

From the Chair...



Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Winter is coming and the nights are drawing in. I have just spent an invigorating morning with the Rosedale Youth, who have such vibrant energy and enthusiasm for Scottish dance.

We hope to see them at the December Family Night, where they shall light up the room.

Twelve dancers from the Demo Pool are performing on the outdoor stage at the Toronto Christmas Market in the Distillery District on December 13. Come and support them! Last time we danced there it snowed and was rather cold; we hope for milder weather this season.

Christmas in Scotland was regarded as a children's festival, and a working day, until the late 1950s and early 1960s. I remember the postman delivering mail and the milkman with the milk float on Christmas day. In my father's boyhood in the Western Isles, Christmas was not celebrated at all, only New Year.

New Year, or Hogmanay, was a different matter; that was for adults. My mother would spend the evening of December 31 making sandwiches and assembling plates of shortbread and black bun. My father polished the whisky glasses and lined up various whiskies.

The family would watch the *Andy Stewart Show* until 1:00 a.m. and then the fun started.

First Footing! Traditionally, a tall, dark and handsome man was to be first through the door after midnight to ensure health and prosperity for the household. Neighbours visited and partook of shortbread, not to mention whisky. The celebrations continued through the night, as we first footed our friends. In parts of the north of Scotland this lasted several days.

Keith and I wish you all: *Nollaig Chrìdheil agus Bladhna Mhath Ur.*

Slàinte.

Deirdre



The Toronto Workshop and Dance

One hundred and fifty-six dancers came together

November 14 at Bishop Strachan School for the annual Toronto Workshop. This was the largest number attending a Toronto Workshop in recent history.

"Wonderful! So glad I came. My understanding and dancing improved I had FUN!" said a Basic dancer. "Loved learning hints and tips: 'Green light', posture, hands and arms; timing of steps to music, moving slightly to let dancers get around me," commented an Intermediate dancer. Dancers highly appreciated all of the teachers and musicians and they also enjoyed their "Scottish" shopping experience! To me, these comments, representing majority opinion derived from the evaluation forms, indicate that the Workshop was successful in its main purpose.

Thank you to my hard-working workshop committee, the sellers of books and clothes, and the many volunteers who put in so many hours to make the workshop a success!

We faced a number of obstacles. Just a month before the Workshop, the school administration told us that the dividing wall of the Warren Road gym was not working. The only other space available for the Basic Class was the theatre stage, which was challenging for the dancers.

We will examine other options for next year's Workshop.

By the way, mark November 12, 2016, in your calendars for next year's Toronto Workshop. One of our guest teachers, Linda Henderson, is in high demand for workshops across North America.

..Mike Morris, Workshop Convenor



53rd Tartan Ball News

The Tartan Ball committee is working hard on the details of Feb. 20 to ensure that a great time is had by all!

As you prepare for Christmas, consider buying someone a ticket to the Ball. That would be a wonderful gift!

The morning of the Ball, we need willing hands to volunteer some time to help us set up and decorate the ballroom. We meet at 9 a.m. in the Concert Hall at the Royal York and we enjoy coffee and treats while we make the room even more beautiful for the big event!

We also need line marshals that evening. To offer decorating assistance, contact Christy Barber at barber72@sympatico.ca. To be a line marshal, contact Bill Barber at william.barber054@sympatico.ca.

Finally, the Tartan Ball is for EVERYONE. If you are a new-ish dancer, I am excited to tell you there will be three special practices, just for you, on three consecutive Sunday afternoons prior to the Ball. Details are on this page. The practices will help you feel well prepared for the excitement and thrill of the Ball. It's not to be missed.

... Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor

January Monthly Dance

Date & Time: Saturday, January 16, 8 p.m.
Place: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs
Hosts: • St. Clement's • St. Andrew's of Brampton
 • St. Andrew's, Aurora

It's All Right	8x32 J	Second Book of Graded SCD/12
β Lady Dumfries	8x32 R	MMM
† Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8x32 S	RSCDS Leaflet 18
† Bill Clement MBE	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 47/1
† The Rose of the North	8x32 S	Goldring, Leeds Silver Jubilee
† Rest & Be Thankful	8x32 R	Grampian Collection

Interval

The Waratah Weaver	4x32 J	Second Book of Graded SCD/4
† Countess of Dunmore's Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 49/12
β Over the Hill	8x32 S	Haynes, Carnforth Coll 3
My Wife's a Winsome Wee Thing	8x32 J	Moretti, Pinewoods Coll 2
The Lea Rig	6x32 S	RSCDS Book 21/5
Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet 27

Extra

† Postie's Jig	4x32 J	Collins Book
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† = Tartan Ball dance

β = Briefed only

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

The dance is a scent-free and nut-free environment.

Hand sanitizers will be available.

Gently Used Sale at January Dance

There will be a selection of Tartan-Ball-ready ball gowns and other items for sale for those who missed the bargains at the Workshop.

Tartan Ball Practices

Calvin's Tartan Ball Practices

Tuesdays, January 26 & February 2 and 9 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. \$6
 Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Rd.

We will learn and practise the dances and the figures within them! Everyone is welcome. January 26 we will do the last 5 dances, February 2 we will do the middle 5 dances, and February 9 we will do the first 6 dances.

Glenview's Tartan Ball Practices

Wednesdays, February 10 & 17 ~ 7:30 p.m. \$6
 Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. (Lawrence & Yonge)
 Prepare for the event of the year by going through the complete ball programme over the two-week period with the Glenview SCD. More info: www.glenviewscd.org

St Clement's Tartan Ball Run-through

Monday, February 15 ~ 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. \$6
 The Great Hall of Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Rd, Forest Hill
 Preparedness is key to success. Test your Tartan Ball readiness with a run-through of the programme, top to bottom. Have a fun night of dancing while reviewing the dances.

Special Tartan Ball Practices for Newer Dancers

Sunday afternoons 2-4:00 p.m. January 24, 31, and February 7
 ~ \$5/class (Reserve by email)

Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills



Laurie McConachie

These special practices for newer dancers will be taught by Barbara Taylor. The classes will be comfortably paced and focussed on building skill and confidence with the exciting, and very do-able, Ball programme.

Space is limited. Please email me, Laurie McConachie to reserve your spot (laurie-m@rogers.com).

Special Events

Glenview Christmas Dance

Wednesday, December 9 ~ 7:30 p.m. - \$15 at the door

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave.



Enjoy dancing to the lively music of Fred Moyes at our annual Christmas dance, which will be followed by Christmas treats provided by the Glenview group. For the programme and cribs visit www.glenviewscd.org Contact: Ron Coffin coffin5494@yahoo.ca

Calvin's Holiday Celebration

Tuesday, December 15 ~ 7:30 p.m. - \$10

Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave.



Calvin SCD group invites all dancers to join our holiday celebration. Come and dance to the wonderful music of Don Bartlett on piano. Your \$10 entry fee includes light refreshments at the interval.

Contact Nancy Stokes at naristo@rogers.com

416 425-2195 or Mary Baldwin

mbaldwin456@hotmail.com 416 485 8280.

Glenview Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh

Thursday, December 31 ~ 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. - \$25

Grace Church On-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd.



Dance out 2015 to great music by Laird Brown and Don Wood, enjoy bring-and-share treats about midnight, and laugh at the ever-hilarious ceilidh afterwards. Tickets are limited, so reserve now from Valerie Fisher at 416 497 4186 v.fisher@sympatico.ca

www.glenview.org

Sunday afternoon at Broadlands: Paul Maloney presents *The Dookie Bookie*

Sunday, February 28 ~ 2 - 4 p.m. \$5 at the door

Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills

Paul Maloney will teach dances from *The Dookie Bookie* and *Another Dookie Bookie*. These books were produced, respectively, as part of the 30th and the 37th Australian Winter School, both held at Dookie Agricultural College, University of Melbourne.

And where did the name "Dookie" come from? Local lore has it that Mrs. Turnbull, wife of the agricultural station's proprietor, was unhappy at the prospect of a survey and possible farm subdivision. Because Mrs. Turnbull had lived in Ceylon, the surveyor suggested a place name derived from the Sinhalese word "duka", meaning "sorrow". Duka was re-spelt Dookie.

Experienced dancers are invited to enjoy a programme of dances from these books. Come and discover an unexpected Toronto Association connection!

31st Annual West End Workshop

Saturday, April 2~ A slightly later-than-usual date.

Taylor Fenton Secondary School, Brampton

Save the date. Teachers: Gary Coull, a wonderful young guest teacher from Scotland, and great local teachers Sara Posen and Jean Noble. Musicians: Don Bartlett and Laird Brown.

More details coming soon.

Toronto Association Classes ~ Winter/Spring Session ~

The RSCDS Toronto Association offers classes for adults of all ages and dancing abilities, including those who are just beginning, those who have danced for decades, and everyone in between.

Level 1 – The Basic Level Classes ~ Dancers will learn the five basic steps of Scottish country dance, and a variety of formations. These two elements will be combined in learning simple dances that incorporate some of the various steps and formations taught.

Level 2 – Intermediate Classes build on the steps and formations learned at the Basic Level, and introduce more complex formations. The dancers become more confident in their skills and abilities, and enjoy the challenge of more complex dances.

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, held Tuesday evenings in June at Edwards Gardens.

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

...Maureen Richardson, Education & Training Director

The Winter/Spring Session offers the following options:

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

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
January 7 - March 10

- Basic Level (10 classes) – Teacher, Vicky Zeltins
- Intermediate Level (10 classes) – Teacher, May Divers

March 24 - April 21

- Advanced Level (5 classes) – Teacher, Keith Bark
(downstairs in the Hurndale Room)

March 24 - May 12

- Extension Classes (8 classes) - Teaching is shared among Basic and Intermediate Class teachers (upstairs in the auditorium)

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

St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Avenue, Toronto
January 4 - March 14

- Basic Level (10 classes) – Teacher, Barbara Taylor

Aurora Seniors' Centre, 100 John West Way, Aurora
January 4 - March 14

- Basic Level (10 classes) – Teacher, Maureen Richardson

Please visit www.DanceScottish.ca for more details.



Helen Greenwood

Helen Greenwood: *Best Set in the Hall*

In November's *Set & Link* Barry wrote about *Best Set in the Hall*. We were pleased to receive this follow-up from Helen Greenwood, deviser of the dance. Thanks, Barry, for the article. I really enjoyed reading it. *Best Set in the Hall* is dedicated to Campbell Mackay, a long-time Auckland dancer. It was his custom when counting sets to stand at

the bottom of the hall with the requisite number of fingers in the air calling loudly for couples to join and selling it by saying that it was the best set in the hall. Since the dance was devised, he has stopped this practice, which was not the intention at all.

The movement in the middle was originally devised by Alec Hay, a prolific deviser here in Auckland, in his strathspey *Peter White*. In briefings here, it is often described as the 'Peter White movement.' Our Australian musician friends, Catherine Fraser and Duncan Smith, were playing for our dance when *Best Set in the Hall* was first put on a programme and they asked if they could include it on their CD, *Old Favourites and Odd Couples*, with the lead tune of *Danse de Chez Nous*. From there, it has gone on a most unexpected journey around the world and dancers from as far away as Toronto are interested in its story.

I am a New Zealander by way of Yorkshire and Canada. I was born in Yorkshire; we emigrated to Canada and lived in Montreal for 5 years then moved across the country to Chilliwack near Vancouver. My family still live there, but I came to New Zealand on holiday in 1981 and have been here ever since. This has led to a most confused accent: no matter where I go, people ask me where I am from. I started dancing in Auckland in the 1990s and have been a member of the Innes Club ever since. . . . *Helen Greenwood*



Dear Editor...

RE: BEST SET: I love reading *Set & Link* and haven't even finished this month's yet but feel the need to remark on the article "What's in a Name?" on *Best Set in the Hall*. The dance was called that as the MC (not sure if it was Helen herself or someone else) would exhort people to get up and "join the best set in the hall" when trying to get those last few couples needed to make up the last set, so it doesn't mean 'the best' necessarily in performance terms but certainly the best place in the room to be! :-)) Keep up the good work!

Regards, Amanda Peart, www.thesundayclass.org.uk

P.S. Friends of mine have grandchildren in New Zealand and were told by them (7-9 year olds) that their pronunciation was completely wrong. It should be (phonetically): Bist Sit in the Hole. So there you are! 😊

RE: TORONTO SCOTTISH: Your item on the Toronto Scottish was very interesting, a delightful reminder of past pleasures. Dorothy and I had some wonderful evenings of country dancing — in six countries. Great fun!

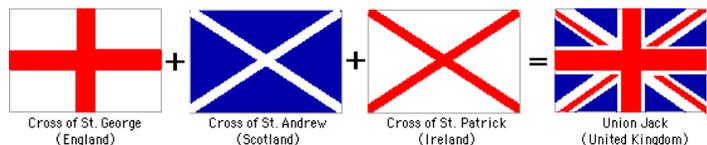
Joan Doran was a talented teacher and a lovely person to know. I simply revelled in all my Highland dance activity and even today I tell people dancing to the pipes is an unforgettable experience. Great times!

Kind regards, Henry Gibbs

What's in a Name? *The Saltire Society Reel*



As a young English lad, I was a Boy Scout, and one of the things I had to learn, to achieve the status of even a Second Class Scout, was the make-up and history of Britain's Union Jack. While it may look somewhat complicated, this flag constitutes three banners superimposed one on each other, namely the St. George's Cross (of England), the St. Andrew's Cross (of Scotland), and the St. Patrick's Cross (of Ireland). The latter two are of course diagonal crosses.



It may have gone over my head, but I don't think I ever heard the word saltire as part of this boyhood instruction. Only after having married a Glaswegian and been swallowed up in the world of Scottish country dancing, at a later point in life, did I learn what is meant by the word saltire.

It is a heraldic word and is described in my old fashioned but trusty OED (not an app, it's a dictionary!) as follows: "An ordinary, formed by a bend and a bend sinister, crossing each other." There is nothing sinister about that to me, and how is it that a straight diagonal line can be seen to be bent? Such are the eccentricities of the language of heraldry.

While I think that a saltire can apply to any diagonal cross...even Jamaica's very colourful flag could be said to contain a saltire...the word seems to have been, dare I say, borrowed to aspire to things culturally Scottish. There does indeed exist a Saltire Society. Headquartered in Edinburgh, the Society was founded in 1936 to promote and celebrate all things to do with Scottish culture and heritage. It is currently presided over by Magnus Linklater, an Orcadian by birth. (Magnus? What a name to live up to!) Although, come to think of it, the Christian cathedral for the Orkneys is called St. Magnus.



Now let's get back to the dance. *The Saltire Society Reel* was featured in the afternoon dance at the RSCDS Toronto Workshop last month. Devised as a Leaflet dance by the late Yorkshireman Roy Goldring, it has all the earmarks of Roy's talent in devising a smooth-flowing reel guaranteed to keep you on your toes.

About that St. Andrew's cross again — what if the Scottish independentistas had been fully successful in the September 2014 referendum? Imagine the colour and design of the British Union Jack minus the white saltire and blue background.



Unless Westminster had been allowed to retain it, the majesty and distinctiveness of this proud flag would surely have been severely diminished.

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

Jon Allen-Friend's AGM report:

The 86th AGM and Conference Weekend took place November 6, 7, and 8 in Bell's Sports Centre, Perth. As is usual on the Friday night, the weekend opened with

a social dance to superb music by Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band.

Saturday morning offered a choice between a general class taught by Angela Young and an open forum for members to provide both positive and negative opinion for the RSCDS' proposed 5-year Strategic Objectives. I attended the latter and found the opportunity to listen to such a variety of dancers from around the world a worthwhile experience. Whether the new leadership at 12 Coates Crescent is able to implement the numerous recommendations will of course remain to be seen.

The formal business of the AGM took place that afternoon with the main resolution to increase member fees by £2 (about \$4 CDN).

It provoked a lively discussion, especially as it follows other such increases in recent years. However, the increase did pass by a narrow majority.

The long meeting was soon forgotten after the dinner break when I joined over 550 dancers at the formal ball, dancing to music by the six-piece David Cunningham Band.

Sunday morning there was another general class taught by Jimmie Hill, while the Youth Services Committee hosted a drop-in forum and brunch.

...Jon Allen-Friend

AGM dance video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E4Eh2KydKg

Meet John Cass of Book 49 fame:

Recently, while visiting my home city of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, I had the opportunity to talk to John Cass about the dance written for him, and now published in the new RSCDS Book 49. I also had the opportunity to talk to Dr Peter Avery, who devised the dance *John Cass* to celebrate John's 90th birthday.

John Cass was born in April, 1922. He is now 93 years old and still very involved in Scottish country dance in the Newcastle area. He's been on the committee for Newcastle Branch for over 50 years and continues to be an active member. He has organized the Newcastle Festival for 30 years*, since its inception. John has been part of the Newcastle demonstration team and was its convener for many years, leading the team to festivals and events throughout Europe and in the United States. John currently teaches a very popular afternoon dance class in Newcastle, assisted by his wife, Patricia. He and Patricia have a son, Peter, who is also a dancer.

Peter Avery told me he had originally been approached by Ian Thow, an accordionist who used to live in Newcastle, and now lives in Scotland. Ian had written a 32-bar jig to celebrate John's 90th birthday and suggested that Peter write a dance to go with the music. For John, Peter wanted to write a 5-couple dance which included an old figure and a recent figure. Hence, the dance *John Cass* includes down the middle and up as the old figure and left shoulder tandem reels as the recent figure. Peter has devised and published other dances in the books *The Geordie Diamond* and *The Newcastle Half Century*. His well-loved dance *The Music Will Tell You* was published by the RSCDS in Book 41.

I asked John if there was any anecdote he would like to share about the dance. He told me that he had recently overheard two people talking about the dances in Book 49. One said to the other: "John Cass – is he still alive?" He had a quite chuckle about that!

I am happy to report that John is alive and dancing beautifully. I wish him many more years of dancing and teaching. He is an inspiration and a testament to the power of Scottish country dancing to keep people young at heart.

...Alma Smith

* *The Festival Man*, in RSCDS Book 48 also honours John Cass.



Deirdre MacCuish Bark's AGM report:

As we have since 2001, Keith and I visit family and friends in the north of Scotland and the Outer Hebrides each November, culminating in

attending the RSCDS AGM weekend, this year in Perth.

Crossing the Minch by ferry from Harris can be asking for trouble, but the weather was kind and the predicted storm did not arrive.

At the AGM, Keith and I were proxies for several North American Branches — between us we represented 13 Branches and 32 votes.

The main topic of discussion was the motion proposed by the Society to increase the annual subscription by £2 (to £20) to help the Society reduce its loss and to meet its objectives. They need the best staff and equipment at Coates Crescent. A spirited discussion ensued.

Those who spoke against the motion were from the UK, Australia, and North America. Objections included: increased fees result in a fall in membership; it is better that membership be increased at the grass roots; the Society is in a good financial position so an increase is not necessary; income should be raised from educational events such as Summer and Winter Schools. One suggestion was that 12 Coates Crescent be sold, as that would raise a great deal of money. However, that option was not received with approval by anyone.

Those in favour of the increase mentioned that it was not what we can get *out* of the Society but what we can do *for* it. A small increase to cover the running costs of the Society was very little in exchange for the enjoyment that the RSCDS gives us. It was suggested that we bring in more members from those who are already dancing and benefiting from the work of the RSCDS, perhaps a two-tier membership.

The voting, done with electronic pads with paper back up, resulted thus: Yes 184; No 145; and Abstentions 2. The motion was carried.

...Deirdre MacCuish Bark



Dancing Achievement Award

MOIRA KORUS WRITES: Are you interested in adding finesse to your dancing and obtaining personal critique on improving your dancing? Are you interested in developing your dancing to perhaps take your teaching certificate?



This year, the society relaunched the Dancing Achievement Award (replacing the Dancing Proficiency Award). The Dancing Achievement Award is open to all dancers and is an opportunity for dancers to work with a course tutor and concentrate on personal dancing critique. It is also a chance for those who are thinking of taking the RSCDS Teaching Qualifications to have their dancing assessed in preparation for Unit 2.

Interested dancers need to dance well, have some precision in their step work, and a good working knowledge of most formations. They must learn a set of 9 dances (3 reels, 3 jigs, 3 strathspeys), and they must attend a course for a minimum of five hours. The course is intended to bring the dancers together as a team while polishing the finer points of their performance in their steps, formations, and dances.

We currently have three teenagers at the Rosedale Childrens' group who are interested in being assessed for the advanced Dancing Achievement Award. However a minimum of 6 dancers is required for the society to organize assessors and for a course to run. Thus, we are looking for other dancers, of any age, in Toronto and area who are interested in participating.

The course would likely run over 2 or 3 days and will be arranged once we have a quorum. The assessment would likely take place this April. If you are interested please contact Moira Korus at smkorus@sympatico.ca

More info: <https://www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa>



Hello, my name is Jane Yearwood.

I have been part of the Rosedale Scottish country dancers for over 10 years, and every single year has been amazing. Today, however, I will be talking about my activities outside of dancing.

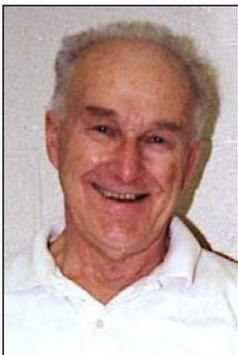
To begin, I am a member of the Jane Austen Society. I have been attending meetings for as long as I can remember, so, recently, I was very honoured to be the guest speaker at a Toronto Chapter meeting. The Jane Austen Society is a really important part of my life, and something that I greatly enjoy being a part of. Jane has increased my interest in history, and introduced me to a period and way of life when people had better manners, where iPhones did not reign supreme, where gentility was expected, and where good company, as Anne Elliot might say, was perhaps easier to come by.

I am also involved in many arts programmes at my school. Currently, I'm playing the role of Lady Anne in my school's production of *Richard III*, and I'm a member of the Senior and Chamber Choirs. Music and drama are two disciplines that I have always been passionate about so every rehearsal is, for me, as much fun as our actual performances!

Next, this being my final year of high school, I am involved in a couple of challenging but rewarding leadership positions. I am currently running a club which I founded last year, called the Chameleon Club. The mission of the club is to try a new activity each meeting, thus broadening the experiences of each of the members. I actually did a mini Scottish country dance class at one of our meetings! I am also working as a French group leader in order to promote the pursuit of the French language among students in my grade.

All the activities in which I am involved are incredibly fun and rewarding! Although I'm not sure where my interests will take me in the next chapter of my life, one thing I can say for sure is that, no matter what, Scottish country dancing will be a part of my life! ... Jane

Grace Notes



Bill Ramsay ~ d. November 13, 2015

I first met Bill and Mary Ramsay back in the 70s and we danced together for many years at St Andrew's of Brampton. Bill and Mary were long-time members of RSCDS Toronto and regularly attended the Tartan Ball, West Toronto Ball, and monthly dances. Bill just loved to dance. One of my fondest memories of Bill and Mary is Canada Day when for many years we used to do a demo at the Brampton celebrations and then go back to the Ramsays' for a potluck dinner and party.

Sadly, they had to give up dancing a few years ago due to Mary's physical problems and Bill's increasing memory ones. Bill passed away in his sleep at the age of 89. He will be missed by all of us at St Andrew's and by his children and grandchildren.

... Ann Campbell

Social Group Liaison Meeting ~ 29 November 2015 ~

Representatives from 17 social groups met with the TA Board to compare notes and swap ideas about building and strengthening social group attendance and participation across the GTA.

Some groups are facing a double whammy of declining numbers and increasing costs while others are thriving with a solid core of committed dancers. The focus of the discussion was how to entice beginner dancers from branch classes into social groups. Other issues included 'succession planning' as teachers age and the need for more day classes, both for those who work shifts and for those who are retired. There was agreement that word-of-mouth is the best way to attract new dancers and that social groups can help themselves by seeding promotional materials in their part of the city.

If you are interested in a more complete report, the minutes from the meeting will be posted on the website soon.

... Wayne Ellwood, Communications Director

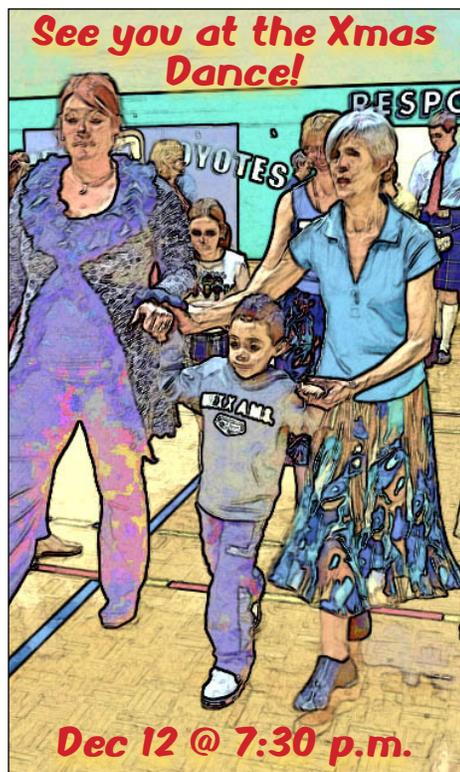
Devise a Dance Programme

Deadline extended to Jan 15, 2016

If you are keen to devise the programme for the April 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dance you now have a bit more time. Contact Maureen Richardson schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com or Wayne Fraser waynefraser@me.com for further information.

Upcoming Events: NEAR

- Dec. 9~ **Glenview's Christmas Dance** ~ at 7:30 p.m. at Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave.
- Dec. 12 ~ **Family Christmas Dance** ~ 7:30 p.m. at Crescent School. Music by Scotch Mist.
- Dec. 15~ **Calvin's Christmas Dance** ~ 7:30 p.m. at Calvin Presbyterian. Music by Don Bartlett.
- Dec. 31~ **Glenview's Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh** ~ at 8 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road
- Jan. 10 ~ **Shifftin' Bobbins** ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill. Moira Korus teaching.
- Jan. 16 ~ **January Monthly Dance** ~ 8:00 p.m. at Crescent School. Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs.
- Feb. 20 ~ **The 53rd Tartan Ball** – The best Scottish Country Dance Ball anywhere! Music by Scotch Mist.
- Apr. 2~ **31st Annual West End Workshop** ~ Taylor Fenton Secondary School, Brampton.
- 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.
- May 14 – **47th Annual West Toronto Ball** - Save the date. Held at the beautiful Sala Caboto in Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave, Toronto. Details to follow.



RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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Upcoming Events: FAR

- Dec. 11~ **Oakville's Christmas Dinner and Dance**. Join Oakville SCD at Knights of Columbus Hall, 1494 Wallace Rd., Oakville. Music: Don Bartlett. \$55 tickets: Alicia Manson manson@globalserve.net 905 849 7180
- Dec. 12~ **St. Catharines Christmas Dance**. 8 p.m. at Black Sea Hall, 455 Welland St. Music: Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs. \$25. Info: Maggie Sutherland 905 641 2470 or rscdsstcatharines@gmail.com www.rscdsstcatharines.ca
- Dec. 19 - **RSCDS London Christmas Dinner and Dance**. Polish Combatants Hall. Music: Scotch Mist. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org
- Feb. 12 - 14~ **Annual Weekend of SCD in Hawaii**. Join us in Honolulu for a weekend of dance lessons, social dancing to live music and a semi-formal ball and ceilidh. Teacher: Linda Henderson (California). Music: Humuhumunukunua'ia and Strathspey Society Band. www.rscdshawaii.org
- Feb. 26 - 27~ **RSCDS London (Canada) Workshop Weekend**. Workshop on Feb 27 at Polish Combatants Hall. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org.
- Mar. 4-6~ **Belleville Annual Workshop and Ball**. Music by Scotch Mist. Teachers TBA.
- Mar. 5~ **Hamilton Workshop & Tea Dance**. Teacher: Teresa Lockhart, music by Don Bartlett. 2 - 5 p.m. at Erskine Presb. Church, www.rscdshamilton.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
- May 7~ **RSCDS London (Canada) Annual Spring Ball**. Great Hall Western University. Music by Scotch Mist. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org
- 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



Dear Listeners,
I'm back! Now you can hear a weekly podcast of the Scottish music show: www.denissnowdon.com
Thank you all for your support and encouragement. ... Denis Snowdon



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Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

Winter School

21-26 February, 2016

Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Scotland

5 days of dancing and music with Janet Johnston, Ron Wallace, Jim Lindsay, Ian Robertson and others.

www.rscds.org/article/winter-school-2016-event

Demo Pool Practice Dates

2-4 p.m. Sunday afternoons at Broadlands
 ♦ Jan 3 ♦ Jan 17 ♦ Feb 21 ♦ Mar 20 ♦ Apr 17
 The Demo Pool welcomes interested dancers familiar with the basic formations.
 Contact: Stella Henderson 416 498 1940

BROADLANDS

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

- ♦ Feb 28: **The Dookie Bookie** and **Another Dookie Bookie** with Paul Maloney (details on page 3)
- ♦ Apr 24: Moira Korus will teach.



Scotland's National Tourism Organisation
www.visitscotland.com

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

