

RSCDS SET & LINK

TORONTO ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2007



Chair's Message



What a wonderful night we had at the March Beginners' dance at Crescent School! The music was superb, and the dance floor was packed with 199 dancers!

The full measure of uplifting music, a generous dash of satisfying dances, more than a sprinkling of encouragement from our Branch and Social Group teachers, all sweetened by support from everyone on the dance floor, was certainly the recipe for a most enjoyable evening. It's a recipe for fun that perhaps Theresa Malek should be asked to include in our 50th Anniversary cook book.

Since that Saturday, other Board members and I have received several positive comments about the dance as well as suggestions that we hold more Beginner Nights throughout the year. If other members feel this way, then tell your Board. Express your opinions. Send a note or e-mail your Newsletter Editor. The Board works for you and will make sure the voice of the majority is heard and passed along to the appropriate people. I am sure you understand that programming for this season cannot be changed. Anyway, whether you seek change or are happy with the status quo, we want to hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you all at the April Monthly Dance and at the AGM on Saturday, April 28th, when the Board's Reports will be presented and a motion, as previously posted, will be considered. We will also be presenting the Association's Annual "Volunteer Recognition Awards," so please make a special effort to attend.

Consider the following trivia. Each season at our Affiliate Group Classes we dance about 180 dances, and each dancer travels an average of 350 feet during a dance. That's approximately 12 miles of dancing each season. If you have been dancing since the Branch was formed on October 7, 1957, add in Monthly Dances, Tartan Balls, etc., then by this time next year, when we are in the midst of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Toronto Branch, you could say that you have danced a distance of 700 miles, or all the way to Montreal and back!

Jan

Glenview Scottish Country Dancers

Nancy Matheson



Glenview Scottish Country Dancers started at Havergal College in 1979 under the leadership of Bill Stoddart. The original five couples were Gloria and Ray Fraser, Jan and Grady Jacobs, Sheila and Naish McHugh, Mary and Alistair Stewart, and Mary and John Stirling. The group moved to Glenview Presbyterian Church in 1981 and to Lawrence Park Community Church in 1984 where, by 1993, membership reached 103. The group flourished under Bill's fine teaching, and it was his idea to have an elected committee run the group. The members formed many friendships, held many parties, and cherished joyful

times such as ski weekends at King City, house parties after dances, and picnics with dancing and singing. Bill used to say, "Life is nothing but picnics, parties, and balls".

Alistair Stewart, a charter member, says: "Our approach was to have fun. We were as concerned with what happened from the neck up as from the knees down." That was the reason Glenview hosted ski weekends and other non-dancing activities in addition to dancing. Together, Bill and Alistair organized a catalogue of dances that would lend themselves to walking so that everyone could enjoy the dance experience when physical difficulties prevented them from dancing.

Bill continued teaching until his sudden death in 1994, at which time Robin Matheson took over, and continued for the next decade. Robin began dancing in Oakville with Bob Campbell. He got his teaching certificate in Hamilton in 1965 and shortly thereafter moved to Toronto. After dancing with Iain McFarland at Calvin, Bob Millar at East York and Betty Thompson at Newtonbrook, Robin moved to Glenview.

Glenview regularly hosts party nights that are great fun, including theme nights with decorations. As well, we celebrate Robbie Burns with a dinner; Hogmanay with a ceilidh, and guest musicians accompany dancers for final nights. For a few years now, a large number of us have attended dance weekends in Kingston and Ottawa. In the past, we have performed demonstrations for Sunnybrook veterans, Belmont House, church functions, and the Orillia and Fergus games.

In 2000, Robin Wood (Branch Chair from 1989 to 1991) and Donalda McDonald began assisting Robin Matheson in teaching the class. Upon the latter's retirement in 2005, Moira Korus, who had taught a few dances weekly since 2003, completed the set of three who currently share teaching responsibilities in rotation. They take the group through dances for the monthly dances and the balls, and we feel fortunate to have them. Do join us at Lawrence Park Community Church, Lawrence and Bayview Avenues, Wednesdays at 8 p.m. The floor is perfect; there is ample free parking, and you can join the fun because that is what Scottish Country dancing is all about.

▶ Please see photo of Glenview dancers, page 3



Glenview Spring Dance

Glenview invites you to Step into Spring to the music of Bobby and Laird Brown, May 9, 2007 at 8 p.m. Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Ave. Tickets: \$20 from Jon Allen-Friend, 416-483-1541, jon@jonfriend.com



Annual General Meeting Dance

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2007
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. (Note earlier time)
Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: Don Bartlett & the Scottish Heirs
Hosts: RSCDS Toronto Board • South Simcoe • Aurora
Admission: Members: Free; Non-members: \$10
 Please note that Crescent School has a no-nut policy.

Mrs. Stewart's Jig	8x32J	(35/1)
The Anniversary Reel	4x32R	(36/7)
Sugar Candie	8x32S	(26/9)
General Stuart's Reel	8x32R	(10/3)
INTERVAL		
Hooper's Jig	8x32J	(MMM2)
Seann Triubhas Willichan	6x32S	(27/9)
The Duke of Perth	8x32R	(1/8)
Bonnie Stronshiray	8x32S	(Glasgow Assembly)
The Montgomerie's Rant	8x32R	(10/1)
EXTRAS		
Follow Me Home	8x32J	(38/3)
The Robertson Rant	4x32S	(39/8)
The De'il Amang the Tailors	8x32R	(14/7)

Nominations Committee

Under terms of the Board's Procedures Manual, the Nominations Committee is required to prepare a slate of nominees for each Board position. That slate of nominees appears below.

However, Association members (having seen the Nominations Committee's list of nominees) have the right to make additional nominations to any or all of the Board positions. The Nominations Form is on the insert with this issue of *Set & Link*.

The following names will be presented to the Annual General Meeting:

- Chair: Jane Robinson
- Vice Chair: James Graham
- Secretary: Brenda Hurst
- Treasurer: Wendy Fulton

Directors:

- Membership: John Clark
- Program: Ann Campbell
- Communications: Carole Bell
- Volunteers: Gordon Hamilton
- Special Events: Deirdre MacCuish Bark

What's in a name? *Seann Triubhas Willichan*

The year 1782 brought great joy to Scotland. A much-reviled Act of Parliament called the Proscription Act (1746) was repealed. Under this Act, Scots had been "*prohibited from wearing the plaid, philibeg (kilt), trews, or any part of the highland garb*" in an effort to break up the Clan system in every way possible following the 1745 Rebellion.

In the intervening years before repeal, many people romanticized stories about how Scots found ways to circumvent the prohibition against "highland garb". It has been said that *Seann Triubhas* (Gaelic for "old trousers") was one such story for which a Highland Dance had been created, originating in Perthshire, and was long a staple Highland Dance.

Seann Triubhas Willichan was introduced in RSCDS Book 27 (1975) as a new strathspey. Although our "Willie's Auld Troosers" in no way resembles its Highland Dance predecessor, it has become quite popular among RSCDS members. It appears on the West Toronto Ball programme in May. ...*Barry Pipes*



Might this have been Scottish national dress had the Proscription Act not been repealed?

Calvin's 50th Anniversary Dance

Calvin Social Group invites all dancers to join us as we celebrate our historic 50th anniversary at our end-of-season dance night.

May 8, 2007
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Calvin Presbyterian Church Hall
26 Delisle Avenue, Toronto

Music by Don Bartlett

Regular Tuesday evening admission price

If you plan to attend, contact Douglas Smith: 416-481-8474, h.douglas.smith@sympatico.ca by April 28.

Extension Class

Please join your Association class teachers Vicky Zeltins, Steve Coombs, Lorna Larmour and Sandra Scott for a fun series of classes this Spring. All dancers are welcome, the class is a combined Level 1 and Level 2. You will work on technique and practise many of the dances on the Dancing in the Park program— with the added pleasure of dancing to Bobby Brown on the accordion. At only \$8 per night that's a real deal!

Where: Eastminster United Church
 310 Danforth Avenue
 2 mins. from Chester subway

When: Eight Thursday evenings,
 7:30-9:30 starting April 12

Cost: \$64 including GST

Contact: Carole Bell, 416-221-1201
carolewbell@sympatico.ca





Glenview and guests at the Hallowe'en dance, October 2006

West Toronto Ball

The West Toronto Ball was first held in 1970. That's pre-history as far as the majority of Scottish Country dancers in this area are concerned, and so most of us have no knowledge of why it began or who started it. Perhaps that is how it should be, because it doesn't exist primarily as an historical institution.

It *does* exist as the only Scottish Country Dance Ball in the Toronto area designed specifically for those dancers who are beginning their SCD life. It is enjoyed by over 200 dancers each year, of whom some 15 to 20 might be attending as their first formal Scottish Country Dance event. Among the rest will be many who have been dancing for fewer than five years.

At the West Toronto Ball, beginning dancers from many Social Groups can get their first chance to enjoy the formality of a Ball. They will experience pomp and ceremony, carry a Ball Programme booklet, and be part of a Grand March. They will dance a selection of dances particularly suited to those of limited experience or for those who want an evening of dancing pleasure without serious demands and challenges. Here, newer dancers can try out their wings and gain the confidence to plan to attend the Tartan Ball—the high point of the Toronto Association's social year. Experienced dancers also enjoy a fine evening of dining and dancing before the end of the season.

Steve Coombs



50th Anniversary Gala Day

Enjoy a look at the past and the promise of the future.

Join us September 15, 2007 at the Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele St.

Afternoon: Social with tea and memorabilia

Evening: Dance with Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent

Tickets: Afternoon, \$20
Evening, \$50 (includes afternoon social)

Contact: Dennis Ridley,
38 Lee Centre Dr., #3005,
Toronto, ON, M1H 3J7
416-431-0143
dennisridley9@hotmail.com

50th Anniversary Cookbook



Thank you for the wonderful response to the cookbook! We are just short of our goal of 250 recipes – so we will still accept more submissions. The books will be printed over the summer. Additional recipes can be sent to Theresa Malek, 403 Sunnyside Ave, Toronto, M6R 2S2 416-535-4447, theresamalek@rogers.com

Tartan Day

Friday, April 13
Nathan Phillips Square
12:00-2:00 p.m.

Come out and support our demonstration team which is participating in the first Toronto Tartan Day. There will be much entertainment, including the amazing three tenors, *Caledon*. Wear tartan and other things Scottish and meet at our banner "The Music Will Move You". This is a great opportunity to make Torontonians aware that our amazing Association exists. Along with the demonstration dances, flyers will be distributed.

The concept of Tartan Day was established by Jean Watson from Nova Scotia. She is being honoured at the Scottish Studies Tartan Day dinner for her unrelenting efforts in developing the concept of this event which is now celebrated world-wide. The awards dinner and ball will be at Casa Loma April 18. Contact Glenview's John Hutchinson: 416-482-0447, jhutchinson@sympatico.ca

For info on our Tartan Day participation contact Carole Bell 416-221-1201 or visit www.tartanday.ca



Upcoming Events

NEAR

APRIL 28, 2007. **West Acres Spring Dance**, 65 Hinton Road, Etobicoke. 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Music by *The Reel Thing*. Cost: \$12. For programme and info contact Nora Sutherland 905-276-2602, nora.sutherland@rogers.com For tickets: Jim Archibald 905-792-4383

MAY 5, 2007. **The Festival of the Dance**, St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave. (2 blocks N of Lawrence, off Yonge) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Contact: Deirdre MacCuish Bark, barkd@rogers.com

MAY 12, 2007. **West Toronto Ball**, at Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele St., Toronto. Reception at 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:30, dancing 8:30-12:30. Music by *Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent*. Dances will be briefed, but not walked. Contact Anna Rielly, 519-927-5502 t.rielly@rogers.com

MAY 25-27, 2007. **Scotland at Carassauga**, presented by A.S.T.A. at Rivergrove Community Centre, Streetsville. Support your heritage at a wonderful weekend. Ongoing entertainment, Scottish food, Tartan Beer and single malt Scotch. Contacts: Margaret Shortt, 905-257-0941 or Angela Mooney, 905-821-9732.

OCTOBER 6, 2007. **The White Heather Ball**. Highlands of Durham SCD host the ball at beautiful Trafalgar Castle School, Whitby, an historic building built in Elizabethan style in 1859. It boasts 15 towers, secret passages and a tunnel to Lake Ontario! Stay tuned to learn how you can dance the evening away on a magnificent sprung wood floor.



OCTOBER 12-13, 2007. **RSCDS Hamilton Branch Annual Weekend**. Venue will be in a Burlington High School (wooden floor). Teachers: Tracey Applebee, Cincinnati, and Claire Collier, Hamilton. Music by *Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent*. Contact Cate Reid, caterstoall@hotmail.com 905-332-2049.

NOVEMBER 10, 2007. **Toronto Workshop**. At Crescent School. Teachers: Stewart Adam, Scotland; Ruth Jappy, Vancouver; Keith Bark, Mississauga. Music by Bobby Brown, Laird Brown, Don Bartlett. Contact: Valerie Fisher, 416-497-4186 v.fisher@sympatico.ca

The 3rd Annual Youth Ball

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2007

Place: Newtonbrook United Church

Time: 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Music: Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs

Cost: \$25

All dancers 10 - 20+ years of age are welcome. Contact Margaret Anne Hunter, 416-651-7137, hunterm@rogers.com

FAR

APRIL 28, 2007. **48th Annual Montreal Ball** at Sarto-Desnouyers Community Centre, 1335 Lakeshore Rd., Dorval. Music: Laura Risk & Les Joueurs de Bon Accord. RSCDS members, \$65, non-members, \$70. Contact www.scdmontreal.org or Don Nemiroff, 514-288-0992 ball@scdmontreal.org



JULY 6-14, 2007. **Pinewoods 2007** sponsored by SCDS Boston Branch. July 6-9, Session I. July 9-14, Session II. Information and application forms at www.rscdsboston.org/events-pinewoods.html



JULY 22, 2007-AUG. 19, 2007. **RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland** 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, lydiahedge@accesswave.ca

JULY 29-AUGUST 5, 2007. **T.A.C. Summer School 2007**. Details on the T.A.C. website <http://tac-rscds.org>

AUGUST 18-29, 2007. **Scottish Country Dance Week in Prague**, Czech Republic. Basic program in first week, classes and other activities in the second week. Information at www.dvorana.cz or email, dvorana@dvorana.cz



SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2007. **Weekend of SCD in Tallinn, Estonia** sponsored by International Branch of RSCDS. Contact the International Branch website at: www.rscds-ib.org



DECEMBER 28, 2007-JANUARY 6, 2008. **New Zealand Summer School**, Wellington, NZ. Information: www.rscdsnz.org.nz or contact Elaine Laidlaw at ss07@rscdsnz.org.nz



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junit@pathcom.com

Volunteers for Youth Ball

Volunteers are needed to help set up tables, decorate, serve meals and clear tables on April 21 for the 3rd Annual Youth Ball. To lend a sense of occasion, we ask volunteers to be kilted with white shirt or blouse. If you are able to give us 3 hours of your time, we would be very grateful. Contact Margaret Anne Hunter at 416-651-7137, hunterm@rogers.com

