



Chair's Message



The first Board meeting of the new season was held on Monday, September 11 and it was a marathon. It didn't adjourn

until 11.15 p.m. With highway repairs going on all across the city, I am not sure how long it took the others to get home but I didn't get home until 12.35 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

However, I am pleased to inform you that we have a hard working and dedicated team which is continuing to examine all the ways which they believe will add to your enjoyment of the current, and future dance seasons. We also managed to attend to a lot of routine and special Association business which will ensure an exciting and enjoyable dance season for all.

The Social Group Teachers have long since been provided with the list of this season's dances and their Social Classes are well underway.

By the time this issue is distributed, the first monthly dance of the new season will be over and, of course, you all know that the October Monthly Dance has been cancelled. Unfortunately, this means that you will not have an opportunity to practice dancing a few of the Tartan Ball dances that were included in the October dance programme. However, I am sure the Social Group Teachers will work with you on these particular dances over the following months.

Until next time, have fun and do your best to encourage a friend or family member to "join the dance".

Jan

Have dance... will travel! 50 years of Dancing with Petronella

Submitted by Barry Pipes



Petronella Scottish Country Dancers of Thornhill were formed in September 1957 and held their early meetings at Thornhill United Church, under the guidance of Alan and Maureen Foster. They ran the group until the mid-60s when they moved to California. On the occasion of Petronella's 45th Anniversary in 2002, we contacted the Fosters at their home in San Diego. Maureen was delighted to learn that the Dance Group she and Alan had founded almost 50 years ago was still active. "Do you mean to tell me that my baby is still alive and well?" she exclaimed joyfully.

The Petronella Dancers are indeed alive and well. Following Alan and Maureen, a succession of teachers continued the growth of Petronella. In 1974, we moved to Thornhill's Royal Orchard Public School, shortly after which, Janette Todd took over as our teacher. A native of St. Andrews, Scotland, Janette is one of just a few remaining Scottish Country Dancers in Canada who danced under the direction of the iconic Miss Milligan.

From its new location, Petronella continued to enhance its reputation for the quality of its evening programming. Indeed, there are innumerable Scottish Country dancers in the Greater Toronto Area who polished their skills at Petronella in the 70s and 80s. This was evidenced at our 45th Anniversary Celebration when a horde of dancers showed up to share the evening with us. At the same time, Petronella developed its visibility and outreach into the local community by providing demonstrations, which led to Janette coining the phrase "Have dance... will travel!"

Fourteen years ago, Petronella entered a team to audition for the week-long RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) Seniors' Jubilee at Roy Thomson Hall. Held every August, this event features a host of senior performers in every form of entertainment. We have appeared at RTH every year thereafter, featuring a couple of dances each year, devised until recently by Janette and another of Petronella's dancers, Ella Allison. Ella is also a Highland Dance teacher, which means that the dances she devises have the additional challenge of including Highland Dance steps. Performing on the RTH stage several times during the week with a daily audience that usually exceeds 2000 people gives one a surge of adrenalin that must be experienced to be believed.

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November Monthly Dance

Date: Saturday, November 11, 2006
Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave
Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent
Hosts: St. Clement's
 Don Mills
 Trinity
 Please note that Crescent School has a no-nut policy

Joie de Vivre	8x32J	(39/2)
Anderson's Rant	8x32R	(MMM1)
The Garry Strathspey	4x32S	(Cosh)
Woo'd and Married and A'	8x32J	(16/12)
Wisp of Thistle	8x32S	(37/4)
J.B. Milne	8x32R	(Foss)
Interval		
Hooper's Jig	8x32J	(MMM2)
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	8x32S	(31/3)
Festival Fling	8x32R	(44/7)
Pelorus Jack	8x32J	(41/1)
The Wishing Well	6x32S	(44/6)
Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32R	(Leaflet)
Extras		
The Wild Geese	8x32J	(24/3)
Johnny Groat's House	8x32R	(18/1)

St. Andrew's Ball

Date: Saturday, November 26, 2006
Place: Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Contact: Michael Noble, 416 449-8070

The Duke of Atholl's Reel	32J	BK 16
The Society Piper	32R	Goldring
The Trysting Place	32S	Bk 35
The Chequered Court	32 J	Bk 42
The Sands of Morar	32S	Bk 45
John of Bon Accord	32R	Bk 33
51st Travellers	32J	Bk 44
St. Andrews Links	40S	Finlay
Maxwell's Rant	32R	Bk 18
Napiers Index	32J	Bk 45
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	32S	RSCDS Leaflet
The Bees of Maggielknocker	32J	Leaflet
Airyhall Delight	32J	BK 40
The Royal Wedding	32S	RSCDS 1982
Music Makars	32R	Bk 33
Karin's Strathspey	32S	Leaflet
Bratach Bana	32R	Leaflet

Scottish Websites

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

The website most people know about is *Electric Scotland*. For those who don't it is worth a look but it is busy looking because it contains a lot of information and many advertisements and sponsor links. The link is <http://www.electricscotland.com>.

Submitted by Keith Bark

What is TAC Summer School, you ask?

Submitted by Debra Merchant

Well, let me tell you. After a few quickly passing months and having fully immersed myself in SCD, I thought I might as well top off my first season of SCD with a week of Summer School. It was a major social event – with all the meals prepared, desserts that could be indulged in because you work it all off, and no dishes to wash! We had the choice of two side excursions to local events, an evening that provided absolutely great entertainment, a daily 'happy hour' before dinner, and more get-togethers after the night dances (if you could still stand on your feet!). A nice incentive with TAC this year was the location – Waterloo.

Once there, I kept hearing about 'stooging', and people would disappear to the "Carousel". Well, I wasn't missing any classes, and definitely not with the gifted teachers we had – and believe me, we had the best of instructors this summer. However, I found out that stooges were rewarded with wonderful little stickers, and I knew I would score 'major' points with my 10 year old niece if I was able to show her 'my collection'. So I skipped class one morning and signed up for stooging! It was simply (for us) dancing in a mock class for the Teacher Candidates. It is a great 'time-out' for practising your step technique and well worth the experience, at least one session anyhow. However, as I said, I needed a collection, and I wasn't going to settle for just one sticker.

All in all, I didn't hear anyone complaining – and that has to say something in itself. My heartfelt thanks go to all the organizers and everyone who chips in to help make this event so successful. For me, it was a fabulous vacation, and if you love dancing, every bit of it is worth the resulting two sore feet!

Tayside Group

The contact for Tayside Group has been changed from Gladys Allen to May Macfarlane, 416 757-7846.

Have Dance.....

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Over the years, Petronella expanded its demo performances substantially, appearing annually in Seniors' Residences and Nursing Homes across York Region, especially around Robbie Burns' birthday, plus appearances at numerous community festivals and events in Newmarket, Markham, Unionville, Kleinberg and Thornhill itself, not to mention weddings, where the Scottish touch is becoming evermore popular.

In 2003, Janette Todd retired after close to 30 years as Petronella's teacher. Carole Skinner, returning to Canada from the U.S., took her place. Carole had been a protégée of Janette's. As well as her teaching capabilities, Carole, a Dundonian, is a skilled deviser of Scottish Country dances. This has provided Petronella dancers with a whole new range of dances in its repertoire and has brought additional challenges to performances at Roy Thomson Hall.

The York Region School Board decided to close Royal Orchard P.S. causing us to move to Johnsville Village P.S. Many of us believe we are now dancing on the hardest floor in the GTA.

Next year is our year as we (along with RSCDS Toronto) celebrate our Golden Jubilee: 50 years of Scottish Country Dancing in Thornhill!

What is Old Time Dancing?

Georgina Finlay is teaching a new class in "Old Time Dancing".

What is it? It's not so different from SCD. Square, circle, and round-the-room sequence dances have been a popular activity in Scotland for many years at weddings and ceilidhs. Although less strenuous than SCD, they keep people active, a vital part of a healthy lifestyle. Some dances include Dashing White Sergeant, Military Two Step, and Pride of Erin.

John Wilkinson

John Wilkinson (Scotland) will be the Guest Teacher at the Erin Mills class on Friday November 10, 8 p.m. at Cooksville United Church. For directions phone 905-566-9599. We'd love to have you join us for an interesting evening!

Midwinter to Midsummer in One Day

On Thursday, July 27, Roslyn Gregory left Hobart, Tasmania, at 5 a.m. She took a one-hour flight to Melbourne to catch a flight to Los Angeles. There, she got a plane to Toronto, arriving Thursday evening about 5 p.m. Toronto traffic was terrible; the bus taking her to the Sheraton broke down. She arrived at the hotel late, only to find a tour group booking in ahead of her. Finally assigned her room, Roslyn dashed upstairs for a quick shower and change and then took a taxi to Trinity, where she enjoyed an evening of mostly Newcastle dances under the deft instruction of Alma Smith.

Thus, within the span of one Thursday, Roslyn left cold, midwinter Tasmania and travelled halfway round the world to enjoy very warm midsummer dancing at beautiful Seeley Hall.

Roslyn had come to Canada to attend the TAC Summer School. She later wrote:

The TAC Summer School was a wonderful experience of Scottish Country Dancing. What a variety of accomplished teachers who made the classes so enjoyable and the dances so easy to master! The musicians added such a flavour to the dancing that one just wanted to take wings and fly (even though the weather was so hot; we don't experience that sort of heat here in Tasmania).

I am so grateful to the wonderful people who made up the school and made me feel so welcome not only in class, but at the meal table and the socials. I must admit I have never danced so much in the evening socials at our Winter Schools before.

Was it Bobby Brown and his musicians, the weather, or just the people? One will never know...but my experiences in Canada will certainly live on. We have travelled the world several times and have seen sights and sounds, but Canada will live in my heart forever.

Festival of Dance

The Special Events Committee is planning an adult Festival of Dance to be held on May 5, 2007 at Lansing United Church, 49 Bogert Avenue (Sheppard and Yonge). The committee hopes that Social Groups, Branch Classes and Demonstration groups will be eager to "showcase" their favourite dance.

All interested participants are asked to contact Linda Donald at 905-509-1849, or linrudon@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

Missing Archival Material

If anyone has any or all copies of newsletters from 1957-1967 inclusive, please call Brenda Hurst at 416-925-6982 or brenhurst@hotmail.com.

Dancing at Humbercrest

Have you got a free Wednesday evening this fall? Our latest social group, Humbercrest, would love dancers to join them and their guest teachers. Classes will run until November 22 and start time is 7:30 p.m.

Humbercrest United Church is at 16 Baby Point Road (Jane and Annette). Contacts are Barbara Kalmuk at 416-766-3879 and Dorothy Lothian at 416-762-5037.

Legends and Leaders

"WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?" We would like to include a section in the Anniversary Booklet entitled 'Legends and Leaders'. Who should be included, or better yet, do you have any anecdotes about them? For newer dancers, who have you heard of and would like to know more about?

We would also like ideas from those who are no longer directly in touch with us. Please pass this request along to anyone who might have suggestions.

Please contact Jane Robinson janer1@sympatico.ca, 416-463-5016 or by mail: 14 Dearbourne Ave., Toronto, ON, M4K 1M7.

Reminders of the Past

We would like to have an interesting display of our past and present at the various anniversary events next year, as well as a book that all would find interesting. To do this, we need your help.

Please call Isabelle MacPherson, 416-489-0988 if you have any photos, memorabilia or interesting tales to tell.

Logo Design

Many thanks to those who submitted logo designs for our competition. We will be deciding on the winning entry by Christmas.

Upcoming Events

NEAR

OCTOBER 13 - 15, 2006, **Hamilton Branch Weekend 2006**, Hilton Garden Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Teachers are Irene Bennett, UK; Ian Paterson, ON and John Walton, ON. Music by Elma Grech and Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Contact John Dinsmore 905-945-5744; dinsmore@bserv.com or visit www.hamiltonrscds.org.

OCTOBER 21, 2006, the Peterborough SCDS's 3rd annual 'Lift Lock Linkin'. Music by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. Visit www.pscds-on.org for details or contact Colin Campbell 705-652-3576.

OCTOBER 27, 2006. **Erin Mills "Fall Frolic"** 8 p.m. at Cooksville United Church. Music by "The Reel Thing". Tickets \$10. Contact Gordon Hamilton 905-566-9599.

OCTOBER 28, 2006. **A Woodglen Hallowe'en** 7pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 150 St. Andrew's Road, Scarborough. Tickets \$10, includes buffet snacks. Contact Sue Ann Bryce 416-266-5432, sueann2@sympatico.ca.

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 Ann Campbell 905-459-5213; acampbell@idirect.com.

FEBRUARY 17, 2006. **44th Annual Tartan Ball** at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto.

FAR

OCTOBER 21, 2006, Lunenburg NS **South Shore Scottish Country Dancers Fall Workshop, Dance & Ceilidh**. Teacher Duncan Keppie, NS. Music by the Macadians. All events \$70. Contact Barb Carthew 902-766-0334; hb.carthew@ns.sympatico.ca or Sue Kashanski 902-634-4616; skashanski@ns.sympatico.ca or visit www.rscdsnovascotia.ca.

NOVEMBER 3 - 5, 2006, **77th Annual Conference Weekend and AGM** (November 4) for the Royal Scottish Dance Society in Aberdeen, Scotland. Contact Brenda Hurst 416-925-6982; brenhurst@hotmail.com.

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2006, **40th Annual Kingston Weekend Workshop and Ball**, Frontenac Secondary School and Cataract Golf and Country Club. Teachers: Ellie & Mel Briscoe and Elinor Vandegrift. Music by Dorothy Pearson and the Scottish Accent. Contact Odessa Fraser 613-549-6818; registrar@rscdskingston.org.

NOVEMBER 4-5 2006, **St. John's (Newfoundland) Branch Workshop and Dance**. Teacher: Catherine Shaw (London, Ont). Music by Corryvreckan. Cost for workshop and dance \$40 (includes lunch on Saturday). Contact Kathy Simonsen kathryns@mun.ca 709-737-8531.

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.

For Sale

Gentleman's Cameron Tartan Kilt, waist 34 - 36 inches, length 23 inches, formal jacket and waist coat 40 - 42, casual jacket plus numerous accessories. Sizes approximate. All items in pristine condition and gently used; made by Burnetts and Struth. Call Camilla Cameron 416-928-0611.

Remember...

- Deadline for November newsletter is October 15.
- Monthly Dance is November 11
- St. Andrew's Ball is November 25



www.rscdstoronto.org

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Oct 28: Come as a dance or formation.
Proceeds go to SCD youth.