

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I write this last Chair's Message the day following the 2005 Annual General Meeting. I write it with a modicum of regret that I will no longer be visiting the various Social Groups in an official capacity, nor participating in Board meetings as the affairs of the Association are discussed - but also with a sense of relief as the responsibilities for leading this group have passed into other hands.

The last two years have been an exciting phase in the ongoing life of this organization. We have seen the implementation of the changes resulting from the Trillium grant, and recognized that further modifications are necessary in our model of government. There have been additional workshops planned and provided for our members, and we have attempted to extend our appeal to the younger members of the community. Our impact on the wider community has been extended by the development of the Association's Demonstration Pool of Dancers.

While we have been concentrating on the present and the future, we have not neglected the past. We have established a committee to plan for the celebration of our 50th Anniversary in 2007-2008, and you will find an announcement elsewhere in the newsletter about the event in general.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all for the support that I received during my term of office; it has been a pleasure to serve the Association. Happy dancing in the years ahead.

Steve

Children's Festival 2005

By Colin & Fiona Philip, Children's Activities Convenors



Participants from the Weston Team



Participants from the Whigmaleeries Team

The Festival held on Saturday, April 9th, was a showcase of the future dancers of the Toronto Association. Held in Mississauga, there were 85 dancers from 5 Toronto Area groups (including 2 new groups, one from Oakville and one from Erin Oak – a children's treatment centre in Mississauga) who proudly demonstrated the dances they have been practicing in their weekly classes. The dancers and spectators alike were invited to participate in several social dances to emphasize the social aspect of SCD.

Each team was adjudicated and de-briefed by Joyce Kite-Smith and Rhonda Moore, so that they could learn what they did well and what they have to work on for next year. Each team at this year's event was given an award and each dancer was given a tartan shoe bag.

As co-coordinators of the Festival, we would like to thank all the individuals who volunteered their time. Thank you to: Joyce Kite-Smith, Rhonda Moore, Sandra Scott, Lorna Larmour, Brian and Marion Blair, Jean Noble, Don and Marie-Therese



Participants from the Rosedale Team

Large, Keith Bark, Rob Lockhart, and Jean and Gordon Hamilton.

Thank you to Joan Philip who made the shoe bags for each participant. Thank you to the Erin Mills Friday Night Intermediate class for their continued support and financial donation and to the Toronto Association for financial support from the Professor R. Smith Bequest Fund.

Continued from front page

The awards were presented as follows:

INTERMEDIATE

Williamson Trophy for Effort in SCD
Rosedale

George C. Armstrong Trophy – Spirit
Whigmaleeries

Hillcrest SCD Group Award for Teamwork
Whigmaleeries

Rosedale SCD Group Award for Excellence in Presentation
Rosedale

Malcolm MacGregor Crosby Memorial Award (enthusiasm)
Oakville

Elizabeth Thompson Award for Excellence
Rosedale

SENIOR

Frances Gray Award for Best Strathspey
Rosedale

Hamish Falconer Memorial Trophy (Spirit)
Erin Oak

RSCDS Toronto Association Bobby Frew Memorial Award for Excellence in Presentation Emphasis on use of and keeping time with music
Whigmaleeries

Erin Mills Group Award for Excellence in Teamwork
Whigmaleeries

RSCDS Toronto Association Bob Blackie Memorial Award for Excellence in Technique
Weston

Volunteer Profile - Ann Campbell

Ann Campbell has chaired the Tartan Ball, the Toronto Association's premier event, for the last five years. Ann chaired the Ball firstly as a Branch committee member, attending the monthly Executive meetings, and latterly as the Convenor under the Toronto Association's new governance model. We thank her for all the hard work and time she has devoted to that responsibility.

Over the years, Ann, along with her committee members, has endeavoured with great success to provide an enjoyable gala evening for dancers by organizing the many jobs such as working with the hotel staff regarding menus and room reservations, co-ordinating decorations, and encouraging participation in this event. Wintry weather and computer problems did not stop Ann and her team from making every Tartan Ball an evening to remember.

Ann has been dancing for thirty plus years and dances regularly at Brampton and Erin Mills. She also has danced with the Brampton and Ceilidh Demonstration Groups at numerous events, and is currently a member of the Toronto Association Demonstration Pool.

Ann is an enthusiastic and faithful supporter of many Association events, and often inspired by them, has devised a number of dances. One of these, St Andrew's of Brampton, has been published by the Society.

~The Volunteer Committee

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Welcome the newest RSCDS Toronto Association
Social Group
Highlands of Durham Scottish Country Dancers!
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Wheelchair Dancing at Port Perry

Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing even if one is confined to a wheelchair.

The Highlands of Durham Scottish Country Dancers took this principle to heart during their visit last January to the Community Nursing Home at Port Perry. Through the careful advance preparation of selected dances that were manageable, HDSCDS's members were able to bring joy to the hearts of some plucky residents at the Nursing Home by wheeling them through their paces in several Scottish Country Dances.

You can bet that those dancers on two feet had a great deal of fun too. What a wonderful idea that can be emulated with those of our local groups who visit homes for the disabled to give demonstrations.

This example brings new perspective to dancing in tandem. Imagine the fun in trying Pelorus Jack with wheelchairs.



Members of the Highlands of Durham Scottish Country Dancers and residents of Port Perry Community Nursing Home

Upcoming Events

NEAR

MAY 6, 2005, 8:00-11:00 p.m., Trinity Spring Dance at Seeley Hall, Trinity College, 6 Hoskin Av. Sponsored by the Trinity SCD Group. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Light refreshments. \$30. Contact Joanne or Louis Racic 416-253-6018; racic@sympatico.ca

MAY 6, 2005, 7:30 p.m., South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers' Spring Dance at Knox Church, King St. South, Alliston. Music by The Scottish Experience with Gary Seagrave. \$10 at the door. Contact Debbie MacFayden 905-729-4883 or Grace Graham 705-435-3689 or dproto@sympatico.ca.

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 7, 2005, RSCDS London (Canada) Branch's 44th Annual Ball. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact craigan1025@rogers.com.

MAY 14, 2005, West Toronto Ball at Ramses Temple, 3100 Keele St., Toronto. Reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, 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.

MAY 27-29, 2005, 21st Scottish Country Dance Weekend at Stoney Lake. Teacher is Ian Paterson, Georgetown, ON. For registration, contact Elizabeth McMahon 705-748-0396; bvon@sympatico.ca. For information, contact Krystyna Perron 705-741-1472; dank@sympatico.ca.

MAY 27-29, 2005, The Association for Scottish Traditions and Arts - ASTA - will host the Scotland pavilion at Carrassauga - Mississauga's annual multi-cultural festival, at Rivergrove Community Centre, 5800 River Grove Av, Mississauga. Contact Patricia Heaney 1-905-877-5754 or Helen Ferguson 416-244-9538.

MAY 31-June 28, 2005, Dancing in the Park at Edwards Gardens, corner of Leslie St. and Lawrence Av. from 7:00 p.m. to dusk. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent.

Contact John Holmberg 416-694-1218. Call 416-410-7078 after 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for notification of cancellations due to weather.

JUNE 11, 2005, Banks O'Couchiching Scottish Ball, Orillia. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Reservations by May 13th. Contact Donna Gowland 705-325-6623; dmgowland@encode.com or Linda Ashe 705-487-5868; lindaa@sonic.com

JUNE 23-AUGUST 4, 2005, Summer Dancing every Thursday evening at breezy Seeley Hall, Trinity College, 6 Hoskin Av, University of Toronto. Various guest teachers will brief the dances. Contact Paul Barber 416-534-0516; visit www3.sympatico.ca/barber/malcolmson.

JUNE 27-JULY 8, 2005, The Ontario School of Piping and Drumming at St. Andrew's College, Aurora presents one and two-week sessions in piping and drumming for boarding or day students. Contact Rob Crabtree 416-489-6414 during business hours; robcrabtree@sympatico.ca; visit kilby.sac.on.ca/ontpiping.

JULY 4-8, 2005, A fun-filled week of Scottish Country Dancing for intermediate and advanced dancers at Haliburton School of the Arts, Haliburton, ON. Instructor is Mike Turner. For information visit www.HaliburtonSchoolofTheArts.ca For registration call 1-866-353-6464 and ask for Haliburton campus.

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

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 Imstein@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 Wilkinson, 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.

JULY 8-17, 2005, RSCDS Boston Branch's Session I, Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth MS. Contact Bob Littlehale 781-324-2798; rlittlehale@arczip.com.

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 31-AUGUST, 2005 TAC Summer School, Shawnigan Lake, BC. Please note that the school is full. Contact registrar Anne MacLeod 250-752-5864; annetacreg@yahoo.ca

The Annual Conference Weekend and AGM for the Royal Scottish Dance Society

will take place on November 11-13, 2005 (AGM Saturday 12th).

Anyone requiring details of the weekend's events and activities can contact

Brenda Hurst 416-925-6982.

Mark your calendars!
The Toronto Workshop
will be held on
Saturday, November 12, 2005.
More information to follow.
Contact Theresa Malek
theresamalek@rogers.com

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

In Memory of...

Jessie Bryden danced all her life, as a child and adult with various groups in Edinburgh and after emigrating to Canada in 1957 with Ed and her two daughters, with Jean Anderson's demonstration team, dancing at the Royal Alex, Massey Hall and the CNE Bandshell.

She formed the Bloorlea Group in 1966 and obtained her Teachers' Certificate at an early TAC Summer School in Kingston in 1974. She taught Bloorlea until 1995 with only a brief interruption when the family moved to Orangeville and on their return, a few years with the Mississauga Group. After her "retirement" she formed the West Acres Seniors Social group in 1996 and taught there until a week before her death on February 28th.

She was on the founding committees for both the West Toronto Ball and the West End Workshop both of which events have continued successfully for over twenty years.

Jessie loved the traditional dances and music, particularly those recorded by the Canadian bands, Stan Hamilton, Bobby Brown, Bobby Frew and Don Bartlett, and the Bloorlea Christmas and end of season party programmes were always familiar and dancer-friendly.

Her sparkle, enthusiasm and encouragement introduced many people to the joy of Scottish Country Dancing and on behalf of all those who knew her and danced in her classes, our deepest sympathy go out to Ed and her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be missed.
~Nora Sutherland

Bob Millar, with his artistic talents, embarked on an early successful career as a Costumer, creating costumes and characters for the Santa Claus Parades. After beginning a Civil Service career, he pursued his passion for Scottish Country Dancing. In the mid sixties he started the East York group and taught there until 1982. As a teacher, he made sure everyone knew exactly what was expected of them and his great sense of humour made dancing fun for all his students.

Bob encouraged his dancers to attend branch classes and was a branch class teacher himself. He supported the branch and participated in many events. He was also a regular attendee at St. Andrews. He became one of the pre-eminent teachers and for over 35 years was well known for his keen eye for detail, timing and exactness as well as his own grace, not just in Toronto, but across North America and Internationally. During his passionate pursuit, he touched and influenced so many people and this passion will continue on throughout the many who he convinced to become teachers and are now influencing others.

With excerpts from Toronto Star, April 6, 2005 and with contributions from Kathleen Kynoch

For Sale

Dress Stewart Kilt 28 to 30 inch waist, 24 inches length. Mint condition \$200 or best offer.
Janette Todd 905-727-1022.

A Golden Year for Scottish Country Dancing in Toronto

The RSCDS Toronto Association will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2007-2008! We are looking forward to having special events to celebrate this milestone, as well as incorporating anniversary elements into our existing programs during the dance season. We hope that all our members will enthusiastically participate in the year long excitement. If you or anyone you know has been involved in Scottish Country Dancing in the Toronto area in the last fifty years and would like to receive notice of our celebration events, please contact anniversary@rscdstoronto.org or RSCDS Toronto Association, PO Box 67027, 2300 Yonge St., Toronto M4R 3C8. If you have any items of memorabilia or photographs that could be loaned to us and used for display purposes, please contact anniversarydisplay@rscdstoronto.org or Isabelle MacPherson at 416-489-0988.

Look for another Anniversary Announcement in June's Set & Link.



**We've got a new address!
The move to Yonge & Eglinton allows
convenient access by TTC.**

**P.O. Box 67027
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don't forget...

- Deadline for June Newsletter: May 20th
- Youth Ball May 7, 2005
- Check the phone line for up-to-the-minute DIP information

EDITOR'S NOTES...

You may have noticed your envelope has the old address on it. My mother, being a true Scot, taught me not to waste money. The old address will appear on the envelopes for the final two issues. Any returned newsletters will be forwarded to our new address above.