

Chair's Message



A few years ago, I persuaded the Branch Committee that we should recruit Ron Bell because of his training and experience in Youth and Sports Leadership and for his enthusiasm for everything he does.

Ron really came through for us in his years on the Committee. He quietly continued on Nomination Committee and it is to his successful arm twisting that I and several Board Members owe our rise to fame. Thanks, Ron!

I look forward to my two years as Chair of this energetic, youthful organization. With Jane's leadership we recently celebrated our 50th Anniversary and the Association is as vigorous as ever. We do not have as many members as we once had but those we do have really participate and volunteer for everything.

I am especially pleased to welcome Margaret Rieger and Pat Clark as they join the continuing dedicated members of the Board. While we sustain our regular program, we will look at alternative locations for some of our offerings. Special Events & Communications will continue to promote Ceilidh dancing as a threshold to SCD.

As I write this, the Youth Ball and the West Toronto Ball are recent happy memories. Dancing in the Park is coming up. Enjoy the Scottish Heritage tour and the Blue Jays event.

For other activities, I encourage you to look and look often at our excellent website www.rscdstoronto.org

Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy dancing where you can. Otherwise, put up the happy dancing feet and get ready for a great Fall season for happiness is Scottish Country Dancing.

Woodglen's Scottish Country Tea



The sturdy men of Woodglen and their trusty teapots: L-R: Mark Handley-Derry, Ron Baker, David Roper, Jim Stark, John Holmberg, John Chase, Al Pollard.

platters of fruit, veggies and cheese were so enjoyed by all. The sandwiches, all made at the church earlier in the day, were scrumptious. Ham and pickle, cucumber, salmon, egg and tortilla wraps completed the menu.

Guests were warmly greeted by our kilt-clad male dancers. They poured tea and coffee, worked hard behind the scenes setting up and sweating over steaming dishwashers and even danced with the young lassies who entertained so capably. All that with great smiles.

We were delighted to have the youth dancers of Woodglen and Rosedale to entertain us. They were great and so beautifully prepared. Thank you, teachers Sandra Scott, Moira Korus and Teresa Lockhart, for your marvellous enthusiasm with these young ones.



The Rosedale Wee Ones at the 2nd sitting.

are experts. We all had a very special day meeting new and old friends. We are happy you visited us. Thanks!!!

... Pam DeGroot

[Profits from the Woodglen Tea, typically about \$800, pay for live music at the Youth Ball – thus supporting both youth dancers and our musicians.]

On Saturday, May 2, a lovely Scottish Country Tea was hosted by the Woodglen Scottish Dancers at Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church. The adult dancers decorated the sun-filled hall with heather table centres, and fabric souvenirs and flags from Scotland graced the walls.

The treasured recipes of many dancers found their rightful place on the long beautiful tea table. Scones, Welsh cakes, squares and cookies —



Woodglen Children's Group performed at the 1st sitting.

The audience all had opportunities to dance and that too was great fun. The Woodglen group works so well together. Our organizers



Jane Yearwood and Meggy Finlay and their parents sang Over The Sea To Skye.

Dancing in the Park

Date: Tuesdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23

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.

Note: *If weather is uncertain, check the website or call the TA phone line 416-410-7078 after 4 p.m. No change in outgoing message means we're dancing!*

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.

Won't You Join the (monthly) Dance?

The 2008-2009 series of Monthly Dances has ended successfully with an average attendance for the six dances of 129 dancers per night.

Your Monthly Dance Committee thanks everyone who attended and thus brought encouragement and strength to the Toronto Association. On the committee's behalf, I thank the emcees for precise briefing, the host groups for supplying refreshments, and the musicians for amazingly good dance music.

Watch *Set & Link* for the dates of the Monthly Dances during the 2009-2010 dance year.

Won't you join the dance? Encourage a different person each month from your social group who does not normally go to Monthly Dances to attend with you. Both of you will enjoy the experience.

... *Forbes Duncan*

New Beginner Group in Oshawa

Oshawa Seniors Centre got in touch with RSCDS Toronto late last year and wanted to know how to go about getting someone to start a SCD group for them. With the help of Classes Convenor, Alice Chase, we are now in our 3rd week of a 10-week beginner classes. This class is conducted in the same manner as the beginner branch classes. I have 16 seniors (age 55+) who are coming out each week to learn to dance for the first time. They enjoy the energetic music and are surprised at how much energy they use each week. They are a lot of fun and are showing improvement each week. We hope to run this class again in the fall.

... *Wendy Loberg*

50-50 Draw



Proceeds from the 50 - 50 draws held at Monthly Dances support Dancing in the Park. At the AGM dance on April 25, Marie Duncan won \$134.

Special Events

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

Join the Special Events Committee for an 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

Summer Dancing in Oshawa Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Come and dance on Mondays from June 15 to August 10 at the air-conditioned Fernhill-Nipigon Community Centre (West Door), 144 Fernhill Blvd., Oshawa. Plentiful parking. \$4 at the door. For information and/or directions: Maureen Remington, 905-623-1263 or RSCDS website.

Summer Dancing at Trinity College Thursdays, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Summer dancing returns to beautiful 'breezy' Seeley Hall at Trinity College, on the U of T campus. Begins June 25 and concludes August 6 (but no dancing July 9). The emphasis is on summer fun and variety as guest teachers from around the GTA share favourite dances. Dances are briefed and walked through — all dancers are welcome. Lots of parking, and two subway stops nearby. Details are on the Trinity SCD website: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/barber.malcolmson/>

Summer Dancing at Broadlands Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Join Carole Skinner every Tuesday from July 7 to August 25. All levels of dancers welcomed. Dances will be mostly related to a specific castle or place in Scotland. At Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills. \$5 at the door. Contact Carole Skinner, 416-386-1620 or carolebskinner@aol.com

Woodglen Summer Dance & Potluck Saturday, August 22

At Harcourt Park Community Centre, near Wilberforce in the Haliburton/Bancroft area. Dancing at 2:00 p.m. followed by a pot luck supper at Ron & Betty Baker's cottage. All are welcome. For map and cribs please contact Ron 416-286-9755, Cottage 705-448-9021, ronabake@primus.

Scavenger Hunt at High Park Sunday, September 27

Bring family and friends to a fun afternoon Scavenger Hunt, 2 p.m. - 4-ish. We have rented a picnic area from mid-morning, 'til early evening so pack a picnic for prior to the Hunt and after. You will hunt in groups throughout beautiful High Park. Prizes awarded around 4:30 p.m. SCD/Ceilidh dancing from about 3:30 p.m. Contact: Ishbel Thomson 905-826-7842 ishbel.thomson@sympatico.ca



Grace Notes



Elma Grech: 1927 - 2009

Scottish Country Dancers have lost a talented musician, and a dear friend of many. Elma, the priest said at her memorial mass, was "Scottish to her soul." Her love of Scotland, its music, and its dance was evident when she played piano for SCD classes, social groups, and many special events. Elma's talents were especially appreciated at Teacher Candidate exams and TAC Summer Schools, where her confident and unobtrusive style helped many teachers through the stress of Prelim and Full Certificate courses and examinations.

Our heartfelt condolences to Bronek, her husband of 61 years.

Children's/Beginners' Dance Test Results

HQ sent out some dances to be evaluated for inclusion in a book of dances intended primarily for younger dancers and/or beginners. At the request of Education and Training, Fiona Turnbull (former Youth Director) coordinated a survey of some teachers and adjudicators to identify dances they considered met the initial criteria. As a result the framework for the book was developed and 24 categories identified. In some categories, one dance was nominated by the vast majority of the respondents, and these dances will be included in the final publication. In the majority of cases, however, a small number of dances were proposed with relatively equal weighting. This is where our help was required. Fourteen adult groups and two children's groups participated in the Toronto area, including a group from Peterborough.

We were given two of those categories to try out — two reels and three jigs, identified by numbers only (though some were recognized as familiar dances). The same selection was also sent to 5 other Branches worldwide.

Deirdre MacCuish Bark collected the results (see below) from Toronto and submitted them to headquarters. Following is a letter from Jim Healy, recently retired from the Management Board and currently Project Coordinator for the new *Graded Book 2*, acknowledging Toronto's participation;

Thank you for the results, which are interesting but at least your younger dancers are agreeing with the adults which is not proving to be the case everywhere! It's going to make the final choice a little more complex than I expected (or hoped).

Please pass on the thanks of all at HQ to all of the dancers and let's hope we can get the book out in the fairly near future.

Happy dancing!

Jim

Reels: 249 dancers took part	Jigs: 270 dancers took part
Dance 9.1: 198 votes	Dance 13.1: 62 votes
Dance 9.2: 51 votes	Dance 13.2: 50 votes
	Dance 13.3: 158 votes

Dance Etiquette

The Importance of Keeping Lines Straight



How many times have we heard it: "Will you please straighten your lines"? Why is it so important, and why should any of us care? Think of this: in a very long line, in a large ballroom, if the line isn't straight you infringe on the space of the line beside you. This frequently happens at our monthly dances when folks on the outside sets crowd the middle sets, leaving a vast amount of space behind the outside lines. Not only is it bad for those on the inside, it's also only a matter of time before someone gets hurt. At this year's Tartan Ball, the lines were so bad that the first man couldn't get down to count the sets, and it took longer to prepare for each dance. I have often heard it asked, "Why aren't the extras danced?" Usually it's because of lack of time. The average program is sixteen dances. If it takes one extra minute to set up the dance because the lines aren't straight, that's sixteen minutes—more than enough time to do an extra. . . .Carole Skinner

Have you got a pet peeve or perplexing puzzle you'd like Carole to talk about? Contact her at 416-386-1620 carolebskinner@aol.com

"Thank you" from Team Newmarket

We can't believe we are completing the final *Set & Link* of the year. The students and staff of Newmarket High's Community Class say "Thank you" to Toronto Association dancers for another great year of having the opportunity to prepare your newsletter for mailing each month! With the proceeds, we've accomplished some really fun and educational activities. We wish everyone a safe and happy summer of dancing and relaxation!

Sincerely,

. . . Natalie Knupp-Croucher



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What's In A Name? *The White Cockade*

My trusty OED defines the archaic word *cockade* as follows – “A ribbon, knot of ribbons, or rosette, worn on the hat or lapel as a badge of office etc.”

At this point in time, the cockade *per se* is as passé as an 18th century tricorne hat. Although, let's not forget that the crossover loop of ribbon commonly worn to indicate support for certain contemporary causes is still appropriate either as lapel ornamentation, or even as a car bumper sticker.

But the colour white? It certainly was not to indicate an imminent surrender like a white flag. In fact, the white cockade was a symbol of the Bourbon Kings of France. Further, it was worn by those who supported the idea of a Jacobite restoration to the British throne in the name of James II. Significantly, he also happened to be James VII of Scotland. We might well remember that James, with the family name Stuart, was obsessed with the notion of absolute monarchy, and had to nip smartly across the Channel to France to gain the protection of his cousin King Louis XIV in the face of some disagreements with the British Parliament. Ultimately, this delivered the British throne to the German Hanovers, the first few of whom all seemed to be named George.

So far, so good, except for the ambitions of James' grandson, Charles Edward Stuart, the “Bonnie Prince” himself. He landed at Eriskay in 1745, replete with the white Jacobite cockade in his bonnet, and proceeded to stir up the clansmen to no end. The rest is history! As is the current RSCDS Toronto season. And we'll be back in September, assuming that I'll be rehired!

... Barry Pipes

Charles Edward Stuart, The Young Pretender, wearing the Scottish blue bonnet and Jacobite White Cockade.
For more info go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockade>



Join the Second Annual Blue Jays' Scottish Heritage Event

Rogers Centre, Toronto • Monday, June 29, 2009 • 6.30--6.45 p.m.

Assemble at Gate 7, South side of the building, adjacent to Bremner Blvd., at 5.30 p.m. sharp!

Rehearsals: Friday, June 19 and Friday, June 26 at 7.30 p.m. sharp!

Moss Park Armouries, 130 Queen Street East. (Limited parking north side of building)

Discount tickets for the game [optional], for participants, family and friends available from Paul Rabeau at the Rogers Centre Tel: (416) 341-1670



This is an important “outreach” event for Scottish Country Dancing, so if you are a dancer, please join us. The dances are selected, the choreography designed, and two practices arranged at Moss Park Armouries in Toronto.

For those unable to travel to Toronto for the practices, there will be time for a quick “walk-through” of the choreography prior to the performance. If you are one of these dancers, we urge you to download the programme from the website and make yourself familiar with the movements and “geography” of the dances.

The 15-minute pre-game show will feature the 48th Highlanders Pipe Band in full regalia and two groups of Highland dancers dressed in their colourful costumes — all surrounded by Scottish Country dancers.

To complete the desired effect, and provide the audience with a pleasing impression of a well organized group, we request that all Scottish Country dancers conform to the following dress code.

WOMEN:

Preferred: White dress, tartan sash.

Alternative: White skirt and white blouse, tartan sash (if available).

WOMEN DANCING AS MEN

Preferred: White blouse with a tartan skirt/kilt

Alternative: White blouse with a dark self-coloured skirt

It would be appreciated if women without a partner who cannot attend the practices, will please come prepared to dance as a man by bringing along a tartan or dark self-coloured skirt as indicated.

MEN

Preferred: White short-sleeved shirt, kilt, sporran, belt (if available), white or cream kilt hose with appropriate flashes.

For insurance purposes, the Blue Jays management requires the names of all participants. Sign-up sheets for this purpose will be available at both practices. Those unable to attend either of the practices are requested to forward their names to me by June 18, 2009.

Contact / Co-ordinator:

Ian Paterson: 416.346-9628

ianpat@cogeco.ca

The dances are:

Minister On The Loch — strathspey

Minister On The Loch — as a reel

Shiftin' Bobbins

... Ian Paterson



Distant Cousins: Scottish Country and Contra Dancing



Folk dancing takes many forms and some Scottish Country dancers, respecting physical limitations, also enjoy clogging or Morris dance, or more likely square, line, tap, or contra dancing. In most cases, the dance forms overlap in movement, formation, and terminology, which makes transition to different traditions relatively painless, mentally stimulating, and kind to the body.

Contra dancing, originated in England, and is a distant cousin of Scottish Country dancing. It was named by the French. Its music comes largely from Anglo-Celtic tradition with jigs and reels but other music types also appear.

Twenty or more dancers per set line up in rows facing each other in three ways: *proper formation* (partner is opposite you), *improper formation* (first, third and additional odd numbered men cross to the ladies' side), and *Becket formation* (lady on partner's right).

In improper formation, for instance, couples with partners opposite are ones, and even-numbered couples are twos. All ones dance a formation with the twos and repeat it with the next couple all the way to the bottom of the set. The couple arriving at the top becomes the new ones.

Callers announce dance moves and continue after the dance starts. Calls such as down the middle and up, cast off, reels (called heys), ladies' chain, are familiar and easy for a Scottish Country dancer. Swinging and square dance terms are easy to learn. First and second corners are contra corners. A *Gypsie* is described as moving around one's partner while looking in the partner's eye, lovingly. Sometimes partners change after each dance.

Contra dancing is fun, less challenging than Scottish Country, but kinder to the feet and legs since dancers walk in time to music. In both, dancers can attend singly.

... Douglas Worling

Register *now* for Youth Dance Day Camp



This is a great opportunity for youngsters age 7 - 14 yrs to spend an enjoyable week learning Scottish Country Dancing

— and making new friends. Classes are held at Hawkestone Community Hall (between Barrie & Orillia) under the direction of Linda Ashe Argent. Over the week, three dances are learned, and there are other fun activities as well, such as games and crafts.

Campers demonstrate their dances as part of the Opening Ceremonies of the hugely popular Orillia Scottish Festival.



Dates: Monday, July 13 to Friday, July 17; 9am - 4pm, plus Saturday 18th at the Orillia Scottish Festival.

Register early — space is Limited.
Contact Linda Argent (705) 487-5866.



Last year's Dance Campers

Mairi Who?

Ross Floyd's article in last month's *Set&Link*, about J.B. Cosh, deviser of the dance, Mairi's Wedding, led to a Google search for relevant photos. Alas, no photos of Mr Cosh were found. However, I did discover this very interesting article from the *Glasgow Daily Record*. I once saw 'Mairi' (quite elderly at the time) interviewed on telly by the beloved tenor, Sir Harry Secombe, and the article, though undated, and unauthenticated, rings true. The story gives a history and a personality to the lovely Mairi, to whose tune we love to dance.

... Rob Lockhart

Exclusive:

**Step we gaily on we go,
this IS Mairi's wedding*
Now it's All for Mairi's birthday!
She'll still be singing at 90.**

by Stephen Houston

MILLIONS OF SCOTS have sung Mairi's Wedding. And now, thanks to the Record, they can meet the bride herself.

For one of our best-loved tunes was written for Mary McNiven.

And the OAP is still stepping gaily, even though she'll be NINETY tomorrow.

Scots schoolkids have been learning the song for generations, and it's a firm favourite all over the world.

At her cottage on Islay yesterday, Mary said: "I can't believe it became so popular. But when it was first played to me I found it very catchy — and I still do."

The song was originally written Gaelic — that's why she was "Mairi" instead of "Mary" — for the Mod of 1935.

Her pal Johnny Bannerman composed it and it was first played to her at the Old Highlanders Institute in Glasgow's Elmbank Street.

"I still have a clear recollection of that day," said Mary. "Johnny just said the song was for me."

It was translated into English a year later, by Sir Hugh Robertson.

Although Mary herself was real, the wedding wasn't. For she didn't get hitched to Skye-born sea captain John Campbell until six years later. John died 17 years ago.

Mum of two, Mary, who won a Mod gold medal for singing in 1934, will enjoy a family birthday party in Glasgow this weekend. And it won't be complete without the famous song.

Her daughter Christine, a teacher from Hyndland, Glasgow, said: "Mum still sometimes sings it in Gaelic and people are always asking her to. I suspect she'll sing it to celebrate her birthday."

* The article was said to be (but was not) accompanied by a photograph of Mary by William Thornton and a copy of her wedding picture.

Upcoming events: NEAR

- JUNE 5. **Erin Mills End-of-Season Dance**
- JUNE 9. **Dancing in the Park**
- JUNE 11. **Toronto Scottish Heritage Walking Tour**
- 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**
- JUNE 15-AUG. 1. **Summer dancing in Oshawa on Monday evenings.**
- JUNE 16. **Dancing in the Park**
- JUNE 19. **Practice for dancing at Rogers Centre at Moss Park Armouries at 7:30 p.m.**
- JUNE 23. **Dancing in the Park**
- JUNE 25-AUG. 6. **Summer dancing at Trinity College on Thursday evenings (except July 9).**
- JUNE 26. **Practice for dancing at Rogers Centre at Moss Park Armouries at 7:30 p.m.**
- JUNE 29. **Dance at Rogers Centre**
- JULY 7-AUG. 25. **Summer dancing at Broadlands on Tuesday evenings.**
- AUG. 22. **Woodglen Summer Dance & Potluck**
- SEPT. 27. **Scavenger Hunt in High Park**

The Tartan Scramble



September 5th

At Calerin Golf Course near Erin. A day of unconventional golf, followed by dinner and Scottish country dancing. Non-dancers and non-golfers are welcome

to this fun event. Contact Ian Paterson 416.346.9628 ianpat@cogeco.ca



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Upcoming events: FAR

- JUNE 20. New York RSCDS Branch presents **Summerdance XX** in the United Nations General Assembly lobby. Information: Sheila Wilson at: 212-744-1470. or info@rscdsnewyork.org or www.rscdsnewyork.org
- JULY 6-10. **Haliburton School of the Arts** – The Keppies from Nova Scotia lead a week of SCD classes. Call 1-866-353-6464.
- JULY 18. **Orillia Scottish Festival.** Dancers of all ages are invited to join us in the mass dancing of the opening ceremonies. Enjoy a ceilidh on Friday evening, a potluck BBQ following the closing ceremonies on Saturday, and a "wee party bash" on Sunday. Contact: Linda Argent 705-487-5868, largent@jcl-tech.com
- JULY 19 - AUGUST 16. **RSCDS Summer School** at St. Andrews, Scotland. Contact Pat Clark: 416-225-5222 or pat.clark@kos.net
- AUGUST 8-19. **Prague 2009 Scottish Country Dance Week.** Teacher: Ron Wallace. Contact: <http://www.dvorana.cz/>
- OCT. 2-4. **International Branch Weekend** at Dunfermline, Scotland. Info at www.rscds-ib.org
- OCT. 2-4. **Ottawa Valley Dance Scottish Weekend 2009.** Musicians: Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. Teachers: Eric Finley (Scotland), Mairi Hand (Idaho), Bill Zobel (British Columbia). Information is at www.ottawadancescottish.org
- OCT. 8-15. **SCD week in Andalucia** at Hotel Alay, Benalmadena with Malcolm and Heather Brown and Ken Martlew. Information: <http://pagesperso-orange.fr/scots.in.france/holiday2009.htm>
- NOV. 6-8. **RSCDS Kingston Branch 43rd Annual Workshop & Ball.** Teachers: Jodie & Craig Williamson, Kanata: Kay Munn, Kingston. Info: www.rscdskingston.org
- DEC 28-JAN. 5. **New Zealand 2009-10 Summer School** in Auckland. <http://ssak1.rscdsnz.org.nz>



RSCDS Toronto
c/o Secretary,
207 Elmhurst Ave.
Toronto ON
M2N 1S2
(416) 225-5222

www.rscdstoronto.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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416.488-4490 jamesgraham@sympatico.ca
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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

- Chair: Carole Bell
416.221-1201 carolewbell@sympatico.ca
- Donald Holmes:
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416.759-9845 lockhart@roundabout.net
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Advertise in Set & Link

Members can place a small ad in *Set & Link* FREE for one issue. It can be a "classified ad" of about 5 lines, or a business card advertising a service of interest to dancers.

Contact Brenda Nunes at 416-691-1764 or brendajnunes@gmail.com



notice . . .

Please send submissions to carolewbell@sympatico.ca.
Deadline for the September issue is August 10.