

RSCDS SET & LINK

TORONTO ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2007



Chair's Message



The year is 1957, and Canadian voters have ended 22 years of Liberal Party rule by electing John G. Diefenbaker to head a Progressive Conservative government. What are your memories of that year?

Were you saddened at the death of Oliver Hardy or fascinated to hear Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Todd were to be married? If your memories are triggered by Pop tunes, then you will recall the hit 45's of the time, "A White Sports Coat and a Pink Carnation" and "You-oo-oo, Send Me"! On the other hand, while some were playing in parks and backyards with the latest toy craze to hit the market, the Frisbee, you may have been actively involved in Scottish Country Dancing classes somewhere in the city or surrounding areas at 25¢ per evening!

Later that year, while some dedicated Scottish Country Dancers were anxiously awaiting news from the Society in Scotland, would you believe it, the Russians launched Sputnik I, the first man-made satellite! Then on October 7, 1957, fifty years ago, word was received from Scotland that Toronto had attained Branch status!

During 2007 and 2008, we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of your Branch. This is a milestone in the history of your Association and one that will be marked by several special events. We invite you, your family, and friends to join our Golden Year celebrations!

Keep on dancing, but if you have an evening to spare why not rent the 1957 hit movie, the chick flick "An Affair to Remember"! Shona must have watched it several dozen times and always needs a box of tissues close at hand!

Jan

RSCDS Toronto Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by Donald Holmes



A vibrant organization that exists for half a century weaves its fabric into its community, leaving indelible threads that enrich the lives of both the participants and the members of that community. Such is the case of the RSCDS Toronto Association as it begins celebrating its 50th Anniversary (Quinquagesimary) in September 2007.

This is an occasion to recognize the history of Scottish dance in Toronto, to mark the stability of the Scottish community here, and to note what the RSCDS is still doing in our midst. Young dancers will also be included so that we ensure growth for the future of the Association in Toronto and the surrounding area.

Saturday, September 15, 2007, will signal the beginning of a dance year celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RSCDS in Toronto. The dance year 2007-2008 will be thrilling and memorable for dancers within the GTA and beyond who want to participate in activities planned by a variety of committees.

Isabelle MacPherson (416-489-0988) is collecting memorabilia from groups within the Toronto Association. Judy Williams is in charge of publishing an anniversary booklet. Together, they will present the historical display on September 15. All groups are encouraged to submit some historical written record and photos to Isabelle so that the Association's record can be as representative and as nearly complete as possible. You can donate the materials to Isabelle or submit copies. Materials will be digitized and originals returned to the owners.

In the afternoon of September 15, 2007, historical materials will be displayed at the Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele Street, refreshments will be served, and former dancers will be invited to the celebration. This event is open to everyone. It is an informal opportunity to renew friendships and establish new ones. Here is a chance to remember bygone days, celebrate today, and build for the future.

Grace Harris is contacting former dancers. If you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving an invitation, please contact her at (416) 431-9653 or at grace_colin@hotmail.com. Tickets for the afternoon, including refreshments,

▶ Please see **ANNIVERSARY** on page 3

March Monthly Dance – Beginner’s Night!

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2007
Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave.
Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent
Hosts: Newtonbrook • Hillcrest • Tayside
 Please note that Crescent School has a no-nut policy.

Espie McNabb	8x32J	(MMM1)
Corn Rigs	6x32R	(4/12)
She’s Ower Young to Marry Yet	8x32S	(14/8)
Cutty Sark	8x32J	(40/2)
Lady Auckland’s Reel	6x32S	(18/2)
Mrs. MacLeod	8x32R	(6/11)
INTERVAL		
Alan J. Smith	8x32J	(45/3)
Gramachie	8x32S	(MMM1)
The Royal Deeside Railway	8x32R	(40/9)
Scottish Reform	6x32J	(3/1)
Monymusk	8x32S	(11/2)
The De’il Amang the Tailors	8x32R	(14/7)
EXTRAS		
Argyll’s Fancy	4x48J	(Gr/23)
The Reel of the 51st Division	8x32R	(13/10)

Note: All dances will be walked.

RSCDS TORONTO ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting will be held Saturday, April 28, 2007 during intermission at the Monthly Dance at Crescent School. Note:

- In accordance with Section 3.7 of the Procedures Manual, any amendments to this Manual, proposed by the members, must be submitted to the Board, in writing, at least 60 days in advance on the AGM, and must be supported by at least 10 current Full Members of the RSCDS Toronto Association.
- A motion to amend the Procedures Manual to include the Association’s Activities Policy will be presented to the members at this meeting.

Tartan Ball Practices

Tartan Ball practices will take place Thursday, February 1 and February 8 at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 DeLisle Avenue (one block north of St Clair, west off Yonge) from 8-10 pm. \$5 at the door.

Glenview also welcomes dancers to attend Tartan Ball practices at its regular meetings on Wednesday, February 7 and 14 from 8-10 pm at Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Avenue. Visitors: \$6.

Kia Ora! from Aopearoa

Carole Bell sends “Greetings” from the “Land of the Long White Cloud”



In December, Ron and I were taught this warm Maori greeting of New Zealand’s North Island. December begins New Zealand summers. In Auckland, temperatures were pleasant but in Dunedin, near the southeast end of South Island, the weather was changeable, cold, and brisk. On the South Pacific side, the Otago Peninsula is home to Yellow-Eyed Penguins, nesting Royal Albatross, Hooker Sea Lions, and Sea Elephants. The only land south of New Zealand is Antarctica. The weather suddenly made sense.

The New Zealand Branch (all of New Zealand is one RSCDS Branch) celebrated its 50th nationally organized Summer School in December, attracting a record 300 dancers from all parts of the dancing world.

Dunedin, settled in 1848 by Scottish immigrants, is a Scottish coastal town, boasting a statue of Robert Burns guarding the “Octagon” and a number of architecturally interesting Victorian and Edwardian stone buildings. Summer School was centered at Knox College, an imposing Victorian building, originally a theological college now part of University of Otago. It is surrounded by beautiful Botanic Gardens with spectacular roses and many familiar perennials. The Cabbage trees and giant flax plants provide clues that this is not a European country.

Dunedin is hilly. Classes were held at different locations, requiring climbing steep hills. Baldwin Street, the steepest street in the world (Guinness Book of World Records), was only two streets from the hall where Ron and I attended daily. With Evelyn and John Holmberg, we did climb it! With three-hour morning classes, optional classes, mock court, trips, afternoon golf, three social dances, three balls and a ceilidh in the evenings, and much walking and socializing, we all became very fit!

Among the Canadians present, seven couples from the Toronto area met at Summer School and made our presence felt. One couple brought a full-sized Canadian flag, courtesy of their local MP, and managed to persuade the College staff to fly it. For one full day—New Year’s Eve—it flew proudly from the Knox flagpole.

▶ Please see **GREETINGS** on page 3

Marking our 50th Anniversary Successfully

Last Call...

for the 50th Anniversary book

Check those old photo albums; delve into the murky recesses of your memory. Do you have pictures, funny anecdotes, or fond memories of people or events? Share your memorabilia to make the 50th Anniversary Book a success. Contact Judy Williams, 416-924-3658, junit@pathcom.com or Jane Robinson, 416-463-5016, janer1@sympatico.ca

Logo Contest

We are pleased to announce the winner of the 50th Anniversary logo competition is Teresa Lockhart. Look for the logo on promotional material that will be out soon. Many thanks to those who submitted designs, and to the committee who had the difficult task of choosing only one.

Calling All Cooks



Recipes are arriving daily and we are excited to be under way. They all look great so far, but there's still plenty of room - the more the merrier. Since this is a cookbook for the anniversary year, it would be great to include hand-me-down recipes from those who no longer come out dancing. While going through your files, keep your eyes peeled for these treasures. There will also be a special Children's section, so get your kids involved. The submission deadline is Saturday, March 10th, 2007. For more info (or if you lost your form) contact: Theresa Malek 416-535-4447, theresamalek@rogers.com The recipe form is also posted on the website, Home Page.

West End Workshop

In 1984, Doug Stephen (Erin Mills) and Jess Bryden (Bloorlea) envisioned the creation of a West End Workshop to be held in spring 1985. Beginner and Intermediate classes were to be taught by Jess Bryden, Wes Clindinning and Jean Hamilton; music by Stan Hamilton.

We offered coffee and doughnuts, a hearty lunch, and evening dance, for less than \$10. Innovation was the key to early success. Soup was made from packets, fresh vegetables were added and it was served as "home made." The marvellous "drink machine," thanks to Bruce Murdoch, produced an everlasting flow of soft drinks to quench the thirsty dancers.

When we moved to Streetsville Secondary in 1987, the larger space allowed us to grow and to improve our already high standards. Wealthier now, we could have teachers from abroad and musicians for all classes and the evening dance.

This event has surpassed our wildest expectations, becoming the "workshop to attend," thanks to the hard work and dedication of the "Few." We saw this as an opportunity to give something back to an activity that gave so much to us.

The fact that our workshop is very much alive after more than two decades speaks for itself. We filled a void, while establishing an identity for the West End and Erin Mills dancers.

The tradition continues, Saturday, March 24, this year at Fletcher's Meadow Public School, Brampton (see page 4).

Jim Spalding,

First Chairman of the West End Workshop

What's in a name? *The Royal Deeside Railway*

The magnificent "Silver Dee" is one of Scotland's most prolific salmon-fishing rivers. It flows 150 km from the Cairngorms until it reaches the North Sea at Aberdeen. Its scenic valley became a favourite of Queen Victoria, hence the expression "Royal Deeside".



Following the royal purchase of the Balmoral Estate in the 1840s and the erection of a new castle, a railway line was developed to run along the river valley from Aberdeen to Ballater. Its completion in 1866 provided Victoria with easy access to her estate, as Ballater was just a short coach ride from Balmoral. For the following hundred years, to take The Royal Deeside Railway was also a popular sight-seeing trip, until it was closed down unceremoniously by British Railways in 1966.

Steam-railway enthusiasts have since redeveloped some short sections of track and refurbished the old station at Ballater as a Visitor Centre. In 1999, RSCDS Book 40 included a lovely, flowing 32-bar reel called *The Royal Deeside Railway* to celebrate this piece of Victorian history.

Barry Pipes

► GREETINGS continued from page 2



Summer School was well organized with demanding teachers, great floors, informative daily newsletters, friendly dancers, and interesting people, including Keith Napier of *Napier's Index* fame, and Iain Boyd from Wellington, deviser of *Meeting of the Waters* and *The Trysting Place*.

By the time you read this article, four of the six Toronto couples will have continued their New Zealand odyssey having "tramped" the Milford Track. This four-day, 53.5 km walk over Mackinnon Pass is one of the finest hikes in the world. The Track ends in Milford Sound, *Piopiota* to the Maori, a beautiful 22 km fjord in South Island's spectacular Fiordland National Park. Truly one can say HISCDS. Have ghillies; see the world!

► ANNIVERSARY continued from page 1 will be \$20 per person.

The major event will be a semi-formal dance that evening at Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele Street, Toronto. Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent is booked. The dance programme, selected by Jean Noble, will include dances that were popular 50 years ago (Book 19). Tickets, at \$50 per person (members and non-members alike) will include admission to the dance and the buffet. They will be available beginning at the March monthly dance.

The historical display area will also be available throughout the evening. In addition, the winning dance from the 50th Anniversary Dance Competition will be announced and demonstrated.

Donald Holmes is chair of the September 15th celebration.

Upcoming Events

NEAR

FEBRUARY 10, 2007. **South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers' Valentine Workshop** at Knox Presbyterian Church, Alliston. Teacher: Maureen Richardson. Registration at 9:00 a.m. Classes from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$15 including lunch. Contact Pat Asada 905-478-2085, pfasada@sympatico.ca



FEBRUARY 17, 2007. **44th Annual Tartan Ball** at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Order tickets from Jim Stark, 416-691-8035, jstark@sympatico.ca

MARCH 3, 2007. **Children's Festival** at St. Joseph's S.S., 5555 Creditview Rd., Mississauga. Doors open at 12:30 pm, dancing begins at 1:30. A \$4 donation is suggested for spectators; children are free. Encourage young dancers as they demonstrate what they've learned. Bring your dancing shoes for participation dances. Contact teachers of children's classes or Colin and Fiona Philip, 905-785-8983, thephilipclan@sympatico.ca

MARCH 24, 2007. **West End Workshop** at Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School, 10750 Chinguacousy Road, Brampton. *Please note change in location.* Teachers: Janet Johnston, Edinburgh; Elizabeth McMahon, Lakefield; Steve Coombs, Burlington. Musicians: Bobby Brown, Laird Brown and Jim Darge. Music for tea dance: Bobby and Laird Brown. Contact Anna Rielly, 519-927-5502, t.rielly@rogers.com

MARCH 24, 2007. **Blair Spring Ball** hosted by Blair Scottish Country Dancers, Cambridge. Music: Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent. Cocktails at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, dancing from 8:00 p.m. Dancers \$55, non-dancers \$30. Contact Carolyn Edwards, ceds64@hotmail.com or 519-743-9215.

MARCH 31, '07. **Scottish Country Tea**



Last year the Woodglen Scottish Tea raised a tidy sum in support of dancing youth. Everyone had a great time, and a great cup of tea with home baked goodies – served by men in kilts. Here we go again. Please join us for good cheer and demos by young dancers from Woodglen and Rosedale. Two sittings. \$10/person from Ron Baker 416-286-9755.

MAY 5, 2007. **The Festival of Dance.** An invitation to all Social Groups, Branch Classes and Demonstration Groups to showcase their favourite dance. St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave. from 1-5 p.m. Contact the Special Events Committee via Linda Donald at linrudon@hotmail.com or 905-509-1849.

May 12, 2007. **West Toronto Ball** at Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele Street, Toronto. Reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, dancing 8:30-12:30. Music by Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent. Dances will be briefed, but not walked. Contact Anna Rielly 519-927-5502; trielly@rogers.com

FAR

JULY 22, 2007-AUG. 19, 2007. **RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland** A range of scholarships is available. Scholarships must be supported by a nominee and supporter and a letter of recommendation from a Branch. Deadline for applications is **February 28, 2007.** Contact Brenda Hurst: brenhurst@hotmail.com or 416-925-6982 or visit www.rseds.org

JULY 25-29, 2007, **International Scottish Country Dance School**, Dalhousie University, Halifax. Lydia Hedge 902-827-2033.

JULY 29-AUGUST 5, 2007. **T.A.C. Summer School 2007.** Details on the T.A.C. website <http://tac-rseds.org>

Teaching/Dancing Opportunity



Dunedin, Florida SCD meet Sundays, September thru April. Basic Class 6:00 p.m. to 7:00; Social Class 7 to 9:30.

The group welcomes visiting dancers and teachers. Contact Bill Possi at wadepossi@earthlink.net www.scottishdancefl.org/dunedin.html



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notice . . .

Carole Bell has returned. Please send submissions to carolewbell@sympatico.ca. Deadline for March is Feb. 15.