



From the Chair...



Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Looks as if we may now be into spring; I certainly hope so! This time last year, we attended a wedding in the north of Scotland. There was sunshine, blue skies and masses of daffodils. The following weekend they

had snow, so we in Canada are not the only ones with contrary weather.

It was certainly spring inside the hall of Cummer United Church recently, with the colourful dresses at the Youth Ball. Our youth danced the night away with sparkling eyes, happy faces, and dancing feet. Low in numbers, but high in energy.

In the old Celtic calendar, May 1st was Beltane, the fires of Bel, Celtic sun-god of Gaul. Beltane was the end of the dark half of the year in the Celtic calendar. May 1st was considered the first day of summer, celebrated with a fire festival. A sacred bonfire was lit on a hilltop (usually by a Druid) and household hearth fires (previously extinguished) were rekindled from that.

In the 1960s as a student in Edinburgh, I would climb Arthur's Seat (a hill in the centre of Edinburgh), to wash my face in the dew at sunrise — carefully avoiding the sheep! We walked across Edinburgh from boarding school to arrive around 5:30 a.m. and back in time for breakfast and the school day.

Local churches would hold a service at sunrise on top of Arthur's Seat. One year, the university students held a Druid ceremony at the same time, this being the start of their Charities Week. The students dress in outlandish garb and roam the city and the Scottish Borders collecting for charity. It must have been unusually hot that year with an enterprising person frying eggs on the pavement in Princes Street using the heat of the sun.

We shall have to wait a few weeks for that sort of heat here in Toronto.

Meanwhile, I hope to meet many of you dancing at Gala Day on May 7th.

Slàinte.

Deirdre

2015-16 Volunteer Awards



Forbes Duncan

Forbes, along with his wife Marie, started Branch Classes in 2001. He has been a strong supporter of the Toronto Association and a generous volunteer at many events ever since. He and Marie are active dancers, often dancing five times a week, or more if they can. Forbes regularly dances at Scarborough, Hillcrest, Glenview, Trinity, and Erin Mills, supporting them with his enthusiastic dancing, and kindly chauffeuring other dancers to the groups as well.

Forbes started volunteering early in his Scottish country dance career and hasn't stopped yet. He spent many years on the Demo team as a dancer and coordinator. He also performed in the Seniors' Jubilee at Roy Thompson Hall. He has been on the workshop committee, assisted at the youth ball, and been a marshal at the Tartan Ball.

For the past 10 years, Forbes has been Monthly Dance Convenor, in charge of managing the monthly dances and the AGM. He is the friendly face that welcomes you to the dance. As Monthly Dance Convenor, Forbes' duties are numerous. He and his team ensure that we all have an enjoyable evening by arriving early to set up, making sure we have social group hosts to assist with refreshments, and briefers and brief sheets. He makes sure the dance programme and host groups are included in the newsletter and posted to the website, and ensures that the musicians and the refreshment ladies are paid. He is the last one to leave the dance, making sure all is in order, and gathering up any lost and found items.

Our events do not run themselves. Rather, their success and our enjoyment of them is a direct result of hardworking, dedicated people, like Forbes. Always in good humour, Forbes is a generous volunteer, a gentleman, and a wonderful ambassador for Scottish Country dancing.



Carole Bell

Carole Bell and her husband, Ron, started dancing in the late 1980s at Board of Education SCD classes and then at Branch Classes (as they were then called) in 1992/3. They joined Jean Hamilton's Erin Mills group in the fall of 1992 and later danced in Jean's Ceilidh Scottish Country Dance demo group. Along with Ron, Carole has been a faithful member of the Hillcrest social group since the late 1980s and has offered hospitality on many occasions.

Carole strongly supports Toronto Association activities as well as working with outreach. As Association Class Convenor from the late 1990s until 2006, she was instrumental in securing three venues serving the east, west, and north of the city for Level 1 classes. She served as Communications Director from 2006 to 2012 and has been Newsletter Editor since 2006. Ten years of Newsletter Committee meetings have been made both productive and enjoyable by Carole's leadership as well as her hospitality – no small matter!

She is committed to outreach activities, such as helping with the Ceilidh dances at St Leonard's church and delivering postcards promoting SCD in neighbourhoods near beginners' classes. She was also involved in the creation of our promotional dance shirts and is often seen at the shirt table at monthly dances.

Carole's creative imagination, her ideas for promotion and lateral thinking in order to see possibilities and connections that might not occur to many of us, and her skills with people are a real asset to the Toronto Association. All of us lucky enough to know and work alongside her appreciate her helpfulness and enthusiasm and, even more important, her sense of humour and joy in dancing. All of these contributions are well deserving of recognition.

Special Events

South Simcoe SCD Spring Fling

Friday, May 6 ~ 7:30 - 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.

This Ball is the perfect for the beginner dancer to experience the pomp and ceremony of a ball. Socialize with fellow dancers at the reception at 5

p.m., enjoy a delicious meal, participate in the Grand March, then dance the night away to the uplifting music of Scotch Mist. All-inclusive dinner/dance ticket \$80 per person. Tickets from your group and online at www.dancescottish.ca Info: contact Moira Loudoun at 905-274-0229 mloudoun@bell.net



Calvin's Spring Dance

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

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. 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

Glenview Presb. 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 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 Union Street. Tickets are \$8 at the door; the programme will be on the website. Info: Ann Campbell, 905 459 5213 ann.campbell@rogers.com

O Gala Day! Callooh! Callay!

Saturday, May 7

12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

\$5 per adult

St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave,
(Nr. Lawrence Subway)

Whether you are a student, son, daughter, mother, father, grandmother or grandfather. . . come and join your group for a fun afternoon in "The Spirit of the Dance".

All levels are welcome.

Easy participation dances between performances.

Light refreshments included

(food donations will be gratefully accepted)

One entry per dance group; 5 minute max demo.

Contact: Teresa.Lockhart@rogers.com 416 759 9845

By April 27: Send entries to Teresa. Include name of dance, tempo, length of performance, copy of the music required, and dancers' names.

A DVD of the performances will be available at a later date, proceeds to DITP.

White Heather Ball

Saturday, June 18 General Sikorski Hall in Oshawa

Music by Scotch Mist. Further details TBA. Save the date!



Orillia Scottish Festival

Saturday, July 16 ~ 1:30 p.m.

Couchiching Park, Orillia

Dancers of all ages... join us in the mass dancing of the opening ceremonies. Sign up as a 4-couple set from your dance group or come on your own and be matched up to form sets. We'll do three short simple dances for the several thousand spectators. Honoraria are given for

each full set (4 couples) from a SCD group.

Parade at noon. Opening Ceremonies 1:30.

The Argent's Annual Potluck and BBQ is open to all dancers and friends; immediately following closing ceremonies. To register or for more info: Linda Argent 705 487 5868 largent@jcl-tech.com

Dancing in the Park 2016: The tradition continues!



2016 DITP Programme by Moira Korus

Week 1 June 7

The Highland Fair	6 x 32 J	Book of Graded SCDances
The Music Makars	8 x 32 R	Goldring, RSCDS Book 33 / 1
The Silver Tassie	8 x 32 S	Drewry, Bon Accord Book
▶ Festival Interceltique	5 x 32+8 R	Ian Brockbank, Four Dances 2008
Orpington Caledonians	8 x 32 R	John Brenchley, Book 49
Longfield Reel	8 x 32 R	James Lamb, Second Graded Book
▶ Charlestown Chaser	4 x 32 R	See & Eaton, Second Graded Book
Mr. Gallamore's Strathspey	4 x 32 S	Elaine Brunken, Moments In Time
The Isle	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Graded Book
Memory Lane	8 x 32 R	G MacKinnon, Ena Smith Memorial Book
Extras		
Domino 5	5 x 32 R	D Haynes, Second Book of Graded SCDs
Balquidder Strathspey	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 24

Week 2 June 14

The Greenbelt Jig	8 x 32 J	Elaine Brunken, Moments In Time
Milton's Welcome	8 x 32 R	John Bayly, Book 33
Aging Gracefully	8 x 32 S	Carlyn Bromann, Book 47
▶ Gypsy's Thread	4 x 32 R	Unknown devisor
The Duke Of Atholl's Reel	8 x 32 J	Skillern, RSCDS Book 16
Bill Clement MBE	8 x 32 J	John Wilkinson, Book 47
Lord Elgin's Reel	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 26
▶ The Grassmarket Reel	5 x 32 R	Tim Wilson, 5 Dances 2009
Chasing The Eclipse	3 x 32 S	Gallamore, The Highland Road Collection

Week 3 June 21

Cell Phone Jig	8 x 32 J	Gary Knox, Strathspey, Message 22026
Davy Nick Nack	8 x 32 H	Bob Campbell, Glasgow Assembly
The Braes Of Mellinish	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 25
▶ The Haymakers	4 x 48 J	RSCDS Book 2
Flowers Of Edinburgh	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 1
The Machine Without Horses	8 x 32 J	John Rutherford, Book 12
▶ The Dashing White Sergeant	6 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 3
The Golden Years	8 x 32 S	Nora Sutherland, Book 48
Postie's Jig	4 x 32 J	Ray Clowes, Ormskirk Book 5
The Highland Rambler	8 x 32 R	Roy Goldring, Leeds Silver Jubilee

Week 4 June 28

EH3 7AF	8 x 32 J	Roy Goldring, Book 40
The Clansman	8 x 32 R	Derek Haynes, Book 32
Seann Truibhas Willichan	6 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 27
▶ Bridge Of Athlone	4 x 48 R	Ceilidh Round the Steeple
The Pawling Porch	8 x 32 R	Elaine Brunken, Moments in Time
Hedwig's Reel	8 x 32 J	Stella Phillips, 2nd Book of Graded Dances
The Waratah Weaver	4 x 32 J	Elma See, 2nd Book of Graded Dances
Amhuinnuidhe* Castle	8 x 32 S	Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Coast to Coast
The Chequered Court	8 x 32 J	Duncan Brown, RSCDS Book 42
Swiss Lassie	8 x 32 R	Rosi Betsch, RSCDS Book 39

▶ = Audience participation invited

* Pronounced ave-an-soo-e

Edwards Gardens ~ Tuesdays in June ~ 7 p.m. to Dusk Music by Scotch Mist

Come, join in the fun, and remember to bring a friend. This is one of our most popular outreach events. All are welcome: dancers, would-be dancers, and spectators alike. We appreciate your participation and support. There is no official charge but your contributions to the donation box help keep the tradition going.

We dance on The Green (behind the barn) at Edwards Gardens (Leslie & Lawrence Ave. East), weather permitting. If rain threatens on June 7, a cancellation notice will be posted on our website by 4:00 p.m. For the other three evenings, we have a Rain Location: Church of the Ascension, 33 Overland Drive. Again, check the website at 4:00 to confirm the venue.

... Dave Drewette, Convenor



A Winning Programme

Congratulations to Theresa Malek! Her proposed programme for the 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dance was chosen as the best entry. Thanks to the other participants for their efforts. The selection process was a blind assessment by the Teachers' Panel and the Board. We look forward to doing Theresa's dances next April.

... Wayne Fraser, Membership



The youth ball was super fun, as usual. About 18 youth attended, mostly from Rosedale, but there were three from a group in Hamilton and Lucas from Buffalo. The food was particularly awesome this year, with cupcakes and ice cream for dessert! The music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs was, as usual, great. It's always exciting to dance with a real band. The most fun thing for me was that during one of the dances, rather than spinning during a circle round and back, I did a high kick and then a jumping jack! Camille and I couldn't stop laughing!

It seemed as well that there were more volunteers there this year. It's important to recognize how much work goes into an event such as this, and I think all of the youth were really grateful! Everyone also enjoyed the prizes, and several new dancers (one a mutual friend of Meg and me) won a prize! Overall, it was a really great, lively evening! I think the only complaint was that we could have danced even longer!

... Jane Yearwood, Rosedale



Lady Susan Stewart (1767-1841)

What's in a Name?

What's this? Yet another dance named for one of the Scottish aristocracy? For sure, there has been no shortage of blue-blooded Stewarts from which to choose, whichever way it is spelled. The Bonny Prince for example!

But let's start with Lady Susan's father, John Stewart. He was a Scottish peer, the 7th Earl of Galloway, and quite infamous in his day which was the mid to late 1700s. James Boswell, an eminent Scottish biographer of that era, once wrote of John Stewart that he had "a petulant forwardness that cannot fail to disgust people of sense and delicacy." Even Robbie Burns targeted Lady Susan's father with an epigram that started "What dost thou in that mansion fair? Flit, Galloway, and find some narrow, dirty dungeon cave, the picture of thy mind." Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that John Stewart was in the process of siring sixteen children, of whom Lady Susan was the third. Perhaps Burns was somewhat envious, being himself no slouch with the ladies.

So enough about John Stewart, the 7th Earl of Galloway, except to say that for the last 23 years of his life, he was appointed Lord of the Bedchamber to King George III, a position for which John seemed to be eminently suited.

At the age of 24, Lady Susan entered into wedlock with the Duke of Marlborough, the 5th in fact. By family name, he was George Spencer-Churchill. Whoa! Spencer? Churchill? Ah! Now we seem to have some added significance as to why someone devised an SCD reel celebrating Lady Susan Stewart. She went on to have four children, all boys, during which time the Duke, Spencer-Churchill himself, added a further nine illegitimate offspring elsewhere.

Lady Susan Stewart's Reel

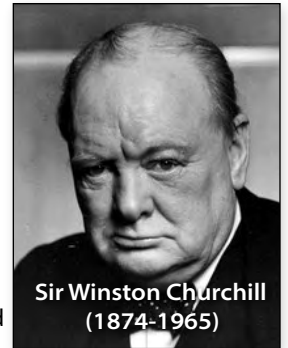
Most of us will probably remember one of the most famous of Lady Susan's (now the Duchess of Marlborough) descendants. That would be Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain during the Second World War. He was the great, great, grandson of Lady Susan and her husband George Spencer-Churchill, through their first child.

Now, some readers may perhaps need a little memory prompt about the Spencer half of Lady Susan's family tree. Well, it so happens that in 1981, a certain Lady Diana Spencer married Charles, the Prince of Wales. Remember her? Her father was the 8th Earl Spencer, and if we go back to where we started in Lady Susan Stewart's day, there was a family merger, through the complexities of inheritance. It involved a branch of the Spencer family merging with the Dukes of Marlborough a.k.a. the Churchills. Many of whom through the passage of time, seemed to have lived "happily ever after" (more or less) at either a monumental country estate called Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, or the Spencer family mansion in Northamptonshire called Althorp, where Lady Diana Spencer is buried.

All of which seems to indicate quite clearly a blood relationship between Winston Churchill, the late Princess of Wales, and the focus of our story, Lady Susan Stewart. Although I am by no means a Royalist, I am moved to believe that she deserves a celebratory reel in her name.

Lady Susan Stewart's Reel was included in the program of RSCDS Toronto's Volunteer Appreciation Night just two or three weeks back. The dance came to light back in 1928 when it was published in RSCDS Book 5, but may have been devised much earlier. The deviser remains anonymous.

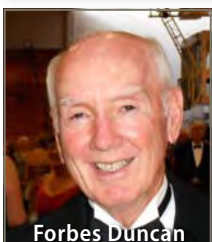
...Barry Pipes, mccallum.pipes@rogers.com



Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Volunteer Appreciation Dance

50/50 Draw
 Proceeds from 50/50 draws at Monthly Dances support Dancing In The Park.
 At the April Volunteer Appreciation Dance Pat Brown won \$112.



Forbes Duncan

ON A BEAUTIFUL WINTER EVENING IN APRIL, we held our second Volunteer Appreciation Dance. 101 attended, 54 signed in as volunteers, and even though they could have had free admission, many generously made a donation to the Toronto RSCDS. At the interval we were treated to a wonderful spread thanks to our host groups, Petronella, Erin Mills (Friday), Trinity, and Highlands of Durham.

Two volunteer awards were given out, to Carole Bell and Forbes Duncan.

Our emcees for the evening were Carole Skinner, Jean Hamilton, and David Booz.

This was our last Monthly Dance for the 2015-16 season. We would like to thank all the dancers that supported the dances. A special thank you to the teachers from the Social Groups and from Branch Classes who prepared and encouraged their dancers to attend, also Teresa Lockhart for devising the programmes. Keep checking the website and the *Set & Link* for the dates of next season's dances starting in the Fall.

... Forbes Duncan, on behalf of the Monthly Dance Committee

Team Building & the Ford Factor



Photos by Stella Tai

'Twas the night before Christmas

– well not exactly. In my workplace, it was the monthly Professional Development meeting for December combined with lunch to become the politically correct “Seasonal Event” (i.e. our Christmas lunch). Those of us volunteered onto the committee are tasked to come up with an inspirational team-building event.

Our first meeting commenced. We brainstormed for a unique theme, and games to keep everyone motivated and engaged. The games suggested had either been done before or were a bit lame. I sat as calmly as I could . . . and then pulled out my Scottish country dancing soap box and gave them the Moloney SCD speech (yes, Kevin has been known to do this too, and sometimes our unfortunate listener gets the speech in stereo). The rest of the committee were either in shock, didn’t understand the concept, or couldn’t understand my accent – my speech tends to speed up when I am particularly enthusiastic about my subject. I was given the green light to explore having Scottish country dancing as the main event.

Back at my desk I emailed the two ladies who were my first contacts in SCD, namely Barbara Taylor, my first teacher, and Teresa Lockhart, teacher of St. Clement’s, the first social group I dared to attend when beginner classes finished. Within half an hour both ladies replied. They thought this was a perfect idea for a team-building event and offered to facilitate it! Teresa informed me of the importance one Henry Ford placed on Scottish country dancing as a team builder within his rather famous company (see sidebar).

Barbara and Teresa put together an amazing program for the event. The theme of the team-building program is kept secret and many of my colleagues were in awe when Michael and Robert (husbands of Barbara and Teresa) arrived KILTLED! People didn’t know what was in store. Some thought they’d be getting a demonstration and so could sit back and relax. Uh, uh. In a flash Teresa organized the moving of the tables with instructions to “. . . squoosh these tables to this side, and squoosh these to the other side!” It looked like the parting of the waters. By now one could hear murmurings and some people were hiding behind pillars or suddenly volunteered to go to the kitchen to help with the wash-up. “Not so fast,” Teresa said, and with that and Barbara’s gentle persuasion most people were willing to take the plunge.

In the 45 minutes allotted Teresa and Barbara led the group through about 5 progressively co-operative dances, starting with everyone moving around in a circle (with a lot of self-consciousness) and ending with a dance in a five-couple set. It was an excellent programme, demonstrating the very essence of team work, with a whole lot of fun.



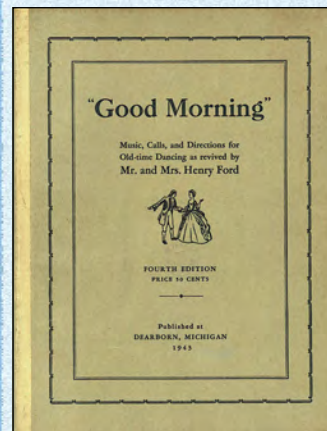
To say I was anxious how this would be received is an understatement, especially when my department head told me he thought it might be a good idea, but I was taking a great risk. Another fellow said he’d love to see the reaction of my male colleagues when they are expected to hold hands. I needn’t have worried. Barbara and Teresa put a tremendous amount of work into this and must be congratulated on what turned out to be a resounding success. The room full of smiling faces was evidence enough. Then there was the noise level towards the end when people were enthusiastically helping, directing and ordering one other “right hand; no, left hand!” “You turn with the right first and then the left”, etc.

For days after the event I was greeted with smiling faces and lots of congratulations on a great event and told how much fun everyone had. It doesn’t get better than that. I don’t envy my colleagues who have to come up with the team-building idea for this coming December. They’ll be challenged to offer a better team-building exercise than Scottish country dancing!

. . . Anne Moloney



Have you danced a Quadrille lately?



Henry Ford was an icon of industrial efficiency. In 1943 WWII was raging and the industrial might of the Ford Motor Company was fully committed to the war effort. So why, in this time of stress and peril, did Ford insist that his senior management staff attend dance classes where, willing or not, they were taught jigs, reels, square dances, and especially quadrilles?

He believed that co-operative traditional dance sharpened teamwork, social skills, and anticipatory thinking. This book, *Good Morning: Music, Calls, and Directions for Old-time Dancing as revived by Mr and Mrs Henry Ford*, was published at Dearborn in 1943, and sold for 50¢. Many of the dance titles are familiar to, or resonate with, Scottish county dancers; e.g.: *Barn Dance, Military Schottische, Scotch Reel, Virginia Reel, Valeta Waltz, and Money Musk* (not a typo). Also included is the famous quadrille (square set dance), *The Lancers*, a variation of which Georgina Finlay’s dancers demoed at the 2008 Gala Day*.

I ordered *Good Morning* on-line from ABEbooks.com for \$12.60. A few days later it arrived from a used bookshop in rural England. On the flyleaf was an inscription, dated 1945, of the original owner, whose address was Glenholme Avenue, Toronto. . . . Rob Lockhart

* *The Lancers* from 2008: <https://youtu.be/SKkAAgzNwUI>

Introducing Karen Reed on the fiddle

When I received the phone call from Laird about joining Scotch Mist, I was very excited. I knew Laird's dad from years back through the Canadian old time fiddle contest circuit and, simply put, I loved his music.

I am originally from Sudbury, and I grew up in a musical family. We were steeped in country music. My three brothers, sister, and I all played the fiddle. We played other instruments as well, and I learned accordion — which I played in our family band. My fiddle playing was reserved for the contests, and I won numerous championships (12 and under Canadian Champion, Women's Open North American Champion, Ontario Open Champion, Grand Master's finalist, top 10 in the Canadian Open).

When I moved away from home, the fiddle became my main instrument. I continued to play Canadian old time but also started playing Celtic tunes. Joining Laird's band moved me further into a new style of fiddling — with a big learning curve. I didn't know most of the tunes and hadn't played strathspeys before.

I play by ear and the sets are so numerous and intense that I have to follow the music and hope not to get lost! There is a lot to listen to and learn as I adapt to the style. Laird has been very supportive and is a wealth of information, which has been extremely helpful. I couldn't ask for a better band to be a part of and am honoured to be their fiddler.

... Karen Reed



Queen Vic Kids feel the beat

Once again the halls of Queen Victoria Public School in downtown Toronto are alive with the sound of music – Scottish music that is. Scottish country dancing has been a tradition at QVPS for over 20 years. Since mid-winter, 48 spirited

children in grades 2, 3, and 4 have been meeting three times a week in the school foyer for 45 minutes of fun and exercise.

As the older children dance, the kindergarten classes clap their hands and tap their feet to the music as they watch.

The children anticipate each session with joy and enthusiasm. After grades 2, 3, and 4 are finished the kindergarten kids take over the foyer, practising simple movements to marches, reels, jigs, and strathspeys. They especially love *The Prince of Orange*, a round-the-room dance with a forward-and-back formation which also involves clapping hands and stamping feet.

It is a delight to see how children of different ethnic backgrounds enjoy dancing together. They develop a sense of rhythm as well positive social skills. And word is spreading. This year I was invited to teach Scottish country dancing at Mill Valley Junior School in the northwest part of the city. At our first session four classes filled the gym with 58 students participating.

... Lourdes Genosa

Board Bulletin

Help for social groups

At our annual meeting of social groups and the RSCDS Toronto Board last autumn the issue of special financial support for social groups was raised.

The Board wants social groups to thrive and prosper – they are the heart and soul of SCD.

In this spirit the Board will consider requests for short-term loans to social groups under certain circumstances.

For example, social groups with declining numbers and/or increasing rental costs may need short-term help to cover rental costs.

In addition, we will consider modest, short-term financial support to new social groups that may require advance funds to cover upfront rental costs, or other costs associated with launching a new social group.

We're here to help.

For further information please contact Wayne Ellwood, Communications Director: ellwoodw@gmail.com



Dear Editor...

THANK YOU, RSCDS TORONTO

Thank you to the RSCDS Toronto Association for the Volunteer Award I received at the April 9th Volunteer Appreciation Dance. It is very much appreciated. Scottish Country Dancing has been a big part of life for Marie and me for the past 14 years. We have had many wonderful times, and made many new friends.

...Forbes Duncan

DANCING IN NEW ZEALAND

I was fortunate to have two weeks off for March break, and I decided it was time to go visit my friend and her family in Auckland, New Zealand. Before I left I thought I would check to see if there were any social groups in the area where my friend lived. Happily, there were two! I ended up dancing at Royal Oak and Knox. The New Zealand dancers were so welcoming. I learned several new dances (I love *The Irish Rover*), and there was lots of laughter and fun. Truly, you can dance Scottish anywhere :-)

...Leslie Miller

RSCDS LYON 30TH ANNIVERSARY

I attended the 30th anniversary weekend dance of the Lyon RSCDS branch. The Friday night Welcome Ceilidh was all in French. I saw many of my old dancing friends from other European countries after a few years and also made a few new friends. Teachers were from California, including Fred De Marse, who will come to TAC Summer School this year. The musicians "Flying Kiwis" were excellent and more like the Scottish traditional sound.

...Kim Horne



RENDEZ-VOUS À VICHY

Can you spot these fine folk who have been to workshops in Toronto or at TAC Summer school?

• Antoine Rousseau • Fiona Grant • Bill Zobel • Muriel Johnstone • Ian Richardson • Jim Lindsay • Graham Donald • Pat Houghton • Chris Harris

Along with 160 dancers from 13 countries, we enjoyed a wonderful workshop for “advanced” dancers in Vichy, France, over Easter weekend. It was fun to reconnect with dancing friends we had known from TAC and St. Andrews Summer Schools, as well as to meet enthusiastic dancers from near and far. RSCDS Paris sponsors this three-day event every four years at a different location in France.

Graham Donald, Toronto Workshop teacher in 2013, led the group through three sessions (thankfully in English). Dancing to Muriel Johnstone on piano, Jim Lindsay on accordion, and Iain Robertson on fiddle was awesome. The 16th century Palais des Congrès venue was elegant, but it was no surprise that the aging parquet floors posed a challenge — there was much taping down of floorboards.

The meals were spectacular (see inset) and the wines well chosen. An *aperitif* of champagne with chestnut liqueur was served before the Sunday night ball.

Antoine Rousseau, Chair of Paris Branch and our Toronto workshop teacher in 2015, and his committee made for a dancing *expérience merveilleuse!* If you are enticed to plan for 2020, registration for this sell-out event may begin in late fall 2019.

What great opportunities there are to pack our ghillies for events hosted all over the world. H.I.S.C.D.
...Christy and Bill Barber



A typical meal at Vichy

An Amazing Meeting Through Scottish Country Dance



In the summer of 1950 Anne Renton (now Anderson), age 9, finished her first year at George Watson's Ladies' College in Edinburgh. She had no idea that one day she would meet her teacher “Miss Burrows” some 60 years later and thousands of miles distant — in Toronto, Canada.

It was a happy and totally amazing meeting, all through Scottish country dancing. Anne is a member of the Demo Pool of the RSCDS Toronto; Miss Burrows

(now Margaret Day) had danced all her life from 5 years old with George Watson's redoubtable Miss Graham, and then to serious Scottish country dance classes with well-known teachers Allie Anderson and Florence Leslie. She was soon demonstrating with RSCDS Edinburgh and, on arriving in Canada, continued to dance in rural Ontario.

In the summer of 2013 the Demo Pool was invited to do a demo at the Church of the Ascension's Summer Fair. It's Margaret's church, and she watched every step with interest and approved their professionalism. After several dances some of the ladies came to the Bake Table where Margaret was helping to sell the goodies. While chatting to one of the ladies (Anne Anderson), Margaret discovered they both came from Edinburgh — which prompted the next question, “What school?” On learning they had both attended GWLC, Margaret, having graduated in 1940, had no illusions that they would ever have met as students. Anne, on the other hand, learning Margaret's maiden name and that she had been a teacher there immediately said, “Miss Burrows, You taught me! We all loved you — you were so young and fun!”

To say that both were absolutely astounded is putting it mildly! Margaret, alas, had to confess that she could not remember Anne, but this was rectified when Anne gave Margaret her class photo of July 1950. It now holds pride of place in Margaret's living room, much to the delight of her family as it is the only photo they have seen of their mother as a teacher.

Of course there followed a happy ending when Anne took her 90-year-old former teacher onto the floor to dance *The Flowers of Edinburgh*....what else!
...Anne Anderson and Margaret Day

Upcoming Events: NEAR

May 6 ~ **South Simcoe SCD Spring Fling** ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Knox Church Hall, 160 King St. S., Alliston.

May 7 ~ **RSCDS Toronto Gala Day** ~ A fun afternoon! Social groups will share and demo interesting dances. 12:30 - 4:00 at St Leonard's, 25 Wanless Ave.

May 14 ~ **47th Annual West Toronto Ball** ~ at 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.

May 29 ~ **Dance Demo at Carassauga** ~ **Demo Pool and Rosedale.** 2:30 p.m. at Hershey Sportzone outdoor stage, 5600 Rose Cherry Place, Mississauga.

June 7, 14, 21, 28 ~ **Dancing In The Park** ~ Edwards Gardens 7:00 p.m. to dusk. Music by Scotch Mist.

June 18 ~ **White Heather Ball** ~ Sikorski Hall, Oshawa. Music by Scotch Mist Details TBA.

July 16 ~ **Orillia Scottish Festival** ~ Come alone or in a group to dance in the Opening Ceremonies (1:30 start). Couchiching Park. Info: Linda Argent 705 487 5868.



A CELTIC CELEBRATION

Beautiful choir music. Selections from Burns and Celtic Thunder.

7:30pm at Hebron Christian Reformed Church, 4240 Anderson St., Whitby. Tickets \$30 from: June MacLean 905 728 1739. Or contact Alice Chase alice.chase3@gmail.com



THE LUMINATO FESTIVAL

A vividly-imagined trilogy is a compelling narrative on Scottish culture and nationhood. Hailed as "a towering achievement" that's "better than Shakespeare". At the Hearn Generating Station, Toronto. 10% discount for groups of 10.

www.luminatofestival.com/festival/2016/James-Plays

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Upcoming Events: FAR

May 7 ~ **RSCDS St. Catharines Spring Ball.** Champagne Banquet Hall, 294 Vine Street, St. Catharines, ON. Music: Don Bartlett & the Scottish Heirs.

Info: rscdsstcatharines.ca

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

www.rscdslondoncanada.org

May 20 ~ **Dance On Parliament Hill with RSCDS Ottawa.** Dance on the green to music by the carillon bells of the Peace Tower. <http://dancescottishottawa.ca> 613 496 0201

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

May 28 ~ **Oakville SCD Group's 60th Anniversary Celebration.** Dancing and afternoon tea from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Sir John Colborne Centre. Music by Don Bartlett. Info: www.oscdg.ca

June 24 - 26 ~ **Midwest Scottish Weekend.** Teachers: Sandy Gallamore and Janice Laycock. Music by Mara Shea and Dave Wiesler. At picturesque, historic Beloit College in Minnesota. Info: <https://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend>

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>

Aug 15 - 19 ~ **Scotch on the Rocks.** The Keppies invite you to enjoy a week in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Explore dancing, rocks, landforms, and history with Duncan and Maggie. Info: keppie@eastlink.ca

Sept 16 - 18 ~ **Scottish Weekend at Timber Ridge, WV.** Teachers: Jamie Berg (Norway), Rebecca Blackhall-Peters (BC), Sandy Gallamore (VA). Music by James Gray. Details: www.scottishweekend.org

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

Teacher: Maureen Richardson
Music: Fred Moyes.

Workshop registration:
jfreeves@sympatico.ca
705 748-5255

At beautiful Irwin Inn: www.irwininn.com



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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

TAC Summer School

July 31 to August 7

Bishop's University (near Sherbrooke, QC)

Teachers: Mary Murray (BC), Bill Williamson (Scotland), Fred DeMarse (CA), Janet Walker (PA).

Musicians: Kathy Fraser-Collins, Ian Muir, Laird Brown, Don Wood, Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins

Info: www.tac-rscds.org



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

