TORONTO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2010

SET&LINK

From the Chair

Toronto

A mong the pleasures of being Chair of RSCDS Toronto is the opportunity to attend the Association's special events as well as routine classes and special occasions at our

many social groups.

In the past month, Eileen and I have been to the Children's Workshop and participated in the dance class for parents so ably taught by Jean Noble.

Later the same day, we joined the Highlands of Durham group for its 10th Anniversary celebration. In addition to SCD they featured ballroom dancing with a fabulous retro band. What a blast!

The Glenview practices for the Saint Andrew's Ball were led by the eloquent Moira Korus. Being prepared made the difference in our enjoyment of the Ball, which was the usual grand occasion. We talked to the guest of honour, Flora MacDonald, resplendent in her MacDonald of the Isles tartan.

The Family Night dance was a great success and was enriched by the presence of visitors, new dancers, young dancers, and many children and grandchildren.

The Scarborough Group holds an outstanding Annual Christmas dinner dance. This is a great event, supported by several groups, including the expert dancers from Burlington.

Wherever we go, we notice that everyone is having a great time. We might call it the Joy of Dancing. But there is already a title like that.

I hope you had a great Christmas and that you have a wonder-

ful happy, healthy New Year, dancing to your heart's content.



Climbing Boots & Dancing Slippers

n November 7, 2009, I was highly honoured to accept the RSCDS Scroll of Honour at the AGM in Perth, Scotland. My journey began in 1953, in Edinburgh, when I heard music and saw dancers in the gardens below Princes Street. The next step was in 1955, again in Edinburgh, when, at a house party during the Festival, I saw and learned the name of this joyous activity. The third



step was in Toronto in 1956 when a door opened to the dancing groups here.

I was born in Toronto to Scottish parents but was not aware of the Scottish country dance tradition. My ballet background led me to pursue this social dancing, and I attended classes, met Miss Milligan on her first visit here, joined the Toronto Branch on its formation in 1957, earned the Preliminary Certificate (1959) and the Teachers Certificate (1961), both from Miss Milligan. Since then, save for a recent hiatus for repairs (a new hip), I've enjoyed dancing and teaching (especially beginners), tutoring candidate teachers, directing demonstration teams for the branch (at Expo 67, amongst other occasions) and social groups. It has been my privilege to have been part of this wonderful Scottish tradition, and I sincerely thank those dancers who nominated me for the Scroll.

I've been asked for memorable dance experiences — an unusual one was in a remote area of the Canadian Rockies. I've been a member of the Alpine Club of Canada since 1959 and I've enjoyed wearing climbing boots and crampons all over the world, as well as dancing slippers (both require a secure sense of balance). One summer, after ten days of rain the sun appeared and, as we hung sleeping bags to dry, square dancing was proposed to warm us up. Another voice suggested SCD, so I stepped forward and found we had over 2 sets of experienced dancers plus harmonica players. In a moment, we were merrily dancing, carefully avoiding stones and puddles. None of us knew that so many of the group were dancers as we had come to the mountains to climb! We sent pictures to Edinburgh and it proved that SCD is found everywhere and, if not, one can always begin a group by teaching vocabulary (steps) phrases, clauses (formations), and soon conversations (dancing) will take place!

Many thanks to the Board of the Toronto Association — all volunteers, who continue to organize and provide venues for our dancing activities that I and other "originals" laid the foundation for many years ago.

Always remember to keep your head up, your eyes on the other dancers (especially your partner), and be ready to give or take a hand and a smile!

February Dance

Date & Time:	Saturday, February 13, 2010 — 8:00 - 10:30 p.m.		
Place:	Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue		
Music:	Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent		
Host Groups:	Midtown • Trinity		
The White Cockade *		R 8x32	5/11

	n oxuz	5/11
The Gentleman *	S 8x32	35/5
Miss Nancy Frowns	J 8x32	14/5
Bratach Bana *	R 8x32	Drewry
The Bridge of Nairn <i>†</i>	S 8x32	13/11
Waverley	J 8x48	15/2
Interval		
The Westminster Reel	R 6x32	45/1
This is no' my ain Hoose	S 8x32	15/9
The Nurseryman *	J 8x32	37/7
The Highland Lass <i>†</i>	R 8x32	30/3
Sugar Candie*	S 8x32	26/9
The Montgomeries' Rant *	R 8x32	10/1
Extras		
Ladies' Fancy	J 6x32	13/12
* indicates Tartan Ball dances.		
† Dances that will be briefed only.		

Hand sanitizers will be available at Monthly Dances.

Notes from the Family Night Dance



Photos by Inga Tomas

Everyone had a wonderful evening. 178 folk attended — the largest showing of recent years. Finally, we did not have to battle through a snow storm to get there. The ranks were swelled by children, who were cheerfully helped through the dances by experienced dancers. The excitement of the young people was contagious, mistakes were overlooked, and there was lots of laughter. We also had quite a few beginners enjoying their first monthly dance.

Music was by Laird Brown leading The Scottish Accent, and they were in top form, energizing the room with great music.

A number of items were left behind: a man's navy blue V-necked sweater; a pair of men's dancing shoes; a man's black leather glove. Hopefully, these items don't all belong to the same man.

Morag Macintosh won \$196 (a new high) in the 50/50 draw to support Dancing In The Park.

Mark your calendar, the next Monthly Dance is January 9 at 8 p.m. at Crescent School. Hope to see you there. ... Forbes Duncan



Special Events

Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance January 16

The Highlands of Durham invite you to join them for a traditional Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance at the Scugog Community Centre, Port Perry. Musical entertainment by Claidhmor. Tickets: \$50 from at the Wee Tartan Shop, 177 Queen St. Port Perry. Info: Marjorie Mason 905-649-3532

Hillcrest's Tartan Ball Practices February 9 + 16 – 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Hillcrest hosts two practices at Toronto French School, Lawrence Ave. E. at Bayview Ave. (westernmost building, lower level). It's in everyone's interest to attend the Ball wellprepared and, as Jean Noble says, ". . .between Hillcrest and Glenview we have every opportunity to achieve that blissful state." Teen dancers: free. Other dancers: \$5.

Glenview's Tartan Ball Practices February 10 + 17 – 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Glenview will host two evening practices for the 2010 Tartan Ball. All are welcome to join us for great dancing and enjoyable sweets at Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. south of Lawrence on west side of Yonge St. Glenview members \$5; non-members \$6. www.glenviewscd.org

St Clement's Tartan Ball Run-thru February 15 – 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Teresa Lockhart will lead a complete run-thru of Tartan Ball dances, in order. Consider this a test of your preparedness, without the stress of the Ball. \$5. At Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Rd. Enter BSS by main doors and sign in.

25th Anniversary West End Workshop March 27

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for the 25th annual West End Workshop at Turner Fenton Secondary School, North campus, 7935 Kennedy Rd., Brampton (just west of Hwy 410). Teachers: Elinor Vandegrift, Jody Williams, Alicia Manson. Musicians: Bobby Brown, Laird Brown, Don Bartlett. Classes morning and afternoon; hot lunch, and tea dance. \$45 for the day (\$25 youth), \$12 for tea dance only. Contact Anna & Tom Rielly: t.rielly@rogers.com 519-927-5502.

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. Refreshments will be served. At St Leonard's Anglican, 25 Wanless Avenue, (Yonge & Lawrence) 1:30 p.m. to 4:30. Info: Deirdre MacCuish Bark barkd@rogers.com 905-822-1707.

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 is an enjoyable evening for all levels of dancers. Tickets are \$60 each, students age 14 and up \$40. Ticket order info dance programme will soon be on the website. Lorraine James: LorraineJames@sympatico.ca

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Board of Directors

Vice Chair: Margaret Rieger



When I was in Grade 9 at Rosemount High School in Montreal, Quebec, a wee Scottish English/history teacher, Miss Gow, started a Scottish Country Dancing club at lunch time. Only girls from the Latin stream of students attended. She taught us the steps and probably some of the original dances — she may even have known Miss Milligan! Miss Gow planted a seed.

Years later, in 1997 after careers and family, both Heinz and I officially retired (early). By mutual agreement, I would take up golf if he would try Scottish Country Dancing. We spent a week that first summer at our cottage in Haliburton learning the finer points of technique from Maggie and Duncan Keppie at the Haliburton School of the Arts. By

Wednesday afternoon, we could hardly limp to the dock to soak our very painful feet in the cold waters of Kennisis Lake. Our brains were also in overload, trying to remember steps, do simple formations, and keep time with the music.

Since then, we have attended many Summer Schools, both in St. Andrews and in New Zealand, as well as workshops and we have attended dances and balls around the world (ghillies pack easily!). Everywhere we've danced we've met wonderful people, and many who also golf. I can say I have golfed in St. Andrews, but must confess that Heinz has kept his side of the original bargain more faithfully than me. Dancing must be more fun. ... Margaret Rieger

Secretary: Pat Clark



Tom and I started dancing with the Hillcrest social group in 1978 and Hillcrest is still our home group. Over the years we enjoyed the dance opportunities provided by RSCDS — the social groups, monthly dances, the Tartan Ball, etc. But I didn't feel I had much spare time or energy, rarely volunteering to help with RSCDS or social group events. When I decided to retire in June 2009, it seemed like a good time to take a more active role and "give back" to the Toronto Association. It occurred to me that it was in large part because of the Board (all volunteers), and the many other volunteers, that Scottish country dancing had been "alive" in Toronto all those years to provide all the fun and pleasure of dancing. (Of course, the teachers are also a very

important factor, but I couldn't help out there!) So, since I have a degree in English literature, a background in administration, and an ability to stay awake through long meetings, I agreed to take on the job of Association Secretary if elected. Since last April's AGM I have been doing my best! Pat Clark

Ceilidh with Keith

Friday, Jan 15 @ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave. Adults: \$8 Youth: \$2

Every lively ceilidh class led by Keith Bark has brought in new people to experience the joy of Scottish dancing. You can help by bringing a non-dancing friend or attending to be a strong partner. Beginner dancers will find the ceilidh great for dancing just for the fun of it.

You will be warmly welcomed by Ailsa McCreary and Dorothy Foster who will be staffing the entrance table.

Info: Deirdre MacCuish Bark 905.822-1707, barkd@rogers.com or Carole Bell carolewbell@sympatico.ca 416.221-1201.



Clothing and other items sporting the new outreach logo will be on sale at the January Monthly Dance.



Spread the Word

Take one, pass it on...

Take one copy of our new brochure. Where can you place it? Locations so far have been in churches, gyms, community centres, libraries, and cafes. Pass it on to a neighbour, friend, or acquaintance.

Sow seeds and talk to people – be creative. Tell us about your suc-

cesses so that others can follow your lead. We'd love to hear from you – verbally and electronically.

Where can you get a brochure? At all our events, from the website or from Carole Bell.



Dance Shoes We are planning an article on styles of shoes used in dancing. If you have a preference in style please contact a member of the newsletter committee to discuss why you chose that particular shoe.

Frace S



Christmas Came Early for the Argents

The best feelings are those that have no words to describe them. Linda, Jason and Calum are overjoyed to announce the adoption of Nathan and Nicole Argent.

Double the trouble, double the fun. Our life with twins has just begun Twenty fingers, twenty toes, plenty of work heaven knows. Four little arms to hold tight, four little cheeks to kiss goodnight Two miracles sent from above. A daughter and a son for all to love. Two special lives have just begun, two times the joy, two times the fun!

Have you got your Tartan Ball ticket yet?



The Tartan Ball is now less than two months away. With celebrity guests of honour a prime rih dinner and a full celebrity guests of honour, a prime rib dinner and a full evening of dancing to look forward to, the excitement is becoming palpable. If you have not yet ordered your ticket, time is running out. Don't delay. Order your ticket today.

To ensure you will be familiar with the dances, all of your social group teachers have been working on the Tartan Ball dances. A number of the Toronto area teachers have set up dedicated Tartan Ball practice classes in the two weeks prior to the ball. These are listed on our website and are also posted in this newsletter under 'Special Events'.

This year, when you come to the ball, the Tartan Ball Committee will be welcoming you to the Concert Hall

Fover Reception. The Royal York Hotel has very generously provided hors d'oeuvres for this reception. They value our Tartan Ball tradition.

Tartan Ball Door Prize

We are pleased to announce that The Fairmont Royal York Hotel and RSCDS Toronto have joined together to create a special door prize. The 2011 Tartan Ball Getaway, consisting of two tickets to the 2011 Tartan Ball, compliments of the Toronto Association, along with a luxurious room for the night, compliments of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. The names of attendees to this year's ball will be placed into the draw. This collaboration underscores the strong ties we have forged over our long history with the Royal York and underpins the long future we have before us. It also makes the ball a bit more exciting, as if you need another reason to go the ball.

... Louis Racic. Tartan Ball Convenor

Get ready. . .

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a canny thought. . .

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As one SCDer to another, I can help you to find the gown of your dreams, or anything else which catches your fancy. ... Kathryn McCallum Pipes

Not a Drop Was Spilled

The late Sir lain Moncreiffe of that Ilk once told me, "If you cannot dance with a glass of whisky on your head I.M. Moncreiffe of that Ilk without spilling a drop, (from Lord Of The Dance) you are no dancer!"

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to tell The Hon Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe what his father had told me. Peregrine said, "Oh yes, that is correct," and proceeded to half fill a whisky tumbler and, placing it on his head, danced 12 Pas de Basques across the room without upsetting the whisky.

Related by Bill Clement, MBE, Scroll of Honour, and piper extraordinaire, at the SCD Kaleidoscope Conference, Geneva, July 2009.

The Grand March

The Grand March possibly originated in the Highland Balls of the late 19th Century. The formal description is excerpted from David Anderson's "Ballroom Guide,"1886.

When the hall is crowded an inside circle (two couples abreast) should be formed; all the couples then follow the leading couple. All march once round the hall; then across the hall till the bottom is reached, then round the hall, and then across the opposite way.

The leading couple marches from the bottom up the centre to the top of the hall where the first couple marches right around the hall; the second, left; the odd numbers following first couple and the even numbers following second couple. First and second couples meet at the bottom and lead up the centre-four in a line; third and fourth couples follow.

All march to the top of hall, the leading couples turn off in the opposite direction-first to left, second to right. Meet at the bottom and lead up four in a line to the top of hall. Leading couples stand marking time till all the couples get into places; then open up, two and two couples facing each other-gentlemen having partners on their right hand, all ready to commence the Scotch Reel.

When the Scotch Reel is finished all march round the hall behind the leading couple. Gentlemen take partners to seats, bow gracefully, and return to their own seats.

... Joe Murray Ottawa Branch, April 2008

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1. Officer, Gardes Irlandais, 1680 2. Private, Regiment Clare, 1692 3. Ensign, Regiment Roth, 1718

What's In a Name? The Wild Geese

any of us are familiar with that popular jig, The Wild Geese, from RSCDS Book 24. I just wish that I could determine the name of its devisor. We are of course very aware around Toronto of the ubiquitous Canada geese that are well known for fouling parks and recreation areas wherever they decide to congregate. Could these be the wild geese celebrated earlier in Book 24?

A more likely possibility has to do with Irish military history. For centuries, Irish mercenaries have been found fighting the wars of other countries. Even Hannibal's armies crossing the Alps to surprise the Romans from the rear included Celtic warriors from Hibernia. In time, the French learned the value of including Irishmen in their armies, and a ready supply of recruits always seemed to be available to become part of "The Irish Brigade"..... dubbed in Irish Gaelic Na Gianna Fiaine - The Wild Geese.

Origin? Well, French smuggling vessels bringing wines and brandies to the Irish coast would illegally carry military recruits on their return journey. The customs paperwork described them routinely as wild geese. Foie Gras in the making perhaps?

When the Stuart monarchy was driven into exile in France in the mid-17th century, sure enough, many of the soldiers that "emigrated" with them were Catholic Irishmen, ready to die in support of their king. So it should be no surprise that Irish mercenaries, or "wild geese", were to be found among Bonnie Prince Charlie's army in 1745. At that time, however, they were more likely to be called Irish piquets. The French word piquet is well-known in military circles through its English version, picket, meaning "a small ad hoc unit of soldiers doing guard duty", for example.

So with *The Wild Geese*, we may have yet another Scottish country dance with an Irish background. Irish Rover, anyone? ... Barry Pipes: mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca



Dear RSCDS Members — Thank you so much for letting us prepare your newsletter. We are happy to help and like practising our work skills. Happy New Year! — The students and staff of the Newmarket High School Community Class.

[The Newsletter Committee thanks the students for their invaluable assistance in getting Set & Link to the membership.]



David Grant's Torch Relay was a great success. About 40 Scottish Country Dancers showed up to cheer him on, many were kilted despite the freezing weather!

Betty McQuillan (inset) organized a very welcome Warm-up Tea Party at Newtonbrook Church, where David's supporters and family met for good cheer, and a turn at holding the torch!

Diel

(sung to "Ho ro, My Nut Brown Maiden")

CHORUS: Oh no! It's got the tournée. I've got to dance the tournée. A "which way? which way?" tournée. Untangle it or die! (pronounced dee)

. . . by Becky Roman*

With great anticipation to learn a new formation I quickly took my station. My heart was filled with glee. My teacher had a mission to teach those with ambition, So start in first position and listen carefully.

CHORUS

The men come in the middle and now begins the riddle. You've got to move, not diddle, but which way is the key. Bars 2 and 3 are wheeling. Oh, Lord, my head is reeling And feet have lost all feeling. I'm shaking at the knee.

CHORUS

Bar 4 is for the turning. The question, it is burning. Which hand to use, we're learning, but no one can agree. The bottom hand or top one? There's no escape. You can't run. And " Isn't this all great fun?" my teacher said to me.

CHORUS

My partner is in danger. If this gets any stranger, I'll have to rearrange her, let go and set her free! And now, it's time for swishing. It's too late now for wishing That I had gone off fishing or on a shopping spree.

CHORUS (Slowing down)

I've made it to my place, now. A smile is on my face, now. I feel I've won a race, now. I've earned a cup of tea! CHORUS



* Rebecca Roman teaches SCD in Buffalo. SET&LINK JANUARY 2010 PAGE 5

Upcoming events: NEAR

JAN 9. January Monthly Dance at Crescent School, 8:00 - 10:30 p.m. JAN 15. Ceilidh Class: St. Leonard's, 7:30-9:30 pm.

JAN 16. Highlands of Durham Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance at Port Perry. Info: Marjorie Mason 905-649 3532

FEB. 9. Tartan Ball Practice: Hillcrest, 7:30 pm. FEB. 10. Tartan Ball Practice: Glenview, 8:00 pm. FEB. 12. Ceilidh Class: St. Leonard's, 7:30-9:30 pm. FEB. 13. February Monthly Dance at Crescent

School, 8:00 - 10:30 p.m. FEB. 16. Tartan Ball Practice: Hillcrest, 7:30 pm. FEB. 17. Tartan Ball Practice: Glenview, 8:00 pm. FEB. 20. The Tartan Ball at the Fairmont Royal York, 5:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

MAR., 12. Ceilidh Class: St. Leonard's, 7:30-9:30. MAR. 13. March Monthly Dance - Beginners' Night at Crescent School, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. MAR. 27. 25th Anniversary West End Workshop APR. 9. Ceilidh Class: St. Leonard's, 7:30-9:30 MAY. 1. Festival of Dance at St Leonard's.



Scottish dancing, theatre arts and talent show for boys & girls, ages 7 - 12. At Hawkestone Community Hall (S of Orillia). March 15 - 19. 9 am – 4pm. Info: Linda Ashe-Argent - Teacher: 705-487-5866. scottishdancinghawkestone@gmail.com

Demo Pool Practices Sundays: Jan. 3 • Jan. 10 Mar.7 • Mar. 21 • Apr. 18 At Broadlands Community Centre

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. for core and other dances 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. for more demanding dances and step dance

The Demo Pool welcomes interested dancers familiar with the basic formations. Contact: Deirdre MacCuish Bark 905-822-1707 barkd@rogers.com

Why is this gal smiling? She loves her tartan T and hoodie!

- XS to 2XL men & women green, navy, grey, red
 - T-shirt \$20
 - Fitted Hoodie \$45

 Unisex Hoodie \$50 Carolyn Watt: 905-473-9306 cw@carolynwatt.com

Upcoming events: FAR

FEB. 12-14. Aloha Winter Weekend 2010 at Honolulu, Hawaii. www.rscdshawaii.org.

FEB. 20. Sarasota Branch Annual Ball. Sarasota Bayfront Community Center. Dinner followed by dancing to live music. 6.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m. Marion Hoercher: 941-921-3284 Mmhjake@aol.com

MAR. 5-7. Belleville Workshop & Ball with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Teachers TBA.

MAR. 27-28. The Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society 34th Annual Ball and Sunday Brunch. Musicians: Muriel Johnstone and Calum MacKinnon. Information: http://www.viscds. ca/springball.html. Registrar: Maureen Orr at 250-478-5338 or jas orr@yahoo.com

APR. 17.. RSCDS Ottawa Branch Ball with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact: Margaret & Harry MacKay, 613-740-0906 hmackay@ncf.ca or www.rscdsottawa.ca

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

AUG. 8-15. 2010. TAC Summer School at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Information: www.tac-rscds.org or contact Summer School Director Marie Ziccarelli mrezz@roadrunner.com

lentine Workshop O

- Saturday, 13 February (9am 3pm)
- At Knox Church Hall.
- Simcoe 180 King St., S. Alliston Teachers: Linda Ashe-Argent, Orillia.
 - Bob Kerr, Kitchener-Waterloo. \$17 (includes lunch & afternoon tea)
 - Info: David Wilson: dproto@sympatico.ca
- South

Kilt & Jacket for sale



Highland evening dress kit, Sherrifmuir pattern green jacket with vest and kilt in Caledonia tartan, plus accessories, together with a daywear jacket. To fit a tall slim man. 416- 221-9826

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



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www.rscdstoronto.org

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Garage Sale Items Wanted!

We're planning a spring Garage Sale in support of the Youth Weekend. Save your stuff! Details TBA.

Please send submissions to carolewbell@sympatico.ca. Deadline for the February issue is January 10.