Lt. Alexis Hannum Helmer deeply affected him. The next morning, May 3, 1915 McCrae wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields*.

By January 1918, McCrae had provided medical care for troops for more than three years. He was appointed to be consultant physician to the First British Army — the first Canadian to be named to that role. However, before he could assume that position, on January 28, 1918, McCrae died of pneumonia and meningitis at the age of 45. He was buried the next day in the Wimereux Communal Cemetery with full military honours while the nurses found some poppies, despite the season, to put on his grave.

From [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

All that Glitters IS Gold



Scottish country dances are like teleporters – they can transport us backwards or forwards into history, reminding us of old friends, places, events, and stories; and they can introduce us to the unfamiliar. Blair Gerrie, in his Tuesday morning and evening classes at Westview, often uses his programme to produce an interesting and amusing teleporting experience. Consider, for example, the upcoming 100th Anniversary of King Tut's discovery on November 26, 1922.

In his diary, Howard Carter, who unearthed Tutankhamun's tomb, wrote: "At first I could see nothing... as my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues and gold – everywhere the glint of gold."

Blair's Speculative King Tut Programme includes:

• *Once Upon a Time* (G. Collin) • *A Trip to Egypt* • *By Paddlewheel Steamer Down the Nile* • *On the Blue Nile* • *King Tut* (triangular set) • *The Golden Boy* • *Centenary Reel* • *One Hundred Years* • *Sands of Egypt* • *The Little Treasure* • *Alice the Camel* • *Burning Sands*, and a yet-unpublished dance Blair recently devised: • *The Pyramids of Giza*.

The Pyramids of Giza is inscribed: "For fellow Toronto teacher, Teresa Lockhart, who requested a dance to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of King Tutankhamun, the 'boy Pharaoh', in 1922. Pyramidal shapes and the hustle and bustle of building the structures (3 couple rights and lefts) can be found in the dance."

Perhaps, in honour of the new King Charles, we might also dance in memory of little King Tut. Dances once again moving us in time and space.

Another dance connection with ancient and modern history: Downton Abbey was filmed at Highclere Castle, seat of Lord Carnarvon who funded Howard Carter's archeological explorations in Egypt. Decades later, a butler discovered miscellaneous Egyptian treasures hidden in the

walls of the estate, including a headless statuette of King Tut.

A penpal, Yuko Kondo, is a Scottish country dance teacher in Japan and is married to an Egyptologist. When he was a visiting fellow at University of Liverpool, he attended a special conference on Tutankhamen at Highclere Castle in 1990. Dr. Kiro Kondo had been in Egypt, reclearing the tomb discovered by Howard Carter. In the tomb debris, he found the head of a statuette of Tutankhamen and he brought it to the conference. Amazingly, the artifact was a perfect match to the headless statuette discovered by the diligent butler. Of course, her husband gave a talk at the conference.

- If you wish a merry take on ancient Egyptian dance, see [Sand Dance](#), 1934 (Egyptianish).

The Set & Link Committee is Hot on the Trail of Fascinating Things Scottish!

In addition to the regular information bulletins we publish, our hope is to fill the pages with news of recent events as we slowly, but surely, slip step and pas de basque into the 2022-2023 season.

We'd love to hear your memories, interesting facts, anecdotes about 'this and that' - in fact, anything to help inform and entertain our Scottish country dancing community.

Please forward submissions to sheena.gilks@gmail.com and if possible by the 10th of the month. I look forward to hearing from you.

In the meantime, wishing everyone a season of delightful dancing!

... Sheena Gilks,
Communications



Upcoming Events: NEAR

Nov. 19– November Monthly Dance~ at Havergal College Junior School, 460 Rosewell Avenue, Toronto. Parking is off Rosewell Ave. Enter door from parking lot.

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.

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 and far, visit
dancescottish.ca

Shiftin' Bobbins (not-affiliated with RSCDS

Toronto -- for Intermediate and Advanced dancers)

"Shiftin' Bobbins" meets one Sunday afternoon a month in central Toronto. Each session a different guest MC features dances not often seen elsewhere for those already comfortable with the more complex RSCDS formations and able to participate with minimal instruction. **Masks are optional.**

Dates 2022: • Nov 27 with Valerie Harris (Hamilton & Florida) Non-members \$15 at the door. First-time visit free.

Dates 2023: Jan 19, Feb 26, Mar 26, Apr 30. MCs TBA
\$45 Membership or \$15 at the door per session. First-time visit free.

Contact

shiftinbobbins@gmail.com or tristan.gerrie@gmail.com or
Jon.Allen-Friend



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

<https://www.rscds.org/bloq/rscds-centenary>

Upcoming Events: FAR

Nov 5 – Kitchener-Waterloo Blair Ball ~ Celebrating 100 years of dancing in Waterloo Region. This celebratory Ball is co-sponsored by RSCDS Kitchener-Waterloo Branch (established 1960), and Blair Scottish Country Dancers (established 1980). Combine those legacies and we can celebrate 100 years of dancing. Come join us, and dance to the music of Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs on a sprung wood floor at the Alpine Club in Kitchener. Info: [Kathryn Lecocq](mailto:Kathryn.Lecocq@waterlooregion.ca) 519.572-2741

[Brochure & programme](#)

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 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

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

TA's 65th Anniversary
RSCDS Toronto became a Branch in the fall of 1957.

Scheduled Dates of Board Meetings 2022-2023 season

Nov. 7 Dec. 5

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

RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

Chair: Paul Barber 416.534-0516 paulbarber48@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: Arlene Koteff 416.272-7217 amkot978@gmail.com
Secretary: Fiona Alberti 416.483-2213 fiona@alberti.ca
Treasurer: Wendy Fulton 416.951-5029 wbfulton@hotmail.com
Program: Laurie McConachie 416.567-0010 laurie-m@rogers.com
Membership: Carol Ann Boothby
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



RSCDS Toronto
c/o Secretary
647B Mt. Pleasant Rd.
Toronto ON M4S 2N2

Webmaster: Rob Lockhart 416.759-9845
Newsletter Committee:
Sheena Gilks 647.390-1076
Claire Steep
Wendy Tamminen
Marian White 416.781-7795
Judy Williams 416.924-3658



TA-TAC Representative:
Nigel Keenan
nigel.keenan@yahoo.co.uk

robblockhart@rogers.com
sheena.gilks@gmail.com
csteep772@gmail.com
wendy.tamminen@sympatico.ca
marianwh26@gmail.com
junit@pathcom.com