

Chair's Message



The dancing community has had a busy month.

The West Toronto Workshop was sold out – always nice to see. The Festival of Dance was well

attended and enjoyed by participants and spectators alike. Many thanks go to the Special Events committee who have outdone themselves this year. In addition, we have had two monthly dances in April followed by the AGM.

Our youth have also been well provided for. The proceeds from the Ceilidh were used to help individuals attend the Youth Weekend East at Trent University. The Woodglen Tea proceeds also go to Youth, to provide music for the Youth Ball. Once again both sittings of the tea were sold out at what has become a spring ritual. We thank the Woodglen Group for all their hard work.

The Youth Ball, April 19, was another successful evening with the youth decked out in their finery, and enjoying dinner, followed by dancing to Don Bartlett and The Scottish Heirs. *Thank you!* to the Youth Committee, their helpers, and the teachers who prepared the young dancers.

April 26 was our AGM. The major item of discussion was the fee increase, which passed. Volunteer Certificates were presented to Teresa Lockhart, Isabelle MacPherson, Theresa Malek and Brenda Nunes for their many contributions to their social groups and to the TA as a whole. We value these people very much, and are glad of the opportunity to recognize them.

I wish to thank Gordon S. Hamilton, who is stepping down, for his work on the Board these past few years. (He wouldn't agree to make it a second stint of 9 years!) Our new Social Group Liaison Director is Tom Clark. Many thanks to the entire Board for making the Toronto Association run so well.

Sandy

Riverdale Reminiscences

... Sandy Bain

Riverdale demo at the Hamilton Ball, March 1956



Riverdale, one of Toronto's earliest Scottish Country Dance groups, was founded in 1955 with excellent instruction, good music, sociability, advertising, and demonstrations. Alec Hay from Forres, Morayshire, Scotland, accompanied by Jack Geddes and Alex MacGregor, who later became teachers at Riverdale and Calvin, respectively, started the Riverdale Group at Playter's Hall near Danforth and Broadview avenues. Having been advertised in Toronto newspapers, the class grew rapidly because of the evening's popularity in both dancing and instruction. For seven years, this group enjoyed live music from Dave Muir, a fiddler formerly with Tim Wright's Scottish Country Dance Band in Edinburgh, and Lena McCaffrey and Bobby Bruce on piano. The Riverdale class became Riverdale Group in 1957 with Bob Smith of Scarborough as its Chairman.

Following Alec Hay's departure to New Zealand, five teachers instructed the class: Eddie MacDonald (1956-1957), Jack Geddes (1958-1959), and from 1960-1961,

a team taught by three newly certified teachers: Sandy Bain, Pierre Bastien, and Ian Rodgers.

Eddie MacDonald formed the Riverdale demonstration team in 1956 at the prompting of Scottish tenor Douglas Campbell, who invited the team to join him in a Scottish Concert at Niagara Falls. The inaugural dancers were Audrey Appleton, Elizabeth Head, Jessie Jack, Noreen MacLennan, Sandy Bain, Jack Geddes, Eddie MacDonald, and Alex MacGregor. At the Hamilton Branch Ball (Royal Connaught Hotel in 1957), the team demonstrated *Gates of Edinburgh* and *The Bob O'Dowally*. A highlight was a live performance of *The Eightsome Reel* on *Country Hoedown* with King Gannam. Television was relatively new at that time.

At the invitation of Douglas and Lillian Campbell, and under the leadership of Jack Geddes, they held practices each Sunday afternoon at the Campbell's home in East York. Other group members who participated in demonstrations include Les Banks, [▶ Please see *Riverdale*, page 2]



Sandy Bain

Dancing in the Park

Date: Tuesdays, May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24
Time: 7 p.m. - Dusk
Place: Edwards Gardens / Toronto Botanical Garden
 Lawrence Ave. E at Leslie. Free parking.
Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent
 Program can be downloaded from the RSCDS website.

Dancing in the Park is wonderful fun and a great recruiting opportunity. However, it costs about \$800 per night for the park and the music. If all participants give a donation of \$5 it will help us to break even — and the tradition will continue.



► Riverdale— Continued from Page 1

Pierre Bastien, John Christie, Tom Cunningham, Bunty Dougal, Willie Hynd, Jean Larimer, Betty Leeson, Guy Morton, Iona Ross, Elinor Scott, Keith Sinclair, Helen and Louis Smith, Beatrice Webster, and Hughina Wilson.

The Team remained active until 1961, performing in Toronto Senior Citizen Homes, hospitals, Scottish concerts, Glasgow and District Club dances, Daughters of Scotland meetings, Masonic dinners, Folk Festivals (Mariposa), and Society Monthly dances. May Mitchell taught the class in the final year of its existence until its dénouement in 1962 when the hall at St. Thomas' Anglican Church became unavailable and a goodly number of the Riverdale dancers lived in Scarborough and opted to dance at the newly formed group in their own part of the city.

... Sandy Bain



1: Christine Scott. 2: Betty Leeson. 3: Bunty Carruthers 4: Hughina Wilson. 5: Sandy Bain. 6: Noreen MacLennan. 7: John Moss. 8: Elinor Scott Winfield. 9: Willie Hynd.

Special Dance Events

Various Social Groups would like you to join them for special events planned for the wind-down of the season.

St. Clement's 'Prep-school'

Monday, May 5 @ 6:30 p.m.

Perhaps, as a beginner, you wonder whether you could cope at a ball. This event will give everyone a chance to 'try their wings'. We'll do a brief-and-walk run through of the West Toronto Ball dances (programme on the website). This 'prep-school' is informal, and meant for fun and practice. Come along and build your confidence and skills. At Bishop Strachan School (a genuine prep-school!) 298 Lonsdale Road. \$5 at the door. Lots of free parking. Light refreshments at the interval. Dancing begins at 6:30. Scent-free, please. Contact Teresa Lockhart (416) 759-9845.

Hillcrest Beginners' Night

Tuesday, May 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Hillcrest dancers are a friendly lot and we want to share the joy of the dance with Beginners. This will be a special evening of easy-but-fun dances from the Dancing In The Park programme. Hillcrest regulars will be on hand to provide plenty of strong and cheerful partners. There will be nibbles and juice at the interval. 7 - 10 p.m. at Toronto French School at Lawrence and Bayview. Parking off Lawrence. \$5 at the door. Contact Jean Noble 416-449-8070. The program is available from the RSCDS website.

Glenview Spring Dance

Wednesday, May 14 @ 8:00 p.m.

Glenview Scottish Dancers will close the season with their ever-popular Spring Dance — from 8-10:30 p.m. Dancers will enjoy the music of Bobby & Laird Brown, and sample delightful tasty treats. An event not to be missed!

Tickets at the door \$20. For information and cribs contact Jon 416-483-1541, or glenviewscd@gmail.com or visit www.glenviewscd.org.

Erin Mills Ladies' Night

Friday, June 6 @ 8:00 p.m.

Why not end the season with the Erin Mills Group at Cooksville United Church, 8.00 p.m. on June 6, 2008, and enjoy "Ladies' Night" with music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent? Tickets \$18 available from the Hamiltons, 905-566-9599.

Highlands of Durham Tea Dance

Sunday, June 22 @ 2:00 p.m.

Come to the Highlands for a strawberry cream tea and dance at Utica Hall, Port Perry, \$10 includes strawberry cream tea. Contact Marjorie Mason, 905-649-3532, mmason@bellnet.ca, or Stewart Bennett, 905-985-6573, tartanshop@on.aibn.com.

Convenor Corner

Monthly Dance: Forbes Duncan



Although I was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, it took almost sixty years for me to be introduced to Scottish Country Dancing, and

like many others, I wish it had been sooner. My wife, Marie, had been dancing for a few months when she talked me into attending the Toronto Workshop. The following January, I started Branch Classes and I am now officially hooked.

Thanks to Scottish Country Dancing, I have made many new friends and have been introduced to a wonderful social involvement.

I have been the Monthly Dance Convenor for the last two years and it has certainly been an interesting experience. I encourage more dancers to attend these dances. We have wonderful live music, great program-mess, a good facility, scrumptious snacks, and free parking.

Toronto Blue Jays



Dance at Rogers Centre

July 8, 2008

The Toronto Association is participating in a Scottish Night at the ballgame at the Rogers Centre. We will feature the dances of Scotland, the singing of the National Anthem by a Scottish tenor, and we will be joined by a Pipe Band, possibly the 48th Highlanders.

This is a great opportunity to introduce a large audience to our favourite past-time. Add your name to a sign-up sheet ASAP. Contact: Ian Paterson, 416-346-9628, ianpat@cogeco.ca

Irene Bennett: What has brought us together?

What has brought us together tonight? Our love of dancing and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Without the RSCDS there would be no Scottish Country Dancing as we know it. Founded in 1923, the Society led the revival of country dancing in Scotland and this then spread around the world. The society needs your continuing support to preserve and promote our dancing for present and future generations.

What does this support do? It enables the RSCDS to:

- Publish books, music, recordings and our magazine [Scottish Country Dancer].
- Develop the network of Branches throughout the world.
- Define and develop standards.
- Train teachers.
- Appoint examiners to ensure teachers achieve the required standards.
- Encourage schools to provide training in dance and music for all ability levels.

All these things involve organization which costs money.

At the Society's AGM in 1969, Miss Milligan said people were apt to forget why the Society was formed: it was so that people could dance for pleasure. The spirit of good fellowship should be present on all social occasions.

I have attended many Branch anniversaries during this past year — 50th, 60th, 70th, 75th and 80th. I would like to think that ten, twenty, thirty years from now dancers will still be gathering for an event like this. However, this requires loyalty and commitment. I hope we feel it is our duty to provide future generations with the experience we have so much enjoyed.

Congratulations RSCDS Toronto on the last 50 years and here's to the next.



Irene Bennett, Chair of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Edinburgh, shared these remarks at the 45th Tartan Ball, February 16, 2008.

Monthly Dance Reports

Forbes Duncan reports: – Attendance at our April 12th, dance was 104. Alicia Tarasick won the Trivia Question. Music was by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. We held a make-up Beginner's Dance on April 17th, for the cancelled March Dance and even though it was on a Thursday, 88 attended. Alex Armstrong won the Trivia Question. Music was by Bobby and Laird Brown.

The AGM Dance was well attended and we managed to get through most of the programme in addition to the meeting. Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs performed. The Trivia Question was won by Valerie Fisher while Wendy Loberg won a free registration to the "Over 30s" class at the Youth Weekend.

As Monthly Dance Convenor, I want to thank all the teachers who briefed at the dances, the Host Groups who supplied refreshments throughout the season and

Jean Hamilton who put the programme together for our Anniversary year.

A special *Thank you!* to the core group of dedicated dancers who faithfully attended the Monthly Dances. If we want to continue having monthly dances with live music we need more of them.

Rest up over the next 4 months and we will see you in September.

Jane Robinson reports: – At the AGM we raffled off several wonderful prizes, including a wonderful painting by Paddy-Ann McHaffie, *The Scottish Teddy Bears' Picnic*, donated by Marguerite Agnew. The painting was won by Anne Burgess. George Lourie donated a beautiful wooden, briefcase, won by Barry Pipes. The Blue Jays Organization donated 3 pairs of Blue Jays tickets, won by Mike Taylor, Muriel Nicoll and Ena Crampsey.

We are very grateful to these donors.



The Rev'd. Robert Walker Skating . . .

** Recently, a controversy has arisen suggesting that this famous canvas was actually painted by a Frenchman, Henri-Pierre Danloux, who happened to be visiting Edinburgh in the 1790s. Perish the thought!*

WHAT'S IN A NAME? *The Minister On The Loch*

The next time you are in Edinburgh, the National Gallery of Scotland is always worth a visit. There, you will find a number of the works of Sir Henry Raeburn (1756-1823), a well-known Scottish artist. Sir Henry was accomplished in the field of portraiture and in this period of the Scottish Enlightenment painted a host of Edinburgh notables, including Sir Walter Scott.

Possibly his most famous oil painting (an attribution controversy exists!*) is said to be that of *The Reverend Robert Walker, Skating Upon Duddingston Loch*. The Rev'd. Walker ministered over Canongate Kirk (no Cadger he!). Also a member of the Edinburgh Skating Society, he had learned to skate on Holland's frozen canals while his father was the minister of the Scots Kirk in Rotterdam.

I'm not sure whether SCD devisor Roy Goldring owned a print of this work, as many of us do. However, it seemed to give him the inspiration to craft a beautiful strathspey entitled *The Minister on the Loch*, a very lovely dance that will be on the programme of the West Toronto Ball on May 10.

. . . Barry Pipes

Last month, my outline about The Duke of Atholl's Reel suggested I did not know to which Duke the dance referred. I've since learned the 9th Duke was President of the Scottish Country Dance Society (not quite Royal at that time) from 1924 to 1957. He's probably the man! B.P.



Duddingston Loch is a bird sanctuary near Holyrood Park, Edinburgh. Besides being a popular skating place, it is also the cradle of curling.

Volunteer Awards

Congratulations, and *Thank you!* to the winners of this season's Volunteer Awards. We are an organization that continues to thrive because our volunteers are willing to dig in and help out. Some go the extra mile and undertake important projects, or lend time and talents to an extraordinary degree. These four were recognized at the AGM. Chair Jane articulated an impressive list of contributions and participation for each honoree.



Teresa Lockhart



Isabelle MacPherson



Theresa Malek



Brenda Nunes

When you fill out your Membership Form for the new season, be sure to tick-off, or write in the areas in which you have time and talents to contribute.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY TEA

Woodglen's popular Scottish Country Tea sold out again this year and raised funds to pay for live music at the Youth Ball. At right, Al Pollard offers tea to Margaret Anne Hunter and Eleanor Reyes. Patrons at the 1pm sitting were entertained by young dancers from Woodglen (shown). Rosedale Children's group performed at the 3pm sitting.





Anniversary Mementos

There's still time to get these 50th Anniversary Mementos. Please call Jane Robinson, 416-463-5016

- Padfolio \$12
- Water Bottle \$ 7
- Small Teddy Bear \$ 3
- Large Teddy Bear \$20
- Magnetic Pins \$ 4
- Address Book \$ 1
- 50th Anniversary Book \$10
- Golden Ghillies (Dance Book) \$12
- Cook Book \$10
- Umbrellas \$20

Chef is Back in the Kitchen!

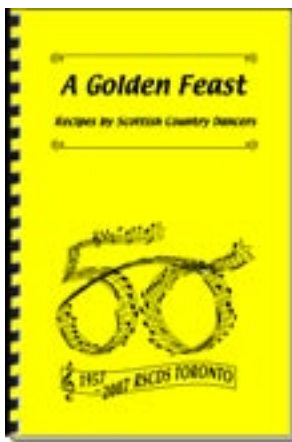
50th Anniversary Cookbook Reordered



Our wee chef has returned. By popular demand, 100 more copies of the popular cookbook have been re-ordered. This is a second chance to get one

for yourself or to give it as a gift. Those of us who have been treated to delicacies from A Golden Feast at committee meetings and events can vouch for the excellent quality of the recipes — well, after all, one does work up a wee bit of an appetite Scottish Country Dancing!

Order from
Theresa
Malek (416)
535-4447 or
theresamalek
@rogers.com



Teacher Candidate Classes

Teacher Candidate Classes start in the autumn of 2008. Contact the Tutor, Jean Noble, to express your interest and for more information. 416- 449-8070.



Cairngorm Scottish Imports

A custom kilt or kilt skirt, courtesy Darren Purse.
www.kiltscanada.com



CD collection signed by the musicians, courtesy Bobby Brown, Don Bartlett, Fred Moyes, and Teachers Association of Canada (who also donated two \$50 Gifts for TAC Sound)



Dinner for two at this cosy pub near Bloor & Bedford.



Return airfare to Scotland
Courtesy CEO Hugh Boyle.

Passport Program Notes:- Dancers, there are still opportunities to attend events through the summer. You can submit more than one Passport book so keep collecting. Blank passports are available from Teresa Lockhart [Teresa-K@canoemail.com 416 759-9845].

All completed passports must be submitted to Teresa by August 31, 2008.

Stooges needed for Teacher Candidate Exams

At University of Waterloo, August 10-15, 2008

Each year, in association with TAC* Summer School, Teacher Candidates strive for their Preliminary or Full Certificates. The TCs cannot 'show their stuff' without students to work with. These volunteer students are called, with more gratitude and respect than the term implies: "Stooges". Stooges are essential. We cannot have the exams without you. Please come along and stooge for a day or part of day. You will enjoy some excellent teaching and dancing. All dancers in this area are invited.

There is opportunity to attend some of the Summer School evening entertainment on that day free of charge. There are many good restaurants in the area or you can arrange to eat in the Summer School cafeteria.

Dates required: Practice days: August 10, 11, 12 (and, possibly, from August 4-9)
Exam Days: August 13, 14, 15 (and, possibly, August 16)
[days begin at 9 a.m. and go 'til 6 p.m.]

If interested: Contact Deirdre Bark 905-822-1707 barkd@rogers.com

* TAC = Teachers Association of Canada

Upcoming events: NEAR

MAY 10. **West Toronto Ball**, at Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele Street. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Dances briefed, but not walked. Contact Anna Rielly 519-927-5502 trielly@rogers.com

MAY 13. **Beginners' Night at Hillcrest**. 7-10 p.m. at the Toronto French School, Lawrence at Bayview Ave. \$5 at the door. See page 2.

MAY 14. **Glenview's Spring Dance**, at Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Ave. from 8-10:30 p.m. Live music. See page 2.

MAY 24-26. **Scotland at Carassauga**. Support your heritage at Carassauga by volunteering or attending. Presented by A.S.T.A. at the Rivergrove Community Centre, Streetsville. Scottish Food, Tartan Beer and Malt Scotch, Milton Pipes & Drums, Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent, RSCDS Demo Team and much more ongoing entertainment. Contact Margaret Shortt 905-257-0941 or Mari Thompson 416-417-9449.

JUNE 6. **Erin Mills "Ladies' Night"** at Cooksville United Church, 8.00 p.m. See page 2.

JUNE 22. **The Highlands of Durham SCD** group's tea and dance at the Utica Hall in Port Perry, 2 p.m. \$10 includes strawberry cream tea. Contact Marjorie Mason, 905-649-3532, mmason@bellnet.ca, or Stewart Bennett, 905-985-6573, tartanshop@on.aibn.com.

JULY 8. **Blue Jays' Scottish Heritage Night**. Join the St Andrew's Society, CASSOC, the 48th Highlanders, and other Scottish groups, including Highland dancers for Blue Jays' Scottish Night. Contact: Ian Paterson, 416 346-9628, ianpat@cogeco.ca (see Page 3).

Oct 24. **Ceilidh Dance**, St. Leonard's Church. Details to follow. Note change of date.

Upcoming events: FAR

MAY 7. **Hamilton Gala Night** 7:30 p.m. at MacNab Presbyterian Church, 116 MacNab St., S., Hamilton. Group Demonstrations and some social dances. Come and watch or bring your dancing shoes Refreshments. Adults \$2, Children free. Contact Cate Reid, 905-332-2049.

MAY 16-18. **Pawling Weekend**. New York Branch holds its 45th Annual Spring (Pawling) Weekend at Circle Lodge, Hopewell Junction, NY. Info at www.rscdsnewyork.org

MAY 23-24. **24th Stoney Lake Weekend** with the Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society at The Irwin Inn, Stoney Lake. Guest teacher: Marie Ziccarelli. Music by Fred Moyes. Information: www.pscds-on.org

Membership Forms

Membership Forms will be available at Dancing in the Park and will be included with your September Set & Link. A strong Membership is vital to the continuation of Scottish Country Dancing. Be sure to renew, and encourage other dancers in your Social Group to join.

MAY 31. **RSCDS Montreal Branch Annual Ball Weekend** at Sarto-Desnoyers Community Centre, Dorval. Information: <http://www.scdmontreal.org/> or ball@scdmontreal.org

JUNE 7. **Banks o' Couchiching Scottish Ball**. Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 34, Orillia. Tickets \$35. Contact Gary Maidlow, 705-756-2067 edmund@idirect.com or Linda/Jason Argent 705-487-5866, largent@jcl-tech.com

JUNE 14. **Georgetown Highland Games** at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. Dancers wanted to participate in mass demo. Assemble near the main field at 11:00 a.m. for a practice of the 3 dances. Some free admission passes available. Information: Nora Sutherland, 905-276-2602, nora.sutherland@rogers.com

JUNE 14. **Kitchener-Waterloo Crystal Ball** at The Walper Hotel Crystal Ballroom, Kitchener, Ontario. Tickets, \$70 for dancers and \$50 non-dancers. See www.RSCDSToronto.org/What's On. JULY 7-11. **Haliburton Summer School** at the Haliburton School of The Arts. Beginner, intermediate, or advanced level of skill. Instructors: Maggie & Duncan Keppie. Course followed by annual Highland Games. Info at www.HaliburtonSchoolofTheArts.ca or call 866-353-6464.

JULY 20 - AUG. 17. **RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews, Scotland**. Contact Brenda Hurst at brenhurst@hotmail.com or 416-925-6982. Summer School applications at www.rscds.org AUG. 10-17. **36th TAC Summer School** at Wilfrid Laurier Univ., Waterloo. Brochure & Registration Form on the TAC website www.tac-rscds.org. Registrar: Teresa Lockhart (416) 759-9845 or Teresa-K@canoemail.com

OCT. 3-5. **Ottawa Valley Dance Scottish Weekend 2008** at Ashbury College, Rockcliffe. Information: www.ottawadancescottish.org or info@ottawadancescottish.org

OCT. 3-5. **RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch Workshop** at Manitou Beach, SK. Modern hotel and spa. Combined class at Danceland with its unique horsehair/wood floor. Complete info at www.rscdssaskatchewan.org

DEC. 28 - JAN. 5, 2009. **New Zealand Branch Summer School**, Christchurch, NZ. Information: www.rscdsnz.org.nz or contact Doug Mills at doug.mills@rscdsnz.org.nz



www.rscdstoronto.org

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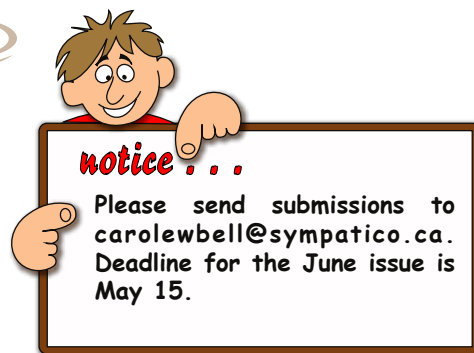
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In 1928, on a visit to Edinburgh, author H.V. Morton heard children in the street, playing a game. They would hide an object behind their back and sing out:

*Nieve, nievie, nievie, nick-nack
Which hand will ye tak'?'
Tak' the right, tak' the wrang,
I'll beguile ye if I can.*



notice . . .

Please send submissions to carolewbell@sympatico.ca.
Deadline for the June issue is May 15.