



Chair's Message



It seems strange that your Past Chair is writing this month's "Chair's Message" because, as we are all aware, by the time you read this issue of your Newsletter a new Board will have been elected, and yours truly will be history.

The last two years have been an interesting experience for me, and I will miss being involved in the Chair's duties. I will also miss the many constructive discussions, as well as the humorous moments, spent with friends around the huge oak table, in the dimly lit board room at Rosedale Church. However, I have to be honest with you; I will certainly *not* miss the journey to and from Vineland to attend Board meetings that often saw me arriving home in the wee hours.

Despite a childish impulse to let the world know that I have been directly involved with a group of wonderful people, I want you to know I did resist the urge to carve my initials into that big oak table at Rosedale.

Seriously, as Chair, I had the pleasure of working with a group of very dedicated friends who have a genuine interest in strengthening our Association and enhancing the pleasures its member derive from being involved in the wonderful world of Scottish Country Dancing.

In closing, I had a wonderful time at the April Monthly Dance. I was asked by a few members if we were considering returning to Hodgson School for all our monthly dances as the dance floor there is excellent. I am sure the members of the new Board will compare the merits of both dancing venues and make a decision in the future. Personally, I don't mind having half a cup of tea from time to time, but half a chair to sit on, that's another matter!

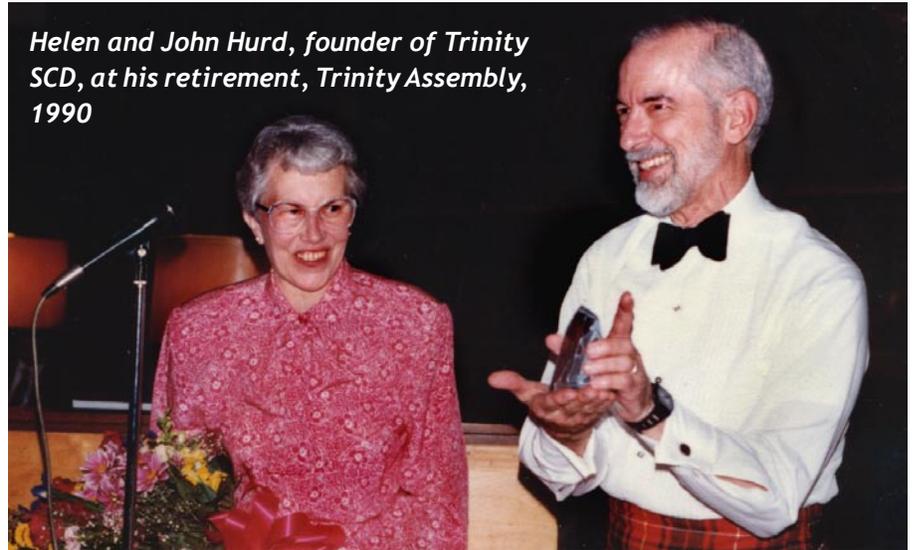
It has been a pleasure serving you.
Your Past Chair,

Joan

Trinity Scottish Country Dancers

Joan Wood

Helen and John Hurd, founder of Trinity SCD, at his retirement, Trinity Assembly, 1990



Trinity Scottish Country Dance group was started in 1973 at Trinity College, University of Toronto, by John Hurd, Professor of New Testament at Trinity College. Since 1973 we have danced in the lovely Seeley Hall at the college.

The group welcomed beginning dancers for the first three or four nights each fall. From the early days Trinity also had summer dancing with guest teachers, one of the few groups to do so. As well as participating in branch activities, members of the Trinity group took part in the CNE Tattoo of 1978, the 512some Reel at the CNE in 1991, and the Guinness World Record attempt at SkyDome in 1993. Members also participated in various demonstrations, including Burns Day programs at the Royal Ontario Museum in 1996 and 1997.

In 1982 it was suggested that the group hold an end-of-year ball. The first Trinity Assembly took place in May 1982, in the Music Room of Hart House, University of Toronto, with Prudence Tracy as the Ball Chair. For many years the Bobby Frew Four provided our live music. From 1983 the Assembly was held in Strachan Hall of Trinity College with various group members chairing the committee. In 1996, for the first time, the Assembly experienced a shortfall in its finances and in 1997 we held a joint "Toronto Assembly" with the Calvin Group, still in Strachan Hall. This arrangement ended in 2004. In 2005 we held our own Trinity Spring Dance.

John Hurd, approaching retirement from Trinity College, announced that the 1989-90 session would be his last year of teaching the Trinity group. He was honoured at the May 26, 1990 Assembly. Vi Knight was the teacher of the group until 1996, followed by Fiona Philip, who left in May 2006, to pursue further studies. In September 2006, David Booz became our teacher.

"The Trinity Group was (in a sense) founded by Miss Milligan," John Hurd says. "She examined me for my first certificate. When the exam was over and she announced the results to us one by one, she said to me, 'Now, Professor Hurd, you should go and start a group!' Somebody must have told her of my teaching title. She in turn thought of universities as natural sites for SCD groups. Left to myself, I might never have taken that step, but inspired by her command, I went about starting the group that continues at Trinity College."

50th Anniversary Gala Day Dance

Date: Saturday, September 15, 2007
Time: 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Place: Rameses Temple
 3100 Keele Street
Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent
Admission: \$50, includes the afternoon social



The White Cockade	R32	Book 5
Miss Nancy Frowns	J32	Book 14
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Whistling Wind	R32	Book 36
The Glasgow Highlanders	S32	Book 2
INTERMISSION		
None So Pretty	R40	Book 19
Bedrule	S32	Book 33
Pelorus Jack	J32	Book 41
The New Scotland Strathspey	S40	Leaflet
General Stuart's Reel	R32	Book 10
INTERMISSION		
Salute to Miss Milligan	R32	Drewry Canadian
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J32	Book 16
Gang the Same Gate	S32	Book 36
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J32	Book 22
Maxwell's Rant	R32	Book 18



Letters to the Editor

A Lurking Problem?

During the second and third parts of the Tartan Ball some dancers noticed a group of four or five gentlemen sitting on the sideline. They were not tired, or injured but definitely were disappointed and dejected. They were forced to sit out because they could not find a partner!

This sounds a little outlandish, given that the number of ladies attending the Tartan Ball in recent years has handily exceeded that of the gentlemen. But the ladies had been making partnership commitments very hastily, often while the members of the completed set are thanking one another.

It is, on one hand, quite understandable that the ladies are eager to dance and want to ensure a partner for the next dance so they are not left out. Gentlemen, on the other hand, have been taught through their formative years (by ladies) that one does not "come on strong" when you are about to ask a lady for a favour. So, when the lady has been chatted up and the request is made, he learns that she is unavailable. The second and third potential partners are similarly taken and it's three strikes and you are out! The shortened time between dances has had a compounding negative effect on the problem.

No one is to blame, but the problem exists.

It occurs at social classes too. The teachers are very aware of the outcomes that these situations can cause. If a quick resolution does not occur the teacher skilfully and tactfully effects an accommodation for the lone gentleman.

At the Tartan Ball we can be sure that without a solution the affected gentlemen will either book partners before the dance program or stay home. They will not continue to pay \$90-plus and sit forlornly on the sidelines.

... Ross Floyd

Keeping in Touch: From Margaret McLean in New Zealand

On March 31st, Malcolm and I attended the Auckland Region 50th Anniversary Ball and had a great evening of dancing as well as catching up with people we had known before we went to Canada. This was to celebrate 50 years of organised SCD in the Auckland area.

Margaret danced with Glenview SCD.

Pat Houghton: RSCDS Contact



Pat Houghton of Easter Ross, in Scotland has been nominated as the Toronto Branch's contact person on the RSCDS Management Board.

Pat recently wrote to Toronto Association to introduce herself. In her letter she said, *I was born in Glencoe, Argyllshire and have been dancing all my life. I divide my time between Edinburgh and Easter Ross (30 miles north of Inverness) and dance and teach whenever and wherever I can. I taught at RSCDS Winter School in Pitlochry in 2005, and this will be my third year teaching at St Andrews Summer School. I also teach at various Day and Weekend Schools in the UK and abroad and for Edinburgh Branch on request.*

I am very keen to visit Toronto Branch and hope to do so during my time as your contact person on the Management Board.

Spread the Word



An application for the 50th Anniversary Gala is enclosed with this newsletter. Please forward the information to anyone you know who was ever connected to dancing in Toronto.

Wanted

Gently used children's ballet pumps, or small ladies' ballet slippers for lending to children attending in-school Scottish Country Dance classes.

Please contact Teresa Lockhart at
 Teresa-K@canoemail.com
 416-759-9845.

James Senior, Toronto Agent



Cairngorm Scottish Imports, 1825 Avenue Rd., Toronto, is now exclusive agent for ghillies and dance shoes by James Senior of St Andrews. They can order any special shoe if not in regular stock. Contact: 416-782-5227 or www.kiltscanada.com

Rose Avenue School is Alive with SCD Music



Lourdes Genosa

This year I have the privilege of teaching in the St. Jamestown community as a Grade 2 teacher at Rose Avenue Public School. The children in this school are from multicultural backgrounds, particularly from Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Since the beginning of this school year, Scottish Country Dancing has been organized for the five Grade 2 classes. Twice a week at lunchtime our school's gym is "alive with the sound of music" – Scottish music that is, and 30 second-graders await with joy and anticipation for the dancing to begin. The children have been quick to learn some basic formations and dances, and they have developed a good sense of rhythm, positive social interaction and an appreciation for things Scottish. They have since performed on stage at the school's winter concert, and at our school assemblies, which have been attended by parents and teachers. Currently, they are practising dances that will be showcased at the spring concert, and in April they were honoured by a visit from a Scottish piper (dancer, Peter Cotton). They were *so* looking forward to this event. The children's enthusiasm has been so contagious that I have been approached by three parents who would like to participate in the dancing after the March Break. Should this happen, our SCD group at Rose Avenue School will be an intergenerational one.

It is delightful to see inner-city children of various ethnic backgrounds involved with great enthusiasm in this aspect of Scottish culture, and discovering that, indeed, "Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing." ... Lourdes Genosa

Ready and . . .

Those words were repeated innumerable times, spoken by three different voices and preceded dancing to three different tempi. What was the occasion? Why, the 22nd Annual West End Workshop! Approximately one hundred and fifty enthusiastic dancers made their way to Fletcher's Meadow School in Brampton to enjoy classes by three teachers, with a focus on jigs, reels and strathspeys in the three time slots. After two morning classes, a tasty lunch provided a break for tired feet and renewed energy for afternoon class.

Following another brief break, dancers new and experienced, utilized their acquired skills in the Tea Dance which followed. Afternoon tea accompanied by sandwiches, veggies, cakes and fruit rounded out the day and sent the participants home pleasantly satisfied with their dancing day.

The workshop was held this year in a different location. The familiar location, Streetsville Secondary School was not available because it was required for Halton Board activities. While Fletcher's Meadow is not quite as central, it is a new school with excellent facilities.

Dancers were fortunate to have Bobby and Laird Brown and Jim Darge playing for the classes and the Browns provided the music for the Tea Dance. Teachers were Janet Johnson from Edinburgh who also taught at the Erin Mills Friday night class and at a class for teachers on the following Sunday, Elizabeth McMahon from Peterborough and Steve Coombs from Burlington.

Ears tuned and feet ready for West End Workshop 2008? Right then! "Ready and..." ...Betty Coombs

Dancing in the Park

Tayside SCD group invites you to Westview Presbyterian Church, 233 Westview Blvd., East York, on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 - noon. Come and enjoy the "Dancing in the Park" programme dances for the evenings of May 29th - June 26th. Cost is \$3, which includes coffee and cookies. For more information contact May Macfarlane at 416-757-7846 or email at maymac1@sympatico.ca.

Enjoy Writing?

If you like to write and would accept an occasional assignment to write an article for *Set & Link*, contact Carole Bell or any member of the newsletter committee.



Photo courtesy Rhonda Peebles



Toronto's 1st Tartan Day, April 13, 2007 — The RSCDS Toronto Demo Team covered themselves with glory, and goosebumps, at chilly Nathan Phillips Square. It was a great, high-profile event, with wonderful dancing (thanks team!) and wonderful singing by Caledon and Toronto's own Celtic tenor, Peter Ian McCutcheon. Sandy Graham (of Beach Ceilidh fame) promoted the event.

Upcoming Events

NEAR

MAY 4, 2007. **South Simcoe Spring Dance** at Knox Presbyterian Church, King Street, Alliston. Dances briefed by Mauren Richardson and guest briefers. Contact Susan Elliottson, 519-941-2134, elliotson@sympatico.ca

MAY 5, 2007. **Spring Dance** sponsored by RSCDS St. Catharines branch, St. George's Church Hall, 83 Church St., St. Catharines. 8:00 p.m. Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs. \$18 for dancers; \$9 for non-dancers. Contact Pat Coyle, patcoyle@vaxxine.com, 905-295-1234.

MAY 5, 2007. **London Ball** at the Old Middlesex County Court House, London. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. On Sunday, May 6, a Brunch will be held at the home of Bill & Marie McLennan. Please prebook for this social event. Info at our Branch Website: RSCDSLONDONCanada.org

MAY 12, 2007. **West Toronto Ball** at Rameses Temple, 3100 Keele St. Reception at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30, dancing at 8:30-12:30. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Dances will be briefed only. Contact Anna Rielly, 519-927-5502: t.rielly@rogers.com

MAY 16, 2007. **St Andrew's of Brampton End-of-Season Dance**, at St. Andrew's Church, Church Street, Brampton. Contact Ann Campbell, 905-459-213, acampbell@idirect.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 at Carassauga. Ongoing entertainment, Scottish food, Tartan Beer and Malt Scotch. Contacts: Margaret Shortt 905-257-0941 & Angela Mooney 905-821-9732

JUNE 1, 2007. **Fisherman's Fling**. Something "fishy" is taking place at Cooksville United Church, Mississauga at 8:00 p.m.. Find out what it is by attending the Erin Mills **Fisherman's Fling**. Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent will set your senses swimming and your feet leaping. Ticket/briefsheet @ \$18 from Gordon Hamilton, 905-566-9599.

JUNE 9, 2007. **Georgetown Highland Games** at Georgetown Fairgrounds. If dancers want to participate in the mass demonstration, assemble near the main field at 11:00 a.m. for a practice and to be placed in sets. Demo is around 1:15 p.m. immediately after the opening ceremonies. A limited number of free passes are available. Contact Nora Sutherland, 905-276-2602.



JUNE 25- AUG 22, 2007. **Summer Dancing at Oshawa** features easy, fun dances until 9:00, followed by a couple of more challenging dances. Fernhill Community Centre. Various guest teachers. \$4 at the door; \$31.50 for the season. Dancing is 7:25 p.m. - 9:30. Cold drinks and treats at the interval. Contact Maureen Remington 905-623-1263.

OCTOBER 6, 2007. **White Heather Ball**. The Highlands of Durham SCD ball will be held at Trafalgar Castle School in Whitby, Ontario. This historic Elizabethan-style building was built in 1859 and boasts 15 towers, secret passageways and a tunnel to Lake Ontario! Stay tuned to find out how you can dance the evening away on a magnificent sprung wood floor.



OCTOBER 12-13, 2007. **RSCDS Hamilton Branch Annual Weekend** in a Burlington High School (wooden floor). Teachers: Tracey Applebee, Cincinnati and Claire Collier, Hamilton. Music: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact Cate Reid, 2227 Previn Court, Burlington, On., L7P4J3, caterstoall@hotmail.com or (905) 332-2049

FAR

MAY 18-20, 2007. **44th Annual Pawling Weekend**, sponsored by the New York Branch of the RSCDS, at Circle Lodge, Hopewell Junction, NY. Teachers: Ruth Jappy, Delta, BC, Graham Donald, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, Mel Briscoe, Alexandria, NY. Musicians: Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent at Friday night welcome ball, Saturday night ball, and classes: Jim Stevenson-Matthews at classes.

JUNE 25-29 and JULY 2-6, 2007. **Ontario School of Piping and Drumming** at St. Andrew's College, Aurora. World-class instruction for pipers and drummers of all ages. Contact 416-489-6414 or robcrabtree@sympatico.ca or kilby.sac.on.ca/ontpiping



JULY 6-14, 2007. **Pinewoods 2007** sponsored by SCDS Boston Branch. July 6-9, Session I. July 9-14, Session II. Information 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.

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



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notice . . .

Please send submissions to carolewbell@sympatico.ca.
Deadline for June is May 10.
Please note earlier deadline.

Almost too late. . .

If you have something for the 50th Anniversary book get it in now. The gate is closing. . .