

## Chair's Message



The Sept. 15 Gala was what SCD is all about.

SCD is about the old and the new. Our newest social group, Humbercrest, made a display board, as did our two oldest groups, Calvin and Petronella. Our new signature dance devised by Jean Noble honoured the long time contributions of Jean Hamilton. Our young dancers from Rosedale and Woodglen demonstrated the dance wearing beautiful dresses from the 1967 Centennial. Our new dancers came to enjoy the event as did so many of our former members who no longer dance.

SCD is about how individual efforts combine to give wonderful group results, be it dancing in a set or individual groups making display boards to form a marvelous room of memorabilia.

SCD is about friendship. The number of people in attendance certainly testifies to that. They came from as far away as New Zealand to celebrate with us locals.

SCD is family – those friends who support us through the panic times.

SCD is about music. Thanks to Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent "for lifting us off the floor". We also enjoyed the guest appearance of Kenny Thompson, leader of the Wardlaw S.C.D. Band.

SCD is about dances. Thanks to Jean Noble for a lovely program, danceable by all.

But most of all, SCD is about joy – the joy of the dance and the joy of fellowship. This was evidenced by everyone there. The dedication and commitment of the members of the various committees made a wonderful day for us all. A huge *Thank You!* to Donald Holmes for chairing this event. May it be the start of a memorable year.

*Jane*

## Petronella's Quinquagenary!



*Petronella Group – On the occasion of their 45th Anniversary*

Half a century ago, when Scottish Country Dancing around Toronto was just cutting its teeth, a SCD Group which proudly called itself Petronella was born. What better name to select than the first dance in RSCDS Book 1? As Petronella celebrates its 50th Birthday, we look back over those golden years with nostalgia. *Quinquagenary* sounds so much more authoritative than *semi-centenary!*

1957 was a significant year that included the births of Osama Bin Laden, the Ford Edsel and the Boeing 707. Humphrey Bogart died in 1957 as did the gangster Bugsy Moran, and Canada's Lester Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Why was Petronella's birth in Thornhill of all places? Didn't just about every Scottish immigrant settle in Scarborough in those days? But Thornhill it was, on a lovely September evening, at the local United Church, under the direction of teachers Alan & Maureen Foster, who later moved to San Diego. Through the succeeding years Petronella thrived and, in 1974, moved to Royal Orchard School. A number of teachers took the helm, including: Les & Elaine James, Cathy Beatty, Mary Rae, and Lizbeth Rodger.

In 1978, Janette Todd took over as teacher and for 24 years carried Petronella forward until voluntarily retiring in 2002 to allow her protégé Carole Skinner to step in. A native of St. Andrews in the "Kingdom of Fife", Janette learned her dancing skills before the critical eyes of Miss Jean Milligan. She made a strong connection with the Toronto Branch of RSCDS, dancing in numerous demo teams along with Georgina Finlay and Grace Harris. Janette also travelled on occasion as a dancer with touring groups such as the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. She became a leading teacher of children's groups, always managing to enter winning teams of young dancers at the annual Children's Gala events.

Janette was also involved in securing Petronella's successful audition in 1993 as a regular performing group at Roy Thomson Hall in the Annual RBC Seniors' Jubilee Afternoon Concerts. The Group first appeared on stage with a Scottish Country dance routine for eight female dancers. Fifteen years later, this has grown to include a regular team of four men and eight women dancing before a daily audience of over 2000 people in each of five afternoons. Carole Skinner now prepares the Petronella dancers for this event, using her exceptional choreographical skills – along with veteran Highland Dance teacher and choreographer Ella Allison, who is also a regular Petronella member.

Five years ago, on the occasion of its 45th anniversary (pictured above), Petronella held an invitational event that included many members from past decades. We were gratified to find that so many RSCDS Toronto members from other Social Groups had danced at Petronella in past years at some time or other.

So, "quinqua"... whatever! It's onwards and upwards for even more Petronella golden years yet to come!

... Barry Pipes

## November Monthly Dance

**Date:** Saturday, November 10, 2007

**Time:** 8:00 - 10:30 p.m.

**Place:** Crescent School  
2365 Bayview Avenue

**Music:** Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent

**Hosts:** St. Andrew's of Brampton, Hillcrest, South Simcoe

Campbell's Frolic	8x32 J	Bk.15-3
The Cumbrae Reel*	8x32 R	Bk.28-8
Jimmy's Fancy <sup>†</sup>	8x32 S	Bk.14-11
Just in Time	8x32 J	Lft
The Sauchie Haugh*	6x32 S	RSCDS Lft 29
The Music Will Tell You	4x32 R	Bk41-6
Interval ---		
EH3 7AF	8x32 J	Bk.40-6
The Gates of Edinburgh	8x32 R	Bk.15-5
The Meeting Place	M 2x32S 32R	Lft
Light and Airy	8x32 J	Bk.4-5
Mrs. Hamilton of Eaglemount	3x40 S	Golden Ghillies
Mrs MacLeod <sup>†</sup>	8x32 R	Bk.6-11
Extras ---		
Argyll's Fancy	4x48 J	Graded 23
May Yarker's Strathspey	8x32 S	Bk.42-5
Round Reel of Eight	1x88 R	Bk.27-7

<sup>†</sup> Dances which will be briefed only.

\* Tartan Ball dances.

## 50th Anniversary Dances

*Jean Hamilton explains the background to dances of special significance in the Monthly Dance program.*

**Just in Time, Jig** devised by Irene Paterson in 2003 and inscribed to Ruth Jappy "whose phrasing is excellent".

Ruth Jappy (a guest teacher at our Toronto Workshop in November) grew up in a musical family and married a musician, accordionist Alex Jappy. So it is no surprise that as a much-in-demand teacher of both Scottish Country and Old Time dancing, she always stresses, "Listen to the music, finish the steps and arrive just in time."

Ruth and Alex were long-time members of Toronto Branch and Scarborough Group. Ruth served on the Toronto Branch Committee before settling on the West Coast where they formed The Delta Borderers. Ruth was recently awarded the Scroll of Honour by the RSCDS.

**The Meeting Place, Medley (32 strathspey, 32 reel)** devised by Betty Grant in 1984.

"Toronto" is the English version of a Mississauga Indian word meaning "Meeting Place."

It seemed appropriate to include this dance on the workshop programme in our 50th year, since many dancers have come here from surrounding areas to meet on the dance floor, to practise their skills and to make and renew friendships.

It also seemed appropriate to remember Betty Grant, a true ambassador for Scottish Country dancing and the Toronto Association in particular.

## We were danced off our feet!



Back, L-R: Eric Finley (class member), Samantha Mephram, Ken Martlew (pianist), Sarah Norris, Gavin Keachie, Front: Eleanor Bishop, Joyce Anderson, (Highland teacher), Diane (class member)

For most Scottish Country dancers, summer means recuperation between busy dancing seasons; however, for Eleanor Bishop, Samantha Mephram, Gavin Keachie, and me, August brought the busiest dance week any of us had ever experienced.

We arrived in St. Andrews, Scotland, on a cool wet Sunday, a welcome change from the humid 32°C of Hamilton. At Boy's Brigade Hall, we attended our first class, taught by Jenny Greene, and accompanied on accordion by Bernie Hewitt. This class lasted over an hour, during which Jenny (in the nicest possible way) beat our steps into shape. After a break, we went to Younger Hall for our second class, with Grace Hill and accordionist John White. Grace opened her class with an energetic step dance warm-up and continued that energy through every class — whether working on jigs, reels, or strathspeys.

While sane dancers rested, the four of us and Dennis from Italy, and Diane from France, joined an afternoon class of Highland Dancing with Joyce Anderson accompanied on piano by Ken Martlew. We participated in a demonstration of Highland Dancing at the Younger Hall Social Dance later in the week.

We danced for five hours a day — more when we attended the evening social dances. In addition, we explored the town, castle, and cathedral. We experienced a ghost tour through the dark streets of the oldest parts of town.

By the end of the week we were danced off our feet! We allowed ourselves an afternoon of rest and then explored Edinburgh. From two homes, one in South Queensferry and the other at the base of Arthur's Seat, we absorbed all we could in one week. From Holyrood Palace to Mary King's Close, we saw it all. We even attempted more dancing (alas, rained out) in Princes Street Gardens. Too soon, our two weeks in Scotland ended. Having met dancers from Tokyo and Hamilton, and with a great deal more knowledge and skill, we boarded our plane to return home, all hoping that our dancing paths would lead us back to Scotland.

... Sarah Norris



## Buying A Kilt Was Easy...

*... the footwork may take a little longer*

*Hi, I'm Heather and I'm a Scottish Country Dancer.*

Just like an AA meeting, I'm surrounded by addicts. But our particular pathology is joy – the joy of dancing. Or should I say, the confusing, I'll-never-get-this, Spirograph-in-the-brain feeling of the novice.

I came to this fascinating hobby, as many do, by word of mouth. My husband, Mike, and I met some new neighbours, Rob and Teresa Lockhart. Well, new to me, though we've lived a minute away from Rob for over fifteen years. (Such is life in the big, atomized city.) They were quick to inform me that they had met at Scottish Country Dancing, and invited us to Dancing in the Park. We went, and watched in amazement – thoroughly enjoying this trip back in time, where civility is not nostalgia, and people actually smile. Being one-quarter Scot, I felt drawn to explore my heritage. That fall, Rob and Teresa faithfully drove me to their St Clement's social group every Monday night.

Remember learning to drive, how overwhelmed you were trying to remember fifty things simultaneously? Scottish Country Dancing revisits that stress. Learning the footwork, the formations and the structure of dances is like learning to drive an eighteen-wheeler. I remember feeling I was dragging my foot like The Mummy – having no idea how to get that leg in front of my body, and thinking I would never figure out how to do it. And that was just the warm-up!

But, like all addicts, I keep going. I'm keen to improve. To me, Scottish Country Dancing is a break from modern life. It's great, old-fashioned fun, it's civil and polite – throwback to a simpler time, although the dances are anything but simple. I can feel new neural pathways building in my brain with every lesson. But then, for some inexplicable reason (I suspect random declines of estrogen) everything collapses, and I totally forget what I'm doing. So, to all of the helpful, patient, and tolerant dancers who have pointed and prodded, pushed and guided hopeless beginners, I say a hearty *Thank you!* on behalf of us all. I hope in years to come, I will remember the panicked, confused, dizzy feeling of a beginner. The virtue of patience will help me assist newbies who launch into right-hand wheels with left hands confidently extended.

My six months of SCD culminated May 12th, 2007, at the sparkly 38th Annual West Toronto Ball. It was a challenge with so many excellent dancers in attendance, but my bravery was rewarded – I had a wonderful time. There was a lovely reception; wonderful pipers; a nice dinner; Mike looked regal in his new Braveheart Warrior kilt; great company; fun dances; a fantastic band; multiple mistakes on my part; experienced dancers who tried to help; and a 1:00 a.m. bedtime – about four hours past my usual! If you haven't been – GO! You'll love it.

*... Heather Peacock*

## What's in a Name?



*The steep, winding road to Rest And Be Thankful*

## Rest and be Thankful

*"Doubling and doubling with laborious walk,  
who, that has gained at length the wished-for height,  
this brief, this simple wayside call can slight, and rests not  
thankful?"*

These words were written by the Cumbrian poet William Wordsworth after reaching the head of Argyle's Vale of Glencroe on foot in 1803. No! Not a misprint! Glencroe of massacre fame is several miles to the north.

Glencroe? Just drive northwest out of Glasgow alongside Loch Lomond to Tarbet. Then hang a left and you're soon at the base of Glencroe, a glacial valley that climbs steadily until you arrive at its summit. You've reached ... Rest And Be Thankful!

It's quite the popular place for cyclists on hill-climb events. In fact, the late Roddy Nicoll, RSCDS Toronto's very own "Dundee Wheeler" and erstwhile cyclist, told me he'd made this trip many times and was well and truly thankful for a rest when he reached the top of the glen.

Carrying on from there, it's downhill all the way, around the end of the ever-windy Loch Fyne, until you reach Inverary. Now doesn't all that make you think of Scottish Country Dancing?

*... Barry Pipes*

## Board of Directors

### Secretary: Brenda Hurst



What's a young girl of 20 who loves dancing to do? In Montreal, a co-worker from England suggested Scottish Country Dancing and I never looked back. It became the favourite pastime of my life. I love the music and the sociability.

Fortunately, the Montreal Branch was forming when I started to dance. While dancing in Montreal, I travelled to workshops at Pinewoods, Ottawa, Kingston, Calgary, Vancouver and Boston. I was involved in the demo team, and a brief stint as chair.

As a science librarian my work took me from McGill to the National Research Council in Ottawa, where I danced for eleven years.

On retirement, as most of my children were located in Toronto, I moved here and have been active in four social groups, the workshop, and I am now starting my fourth year as Secretary of the Association. I also find time to enjoy opera, concerts and travelling – particularly where there is dancing!

### Treasurer: Wendy Fulton



Under the influence of Grant Muir, a Gaelic-speaking, bagpipe-playing minister with whom my mother worked at St. James Presbyterian Church,

I learned Highland dancing in my pre-teen years. I dabbled in SCD at Branch classes and Fallingbrook Church. While studying English literature at Trinity College (U of T), I pursued my interest in horse riding, buying one immediately after starting a full-time job in mortgage administration. I later studied accounting at Centennial College, graduating in June 2007 as a Certified General Accountant.

The RSCDStoronto.org website led me to Woodglan, and classes at Eastminster. I joined RSCDS Toronto and assisted the Finance Committee (2004-05) and subsequently became Treasurer.

When not dancing or working, I can be found with Stirling, my English Setter, and Gem, my Whippet, at obedience or agility trials.

## Reelin' Rosie



Rosie is a therapy dog certified by St John's Ambulance. Lorraine and I regularly take her to visit nursing homes. SCD demo in nursing homes is not uncommon, but how about combining a therapy dog program with SCD? That's exactly what we did. On July 20, we performed for the residents at Mon Sheong Richmond Hill Long Term Care Centre. The event seemed to fascinate as much as entertain the audience, since the folks were mostly ethnic Chinese, and unfamiliar with Scottish tradition and attire. Much to everyone's delight, Rosie participated in the last dance we performed, which was *The Piper and the Penguin*. We received a very warm welcome, as well as a plaque of appreciation. The team consisted of Christine Bowers, Valerie Fisher, Elizabeth Hannah, John Kennedy, Lorraine Ng, Dennis Ridley, Barbara and Michael Taylor, Rosie, and me.

... Tony Szeto

### Let's Have a Ceilidh!

March 15, 2008



In our 50th Anniversary year, Special Events is looking for members to display their hidden talents

at a Ceilidh with music, singing, comedy, poetry or skits, with other fun items interspersed. This is in the tradition of the Geneva Park Weekend Ceilidhs and those at various summer schools and dance weekends. More information later. Contact Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Special Events Convener: 905-822-1707, barkd@rogers.com

### 50th Anniversary

#### Cookbook



The Cookbook has gone to the printer and will be ready in time for your

Christmas shopping. The cost is just \$10. They will be available at the November Workshop and Monthly Dance. Those who have pre-ordered can pick them up then or arrange to have them delivered to their Social Group.

To order or arrange a delivery, contact Theresa Malek at [theresamalek@rogers.com](mailto:theresamalek@rogers.com) or at 416-535-4447 (home) or 416-767-9289 (work).



### Signature Dance For The 50th

The long-awaited result of the dance competition: Congratulations to Jean Noble for her winning dance, Mrs. Hamilton of Eaglemount. The new tune written by Bobby Brown for this dance is Jean Noble of Lossiemouth (Or Lassie Frae Lossie). Honourable Mention: Ron Baker and David Grant

## Sunday "Theme" Classes

Intermediate and advanced dancers are invited to special Sunday classes.

When: Sundays, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Boulevard, North York

Cost: \$8/class for members, \$10/class, non-members.

Oct. 14 – Dances by and for Torontonians. Teacher: Nora Sutherland

Oct. 21 – Dances from the 50th Anniversary Collection. Teacher: David Booz

Oct. 28 – Jean Atwood Dances. Teacher: Blair Gerrie

Nov. 4 - Derek Haynes Dances. Teacher: Paul Maloney, pmaloney@interlog.com

Nov. 11 - Dances from 50th Anniversary Collection. Teacher: Carole Skinner

Nov. 18 - Dances from 50th Anniversary Collection. Teacher: Ian Paterson

Nov. 25 - John Drewry Dances. Teacher: Kathleen Kynoch 905-731-3236

Dec. 2 - Interesting Three-Couple Dances. Teacher: Moira Korus 416-924-9616 smkorus@sympatico.ca

Dec. 9 - Selected Dances from the Scottish Dance Archives. Teacher: Jean Hamilton 905-566-9599 g.s.hamilton@sympatico.ca

For information on all classes, contact Alice Chase 416-410-7078 (leave a message), chase\_al@hotmail.com



Reserve **Friday Nov. 9, 2007** for an Evening of Old Time Dancing with Ruth and Alex Jappy, hosted by the Erin Mills Group. 8 - 10 p.m.

Clarke Memorial Hall, Mississauga and Lakeshore. Kilts and ghillies will not be required. Bring your friends to this special evening and enjoy the fun!

Contact: The Hamiltons 905-566-9599.

## Tartan Ball

The 44th Annual Tartan Ball is being celebrated in this, our 50th Anniversary year on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. It is the highlight event in the Toronto Association calendar. We look forward to an excellent meal in the company of old friends and, hopefully, some new friends, and to celebrating with each other a joyful evening of dance led by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent.

Application forms will be available with next newsletter.

...Colin Gardiner



### Dresses, courtesy John Moss

Thank you! to John Moss, who now lives in New Brunswick, for donating the 1967 Centennial demo dresses made by Bob Millar to the Toronto Association. John also kindly donated the cost of shipping to Toronto.

Thanks also to A.S.T.A. for lending the hoops to wear under them.

### Oops!

A revised version of the Adult Social Group Listings is enclosed with this newsletter. Recycle the original blue copy.

If you got your 50th Anniversary Book at the Gala, note that pages 20 and 53 are swapped. Subsequent printings will correct this, and other minor glitches.

Also, a big 'Thank You' to the St Andrew's Society for contributing \$1000 towards printing costs.

## Congratulations

to May Macfarlane who has achieved the Award of Scroll.



### Nominations for the Award of Scroll

If you want to nominate a remarkable person for the Award of Scroll (Scroll of Honour) contact Brenda Hurst, Secretary of the Toronto Association, for procedural details. Nominations must be received by Dec. 1, 2007.

## ~ Remembrance ~

### Stan Hamilton

James Stanley Hamilton was well known in Scottish Country Dance circles in Ontario, the USA, and around the world. He passed away 4 September, 2007. Stan Hamilton & The Clansmen, later named Stan Hamilton & The Flying Scotsmen, regularly played for dances and balls in Hamilton, Niagara, Toronto, and London. Stan's music lives on in his recordings. Stan was presented with the RSCDS Award of Scroll in 2005 at the Hamilton Weekend. Our condolences to Stan's wife, Ann. He will be missed by all of his Scottish Country Dance friends.

### Roy Goldring

Renowned dance deviser, Roy Goldring also died 4 September, 2007, in England. His passing marks the end of an era, but he leaves us a legacy of many wonderful dances.

# Upcoming Events

## NEAR

OCTOBER 12-13, 2007. **RSCDS Hamilton Branch Annual Weekend** in a Burlington High School (wooden floor). Teachers: Tracey Applebee, Cincinnati and Claire Collier-Hamilton. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact Cate Reid, 2227 Previn Court, Burlington, ON, L7P 4J3, caterstoall@hotmail.com or 905-332-2049

NOVEMBER 10, 2007, **Toronto Workshop and Dance** at Toronto French School, 318 Lawrence Ave. East (at Bayview and Lawrence). Teachers: Stewart Adams, Scotland; Ruth Jappy, B.C.; Keith Bark, Toronto. Musicians: Bobby Brown, Laird Brown, Don Bartlett. Dance from 8-10 p.m. at Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave. (one light north of Lawrence). Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact Valerie Fisher, 416-497-4186, v.fisher@sympatico.ca or visit www.rscdstoronto.org

DECEMBER 10, 2007. **Scarborough Christmas Dinner Dance** will be held in Q-SSIS Banquet Hall, 3474 Kingston Road, Scarborough. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Tickets \$40. Call Margaret at 416-283-4790.

## Demo Pool: New Practice

October 21, 2007 from 1:00 to 2 p.m. has been added to the schedule of Demo Pool practices at Broadlands. Contact Deirdre MacCuish Bark at barkd@rogers.com or 905-822-1707.

## Glenview

Glenview is back for another great year at Lawrence Park Community Church, with both regular dance meetings and a "special night" theme scheduled for every month through until May.

Now in its 28th year, Glenview has established itself with a welcoming reputation, varied programme and excellent teaching.

Practices are held for all the major balls. Our popular Hogmanay (at Rosedale Presbyterian) and The Spring Dance with Bobby & Laird Brown are not to be missed.

While the church is undergoing some renovation, its renowned sprung wooden floor in the gym will remain throughout the year. For information and lists of the monthly program, visit the Glenview web page: <http://www.rscdstoronto.org/groups/glenview.html>

## FAR

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2007. **41st Annual Kingston Weekend Workshop and Ball**, Frontenac Secondary School, 789 Bath Road, Kingston. Instructors: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Langley, B.C.; Becky Roman, Buffalo, N.Y.; Bill Zobel, Courtenay, B.C. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact Barb Parker, 613-544-0624, registrar@rscdskingston.org

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2007. **78th Annual Conference Weekend and AGM** (November 3rd) for the Royal Scottish Dance Society, Perth, Scotland. Contact Brenda Hurst 416-925-6982; brenhurst@hotmail.com

FEBRUARY 15-17, 2008. **Aloha Winter Weekend Dance and Workshop in Hawaii.**



For registration form and brochure contact [www.RSCDSHawaii.org](http://www.RSCDSHawaii.org) Click on the link for the

Aloha Winter Weekend. ALOHA, and we hope to see you there!

FEBRUARY 21-26, 2008. **RSCDS Winter School 2008**, Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Perthshire. Contact Jill Henderson at [jill.henderson@rscds.org](mailto:jill.henderson@rscds.org)

FEBRUARY 29, MARCH 1-2, 2008. **Belleville Scottish Country Dancers' Workshop and Ball** with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Teachers: To be announced. Contact Bill and Jan Cunningham, 613-965-4212 or Michael and Linda McCarey, [lmccarey@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmccarey@sympatico.ca) or 613-967-1827

## Monthly Dances - Contest

The first Monthly Dance in this our 50th Year, will be held at Crescent School, October 13th at 8pm. The evening will be hosted by Petronella Social Group, which is celebrating its own 50th Anniversary. Music will be provided by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs.

There will be a contest at each dance from October to March in the form of a Trivia Question relating in some way to Scottish Country Dancing. The prize will be a \$20 voucher for admittance to an upcoming dance. The question will be posted at the dance. Put your answer into the box provided. A draw will be made during the evening and the first correct answer drawn will be the winner. Questions will not be difficult.

During our 50th year, let's make an effort to attend as many Monthly Dances as possible – a great evening of dancing to fabulous music at a reasonable price.

... Forbes Duncan



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**notice . . .**

Please send submissions to [carolewbell@sympatico.ca](mailto:carolewbell@sympatico.ca).  
Deadline for November is  
October 15.