

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The new format for the newsletter is absolutely splendid. Our promotional logo flows right into the new name, as though they were meant for each other. And for the first time you don't have to look at the names under a photograph to try and decide if you really know the persons portrayed. The blue printing is really quite attractive and more importantly, legible. Our congratulations to Christine Bowers, our Communications Director, and her daughter Joanna who are temporarily editing the newsletter, and to Rob Lockhart for the fine printing job.

The Society presented ten Scrolls of Honour this year, and Canadians received two of these. You will find elsewhere in the newsletter articles on our two recipients. The Society's scroll is only awarded to a limited number of people and is given for outstanding services. These include outstanding service and loyalty to the Society; for maintaining the aims of preserving the standards and traditions of Scottish Country Dancing; and for encouraging in others the knowledge and enjoyment of Scotland's heritage of dance and music. Georgina Finlay and Bobby Brown exemplify these characteristics, and the Toronto Association is delighted to be able to recognize them as our Guests of Honour at this year's Tartan Ball. Why don't you plan on being there on February 19th and join us in celebrating the stellar contributions of these two great ambassadors of Scottish Country Dancing?

*Steve*

## The Tartan Ball Guests of Honour



*Odessa Fraser presents the scroll to Bobby at the Kingston ceremony*

Robert Watt Brown, fondly called Bobby by his family and friends, arrived in Dennyloanhead near Falkirk, Scotland in 1941.

It is not surprising that this musical genius would emerge from his early family life. His mother, Jean Day, was a popular Scottish entertainer in the 1940's and 50's, singing at clan gatherings, mods and in variety concerts. His father was a fiddler and several of his uncles were pipers and drummers. Uncle John Day formed one of the early dance bands, consisting of hammer dulcimer, piano, bass, drums, trumpet, fiddles and saxophone.

As youngster Bobby could play the piano, but it was not until he went to Canada that he became an accordionist, mainly self taught. He was never able to accompany his mother at any of her concerts, but he did provide the musical accompaniment for his sisters Christine Scott and Jean Anderson, who joined him in Canada. Christine sang for many years on TV and stage and Jean was a marvellous Scottish Country Dance teacher and leader of the Jean Anderson Dancers of Toronto.

Our scroll of honour recipient emigrated to Canada at the age of 16 and



*Georgina Finlay with her scroll at the AGM in Perth*

spent some time working in a Winnipeg department store then moving east as general sales manager of a Toronto based company. He divided his time between music and business. Bobby joined Stan Hamilton's Band in the late 50's, Stan's band being one of the first Scottish dance bands of note in Canada, and he remained with the band for 18 years, having decided to become a full time musician in 1973.

It was at this time, that Bobby, always a fiddle enthusiast, working a lot with fiddlers, playing the piano and producing albums for them, formed the Cape Breton Symphony acting as it's leader and arranger.

In the late 70's he also formed The Scottish Accent Band. The recordings and live appearances of his band has enabled Scottish Country Dancing to flourish, not only in Canada but in America, the UK, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and in fact world wide.

The association of Bobby with the Teacher's Association of Canada is well known. He not only plays for the Summer School classes but helps in the production of CD's by other musicians such as Stan Hamilton, Bobby Frew, Donald Bartlett, Ed Brydie and Etienne Ozorak of the ▶

## Continued from front page

Music Makars.

He has held many workshops in conjunction with various branches to encourage and instruct musicians in the playing of Scottish Country Dance music.

The nomination for the award of the Scroll of Honour was made by the Kingston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and was presented to him at a grand dinner and ball in Kingston on November 6, 2004.

Bobby is a worthy recipient.

We have all experienced the euphoria of dancing to the music of The Scottish Accent. Someone once said, "Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing". Bobby makes *us* happy, let's all show our appreciation at the Tartan Ball.

By David Grant

When I first met Georgina Finlay, I had only been dancing for a year and was pretty green. A friend suggested I might enjoy dancing with this group of young people, so I went along to check them out. The first time I went, the evening wasn't half over before Georgina asked me to dance in a demonstration two days later. I gulped, but agreed to dance for her. The other dancers dragged me through the demo, including a number of complex dances I didn't know (MacDonald of Sleat!). It was terrifying, but I recovered, because since then I have danced in hundreds of demonstrations with the Finlay Dancers.

Georgina has that effect on people. She creates an environment where the dancers are having a super time while still learning about dancing, and they want to come back for more.

Georgina knows a lot about dancing. Although she got her Teacher's Certificate in 1959 she has never stopped learning. She goes to Summer School at St. Andrews every year and carefully learns the new dances so she can share them with us. She knows all of the old dances too, and is happy to provide helpful suggestions on how to dance or teach them. She is an excellent briefer, which we appreciate when we are not

quite as prepared as we would like to be.

Georgina knows a lot about teaching. She started teaching children in 1960 and has never stopped. There are a lot of "her" dancers out there – you can recognize them by their Pas de Bas. When the children grew up, she started her Young Adult demonstration group, which has kept a lot of young people dancing who might have otherwise drifted away from SCD. The group provides a great social scene – many people have met partners through the Finlay Dancers. Many of her dancers, with a great deal of help and support from Georgina, have gone on to get their own Teacher's Certificates. The Young Adults group is still going, though we sure stretch the definition of "young".

Georgina knows a lot about running a demonstration team. It is hard work to set up a demonstration, put together a team, and make all the arrangements. She must have sewn hundreds of costumes over the years – I still have one of her peasant shirts in my closet. She can never resist a camera, and has arranged for the team to dance several times on TV and in movies. She has organized many trips for the Finlay Dancers - I have been to Florida twice and to Scotland with her. I just had to show up with my kilt (oh, yes, and drive one of the three white Town Cars on one of the Florida trips – we looked like Scottish pimps!).

Most especially, Georgina knows a lot about being a good friend. Most of the SCD community has enjoyed the Finlay's fine hospitality, with delicious food and drink and friendly, interesting people in a warm environment. They even let us raid the refrigerator in St. Andrews after an all-night flight and no breakfast.

Georgina Finlay has done a huge amount for Scottish Country Dancing. She is a fine friend to dancing and dancers throughout the world. I know that everyone shares the delight I felt when I learned she had been awarded the Scroll of Honour. Congratulations, Georgina.

By David Booz

# Meet the Board of Directors

Margaret Rieger  
Treasurer

Once attempted, the desire to Scottish country dance never leaves you. In Grade 9, at Rosemount High School in Montreal, Miss Gow, our History/English teacher from Scotland, started a SCD club and although it didn't last, the rudiments of the Skip Change of Step and the Pas de Basque had been sown. Years later as a retirement pact with Heinz, I agreed to take up golf if he would try SCD, to build up our repertoire of activities to be enjoyed together for the next 40 or so years. We heard of a course being given at the Haliburton School of the Arts by Maggie and Duncan Keppie during the summer.

That was eight years ago. Since then, we have enjoyed many wonderful classes, dances and warm, social gatherings among friends around the world. We've been at Summer School in St. Andrews, Scotland and Christchurch, New Zealand; have done workshops in Vienna and Budapest as well as Toronto, Hamilton and Kingston.

In between our travels, Ron Bell persuaded me to run for the Executive four years ago, a chance to learn more about the inner workings of the Toronto Association and the Society. As Treasurer and Member of the Executive Committee, I am concerned with all matters financial from accurate record keeping and money management, to setting up an annual budget, to arranging for the annual audit and giving the annual report of our financial state at the AGM. To assist me, the Finance Committee reviews all financial statements, helps to formulate policy dealing with money matters and generally provides more varied opinion and insight.

## Tartan Ball 2005

If you haven't got your ticket yet, bring your registration form and cheque to the February Monthly Dance and Colin Gardiner will be happy to exchange them for tickets. If you need a registration form, you will find them on our website or you can contact me. Georgina Finlay is holding practices on Wednesday, February 9 and Wednesday, February 16, at Weston Presbyterian Church, 11 Cross Street, starting at 7.30 p.m. If you wish to display your shield, please bring it to the February monthly dance, or to the Concert Hall at The Royal York by 10:00 a.m. on February 19th. If you are not attending the Ball, please come and view from the balcony. It might change your mind for next year. Dancing starts at 9:00 p.m.

Ann Campbell 905-459-5213 [acampbell@idirect.com](mailto:acampbell@idirect.com)

# Upcoming Events

---

## NEAR

FEBRUARY 5, 2005, RSCDS Ottawa Annual Workshop. Teachers are Colleen Putt, Halifax, NS; Phyllis MacCulloch, Ottawa, ON; Eileen Black, Ottawa, ON. Contact Harry MacKay, 191 Dunbarton Court, Ottawa ON K1K 4L7.

FEBRUARY 12, 2005, South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers Valentine Workshop & Afternoon Social Dance, Alliston, ON. Teachers are Maureen Richardson, Nobleton, ON and Moira Korus, Toronto, ON. Register by February 4th. Contact Pat Asada 905-478-2085 or Grace Graham 705-435-3689.

MARCH 4-6, 2005, Belleville Scottish Country Dancers Workshop and Ball. Teachers are James Kutzner, FL and Mary Murray, Vancouver, BC. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Bill and Jan Cunningham 613-965-4212 or Michael and Linda McCarey 613-967-1827; [lmccarey@bel.auracom.com](mailto:lmccarey@bel.auracom.com).

MARCH 19, 2005, West End Workshop and Tea Dance at Streetsville Secondary School. Teachers are Jean Martin, UK; Claire Collier, Lewiston, NJ; Deirdre McCuish Bark, Mississauga, ON. Youth teachers are Carole Skinner and Alma Smith. Cost is \$40 including lunch, \$25 for youth and \$10 for afternoon tea dance. Contact Brien and Ishbel Thompson 905-826-7842.

MARCH 26, 2005, Blair Scottish Country Dancers 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, Cambridge, ON. Music by Don Bartlett and the Scottish Heirs. Cost is \$55. Contact Betty Peloquin, 2005 Roseville Road, RR2, Cambridge.

APRIL 23, 2005, RSCDS Toronto Association Annual General Meeting at Crescent School, at approximately 9:00 p.m. (during the interval between dances).

APRIL 23, 2005, Ottawa Spring Ball. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Dancers \$75 and Non-dancers \$50 includes Friday Pre-ball Social and Sunday Brunch. Contact John & Barbara Bottreil 613-836-2305; [johnbarb@magma.ca](mailto:johnbarb@magma.ca).

MAY 7, 2005, The first Toronto Association Youth Ball for dancers aged 10 to 20 at Newtonbrook United Church, Yonge St. and Cummer Av. Reception, dinner and dancing. Cost \$20. Contact Fiona Philip 905-785-8983.

MAY 14, 2005, West Toronto Ball at Ramses Temple, 3100 Keele St., Toronto. Reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 (catered by Occasions), dancing 8:30-12:30. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Dances will be briefed, but not walked. Contact Julie Hatch 905-844-9964; [julie.hatch@cogeco.ca](mailto:julie.hatch@cogeco.ca).

JULY 16, 2005, The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra is playing at The Hummingbird Centre, Toronto. Visit [www.hummingbirdcentre.com](http://www.hummingbirdcentre.com) or call 416-872-2262. Group rates and booking available at 416-393-7463.

## FAR

MARCH 4-6, 2005, RSCDS Winnipeg Branch 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Weekend Workshop and Ball, Winnipeg, MB. Teachers are Anne Harrison, Oakville, ON and Duncan MacKenzie, Vancouver, BC. Class musicians are Ron Krug and Ken Natrass. Music for the ball by Scotch Measure. Contact Christine Wallace 204-832-3187; [jeanhigh@mts.net](mailto:jeanhigh@mts.net).

MARCH 11-12, 2005, Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers Spring Fling, Cocoa Beach, Florida. Teachers are Keith and Deirdre Bark, Mississauga, ON. Contact Alma & James Kutzner 321-255-2756; [jkutzner@earthlink.net](mailto:jkutzner@earthlink.net).

MARCH 11-13, 2005, Vancouver Island SCDS 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop & Ball Weekend, Victoria, BC. Teachers are Jim Adamson, Calgary, AB; Barbara Johnston, Edmonton, AB; Maureen Lyon, White Rock, BC. Music for the Ceilidh, classes, ball and Sunday social by the Christine Baker Trio. Visit [www.viscds.ca](http://www.viscds.ca) link "Spring Ball" or email [rpbalfour@shaw.ca](mailto:rpbalfour@shaw.ca)

APRIL 1-3, 2005, The Edinburgh Spring Fling, 16-35 Youth Easter School. Payment and application form must be submitted by March 11, 2005. Contact [suzannerscds@btconnect.com](mailto:suzannerscds@btconnect.com); [www.rscds.org/youth/easter](http://www.rscds.org/youth/easter).

MAY 13-16, 2005, Budapest Scottish Dance Club International Weekend Course, Budapest, Hungary. Teacher is Linda Gaul. Music by Robert Mackay, piano and Dave Cunningham and his SCD Band. Optional tourist program available. Contact in Toronto, Lisa Mitchell 416-699-2480; [ldmitchell@sympatico.ca](mailto:ldmitchell@sympatico.ca)

MAY 14, 2005, the inaugural Thistle Ball, sponsored jointly by Victoria, Seattle and Vancouver at Squamish Nation Recreation Centre, North Vancouver. Music by Marian Anderson and Her band, from Scotland. Cost is \$45. Further information to follow.

MAY 20-22, 2005, New York Branch Pawling Weekend, Hopewell Junction, NY. Teachers are Elaine Brunken, MD; Muriel Johnstone, TX; John Wilkenson, Scotland. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Music for beginner class by Jim Stevenson. Visit [www.rscdsnewyork.org](http://www.rscdsnewyork.org).

JUNE 3-5, 2005, RSCDS Montreal Branch Weekend Workshop at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC. Teachers are Stella Fogg, Richmond, VA; Ian Paterson, Georgetown, ON; Elinor Vandergrift, Kenmore, WA. Dance and reception music by Laura Risk & friends. Gala dance music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Peter White 514-488-2509; [scdmtl@yahoo.com](mailto:scdmtl@yahoo.com); [www.scdmontreal.org](http://www.scdmontreal.org).

JUNE 25, 2005, San Francisco Branch 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Featuring U.S. debut of Green Ginger. Contact [greg@reznickfamily.com](mailto:greg@reznickfamily.com) or visit November issue of Reel and Strathspeyer at [www.rscds-sf.org/RandS/RandS\\_Nov\\_2004.pdf](http://www.rscds-sf.org/RandS/RandS_Nov_2004.pdf).

JULY 16, 2005, White Rose Festival of Scottish Country Dancing, Leeds, England. Contact Donald Andrews, [donald@hbandrews.snet.co.uk](mailto:donald@hbandrews.snet.co.uk).

JULY 18-AUGUST 14, 2005, The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland. You may attend for one week or any two weeks as a resident or non-resident. Booking forms and deposit must be submitted by March 1, 2005 and can be obtained from Brenda Hurst 416-925-6982; [brenhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:brenhurst@hotmail.com).

JULY 31-AUGUST, 2005, TAC Summer School, Shawningan Lake, BC. Teachers are David Hall, Brussels; Elaine Brunken, Laurel, ML; and Mary Murray, Vancouver, BC. Musicians are Muriel Johnstone, Houston, TX; Keith Smith, Cambridge, UK; Alex Jappy, Delta, BC; Ron Krug, Winnipeg, MB. Contact registrar Anne MacLeod 250-752-5864; [annetacreg@yahoo.ca](mailto:annetacreg@yahoo.ca).

*If you have an event that you would like to post here, contact Christine Bowers, Communications Director.*



## March Beginners' Night Monthly Dance

**Date:** Saturday, March 12, 2005  
**Time:** 8:00 pm  
**Place:** Crescent School  
 2365 Bayview Ave  
**Music:** Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent  
**Hosts:** Newtonbrook, St. Andrew's Whitby, Nobelton  
*Please note that Crescent School has a no nut policy*

Linton Ploughman	J 6x32	Bk 5/6
Lady Glasgow	S 8x32	MMM I
The De'il Amang the Tailors	R 8x32	Bk 14/7
Collichur	J 8x32	Bk 30/1
Monymusk	S 8x32	Bk 11/2
The Highland Lass	R 8x32	Bk 30/3
INTERVAL		
Airyhall Delight	J 8x32	Bk 40/3
Sandy O'er the Lea	S 6x32	MMM II
+The Highland Rambler	R 8x40	Goldring
Tarry a While	J 6x32	Graded 20
Balquidder Strathspey	S 8x32	Bk 24/2
+Shiftin' Bobbins	R 8x32	Clowes
EXTRAS		
Ways in New Hall	R 8x32	Bk 42/7
The Frisky	J 8x32	Bk 26/10
Grant's Reel	S 6x32	Bk 14/2
+ Non-RSCDS		



3555 Don Mills Road  
 Box 1709  
 Toronto ON M2H 3N3 Canada  
 416-410-7078  
 www.rscdstoronto.org

### 2004-2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHAIR:**  
**Steve Coombs**  
 905-639-3534  
 From Toronto dial 905-337-7000 at  
 the dial tone, dial the top number  
 shcoombs@cogeco.ca  
**VICE CHAIR :**  
**Ian Paterson**  
 905-877-5694  
 ianpat@cogeco.ca  
**SECRETARY:**  
**Brenda Hurst**  
 416-925-6982  
 brenhurst@hotmail.com  
**TREASURER:**  
**Margaret Rieger**  
 416-485-7308  
 hrieger@sympatico.ca  
**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:**  
**Jane Robinson**  
 416-463-5016  
 janer1@sympatico.ca  
**PROGRAM DIRECTOR:**  
**Lisa Mitchell**  
 416-699-2480  
 ldmitchell@sympatico.ca  
**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:**  
**Christine Bowers**  
 416-481-3975  
 cbowers@sympatico.ca  
**DIRECTOR AT LARGE -**  
**VOLUNTEERS:**  
**Don Large**  
 905-884-9480  
 dlarge@sympatico.ca  
**DIRECTOR AT LARGE -**  
**FUND RAISING:**  
**Colin Campbell**  
 416-960-1836  
 ccampbell@dwvpv.com

The Toronto Association Youth Ball Organizing Committee is in need of people to help set up/decorate from about 2-4pm and another group to help serve and clear dinner from 5-7pm. If you or anyone you know (not necessarily dancers) would like to help, please contact Fiona Philip at 905-785-8983.

The Toronto Association Youth Committee will be hosting the first

## Toronto Youth Ball

**When:**  
 Saturday, May 7th, 2005 for dancers 10-20+ years of age.  
**Where:**  
 Newtonbrook United Church.  
 Reception at 5pm, followed by dinner at 5:30pm and dancing from 7:00pm until 9:30pm.  
**Cost:**  
 \$20 per dancer.  
 For information and tickets contact Fiona Phillip at 905-785-8983.

## don't forget...

- Tartan Ball Practices: Wednesday, February 9 & Wednesday, February 16, at 7.30 pm
- Deadline for March Newsletter: February 15<sup>th</sup>
- April Monthly Dance: April 9, 2005

### 36th Annual West Toronto Ball

On May 14 2005, the Ball will be held at Rameses Shrine Temple. Some term this event "The Beginner's Ball" but there is also lots of challenge for experienced dancers. Dances will be briefed, but not walked. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. For tickets contact : Julie Hatch 905-844-9964 or julie.hatch@cogeco.ca

### CORRECTIONS...

In the photo caption on the front page of the January 2005 newsletter, the name of Carole Bell was omitted. Our apologies. The host groups for the February Monthly Dance are Erin Mills, Glenview and Bloorlea.