

Chair's Message



March 14 was another excellent Beginners' Night. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening, and that our newer dancers felt welcome and included, and are now a bit less intimidated. Thank you to all the Beginner teachers who prepared them so well. We look forward to two upcoming events – the "AGM and Volunteer Recognition Day" and the West Toronto Ball.

Note the new name for the AGM. There you will see displays put up by the volunteer committee recognizing the people who contribute their time and effort to the Toronto Association and its various committees and activities. Then there are those who contribute through their social groups. We are delighted so many people volunteer, but there is still room for more helpers. If you have never been involved in organizing or running one of our activities, give it some thought. This is also the time when we present the Volunteer Awards to those nominated by the members and social groups.

Please do attend your AGM. It is your opportunity to hear what the Board has been doing on your behalf and to participate in decisions. Besides, it is also our only April dance this year!

See you there.

Jane

AGM & Volunteer Recognition Day

- Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2009
Time: 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs
Hosts: • Aurora Heights • Highlands of Durham • Newtonbrook
 • Members \$10 • Non-members \$15
 • Meeting only: Free

Dear Friends...



In the 50th Anniversary Passport draw, Erich Kralik won the top prize — of a year of dance events courtesy the Toronto Association Board and accommodation for the Tartan Ball courtesy of the Fairmont Royal York.

This has been a wonderful few months for me since I was fortunate enough to win the passport draw. I have had opportunities to attend complimentary monthly dances, classes, workshops, and the Tartan Ball, including a room for the night at the Royal York.

In all of these experiences, the warmth and kindness of the members of the society have amazed me. Right from the time of the announcement that I had won the draw, I have experienced overwhelmingly positive support and encouragement from my fellow Scottish Country Dancers.

When my wife, Sue, and I first began dancing with Tayside, we sensed there was something special about the Scottish Connection. We felt welcomed from the first evening of our introduction to the activity and have continued dancing at Tayside as well as at St. Clement's and Fallingbrook. On New Year's Eve, we joined the group at Glenview for a fabulous Hogmanay celebration. Once again, we were welcomed and made to feel very comfortable with the group.

The evening of the Tartan Ball, followed by a restful night at the Royal York, was an experience I will long remember. Everyone was friendly and helpful and I managed to dance almost every dance! Whatever set I joined, the dancers were supportive and helpful when memory failed me (and sometimes it does!) The evening went by very quickly, and before we knew it, the time had come for my wife and me to retire for the night to our delightful Royal York room. Even the process of reserving the room was a positive one; I received a number of calls from the Board member in charge ensuring that everything would work out and that the experience of staying over would be part of our Tartan Ball experience. The next morning, when my wife and I entered the breakfast room, we received the warm applause of members of the Board who were sitting together at a table. Individually, each one came over to our table to chat and ask how we enjoyed the evening.

I am looking forward to more monthly dances and the West End Workshop. Thank you, RCSCD, for your kindness, encouragement and generosity.

*Sincerely,
 Erich Kralik*

Motions re: Membership Fees 2009-2010 Dance Year

As noted in the January 2009 issue of *Set & Link*, RSCDS has revised the structure for the International portion of our membership fees effective July 2009, giving a cost reduction to 80% for each of 2 adults at the same address.

1. As the motion, which was passed at our AGM in April 2006, was worded so as to cover increases in the portion of the membership fees assessed by RSCDS in Scotland by an automatic increase in Toronto Association membership dues for the following dance year, housekeeping motion that Toronto Association adult membership fees be adjusted automatically to reflect CHANGES in RSCDS adult membership fees payable to RSCDS in Scotland.
2. As no increase is needed to the Toronto Association portion of the Fees at this time, motion that the 2009-2010 Membership Fee structure be as follows:

Single Adult Membership	\$65 (no change)
Household Membership	
First Adult Member	\$60
Each Additional Adult at same address	\$55
Student Membership (age 18-25)	\$45 (new category)
Keep In Touch Membership (newsletter only)	\$30 (no change)
Youth Associate (Under 18 as of October 1)	\$ 5 (no change)

March Monthly Dance



Photo by Inga Tomas

This year, unlike the great snow of 2008, we were blessed with good weather, and it showed in our attendance. We had 174 happy dancers filling Crescent School Gym. The good cheer was contagious as new dancers were helped through the program by more experienced dancers. I extend special thanks to all teachers who prepared the beginners for the evening.

Thank you to Teresa Lockhart, Linda Ashe Argent, and Barbara Taylor for your patience and skill in briefing the dances. Thanks also to St. Clement's, ASTA, and Erin Mills Tuesday Groups for the splendid array of refreshments.

A young couple, Matthew and Jennifer (pictured here), joined us from the Friday ceilidh classes, never having done formal Scottish country dancing before. However, Matthew is a Highland dancer and Jennifer an Irish dancer, and with the guidance of strong partners, they got it – brilliantly!

At the March dance, Linda Lorraine won \$207 in the 50/50 Draw. An equal amount goes to support Dancing in the Park.

On April 25 we will have the AGM and dance, from 7.30 - 10:30 p.m., giving us extra time to complete the program (See page 1).

... Forbes Duncan

Special Events

West Acres' Spring Dance April 18, 2009

Join West Acres SCD for a breath of spring, and dancing to live music by The Reel Thing. At 65 Hinton Road, Etobicoke. 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Cost: \$15.

For programme (briefsheet) contact: Nora Sutherland
905-276-2602 or nora.sutherland@rogers.com

For tickets contact: Jim Archibald 905-792-4383 or Nora

Woodglen's Scottish Country Tea Saturday, May 2 @ 12 noon & 3:00 p.m.

This popular event offers tasty treats, exotic teas, and entertainment by young dancers. Proceeds support the Youth Ball. At Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church on Kingston Rd, west of Warden. Tickets: Ron & Betty Baker 416-286-9755.

West Toronto Ball 40th Anniversary Saturday, May 9, 2009

Reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, dancing 8:30 to 12:30. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Dances will be briefed, but not walked. At Rameses Shrine Temple, 3100 Keele Street. \$60/person, students age 14 and up \$40. Contact Lorraine Janes at 416-259-1922, lorrainejanes@sympatico.ca or Arlene Koteff at amkoteff@yahoo.ca.

Calvin Spring Dance Tuesday, May 12, 2009 @ 7.30pm

Join Calvin Social Group at its 'End-of-Season' dance at Calvin Presbyterian Church Hall, 26 Delisle (Yonge and St.Clair. Parking is available next door). Welcome Spring to the live music of Don Bartlett. Cost: \$10, includes refreshments. Tickets at the door, or contact Ken Adamson at (416) 763 0073 or ken.adamson@sympatico.ca

Glenview SCD Spring Dance Wednesday, May 13 @ 8 p.m.

Dance to the live music of Bobby & Laird Brown at Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue (Yonge St below Lawrence). Tickets are \$20 at the door. For information, dance program visit www.glenviewsd.org or for other information or pre-ticket booking call 416-483-1541.

Walking Tour of Toronto's Scottish Heritage June 11, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.

Walk in the footsteps of our Scottish past. Join the Special Events Committee for a historic tour of Scottish heritage in Toronto, including Campbell House, and finishing in a cosy pub. If we are lucky, we may even shake out a few ghosts. Cost: \$17. Contact Norma Lumsden: normahlumsden@yahoo.ca or 416-237-9026

Highlands of Durham Tea Dance Sunday, June 14 @ 1 - 4 p.m.

Come to the Highlands for a strawberry cream tea dance at the Port Perry Legion Hall. \$10 per person. Air conditioned, wood floor. Contact mmason@bellnet.ca 905-649-3532

Special Events (Cont.)

Scavenger Hunt at High Park

Sunday, September 27

Bring your family and friends. Special Events invites you to a fun afternoon Scavenger Hunt. The Hunt begins at 2 p.m. We have rented our own picnic area from mid-morning, so bring a picnic lunch prior to the Hunt.

You will hunt in groups throughout the grounds of High Park. Prizes will be awarded around 4:30 p.m. There will be SCD/Ceilidh dancing from about 3:30 p.m. until everyone has returned from the Hunt. You can picnic afterwards if you wish, as we have the area until early evening.

More information to come. Contact: Ishbel Thomson 905-826-7842 ishbel.thomson@sympatico.ca

We're growing!

Good news for East-enders — A new Level 1 class is being offered in September at Grace Presbyterian Church at 447 Port Union Road. The classes will be held on Monday nights. Encourage your friends in east Scarborough, Pickering, Ajax and beyond to come and give it a try! For information, contact Alice Chase at (416) 410-7078.

Extension Classes

Get ready for Dancing in the Park! All dancers are welcome to join Extension Classes to practise many of the dances on the Dancing in the Park program as well as to continue learning technique. Join Levels 1 and 2 teachers, Linda Ashe-Arget, Ian Paterson, and Vicky Zeltins for 8 weeks of fun and fitness. Live music by Bobby Brown.

Where: Eastminster United Church
(Auditorium)
310 Danforth Avenue

When: 8 Thursday Evenings
7:30-9:30 p.m.
April 9 - May 28

Cost: \$64 (includes GST)

Contact: Alice Chase
(416) 410-7078
chase_al@hotmail.com

Sunday Miscellany



There is just one more chance for intermediate and advanced dancers to come out for a great dancing experience with Blair Gerrie. You will learn interesting, and sometimes challenging dances.

Contact Blair Gerrie 416-651-8933 pbgerrie@rogers.com

When: April 19; 2 - 4 p.m.

Where: Broadlands Community Centre,
19 Castlegrove Blvd., Don Mills

Cost: \$5 members, \$8 non-members



Dance Etiquette

To leave or not to leave the dance floor, that is the question. . .

Those who would have you *stay* say it's easier to find a partner and make up new sets. My opinion is that if you only stay in the middle of the floor you miss great opportunities to meet and greet more people. If you clear the dance floor, you may even make a *new acquaintance*. Clearing the floor is ballroom tradition and our form of dance is richly rooted in history. In the past, a gentleman would ask a lady to dance. He then escorted her onto the floor, and when the dance was over he escorted her back to where he found her. This gave a chance for a few private words and an opportunity to court – if that was the intent. As an art form we must move forward or die. New dances and formations are created all the time; however, the foundation of the new dances stays the same. It may be very old fashioned, but I for one would hate to see this particular tradition change.

. . . Carole Skinner

Editor's note: We invite your written reactions to this controversial topic.

2009 Tartan Ball

My Tartan Ball Committee and I thank our participants for making this another gala occasion for which we received marvelous compliments from the dancers. Toronto members welcomed our visitors with good dinner conversation, then they mixed with one another on the dance floor. It's inspiring to see everyone executing all those formations that make Scottish Country dancing fun.

Thanks to our friends from Blair for the use of their line markers.



Photo by Jan Friend



Photo by Inga Tomas

Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent were in top form, keeping the dance floor active and full and inspiring dancers with wonderful music. We had a great program in the gorgeous Concert Hall.

Special thanks go to the staff of the Fairmont Royal York for an appetizing menu and attentive service. They are an excellent team who contributed to the success of this memorable evening.

We look forward to the next Tartan Ball on February 20, 2010. . . Colin Gardiner.
Chair, Tartan Ball Committee

Ceilidh dancing is so much fun!"

To provide something a little different to members, and to promote our beloved past time, we put on two 5-evening ceilidh classes this dancing year. They proved most successful under the enthusiastic direction of teacher Teresa Lockhart.

We had an eclectic mix of dancers of all ages, ranging from junior school to late seniors. Internet searching using terms such as "dancing, Toronto", brought in people who never had any connection with SCD. Our TA members did their part and brought friends and relatives. Some came from branch beginner classes. Some had seen a ceilidh poster at their gym. Some came to prepare for a Scottish wedding.

Several U of T students attended, including three enthusiastic girls from Japan. One tall, bearded student, a highland dancer, was a regular attendee, and always came kilted. He proudly showed us his new black kilt which has the virtue of being machine washable! (see picture, page 2) Another group found our ceilidh notice in NOW magazine and thought we were a ceilidh concert. They were somewhat disconcerted, to discover they had to dance – but they stayed all night.

At the end of every ceilidh evening both members and non-members had comments like "Wonderful!", "Let's have it on a regular basis.", "So much fun!", "A great way to meet people." This enthusiastic reception means that we will plan more ceilidhs for the 2009-10 dancing season.

Ceilidh dances exemplify the joy of the dance – they truly are for everyone: culture, experience, ability don't matter. In fact, the more mistakes dancers make, the more laughter there is in the room. So we ask you to help spread that joy around and invite a friend, or two, or three, to come ceilidh on a regular basis next season. We know they won't be disappointed.

... Carole Bell



TAC Branch Award Presented To Elma Grech

It is with great pleasure that I announce that TAC presented a Branch Award to Elma Grech. This is the first Branch Award presented by TAC and it is fitting it be awarded to Elma Grech, pianist for the very first TAC Summer School.

Many of the teacher candidates who attended classes through TAC Summer Schools will remember Elma for her smiling face and encouraging words in times of fear and trepidation. Elma played at the Teachers' Association (Canada) Summer School when it first came into existence at Queen's University, Kingston, in the early 1970s, then at Brock University, St. Catharines, and, more recently, at Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier Universities in Waterloo. Elma has played for all levels of classes, teacher candidate classes, and the examinations, at all four venues. Elma is always well prepared for any class and willingly offers advice on music to candidates when invited to do so.

In addition to playing for TAC, Elma has played for candidate course and exams in both Hamilton and Toronto. She was also a regular musician for Toronto Branch classes and many workshops and classes in North America. When spending winter in Florida, she plays at classes and socials there.

... Keith R Bark, TAC Chair

Volunteer Recognition Day ~ April 25 ~

It Takes Volunteers to Create an Organization

RSCDS Toronto Association is a volunteer-based organization. We rely upon volunteers to run our programs and to meet our goal of promoting Scottish Country Dancing in the Greater Toronto Area. We and our volunteers take pride in their many contributions to our organization. They promote Scottish Country Dancing in their varied ways and are valued members of the community we serve. As our organization changes over the coming years, we look forward to having volunteers to help us adapt and strengthen the Toronto Association.

Tom Clark, Director at Large, Social Group Liaison/Volunteers

On behalf of all dancers in the GTA, I thank all the volunteers for the time and effort you have devoted to SCD. We couldn't exist without you.

Jane Robinson, Chair, RSCDS Toronto

Toronto Association 2008-09 volunteers are listed opposite.

Children's Festival ~ April 4



Each year, children and their teachers from all over the GTA come to this festival of dance, where they get to show off what they have learned. Parents,

siblings and visitors also get to join in the fun. At Westway United Church, 8 Templar Dr., Etobicoke. Doors open at 12:30; dancing begins at 1:00. Adults \$5, kids \$2.

Youth Ball ~ April 18

This dressy occasion for young dancers 10 yrs to 20-ish is at Newtonbrook United Church. \$25 per dancer, includes a sit-down dinner and live music. Contact Deirdre Bark: barkd@rogers.com 905-822-1707. Volunteers needed. Contact Deirdre.

An Invitation

The Whigmaleeries Children's Dancers invite you to join them for an evening of SCD and Ceilidh dancing, with a few of their own special dances as well. There will be refreshments.

Date: Monday, May 11, 2009

Location: Cooksville United Church, Mississauga, on Mimosa Row, which is off Floradale, just west of Hurontario and 5 min. north of the QEW.

Time: 7 - 9 p.m. (doors open at 6:45)

Cost: Adults \$5; Children no cost.

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



Photo by Inga Tomas

Toronto Association Volunteers ~ 2008-09

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Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Upcoming events: NEAR

APRIL 4. **RSCDS Hamilton Branch Ball** at Scottish Rite, 4 Queen Street South in Hamilton. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Information at www.rscdshamilton.org

APR. 4. **Children's Festival** (p. 4)



APR. 11. **Bobby's Easter Parade Dance** Join Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent for an Easter dance at Westway United Church. 8:00pm. Tickets \$20 from Lisa Brown (905) 897-0287.

APR. 18. **West Acres' Spring Dance.** (p. 2)

APR. 18. **Youth Ball, Newtonbrook Church** (p. 4)

APR. 19. **Sunday Miscellany.** (p. 3)

MAY 2. **Woodglen Scottish Country Tea** (p. 2)

MAY 9. **40th Annual West Toronto Ball** (p. 2)

May 11. **Whigmaleeries' Children's Dance** (p. 4)

MAY 12. **Calvin End-of-Season Dance** (p. 2)

MAY 13. **Glenview SCD Spring Dance** (p. 2)



JUNE 11. **Toronto Scottish Heritage Tour** (p. 2)

JUNE 13. **Georgetown Highland Games** Volunteer dancers get in free. Contact Nora Sutherland 905-276-2602

JUNE 14. **Highlands of Durham Strawberry Cream Tea Dance** (p. 2)

SEPT. 27. **Scavenger Hunt in High Park** (p. 3)

Dance at Rogers Centre Monday, June 29 @ 7:07 p.m.

Dance programme and practice dates at Moss Park Armoury TBA. For more info: Ian Paterson 416-346-9682, ianpat@cogeco.ca

Upcoming events: FAR

APRIL 17-19. **RSCDS Ottawa Branch Workshop & Ball.** Teachers: Gail Michener, AB; Pat Coyle, Niagara Falls; Craig Williams, Ottawa. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact: Harry & Margaret MacKay 613-740-0906 or hmackay@ncf.ca

MAY 11-13. **Youth Weekend West** in Bellingham, Washington at Western Washington University. Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Fred DeMarse, and Bill Zobel. Three levels of classes and elective classes. Enjoy the "Thistle Ball" on Saturday evening. Info: www.ac.wvu.edu/~scottish/yww/index.html

MAY 15 - 17. **46th Annual Pawling Weekend.** Teachers: Pat Coyle of Niagara Falls; Eric Finley of Ayr, Scotland; Terry Harvey of Pennsylvania. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent and Jim Stevenson-Mathews. Info: Sheila Wilson: 212-744-1470 or www.rscdsnewyork.org

JULY 6-10. **Haliburton School of the Arts** - The Keppie's from Nova Scotia lead a week of SCD classes. Call 1-866-353-6464.

JULY 19 - AUGUST 16. **RSCDS Summer School** at St. Andrews, Scotland. Contact Brenda Hurst: 416-925-6982.

AUGUST 8-19. **Prague 2009 Scottish Country Dance Week.** Teacher: Ron Wallace. Contact: <http://www.dvorana.cz/>

OCT. 8-15. **SCD week in Andalucia** at Hotel Alay, Benalmadena with Malcolm and Heather Brown and Ken Martlew. More info at: <http://pagesperso-orange.fr/scots.in.france/holiday2009.htm>

DEC 28-JAN. 5. **New Zealand 2009-10 Summer School** in Auckland. More information, registration forms and brochures found on the Schoweb site <http://ssakl.rscdsnz.org.nz>



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Call Forbes Brown at 1-519-688-3172 or formar@sympatico.ca

Reasonable offer accepted.

Editor's Note

Yes — To defray costs, we are now (or, perhaps, *again*) accepting selected advertising in the Toronto Association newsletter. The cost is reasonable (see website for rate card) and the audience focussed. For Members, small classified ads are free.

Demo Pool Practices

Sunday, April 5, Sunday, May 3.

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. for the general practice
3:30 - 4:00 p.m. for dancers who are experienced enough for a dance which is more demanding and energetic.

At Broadlands Community Centre
Contact: Deirdre MacCuish Bark,
905-822-1707



notice . . .

Please send submissions to carolewbell@sympatico.ca.
Deadline for the May issue is
APRIL 10.

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