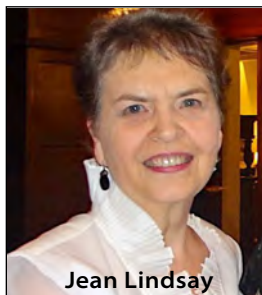


## From the Chair...



Jean Lindsay

*H*ello Dancers:  
I am honoured to be your Chair for the next two years, and I look forward to having opportunities to talk with you and to share a dance.

In 2005, after 23 years of working for the Ontario Government, I retired. I then travelled to Colorado to spend time with my newest grandson. It was a lot of fun to be so active; walking and playing with him were a lot better than working at a desk all day!

When I returned to Toronto, I wanted to remain active. I decided on Scottish country dancing and started classes in January 2006. This turned out to be a good choice as I made new friends while learning how to dance!

As a beginner, it was nice to be welcomed by the teachers at our classes and especially at my first monthly dance event. For me, there will always be joy in Scottish country dancing.

Recently I attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Ball in early May. My first dance teacher, Lorna Larmour, who taught Rosedale youth for many years, was invited to be guest of honour at the event, and I was delighted to reconnect with her.

Dinner was excellent, Fred Moyes played wonderful music, and everyone had a great evening. Thanks to Moira Korus for the invitation and special thanks to the Youth Committee and all their helpers who did so much work for this event.

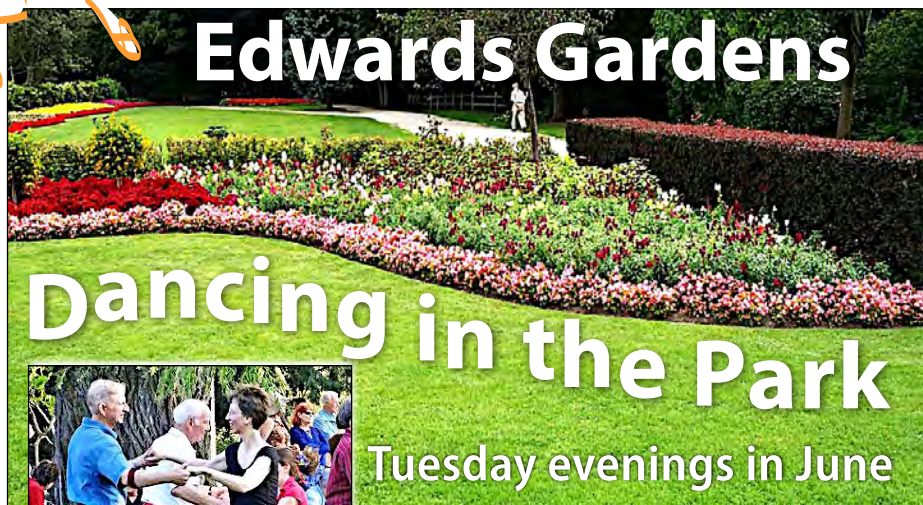
I sincerely appreciate all the dedicated volunteers who continue to do so much work for our organization. The season is winding down but June still offers Dancing in the Park, the White Heather Ball, and the Canada 150 Red & White Celebration Dance. Perhaps we shall meet at one of these events.

Warm regards,

*Jean*

*A good life is when you assume nothing, do more, need less, smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, and realize how blessed you are for what you have.*

... anon.



**Edwards Gardens is part of an old estate in Toronto.**

The land for these gardens was sold to a Scottish weaver, Alexander Milne, in 1817. Milne's family lived there and ran a mill on site for over a century. Milne, who died one month short of his hundredth birthday, claimed "The only way to live a long life is to make use of our time".

In 1944, Rupert E. Edwards purchased the original 11 hectares of land surrounding the Milne family homestead that he called Sunnybrook Farm. Over the next decade, Edwards began introducing many of the landscape features you see today, including the rockery, ponds, and stripped pine bridges over Wilket Creek. To execute this work, he sought the professional services of Len Cullen to create a garden of unparalleled beauty. At one time, the site also included a private par-three nine-hole golf course.

Although Mr Edwards had been offered \$400,000 for the 27 acres of land in 1955, he did not need the money, and instead he sold the land to Metropolitan Toronto for \$160,000 with the condition that it become a public garden and park in perpetuity. At that time, care of the park and gardens became the responsibility of North York and later the City of Toronto. In 1956, use of one of the buildings on site was given to the Garden Club of Toronto and that evolved into the Toronto Botanical Gardens (TBG). The TBG now looks after over one-and-a-half hectares of display gardens. When you come to Dancing in the Park, arrive a wee bit early to take a stroll through Edwards Gardens and experience the history of the site as well as the beautiful flowers and plants.

Several Scottish country dancers volunteer their time both weeding and pruning these gardens. Carole Bell, Jean Johnston, and Susan Lipchak are a trio who contribute their talent regularly in a four-hour stint per week.

There are over 1500 parks in Toronto. Scottish country dancing in *this* park began in 1963 under the leadership of Tom Cunningham, who was instructed by park authorities that "dancing would be held in the pavilion only, with no amplification of music and no dancing on the grass". The next year dancers were allowed to do both. Toronto Island was the location in 1969 and 1970; Sunnybrook Park was the location from 1971 to 1995, and Dancing in the Park resumed at Edwards Gardens in 1996.

The dances for the four Tuesday evenings in June 2017 are themed: June 6 is Military Night; June 13, Romantic Night; June 20, Nautical Night; and June 27, Down Under Night.

Edwards Gardens and the Toronto Botanical Gardens are public park property. The City prohibits us from charging a participation fee; contributions, however, are encouraged and help defray the costs of having a live band play for many sets of dancers and spectators alike who enjoy dancing and socializing in a glorious tree-lined garden setting.

...Donald E. Holmes

# Special Events

## St Clement's Last Night Treat

**Monday, June 12 ~ 7 p.m. - 9-ish**

**Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road, Forest Hill**

We've invited Don Bartlett to play for us. He was easily convinced — he LOVES to play the beautiful Yamaha Grand Piano in The Great Hall. Dancing will be from 7:00 to 9-ish, followed by happy chatter and nibbles in The Great Hall. Dancers are invited to contribute "bring & share" ready-to-eat finger foods. The usual \$6 fee applies. Questions? [teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com)

## White Heather Ball

**Saturday, June 17 ~ Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.**

**General Sikorski Hall in Oshawa, 1551 Stevenson Road**

Tickets are available from Marjorie Mason 905 985 6573 or [marjorie@weetartanshop.ca](mailto:marjorie@weetartanshop.ca). Dinner & dance \$75. Music by Scotch Mist. Learn/practise the dances free on Thursdays, June 1, 8, and 15 at 7 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Port Perry.

## Dance Dufferin Grove

**Thursday, Aug 24 ~ 6:30 - dusk (8:30-ish)**

**Dufferin Grove Park**

This is a free and fun outreach event. Keith and Deirdre Bark will lead a set of easy dances aimed at crowd participation. The dance coincides with the Organic Farmers Market which ends at 7 p.m. so come early and pick up some fresh organic produce. There are also vendors selling snacks and drinks. We dance on the grass in the northwest corner adjacent to the park building.

## Calvin's 60th Anniversary Dance

**Saturday, October 21, 2 p.m. - 4:30**

**Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Road (Yonge & St Clair)**

The first-ever dance at Calvin was Oct 21, 1957 — exactly 60 years before this celebration. You are invited to the party. Don Bartlett will play piano and the programme will include dances collected over six decades, danced at the Assembly Balls we shared with Trinity, Calvin favourites, and popular new dances. There will be snacks and, of course, birthday cake. All this for only \$15. To reserve your ticket: [dancescottishwithvicky@gmail.com](mailto:dancescottishwithvicky@gmail.com)

## RSCDS Toronto 60th Anniv. Dance

**Saturday, November 25, Reception at 6 p.m., Dancing at 7:00**

**Sala Caboto Ballroom, 40 Playfair Avenue (Lawrence & Dufferin)**

RSCDS Toronto celebrates our Diamond Anniversary year with a gala dance. We'll have a Guest of Honour from Edinburgh — Andrew Kellett, the Chair-elect of the Society. We'll have great music by Scotch Mist and delicious catered snacks. It will be a great dance party! \$60 for members; half price for youth.

## Tea and Chat with Andrew Kellett

**Sunday, November 26 ~ 2 p.m. - 5:00**

**Rosedale United Church, 159 Roxborough Dr.**



This event, in the comfortable confines of Rosedale United Church (NOT Rosedale Presbyterian!) will give members of RSCDS Toronto a chance to hear from, to talk with, and to ask questions of Andrew Kellett, Chair-elect of RSCDS.

Details closer to the date.

# Dancing in the Park 2017



**Every Tuesday evening in June, 7:00-dusk**

2017 DITP Programme initiated by Nigel Keenan

### Week 1 June 6 ~ *Military Night*

Braveheart	6 x 32 R	Clayperhands
Monymusk	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 11
Lieutenant Zachary Hicks RN	4 x 32 R	Drewry, Bon Accord Book
Gay Gordons	6 x 16 M	Trad., Collins Book
The White Cockade	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 5
Major Ian Stewart	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 35
The Blue Mess Jacket	4 x 32 S	Kinclaven Pocket Book
Blue Bonnets	6 x 32 J	Trad., RSCDS Book 3
Military Two-Step	6 x 16 M	Trad., Collins Book
Reel of the 51st Division	8 x 32 R	Lt J Atkinson, RSCDS Book 13
Extras		
The Barmkin	1 x 88 R	Goldring, 2nd Graded Book
The Wild Geese	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 24

### Week 2 June 13 ~ *Romantic Night*

The Lady Wynd	8 x 32 J	Goldring, Graded & Social Dances 2
Summer Wooing	8 x 32 R	Alan MacPherson, RSCDS Book 38
Fair Donald	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 29
See You Again	5 x 32 J	Dottie Carr, Let's All Dance
The Kissing Bridge	8 x 32 R	Romaine Butterfield, Rscds Book 47
C'est l'Amour (The Flirt)	8 x 32 J	1830, RSCDS Book 34
St Bernard's Waltz	6 x 16 W	Wm Smith, Glasgow 1913, Collins Guide
Lass of Richmond Hill	3 x 32 R	F Turnbull, Richmond Anniv. Book
The Trysting Place	6 x 32 S	I Boyd, RSCDS Book 35/6
Mairi's Wedding	8 x 40 R	Cosh, 22 Scottish Country Dances
Extras		
Scotland's Gardens	8 x 32 R	Roy Goldring
Langholm Fair	3 x 32 S	Jean Attwood, Alexander Book 3

### Week 3 June 20 ~ *Nautical Night*

Cutty Sark	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 40
The Sailor	8 x 32 H	RSCDS Book 24/4
The Dundee Whaler	4 x 32 S	R Clowes, Ormskirck 1
Circassian Circle (Orcadian style)	5 x 32 R	Trad.
The Captain's House	8 x 32 R	Holly Boyd, RSCDS Graded Book 3
Over The Water to Charlie (new way)	8 x 32 J	Trad. 1750, RSCDS Book 34
Jessie's Hornpipe	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 8
The Minister On The Loch	3 x 32 S	Goldring, 24 Graded & Social Dances
Britannia Two-Step	6 x 16 M	Trad.
The Royal Yacht Britannia	8 x 40 R	J Drewry, RSCDS Book 43
Extras		
The Tri-Mariner	8 x 32 R	Ann Dix, RSCDS Book 48
The Dhooon	4 x 32 J	J Hamilton, SCDs for Children
The Swan & The Tay	3 x 32 S	A Saunders, Perth 800

### Week 4 June 27 ~ *Down Under Night*

Cabbages & Kings	8 x 32 J	Romaine Butterfield, Harbour City Book
Kangaroo Paw	8 x 32 R	John Brenchley, Kangaroo Paw
Cape Town Wedding	8 x 32 S	Tom Kerr, RSCDS Book 39
The Waratah Weaver	4 x 32 J	Elma See, 2nd Book of Graded Dances
Flowers Of Edinburgh	8 x 32 R	Traditional, RSCDS Book 1 / 6
Seton's Ceilidh Band	4 x 64 J	B Fordyce, Morrison's Bush Collection
Catch The Wind	8 x 32 R	Romaine Butterfield, RSCDS Book 45
Bruce's Men	3 x 32 S	Roy Goldring, Scotia Suite
Canadian Barn Dance	6 x 16 M	Collins Guide
The Australian Ladies	8 x 32 R	Bob Campbell, Glasgow Assembly
Extras		
The Piper & The Penguin	1 x 88 R	Roy Goldring, Scotia Suite
The Wandering Wallaby	4 x 32 J	Peter Fish, RSCDS Book 50






**Our 2016-17 Monthly Dance season closed with our AGM Dance on April 29th.**

**Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs** provided wonderful music and 86 attended for the meeting and the dance. Thanks to a short meeting, we managed to complete the programme, including encores, and we also danced two of the extras. It was a fun evening.

Dates for the 2017-18 season won't be finalized by Crescent School until July, so watch for information on our website for the schedule.

Enjoy your summer.

...Forbes Duncan



**fifty-fifty draw**  
At the AGM Dance, Leo Roytman won \$95 in the 50/50 draw. Proceeds from 50/50 draws at Monthly Dances support Dancing In The Park.

## Fashion Convenor Opportunity

**Marie Duncan has done a great job** selling our RSCDS Toronto T-shirts, sweats, polos, and other items at monthly dances and workshops. Now, after nearly a decade, Marie is stepping down from her fashion convenor role. The Board thanks Marie for her dedication and efficiency.

We're looking for a volunteer to take over fashion sales. Many of you have bought our great RSCDS branded shirts so you know they're casual and comfortable for dancing. They also promote SCD and help our bottom line.

If you're interested in helping please get in touch with any member of the Board or contact Marie: [fmduncan@sympatico.ca](mailto:fmduncan@sympatico.ca)



**The Executive Reel, 8r32 by Ann Campbell** ~ This was the last dance at the AGM. We danced it 8 times through, and then reprised (to great music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs). The set shown here were volun-told, literally at the last minute, they were to be the demo team for the video. They danced with vigour and panache and the video is now posted on YouTube to share with the SCD community worldwide: <https://youtu.be/dr1QCYG007c>

Like all Ann Campbell dances, it flows beautifully. It was highly appropriate for Keith Bark to programme it for the AGM because it was devised by Ann 17 December 2003 for the last Executive Committee of RSCDS Toronto before we transformed into the not-for-profit corporation we are today. With that transition, the executive function passed to the Board of the RSCDS Toronto Association.

... Rob Lockhart

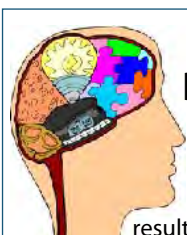


**Carole Bell resigned as chair of the Set & Link Committee, 17 May 2017**, after eleven years of service in that position. She began as Communications Director in May 2006 and took over as chair of the newsletter when Christine Bowers retired. Carole maintained a consistent professional standard and agreeable congeniality in conducting editorial meetings for newsletter content. Her committee of four original members were joined in May 2014 by the Director of Communications, Wayne Ellwood, and now Andrew Henderson.

We thank Carole for her diligence in seeking pertinent information, for her unfailing pursuit of outreach opportunities, for her tact in dealing with sensitive issues, for hosting ten meetings per year, and for her generous hospitality. She is the charming gardener who made our committee blossom.

With much gratitude, we say thanks for your leadership, Carole.

... Donald, Rob, Marian, Judy, and Wayne



## Walk, Stretch or Dance? Dancing May Be Best for the Brain

*Reported in The New York Times 2017/03/29*

Researchers compared the neurological effects of country dancing with other activities and results suggest there may be something unique about learning social dance. The demands it places on mind and body could make it potent at slowing changes that seem otherwise inevitable with aging. For the full article: <https://goo.gl/2OAsJ1>



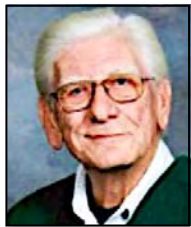
## Link up with Set & Link!

Story teller? Researcher? Journalist?  
Graphic Artist? Photographer?

If you say YES to any of these, please contact any of the newsletter team. We'd like to discuss your offered talents and ideas.



## #94 What's in a Name? Wells House



Barry Pipes

*"Wheear 'as ta bin sin ah saw thee?"  
"On Ilkla Moor baht 'at"*

I am sure that many readers will recognize the above couplet is the start of a quite well-known Yorkshire folk song. The Yorkshire county anthem perhaps? It refers to the moor that lies above the West Yorkshire community of Ilkley. Come to think of it, the song would be most boring as an anthem, having, as it does, innumerable verses delivered in the arcane Yorkshire dialect.

Ilkley? Now that rings a bell! Ilkley is indeed related to Scottish country dancing as I recall, being connected with one of SCD's most prolific dance devisors. Now, who would that be? Yes! Who remembers the iconic Roy Goldring? Devisor of such favourites as *Minister on the Loch*, *Argyll Strathspey*, *Reel of the Royal Scots*, *John of Bon Accord*, and countless other great dances. Not bad for a Yorkshireman. He probably enjoyed watching a good game of cricket as well. Or maybe not, as he was actually born in Devon, somewhat less known for its county cricket.

With all this preamble, one might assume there might also be an edifice in Ilkley by the name of Wells House. Right on ... as some might say! Wells House served as a private residence after being constructed in the early 1800s but was turned into a hotel and hydro in 1856 due to the recuperative powers of the local water. What we in Canada would call a spa is more likely to be known in Britain as a hydro. Roy Goldring was an Ilkley resident for over 30 years, and he actually taught Scottish country dancing at Wells House for a while, along with the assistance of his wife Doreen. This teaching gig clearly had enough significance for Roy that he wrote a strathspey by that name.



As you can see by the photograph of Wells House, it is a formidable looking building. In later years, however, Wells House has become home to a number of up-market apartments. Much as the developer may have hoped to raze the building and construct an estate of modern buildings in its stead, the Ilkley authorities did not allow this to happen, Wells House being a listed building that cannot be destroyed for heritage reasons.

As numerous SCD folk will be aware, Roy Goldring passed away in 2007. But what a legacy! I understand that his dance devising activities commenced in the early 70s when he became fully engaged with the Leeds Branch of RSCDS. Subsequently, he rose to the position of chair of Leeds Branch. He will certainly be remembered for the over 200 dances that he devised in a lifetime devoted to Scottish country dancing.

Dancers who attended the West Toronto Ball last May 13 will remember that Roy's *Wells House* strathspey was on the programme. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to dance it.

To close, here is a translation of the of the opening couplet:

"Where have you been since I saw you?" ...

"On Ilkley Moor without a hat!"

...Barry Pipes, [mccallum.pipes@rogers.com](mailto:mccallum.pipes@rogers.com)

### A Dancing/Walking Holiday in Harrogate



A five-mile hike in the afternoon on top of two hours of "interesting" dances in the morning plus the dancing in the evening was another challenging option. But dancing in the morning, with the afternoon at leisure and before dancing in the evening, seemed to be the preferred activity for many of the 68 participants at the four-day event run by the Scottish Country Dancing & Hiking Holidays of the UK. All this, plus breakfast, dinner, and a packed lunch at a delightful

Victorian hotel with a sprung dance floor in Harrogate, Yorkshire, offered a variety of alternatives and made for an engaging short holiday at a very modest cost. Cheryl Catt, Glenna MacDonald, and Ken Adamson, along with Anne Barnes, a former Toronto dancer now resident in England, attended this event in April during unusually warm, dry weather in the lovely Yorkshire Dales.

The term "laid-back" characterizes the atmosphere. All 12 dances on the evening programme were walked and included some dances seldom done in Toronto. This was refreshing and challenging. Dances such as *One O'clock Cannon*, *Father Connelly's Jig*, *The Elephants' Stampede*, and *Inchmickery* were enough to tax any dancer's brain. Participants hailed from Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and the UK and gave a pleasant international flavour to both the dancing and the hiking. The organization, which advertises in the *Scottish Country Dancer* magazine, runs about five of these events each year in England at interesting hiking areas and with a prerequisite of a hotel with a suitable dance floor. It was a delightful, social event that combined hiking and dancing, two of our favourite activities, and we would have no hesitation in joining this most friendly and welcoming group again.

...Ken Adamson





## The 2017 Youth Ball



Lorna Larmour

**Greetings Members** — It was my honour and privilege to attend the Youth Ball on May 6, 2017. What a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with former students, now grown, and to meet our current group of young dancers! What a pleasure to have a night dedicated to this important group of folks! A strong youth connection will always form a good foundation for the Branch – this is very difficult to accomplish in an age where activity options are as limitless as screen time.

I was most impressed with camaraderie and skills of the attendees. Their limitless energy and enthusiasm are truly inspiring. Thank you to RSCDS Toronto for supporting this venture. Moira and her team of dedicated volunteers did an amazing job of organizing the event! Of course, without the dynamic music of Fred Moyes there would be little to dance about!

...Lorna Larmour

## Queen Victoria PS Finale



Dear Editor...

Thank you

My thanks to Nancy Duffy and her special team, who nominated me for the Volunteer Appreciation Award, and to the Board of Directors of RSCDS Toronto Association for choosing me for the award.



This honour prompted me to reflect on the concept of volunteerism, which the *Collins English Dictionary* defines as "the principle of donating time and energy for the benefit of other people in the community." What this definition omits are the benefits that are derived from volunteering.

As a Class Representative, I had the opportunity to welcome new dancers in the same way as I was welcomed into the dancing community and to continue to learn at all levels from the teachers of the Association Classes. As a member of the Demonstration Pool, I have not only been challenged to dance my best but I have been given the opportunity to bring joy and entertainment to many spectators, especially to seniors. As Classes Convenor, I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from many other volunteers in their various roles. It never ceases to amaze me how unconditionally they give.

Indeed, volunteering has given me the opportunity to "give back" to an Association that has given me so much. In the words of St. Francis, "it is in giving that we receive."

...Glenna MacDonald



Grades 2 and 3



Kindergarten



Rassaian, a Kindergarten student, had this to say:

"We were making a circle. We were wearing fancy clothes. We were learning new things"

Friday, May 5th was our SCD gala at Queen Victoria P.S. Forty-nine dancers participated and were applauded after each dance by 350+ spectators (children, teachers, and parents). It was a grand finale for the 22nd season of SCD at QVPS.

...Lourdes Genosa





I enjoyed the weekend school in Lyon so much! There are so many young dancers here. The Lyon Branch is organized by young people as well.

I was surprised to see a Japanese man and his son were dancing in Lyon! The father and son started dancing together 7-1/2 years ago. The son is half Japanese and half German but grew up in France. He is such a beautiful dancer. He picked up SCD so quickly.

Antoine [Rousseau] was a great teacher, as usual, but I found another great teacher! Paul Plummer from England. I would love to invite him for our workshop if possible. He taught the Lyon team in order to send them to the Newcastle Festival. I also danced with some super little dancers at the social dance on Saturday.

I met dancers from other French towns and the UK, New Zealand, Paris, Brussels, Zurich, and Vienna. I met amazing people here. When they found out I came from Toronto, I was told they are enjoying Toronto's YouTube videos so much! They start with a unique sound and fade-out to a picture. Whenever they see that, they think, "Oh, Toronto's video!" They are so popular!

I fell in love with Lyon. There are so many good restaurants and things are cheaper compared to Paris. I found the people very friendly as well. I recommend you visit here for dining and dancing!

... Hiroko Sasaki

## Grace Notes



### Grace Harris

7 June 1928 ~ 20 May 2017

Grace loved music, tennis, and Scottish country dance — which she taught for 50 years. She started teaching at Rosedale and later formed a group at St Clement's Anglican Church — 40 years of Monday night classes, assisted by her late husband Colin, before asking Teresa Lockhart to take over. In the glory days for SCD, when Toronto embraced waves of Scottish immigrants, St Clement's boasted 300 members, and 150 youth. Some became teachers; some still dance at St Clement's.

#### Memorial Service:

23 June 2017 @ 11:00am

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

115 St Andrews Road, Scarborough



### "A Jewel of the Mediterranean"

So said the brochure; and for us Cyprus was a gem of an experience.

As the new convenor of the Toronto Workshop, I suggested to Bill that we check out the RSCDS International Branch workshop weekend in Paphos, Cyprus, in late April. These gatherings are hosted by the IB every two years, in different countries. Fred deMarse, Chair, shared the background of the IB in the May issue of *Set & Link*.

A four-member organizing committee from multiple countries planned a wonderful holiday experience, with assistance from members of the St. Andrew's Society of Paphos, who dance with two to three sets weekly. Over 120 dancers from 20 countries, including 12 Canadians, enjoyed four days of lessons and dances, led by three inspiring teachers: Ellie Briscoe from the USA, Jean Dodds from Australia, and William Williamson from Scotland. Talented musicians James Gray on keyboard, Andrew Lyon on accordion, and Ian Robertson on fiddle gave us some great tunes.

Polished floors and warm temperatures did provide some challenges for ambitious programmes. They had hoped to get through 19 dances in under three hours, but late dining service, Cyprus style, and an 11 p.m. limit for live music prompted significant cuts. It was all fun, and the congeniality well known among dancers carried us.

Many dancers and accompanying family members enjoyed seven-day trips bookending the workshop weekend. Cyprus encompasses Greek and Turkish cultures and it's rich in natural, historical, and archaeological sites. For the week leading up to the workshop, Bill and I chose to rent an apartment and car tour with my cousin and her partner. We enjoyed some scenic hiking, a swim in the (cold) sea, and some memorable meals off the beaten track.

Our European trip began and ended in the village of Goosnargh, Preston, Lancashire, in Northwest England where my cousin lives. How were we to know that a welcoming dance group would be just a walk around the corner from my cousin's home? It was an unexpected bonus to dance with the Ribbles Valley Branch class.

Planning a holiday involving Scottish country dancing is so satisfying. Events Near/Far on our great website offer lots of temptation.

HISCD ... Christy Barber





# My DAA (Intermediate Level) Experience



Fiona Alberti

**In January about two dozen dancers** headed to Broadlands for our first DAA (Dancing Achievement Awards) lesson with Moira Korus and Barbara Taylor. Dancers had enrolled for a variety of reasons: maybe it was to improve their

dancing, or to stretch their minds, or dancing on a Sunday afternoon with other like-minded people was a welcome diversion mid-winter. My reason was pretty straightforward: I have a streak of perfectionism running through me, and, after completing beginner classes last year, I wanted a chance to polish my technique – that, and the fact that I was gently nudged into joining by a few others, “Have you thought about doing the DAA?”

I don't know what the other dancers were expecting, but after the first session it was clear we were going to have to work hard. All sorts of things I had heard in beginners' class now began to both make sense and to become extremely important. Pas de Basque had to have three distinct beats; you need to bend and *reach* during strathspey steps; your eyes should never be on the ground; covering was no longer something on my bed but a vital part of every dance. So many things to think about while also practising our sociability (yes, that is part of the evaluation). Thankfully, Moira and Barbara both have a wonderful gift of being able to make corrections and suggestions without making you want to give up.

Nerves were evident as we got closer to the actual assessment. Steps that were ingrained in our brains suddenly vanished; faces took on interesting expressions as we realized we had missed our cue and first couple were right and lefting on their own; less than ladylike language occasionally slipped out as, having successfully completed the first time through, there was a sudden realization that a second time through was also needed; arms were yanked as one partner

danced down for two, while the other partner wanted to keep going for four. The collection of knee braces, ankle supports, padding on our bruised arches (that must mean we were dancing properly) was steadily growing.

Nonetheless on April 30: eighteen of us duly presented ourselves for the actual assessment. The assessors did their best to keep us relaxed as we worked our way through the six dances we had all committed to memory (you only get assessed on three). Mistakes were made, brain cells misfired, nervous giggles were heard, and, once in a while, we remembered to breathe. While watching from fourth position, I also noticed how beautiful the dances are when turns and reels are covered; when perfect counting has first couple arrive just in time for a new formation so there is never a break in the dance; when a couple leads down and up with backs straight, heads up, and a smile for their partner; when our toes are pointed and our hops are synchronized. While the official results make their way to Edinburgh and back, I think we can all be really proud of what we accomplished.

If you have the chance, I highly recommend the experience. There is the pleasure of working with like-minded dancers; of feeling part of a team, of knowing that you want to look good for yourself but that your support is equally important for the others in your set. Barbara and Moira have said they have noticed an improvement in everyone's dancing. Also, just think how lovely you will look when Mr. Lockhart's video camera happens to catch you dancing at one of the many social occasions throughout the year.

The only down side is that I'm not sure I will ever be able to fully relax again as I sense Barbara's and Moira's eyes casually glancing down mid-dance to check that my feet are, in fact, closing in third position.

...Fiona Alberti



2018: June 15-17 - SCD Weekend in Lews Castle, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

Jimmy Hill likes to sail his sloop up the west coast of Scotland. Perhaps that's how he came to be in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. He noticed Lews Castle\*, long-dilapidated and incipiently ruinous, was under renovation. The old pile affords fabulous views of Stornoway harbour, and when Jimmy saw the beautiful restored ballroom he thought, “What a wonderful place to have a Scottish country dance weekend!” He posted a picture on Facebook and asked for “expressions of interest” in such an enterprise.

Aye, Jimmy, they certainly were interested! Numerous dancers, including some from Toronto, responded and the event is a go. The weekend includes Friday and Saturday dances, and Saturday and Sunday classes. It also includes a three-course meal prior to the ball in Lews Castle in that elegant ballroom.

If you are among the interested, contact Jimmy Hill at: [macleodhill@mac.com](mailto:macleodhill@mac.com)

## Summer Dancing

- 🕒 **Dancing in the Park:** Tuesdays in June at Edwards Gardens, 7 p.m. – dusk. Live music. . . Real trees. . . Lots of dancers.
- 🕒 **Trinity College:** Thursdays in Seeley Hall, 8 – 10 p.m. Guest teachers each week. June 22 Arlene Koteff; June 29 Colin Campbell; July 6 Jean Noble; July 13 Tony Szeto; July 20 TBA; July 27 Moira Korus; August 3 Gordon Hayburn.
- 🕒 **Orillia Scottish Festival:** At Couchiching Beach Park, July 15 – A Scottish celebration! Dance in the Opening Ceremonies Info: Will Kinghorn: [freshstart.wk@gmail.com](mailto:freshstart.wk@gmail.com) 705 259-3232
- 🕒 **Dufferin Grove:** Thursday, August 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Look for briefs and directions on the website. This is a great outreach opportunity, and a lot of fun.
- 🕒 **Culture Days:** Saturday, Sept 30 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Eastminster United Church. This is another fun outreach opportunity. Come and be a helpful supporter.

\* Lews Castle plays a role in the Peter May novel, The Blackhouse.

## Upcoming Events: NEAR

June 6, 13, 20, 27 - **Dancing in the Park: 7 p.m. to dusk** Edwards Gardens (rain location: Church of the Ascension). Music by Scotch Mist. Free, but donations are welcome.

June 12 - **St Clement's Last Night Treat:** Don Bartlett will tickle the ivories of the Yamaha Grand Piano to provide music for this end-of-season celebration. Dancing 7 p.m. to 9-ish, then happy chatter and light refreshments in the Great Hall (contributions are welcome). The usual \$6 fee applies. Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road. Dancers must sign in with BSS Security.

June 17 - **Highlands of Durham White Heather Ball:** General Sikorski Hall in Oshawa. Tickets, \$75: Marjorie Mason 905 985 6573 or [marjorie@weertartanshop.ca](mailto:marjorie@weertartanshop.ca). Music by Scotch Mist. Free practices Thursdays, June 1, 8 & 15 at 7 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Port Perry.

June 22 - Aug 3 - **Summer Dancing at Trinity:** Thursday evenings, 8-10 p.m. in breezy Seeley Hall, Trinity College, 6 Hoskin Avenue (UofT campus). Bedford or Museum stations. Recorded music; guest teachers.

June 24 - **Canada 150 Red & White Celebration Dance:** Saturday afternoon, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road, Forest Hill. \$10. **Only 2 spaces remain:** reserve with [teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com)

July 15 - **Orillia Scottish Festival:**

See below. Info from Will Kinghorn: 705 259 3232

Aug 24 - **Dance Dufferin Grove:** See page 2 & page 7.

Sept 10 - **Shifitin' Bobbins:** Sunday afternoon, 2:30-4:00 p.m. at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road, Forest Hill. We welcome Oakville teacher, Alicia Manson. [www.shifitinbobbins.webs.com](http://www.shifitinbobbins.webs.com)

Oct 21 - **Calvin's 60th Anniversary Dance:** Don Bartlett will play. There will be snacks, and cake! 2-4:30 p.m. at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave.

## 40TH Annual Orillia Scottish Festival



**Dancers of all ages are invited** to dance three simple dances in the Opening Ceremonies of this joyful event. Sign up as a 4-couple set for an honorarium, or come on your own.

**Parade 12 p.m. Opening Ceremonies 1:30.**

RSVP to Will Kinghorn 705 259 3232

Info: [freshstart.wk@gmail.com](mailto:freshstart.wk@gmail.com)

### RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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## Upcoming Events: FAR

June 6, 13, 20, 27 - **Dancing in the Park in St Catharines:** Each Tuesday in June in the pavilion at Montebello Park. Time: 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. \$5 for RSCDS members; FREE for newcomers.

June 9-11- **Midwest Scottish Weekend.** Chicago, Madison, and Milwaukee welcome you to the Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Info: <https://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend>

July 2-7 - **Thistle School** ~ Banner Elk, North Carolina. The School provides instruction in the techniques and manners of Scottish country dancing, the historic and contemporary social dancing of Scotland. Teachers include Keith and Deirdre Bark. Music by Luke and Adam Brady. Info: [www.thistleschool.com/thistle2017](http://www.thistleschool.com/thistle2017)

July 7-10 & 10-15 - **Pinewoods Sessions** ~ Join Boston Branch in the woods of Plymouth and dance beneath the tall pines. Teachers: Fred DeMarse, Kate Nealley, Sue Ronald. Info: [www.rscdsboston.org](http://www.rscdsboston.org)

July 9-16 - **Australian Winter School** ~ RSCDS Adelaide invites all Scottish country dancers to picturesque Hahndorf in the beautiful Adelaide Hills. Teacher: Jean Dodds. Music by Ian Robertson, Jim Lindsay, Judi Nicolson. Info: [www.rscdsadelaide.org.au/ws2017](http://www.rscdsadelaide.org.au/ws2017)

July 12 - Aug 9 - **Linlithgow Scotch Hop** ~ Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Dance in the open-air courtyard of Linlithgow Palace where Mary Queen of Scots was born! Great Scottish bands; mixed programme of called dances. Info: [www.scotchhop.org.uk](http://www.scotchhop.org.uk)

Sept 8-9 - **Channel Islands Annual Ball** with a pre-ball practice night on September 7. Ticket price of £35 with a £5 pre-ball practice. For information visit: [scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com](http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com)

Sept 15-17 - **Scottish Weekend at Timber Ridge, West Virginia** ~ Teachers: Robert McOwen, David Queen, Margaret Grandine. Info: [www.scottishweekend.org](http://www.scottishweekend.org)

Sept 29 - Oct 1 - **Golden Jubilee Weekend, Gifu, Japan** ~ Mary Murray will teach; Marian Anderson will play. The hotel is spectacular. Info: [artnork@wh.commufa.jp](mailto:artnork@wh.commufa.jp)

Oct 6-8 - **RSCDS Nova Scotia 35th Anniversary Fall Workshop and Ball** ~ Teachers: Ron Wallace (USA) and Jim Stott (Scotland). Music: Dean Herrington and Mara Shea (USA). Christ Church Hall, 61 Dundas St, Dartmouth. Info: [lydiahedge@accesswave.ca](mailto:lydiahedge@accesswave.ca) [www.rscdsnovascotia.ca](http://www.rscdsnovascotia.ca)

Oct 14-15 - **Paris Branch Advanced Weekend** ~ Rachel Shankland will teach; Keith Smith will play fiddle. The main venue is the American Church of Paris. Info: [www.rscdsparis.fr/october-advanced-week-end-2017](http://www.rscdsparis.fr/october-advanced-week-end-2017)

Dec 28 - Jan 5 - **New Zealand Summer school** ~ Teachers include Fred DeMarse will teach; Musicians include Ian Muir. Info: [www.rscdsnz.org.nz](http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz)

More events, near and far, at [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)



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Teresa Lockhart (youth scene)	416.759-9845
Marian White	416.781-7795
Judy Williams	416.924-3658

## Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

### St Andrews Summer School

**Choice of 4 wks: 16 July - 6 Aug., 2017**

**St Andrews University**

Multiple prominent teachers and musicians; dancers from all over the planet.

[www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2017](http://www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2017)

### RSCDS Winter School

**Late February, 2018**

**Pitlochry, Scotland**

A week of dance; a ball in a castle.

[www.rscds.org/article/winter-school-1](http://www.rscds.org/article/winter-school-1)

### TAC Summer School

**July 23-30, 2017**

**University of BC, Vancouver**

**SOLD OUT**



Join the almost-legendary, highly respected Duncan and Maggie Keppie for a Scottish country dance week in Nova Scotia:

- Four ½ day classes (Intermediate-Advanced), a Scottish ceilidh and a dance with live music
- Two excursions to scenic localities of historical and geological interest

Info: [keppie@eastlink.ca](mailto:keppie@eastlink.ca)



Scotland's National Tourism Organisation  
[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

