

RSCDS SET & LINK

TORONTO ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2006



Chair's Message



Voice message retrieved 12:45 p.m., November 9, 2006... "Hello Ian, this is Valerie. Crescent School has an emergency and will be closed this weekend!

I really need to talk to you!" The message was time stamped 11:24 a.m. When I called to see if she was just pulling my leg, the Toronto French School had already been secured, the musicians, the caterer, and the teachers had been contacted, and the grapevine was in full swing, with only a few loose ends to be tied up (Certificate of Insurance, cheque, etc.). Crescent School was being shut down for four days! As Paul Harvey might say, "You already know the rest of the story!" Everything worked out just fine. Thanks to Valerie Fisher, the Workshop Committee, and many volunteers – including Jean and Gordon Hamilton, and Jean Noble and Marie Duncan, who stood guard at Crescent School to redirect the few strays we were unable to reach via the SCD grapevine.

What do I think were the highlights of this year's Workshop? In view of the circumstances, my thoughts were, first, seeing so many people putting on their ghillies in the foyer of the Toronto French School and, second, the enticing and comforting aroma of coffee wafting from the cafeteria when we arrived! Seriously, the wonderful teachers, musicians, and dance programme wrapped up a wonderful day.

Saturday, November 11, 2006, was certainly a day to "remember" in more ways than one. Shona and I want to thank everyone for the kindness, care, and best wishes received since the incident that occurred after the workshop. For the Paterson family, it was a day we will never forget.

Ian

Joie de Vivre Captures Spirit of RSCDS Workshop & Dance

Submitted by Deirdre Macdonald



On Saturday, November 11, 129 dancers registered for the 2006 Workshop and Dance at the Toronto French School, Outside, the day was gray and misty; inside, spirits were high as dancers chatted, shed their cold weather gear, and donned their dancing shoes.

On Thursday, the picture hadn't looked so rosy. At 11:15 a.m. Workshop Convenor Valerie Fisher received a distressing phone call from Crescent School that a water main had burst and the School would not be available on Saturday. She promptly booked space at the Toronto French School. Rob Lockhart posted a message on the RSCDS website from Toronto Chair Ian Paterson notifying participants,

John Wilkinson (Berwickshire, Scotland) led the class of 51 Advanced dancers; Carol Howe (Grimsby, ON), the class of 50 Intermediate dancers; and Georgina Finlay (Toronto, ON), the class of 28 Beginner dancers. The groups rotated so that each teacher worked with all three classes.

Musicians Bobby Brown, Laird Brown, Don Wood, and Don Bartlett provided lively accompaniment.

First-time Toronto Workshop instructor Carol Howe stressed phrasing in Scottish Country Dance, "Be in the set when you're needed. Some dancers will never perfect their footwork. If they can move to the music, master timing, flow, and eye contact, they capture the friendly, cooperative spirit of the dance."

Georgina Finlay emphasized the social fine points of dancing through her explanation of the origin of *The Glowerin' Coo*, John Drewry wrote the dance for Edinburgh examiner Stanley Wilkie, who remarked when teaching double triangles, "First couple should not look like coos glowering over a dyke!" Now, when we dance double triangles, we'll look sprightly and do the best we can with our feet.

The three instructors demonstrated that deft direction can bring clarity to a dance, no matter how challenging or varied the dancers' skill. In the combined class,

>> Please see Workshop page 5

January Monthly Dance

Date: Saturday, January 13, 2007
Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave
Music: The Scottish Accent
Hosts: A.S.T.A. • Scarborough • Nobleton
 Please note that Crescent School has a no-nut policy.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| The Laird of Milton's Daughter | 8x32J | (22/10) |
| Ways in the New Hall | 8x32R | (42/7) |
| Will Ye No' Come Back | 8x32S | (Drewry) |
| Ladies' Fancy | 6x32J | (13/5) |
| The Gentleman | 8x32S | (35/5) |
| The Sailor (to be briefed only) | 8x32R | (24/4) |
| | | |
| Old Nick's Lumber Room | 8x32J | (26/6) |
| Ca' the Ewes tae the Knowes | 6x32S | (16/8) |
| Starlight | 8x32R | (44/1) |
| Over the Water to Charlie (New Way) | 8x32J | (34/5) |
| Bedrule | 8x32S | (33/7) |
| Salute to Miss Milligan | 8x32R | (Drewry) |
| | | |
| Fairly Shot o' Her | 8x32J | (26/3) |
| Burns' Hornpipe | 4x32R | (27/4) |

What's in a name? *Maggielockater*

Maggie who? Well, it is not a person! Maggielockater is a hamlet in the Scottish County of Morayshire. Its name is loosely translated from the Gaelic *Magh An Fhucadair*, which means Field of the Fuller. Close by the river Spey, it is located just north of the Glenfiddich Distillery, famous for its single malts. But Maggielockater was better known for its bees. Honey bees, that is!

In the past, as the story goes, beekeepers for miles around brought their stock to Maggielockater where the bees would flourish in their hives among the heather in the hills above. Up until the 1970s, a large apiary existed in the hamlet to serve the beekeepers' needs. This story spurred Aberdonian dance deviser John Drewry to create that wonderful jig called *The Bees of Maggielockater*.

It is a complex dance that includes what was once described with tongue in cheek as "a celebration of partner swapping". Now that should excite a little interest here and there!

So for Maggies everywhere, please sit down! This jig is not about you!

Submitted by Barry Pipes

Does this sign show the road to Maggielockater or, perhaps, diagram the half-reels of the dance?



The Keppie Workshop

Saturday, December 9, 2006
 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Crescent School

Two levels: Beginners and Intermediate/Advanced

For more information contact
 Morag MacIntosh
 416-488-3618
 macintosh@interhop.net
 Registration begins at 8:45 a.m.

“Family Night” Dance, December 9

**Youth (18 and under) get in FREE!
 Spectators and older youth \$3.25.**

This traditionally has become known as Family Night. It is also a wonderful way to start the Christmas Season for Scottish Country Dancers. We encourage everyone not only to come to the dance but also to bring family members, even if they are not dancers. They are welcome as spectators and perhaps they can participate in one or more of the easier dances. This is always a fun evening of dancing. We look forward to seeing you there.
STARTING TIME IS 7:30 p.m. sharp,
 at Crescent School.

Scottish Websites:

www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz

This is the one of a series that will highlight Scottish websites -- Editor

The Gazetteer for Scotland is a vast geographical encyclopaedia, featuring details of towns, villages, bens and glens from the Scottish Borders to the Northern Isles. It includes tourist attractions, industries and historical sites, together with histories of family names, biographies of famous people and descriptions of historical events associated with Scotland. A network of connections between the 13428 entries makes this gazetteer unique. The Gazetteer may be the largest Scottish resource on the web, and it grows constantly. The Gazetteer is developed jointly by Bruce Gittings of the University of Edinburgh and Dr. David Munro of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

Submitted by Keith Bark



Letters to the Editor

November's Letter to the Editor regarding walking/not walking dances drew a flurry of responses. Below are excerpts from letters received. The full text of the letters is available at www.rscdstoronto.org, or upon request to anyone who doesn't have internet access.

Dave Thompson wrote. . .

...not having a walk-through is an EXCELLENT way to ensure the NON-participation of both the beginner and indeed the less experienced dancers.

Steve Donald wrote. . .

... The experienced dancers get a bit bored and frustrated with the walk-throughs while the new dancers need them and the intermediate ones are somewhere in between. ... One idea ... was to not walk through the very easy ones BUT to also mark those on the crib sheets so that beginners can either opt out or spend extra time learning those dances in advance.

Rob Lockhart wrote. . .

There's another issue regarding walking vs. not walking at Monthly Dances.

At the last monthly dance, I was in two sets where the top couple stood still in macho, immobile hubris during the walk-through. Fine for them, but inconsiderate of others in the set who needed to do or observe a walk-through.

Bob Scorrar wrote. . .

If you, ... wish to encourage and keep new dancers it MUST BE FUN for them. Without a walk through new comers do not feel confident enough to be able to enjoy themselves.

If time was the reason for not walking through the dances then have fewer dances.

Carole Skinner wrote. . .

[Carole Chairs the Teachers Panel-Ed.] The Teachers Panel held their fall meeting ... The suggestion was made that starting next dance year 2007/2008 one easy dance on each program could be done this way [briefed only], with the dances selected in advance and the teachers given the information when they are given the programs for the year.

The board met November 6 and decided that they would like to adopt this practice starting in January 2007. I will, with the help of the Teachers Panel, select one dance that will only be briefed and make sure the teachers know which dance it is. The dance will also be clearly marked on the program ...

Natalie Knupp-Croucher wrote. . .

Dear dancers—We are the students and staff of the Newmarket High School Community Class responsible for collating and mailing your newsletter. We want everyone to know how much we appreciate this work experience.

We have not always been the ones to complete this monthly job for you. Many classes before us have had the pleasure of the experience since Sharon Collier-Large began the job with her students many years ago at Richmond Hill High School.

Nonetheless, we are very grateful for the opportunity and the extra activities it enables our class to do. Since beginning the newsletter this school year, we have enjoyed visits to the local Tim Horton's several times, and Swiss Chalet for a "job well done" lunch. We also attended a production of "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" in the Newmarket Theatre (which is attached to our school!)

We look forward to continuing our monthly job in 2007 and wish everyone a great holiday season and a happy new year!

Sincerely,

Aaron, Amanda, Chris, David, Heather, Laura, Nick, Stefanie, Tom and Violeta, Ms Taylor, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Filtsos, Mrs. Draper, Mr. Salandy and Mrs. Knupp-Croucher

Spread the Word

Scottish Country Dancing

How can I get in on the fun?



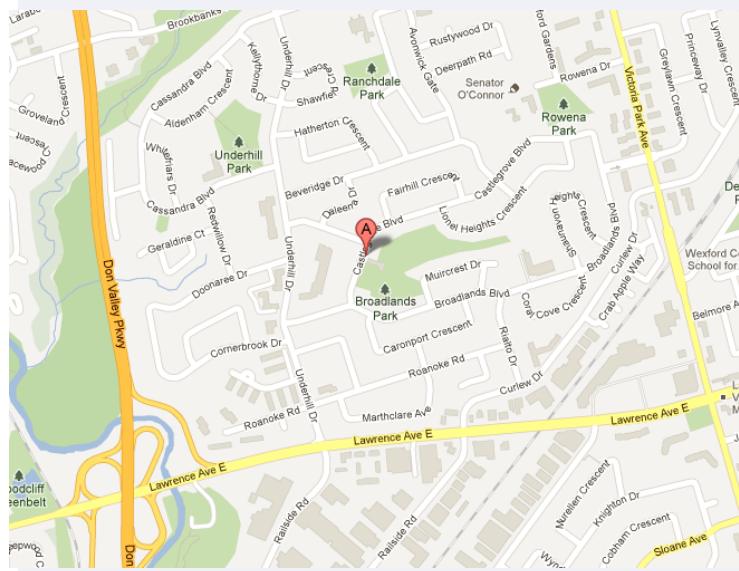
We all love Scottish Country Dance, so let's spread the word about the wonderful community we belong to. How? Well, the enclosed brochure may help. Who might they be given to? Suggestions range from friends at home and at work; people you meet at your local library, coffee shop, grocery store,

place of worship, gym... Also, keep an eye open for bulletin boards because we have 8 x 11" posters available too. Your own social group phone number can be substituted for the Association's phone line - the space is designed so that a 2 x 1" label will change the contact. You may obtain more brochures from the Communications Director. Increasing our membership is vitally important for our future and there are no better ambassadors than our members.

Stooges Needed – Starting January 7th

Stooges are dancers who form the class our teacher-candidates need to practise their teaching skills and prepare them for their April exam.

Stooges are needed every Sunday in January, February and March at Broadlands Community Centre from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All levels of ability are needed.



Come and develop your skills, help our teacher candidates and dance to the live music of Bobby Brown on accordion – all for the low cost of \$3 per class. What a deal!

Questions? Call TC tutor Jean Noble: 416-449-8070

50th Anniversary

To mark our 50 years successfully we need your help.

Photographs and Memorabilia
Isabelle MacPherson
416-489-0988



Anecdotes and Stories

Judy Williams
416-924-3658,
junit@pathcom.com

Ideas for Events

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



Contacts

Are you in contact
with past members?
Grace Harris, 416-
431-9563,
grace_colin50@hotmail.com



\$\$ Funding \$\$

David Pogson, 416-222-7482,
dnpogson@aol.com



Volunteers

Gordon Hamilton
905-566-9599,
g.s.hamilton@sympatico.ca



We need you to make this a year to remember!

Learning Dances: From Trepidation to Confidence

Almost everyone approaches new things with fear and trepidation – and hope. New dancers ask, “Can I do it? What will the teacher be like?” At this stage we learn so many new things – steps, formations, dances.

At the Beginners’ Monthly Dance, a new set of questions arises: “How can I remember all this? What if I mess up? Will they be forgiving? Will they be helpful?” But we manage, and find our fears assuaged.

There are many social groups so it should be easy to find one you like. The social groups all teach the dances for the monthly dance. This practice adds to the confidence of newer dancers and should allow them to be comfortable. Generally, this teaching involves much walking of the dances.

The next level is picturing the dance as it is being briefed. This level needs practice.

The pinnacle would be to hear the name of a dance and be able to dance it. Because there are now so many dances, this is an unlikely level to attain. But there is a level where help is provided in written form. Some people use briefing notes; others use pictorial forms. Again, these are not dances you are seeing for the first time. You will have done them in your social group, practised them with friends, and read them over numerous times. A quick glance for review should suffice. If you wish to dance in Scotland or at the more prestigious events, you will need to reach this level.

The more you perform these skills, the more comfortable you will be. Whatever level you dance at, it involves a whole set of people. The sociability, helpfulness, eye contact, and joy of the dance are what make a successful and enjoyable evening.

Submitted by Jane Robinson

Editor: Do you have suggestions to help inexperienced dancers learn dances ?



Taken at the 42nd Tartan Ball

Special Events. . .

Do you have an idea for a Toronto Association Special Event? It could be a Workshop, Fund Raiser, Social Activity or other idea that can either promote Scottish Country Dancing or raise funds to run a particular activity or just to help Toronto Association.

If you have an idea and are willing to organise and run it, contact the Special Events Committee for help with advertising, promotion and planning if necessary.

Contact Special Events Convenor, Deirdre MacCuish Bark at 905-822-1707 or barkd@rogers.com

Tartan Ball 2007

Ladies, pull out that gown that has been hanging, neglected, in the back of your closet. Gentlemen, polish those silver buttons. Join your friends and family in a glittering gala. The Tartan Ball is the event of the season.

We are pleased to provide you with the menu in advance:

Salad: Baby Organic Greens,
Endive, Grape Tomato,
Mariposa Goat Cheese,
Caramelized Yam,
Orchard Cider and Seed
Mustard Vinaigrette

Entrée: Herb Crusted Chicken
Supreme,
Juniper and Honey Jus,
Wild Mushroom Infused
Mashed Potato,
Seasonal Vegetable Medley

Dessert: Lemon Sabayon Mousse in
Espresso Chocolate Cup,
Blood Orange Sorbet,
Cranberry Compote

Should you have any dietary concerns, please mark them clearly on your application form.

Join us for an evening of dance and enjoyment.

Submitted by Sandra Scott

Winter Association Classes

All classes start at 7:30 p.m. and cost \$80 for 10 weeks. Enrolment is ongoing.

Eastminster United Church

310 Danforth Ave.,
2 minutes from Chester station

Levels 1 & 2: Start Thursday, January 11.

Swansea Town Hall

95 Lavinia Ave.,
7 min. walk from Runnymede station

Level 1: Starts Wednesday, January 10.

Level 3: Starts Thursday, January 25.

St. Leonard's Anglican Church

25 Wanless Ave.,
north of Yonge and Lawrence

Level 1: Starts Monday, January 8.

For information on all classes, contact Jane Robinson (for Carole Bell), 416-463-5016.

Workshop continued from page 1

John Wilkinson said *The Gentle Shepherd* isn't as tricky as many claim, He proved himself right. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced dancers were soon whirling through the formations with obvious enjoyment.

Although the focus of the Workshop was enjoyment, we paused at 11:00 a.m. for a Remembrance Day tribute delivered by Steve Coombs, followed by a moment of silence to honour those in the Canadian armed forces who lost their lives attempting to keep peace and those who continue to work for it.

Teenagers Sarah Norris, Gavin Keachie, Samantha Mephram, and Eleanor Bishop agree, They've been dancing for most of their lives and now belong to Moira Korus' Senior group at Rosedale Presbyterian Church. Moira, along with Teresa Lockhart, who teaches "the young 'uns," is nurturing a new wave of high spirited and committed dancers.

Joie de Vivre opened the evening programme to the music of Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent, "Scottish Country Dance is a great leveller, It leaps cultural and social boundaries and thumbs its nose at the generation gap," said Ian Paterson, What phrase better captures the spirit of Scottish Country Dance and of a day well spent.

Lost and Found

Found at the November monthly dance: 1 lady's black cardigan. Contact Forbes Duncan, 416-266-3377.

Upcoming Events

NEAR

DECEMBER 13, 2006. **Glenview Christmas Dance.** 8 p.m. at Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Ave. Music by Fred Moyes. Tickets at the door, \$10. Dance followed by finger food buffet. Contact Graeme Jones, 416-925-5126.

DECEMBER 15, 2006. Get **On Track** to celebrate the festive season with the Erin Mills Group, 8 p.m. at Cooksville United Church. Music for some favourite dances will be provided by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact Gordon S. Hamilton, 905-566-9599 for "Briefsheet tickets", \$18.

DECEMBER 31, 2006. **Erin Mills Hogmanay Ball**, Mississauga. Tickets \$69 each. Contact Keith R. Bark at barkk@rogers.com or 905-822-1707.

DECEMBER 31, 2006. **Glenview Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh**, 8 p.m., Rosedale Presbyterian Church, 129 Mount Pleasant Rd. Dance followed by pot luck and ceilidh. Tickets, \$15. Contact Graeme Jones, 416-925-5126.

FEBRUARY 17, 2007. **44th Annual Tartan Ball** at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto. Contact Jim Stark, jstark@sympatico.ca, 416-691-8035.

MAY 5, 2007. **The Festival of Dance.** An afternoon dance at Lansing United Church. Contact Deirdre MacCuish Bark 905-822-1707 barkd@rogers.com

Dancing at Humbercrest

The new dancing group at Humbercrest United Church is off to a successful start, thanks to our talented guest teachers – Keith Bark, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, David Booz, and Vicky Zeltins. Our group is small, but energetic. We continue dancing and camaraderie Wednesday, January 17th, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., 16 Baby Point Rd. (Jane and Annette). Contacts are Barbara Kalmuk at 416-766-3879 and Dorothy Lothian at 416-762-5037.

Remember...

- Monthly dance is January 13.
- The Youth Ball is Sat. April 21.
- Children's Festival is March 3.

FAR

DECEMBER 9, 2006. **RSCDS St. Catharines Branch Christmas Dance** St. George's Church Hall, 83 Church St., St. Catharines, 8 p.m. Music: Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Dancers, \$20; non-dancers \$10. Contact Steve Hartman, shartman@brocku.ca, 905-685-3839.

JANUARY 27, 2007. **The 2007 Ardbrae Ball**, Glebe Community Centre, Ottawa, Ontario. Music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent. Contact Guy Quesnel, 106 Grange Ave., Ottawa Ont., K1Y 0N9, 613-725-3031. E-mail: g.quesnel@sympatico.ca Website: www.flora.org/ardbrae

FEBRUARY 22-27, 2007. **Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Winter School 2007**, Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland. Contact Jill Henderson jill.henderson@rscds.org

APRIL 27 - MAY 1, 2007. **Budapest Scottish Country Dance Club's International Weekend Course.** Teacher: Eric Finley. Music: Andrew Lyon. Ball and dance evenings: David Cunningham and his band. Details and programs at www.bstk.hu/en or info@bstk.hu. Reserve on-line at the website. Additional programs for those who wish to stay longer in the country can be organized. Details at www.bstk.hu/en, "Touring Hungary".

JULY 22, 2007 - AUG. 19, 2007. **RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews, Scotland.** A range of scholarships is available. Scholarships must be supported by a nominee and supporter and a letter of recommendation from a Branch. Deadline for applications is **February 28, 2007.** Contact Brenda Hurst: brenhurst@hotmail.com or 416-925-6982 or visit www.rscds.org

JULY 25-29, 2007, **International Scottish Country Dance School**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. Contact Lydia Hedge 902-827-2033.

JULY 29-AUGUST 5, 2007. **T.A.C. Summer School 2007** Join us at Shawnigan Lake School just north of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Check the T.A.C. website <http://tac-rscds.org> for additional details.



www.rscdstoronto.org

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notice . . .

Carole Bell will be away for the January and February issues. In her absence, please send submissions to marianwhite@sympatico.ca. Deadline for January is Dec 10.