RSCD Toronto

SETQLINK

TORONTO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER May 2010

From the Chair



y cheery wee face is still adorning the top left hand corner of the front page of this edition of *Set & Link*, which means I have survived the AGM and will be

continuing as Chair for my second and last year. I was recruited for this position partly because I have a habit of being positive about the success of the Board and the Association and the conduct of its activities. I have no plan to change that! When we make a mistake, we can rely on the membership to let us know. And we *do* listen to feedback.

Many of you enjoyed the April Challenge Night, and about 40 young dancers, including 17 from Buffalo, thoroughly enjoyed the Youth Ball. Upcoming are the Festival of Dance, the West Toronto Ball and, of course, Dancing in the Park – all of which serve different audiences. Then there are the season-ending dances including Calvin, Glenview, Brampton, and Erin Mills.

Ann Campbell, our Program Director, has had an enforced sabbatical from which she is happily emerging. She spent some of her time revising and editing fifteen of the hundred dances she has devised over the years. The dances celebrate significant events and people from the Toronto Association.

I am happy to announce that RSCDS Toronto, with support from the Bob Cunningham Family Fund, will sponsor the publication of a book of Ann Campbell dances for distribution and sale this summer.

Oh! The word for "vigorous feedback" is *PUSHback*. Keep on pushing. Especially if you are pushing in the right direction.

See you soon and often.

The St Andrew's Cross in Scottish Country Dance



The Scottish Parliament decreed in 1385 that Scottish soldiers wear the St. Andrew's Cross on their person. both in front and behind for identification. The first certain identification of a flag depicting the St. Andrew's Cross (a white cross on a blue background) is noted in Sir David Lyndsay of the Mounts' Register of Scottish Arms, c. 1542. The white cross or saltire (crux decussate), is derived from the Latin "crux" (cross) and "decessis" (having the shape of the Roman numeral X). In 2003 the Scottish Parliament accepted Pantone 300* as the standard "blue shade" for the Scottish flag. Previously, the blue could range from sky blue to navy blue, and the white ranged from

platinum to silver. The St. Andrew's flag is also rendered in "Inverse Representation" where the saltire is blue on a white background, as in the Nova Scotia flag and the Naval Ensign of Russia.

Glancing backward even farther, we glimpse the romance between legend and history: "At Athelstaneford, 2 miles north of Haddington in the Garleton Hills, a plaque marks the spot where a saltire, or Cross of St. Andrew, is said to have appeared in the sky before the Picts and Scots decisively defeated a Northumbrian army—possibly led by the Saxon king, Athelstan—in AD 933."

On a journey to visit relatives in Athelstaneford, East Lothian, Neil Gray photographed a monument in the local churchyard that states: "Tradition says that near this place in times remote Pictish and Scottish warriors about to defeat an army of Northumbrians, saw against a blue sky a great white cross like St. Andrew's, and in this image made a banner which became the flag of Scotland."



St. Andrew is not the patron Saint of Scotland exclusively; Romania, Greece, and Russia, together with several small islands claim him. St. Andrew's Day, November 30, is celebrated in Eastern and Western churches on the Sunday closest to that date, marking the beginning of Advent and the start of the Church year.

Thanks to Frances Gray for researching and clarifying that the St. Andrew's Cross is not considered a SCD formation as such and is not listed in the RSCDS Teachers' Manual. However, in her search of RSCDS publications, Frances found seven dances that include it: *St. Andrew's Cross* and *St. Andrew's Nicht* (MacNab, Four Traditional Set of Dances); *St. Andrew's Day* (RSCDS Book 24); *Diamond Jubilee* (RSCDS Book 31); *Saltire Society Reel* (RSCDS Leaflet No. 9); and *Saltire Society Strathspey* (RSCDS Book 45). Finally, in *St. Andrew's of Brampton* (RSCDS Book 37), devised by our own Ann Campbell, the St. Andrew's Cross is dramatically performed. An amendment in the RSCDS Teachers' Manual from Headquarters states: "This is a longwise dance and care should be taken that it does not become a square". The challenge here is to retain the cross—the visible Roman numeral X—and not convert the movement into a plus sign (+) as would be done in four hands across and back where each dancer is equidistant from the one in front, meeting at and maintaining right angles during the movement.



An approximation of the St. Andrew's Cross appears in double triangles where the dancing couple stand back to back in the middle of the set facing their corners, and the four corners dance in slightly joining hands with the dancing couple, all with arms stretched almost straight forming a St. Andrew's Cross. In this formation, the angles formed by the dancing couple and the corners are 135° on the sides of the dance. The angles at both the top and bottom of the set where second and third couples face their partners are 45°. This, then, is the shape of the Scottish "white" saltire.

... Donald E. Holmes

*MacQueen, Hector, and Scott Wortley (2000). Pantone 300 and the Saltire, University of Edinburgh.

Dance in the Park, Rain or Shine

Come and Dance In The Park to the music of Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent.

When: Tuesdays, June 1, 8, 15 and 22

Time: 7:00 p.m. - Dusk

Where: Edwards Gardens/Toronto Botanical Garden

Lawrence Ave. E at Leslie

Free parking

hat if it rains? If it is raining we will be dancing in St. Bonaventure Catholic School just south on Leslie Ave. using the same parking lot which is within walking distance.

What a great way to spend a Tuesday evening dancing in the beautiful grounds of Edwards Gardens to the live music of Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Dancing in the Park is wonderful fun.

The program is published in this issue of Set & Link. Instructions and Briefs can be downloaded from RSCDS toronto. org. There will be an interval in each program to allow for a chance to mingle and chat with friends and neighbours.

If the weather is threatening, the website may have information about whether we're dancing indoors or out — but we shall be dancing! David Roper

Spread the word About DITP

Conclosed with this month's newsletter are three DIP flyers. We would love you to help spread the word about SCD by encouraging people to come to Edwards Gardens. Can you place these three flyers in the hands of friends, on notice boards, in workplaces, or other public places?

If every member can hand out at least one of the flyers, think how much exposure SCD will have in the coming months. After all, even if people cannot come to the Park, the flyer does promote the classes in September. At the very least, it is likely that people who have never heard of our activity will see the words "Scottish Country Dancing".

By the way, if you need more flyers (and we hope you will), Carole Bell will be very happy to fill your order!

carolewbell@sympatico.ca: 416-221-1201



Summer Dancing

When: Tuesdays, July 6- Aug. 31

Time: 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Carole Skinner is teaching summer dancing at the Police Club 180 Yorkland Blvd. All levels of dancers are welcome. There is a restaurant and bar downstairs, and last year a lot of dancers took advantage of the facilities both before and after the classes.



50-50 Draw

proceeds for the 50/50 Draws held at the Monthly Dances support Dancing in the Park. At the dance on April 10, 2010 David Grant won \$125.

Special Events

41st Annual West Toronto Ball May 8

The 41st Annual West Toronto Ball will be held at the Rameses Shrine Temple, 3100 Keele Street. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. This is a beginners' ball but it's an enjoyable evening for all levels of dancers. Tickets \$60, students age 14+ \$40. Info on the website. Contact Anna Rielly: t.rielly@rogers.com or 519-927-5502.

Whigmaleeries' Last Dance Monday, May 10 @ 7 p.m.

Come and join the Whigmaleeries Scottish Country Dancers, for an evening of participation dancing for adults and children. The children's classes will demonstrate a few of their favourite dances throughout the first part of the evening, with plenty of dances for everyone to join in. The second half of the evening will be dances for everyone. This is the final event for the Whigmaleeries, who are disbanding. Refreshments will be served.

Doors open 6:30 p.m. Program begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends around 9:30 p.m.

Location: Cooksville United Church, Mimosa Row,

Floradale Avenue, Mississauga (Dundas & Hurontario)

Cost: Adults \$5 and Children/Youth no fee.

Glenview's Spring Fling Wednesday, May 12 @ 8 p.m.

Kick up your heels (and point your toes) to the music of Bobby and Laird Brown at Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. Toronto. Dancing: 8 - 10:30 p.m. followed by refreshments. \$20 per person. Contact: Ian Clunie: 416-486-6582

St. Andrew's of Brampton Wednesday, May 19 @ 7:30 p.m.

St Andrew's of Brampton is holding its end-of-season dance at St Andrew's Church, 44 Church St, Brampton, a location which provides a great wooden floor for dancing. Cost is \$8 at the door. The evening begins at 7.30 and refreshments will follow the dancing. Please check the website for a map and for the program. Contact Ann Campbell, 905-459-5213; ann.campbell@rogers.com

Erin Mills' Ten Dollar Dance Friday, June 4 @ 8 p.m.

The Erin Mills Group hopes for your support for our end-of-season "Ten Dollar Dance" at the Cooksville United Church with music by "The Reel Thing".

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Church, specifically towards replacement of the "dance floor." All who have danced with us in recent years will appreciate the need! For details and tickets contact the Hamiltons at 905-566-9599.

Highlands of Durham Strawberry Cream Tea & Dance Sunday, June 13 @ 2 p.m.

Come to the Highlands for a strawberry cream tea dance with homemade scones by Evelyn at the Port Perry Legion. \$10 per person. Contact Marjorie Mason at 905-649-3532 or mmason@bellnet.ca

Bobby Brown Writes: What Tempo Should We Dance To?



Tempo is one of the most important elements in Scottish Country Dance music. Playing too fast or too slow or playing at an inconsistent tempo throughout the dance is

unacceptable for dancers. There is a discipline required in playing accurate, consistent tempos that does not appeal to all Scottish bands. Over the years I have been playing for Scottish Country Dancing, I have seen the standards for tempos change. In the early years tempos were generally faster than today. For instance, an 8x32 jig or reel would take approximately 4:30 (+/-) chord to chord and an 8x32 strathspey would take 7:50 (+/-) chord to chord, whereas today an 8x32 jig or reel is acceptable at 4:40 (+/-) and an 8x32 strathspey at 8:15-8:20 (+/-). Many years ago the RSCDS in Edinburgh sent a letter to all branches around the world stating that bands were playing far too fast and should be slowing it down. How did they know what tempos the bands were playing in Canada? However, to this end, they published metronome counts for jig, strathspey and reel, although most dancers wouldn't even know what this means. My band is following this guideline (+/-) keeping in mind that live musicians are not

metronomes and music breathes. A variance of even 5-10 seconds over an 8x32 bar dance has an incredible effect on the music. In the making of CDs, if we are just 10 seconds too fast, we will re-do it. That is how much a few seconds means – it may not seem much to a dancer reading this, but it is huge and it affects your steps and your phrasing.

Unfortunately in our dancing, we have many people who consider themselves authorities on tempo. I have come to this conclusion because, over the years wherever I play, people approach me and rather than ask a question, they make statements about tempos being too fast or too slow. If people who do this were asked by band leaders or musicians what tempo do you want, could they tell us? I doubt it - do they understand metronome speeds, do they realize that note-y tunes sound faster and more frantic than they really are? Don't they realize that the tempo that suits them might not suit the other dancers on the floor that would have to conform to "their tempo"? My advice to people like this has always been to be very careful what you say to a musician regarding tempo unless you are an educated musician yourself. It is

difficult for musicians to have a conversation with people about Scottish music or tempos for Scottish Country Dancing if they do not know what they are talking about. Personally, I watch the dancers from the stage for the first 32 bars to establish a comfort zone for the dancers and if I see the necessity to speed up or slow down based on the figures of the dance, I will do so, albeit very subtly.

There are certain dances that require a slightly slower tempo - i.e. The Reel of Mey and The Gentle Shepherd (both jigs) to name two. I remember once playing The Gentle Shepherd many years ago at a Toronto monthly dance and after we had finished, the dance was encored. After the encore, four separate people approached me on the stage and after I had dealt with these experts the score was 2-2: two of them thought it was too fast and two of them thought it was too slow! How many dancers realize that there are certain dances that should be played a bit slower because of the intricate phrasing of the dance? Playing these dances too fast will ruin the flow. But we on the stage are very aware of these nuances. All the programs I play are researched in advance and I am very thankful for the advice I receive from good teachers with what I call "musical ears". So you see, the band doesn't just come trundling

into the hall and go hell-bent for leather, with no regard for the dancers. Remember, musicians are not machines and between all of my band members, our combined numbers of years playing for dancing totals over 200 years of experience. Throw into the mix that most of my musicians including me have all been Scottish

Country Dancers. We respect very much the dancers and appreciate their support. Our only aim is to give dancers a great night!

Please do not feel that you are unique; this is a world-wide issue. I am close friends with most of the top-notch Scottish Country Dance bands in Scotland, and they all have the same issue. One of them got so frustrated that he took a metronome with him to the dances and when people approached the stage he showed them the metronome count, which was bang-on with RSCDS standards! However, most people were unable to read it. Here's something you may not know... when Miss Milligan was alive, it was not unusual for her at a dance, to stop a band in the middle of playing to tell them they were too fast or she did not like the tune they were playing. She also did it here with

Stan Hamilton's band and Angus MacKinnon's band, with everyone watching. How embarrassing for the band – perhaps ill mannered of her? (Of course at that time Miss Milligan was SCD royalty.) This has also happened to me in New York one year, when we had just finished playing *The Blooms of Bon Accord* (a Drewry dance), there was a roar for an encore, but John Drewry who was attending that weekend came down the middle of the sets and told me that my tempo was too fast! I couldn't hear him at first for the dancers cheering for more. I had some words for Mr. Drewry, which are better left un-printed!

If you listen to recent CDs of the top Scottish Country Dance bands, you will find that for the most part (with exceptions) they are all following the RSCDS standards. It is your teachers' responsibility to research the music they use in class and make sure it is an appropriate tempo for the dance. If it meets the RSCDS standards the tempo does not need adjusting (manually), the dancers must adjust their steps for the dance.

Over the past 10 years at dances, I have slowed down my tempos slightly to accommodate somewhat the increasing age of many of our dancers. Older dancers have difficulty with footwork and phrasing at a faster tempo; however, slowing it down too much to suit their ability would have an adverse effect on younger, more agile dancers in the group. Here's the rub: how slow can we be before it is no longer sensible? When does it become Scottish Country Walking music? This is a dilemma that is not going to go away. Should the music be compromised by distorting the tempo to accommodate dancers who are physically unable to keep up? RSCDS teachers are required to promote good footwork and phrasing, but what happens to their classes if there are a number of elderly dancers? Should we ask teachers to downgrade their quest for excellence in dancing? I don't think so, do you? After all, excellence was Miss Milligan's aim.

By the way, the Toronto branch was going to run a music workshop to discuss these and other issues related to music; however, after two notices in *Set & Link*, they received absolutely no interest, which I feel is disappointing. Music is such an important part of the dance.

What I have said here is the tip of the iceberg. As I said in my last article, I could write a book on my nearly 50 years of experiences, but would you buy it? See you at the dance!

... Bobby Brown

Dance Etiquette: Helping Beginner Dancers

Have you got a pet peeve or perplexing puzzle you'd like Carole to talk about? Contact Carole at 416-386-1620 or carolebskinner@aol.com



(Q)e are all happy to have beginner dancers join us doing what we love, and we want to help them dance better, but please think how overwhelming it can be for them! We have been in sets where seven people are calling out seven different directions at the same time, and beginners have little hope of following any of them. Because they are so busy listening to everyone else in the set, no one is listening to the teacher who can often see a problem and solve it quickly. Here is a solution: if you are in a class, let the teacher teach; believe it or not, the teachers do know what they are

doing. If you are at a dance and ask beginners to dance, tell them that you will help them if needed and to watch you only, then guide them through the dance. Often a hand gesture or a one-word reminder is sufficient. For the rest of those helpful souls, be quiet; let the teachers teach, the partners offer guidance, and give beginners a break. You will find a better dance experience for everyone.

... Carole Skinner

Pancers ticketed for the West Toronto Ball on May 8 will

have, or may have already had,

the opportunity to dance Sauchie

Haugh, a delightful strathspey with

both a rondel and all-round pous-

sette, devised by George Emmerson

a bell! Ah yes, any Glasgow visi-

tors who work their way on foot up

Buchanan Street (it's pedestrian-

ized!) from the "Highlandman's

Umbrella" on Argyle Street to the

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at

the top need only look to their left

and Sauchiehall Street stretches out

before them, also usually crowd-

ed with pedestrians. Whoops!

Different spelling! So, is Haugh

the Gaelic word for "Hall"? Well,

not really! It actually means (so I

read) "land at the bottom of a river

Sauchie Haugh? Now that rings

of London, Ontario.

What's In a Name? ~ Sauchie Haugh



Sauchiehall Street is Glasgow's most famous thoroughfare, partly because of its Scottish-sounding music-hall name, partly because it is such a popular street for shop-

ping. On a Saturday morning it's chock-a-block.

valley." A "dale" or "vale" in English? Elsewhere, I learn that the words Sauchie and Haugh, combined, translate roughly from the Gaelic as "Way of the Willows".

Maybe that is why you will find "The Willow Tearooms" on Sauchiehall, designed in 1904 by that famous Glaswegian architect and designer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. It is very reminiscent of a bygone age, as Kathryn and I found while having lunch there just a few weeks ago.

Of course, there is a small community called Sauchie in the quaintly named county of Clackmannanshire. Hardly a mellifluous mouthful! The "Wee County," as it was once called (smallest in Britain), lies between the rivers Forth and its tributary the Devon, in an area so damp that it might well be suitable to the growth of willow trees.

Back to the SCD devisor, George Emmerson. While he was well known to RSCDS people in Ontario as a teacher of Scottish Country Dancing in London, George's primary vocation was as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Western Ontario. The strathspey Sauchie Haugh was released as one of the RSCDS Leaflet Dances in 1967. ... Barry Pipes: mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca

Thred of your name tag dancing around your neck?

(?) e have had a number of members ask about the possibility of having a more permanent and attractive name tag. I have been investigating this possibility and have found a reasonable replacement. These name tags (facsimilies shown) would be available for a cost between \$5 and \$10.



This does not mean that we will do away with the paper name tags we have used in the past, but give the members the option of a name tag that doesn't hang around your neck and bounce around when you dance. There will be an option of how they will attach to the clothing, from a magnetic clip to an alligator clip or a pin.

I am interested in knowing who would be interested in the new name tags. I have some members who have already expressed interest in them. Let me know by email if you would be interested in having this new name tag. This will not be a commitment, just an indication for possible numbers.

On the new membership form there will be a space to order one (or two if there is more than one person in the household), with the price listed. The price of the name tag can be paid at the same time as your membership.

John Clark, 416-266-3609, clark62@sympatico.ca

Calling All Dancers Who Have An Interest In Teaching

uring the upcoming 2010-2011 dance season, we may run Candidate Classes, but only if we have enough participants.



These classes are hard work but lots of fun, and we do need some new teachers to help spread the joy of Scottish Country Dancing.

If you are interested, please contact Jean Noble at jean@charteredaccountants

Dancing in the Park 2010 Program

Evening One: Tues. June 1, 7:00 - Dusk

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The Wild Geese	J 8x32	3C (4C set)	Bk 24/3
Starlight	R 8x32	3C (4C set)	Bk 44/1
Gay Gordons	March	One big circle	of couples
Balquidder Strathspey	S 8x32	3C (4C set)	Bk 24/2
Antarctica Bound	J 4x32	4C (4C set)	Scotia Suite
Interval			
Round Reel of Eight	R 1x88	4C Sq Set	Bk 27/7
Good Hearted Glasgow	J 8x32	3C (4C set)	Leaflet
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S 8x32	3C (4C set)	RSCDS Leaflet
Follow Me Home	J 8x32	3C (4C set)	Bk 38/3
Shiftin' Bobbins	R 8x32	3C (4C set)	Ormskirk

Evening Two: Tues. June 8, 7:00 - Dusk

The Jubilee Jig	J 8x32 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Leaflet
The Reel of the 51st Division	R 8x32 3C (4C set)	Bk 13/10
Waltz Country Dance	Couple face couple in	circle Bk 4/8
Seann Triubhas Willichan	5 6x32 2C (3C set)	Bk 27/9
Postie's Jig	J 4x32 4C (4C set)	Ormskirk
Interval		

The White Cockade R 8x32 3C (4C set) Bobby Brown's Cdn Breakdown R 4x32 4C Sq set

Bk 5/11 Leaflet The Deacon of the Weavers 5 8x32 3C (4C set) Bk 25/4 Roaring Jelly J 8x32 3C (4C set) Glendarroch Maxwell's Rant R 8x32 3C (4C set) Bk 18/10

Evening Three: Tues. June 15, 7:00 - Dusk

The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J 6x32	2C (3C set)	Bk 16/3
The Music Makars	R 8x32	3C (4C set)	Bk 33/1
The Dashing White Sergeant	R 5x32	3 face 3 in big	circle Bk 3/2
The Saint John River	S 4x32	4C (4C set)	Centennial
Napier's Index	J 8x40	3C (4C set)	Bk 45/8
Interval			

H 4x32 4C (4C set) 5 for 65 West's Hornpipe J 4x32 Couples in circle Let's All Dance Welcome to the Dance Hame came our Gudeman 5 8x32 3C (4C set) Bk 30/2 Ann Campbell The Dancing Bells J 8x32 3C (4C set) Swiss Lassie R 8x32 3C (4C set) Bk 39/1

Evening Four: Tues. June 22, 7:00 - Dusk

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Cutty Sark	J 8x32 3C (4C set)	Bk 40/2
Blooms of Bon Accord	R 4x32 4C (4C set)	Deeside 2
Saint Bernard's Waltz	Couples in a big circle	Collins
The Silver Tassie	5 8x32 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Leaflet
Airyhall Delight	J 8x32 3C (4C set)	Bk 40/8
Interval		
Flowers of Edinburgh	R 8x32 3C (4C set)	Bk 1/6
The Triumph	R 4x32 2C (4C set)	Bk 1/2
Lady Glasgow	5 8x32 3C (4C set)	MMM1
The White Heather Jig	J 8x4o 4C (4C set)	Cosh
General Stuart's Reel	R 8x32 3C (4C set)	Bk 10/3

Dance Instructions & Briefs are posted on www.RSCDStoronto.org

Map to DITP Rain Venue **I**♥



The carpark where we normally, uh, park.

St Bonaventure School, our rain venue.

St. Bonaventure School is walking distance from the Edwards Gardens carpark - but parking is also available on the school lot.

New, on your website

The INTERVALS page on www.RSCDStoronto.org I now has *content!* The home page also has several new links worth exploring to videos and pictures of events.



A selection of Tartan Ball pictures can be viewed on the Intervals page. Move the slider button L or R, or click in the gray area to move from picture to picture.



On the Home page, click the link to Inga Tomas' SmugMug Gallery, where you can see dozens of wonderful Tartan Ball pictures. You can also download them to add to your own collection. There are many familiar faces to be seen – you might be one of







Look for links to pictures of the Youth Ball (above) and the Children's Festival (below) on the Intervals page.









Upcoming events: NEAR

MAY 10. Whigmaleeries Scottish Country Dancers' final event before disbanding. Location: Cooksville United Church, Mimosa Row, Floradale Avenue, Mississauga (Dundas & Hurontario).

MAY 11. **Calvin Spring Dance** at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Ken Adamson: 416-763-0073 or ken.adamson@sympatico.ca.

MAY 12. **Glenview's Spring Fling** at Glenview Presbyterian Church. Ian Clunie: 416-486-6582

MAY 19. **St. Andrew's of Brampton** end-ofseason dance at St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Brampton at 7:30 p.m. Contact Ann Campbell, 905-459-5213; ann.campbell@rogers.com

MAY 29. **Hawkestone Workshop and Tea Dance** presented by the Orillia Scottish Country Dance Group from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. with lunch included. Guest teacher: Bill Scott. Music: Bobby Brown. Info: Stefflers 705-728-1543 or Argents 705-487-5866. Email: r.b.steffler@sympatico.ca

JUNE 4. **Erin Mills' Ten Dollar Dance** at Cooksville United Church at 8 p.m. For further details and tickets contact the Hamiltons at 905-566-9599.

JUNE 13. **Highlands of Durham Strawberry Cream Tea Dance** at Port Perry Legion at 2 p.m. For further details and tickets contact Marjorie Mason at mmason@bellnet.ca or 905-649-3532.

Scottish Country Dancing in China

y husband, Rick, is teaching English at Hengling Senior High School in China for one year. I made one visit in November for four weeks and returned on February 5 for nine weeks.

My dream was to teach Scottish Country Dancing, and I was almost successful. I had one set of English teachers, and we were able to have a few classes where they learned the poussette and *Flowers of Edinburgh*. They were so enthusiastic and learned very quickly, but the problem was time. They just weren't able to spare the time to come for classes. Even their evenings are taken up, so I was unable to continue, much to my disappointment.

... Barbara Chapman



Upcoming events: FAR

MAY 21-23.. **Peterborough SCDS Annual Workshop Weekend** at Irwin Inn on the shores of beautiful Stoney Lake. Teaching by Carole Skinner and music by Fred Moyes. Info: www.pscds-on.org

JUNE 5. Flying Ghillies Workshop & Ball, Dayton, Ohio. Teachers: Elaine Brunken, Laurel, MD, and Tracey Applebee, Cincinnati, OH. Music: The Music Makars. Info: www.rscdscincinnati.org/FlyingGhillies/

JUNE 11-13.. **The Midwest Scottish Weekend** presented by the Chicago, Madison and Milwaukee Scottish Country Dancers at Beloit College, Wisconsin. Teachers: Ellie Briscoe and Rod Downey. Music: Mara Shea (fiddle) and Dave Wiesler (piano). Info:http://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend/ or contact midwestscot tishweekend@gmail.com

JUNE 21. **The Crystal Ball, Kitchener,** at the Walper Terrace Hotel. \$75 (\$70 early birds). Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact Malcolm Coutts 519-822-5789.

AUG. 1-15. **TAC Candidate Classes and Exams.** Units 2,3 &5. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo. Info on the TAC web-site: www.tac-rscds.org or contact Exam Co-ordinator, Deirdre MacCuish Bark: barkd@rogers.com

AUG. 8-15. **TAC Summer School** at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Info: www.tac-rscds. org or contact Summer School Director Marie Ziccarelli mrezz@roadrunner.com

OCT. 30. **RSCDS London's 80th Anniversary Ball** at Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London. Tickets £40 including champagne and dinner. Info: www.rscdslondon.org.uk/html/anniversary_ball.html Contact: Jon Allen-Friend, jon.friend@rogers.com



West End Workshop marks 25 years

er Honour, Susan Fennell, Mayor of Brampton, joined Colin Gardiner and the throngs at the 25th Annual West Toronto Workshop, March 27. The workshop was begun a quarter century ago by Wes Clendinning and a group of like-minded dancers. Mayor Fennell delighted with a brief, funny, speech and surprised by staying to not just cut, but to serve the celebratory anniversary cake!

LEFT: Rick Chapman taught Mamie's Jig for a performance in China at the end of January. It was highly successful and everyone was impressed with Scottish Country Dancing. Barbara Chapman dances with Orillia and South Simcoe social groups.



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www.rscdstoronto.org

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Orillia Scottish Festival: July 17

Dancers of all ages... please join us in the mass dancing of the opening ceremonies. Come on your own, or sign up as a 4-couple set representing your social group (honoraria paid to groups in sets). Contact: Linda Ashe Argent: (705) 487-5868, largent@jcl-tech.com.

Advertise in Set & Link

Members can place a small ad in *Set & Link* FREE for one issue. It can be a "classified ad" of about 5 lines, or a business card advertising

items of interest to dancers. Info: Brenda Nunes: 416-691-) 1764 brendajnunes@gmail.com



Please send submissions to carolewbell@sympatico.ca. Deadline for the June issue is May 10.