

RSCDS SET & LINK

TORONTO ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2005



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Saturday, February 19th was the Forty-second Annual Tartan Ball, and it was a glorious event. The food was great, the dance programme was a pleasure and (as always) the music was marvellous. To Ann Campbell, chair of the Tartan Ball Committee, and to all who worked on the planning and execution, we offer our congratulations and our appreciation. As was highlighted in last month's **SET & LINK**, Georgina Finlay and Bobby Brown were the Guests of Honour. Both were presented with gifts, and each spoke well in their brief speeches of acknowledgement. At the same time, Keith Bark was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in recognition of his work as Chair for the years 2001-2003.

Recently David Grant gave me some interesting historical facts about the early days of the Tartan Ball. It was first held in 1961 at the Granite Club (not the present location). The second took place in November 1962, at the former Lord Simcoe Hotel. The timing then shifted to the early part of the year, and the third Tartan Ball was held at the Royal York in March 1964. One interesting facet of that third Tartan Ball was that the dancing lasted from 8.30pm until 1.30am (with 18 dances) - but there was a formal dinner at 10:30pm. Personally, I don't know if I could handle a full meal halfway through a Ball programme, but that's how they did it back then. Another brief glance into the history of our Branch/Association.

Steve

If it's March it must be beginners...

By Lisa Mitchell, Program Director

Traditionally March means Beginner's Night – a raw mix of nerves, excitement, anticipation, anxiety and enjoyment – especially focused on our newest dancers! Do you remember your first dance? Live band... lots of people (who all knew what to do!)... friendly smiles... encouraging words from your teacher... anxiety... going the wrong way... never quite figuring out the concept of "progressing"... help... fun!

The March dance is a "test" for new dancers – an opportunity to take what they've learned in class and confidently hit the dance floor! It's a kind of graduation – to put the learning and practice into reality – and with enthusiasm and encouragement, they'll enjoy themselves. The teachers of the Association classes for Level I have an important task of laying the foundation of basics – steps and formations – so that new dancers will have confidence in their ability to dance. I have asked each of the teachers to share some thoughts about Level I:

Colin Philip writes:

"Beginner dancers young and mature are like the children in our world, without them there is no future. We are to be patient and show even the simplest of steps and formations."

At Eastminster we use the family and beginner nights as the basis in our program, taking the steps and formations learned each night and using them to teach the dances. We hope that Level I dancers will attend family night and beginners night with some familiarity of what they have learned so far and to experience the

sociability of dancing with many dancers from the Toronto area. To our more experienced dancers – be patient, you were there once!

David Booz writes:

We are having a great time at the Swansea Basic class. The dancers are enjoying the dancing and chatting with each other – so much so that I have to drag them on the floor at the beginning of class and at the break! We are especially enjoying the live music of Laird Brown, particularly for step practice and drills since he plays the exact number of bars we need. He also has been explaining a few things about the music so everybody learns a bit - even the teacher!

We are looking forward to the March monthly dance, as several of our dancers attended the December dance and had a great time dancing with the more experienced dancers who welcomed them warmly. It helps to have a mixture of experienced dancers who can guide and support the newer dancers, and the monthly dance provides a great opportunity.

Toronto Association is fortunate to offer live music for Level I classes at both Swansea and Eastminster (thanks to Bobby Brown and Laird Brown). Association classes build a dancer's confidence and skills which increases their (and the rest of the set's!) enjoyment of the dance. A positive first experience will encourage new dancers to persist in learning the complexities of SCD! Let's help new dancers to remember "It's Just For FUN"!

Bottom line is: HISCD
– Happiness is Scottish Country
Dancing!

Etiquette in Classes and at Socials

1. Try not to miss your classes, unless it is really important. This is where you learn the dances.
2. Brief sheets are just that, brief reminders of the dance. They do not necessarily contain all the details of the dance.
3. During classes there is only one teacher.
4. If you do not understand any instructions, ask the teacher for clarification, not the other students.
5. Be on time. If you are late you will miss something that you may need later.
6. Try not to dance with only your spouse. Mix with other dancers. If you are experienced, remember when you were a beginner and give a helping hand.
7. At workshops it is advisable to attend the class at your level. You will feel more comfortable if you do not exceed your limitations and you will learn more quickly. If in doubt as to which class, ask your teacher.
8. At socials do not form sets until the MC announces the dance.
9. Always join the set at the bottom. Do not walk through a set that is already formed.
10. Never leave a set once you have joined it.
11. The first man of each set should count the couples in his line to help form the sets.
12. Never join a line once it has been counted, unless asked to do so.
13. Listen quietly to the talk through and watch closely if the first couple is to walk through the dance.
14. Do not look at the floor while dancing, but smile and look at your fellow dancers.
15. At the end of the dance thank your partner and fellow dancers in your set.
16. Clear the dance floor once the dance finishes.
17. If you find that a dancer in your set is not quite sure of the dance, speak to them "over here" or "face me". Never push or pull them.
18. If a dance is announced for "experienced dancers only", please do not join the dance if you are not experienced or do not know it. Do not ask a new dancer to join the set. This is very unfair to them and also to those already in the set

Submitted by Keith R Bark

April Monthly Dance

Date: Saturday, April 9, 2005
Time: 8:00 pm
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave
Music: Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent
Hosts: Midtown, Don Mills, ASTA
Please note that Crescent School has a no nut policy

Mrs. Stewart's Jig	J 8x32	Bk 36/1
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S 8x32	Leaflet 10
The Royal Yacht Britannia	R 8x32	Bk 43/3
Well Done Jack	J 6x32	Bk 29/3
+The Quaich	S 8x32	Drewry
+Society Piper	R 8x32	Goldring
INTERVAL		
The Milltimber Jig	J 6x32	Bk 41/7
The Birks of Invermay	S 8x32	Bk 16/2
The Lass o'Livingston	R 6x32	Bk 8/6
Follow Me Home	J 8x32	Bk 38/3
+The Grants' New Rant	S 8x32	Goldring
Maxwell's Rant	R 8x32	Bk 18/10
EXTRAS		
Ladies' Fancy	J 6x32	Bk 13/12
Anderson's Rant	R 8x32	MMM I
May Yarker's Strathspey	S 8x32	Bk 42/5
+ Non-RSCDS		

The Toronto Association
 Youth Committee
 will be hosting the first

Toronto Youth Ball

When:

Saturday, May 7, 2005 for
 dancers 10-20+ years of
 age.

Where:

Newtonbrook United
 Church. Reception at
 5pm, followed by dinner at
 5:30pm and dancing from
 7:00pm until 9:30pm.

Cost:

\$20 per dancer.

For information and tickets
 contact Fiona Phillip at
 905-785-8983.

Extension Classes for Newer Dancers

This spring Eastminster will once again be hosting our annual series of Extension Classes for Newer Dancers. Our Association class teachers, Colin Philip, David Booz and Kathleen Kynoch will continue to develop dancers' skills and also review many of the dances on the Dancing in the Park program. Please join us for a fun series of evenings - with the added pleasure of having Bobby Brown on accordion. If you have any questions, please call Carole Bell at 416-221-1201 or email cbell@rogers.com.

PLACE:

Eastminster United Church
 310 Danforth Avenue, close to
 Chester Subway Station

DATES:

Eight Thursdays starting April 7

TIME: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

COST: \$60

Upcoming Events

NEAR

MARCH 19, 2005, West End Workshop and Tea Dance at Streetsville Secondary School. Teachers are Jean Martin, UK; Claire Collier, Lewiston, NJ; Deirdre McCuish Bark, Mississauga, ON. Youth teachers are Carole Skinner and Alma Smith. Cost is \$40 including lunch, \$25 for youth and \$10 for afternoon tea dance. Contact Brien and Ishbel Thompson 905-826-7842.

MARCH 26, 2005, Blair Scottish Country Dancers 25th Anniversary Ball, Cambridge, ON. Music by Don Bartlett and the Scottish Heirs. Cost is \$55. Contact Betty Peloquin, 2005 Roseville Road, RR2, Cambridge.

April 2, 2005, Glenview Scottish Country Dance Group's 25th Anniversary Celebration, 7:30 p.m. at Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Av. Music by The Scottish Experience. Refreshment will be served. Tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by mailing cheque payable to Glenview Scottish Country Dance Group to Catherine O'May, 406-44 Dunfield Av, Toronto ON M4S 2H2; 416-482-6690.

APRIL 2, 2005, Hamilton Branch R.S.C.D.S. 50th Anniversary Ball at Michelangelo Banquet Centre, Hamilton. Tickets \$70 and \$45 for non-dancers. Contact Margaret Leckie 905-627-0652 or Jina Middleton jjceilidh@sympatico.ca.

APRIL 23, 2005, RSCDS Toronto Association Annual General Meeting at Crescent School, at approximately 9:00 p.m. (during the interval between dances).

APRIL 23, 2005, Ottawa Spring Ball. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Dancers \$75 and non-dancers \$50 includes Friday Pre-ball Social and Sunday Brunch. Contact John & Barbara Bottreil 613-836-2305; johnbarb@magma.ca.

MAY 6, 2005, 8:00-11:00 p.m., Trinity Spring Dance at Seeley Hall, Trinity College, sponsored by the Trinity SCD Group. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. More details next month.

MAY 7, 2005. The first Toronto Association Youth Ball for dancers aged 10 to 20 at Newtonbrook United Church, Yonge St. and Cummer Av. Reception, dinner and dancing. Cost is \$20. Contact Fiona Philip 905-785-8983.

MAY 14, 2005, West Toronto Ball at Ramses Temple, 3100 Keele St., Toronto. Reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 (catered by Occasions), dancing 8:30-12:30. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Dances will be briefed, but not walked. Tickets are \$60 for adults and \$40 for youth 14+. Contact Julie Hatch 905-844-9964; julie.hatch@cogeco.ca.

July 16, 2005, White Heather Ball in the Highlands of Durham at the Scugog Community Centre, Port Perry. Dinner followed by entertainment and dancing. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Marjorie 905-649-3532; mmason@bellnet.ca or Stewart 905-985-6573; tartanshop@on.aibn.com.

FAR

MARCH 11-13, 2005, Vancouver Island SCDS 29th Annual Workshop & Ball Weekend, Victoria, BC. Teachers are Jim Adamson, Calgary, AB; Barbara Johnston, Edmonton, AB; Maureen Lyon, White Rock, BC. Music for the Ceilidh, classes, ball and Sunday social by the Christine Baker Trio. Visit www.viscds.ca link "Spring Ball" or email rpbalfour@shaw.ca

APRIL 1-3, 2005, The Edinburgh Spring Fling, 16-35 Youth Easter School. Payment and application form must be submitted by March 11, 2005. Contact suzannerscds@btconnect.com; www.rscds.org/youth/easter.

MAY 13-16, 2005, Budapest Scottish Dance Club International Weekend Course, Budapest, Hungary. Teacher is Linda Gaul. Music by Robert Mackay, piano and Dave Cunningham and his SCD Band. Optional tourist program available. Contact in Toronto, Lisa Mitchell 416-699-2480; ldmitchell@sympatico.ca

MAY 14, 2005, the inaugural Thistle Ball, sponsored jointly by Victoria, Seattle and Vancouver at Squamish Nation Recreation Centre, North Vancouver. Music by Marian Anderson and Her band, from Scotland. Cost is \$45. Further information to follow.

May 20-22, 2005, Youth Weekend West, at UBC in Vancouver, BC for dancers 15-30ish. Friday night BBQ, Saturday and Sunday morning classes, Saturday night ceilidh and dance, and Sunday afternoon tea dance which is open to all ages. Teachers are

Sue Porter, Oban, Scotland; Anne and Neil Harrison, Oakville, ON; Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Langley, BC. Contact Louise lmstein@sfu.ca; 604-464-5818. Visit www.youthweekend.com.

MAY 20-22, 2005, New York Branch Pawling Weekend, Hopewell Junction, NY. Teachers are Elaine Brunken, MD; Muriel Johnstone, TX; John Wilkenson, Scotland. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Music for beginner class by Jim Stevenson. Visit www.rscdsnewyork.org.

JUNE 3-5, 2005, RSCDS Montreal Branch Weekend Workshop at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC. Teachers are Stella Fogg, Richmond, VA; Ian Paterson, Georgetown, ON; Elinor Vandergrift, Kenmore, WA. Dance and reception music by Laura Risk & friends. Gala dance music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Peter White 514-488-2509; scdmtl@yahoo.com; www.scdmontreal.org.

JUNE 25, 2005, San Francisco Branch 40th Anniversary Gala Featuring U.S. debut of Green Ginger. Contact greg@reznickfamily.com or visit November issue of Reel and Strathspeyer at www.rscds-sf.org/RandS/RandS_Nov_2004.pdf.

JULY 9-16, 2005, Scottish Country Dance Week, Prague, Czech Republic with Ron Wallace and the Dunsmuir Dancers. Music by Gary Thomas. Program includes classes and sightseeing activities. Visit www.dvorana.cz or contact dvorana@mbox.vol.cz.

JULY 18-AUGUST 14, 2005, The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland. You may attend for one week or any two weeks as a resident or non-resident. Booking forms and deposit must be submitted by March 1, 2005 and can be obtained from Brenda Hurst 416-925-6982; brenhurst@hotmail.com.

JULY 31-AUGUST, 2005, TAC Summer School, Shawningan Lake, BC. Teachers are David Hall, Brussels; Elaine Brunken, Laurel, ML; and Mary Murray, Vancouver, BC. Musicians are Muriel Johnstone, Houston, TX; Keith Smith, Cambridge, UK; Alex Jappy, Delta, BC; Ron Krug, Winnipeg, MB. Contact registrar Anne MacLeod 250-752-5864; annetacreg@yahoo.ca.

If you have an event that you would like to post here, contact Christine Bowers, Communications Director.

Tartan Ball 2005

The 42nd Tartan Ball, the highlight of the Toronto Association's calendar, took place on February 19, 2005, at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. As usual, the evening started off with two receptions, one for the out-of-town guests, head table guests, social group teachers and Past Chairs, hosted by Steve and Betty Coombs (ably assisted by our experienced bartender, Don Large), and the main reception for all our guests in the Concert Hall foyer. Sandy Dewar of the 48th Highlanders and his son were our pipers again this year and piped in the head table.

This year our Guests of Honour were two very special people who play an important part in our Association, Georgina Finlay and Bobby Brown. Both of them received the Scroll of Honour from Edinburgh this year and we were delighted to have a chance to show them how much we appreciate them.

Our other head table guests were Colonel Ian Sargeant of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and his wife Liz; Ms Catherine O'May, President of the St. Andrew's Society, and her escort for the evening, Doug Wright; Ian Souter, of T.A.C. and his wife, Pat. Our Chair, Steve Coombs and his wife, Betty, and our Vice Chair, Ian Paterson and his wife Shona completed the head table. After the piping in, Lisa Mitchell said Grace and the dinner began.

After dinner there were presentations to be made to our Guests of Honour and also to the Past Chair of the Association, Keith Bark. Then the hall was cleared, Jim MacLachlan, the Chief Marshal, guided us through the Grand March and then the dancing began. Many thanks to the MCs, Deirdre Bark, Maureen Richardson and Paul Maloney, who did a superb job, as did Jim and his team of line marshals. We had a wonderful programme of dances, for which we must thank Jean Noble. Thanks also to Georgina who, as well as being Guest of Honour, ran two practices so that we would all be ready to dance with confidence.

Our numbers this year were up about 15 from last year and we had out-of-town guests from places as far away as Germany, Michigan, Chicago, Ottawa, and Calgary, to name just a few.

Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent played their usual superb music which, along with the great programme, kept most of the dancers on the floor right to the very end.

The Tartan Ball Committee did a great job with enthusiasm, energy and good humour, as always. Theresa Malek and Margaret McClean organized the decorations; Ron Bell was always there to consult, remind and encourage; Marion and Colin Gardiner handled the tickets, which I think is the most difficult job of all; Alex Collins dealt with the printing; Jim MacLachlan organized the head table, the Grand March, the floor plan and the line marshals: Arlene Koteff was secretary and general helper. Thanks also to Barry Pipes for the posters and information leaflets. I must also thank our Communications Director, Christine Bowers and our Program Director, Lisa Mitchell, for their help throughout the year.

Decorating the hall on Saturday morning takes a long time, as does preparing for the reception, and we are grateful to those who came out to help. As well as members of the Committee, we were helped by Carole Bell, Ian and Shona Paterson, Cathy White, Lisa Mitchell and Andrew Clark (who always do such a wonderful job of the stage decoration). At the end of the evening a willing group of volunteers helped take all the decorations down and that is much appreciated also.

Our hotel contact, Bruce Kellogg, is a wonderful person to work with and he puts up with all my phone calls and e-mails. The dinner itself was a great success, thanks to our banquet manager, Nick, who is now an expert on the Tartan Ball.

Next year's Tartan Ball will be on February 18th, 2006.

This was my fifth year as convener of the Tartan Ball and I have decided that it is the last. I have thoroughly enjoyed it all and am very grateful to the Tartan Ball Committee and all the others who have helped and supported me, but I mustn't be greedy - it's time for someone else to enjoy this experience!

~Ann Campbell
Tartan Ball Convener - 2001-2005



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don't forget...

- Deadline for April Newsletter: March 18th
- May Monthly Dance: May 14, 2005

EDITOR'S NOTES...

- A donation was made to the Hill House Hospice in January in accordance with the wishes of Pat Batt for the printing of her poems in the December 2004 Issue.
- Thanks to Robert Taylor of the Kingston Branch for the wonderful picture of Bobby and Odessa on the cover of January's issue.