

# RSCDS SET & LINK

Toronto

TORONTO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

## From the Chair



The late Rev J. Harold Morris, chaplain of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and minister of Glenview Church, once remarked that a church where there were no

babies crying had no future. A dance group with no beginners has no future either.

We are fortunate to have more than sixty new dancers in Level One of the Association classes. There are several more in Social Groups around the GTA. Thank you to the teachers who get the new dancers through the crucial first few weeks. It is easy to forget the terror of an otherwise competent adult trying to coordinate feet and brains in a very public arena. Makes you feel like crying, doesn't it!

And yet, by the end of the first year, we have learned the steps and many of the formations. We have been to the Beginners' Night Monthly Dance and are looking forward to the West Toronto Ball. Several of the new dancers have found a Social Group that takes their fancy.

Some dancers leave it at that. However, for complete confidence and enjoyment of the dance, it is a good idea to progress through Levels Two and Three to learn all the formations and to improve your footwork. We are looking at adding a second Level Two class to give a choice of day and location.

Meantime, I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM and Awards Night. I'll be the one with the terrified look.

All the best.

### AGM & Volunteer Recognition Day

**Date & Time:** Sat., April 24, 2010  
7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

**Place:** Crescent School

**Music:** Don Bartlett

\$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, free for those attending the meeting only.

## Highland and Scottish Country Dancing

... Donald E. Holmes in consultation with Ella Allison



Donald Holmes has taken Highland dancing from Ella Allison since 1981. Here, he dances with Ella's daughter, Carolyn MacMillan.

Highland dancing is athletic solo dancing that resurfaced in the nineteenth century in competitions typically performed to bagpipe music. It is a highly competitive, technical dance form that requires many hours of practice and training over a period of years to perfect. Its technical requirements and training have much in common with ballet. It takes a massive amount of stamina and arm and leg strength, no matter how old the dancer is.

Dancers dance on the balls of their feet, and the dances not only involve a combination of steps but also some integral upper body,

arm, and hand movements. Even so, it is still considered a form of step dancing because the main element is footwork.

Highland dancing is distinct from Scottish Country dancing; the latter is both a social and a formation dance where an important element is the pattern of movement on the floor, like square dancing. Highland dances predate Scottish Country dances, yet they have commonalities. In *The Highland Reel* (or *Foursome Reel*), groups of four dancers alternate between solo steps facing one another and a figure-of-eight style intertwining progressive movement.

Highland dances date to 1285. The 1747 "Act of Proscription" forbade wearing kilts by civilian males until it was repealed in 1782. Queen Victoria's enthusiasm for kilts generated Highland games as we know them. Highland dancing was an integral part of these Games from the start of their modern revival, but the selection of dances performed was intentionally narrowed for the judges' rather than for the dancers' convenience. Consequently, while Highland games preserved Highland dancing, many other dances were lost for they were not used in competition.

Originally, only men danced Highland. "I competed in 1933 and there were few male dancers at that time," says Ella Allison, who has taught Highland dance for over 40 years. Women now make up 95% of dancers participating in the art. Scottish National Dances were invented to be danced by women who were forbidden to wear kilts (as is true at the Aboyne Games to this day!) National dances are softer and more ballet-like and the outfit usually worn is an "Aboyne" – a full tartan skirt, white blouse, velvet vest laced up the front, and a plaidie pinned to the shoulder and waist. Nowadays, everyone learns both: girls wear kilts and dance Highland dances, and boys in kilt or trews also learn the National dances.

The overlap between Highland and Scottish Country dance is evident: both include reels, strathspeys, jigs, and hornpipes. They share ballet foot positions, dance on the balls of the feet, and use Pas de Basque, although it is executed differently in both. They rely on Scottish history and culture which are reflected in both dances and frequently in dance names.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society governs SCD throughout the world and the Scottish Official Board (comprised of two key groups, the British Association of Teachers of Dance and the Scottish Dance Teachers' Alliance) governs Highland Dance.



Ella Allison, in Aboyne style.

## Dance in the Park, Rain or Shine

It's spring and time to start thinking about Dancing in the Park. Mark your calendar for Tuesdays, June 1, 8, 15 and 22.

This year there is no worry about weather cancellations. We have an indoor location on Leslie Street just to the south of the Edwards Gardens parking lot: the gym in St. Bonaventure Catholic School. So, rain or shine, we will be dancing to Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent.

The ten-dance program has been rearranged to include audience participation dances which allows the interval to be just that: a chance to mingle and chat and catch our breath before the second half starts.

More details to follow in the May issue.

... Ann Campbell

## 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.

**Where:** Eastminster United Church  
310 Danforth Ave.  
**When:** Thursdays, April 8 to May 27  
from 7:30 to 9:30.  
**Cost:** \$64  
**Contact:** Sue Ann Bryce  
sueann2@sympatico.ca

## Calvin Spring Dance

Tuesday, May 11 @ 7:30 p.m.



Frances Gray is retiring after more than 30 years at Calvin.

Please join us for a very special evening as we bid farewell to Frances Gray on her retirement from Calvin Social Group where she has taught for over thirty years. Frances will lead us in dancing to the live music of Don Bartlett. Anyone who has been delighted by Frances' magnificent contribution to Scottish Country Dancing should try to attend. The cost is \$10 and includes refreshments. Calvin Presbyterian Church Hall is located at 26 Delisle (Yonge and St. Clair). Space is limited, so book early if you plan to attend this memorable evening. Contact Ken Adamson at 416-763-0073 or ken.adamson@sympatico.ca



## 50-50 Draw

Proceeds for the 50/50 Draws held at the Monthly Dances support Dancing in the Park. At the dance on March 13, 2010, Libby Moore of Oshawa won \$207.

## Special Events

### West Acres Group Spring Dance

April 17

At 65 Hinton Road, Etobicoke from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Music: The Reel Thing. Cost: \$15

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

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

### Annual General Meeting & Dance

April 24

Where: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave.

Time: 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Music: Don Bartlett

Hosts: Calvin and Don Mills

Check the website or March issue of *Set & Link* for the dance programme. All dances will be briefed and walked.

### Festival of Dance

May 1

Back by popular demand! Classes of all levels are asked to showcase one dance. Individuals can be in as many dances as they wish. Everyone can join in general participation dances. At St Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Avenue (Yonge & Lawrence) – public transit and car pooling suggested – 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info and application form: Deirdre MacCuish Bark, barkd@rogers.com, 905-822-1707. Refreshments will be served. If you wish to contribute scrumptious sweets or savouries, Norma Lumsden would be pleased to hear from you before April 23, 416-237-9026 or normahrlumsden@yahoo.ca.

### 41st Annual West Toronto Ball

May 8

The 41st Annual West Toronto Ball will be held at the Rameses Shrine Temple, 3100 Keele Street. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. This is a beginners' ball but it's an enjoyable evening for all levels of dancers. Tickets \$60, students age 14+ \$40. Info on the website. Contact Anna Rielly: t.rielly@rogers.com or 519-927-5502.

### Glenview's Spring Fling

Wednesday, May 12 @ 8 p.m.

Kick up your heels (and point your toes) to the music of Bobby and Laird Brown at Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. Toronto. Dancing: 8 - 10:30 p.m. followed by refreshments. \$20 per person. Contact: Ian Clunie: 416-486-6582

### St. Andrew's of Brampton

May 19

St Andrew's of Brampton end-of-season dance at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Church Street, Brampton.

## Have You Been Captured?

Check the website for video from the Tartan Ball. Take a look at our young dancers performing at the Children's Festival. Look for more photos of action at the Children's Festival. Click the links from the home page of [www.RSCDSToronto.org](http://www.RSCDSToronto.org)





## Dance Etiquette: "Tradition, Tradition, Tradition"

—Fiddler on the Roof



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

**D**o you thank people with whom you dance, or are we gradually eroding the tradition?

In a set of eight dancers, you are part of a team that helps you enjoy the dance. Without them, you would be dancing by yourself, so express your gratitude by saying, "Thank you, I enjoyed dancing with you."

Thanking everyone in the dance set was once fundamental dance etiquette even in a beginners' class. Neglecting to do so was particularly disturbing to the Ontario group who traveled to Scotland last September. At the Saturday Ball, when a dance was finished, dancers just walked off the floor. It left us guests feeling that we were not welcome, and those who danced with us were not pleased to have had us in their set.

Rather than lose this tradition, let us advise the Scottish Country Dance world that we demonstrate this courtesy at the end of each dance. Scottish Country Dancing is social, and thanking dancers in the set magnifies the sociability for which Scottish Country Dancing is known.

... Carole Skinner

## Nigel & Lourdes: *Tribute to the Borders*



**R**ecently, we drove *The Winding Road* to the Border Cities Workshop (Windsor-Detroit Branches). *Crossing The Line* into the USA should have been tediously routine but, for us, it was not. The Guardians of the great republic found our purpose (Scottish Country dancing) rather suspicious: "You don't look Scottish!" we were told. (Nigel's Scottish granny would be highly offended!)

The Guardian, steely-eyed and stony-faced, with a rather large gun on his belt, demanded a phone number to confirm Lourdes' employment with the Toronto School Board. They didn't appreciate our humorous remark: "The best of British luck – phoning an educational establishment late Friday afternoon as March Break begins."

We were cross-examined as to our purpose in America. We produced the workshop brochure and even the MapQuest printout to the Troy church hall where we were dancing. The

Guardian was not impressed. "How do you know dancers in Detroit?" and "Can you give me the name and number of the organizers so they can vouch for you?" Alas, we had neither name nor number to offer.

Finally, given our inability to satisfy his inquiries (which by then felt more like an inquisition), we came to the "piece de resistance." Since we claimed to be experienced dancers, the Guardian demanded proof. He invited us, with a smug "Gotcha!" smirk, to take the floor. If we wanted to enter the USA we would have to dance our way in! So, right there, in the Immigration Hall, to the amazement of public and staff alike, we displayed our prowess by dancing *Petronella* – Dance 1 in Book One.

Was the Guardian pleased? Did that grimace mask a smile, or a disappointment? Who knows! However, he then permitted us to sign declaration papers and we were released – having spent more than 3 hours under scrutiny and questioning.

By contrast, the workshop itself was *The Happy Meeting*. Our hosts welcomed us,

Fred Moyes played wonderful dance music, the hall had a springy wooden floor, and the 'afterglow' at the man-



## "The Green Machine" In Toronto

**N**ine representatives of the Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society attended the Toronto Association's March Monthly Dance (which was rather close to St Patrick's Day!). Six dancers were from the Basic Class of the RSCDS' 80-member Peterborough Affiliate. They were accompanied by Joan Reeves, beginner instructor, and by John Reeves, who founded, and still teaches, a Trent University course: *Introduction to Scottish Country Dancing*, now in its 20th year.

Two of the three Trent students pictured got their SCD start in John's class and now dance with the Peterborough group, which started nearly 60 years ago with Scottish war brides wanting to do the traditional dancing of their homeland.

... Joan Reeves

## Ceilidh with Keith

Friday, April 9 @ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave.

Adults: \$8 Youth: \$2

**B**ring a non-dancing friend or attend to be a strong partner and to have a good time. Beginner dancers will find the ceilidh great for dancing just for the fun of it.

Karen Bulkowski and Julia Callaby will be staffing the entrance table and they will welcome you.

Info: Deirdre MacCuish Bark 905-822-1707, [barkd@rogers.com](mailto:barkd@rogers.com) or Carole Bell [carolewbell@sympatico.ca](mailto:carolewbell@sympatico.ca) 416-221-1201.



sion-like residence of one of the organizer's went into the wee sma'hours, enlivened by Fred's sing-along music.

Our journey home was uneventful. At the suggestion of our new American friends, we ducked the Bluewater Bridge and instead took the Sombra Ferry which tramps across the St Clair river 30 km south of Sarnia. Brilliant! Total border crossing time: about 6 minutes! Canadian border guardians, sadly, did not require us to affirm our dancing prowess but, just in case, we had polished *Macdonald of Sleat*! ... Lourdes Genosa & Nigel Keenan

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**TEACHER & MUSIC COORDINATOR:**

Keith Bark



## What's In a Name? ~ *The Royal Wedding*



Gene MacKinnon was also a painter and a dedicated supporter of the Isle of Tiree genealogy research.



Attendees at our AGM on April 24 will have the opportunity to enjoy this strathspey. It was devised by Gene MacKinnon. Celebrating whose wedding is not too hard to determine. As far as we know, there was no likely connection with royalty for the well-known Mairi of wedding fame. Did the wedding perhaps take place in South Africa? ... Cape Town to be precise? No, neither of the above! But did you know that according to something I saw on the Strathspey Server website, there are close to 100 dances in the SCD repertoire that refer to some wedding or other?

Of course, there is no mystery here, once you know that this dance first surfaced in the RSCDS booklet *Five Scottish Country Dances* 1982. Who was married in London's St Paul's Cathedral, just prior to that year? Ah, yes! The ill-fated wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer took place on July 29, 1981. One might wonder if the deviser of *The Royal Wedding* would have had second thoughts about the dance within a few years of its celebration.

So let's focus less on the dance than on its deviser, Gene MacKinnon. Is that perhaps an American gentleman named Eugene? As we know, folks in the US do have quite the interest in Britain's Royal Family. Not so! The late Gene MacKinnon (nee Lewis) was a resident of Guelph, Ontario. She was a long-time member of our sister branch, RSCDS Hamilton, and was the deviser of a number of SCD favourites, including that great reel, *Memory Lane*. I suspect that many of RSCDS Toronto's veteran teachers will have known Gene MacKinnon quite well. Gene MacKinnon passed away a little over two years ago on December 29, 2008, at the age of 79 ... a significant loss to Scottish Country Dancing in Southern Ontario.

... Barry Pipes: [mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca)



**gě'ner|o'sity:** ...the willingness to give of one's time, help or money, freely, without coercion. A trait of kindness, often equated with charity as a virtue, and widely accepted by society as a desirable attribute.

Well, Scottish Country dancers have generosity in spades: our Social Group teachers share their knowledge of dancing and give encouragement, fellow dancers patiently and good-naturedly show their enthusiasm for the dance, Board members donate their time freely to ensure the Association remains a financially viable and healthy organization, and host groups contribute to and help set up the tea tables at Social Groups and Monthly Dances. Scottish Country dancers routinely exhibit their willingness to give altruistically. For us, generosity abounds.

But it's not just generosity of spirit. Some members and some Social Groups open their wallets, too. Over the past few years, the Association has received a number of generous donations for Dancing in the Park, for the Youth Weekend, and for our Children's events – even for someone to participate in a class.

We dance in a world where, unfortunately, tragedy is no stranger. As the extent and gravity of the tragedy in Haiti continue to unfold and new tragedy occurs in Chile, perhaps it's time to reflect on our good fortune. Some other Branches hold festival days and dance-a-thons to raise money for their own and other worthy causes. Possibly, that is something we should consider. In the meantime, let's be thankful as we dance and continue to be generous in the many ways we are. ... *Take partners!*

... Tom Clark, Director at Large,  
Social Group Liaison/ Volunteer

### Notice of an AGM Agenda Item

There is one item of business arising from the 2009 AGM. At the 2010 AGM, members will be asked to ratify changes to be made to the Toronto Association's Procedures Manual to reflect the change to membership categories which was agreed on at the 2009 AGM (namely the addition of a "Young Adult Members" category under "Full Members").

The revisions are as follows (New wording is in red. Sections that have not been changed are not reprinted below. Notes in square brackets will not appear in the Procedures Manual):

#### 3.2 Categories of Members.

There are three (3) categories of members, Full, Associate, and Honorary

#### 3.2.1 Full Members of the RSCDS Toronto Association are

- a) Honorary Life Members
- b) Life or Long Term Members of the Society
- c) Regular Adult Members

#### d) Young Adult Members

3.3.3 A Regular Adult Member is anyone age **twenty-five (25)** years and over who has submitted an application form and has paid the annual membership fee. [This was formerly "eighteen (19) years"]

[add a new 3.3.4 as follows:]

3.3.4 A Young Adult Member is a person aged 18 through 24 who has submitted an application form and paid the annual membership fee.

[Renumber the former 3.3.4 to 3.3.6 as 3.3.5 to 3.3.7]

... Pat Clark, Secretary

## Upcoming events: NEAR

APR. 6. **TARTAN DAY:** Wear the tartan today!

APR. 9. **Ceilidh Class:** St. Leonard's, 7:30- 9:30

APR. 17. **West Acres Group Spring Dance:**

Contact: Nora Sutherland 905-276-2602,  
nora.sutherland@rogers.com

APR. 17. **Youth Ball:** Newtonbrook United Church Hall at Cummer and Yonge Streets.

APR. 24. **AGM & Dance:** Crescent School 7:30-10:30pm. AGM at the Interval.

MAY 1. **Festival of Dance** at St Leonard's.

MAY 11. **Calvin Spring Dance** at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Ken Adamson: 416-763-0073 or ken.adamson@sympatico.ca.

MAY 12. **Glenview's Spring Fling** at Glenview Presbyterian Church. Ian Clunie: 416-486-6582

MAY 19. **St. Andrew's of Brampton** end of season dance at St Andrew's church, Church Street, Brampton.

### Youth Ball

April 17, 2010

*Newtonbrook United Church Hall*

Reception at 5 p.m.

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Grand March at 7:30 p.m.

*A posh event for young dancers  
10 to 20-ish*

### Demo Pool Practices

Sundays: Apr. 11 & 18

At Broadlands Community Centre  
DVP & Lawrence Ave. E.

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for core and other dances

Practising our current list of dances/medleys and our dance for the Toronto Festival of Dance. The Demo Pool welcomes interested dancers familiar with the basic formations.

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

## Christmas Elves Needed



On the weekend of Dec. 5 & 6, 2009, members of the RSCDS Toronto demo team and volunteers assembled at City Hall Rotunda with groups from other countries to show how each celebrates Christmas. We had some good comments, especially about our tree, decorated with golf balls and tartan ribbons. The samples of food donated by those attending were greatly enjoyed by visitors to the booth.

We intend to participate again this year, but we need help to organize and staff the booth over the 2 days. We also ask for donations of baking and crafts to sell. Interested in helping with Christmas Around the World 2010? Please let John Clark or Deirdre MacCuish Bark know. The sooner we start plans and preparations the more enjoyable the weekend will be for all.

John Clark, 416-266-3609, clark62@sympatico.ca  
Deirdre MacCuish Bark, 905-822-1707,  
barkd@rogers.com

## Upcoming events: FAR

APR. 17. **Ottawa Annual Ball Weekend.** Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Friday Welcome dance, Dinner & Ball Saturday at the RA Centre, Sunday Brunch. Full weekend \$85 CDN. Info Harry & Margaret MacKay at hmackay@ncf.ca or see <http://rscdsottawa.ca/>

APR. 24. **RSCDS Hamilton Branch Ball.** Contact: Sheila Richards, 34 Forestview Drive, Dundas, Ontario L9H 6M8 or 905-627-9697. Email: ronshei@cogeco.ca

MAY 1. **RSCDS London Ont. Branch Annual Spring Ball,** Great Hall, Somerville House University of Western Ont. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact: Janet Schreiber 519-681-8068 jschreiber@execulink.ca

MAY 1. **RSCDS St. Catharines' Spring Golden Gala Ball,** celebrating 50 years of dancing in Niagara. Music: Don Bartlett. Applications and information: [www.rscdsstcatharines.ca](http://www.rscdsstcatharines.ca)

MAY 1. **Ottawa Branch Beginners' Ball.** 7:15 at Parkdale United Church. Info: [www.rscdsottawa.ca](http://www.rscdsottawa.ca)

MAY 21-23.. **Peterborough SCDS Annual Workshop Weekend** at Irwin Inn on the shores of beautiful Stoney Lake. Teaching by Carole Skinner and music by Fred Moyes. Info: [www.pscds-on.org](http://www.pscds-on.org)

JUNE 5. **Flying Ghillies Workshop & Ball, Dayton, Ohio.** Teachers: Elaine Brunken, Laurel, MD, and Tracey Applebee, Cincinnati, OH. Music: The Music Makars. Info: [www.rscdsincincinnati.org/FlyingGhillies/](http://www.rscdsincincinnati.org/FlyingGhillies/)

JUNE 21. **The Crystal Ball, Kitchener,** at the Walper Terrace Hotel. \$75 (\$70 early birds). Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact Malcolm Coutts 519-822-5789.

AUG. 1-15. **TAC Candidate Classes and Exams.** Units 2,3 & 5. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo. Info on the TAC web-site: [www.tac-rscds.org](http://www.tac-rscds.org) or contact Exam Co-ordinator, Deirdre MacCuish Bark: barkd@rogers.com

AUG. 8-15. **TAC Summer School** at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Info: [www.tac-rscds.org](http://www.tac-rscds.org) or contact Summer School Director Marie Ziccarelli mrezz@roadrunner.com

OCT. 30. **RSCDS London's 80th Anniversary Ball** at Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London. Tickets £40 including champagne and dinner. Info: [www.rscdslondon.org.uk/html/anniversary\\_ball.html](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/html/anniversary_ball.html) Contact: Jon Allen-Friend, jon.friend@rogers.com



Modelled by Brenda Hurst

Logoed t-shirts, vests and dance shirts will be on sale at the April dances ( cash or cheque).



[www.rscdstoronto.org](http://www.rscdstoronto.org)

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416.221-1201 carolewbell@sympatico.ca  
Director at Large,  
Social Group Liaison/ Volunteers : Tom Clark  
416.225-5222 tom.clark@kos.net  
Director at Large,  
Special Events : Deirdre MacCuish Bark  
905.822-1707 barkd@rogers.com

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Chair: Carole Bell  
416.221-1201 carolewbell@sympatico.ca  
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416.226-6081 deholmes@sympatico.ca  
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416.759-9845 RobLockhart@rogers.com  
Marian White:  
416.781-7795 marianwhite@sympatico.ca  
Judy Williams:  
416.924-3658 junit@pathcom.com  
Teresa Lockhart [ Junior Jig ]:  
416.759-9845 Teresa.Lockhart@rogers.com

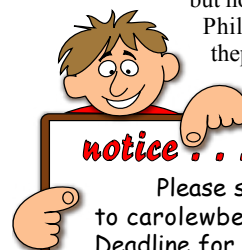
### Advertise in Set & Link

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 items of interest to dancers.

Info: Brenda Nunes: 416-691-1764  
brendajnunes@gmail.com

### Wanted: Sale Co-ordinator

We need someone to coordinate a spring or fall Garage Sale in support of the 2011 Youth Weekend. Experience is an asset, but not necessary. Contact Fiona Philip at (905) 785-8983, thephilipclan@sympatico.ca



### notice . . .

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