

From the Chair...



Deirdre MacCuish Bark

We have just enjoyed a fabulous Tartan Ball! Congratulations to Laurie McConachie and her committee for their hard work in organizing the event. The music of Scotch Mist gave us swift and

flying feet. The Royal York Hotel, as always, was an elegant venue. We had an interesting and informative Guest of Honour, in Kirsty Duncan who, as a dancer, is one of our own.

It was a wonderful evening; the beginners were well practiced and a shining example to the rest of us. Many of them did every dance on the delightful programme, devised by Teresa Lockhart.

Winter seems to have caught up with us. Having just returned from a cruise in the Caribbean, we feel it keenly. However with March on its way, Spring is in the offing, along with an early Easter.

As a small child in Edinburgh, Easter meant rolling hard boiled eggs on the slopes of Arthur's Seat, in the King's Park, avoiding the hazards of rocks and sheep. That park was later renamed the Queen's Park, and now is known as Holyrood Park.

After our family moved north, we would travel to the Outer Hebrides for Easter, braving stormy seas and often the wet weather of a Scottish Spring. This was in the days before modern CalMac car ferries. MacBrayne boats serviced the Isles, a six hour journey from Kyle of Lochalsh to a world very different from our everyday life in Inverness.

Back home in Inverness, spring would be in full bloom but even on the islands the spring flowers would be out. Warmer winter temperatures in the islands are a side effect of the Gulf Stream offshore. After all, there are palm trees growing outside in north-west Scotland and on the isle of Lewis.

Here in Canada, the flowers will not appear quite so early. However, Spring events are being planned and organized by our committees and volunteers

We look forward to our March Beginners' dance. Come and join us!

Slàinte.

Deirdre

Hey, there...Georgie Girls (and Guys)



"IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME!" With these words, Guest of Honour Kirsty Duncan set the tone of the 53rd Tartan Ball. It was, of course, a wonderful evening of music, dance, and friendship. It was also a circle of love — love of Scottish country dance, and love of the friends we all have made in this wonderful, sometimes daft activity. Dancers came to the ball from far and wide: Montreal, London, Waterloo, New York, and Scotland. In her remarks Kirsty spoke movingly of her love of Scottish dance, and culture: "... my touchstone; my life; my refuge." She particularly thanked Georgina Finlay for the love and care she gave to so many young people, "... for a wonderful adventure and beautiful memories. When I travel I can usually find a group with which to dance. Scottish country dance brings people together!"



KIRSTY DRAWS THE WINNING TICKET: Rob Lockhart won two tickets to Scotland courtesy VisitScotland and Air Canada Rouge.



Special Events

Erin Mills Welcomes Gary Coull



Friday, April 1 ~ 8 -10 p.m.

Mississauga Seniors' Centre, Olga Tyne Auditorium, 1389 Cawthra Rd. (East side, at Arbor Crt., 2 lights south of QEW)

The Erin Mills Friday Evening Social Group is delighted to welcome you to a pre-Workshop evening of social dancing led by Gary Coull.

We'll have music by Don Bartlett to put flight in our steps. Gary and Don will provide a great start to the 31st West End Workshop. — Don't miss it!

Questions? Jean Hamilton 905 566 9599

31st Annual West End Workshop

Saturday, April 2 ~ 8:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Turner Fenton Secondary School, 7935 Kennedy Rd., Brampton.
Easy access from 401 ~ Lots of free parking ~ Comfortable wood floor!



Jean Noble

Gary Coull

Sara Posen

Teachers: Gary Coull (Scotland), Sara Posen (St. Catharines), Jean Noble (Toronto). Musicians: Don Bartlett, Laird Brown
Cost: \$63 Workshop incl. Lunch and Tea dance, \$30 Youth (14+), \$20 Tea Dance only. Vendors will be available during breaks and at lunch (TAC Books, RSCDS Toronto shirts, CDs), cash or cheque only please. Registration will be available at www.dancescottish.ca or contact theresamalek@rogers.com Don't miss out on the fun!

Teachers' Workshop with Gary Coull

Sunday, April 3 ~ 2 - 5 p.m.

Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore W., Mississauga

For Teachers & Candidates. Music by Don Bartlett. \$15

Contact: taylorbarbara@sympatico.ca

Gala Day: MAY 7
SATURDAY AFTERNOON
St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave.
(Nr. Lawrence Subway)

Gala Day is designed to encourage social groups and classes to dance to the best of their ability and to gain enjoyment from a well executed dance. It's a day to show off! All levels are invited. Your dance should entertain, and encourage us to aspire to higher levels. One dance per group. Now is the time for groups to pick and practise a dance that will kindle enthusiasm and infuse dancers with "The Spirit of the Dance."

Tartan Day in Port Perry

Sunday, April 3

Highlands of Durham SCD are once again hosting Tartan Day in Port Perry. We will be having a Kirkin' O' The Tartan in the afternoon, followed by a party at The Port Perry Legion. Details: dancescottish.ca

Young Dancers' Ball

Saturday, April 16 ~ 5 - 9:30 p.m.

Cummer Ave. United Church, 53 Cummer Ave., Willowdale

Dancers 35 yrs and under are invited to dance to wonderful music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs. Info: Moira Korus 416 924 9616

South Simcoe SCD Spring Fling

Friday, May 6 ~ 5 - 9:30 p.m.

Knox Church Hall, 160 King St. S., Alliston

Join us for our season ending Spring Fling! Dancing begins at 7:30, followed by coffee, tea, and loads of delicious treats, all for only \$7. A delightful evening for dancers of all levels as we walk all dances. Info: Maureen Richardson schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com or 905 939 2712.

47th Annual West Toronto Ball

Saturday, May 14

Sala Caboto in Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave., Toronto.

The West Toronto Ball is the perfect opportunity for the beginner dancer to experience the pomp and ceremony of a ball. Socialize with fellow dancers at the welcome reception at 5 p.m., enjoy a delicious full service meal, participate in the Grand March, and then dance the night away to the uplifting music of Scotch Mist. All-inclusive dinner/dance ticket \$80 per person. Ticket order forms available at your group and online at www.dancescottish.ca
Information contact: Moira Loudoun at 905-274-0229 or mloudoun@bell.net

Calvin's Spring Dance

Tuesday, May 17 ~ 7:30 p.m. - \$10 at the door

Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave. (nr Yonge & St Clair)

Calvin invites all dancers to join our Spring Celebration at our last dance of the season, with the wonderful music of Don Bartlett on piano. Your \$10 fee includes light refreshments at the interval. More info: Nancy Stokes naristo@rogers.com 416 425 2195 or Mary Baldwin mbaldwin456@hotmail.com 416 485 8280

Glenview's Spring Fling

Wednesday, May 18 ~ 7:30 p.m. - \$15 at the door

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave.

Spring Fling is the finale of Glenview's season. Fred Moyes will provide lively music for you to kick up your heels. Refreshments are provided by Glenview dancers. Info: Valerie Fisher at v.fisher@sympatico.ca

St. Andrew's of Brampton End-of-Season Dance

Wednesday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 44 Church St. E., Brampton

Come out and dance on a wonderful wooden floor and enjoy an interesting programme of dances. There is parking in the church lot and on the street. There is no parking on Church Street but there is a parking lot one block east of the church. Tickets are \$8 at the door and the programme will be put up on the website.

Board Bulletins

Nominations: Board Positions

In accordance with the RSCDS Toronto Association Procedures, presented here is the slate for the Board elections.

Chair	Deirdre MacCuish Bark
Vice Chair	Jean Lindsay
Secretary	Nancy White
Treasurer	Wendy Fulton
Communications	Wayne Elwood
Marketing	Paul Barber
Education and Training	Maureen Richardson
Program	Louis Racic
Membership	Wayne Fraser

All Board positions imply a commitment of at least two consecutive one-year terms. In the case of all positions except Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, once elected to the Board, they may be re-elected for up to five additional one-year terms. The Treasurer can be re-elected indefinitely until a qualified person is nominated.

The Vice Chair, who is expected to fill the position of Chair, with a two-year commitment in each role, should be filled by someone who has previously served as a member of the Board, has been a former Executive member, has been a Convener OR has been a Committee Chair.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or wish to suggest someone, contact John Clark, Nomination Committee Chair 416 266 3609 or clark62@sympatico.ca. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website (Members' Home Page) or from Secretary Nancy White (nawwhite15@gmail.com).

Proposed Motions for the 2016 AGM

The following motions are proposed for the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Toronto Association

1) Approval of 2014 AGM Minutes

A formal approval of the 2014 AGM Minutes with the requested corrections was missed at the 2015 AGM.

Be it moved that the 2014 AGM Minutes with the requested corrections and additions be approved.

2) Yellow Book – Procedures Manual

Be it moved that the proposed edits to the RSCDS TA Procedures Manual be approved.

3) Honorary Membership for John Clark

Be it moved that John Clark, Immediate Past Chair of the Toronto Association, be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Toronto Association in recognition of his years of service to the Association, culminating in his years as Chair.

4) Membership Fee Increase

Be it moved that RSCDS TA membership fees be increased \$4 per member to reflect the increase approved at the Society's 2015 AGM.

Volunteer Appreciation Dance

Date & Time: Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: Scotch Mist
Hosts: • Erin Mills (Friday) • Petronella • Trinity
• Highlands of Durham

The Jubilee Jig	J 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet 11
β Sugar Candie	S 8x32	RSCDS Book 26/9
Blethering Beth	J 8x32	Robertson, Edinburgh 90th Anniv.
A Trip To Bavaria	R 4x32	MacGregor-Brown, Collins
Sands of Morar	S 8x32	Priddey, RSCDS Book 45/6
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel	R 8x32	RSCDS Book 5

Interval

β The Castle of Mey	R 8x32	Walton, RSCDS Diamond Jubilee
Uncle Bill's Jig	J 8x32	Goldring, Graded & Social 3
My Friend Joe	S 8x32	Campbell, RSCDS Book 38/2
John of Bon Accord	R 8x32	Goldring, RSCDS Book 33/5
The Swan and The Tay	S 3x32	Saunders, Perth 800
Father To Son	R 8x32	Scott, Coast To Coast CD

Extra

Tap The Barrel	R 3x32	Burridge, A 3rd Graded Book
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β = dances to be briefed only. Others will be walked once.

Entry fee: TA Members: \$22 • Non-members: \$28 • Student members: \$10
• Youth / Spectators: \$5

The Monthly Dance is a scent-free and nut-free environment.

Toronto Association Classes ~ Winter/Spring Session ~

Thursday Evenings, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue, Toronto

April 14 - May 12 [Note: these are corrected dates]

- **ADVANCED, LEVEL 3** (5 classes) – Teacher, Keith Bark (downstairs in the Hurndale Room)

April 7 - May 26 [Note: these are corrected dates]

- **EXTENSION CLASSES** (8 classes) - Teaching is shared among teachers of Basic and Intermediate Classes (upstairs in the auditorium)

More details: www.DanceScottish.ca

Level 3 – Advanced Classes, conducted over 5 weeks in late spring, continue to build on the skill base of the dancers. New formations and dances of more complexity in their combination of patterns are introduced to challenge the more experienced dancer.

Extension Classes are offered over 8 weeks in the spring, as a bridge between the end of regular classes and the beginning of the 4 weeks of Dancing in the Park. The classes also extend the learning experience, as dancers review the steps and formations previously taught and are introduced to new ones. Dances are reviewed and new ones taught, some of which may be on the programmes for the West Toronto Ball or Dancing in the Park.

Come join us and share the wonderful experience of Scottish country dance! We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.



Medal Test Assessments at Rosedale

THIRTEEN DANCERS FROM ROSEDALE participated in medal test assessments, January 30. Sandy Gallamore flew in from Virginia to observe the dancers and assess their competence in each dance and formation, their ability in their steps, and their overall performance.

This year we had three dancers sit their introductory award. They had to perform two dances as first couple — *Reel for Jeannie* and *Cumberland Reel*. One dancer sat Level 2 and performed *Provost Wynd*, *Hedwig's Reel* and *Lady C Bruce's Reel*. She was supported by three different partners in her dances and danced very confidently. Nine dancers sat their Level 3 medal test and were tested on formations such as set to and turn corners and poussette. Third positions in these figures were closely observed! They danced *Mrs Macleod*, *Scottish Reform* and *Maids of Currie*. Sandy was very friendly and put everyone at ease.

Some of our senior dancers who completed their Level 5 (the highest level) last year came out to support the younger ones doing their test and help them to walk through their dances before they had to perform. They all performed extremely well (and some wore the kilt for the first time).

Kate, who sat her Level 3 medal tests, said, "The medal test went well (I think). Nobody messed up or forgot any of the dances and I think everyone tried their best. The only problem was a few forgotten curtsies for the introductory award level. Otherwise, I think everything was good. Sandy Gallamore, the Medal Test Assessor, was nice: he made the introductory dancers feel welcome and calmed down the other dancers, too. Surprisingly, he remembered almost everyone's name. For my Grade 3 test, my group was asked to show our skip change, pas de basque, and pas de basque travelling."

The dancers now eagerly await their results, which will go from Virginia to Scotland and back to Canada. I don't think anyone has anything to worry about, everyone did extremely well.

...Moirra Korus



PIPPA KILBOURN ASKED TERESA LOCKHART to introduce Scottish country dance to her grade 11 Cultural Anthropology class at Weston Collegiate. Pippa had mentioned SCD in class and the students wanted to know more. What better way than by dancing for an hour? Here is a sample of the students' remarks.

#1 "SCD is a form of dance originating from Scotland and involves quick and light steps, and it will usually involve or retell a story of Scottish myths and folklore. The dance is very fast pace [sic] with light foot movement and can serve as an opportunity to get the whole community involved.

At the start of this experience I was at first reluctant because I don't dance, and found some of the foot movements tricky. This did not stop me from enjoying the dance class later on because, although I wasn't necessarily doing all the dance moves correctly or perfectly, I still had a lot of fun just participating. If this experience this came up again, I would gladly accept it."

#2 "Personally, I think that SCD is pretty cool and lots of fun. SCD is used to tell old tales, but instead of just reading it [sic] you dance it. It involves a lot of skipping, turning, and handholding. A key thing to remember when SC dancing is to always look at your partner to show respect. Overall my experience with SCD was amazing and I would love to be able to do it again. I now understand why you love it so much, and actually do it often. Thank you for the amazing opportunity "

#4 "SCD is a traditional dance from Scotland that is performed in groups of men and women. There's a degree of equality in it and it brings people from all walks of life together because you are constantly switching partners. On the dance floor it doesn't matter if you're young or old, rich or poor, but that you participate and develop your dancing skills. Men and women also wear kilts/quilts?"

#5 "SCD is a cultural and traditional dance from [sic] the Scottish. Dancers move to the beat as they move around in the dancing circle. This involves many hand gestures such as handholding or clapping and several leg movements such as tapping or kicking. The music is generally fast paced whether it's in beats of 4 or 8 creating a very cheerful atmosphere. SCD is a dance that brings people together and allows them to enjoy [sic] and have a good time."

#7 "According to me SCD is a wonderful dance style, which is made up of various famous steps, myths, poems and stories. It created a very lively and fun atmosphere, but was also danced in a very respectful manner. The movements are very bouncy and requires [sic] a good amount of energy. It helps you wake up and get your body to feel alive. I loved how along with dancing we were learning many other things such as some famous myths. In all, it was a fun experience that I would love to do again and learn more about."



Dance on The Hill:

As part of its 50th Anniversary celebrations, RSCDS Ottawa will be dancing on the lawn to the music of the Peace Tower Carillon. Some Scottish country dances will be specially arranged for the event. Info: www.rscdsottawa.ca

Reel of the 51st: Demo Pool Dancers Encounter Historical Link



Anne Anderson, Jane Robinson, Valerie Fisher, Dennis Ridley with Hugh Oliver.

Recently a team of dancers from the Demo Pool was part of the entertainment at a Burns celebration at a retirement home. However, the tables were turned when one of the retirees took the floor to say a few words. He, Hugh Oliver, explained that his older brother Peter Oliver signed up at the start of WWII and was taken prisoner in France by the Germans in 1940 while defending Dunkirk.

Along with others from Highland regiments, Peter was marched a thousand miles to a POW camp near Salzburg. There

he met up with Jimmy Atkinson and Tom Harris Hunter, both of whom had been involved in Scottish country dancing back home in Scotland. Peter was made responsible for forming a reeling club, which met three times a week on the roof of the prison hospital.

Just dancing was not enough for the three of them, and they decided to devise a dance of their own involving a figure which symbolised the St Andrew's Cross. At first the men had to dance to their own whistling as the Germans had confiscated their bagpipes, but later the Red Cross supplied them with bagpipe chanters and then someone was able to lay their hands on an accordion. In the autumn of 1941, the POWs performed their dance for the first time. Atkinson and Hunter both included instructions for the dance in letters sent home. Atkinson's letter was intercepted by the Germans, who thought the instructions were a secret code. However, Hunter's letter arrived safely in the hands of his wife, who was secretary of the Perth branch of SCDS (forerunner of RSCDS) at the time. Mrs. Hunter shared the instructions with a number of groups and soon the dance became a favourite. It was known by a few different names, but by the time it was published in 1945 by the SCDS it was called *The Reel of the 51st Division*. This dance has become well loved and is danced frequently throughout the world.

Much of this story is familiar to us, but to meet the brother of one of the devisors brought it to life. To round off the entertainment the Demo Pool danced *The Reel of the 51st Division* for Hugh Oliver in memory of his brother, Peter.

... Valerie Fisher

Ed.: Some of the Demo Pool dancers returned to the seniors' home to get a photo of Hugh Oliver. Dancers who performed but were unable to return for the photo are Maureen Richardson, Dianne Graham, Nancy White, Stella Henderson, and Andrew Henderson.



THE DANCING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD COMES TO TORONTO.

With support from the Toronto Association, we are running a course to prepare dancers for the Dancing Achievement Award. The award is aimed at able dancers who wish to perfect their steps, formations, and dancing. This course is for you if you want to improve your personal dancing, or if you might in future be interested in taking your teacher's certificate. There are three levels of Dancing Achievement Awards — intermediate, advanced, and very advanced. On this occasion, the course is aimed at the advanced level. This level requires sound knowledge of nine well-known dances (three reels, three jigs, and three strathspeys) and a number of formations. Dancers should be familiar with the dances and formations before starting the course. This is a chance to perfect technique and practise dancing as a team.

At Rosedale Presbyterian Church on the following dates:

- Friday, Feb. 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 11, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 9, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 29, 7:30-9:30 p.m. OR Saturday, May 7, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

The assessment is tentatively slated for the weekend of May 14.

To learn more, or to participate (it's not too late), please email Moira Korus smkorus@sympatico.ca

Grace Notes



MARJORIE COULTER

July 18, 1916 - February 11, 2016

Marjorie just missed her 100th birthday by a few months. She started dancing many years ago and in 1966 she decided to start a group in Brampton, where she lived. Marjorie loved to dance and never missed a Wednesday evening at St Andrew's of Brampton. She gave up dancing in her early nineties, with much regret, but always remained interested in the group.



Looking for a different vacation this year?

Join fellow dancers on a trip to Newfoundland

Leaves Aug. 7 for 10 days. \$3,795 (double) and \$4,545 (single) plus H.S.T. Includes all transportation, sight-seeing, accommodation, breakfast, 5 lunches, and 6 dinners. Book before April 22 to save \$100 per person. For more info call: Carole Skinner, 416 386 1620, or Muriel Nicoll, 416 439 3293 or Denure Tours, 1 800 668 6859

What's in a Name?

Here is something new for me. As I close in on reaching 100 of these columns over the past nine years or so, being some kind of amateur historian cum geographer, I cannot remember ever before tackling a SCD with Irish background.

Well, with a name like Kilkenny, it was hardly going to be located somewhere in Scotland, was it? Kilkenny Castle is to be found a few clicks southwest of Dublin. Just up the road to the north is Kildare, and to the south, Waterford — which is, of course, internationally known for the quality of its excellent crystal.

I used to think that Kilkenny had an honourable mention in a song from the 1947 Broadway musical, *Finian's Rainbow*. A movie version came 20 years later. You'll remember the song for sure, "How are things in Glocca Morra?", and the line as I remembered it was "Is that little brook still leaping there? Does it still run down to Donny's Cove? Through Killybegs, Kilkenny and Kildare?" Kilkenny? Whoops! The lyrics actually say Kilkerry. Double letter R! The song's lyricist must surely have meant Kilkenny, because as far as I can tell, no such place as Kilkerry exists in Ireland. It is a fictional name. But, of course so is Glocca Morra itself. On top of which, Killybegs is in County Donegal, up in Ulster, a completely different part of Ireland. OK! Enough of this geographical hocus pocus, let's get back to Kilkenny Castle itself.

Built by the Normans in 1195 to secure control over a number of Irish routeways, including a ford over the river Nore, the castle was designed to continue the establishment of Norman domination throughout much of the British Isles. This domination over Britain included Scotland where the kings of the day such as Malcolm, David, and William were trying hard to attract Norman barons into Scotland to help protect their birthright.

The dance, a strathspey, is the work of a devisor named Bill Forbes about whom I do not have much information although he did devise about 50 dances — most of which are unfamiliar to me. I am sure that a veteran dancer from somewhere will fill me in on this quite prolific devisor.



As a sidebar, I do have to humbly admit never having visited Ireland, even though my parents' English home did have an Irish name. You know how middle-class Brits like to have a name of significance for their home to supplement the usual street number. The Pipes' family home in Derbyshire was called "Kildare".

I believe this was on account of my father Fred, who was a gunner in the Royal Artillery in World War I. Fred's unit was transferred from the Western Front in France to Ireland as part of the effort to put down The Easter Rebellion in April of 1916.

As for Norman domination, the pre-existing natives, more or less, Anglo-Saxons in England, and Celts in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales seemed to quite easily absorb those past invaders from France through subsequent centuries. Most of those dominating castles became completely or partly ruined, including Kilkenny in Ireland, which as said earlier I have never seen, but among my favourite ruins for visitation are Bamburgh in Northumbria, together with a couple in Wales ... Conwy and Harlech.

As it happened, in the 1600s, Kilkenny became "one of the ruins that Cromwell knocked about a bit" (from an old English music hall song). After centuries of private ownership, it was sold to the people of Kilkenny in 1967 for £67, give or take at that time, around \$200 I believe.

To wrap up, the Irish Free State did finally achieve independence in 1922 and as we all know is now the republic of Eire.

...Barry Pipes, mccallum.pipes@rogers.com

New Members' Tea



HEINZ AND MARGARET RIEGER HOSTED THE NEW MEMBERS' TEA at their beautiful Leaside home.

Not every new member could attend but those who did had a lovely afternoon of tea and conversation.

L-R: Ian Markham, Charlene Norgrove, Janet Markham, Helen Reid, Deborah Chalmers, Jerry Wong, John Ventura, Anne Moloney, Kevin Moloney, Mary Newberry, Rory Sinclair, Fiona Alberti, Paul Muther, Ulla Dagert, Sheena Gilks
(In the background: John Clark poured tea :-)



Tartan Ball Video:
<http://ow.ly/ZlFam>

Tartan Ball Pictures:
<http://ow.ly/ZmNN1>

URL is case-sensitive: There are no numerals, both skinny characters are lowercase L

Case-sensitive: The first skinny character is a lowercase L; the last skinny is numeral one

It was the YouTube Ball

SO MANY NEW DANCERS came to the Tartan Ball this year. They were well prepared. They brought expectant energy to the room and they had a wonderful evening — as did their fellow, more experienced dancers. Dancers old and new worked hard with their teachers to learn the dances and that learning was supplemented by posted videos. Over and over dancers tapped me on the shoulder and said, “Thanks for the videos!” One lady said she has given up on Downton Abbey and now only watches dance videos.

Appreciation is, of course appreciated. However, assigning credit for posted videos casts a very broad net.

First credit goes to the dancers who appear in the clips. Thanks for your energy and especially for your engaging smiles — they make all the difference. Sombre faces staring at the floor are of little use for demonstrating the joy of Scottish dance.

Credit, too, goes to Reuben Freemantle, of the Scottish Country Dance Dictionary website. Most of the video links on our posted brief sheets go to his website, where he has instructions, dance diagrams by Keith Rose, background snippets, and curated collections of video gleaned from the vast fields of YouTube.

Dances on YouTube are not always correct, or beautiful, and sometimes they’ve been modified for a demonstration. One need be aware of this and follow your teacher, not just a video clip.

There is a marketing strategy behind the YouTube channel referred to in the graphic above. There are more than 100 dances posted there, mostly by Toronto dancers, and each one is “branded” www.dancescottish.ca. When Reuben includes our dances in his collection he helps to spread our reputation and brings people to our website. Many of the new dancers pictured on page 6 are “Tickle List” people. . . folk who have come to our website, filled in a brief contact form asking to be alerted to the beginning of classes . . . and here they are! They thoroughly enjoyed the Tartan Ball and they’ve shared the fun and excitement of SCD, either verbally, or by sharing a video link. The posted video of *Red House* has been seen, worldwide, by 250 people in the two weeks it’s been posted. Many more Tartan Ball videos will soon follow.

And Teachers, when choosing a Gala Day dance, think about a dance that’s not yet on YouTube. It will surely then be popular viewing and thus advertise your Social Group.

...Rob Lockhart

A Strange but Marvellous Tale

THANK YOU RICHARD KNIGHT OF VISITSCOTLAND, for supporting our Tartan Ball with Air Canada Rouge tickets to Scotland. Thanks also to dancers at the ball who, I’m told, gave me a standing ovation (to which I was oblivious) when Richard, holding the winning ticket, asked “Is there a Rob in the room?” Teresa and I will certainly enjoy Scotland!

Here’s the spooky bit: Years ago I read a fascinating book, *Hunting the 1918 Flu*. There are no pictures of the author in the book. Shortly thereafter Teresa and I are at the St Andrew’s Ball, enjoying the Beat The Retreat ceremony. A group of Highland dancers are in the spotlight, dancing with powerful grace. My eye was drawn to one in particular. I nudged Teresa and said, “That’s her! That’s the author of that book about the flu.” I had no way of knowing this, I just did! It was, of course, Kirsty Duncan, who, a decade later, picked my name from a raffle box.

...Rob Lockhart

CITY OF BELFAST: 3S32

RSCDS Belfast celebrates 70 years April 29th and are asking groups worldwide to dance *City of Belfast*, make a video, and send it to:
secretary@rscdsbelfast.org



FOR SALE: Gentleman’s Black Watch Kilt



Handmade in Scotland
by Wm. Glenn in 2015

Excellent condition
Waist 36” Length 22.5” 3 overall
to fit man 5’4” to 5’6”
Complete with Flashes & Tie
Special price for dancers \$350
pre listed on Kijiji for \$450
Contact Jon Allen-Friend:
416 483 1541 or jon@jonfriend.com

Upcoming Events: NEAR

Mar. 12 ~ **March Monthly Dance Beginners' Night** ~ 7:30 p.m. at Crescent School. Music by Scotch Mist.

Mar. 13 ~ **Shifftin' Bobbins** ~ 2 - 4 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill. Andrew Collins teaching.

www.shifftinbobbins.webs.com

Apr. 1 - **Erin Mills Welcomes Gary Coull** 8-10 pm at the Mississauga Seniors' Centre, Olga Tyne Auditorium, 1389 Cawthra Rd. (East side, at Arbor Crt., 2 lights south of QEW) Info: Jean Hamilton 905 566 9599

Apr. 2 ~ **31st Annual West End Workshop** ~ Turner Fenton Secondary School, Brampton.

Apr. 3 ~ **Teachers' Workshop** ~ 2 - 5 p.m. at Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore W., Mississauga. Gary Coull will lead this workshop for teachers and teacher candidates. Music: Don Bartlett. \$15. Info: taylorbarbara@sympatico.ca

Apr. 3 ~ **Tartan Day in Port Perry** ~ Kirkin' O'The Tartan in the afternoon followed by a party.

Apr. 9 ~ **Volunteer Appreciation Dance** ~ 7:00 p.m. at Crescent School. Music by Scotch Mist.

Apr. 10 ~ **Shifftin' Bobbins** ~ 2 - 4 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill. Season closer with emcee Christine Bassnet and music by Fred Moyes.

www.shifftinbobbins.webs.com

Apr. 16 ~ **The Young Dancers' Ball** ~ Dancers 35 yrs and under are invited to Cummer Ave United Church to dance to music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs.

Apr. 30 ~ **AGM & Dance** ~ 7:30 p.m. at Crescent School. Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs.

May 7 ~ **RSCDS Toronto Gala Day** ~ Save the date. Social groups will share and demo interesting dances.

May 14 ~ **47th Annual West Toronto Ball** ~ The 47th Annual West Toronto Ball held at the beautiful Sala Caboto in Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave., Toronto. Music by Scotch Mist. Info: Moira Loudoun mloudoun@bell.net

May 17 ~ **Calvin's Spring Celebration** ~ Music by Don Bartlett. Calvin Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.

May 18 ~ **Glenview's Spring Fling** ~ Music by Fred Moyes. Glenview Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.

May 25 ~ **St Andrew's of Brampton's Spring Dance** ~ St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton 7:30 p.m.

June 18 ~ **White Heather Ball**, at the General Sikorski Hall, Oshawa. Music by Scotch Mist.

Demo Pool Practice Dates

2-4 p.m. Sunday afternoons at Broadlands

◆ Mar 20 ◆ Apr 17

The Demo Pool welcomes interested dancers familiar with the basic formations.

Contact: Stella Henderson 416 498 1940

Upcoming Events: FAR

Apr. 2 ~ **RSCDS Hamilton John Middleton Ball**. At the Polish Alliance Hall, 1015 Barton Street East, Hamilton.

www.rscdshamilton.org/events.html

Apr. 2 ~ **Border Cities Workshop**. At the Rosedale Country Club, Windsor. Teacher Tracy Applebee; music by Fred Moyes. www.rscdswindsor.org

Apr. 8 - 10 ~ **RSCDS Lyon (France) 30th Anniversary Weekend**. Teachers: Roberta Gotfried, Fred DeMarse. Musicians: The Flying Kiwis. Welcome ceilidh Friday evening. Highland, cultural, and gastronomic options. www.rscds-lyon.fr/en

Apr. 16 ~ **RSCDS Ottawa Golden Anniversary Ball**. Dance to Laird Brown and the Scotch Mist at Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, 200 Coventry Rd., Ottawa. Get your tickets early, we expect to be sold out quickly. Info: www.rscdsottawa.ca

Apr. 22-24 ~ **Picton Tartan Tea Weekend**. Music: Fred Moyes. Friday social. Saturday morning and afternoon workshop with teachers Scott and Catherine Reid, Hamilton. Saturday lunch, dinner and informal dance. Sunday afternoon - Tartan Tea Dance. All at Picton Yacht Club. Info: Sheila Keller, 613 393 2955 or ckeller@sympatico.ca or see rscdskingston.org under local events.

May 7 ~ **RSCDS London (Ontario) Annual Spring Ball**. Great Hall Western University. Music by Scotch Mist. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org

May 20 ~ **Pawling Weekend**. At Circle Lodge, Sylvan Lake N.Y. Teachers: Pat Houghton, Tim Wilson, Robert McOwen. Info: 201 694 4646 or pawlingweekend@gmail.com

June 24 - 30 ~ **Prague Scottish Country Dance Week**. Five days of intensive dancing. Teachers: Ron Wallace and Muriel Johnstone on piano. Optional sight-seeing tour to southern Bohemia. Details: <http://www.dvorana.cz>

More events, near and far, are listed on the website: www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html
www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Far.html

May 27- 29: Stoney Lake Weekend

Guest teacher: Maureen Richardson

Music: Fred Moyes.

Workshop registration:

jfreeves@sympatico.ca

705 748-5255



At beautiful Irwin Inn: www.irwininn.com

RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

St Andrews Summer School

17 July 2016 to 14 Aug. (opt for any of 4 weeks)

Dance with folk from around the world in beautiful St Andrews. Top teachers and musicians. Week 3 is Young Dancers' week, which this year also features a pilot Junior Summer School for 8-11 year olds.

Applications must be received by 30 April 2016.

Scholarships are available.

www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2016

BROADLANDS

2-4 p.m. Sunday afternoons at Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills

◆ Apr 24: High Impact Dances

Moira Korus invites you to an energetic, High Impact Class for the strong Intermediate and Advanced dancer who can maintain a high energy level for a 2-hour class.



Scotland's National Tourism Organisation
www.visitscotland.com



Website visitors can win a stay in Scotland for 5 nights, including entry to must-visit attractions and overnight stays in 5-star accommodation — including Dalhousie Castle!

Attend a Board Meeting

Any member of RSCDS Toronto is welcome to attend a Board meeting as a silent observer.

Arrange attendance with Secretary, Nancy White: nawhite15@gmail.com

