

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the new face of the Toronto Association newsletter. **SET & LINK** received the largest number of votes from the interested membership, and will be our brand-new title. The physical size has changed to make it easier for mailing purposes, and we have introduced full colour. The software now in use is Adobe InDesign which combines extraordinary production power and creative freedom to take page design to a new level. This package was purchased with part of those funds from the Trillium grant that were specifically designated for publicity and promotion. With the new software, and with the use of colour, we now have the opportunity to present top grade photographs in our monthly publications. This month's issue is the beginning of a new era in RSCDS Toronto Association publicity and promotion.

As I write this message, a fine weekend of dancing has just passed. There was a great workshop on Saturday morning, entitled Dances with a Difference, with over seventy people in attendance. In the evening we held our annual Family Night at which there were 212 attendees, the highest number for any of our monthly dances for the last four years.

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, we will already be into 2005. Let me reiterate my wish at the end of last month's issue (because part was left out).

Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath ur (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year).

Steve

RSCDS AGM 2004 By Keith and Deirdre Bark



The Toronto Delegation: Keith and Deirdre Bark, Ron Bell, Heinz and Margaret Rieger

Once again Deirdre and I included going to the Society AGM as part of our vacation in Britain. This was our fourth time at a Society AGM and consequently we met up with many regulars. Also in attendance were Ron and Carole Bell, Margaret and Heinz Rieger, and of course Georgina Finlay.

The AGM weekend started with a Ball on the Friday evening at which there were 720 dancers in attendance from all over the world. Alistair Wood and his band led us through the evening. Quite a sight to see 90 sets on the floor, with space for many more.

Saturday morning was occupied by presentations and discussions. The first was the Branch Forum at which branches discussed the topics of their choice with a view to recommendations being followed up by the Society. The session was jointly hosted by Toronto and Boston branches this year, with yours truly being the chairman, and Deirdre and Evelyn Murray, Boston, being the minute keepers. The topics discussed were:

1. Teaching Aids - The society has published a video, CD and booklet on teaching children. Some branches/groups have published videos aimed

at teaching adults both technique and new dances. These are considered quite useful in remote areas. Should the Society either produce their own videos or promote and endorse the videos produced by branches? There was strong support for the first with many branches expressing benefitting from the various videos currently available.

2. Promotional Material - What should the Society do and provide to promote awareness of itself and Scottish County Dancing globally? At present it appears as if branches, especially overseas, are left to promote the Society using their own funds. Greater promotion of itself by the Society may lead to a reduction in the continuing question of what members get for their membership. Most branches felt that it would not be necessary for the Society to produce all the promotional material, but thought that the Society should offer, either on the Web, through CD or paper, material that branches could use and customize for their area.

3. Membership Categories - There has been discussion at past AGMs about the introduction of different levels of membership. With the continuing decline in membership numbers, something needs to be done. Is there

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still an interest in different levels of membership? It was concluded that the issue was more the decline in numbers rather than membership categories and further discussion was recommended.

Following the Branch Forum was a presentation on the new examination structure. It gives a lot more flexibility and choices to teacher candidates and will be introduced next Spring and at Summer School in St. Andrews.

The final discussion was on the possibility of forming more Teacher Associations. Many good things were said about TAC (Teachers' Association, Canada) which was the model they wanted to adopt. They also wanted different recognition for all TA's by the Society. At the present time, TAC is considered a pseudo-branch, but without full branch status as its members are all members of other branches.

The afternoon was filled by the formal AGM which was chaired by the Earl of Mansfield. One of the exciting parts of the AGM is the presentation by the Earl of the Scroll of Honour and Georgina Finlay was one of this year's honoured recipients. Bobby Brown, another recipient, could not be present

The Tartan Ball

Christmas and New Year are over, the decorations are down, the presents are put away and everyone is getting back into the daily routine, but we still have the Tartan Ball to look forward to! The Ball is only weeks away, on Saturday, February 19, 2005, at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Tickets are \$85 for RSCDS members and \$100 for non-members. There are ticket order forms available on our website www.rscdstoronto.org or you can contact me directly. Mail your ticket order directly to:

Colin Gardiner
2522 Selord Court
Mississauga, ON
L5J 1P7

You will also be able to buy tickets at the January and February monthly dances. Please make cheques payable to RSCDS Toronto Association and for Association members, please include your membership number.

but his achievements and support of dancing were read out.

The rest of the AGM was regular business with the only motions being voted on were for new membership categories. One offering a lower fee for under 25's was passed, but one offering a lower fee for second and subsequent members in the same household was rejected.

The Saturday evening was filled with another dance. This had even more dancers present, 740 in all dancing to the music of Iain MacPhail and his band. Another great evening!

Sunday morning saw further discussions. Deirdre and I attended the discussions on youth activities where Deirdre gathered many notes and contacts for use in our youth activities here in Toronto.

Each year we go thinking this will be our last AGM, but then enjoy it so much that we come away telling everybody that we will be back again. It is enjoyable and you make many new friends.

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. Please call Georgina at 416-244-6874 for more information.

A reminder to Social Groups who wish to display their shields at the Ball to please bring your shields to either the January or February monthly dance, and I would appreciate your carrying it to my car for me!

Ann Campbell
905-459-5213
acampbell@idirect.com

February Monthly Dance

DATE: Saturday, February 12, 2005
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Crescent School,
2365 Bayview Ave
MUSIC: Bobby Brown and
The Scottish Accent
HOSTS: Hillcrest, Trinity, Petronella
Please note that Crescent School has a no nut policy.

The Jubilee Jig J 8x32 Leaflet 19

* Miss Milligan's S 8x32 Leaflet 20
Strathspey

* St. Andrew's of R 4x32 Bk 37/5
Brampton

It's Just for Fun J 8x32 Bk 33/6

+ The Jubilee S 8x32 Drewry
Greeting

+ Netherby Hall J 6 x 32 Drewry

INTERVAL

The Laird of J 8x32 Bk 22/10
Milton's Daughter

+ Bonnie StronshirayS 8x32 Campbell

Johnnies's R 8x40 Bk 32/1
Welcome Home

The Starry-Eyed J 8x32 Bk 23/11
Lassie

Fair Donald S 8X32 Bk 29/4

*+ Bratach Bana R 8x32 Drewry

EXTRAS

The Sailor H 8x32 Bk 24/2

Up in the Air S 8x32 Bk 20/2

Scottish Reform J 8x32 Bk 3/1

*Tartan Ball + Non-RSCDS

Rose Elsie Winch (nee Blake)

October 29, 1911 - November 14, 2004.

About 28 years ago, three sisters, Flo, Rose and Milly, known as the "Dolly Sisters", began dancing at Parkview Secondary School under the tutelage of Jean Noble. For the last four years, Rose lived in The Heritage Nursing Home. Flo Ward died in England March 6, 2001. Rose is survived by the last of nine siblings, Milly McConnell, who still dances at the Fallingbrook and Tayside Scottish Country Dance Groups ~Dianne Lask

Upcoming Events

NEAR

JANUARY 22, 2005, ASTA's Annual Burns Night at Clarke Hall, Mississauga. An elegant evening of music, dancing, poetry, singing plus a traditional Burns Night Dinner. Contact Maureen McLeod 905-855-2377 or Helen Ferguson 416-244-9538.

JANUARY 28-30, 2005, Ardbrae Ball Weekend, Ottawa. Welcome Dance, Ball, Sunday Brunch, Cross Country Skiing. Music for Ball by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Elaine Hoag 613-729-6198; elaine.hoag@lac-bac.gc.ca.

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

FEBRUARY 19, 2005, Tartan Ball at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Ann Campbell 905-459-5213; acampbell@idirect.com. Ticket order form on www.rscdstoronto.org.

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.

MARCH 19, 2005, West End Workshop and Tea Dance at Streetsville Secondary School. Teachers are Jean Martin, UK; Claire Collier, Lewiston, NJ; and Deirdre McCuish Bark, Mississauga. 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 25th Anniversary Ball at The Pines, Cambridge. Music by Don Bartlett and the Scottish Heirs. Cost is \$55. Contact Betty Peloquin, 2005 Roseville Road, RR2, Cambridge.

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.

MAY 14, 2005, West Toronto Ball at Ramses Temple, Toronto. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Julie Hatch 905-844-9964; julie.hatch@cogeco.ca.

FAR

FEBRUARY 12, 2005, RSCDS San Francisco Branch 39th Annual Valentine's Ball, Oakland, CA. Music by Fiddlesticks and Ivory. Includes sherry social, grand march and midnight buffet. Contact Art 650-365-5574; artdiver@aol.com or Julee 650-722-0473; julm-hcs@pacbell.net.

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2005, Aloha Winter Workshop, RSCDS Hawaii Branch, in Honolulu. Teacher is Jack Raines. Cost is \$125 U.S. Contact Melissa Lindsay, 981 Aalapapa Dr, Kailua, Hawaii, 96734; mlindsay@hawaii.rr.com.

MARCH 4-6, 2005, RSCDS Winnipeg Branch 34th 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.

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

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

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

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.

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; www.scdmontreal.org.

JUNE 25, 2005, San Francisco Branch 40th Anniversary Gala Featuring U.S. debut of Green Ginger. Contact greg@reznickfamily.com or visit November issue of Reel and Strathspeyer at 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.senet.co.uk.

JULY 18-AUGUST 14, 2005, The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland. The school will run for 1 week courses which dancers may attend as resident or non-residents for just one week or any two consecutive weeks. Booking forms are available at the beginning of each year from the Society headquarters 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF; telephone 0131 25 3854.

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

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

Volunteer News

One of the treats of the dance season is a new event such as the most recent "Dances with a Difference Workshop" with Duncan Keppie (Wolfville). This event came about because a group of dancers had an idea and then made it happen. This is exactly the spirit of the new RSCDS-TA structure, volunteers creating something new for the organization. Full marks go to all involved! The organizing committee was Jim and Kathy Armstrong, Morag MacIntosh, MarieTherese O'Hagan, Margaret Rieger and Jill Smith. Those doing technical support were Gordon S Hamilton, Steve Coombs, John Holmberg and Don Large. The refreshments team was comprised of Marilyn Cooper, Senga Gray, Sandra Heggie, Evelyn Holmberg, Elizabeth Hannah, and Jean Noble.

It was Lisa Mitchell, our Program Director, who brought the Toronto Association's support to the Keppie team. Do you have an idea worth pursuing? Then put together a plan and take it to Lisa.

Now turning a new page, we would like to extend a hearty thanks to Jill Smith, retiring as editor of our newsletter. Job well done Jill and her volunteer team!

Don't hesitate to offer your help to our volunteer-driven organization. Do something that you like and make a difference.

~The Volunteer Committee

Wanna be an editor?

Now that Jill Smith has retired, we are in serious need of an editor for our newsletter! You do need to have some computer skills, an eye for detail and know how to spell. So if you have an interest in the job, please contact Christine Bowers

Lost and Found...

An oval wicker basket measuring 14 1/2" x 18 1/2" x 4" with handles was left at the December Monthly Dance. If you are missing this, please contact Dianne D. Lask at 416-751-4850 or diannelask@rogers.com.

Association Classes

Classes start again in January so come join us ! Call Carole Bell at 416-221-1201 or the teacher of the class you are interested in.

LEVEL 1

SWANSEA TOWN HALL - Starts 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 5, 2005.
David Booz 416-806-2669

EASTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH - Starts 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 6, 2005. Colin Philip 905-785-8983

LEVEL 2

EASTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH - Starts 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 6, 2005. Kathleen Kynoch 905-731-3236

LEVEL 3

SWANSEA TOWN HALL - Starts 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 6, 2005.
Keith & Deirdre Bark 905-822-1707

The Name Game

We've started the new year with a new look and a new name.

SET & LINK was the suggestion of **TERESA KOWALCZYK**.

She receives two tickets to a monthly dance of her choice. Our thanks to all who submitted names and all who took the time to vote.

don't forget...

- January Monthly Dance: January 8, 2005
- Deadline for February Newsletter: January 15, 2005.



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