

RSCDS SET & LINK

TORONTO ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006



Chair's Message

Erin Mills Scottish Country Dancers

Submitted by Gordon Hamilton



Wonderful music and a great programme of fun dances got the Association's combined September/October monthly dance season off

to a super start.

Many in attendance, including the members of the band, were a little surprised at being rushed out of the school at the end of the evening. The reason is quite simple. Rental policy at the school has been reviewed, and new rules have come into effect. Effective immediately, if the school custodians work past the rental deadline, in our case a few seconds past 11:00 p.m., then we will be charged an extra \$100.00. Therefore, to keep the costs of our monthly dances to a minimum and still give you a reasonable time to have a little chat, we will target to limit the break to twenty minutes and complete our dance programme by 10:30 p.m. at the latest.

The 2006 Workshop and Dance is on Saturday, November 11. If you haven't mailed your application, please do so ASAP. You can get the application from the website. Remember, we are encouraging those who have travelled a distance to attend the Workshop to return for the Monthly Dance that follows. Please, if you are willing to offer your fellow dancers a place to freshen up and relax for a couple of hours, speak to any Board or Workshop Committee member.

Jan



*Erin Mills Staff Reunion, Teachers' Weekend, 2005, Vancouver Island.
L to R: Wesley Clindinning, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Keith Bark, Jean Hamilton, Douglas Stephen*

The Erin Mills group was formed in 1972 by Irish-born Wesley Clindinning and his wife Brenda. The group participated in a mass demonstration of SCD in the 1973 Scottish World Festival at the CNE. This tradition has continued with participation in the "512some", a demonstration which merited inclusion in the *Guinness World Book of Records*, and in the later attempt to double the number at SkyDome.

A demonstration team, formerly based in the Mississauga Group with Hugh and Jessie McCready, was moved to Erin Mills in 1979, under the direction of Jean Hamilton, and was renamed "The Ceilidh Dance Group", providing entertainment for seniors, hospital patients and spectators at the Royal York on Canada Day, to name some of the venues.

In 1980, a separate class was formed for beginners, meeting on Tuesday evening, under the Erin Mills name, with Douglas Stephen as teacher. Keith Bark accepted teaching responsibilities for this class in 1990 while working on his teaching certificate, and continues to provide for beginners as well as other dancers. In 1980, Jean Hamilton, at Wesley's invitation, took on the Friday class and continues in this role.

In 1983, a children's class was established with Betty Pellegrin as its first teacher. This later was renamed "Whigmaleeries" and has been taught since 1989

► Please see *Erin Mills* page 2

December “Family Night” Monthly Dance

Date: Saturday, December 9, 2006
Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave
Music: Scottish Accent
Hosts: • Erin Mills (Tuesday) • Glenview • St. Andrew’s of Brampton
 Please note that Crescent School has a no-nut policy.

The Highland Fair	6x32	(Gr/6)
Jessie’s Hornpipe	8x32R	(8/9)
Dalkeith’s Strathspey	8x32S	(9/6)
Kiss under the Stairs	8x32J	(MMM2)
The Rakes of Glasgow	8x32S	(11/11)
Dashing White Sergeant	6x32R	(3/2)
Interval		
St. Andrew’s Fair	8x32J	(5Trad/2)
Flowers of Edinburgh	8x32R	(1/6)
The Marquis of Lorne	8x32S	(MMM2)
Miss Welsh’s Reel	8x32J	(Gr/13)
From the Broomielaw	4x32S	(Holden)
The De’il amang the Tailors	8x32R	(14/7)
Extras		
Le Papillon	8x32J	(Ch/2)
The White Cockade	8x32R	(5/11)

www.RampantScotland.com

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

Scots are known for frugality, so a Scottish banker should be thrifty indeed. Alan Scott *was* thrifty – with his time. He was for years a high official with a Scottish bankers’ association, headquartered in Edinburgh. But Scottie lives in Bearsden, Glasgow. That meant a long train trip every morning and evening. Most of us would just read the papers. Scottie did, too, but he carried his laptop and compiled an upbeat summary of the daily news into a weekly “Snippets” newsletter that he publishes every Saturday evening on his Rampant Scotland website. *Snippets* is written in a lively style and richly illustrated with photos. If you read *Snippets* every week you’ll end up knowing more about things Scottish than most folk who live there.

“Scottie” (as Alan is known to thousands around the world) is retired now and Rampant Scotland offers more than just a newsletter. Scottie’s ambition is to link to every website in the world that has something worthy to offer about Scottish culture. He now has more than 12,000 Scottish-relat-

ed links. Retirement has also given him freedom to pursue his talents with photography and turn Rampant Scotland into an on-line magazine. He has over 3500 web page “features” with a handy search facility so you can find the recipe you’re looking for, the stately home to tour, the beautiful photograph you need for a Thank You note. His links to Scottish Country Dancing are under “Music & Dance”.

Rampant Scotland is simply organized with an elegant economy. If you want to know about Scotland, visit Rampant Scotland first. The site is not cluttered with adverts and, like Alan himself, it reflects a wry, gentle humour. Right away you can tell Rampant Scotland is not about marketing – it’s about one very nice, very clever man making a sincere effort to share his interests. It’s an amazing accomplishment for a Scottish banker who was thrifty with his time and continues to be generous with his knowledge and love of Scotland. Personally, I nominate Scottie for an OBE.

Submitted by Rob Lockhart

Erin Mills

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by Keith Bark, assisted by Deirdre MacCuish Bark and Ishbel Thomson. The children’s class regularly entertains seniors, and dances at the Carassauga Scottish Pavilion and the Georgetown Highland Games.

The original teaching staff, with the addition of the late Jessie Bryden (Bloorlea Group), initiated the West End Workshop, which caters particularly to the needs of less experienced dancers. They were also instrumental in establishing a much needed Hogmanay Ball, which continues to draw a full house each year.

Many Erin Mills dancers have served in key positions on the Toronto Branch (Association) Committee, several as Chair, and continue to support its activities. Additionally, some have become teachers, serve on the Teachers’ Association (Canada) Committee, and have initiated new groups.

Although the Tuesday and Friday classes operate independently, the tradition of cooperation and support continues. The Friday nighters usually host the major events, featuring live bands whenever practical, as Wesley did, and welcoming visiting teachers from the UK, the United States and other locations.

The Friday nighters are delighted by the support not only of long time, local dancers, but of travelling enthusiasts from Burlington, St Catharines and all parts of Toronto, who brave the Friday traffic to join us.

Wesley and Douglas, both now living on Vancouver Island, were excellent teachers and organizers. We at Erin Mills acknowledge their great contribution to SCD and do our best to follow their example and match their enthusiasm for this, our favourite occupation.



Alan Scott, inspecting the Glasgow Tower overlooking the River Clyde.

Marking our 50th Anniversary Successfully

Can you help?

- Does a particular event or person stick in your mind? Did you learn SCD in Scotland, or in a children's group here? Why did you take up SCD? Send your anecdotes to Judy Williams (416-924-3658 junit@pathcom.com).
- Do you have old pictures and memorabilia? Send them to Isabelle MacPherson (416-489-0988). They will be copied and returned.
- Are you in touch with people who no longer dance in Toronto? Send their contact info to Grace Harris (416-431-9653 or grace_colin50@hotmail.com).
- Are you willing to help at events? Contact Gordon Hamilton, Director of Volunteers (905-566-9599 g.s.hamilton@sympatico.ca).
- Have you an idea for an interesting event to help celebrate our anniversary—one that you are willing to work on? Contact Deirdre Bark (905-822-1707 barkd@rogers.com).
- Can you help us get funding for special events? Contact David Pogson (416-222-7482 dnogson@aol.com).

50th Anniversary News

Thanks to those who submitted logos. The winner will soon be chosen.

The 50th Anniversary dance competition was successful. The 19 dances ranged from beginner to demonstration level. Over 20 dancers and observers evaluated them for interest and danceability for a variety of events. A second group evaluated the top 6 contenders. The new dance, complete with a new tune by Bobby Brown, will be unveiled at the Reunion Event on Sept 15, 2007. We also hope to publish all the submissions.

Thanks to all who wrote dances, to all who gave up their Sunday afternoons to select the signature dance, and to Gordon Hamilton who managed the music.

Submitted by Jane Robinson

Tartan Ball 2007

Summer has flown by, and in no-time it will be February. Brighten up your month, plan to attend the 44th annual Tartan Ball. The Ball will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2007 at, where else, but The Fairmont Royal York.

Since this time last year the Royal York has had a change of ownership. As a result of the change we no longer enjoy “favoured status” from the hotel. This means that the discounts that we were receiving on meal costs no longer exist. Therefore, to maintain the ticket prices from last year, we have opted to have a three-course meal, instead of the normal four courses. The change in the meal also reflects feedback from the survey after the 2006 ball.

Application forms for the 2007 ball are enclosed with this issue of *Set & Link* and will also be available on the website.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Tartan Ball in February.

Sandra Scott, Tartan Ball Convenor 2007

What's in a name? Derivation of “Schiehallion Reels”

A really under-appreciated formation in SCD is the Schiehallion Reel. It was devised by an RSCDS Vancouver teacher, Hugh Thurston, as part of his dance “Schiehallion”. This intriguing form of reel is danced in a square formation.

Hugh Thurston, a UBC mathematician, named his dance and its specialty reel for the Scottish mountain Schiehallion, located in Loch Rannoch National Scenic Area in Perthshire, and well known for its symmetrical appearance. Surveyors believe Schiehallion is the geographical centre of Scotland.

Schiehallion is an anglicized version of the Gaelic *Sidh Chailleann*, usually translated as “Fairy Hill of the Caledonians.” It was the first mountain to be mapped using contour lines in the late 1700s. It is popular with hikers due to its accessibility, ease of ascent, and spectacular views.

Betty Grant's “Chrysanthemum” is the best known dance containing schiehallion reels and it is frequently performed in demonstrations.

Submitted by Barry Pipes.

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.

Stooges Needed

Stooges are dancers who form the ‘class’ that our teacher-candidates need in order 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 live music: Bobby Brown on accordion. All for the low cost of \$3 per class. What a deal!

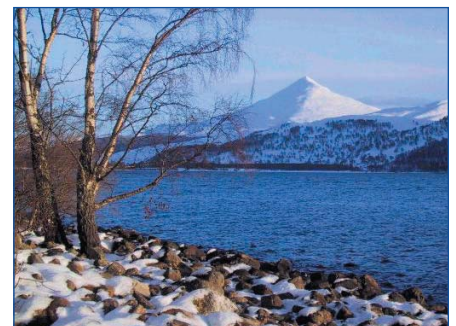
If you have any questions, please call Tutor Jean Noble at 416-449-8070.

Letter to the Editor

The September/October monthly dance was a wonderful start to the new season, especially when some of the dances were briefed without a walk-through.

Margaret Rieger
Glenna MacDonald

Ed. — Any thoughts?



Schiehallion in winter: The Fairy Hill of the Caledonians is a “Munro” – a Scottish mountain over 3000 ft.

Upcoming Events

NEAR

NOVEMBER 1, 2006 - **St Andrew's of Brampton 40th Anniversary Dance** at the Chris Gibson Rec. Centre, McLaughlin Road, Brampton. Contact Ann Campbell 905-459-5213, acampbell@idirect.com

NOVEMBER 11, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., **Toronto Association Annual Workshop**. Teachers: John Wilkinson, Berwickshire, Scotland; Carol Howe, Grimsby, ON; Georgina Finlay, Weston, ON. Musicians: Bobby Brown, Laird Brown and Don Bartlett. Contact Valerie Fisher 416-497-4186; v.fisher@sympatico.ca

DECEMBER 9, 2006, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **The Duncan and Maggie Keppie Workshop** for Intermediate/Advanced and Beginner Dancers will feature dances with a difference, reviving some of the old figures. Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Av. Flyers, including application forms, were distributed with the October newsletter. Information may be found at the Toronto Association website: Check the What's On? page at <http://www.rscdstoronto.org/> or contact Morag MacIntosh, 416-488-3618; e-mail mackintosh@interhop.net

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

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

A Call For Volunteers

Would you like to help out at the Keppie Workshop on Saturday, December 9? We'd be delighted to include you on that day if you are willing and able to join us. For information, or to volunteer, please contact Jill Smith at 416-693-0309; email smmacdonald@sympatico.ca

Dancing at Humbercrest

Humbercrest would love dancers to join them and their guest teachers. Classes will run until November 22. Start time is 7:30 p.m. at Humbercrest United Church, 16 Baby Point Road (Jane and Annette). Contacts Barbara Kalmuk at 416-766-3879 or Dorothy Lothian at 416-762-5037.

FAR

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 28, 2007, "A Tribute to Derek Haynes", Lockerbie Town Hall, Scotland. An evening of dances by Derek. Maureen Haynes will teach an afternoon workshop for the less well known dances. Tickets available on a first-come basis; purchase on line at www.streaming-pictures.co.uk Proceeds will be given to Cancer Care, a charity Derek supported with money raised from the sale of his dance books.

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

JULY 29-AUGUST 5, 2007. **T.A.C. Summer School 2007** Come and join us at beautiful Shawnigan Lake School just north of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Watch the T.A.C. website <http://tac-rscds.org> for additional details as they become available

Thank You Volunteers

The Volunteer Committee wishes to thank all members who have indicated their areas of interest where they might help at one of our functions. Names will be made available to directors and/or convenors when they require assistance and they will contact you with detailed information.

Volunteers have always been the backbone of the Association, as you can see from this article from the 1963 AGM of the Toronto Branch of the RSCDS.

From the Archives:

If you will give your Branch your wholehearted support, we can put on functions that no other Branch in North America can equal since none of them has our number, resources or facilities. However, if you choose to withhold your support or give it elsewhere, our success can only be partial.

George C. Armstrong
Chairman 1961-63

Report to the 1963 Annual General Meeting



www.rscdstoronto.org

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Remember...

- Deadline for December newsletter is November 15.
- St. Andrew's Ball is November 25.
- Monthly Dance is December 9.
Dress festively - you may have your picture taken for the 50th Anniv. book.