

RSCDS SET & LINK

TORONTO ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH

2008



Chair's Message



Wow! How to avoid the February blahs!

We had a very successful monthly dance February 9. Then, on Valentine's Day, we had a most enjoyable and informative class at Trinity College taught by Irene Bennett, chair of the RSCDS. How nice to have a sold out Toronto Association event. Let's try for more.

The Tartan Ball was a wonderful evening. Thanks to Colin Gardiner and his committee for organizing it and to Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent for the music. The floor was full right to the end, a real tribute to program deviser Jean Hamilton. We had two guests of honour, Irene Bennett, representing the RSCDS, and our own May Macfarlane, former chair and active teacher of the Toronto Association. We are very proud of May, a recipient of the Society's Scroll of Honour, which was presented to her at the Ball by Irene.

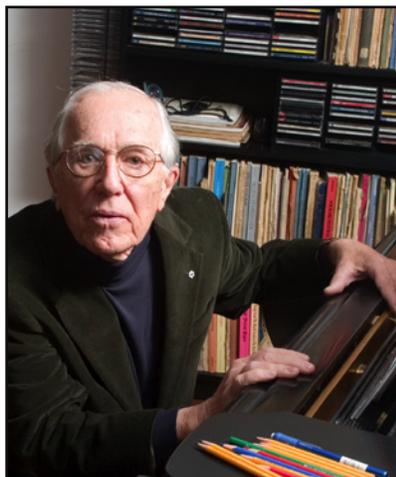
We are delighted that Irene could visit us. We have kept her very busy and are grateful for her willingness to participate and to share ideas with us. We hope she has enjoyed her stay.

Some of us celebrated Family Day by joining Keith and Deirdre Bark's Whigmaleeries Children's Group at a ceilidh evening. Many parents were there, dancing with their children. It was a real treat for everyone — accompanied by superb baked goods. We look forward to your participation in our Toronto Association Ceilidh Night on March 15.

How lucky we are to be part of such a "family". Help us extend it by coming to Beginners' Night on March 8. We will celebrate Beginners — past and present.

A Conversation with John Beckwith, Mus.B., Mus.M., O.C.

... May Webster



In university in the 1960s, I took a class taught by John Beckwith. Who would have guessed that our paths would cross again four decades later due to Scottish Country dancing!

John was born March 9, 1927, in Victoria, BC. He was a University of Toronto professor of music from 1952 to 1990 and he is a respected Canadian composer. John's partner, Kathleen McMorrow, danced in John Hurd's group at Trinity College in the early 1980s, and John started to go along to watch. At the beginning of term, Professor Hurd taught Scottish Country Dancing basics to beginners, so John was encouraged to join. He and Kathleen still dance at Trinity Thursday evenings.

John discussed crossovers between dancing and his music and mentioned three compositions in particular. They were based on ideas he wanted to explore that originated in something related to Scottish Country Dancing and that awaited only a commission to be put into action. Much of his music connects with Canadian heritage, and he is a founding member of the Canadian Musical Heritage Society.

One commission involved a solo violist and solo percussionist who moved around as part of the performance, placing them on different parts of the stage or in different areas of the audience. At one point, they were to march down the aisle, and the music for this movement resembled a strathspey.

Another commission, *Round and Round*, for the Winnipeg Orchestra, explored dance where the music suggested couples and groups dancing. He tried to convey in music what dancing feels like and included inscriptions on the score to help both the players and the conductor. One of these inscriptions was from Miss Milligan: "Dance with your soul!" Both dance and music are symbols of attraction and people moving together.

John wanted to write a composition for the Highland pipes as a solo instrument with an orchestra or other instruments but had been unsuccessful in finding an interested conductor (due to the perceived limitations of the pipes), until 2002, when *A New Pibroch* was written for New Music Concerts [Laidlaw Foundation], featuring Canadian piper Michael Grey, a string ensemble, and percussion. The drone was reproduced in the strings; changes in volume were achieved by the piper playing either on or off stage. One of the themes used intermittently was the reel *De'il Amang the Tailors*. This composition was performed March 23, 2003.

John remembers Bobby Frew and his music and also likes Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Occasionally, if there is a problem at Trinity with the recorded music (and we all know that happens from time to time), he plays piano for dancing at Trinity. He acknowledges there is a special knack to keeping the tempo right and even and stimulating the feet of the dancers.

Dr Beckwith holds honorary doctorates from five Canadian universities, received the Canadian Music Council's annual medal (1972), was named Composer of the Year (1984), won the Toronto Arts Award for music (1995), and the Diplome d'honneur of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (1996). In 1987 John achieved this country's highest honour: the Order of Canada.

(Additional information by Donald Holmes)

April Monthly Dance

Date: Saturday, April 12, 2008
Time: 8:00 - 10:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent
Hosts: • Erin Mills (Fri.) • Calvin • Nobleton

Berwick Johnnie	8x32 J	Graded 14
Hame Came Our Guidman	8x32 S	Bk. 30-2
Fight about the Fireside [†]	8x32 R	Bk. 1-10
Geneva Park	4x40 J	Glasgow Assembly
Mr Jolly B	8x32 S	Leaflet
Not I	8x32 R	Bk. 28-12
Interval		
The Duke of Atholl's Reel [†]	6x32 J	Bk. 16-3
The Expert Dancer	8x32 S	Farewell, My Fancy
St Andrew's of Brampton	4x32 R	Bk. 37-5
Mrs Hamilton of Eaglemount	3x40 S	Golden Ghillies
Muirland Willie	8x32 J	Bk. 21-9
The Duke of Perth	8x32 R	Bk. 1-8
Extras		
St. Andrews Gardens	8x32 J	Bk. 35-7
Bea's Delight	8x32 R	Bk. 43-7
The Mountains of Mourne	4x32 S	Leaflet

[†] Dances that will be briefed only.

Correction

Please note that dance # 4 in the March program is *Lady C. Bruce's Reel*, an 8x32 jig from *Miscellany 1*. It is a 3-couple dance. The February *Set & Link* mistakenly listed *Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel*, a 2-couple jig, from the *Graded Book*.

Sources say the two dances were originally undoubtedly the same dance but danced differently in different areas, hence the confusion. Thanks to Jean Hamilton for bringing this to our attention. We apologize for our error. . . . Editor

Demo Pool: 2008 Practices

Demo Pool practices will be held on Sunday, March 9 from 1-2 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 from 2-4 p.m. at the Broadlands Community Centre.

Additional practices will be held on Wednesdays, March 26 and April 2 at Humbercrest United Church, Baby Point Road (Annette & Jane). Meet after 6:45 p.m. to start by 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The regular class begins at 7:30 p.m. and you are welcome to join them, or go to your usual class. This church has a wooden floor.

There will possibly be another practice on Easter Monday at another location.

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



The Demo Team performing at a Robert Burns Tribute at the Ajax Public Library. The dancers are Dennis Ridley, Forbes Duncan, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Tony Szeto, Marie Duncan, Lorraine Ng, and Anne Anderson.

50th Anniversary Dances

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

Geneva Park – Jig devised by Bob Campbell and published in *Glasgow Assembly*

Geneva Park, a YMCA camp on the shores of Lake Couchiching, was the location of numerous, very successful Toronto Branch workshop weekends in September, which started each season.

Miss Milligan and other Scottish teachers of note were frequent instructors, in addition to local teachers and others from the USA.

Musicians played for every class and the Saturday evening Ball was a highlight with a full band, followed by a Ceilidh, which showcased the considerable and varied talents of the Toronto Branch members. Bobby Frew recorded *The Northern Meeting* there. Numbers were limited, and it was essential to register early. It was always a great way to become enthusiastic and to “meet and mix” as the new dance season commenced.

Mr. Jolly B – Strathspey devised by Catherine Shaw (London, Ont.)

Catherine devised this dance to complement the tune *Mrs B. Jolly*, recorded by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent on the *Scottish Dance Country* CD. The dance was presented to Bobby at the Teachers' Association (Canada) Summer School in 2002, in recognition of his musical expertise and his work as class musician and “Band leader of choice”.

The Expert Dancer – Strathspey devised by Bob Campbell for June Shore (Hamilton) and published in *Farewell My Fancy*.

The Oakville group, taught by Bob Campbell for many years, was once listed amongst the Toronto Branch Social Groups, although the group was affiliated with Edinburgh, and some of its members danced regularly in Toronto and often Bob's dances have “Toronto connections”. He devised new formations e.g. the Tournée and the Birl, and gave us many of our favourite dances, with recorded music such as *Bonnie Stronshiray* by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent, *Let's Have a Ceilidh* and *Davy Nick Nack* by Donald Bartlett and the Scotians, and *The Australian Ladies* by the Bobby Frew Four.

February Monthly Dance

At this anniversary year's February Monthly Dance, we honoured the musicians. In Toronto, we are privileged to have wonderful music at our Monthly Dances, provided through the talents of Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent, and Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs.

A poster with photos of our musicians, past and present was on display, courtesy of Rob and Teresa Lockhart. It included names from the past such as Ed Brydie, Glen Young, and Angus MacKinnon.

The Trivia Question asked for the type of reels danced in *Chrysanthemum*, written by Betty Grant. The answer was Schiehallion Reels, and the winner was Jon Friend.

Our next dance, commonly known as “Beginners' Night,” is on March 8. Please make an effort to attend and support not only new dancers but also the RSCDS Toronto Association. . . . *Forbes Duncan*

Board of Directors

Director at Large, Volunteers:



Gordon S. Hamilton

In July 1966, Jean and I emigrated to Canada, and by September we were attending Jean Anderson's Lakeshore class where we met numerous dancers many of whom are still involved in SCD. My contract in Canada was for one year. We are still here, mainly due to the friends we made through SCD who became "family". We continued dancing at a number of the West End groups, and then when Jean started teaching the Erin Mills Group, I became the "music man" in charge of the record player.

In 1983, I was invited to be a member of the (then) Toronto Executive and served there until 1991, acting as Chair 1987-1989. In 2006, I became a Director at Large (Volunteers) on the current Board of the Association.

My working background was in heavy electrical engineering, in design and construction, and I worked for a number of consulting engineering companies in Toronto. This meant travelling out of town quite a lot. One of the most interesting sites was Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope of Alaska, where I experienced true cold.

Now in retirement, I would have to say what so many retirees have said before me – I have no spare time to go to work. Gardening, pottering around the house, dog walking, participating in different types of dancing, attending dance functions, and working on various projects for the Erin Mills (Friday) Group keep me happily occupied.

Tartan Ball Convener: Colin Gardiner



I took up Scottish Country Dancing about fourteen years ago when I realized that I was missing out on potential quality time with my wife. Looking back, I can say it's been quite terrific. I found Scottish Country Dancing to be enjoyable and pretty good exercise. Mind you, I did remember a little of our school experiences, way

back at the age of eleven or twelve, having to give up our normal gym class to be taught *The Dashing White Sergeant*, *The Canadian Barn Dance*, or *The Pride of Erin*, to name a few. I've found many new friends throughout our travels, both locally and, especially, during our time in both Idaho and Washington. After being involved as Ticket Convener for the RSCDS Toronto Association for a few years, I found it a little difficult to say no when asked to be Tartan Ball Convener.

Board News

Proposed Membership Fee Increase

In any organization, membership fees are used to cover administration and communication expenses. Our \$50 membership fee is composed of two parts: \$20 goes to Headquarters and \$30 is retained by Toronto, but our expenses are \$46 per member. The table below details current costs.

Until now, events such as Monthly Dances generated revenue which subsidized operations. However, because of declining membership and falling attendance at events, the Association must raise extra funds. Therefore, the Board is proposing the Toronto membership portion of the fee be raised to \$35.

Obviously, this alone will not balance the budget. We are also looking at ways to find other revenue sources and to decrease our expenses. Increased membership and increased participation in our events would both help the financial situation.

Item	Cost	Cost/Member
AGM and dance	1,550.22	4.18
Administration & membership costs	1,261.30	3.40
Audit	2,500.00	6.74
Liability Insurance	1,188.00	3.20
Advertising	1,243.24	3.35
Teachers/Social Groups Communication	501.64	1.35
Mail Box/Telephone/Website	1,019.83	2.75
Newsletter & Junior Jig	8,095.43	21.82
Totals:	\$17,359.66	\$46.83

Note: A major expense is printing, office supplies and postage in the above areas, which accounts for \$22.30 of the total costs per member.

Notice re: AGM

Because of the costs of facilities and musicians, and the lower attendance at monthly dances to cover these costs, we will be charging \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members to attend the AGM dance. If you wish to attend only the meeting, admission is free.

2008 Nominations Committee Report

Chair: Ian Paterson

Members: Ron Bell, Josey Chisamore, Marie Duncan, Donald Holmes

In accordance with the terms of the Association's Procedures Manual, a slate of nominees for each Board position must be prepared by the Nominations Committee for the members prior to the AGM. The slate of nominees for the 2008 AGM is presented below.

The members of the Association, having seen this list, are entitled to make additional nominations to any or all of the specified positions using the form accompanying this issue of *Set & Link*. Any submissions from the members must be delivered to the Secretary before April 18, 2008.

Chair:	Jane Robinson
Vice Chair:	James Graham
Secretary:	Brenda Hurst
Treasurer:	Wendy Fulton
Membership Director:	John Clark
Program Director:	Ann Campbell
Communications Director:	Carole Bell
Director at Large, Social Group Liaison:	Tom Clark
Director at Large, Special Projects:	Deirdre MacCuish Bark

May Macfarlane Awarded the Scroll of Honour at Tartan Ball, 2008



May Macfarlane was presented with the Scroll of Honour at the Tartan Ball by Irene Bennett, Chair of RSCDS. Head Table dignitaries included (L-R): James Graham, Vice Chair, Toronto Association (TA); Irene Bennett, Chair, RSCDS Scotland; May (at podium); Jane Robinson, Chair TA; Doug Gibson, President, St Andrew's Society of Toronto. May gave a gracious acceptance speech, which is printed here (by permission).

Madam Chair, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen...

Last year I was in Scotland to attend a wedding at Melrose Abbey and later at the reception, during a conversation, an interesting word cropped up that I had not heard in many years. That word was 'chuffed' – meaning pleased or delighted. Tonight, I can honestly say, I am "chuffed."

I was very surprised, but excited, when I first heard I had been Nominated as someone worthy to receive "the award of scroll" and so at this time I wish to thank all my dancing friends, and especially my friend Dianne Lask, for their kindness and thoughtfulness in submitting my name as a Nominee to our Toronto Association Executive. It is an honour and privilege to

be here this evening and especially to be presented with our Society's "Scroll of Honour" by our RSCDS Chair, Irene Bennett.

Last year, because of my mobility problems, I regretfully resigned from teaching Scottish Country Dancing. It has been my privilege during the past 24 years to introduce others to the enjoyment one experiences when dancing our jigs, reels and strathspeys.

During those years I also had many opportunities to travel and I met and danced with other enthusiastic Scottish Country Dancers from other countries. At the same time, I made many, long-time friendships. I always say, my Christmas card list gets bigger every year. I think that is really cool!

For me, being a teacher, meant that at the



May Macfarlane was accompanied at the Tartan Ball by her daughter, Moira. This is the lass for whom May devised the dance, *A Jig For Moira*, which was on the Monthly Dance programme for February.

end of every class I hoped to hear the dancers say "Hey, that was fun!" In our busy, stressful lives I can't think of a better way to unwind than to participate in a Scottish Country Dance class. I am sure our co-founders Mrs. Ysobel Stewart and Dr. Jean Milligan would have agreed.

Thank you again for the honour you have given me this evening. ... *May Macfarlane*

WHAT'S IN A NAME? *The Haddington Assembly*



The Fountain, Court Street, Haddington, East Lothian.

Visiting Edinburgh any time soon? Why not take the opportunity to travel east for about 20 miles on the Great North Road (a.k.a. the A1) to Haddington, the county town of East Lothian. With a long and illustrious history extending back to the eleventh century, although less well known in modern times, Haddington is believed to be the birthplace of the founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, John Knox, in or around the year 1510.

The word "Assembly" can of course be construed to mean any gathering of people for a range of purposes. Time was, however, when its connotation also meant a particular location where dancing would be held. In other words, a Ballroom! In my English home town of Derby (with very significant Jacobite connections around 1745), the premier ballroom was called The Assembly Rooms — but that is another story.

In the fourteenth century, Haddington's growth and importance made it the fourth largest city in Scotland after Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen. It still proudly maintains the largest parish church in Scotland, St. Mary's, which is not Presbyterian by affiliation, as one might have thought, but Church of Scotland.

A number of years ago, Jean Henderson, a deviser of Scottish country dances and resident of the East Lothian community of North Berwick, created what became a very popular leaflet dance called *The Haddington Assembly* and presented it to the East Lothian Branch of RSCDS. *The Haddington Assembly*, a 32-bar Jig, leads off our March Monthly Dance program. I know we are sure to enjoy it.

... *Barry Pipes*

Ceilidh/Talent Night

March 15



In our SCD community, dancers have many, diverse talents. Dancers can showcase their other 'entertainment skills' at our Ceilidh. We are looking for musicians, singers, dancers, skits with a mix of serious and spoof items. Performer applications are on the website, or contact Theresa Malek: 416-535-4447 theresamalek@rogers.com

Where: Cooksville United Church,
2500 Mimosa Row,
Mississauga

Time: 7 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$10, children \$5,
families \$25

Bring your friends and family for an evening of entertainment and be delighted by the variety of Talents.

Profits will go towards helping Youth attend the Youth Weekend East.

Supporting Youth



Youth Weekend East is coming up in May. If you or your group can support deserving young dancers with a personal contribution or a fund-

raiser idea, contact Deirdre Bark 905-822-1707 barkd@rogers.com

TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

Sunday, March 30th, 2008
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Cooksville United Church
2500 Mimosa Row, Mississauga

Teacher: Patricia Houghton (Edinburgh)
Cost: \$15 Cdn or \$15 US

For more information call or email;
Nora Sutherland 905-276-2602
nora.sutherland@rogers.com

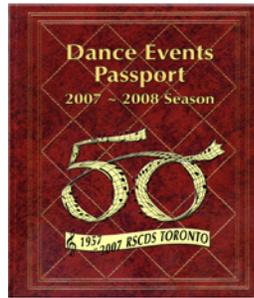
Teacher Candidate Classes

Teacher Candidate classes start in the fall of 2008. Info: Jean Noble (416) 449-8070.

We have stuff!!

The Toronto Association owns various bolts of tartan, flags and shields. These can be borrowed for your group's decorating needs by contacting Jane Robinson (in whose basement they reside).

Jane also has the RSCDS dance books for sale. Get the original, full instructions!



Passport Partners

The organizations and people shown below have generously offered valuable prizes for our 50th Anniversary Passport Programme. Show them we appreciate their participation. Be sure to sign in every dance event you attend, and get stickered or stamped. Give your completed passport to Teresa Lockhart to qualify for the draw. (Note:- Winners must be a paid up Members of RSCDS Toronto.)



Cairngorm Scottish Imports

A custom kilt or kilt skirt,
courtesy Darren Purse.



Jolly Good Fun.

Dinner for two at
this cosy pub near
Bloor & Bedford.



CD collection signed by the
musicians, courtesy Bobby Brown,
Don Bartlett, Fred Moyes, and
Teachers Association of Canada
(who also donated two \$50 Gifts for TAC Sound)



Return airfare to Scotland
Courtesy CEO Hugh Boyle.

Harbour City Summer School 2007-2008, Wellington, NZ

Kia ora tatou. After a delightful outdoor Christmas Day barbeque with my sister's family, Heinz and I, the only Canadians in attendance this year, checked into the Massey College Student Apartments. We shared our unit with three Aussies – Margaret Silke, Lexelle Bray, and her daughter Pippa. Despite din from the nightly racetrack around the Basin Reserve, a former famous cricket ground, student life soon fell into a comfortable routine.

Most of the compulsory morning classes were held at the Wellington School of Dance. Spectacular! All of the roomy classrooms had marvellous floors with walls of mirrors and windows. Heinz enjoyed his Low Impact Class with Yvonne Gray from the Auckland area, while Pam Perkins from Opotiki kept our Advanced Class focusing on "hands across" in order. The Advanced Class spent our last class as voluntary stooges for Level V examinations. We hope all the candidates were successful.

A leisurely twenty-minute march to class and back up the hill to Wellington College for lunch provided extra warm-up and cool-down exercise. Besides meals, all other activities took place at the College. Over 400 celebrated Hogmanay, including Margaret and Malcolm MacLean from Canada. Surprisingly, the New Zealand AGM was also well attended the next afternoon. Concern over Edinburgh's £5 Society fee increase for 2008 sparked great interest and discussion.

Elaine and Michael Laidlow and their helpers ensured that Summer School was a welcoming, ship-shape affair. The daily *Wellington Shipping News* kept us up-to-date. Windy Wellington put on her best face – warm breezes, sunny skies, and no wet southerlies. Scottish Country dancers were friendly, generous in their hospitality, and great late-night partyers. We came away with stronger ties to the community worldwide and are seriously considering next year's NZ Summer School in FLAT (no hills) Christchurch, South Island. *Haere ra.* . . . Margaret and Heinz Rieger

Upcoming events: NEAR

MARCH 8, 2008. **Monthly Dance, Beginners' Night.**

MARCH 15, 2008. **Ceilidh Night.** See page 5.

MARCH 29, 2008. **West End Workshop.** At Turner Fenton 2ndary School, 7935 Kennedy Rd., Brampton. Teachers: Patricia Houghton, Scotland, Wes Clindinning, Craig Bay, B.C., Barbara Taylor, Mississauga. Workshop and Tea Dance – music by Bobby Brown, Laird Brown and Don Bartlett. \$40 for Workshop, lunch and tea dance. Contact Anna Rielly: 519-927-5502, trielly@rogers.com

APRIL 5, 2008. **The Festival of Dance** (see below).

APRIL 12, 2008. **Woodglen's Scottish Country Tea.**

APRIL 12, 2008. **Monthly Dance.**

APRIL 19, 2008 **West Acres Group Spring Dance**

65 Hinton Road, Etobicoke. 8 to 11 p.m. Music: Fred Moyes. Cost: \$15. For programme and information contact: Nora Sutherland 905-276-2602, nora.sutherland@rogers.com For tickets contact: Jim Archibald 905-792-4383 or Nora.

APRIL 19, 2008. **Youth Ball.** At Newtonbrook Church, live music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs. Reception at 5:00pm; dinner 5:30; dancing 7:00-9:00pm. \$25 per dancer. Contact: Margaret Anne Hunter (416) 651-7137 ma-hunter@sympatico

APRIL 26, 2008 **RSCDS Toronto AGM & Dance.**

MAY 2-4, 2008. **Youth Weekend East.** RSCDS Toronto invites young dancers to a weekend of Scottish Country Dancing at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. Teachers: Cathy Bertics, California; Rebecca Roman, Buffalo; Colin Philip, Toronto. Music; Fred Moyes. Contact Deirdre Bark, 905-822-1707, barkd@rogers.com

MAY 10, 2008. **West Toronto Ball,** at Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele Street. 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

JULY 8, 2008. **Blue Jays' Scottish Night.** Join the St Andrew's Society, CASSOC, and the 48th Highlanders, plus various other Scottish groups, including Highland dancers for Blue Jays' Scottish Night. More details to follow. Contact Deirdre MacCuish Bark. barkd@rogers.com or 905-822-1707.

AUG. 10-17, 2008. **36th TAC Summer School** at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo. Teachers: Janet Johnston, Edinburgh, Scotland; Val Mitchell, Hastings, New Zealand; and Geoffrey Selling, Philadelphia. Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent will play for the Ball. Brochure and Registration Form are on the TAC web site www.tac-rscds.org. Registrar: Teresa Lockhart (416) 759-9845 Teresa-K@canoemail.com

SEPT. 26, 2008. **Ceilidh Dance,** St. Leonard's Church. Details to follow.

The Festival of Dance

Saturday, April 5, 2008 @ 1 pm
St. Leonard's Anglican Church
25 Wanless Ave.

Cost: \$5

An enjoyable opportunity for Social Groups, Association Classes, and Demo groups to showcase favourite dance(s).

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

Upcoming events: FAR

MARCH 28-30, 2008. **Vancouver Island 32nd Annual Workshop and Ball** at Esquimalt, British Columbia. Teachers: Alan Twihigg, Mountain View, California; Gail Michener, Lethbridge, AB; Rosemary Coupe, Vancouver, BC. Musicians: Ken Natrass, Winnipeg, MB; Ron Krug, Winnipeg, MB. Contact: Jill Leslie, 250-391-3908, jleslie@uoguelph.ca or Lesley Brennan, 250-391-6984 lesleybrennan@shaw.ca or visit www.viscds.ca/springball.html

MARCH 29, 2008. **Blair Spring Ball** at Cambridge, Ont. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact Joan Annandale, joanannandale@sympatico.ca 519-740-9748

MARCH 29-30, 2008. **27th Annual Highland Ball of the Pittsburgh Scottish Country Dance Society,** Edgewood Country Club, 100 Churchill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Event includes a workshop, buffet dinner, ball and ceilidh on Saturday at a cost of \$55US per person. Music: The Music Makars. Workshops led by Laura Russell, Heather 'N Thistle SCD, Columbus, Ohio. Sunday morning workshop followed by a brunch at \$16US per person. Room reservations available at a special rate of \$75US a night until March 7, including breakfast buffet, at a Comfort Inn less than a mile from the Ball. Registration form, program and dance briefs are available at <http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/jm5h/pscds.html> Registration deadline: March 14.

APRIL 18-20, 2008. **Ottawa Branch Workshop and Ball Weekend** with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Teachers: Jean Noble, Toronto; Mary Murray, Vancouver; Ian Souter, Hamilton. Contact Bill Low, lowbd@rogers.com or Katie Shaw, kmkshaw@rogers.com

MAY 16-18, 2008. **The New York Branch 45th Annual Spring Weekend at Circle Lodge,** Hopewell Junction, NY. Teachers: Jean Martin, Bielside, Aberdeen, Scotland; Muriel Johnstone and Bill Zobel, Courtney, British Columbia, Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent (classes, Ball and dance) and Jim Stevenson-Mathews, New York Branch (classes). Visit the website www.rscdsnewyork.org after mid-January 2008 for the evening dance programs.

MAY 23-24, 2008. **24th Stoney Lake Weekend** with the Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society at The Irwin Inn, Stoney Lake. Guest teacher: Marie Ziccarelli. Musician: Fred Moyes. Information: www.pscds-on.org

JULY 20 - AUGUST 17, 2008. **RSCDS Summer School at 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 for scholarships is Feb. 22, 2008. Contact Brenda Hurst at brenhurst@hotmail.com or 416-925-6982. Summer School applications at www.rscds.org

OCT. 3-5, 2008. **RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch 2008 Annual Branch Workshop** at Manitou Beach, near Watrous, Saskatchewan. The location is almost equidistant between Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg, and close to all larger Saskatchewan cities with a modern hotel with a spa. Friday evening Ceilidh, one class on Saturday, the Saturday banquet and ball, and the Sunday morning combined class will all be at Danceland. One class and all lunches will be at the hotel. Contact the Saskatchewan Branch at <http://www.rscdsaskatchewan.org/> for ongoing updates.

DEC. 28, 2008 – JAN. 5 2009 **New Zealand Branch Summer School,** Christchurch, NZ. Information: www.rscdsnz.org.nz or contact Doug Mills at doug.mills@rscdsnz.org.nz



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Deadline for April issue is March 15.

Found at the Tartan Ball: A shawl,
in suite 10-277 (call Jane Robinson);
a gold ring, in the Concert Hall
(call Royal York Security).