

How Dancers Joined The Toronto Scottish Regiment

From the Chair...



Deirdre MacCuish Bark

As you read this edition of *Set & Link*, Keith and I shall be on vacation — our annual visit to family and friends in the Western Isles of Scotland.

My father came from the island of Harris. As children, my sister and I spent our

summers there on my aunt's croft. One year we had an extended visit and, for a short while, we attended the local school.

Harris is one of the last unspoiled parts of the British Isles and well worth a visit, although the weather is not totally reliable. There are miles of white sandy beaches and clear turquoise seas, just like the Caribbean, if a little cooler! I find I need to breathe Harris air, scented with peat smoke, at least once a year.

From Harris we travel (ferries and weather permitting) to Perth for the RSCDS AGM, which we have attended for the last 15 years or so.

The RSCDS has its AGM during the first weekend in November of each year. There we meet dancers from all over the world, many of whom have visited North America and danced with us. In attending, we bring greetings to our fellow dancers and represent Toronto to the Society. We try to ensure that Scotland understands the problems we face in North America with declining dancer numbers. We also convey the Toronto votes, and with this new system of voting and proxies we can carry other North American decisions as well. We anticipate a lively weekend.

Nearer home there are all kinds of exciting events coming: interesting Sunday classes at Broadlands, and the Workshop November 14, with three top teachers. Friday evening, on the eve of the main Saturday workshop, Antoine Rousseau will teach a special social class hosted by St Clement's and Woodglen at St John's United Church (info on page 3).

For other exciting activities, keep an eye on the website and *Set & Link*.

Slàinte.

Deirdre



A Hodden Grey kilt

The brownish/pink colour of this kilt is known as Hodden Grey—the colour of Elcho tartan, the regimental tartan of the London Scottish. It's named for the regiment's first commander, Lt. Col. Lord Elcho, who once explained his reason for selecting the plain peasant cloth to represent the regiment: "A soldier is a man hunter. As a deer stalker chooses the least visible of colours, so ought a soldier to be clad." Hodden Grey is the colour worn by the Toronto Scottish regiment.

Willie Hynd, Malcolm MacLean, Bob Waugh, and Henry Gibbs, who is now 93. As a middle-aged man with Scottish country dance experience at Grace Church-on-the-Hill where Bill Murray taught, Henry joined the Armouries group to learn Highland dance. He was eager to learn and with stamina and agility "he practised many hours per night to meet the S.O.B. standards and passed all tests up to and including the Gold level," said his wife, Dorothy.

The men danced at significant events along with the pipes and drums of the Toronto Scottish: military parades, a performance on Parliament Hill, annual Hogmanay gigs at an Etobicoke restaurant, and the annual Geneva Park workshop where Scottish country dancing was the dominant dance form and Highland demos and skits surfaced in ceilidhs. Wes Clendinning was the mastermind securing costumes (appropriate or hilarious) for each performance as the venue dictated.

Other male dancers included John Hurd, Louis Racic, Jim Waugh, Blair Gerrie, Paul Maloney, Rod Nicoll, Douglas Cordiner, and Alan Younger. Joan taught Highland dance to this group for seventeen consecutive years. She then took a break when >>>see *The Regiment*, page 4

A Highland Regiment typically has a troupe of dancers, but that was not the case with the Toronto Scottish for nearly five decades. Having been formed on July 1, 1915, disbanded in April 1919, and resurrected on September 1, 1921, it ultimately became the Toronto Scottish Regiment (Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's Own), in 2000 in recognition of The Queen Mother, who was Colonel-in-Chief from 1938. Regiment members wearing their Hodden Grey tartan were part of the escort at her funeral on April 5, 2002, four months before her 102nd birthday.

In the 1960s, with Toronto Pipe Major Johnny Wakefield and Drum Major Norman MacKenzie, Jim McLellan thought it would be a good idea to add dancers to their public performances. Since it was a male regiment, only males were permitted to join, and as protocol dictated, only men did. Joan Doran (née Waters, now James), a Scottish country dancer as well as a certified Scottish Official Board (S.O.B.) Highland dance teacher, was contacted to teach a group of men who already had a Scottish country dance background to learn traditional Highland dances: *Highland Fling*, *Strathspey and Highland Reel*, *The Reel of Tulloch*, *Broadswords*, and *Toronto Scottish Broadswords* choreographed by Joan. However, the group never did learn either the *Sailor's Hornpipe* or the *Irish Jig*. Generally, they were assembled not so much for dance examinations as for fun and to learn Highland dances well enough for demonstrations with the pipe band. Many of these dancers, nonetheless, did take exams.

Joan issued an open invitation for dancers to join this class from various Scottish dance groups across Toronto. Respondents came mainly from the west end. The principal dancers were Jim McLellan, John Anderson, Bob Blackie, Wes Clendinning, Doug Stephen, Bryan Cardy, Gerry Gray,



Her Majesty The Queen Mother and PM Ian King, clad in Hodden Grey and sporting Her Majesty's pipe banner signifying that he is her appointed personal piper (1992)

December Family Xmas Dance

NO STREET SHOES IN THE GYM!

Date & Time: Saturday, December 12, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.
Place: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue
Music: Scotch Mist
Hosts: • Woodglen • Glenview • Humbercrest

† A Trip to Crinan	8 x32 J	Coast to Coast
† Lady Glasgow	8x32 S	MMM
The Dancing Bees	8x32 R	Goldring, 24 Graded & Social
Tarry A While	6x32 J	Graded Book
Montparnasse	4x32 S	Dix, Reel Friends 3
The Sailor	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 24/4
	Interval	
Waltz Country Dance	4x40 Waltz	(2 face 2) RSCDS Book 4/8
Granville Market	8x32 J	2nd Book of Graded SCD/18
Eric's Reel	8x32 R	Brockbank, Edinburgh 90th
Lord Elgin's Reel	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 26/5
Red Nose Jig	4x32 J (4C set)	2nd Book of Graded SCD/10
† Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 18/10
	Extra	
Polka Dot	5x32 R (5 person)	Minicrib

† = Tartan Ball dance

All dances will be briefed and walked

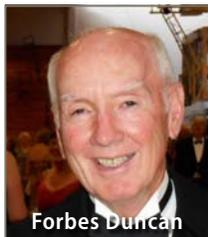
Entry fees: TA Members: \$22 • Non-members: \$28 • Student members: \$10
 • Youth / Spectators: \$5. Special for those in Level 1 Classes: \$10

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

Hand sanitizers will be available.

Monthly Dance Report

The first dance of the 2015-16 season, October 3 was quite successful, with 92 attending. That's an increase of 15 over the same dance last year. The majority of those attending were regulars, the people we see at most dances. It's disappointing that we don't get more of our newer dancers to participate. Come out and give it a try. We are a friendly group and always willing to help. The programme and the band make for a great evening of dancing. There's nothing too complicated — and if it goes wrong. . . *it's just a dance!* Good humour will prevail.



Forbes Duncan

The next monthly dance, Family Christmas Night, is December 12. It starts early, 7:30 p.m. at Crescent School. It's one of the best nights of the year. We encourage children to attend. There is no shortage of dancers willing and able to get them through a dance — and some of the kids can help you! This is also a perfect night for beginners to experience the thrill of dancing to live music — it will inspire you. Those enrolled in Level 1 Association Classes get a special admission of \$10. A great opportunity is just around the corner for those who would like to volunteer and contribute to the success of our association. The Monthly Dance Committee needs some new blood to take over down the road. If you are interested please talk to me, Ken MacKinnon, or Ken Adamson.

... Forbes Duncan

Set & Link ~ November 2015 ~ Page 2

53rd Tartan Ball News

I am excited to be the Convenor of the Tartan Ball for the third year! Your Ball committee is working hard to plan another great event — the 53rd Tartan Ball, February 20, 2016. I encourage you to join us for a truly magical night of dining and dancing in the spectacular Concert Hall of the Royal York Hotel. The Tartan Ball is for everyone and it's the highlight of the dance season.

Don't miss it!

To assist our newer dancers in preparing to enjoy dancing at the Tartan Ball, we will have three Sunday afternoon dance practices at Broadlands Community Centre — just for you! The dates are: Jan. 24, Jan. 31, and Feb. 7, 2016.

Mark your calendar.

Purchase your tickets to the Tartan Ball early, by November 30, 2015, and your name will be entered in the Early Bird Draw.

The prize is a free room for two at the beautiful Fairmont Royal York Hotel on the day of the Ball. How much fun would that be? Fine dining and joyful dancing at the Ball 'til the wee hours, and the luxury of an overnight stay at the Royal York. The draw takes place at the December Family Christmas dance. So, don't miss out, buy your tickets now.

... Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor



YOU COULD BE CONVENOR OF DANCING IN THE PARK

We are looking for a new Convenor for Dancing in the Park. Dancing in the Park takes place at Edwards Gardens on four Tuesday evenings in June. It is a great outreach activity, which is fun for dancers of all levels of experience and all ages.

Consider volunteering your time and talent to run this event. Please contact me for more info and I will be happy to answer any questions.

I extend my gratitude to Graham Anderson for successfully coordinating the Dancing in the Park for the last five years.

... Louis Racic, Program Director: 905 430 1255 louis.racic@gmail.com

Special Events

A Social Evening with Antoine

Friday, Nov 13 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

St John's United Church, 2 Norbert Rd. (nr Victoria Park & 401)



Come enjoy an evening of social dancing led by Antoine Rousseau. All are welcome. This evening is all about the joy of dancing Scottish, possibly with a French flavour. Hosted by St Clement's and Woodglen. \$6 at the door.

Gently Used Clothing Sale

Saturday, Nov 14 ~ from 10 a.m., coincident with the Workshop

Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road, Forest Hill

Ball gowns, kilts, jackets, accessories, books, surprises — all at bargain prices. Don't miss it.

Après Workshop Afternoon Dance

Saturday, Nov 14 ~ 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road, Forest Hill

Optionally included in your workshop package. Even if you can't attend the Workshop, please come to the dance. We'll have music by Scotch Mist. Usual prices apply.

Teachers' Workshop with Antoine

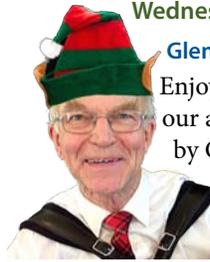
Sunday, Nov 15 ~ 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Westway United Church, 8 Templar Drive, Etobicoke

This workshop is open to any who teach a Scottish country dance class, teacher candidates, and those who have taken the Basic Teaching Skills course. Musician: Don Bartlett. Fee: \$15. Info: Deirdre MacCuish Bark: dbark@rogers.com

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. (Yonge & St. Clair)



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

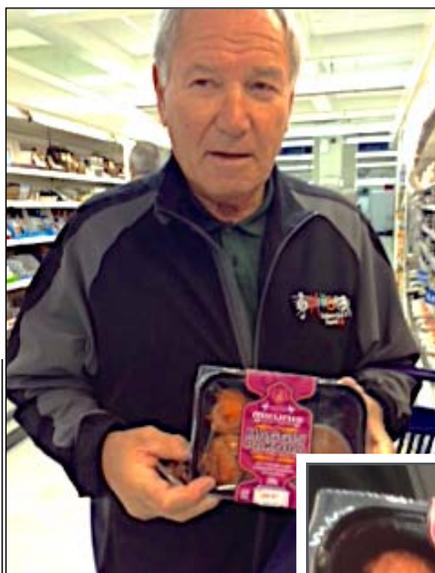
Thursday, December 31 ~ 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m.



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

Dance out 2015 to great music by Laird Brown and Donny Wood, enjoy bring-and-share treats about midnight, and laugh at the ever-hilarious ceilidh afterwards. Tickets at \$25 are limited, so reserve now from Valerie Fisher at 416 497 4186 or v.fisher@sympatico.ca

Info at www.glenview.org



*What's on
your grocery
list?*



A recent trip to a grocery store in Scotland brought a new taste experience to John Kennedy.

How were they, John?



Are you interested in devising the dance programme for the 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dance? The Teachers' Panel, in response to feedback on dance programmes, and in collaboration with Membership and Volunteers, is offering an exciting opportunity for a member of the Toronto Association to devise the programme for the 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dance (i.e. the April monthly dance).

The Teachers' Panel will review the submissions, and, with the Board, select the 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dance programme. Dance submissions are expected to meet the dance guidelines and take into account all levels of dance experience and physical capability, as well as considering the desire for popular and familiar dances.

Criteria and guidelines for devising programmes will be sent to those members expressing an interest in participating. Programme submissions must be received by December 15, 2015.

Contact Maureen Richardson schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com or Wayne Fraser waynefraser@me.com for further information.

Driving through Dante's Inferno to Tutor Teacher Candidates

[Keith Bark continues his reflections on tutoring teacher candidates in far-flung parts of the continent.]

You encounter a number of handicaps when travelling long distances. It is not just the time and mileage; it is also the stops you make on the way there and back.

You get to find good bookshops: both Deirdre and I read a lot. With electronic readers, we buy fewer paper books but there are always some books not available in ebook form. So we always came home with a few.

Once we realised two hours after leaving that we had left a bag containing Deirdre's skirts and my shirts on the sofa at home. Thus we had to make a stop at a mall. Deirdre bought a few skirts and I bought some shirts. Deirdre liked the different styles available so we made similar stops on subsequent journeys.

You also find some good restaurants – and several not so good. It is amazing how many restaurants in the US close early on Sunday, early meaning 6pm. We would often travel until 7pm or 8pm on Sunday as we had to be home by mid-afternoon Monday to make our children's class. Quite often our choice of eatery was between McDonald's and Cracker Barrel – neither really a "restaurant" for a good dinner.

One handicap of travelling in winter is the weather. Between London and Sarnia, and again round Kalamazoo, Michigan, it always seems to snow, with regular white-outs. We quickly learned to build extra time into our schedule. On one trip to Des Moines we encountered an ice storm. There were warnings to get off the highway because the storm was imminent. Luckily we were close to our hotel and were there within 30 minutes. The next morning we woke up to two inches of ice on the van. We set off to discover that the highway had neither been gritted nor ploughed so everybody was driving at about 30mph. After about 40 minutes, a truck immediately in front of us jack-knifed and slid sideways. We managed to stop, still in our lane, about 15 feet short



An Illinois tornado

of the truck and we watched as the truck behind and the one in the other lane both tried to stop without jack-knifing and hitting us. Luckily both stopped about ten feet away from us. We were then stuck for six hours while the highways department tried to figure out how to clear the road. A normal two-hour stretch took us almost ten hours.

Even in spring there can be weather problems. Once we were driving near Chicago, almost at our hotel. There was a bright blue sky to the east but black clouds coming from the south-west. Within half an hour, the black clouds changed to "Dante's Inferno" (to use Deirdre's apt description) and in the near distance we saw a funnel cloud. We arrived at the hotel in torrential rain and howling wind and were told to go immediately to the basement. Along with other guests and people who had been driving nearby, we stayed there until the all-clear was given. The tornado had passed about five miles away – that is the nearest we want to be to a tornado.

...Keith Bark



Joan and Douglas James at the Heather Ball, St. Andrew's College 1996

The Regiment

>>continued from, page 1 >> Johnny Wakefield retired and there was a change in Pipe Major. She returned a few years later for another three-year stint beginning in 1977, at which time women were permitted to join, expressly because dancers were required for a performance at the CNE and Joan was asked to provide 40 men. To her class of 20 men, she sought permission to include women. Joan welcomed them kindly and the class of men and women grew considerably. Margaret Carscadden, who spent more years as a dance student with Joan than any other of Joan's students, tells this story of her experience in the class. "Some of the students were country dancers there to learn Highland. Some, like me, were Highland dancers there just to have fun and to participate in demonstrations with the Toronto Scottish. I loved to dance a strathspey with Henry Gibbs because we both had long legs. One guy, Carl Smith, was so traumatized by his thirtieth birthday that he disappeared and nobody ever saw him again! Bob Blackie was memorable, and dancing Broadswords and reels with him was great fun. These classes were much like Joan's other classes but less serious. I have danced with Joan since I was five years old. That's 60 years! We both studied with Mrs. Mary Hurley and when she died Joan took over her studio. Of all the years of classes those were by far the most fun."

Some of the other female dancers who joined the class were Valerie Harris, Patricia Gerrie, Joanne Racic, Frances Campbell, Carole Skinner, Judy Williams, Kathy Mair, Frances McInnis, and Frances Wilson. Several dancers from this combined class travelled twice to Pennsylvania to participate in demonstrations.

For more than 40 years, Joan taught Highland dance at various locations: Fort York Armouries in Toronto, in Milton for eight years, and in Antognish, NS, five times, as well as in her home. She derived immense pleasure from seeing dancers of both sexes and all ages learning technique and enjoying themselves while bringing joy to audiences of many kinds. Freedom to a dancer is discipline, and good technique develops liberation. That's why drums drum, bagpipes hum, and Scots dance, perpetuating the Toronto Scottish Motto "Carry On".

...Donald E. Holmes

Dancing in Melrose, Scotland

In late September I had reason to spend nine days alone in a house in a hamlet called Maxton, four miles from Melrose in the Borders, south of Edinburgh. Maxton boasts neither school, nor shop, nor pub — only a church and a Carnegie village hall. My evenings were looming rather long.

A web search for Scottish country dancing revealed two groups in Melrose. After I contacted them, one replied and on Monday 21st I arrived to a warm welcome at their first meeting of the season. There were about 26 people attending, including their teacher Lyn (Jocelyn) Bryce. We had a really good evening of dancing. The group doesn't take a break, so afterwards we gathered at a nearby pub.

On Tuesday evening I was invited to attend a group dancing at Tweedmouth, a village a mile from Melrose. The group was really stoozing for a chap who was in his first year of teacher training. The place was packed with volunteer dancers so he had a challenge. We did have a break there and to my surprise large boxes of apples appeared for anyone to take home; a nice autumn gesture for those without gardens.

On Thursday I was back with the Melrose group but this time Lyn did not take the group. Some people had volunteered to lead a dance of their choice and so we had a different person leading us through their dance — with



Melrose dancers with Irene Bailey (Front row, centre)

various degrees of success. However, it was great fun and in fact, quite hilarious at one point.

The next Monday, my last one, Lyn kindly invited me to supper with a friend of hers before we went over to the St. Mary's church hall for the regular Monday night session. We had four sets this time and, again, lots of good dancing. As before, we retired to a pub for refreshments. All the men sat together in one area, and all the women sat in a slightly separated part of the bar. A good gossip was had by all! I was quite sad to say goodbye to everyone but I thanked them for their kindness. What a wonderful opportunity Scottish country dancing provides to make friends wherever you go.

... Irene Bailey

Dancing, Walking, & Fireworks

Naively, I said yes the first time my friend Anne Barnes invited me on a dance holiday in Wales. I assumed it was a workshop we were going to. What a shock when I found it was actually four nights of dancing, with fifteen dances a night, which were not walked or even briefed, half of which I had never heard of, and most were more complicated than the average dance. Thankfully, this year's holiday in Eastbourne was not as unnerving. The dances were walked, and I knew more of them this time (some of which I learned for Wales). I still had some studying to do but, knowing what I was getting into, I was ready for the challenge.

Peter Mann and Peter Beaumont host four to six of their Scottish Country Dancing and Walking Holidays a year in different areas of England where they have found good walks that are easily accessible from a hotel that also has a good dance floor and provides all meals and packed lunches. Peter and Peter lead the hiking and, on this holiday, the dancing was in the capable hands of Jennifer Parker. Besides a dance in the evening, these holidays offer a choice each day of an all-day hike or a morning masterclass and/or an afternoon hike. So Day 2, I take the masterclass in the morning, go on the half-day hike along the White Cliffs of the South Downs in the afternoon, and attend the evening dance. How do these Brits do it? I was exhausted! The next two days Anne and I danced mornings and evenings but in the afternoons we opted to use her car to visit sites such as Alfriston Clergy House and Bateman's, the home of Rudyard Kipling.

Evening programs were well balanced and a joy to dance, with plenty of favourites such as *Bratach Bana* and *Pelorus Jack* sprinkled with new-to-me



Anne Barnes

Cheryl Catt

challenges such as *New Rigged Ship* and *Fiddler on the Capstan*. In the masterclasses some dances were familiar but most were new, with varying degrees of difficulty. Along with the dances, I also enjoyed the other dancers — a lovely bunch. A smaller group than we had in Wales made it easier to meet and get to know the leaders and the 36 participants. It's so much fun to dance with experienced dancers, who like playing with a dance by throwing in extra bits and variations, and even when they decided in the last few minutes left in the masterclass to do a dance they all knew and I didn't, without walking or briefing it. They directed me through it as we danced. Wow! Scary, but what a great feeling when it works. At the end of the holiday, I was sorry to say goodbye to these friendly and accomplished dancers.

Oh, and the fireworks — on the Promenade across from the hotel one evening the *1812 Festival Overture* was played with accompanying fireworks (but no cannon). But for me, not even fireworks bursting in air to the rousing music of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky can compare with the excitement and joy of conquering new dances.

... Cheryl Catt

What's in a Name?



Now here's a challenging jig to keep you on your toes, appropriately pointed of course. *Best Set in the Hall* was introduced to us just a few years ago in *RSCDS Book 46*.

It was devised by a New Zealand dancer named Helen Greenwood, a resident of Auckland, and while this jig is lovely to watch being well executed, it does present the need for very careful thought as one is actually working one's way through it.

I think quite a few of us tend to be conditioned to follow SCD expectations as we dance the various formula moves to which we have become accustomed as reasonably experienced dancers. For example, when back-to-back in the centre of the dance with your partner, and facing a corner, you most commonly dance forward to either turn or change places with that corner. Not in this dance!

When positioned as just stated, you pull back your right shoulder, and change places with the corner behind you. Easy to say, but if you are not focused, not as easy to execute!

Best Set in the Hall

As said earlier, this is a lovely dance to watch, but if still unsure of yourself after one or two attempts, I recommend you google *Best Set in the Hall IT Black** and, via YouTube, take a look at how it is danced by what is clearly a demo team in Newcastle, England. To me, it was delightful to watch this team of Geordies execute the dance with elegance and panache.

Personally, I do have a minor hang-up with the name of this dance. Although I am sure many readers will disagree, doesn't the name *Best Set in the Hall* sound a tad too competitive in tone? Twenty years ago, I am sure I danced in sets whose members may have thought they were outperforming other sets in the room. But who's to say, unless we were being judged formally. As an octogenarian at this point, I'd have to pass if invited to join any set so-called. My limbs just don't work that way anymore, and I know that I am not alone with that concern. That said, I have indeed danced *Best Set in the Hall* several times recently. On a number of occasions, I made it through the 32 bars without error, although not quite up to the performance level of the dancing Geordies. 'Nuff said!

Name aside, I believe that the devising of this jig was quite a work of art. Thank you, Helen Greenwood! When the opportunity arises, everyone who enjoys SCD should take another shot at it. Complete it flawlessly, and one gets a very pleasant feeling of accomplishment.

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



Creative dance devisors needed for Book 51

Does your mind work in weird and wonderful ways? Have you ever thought of devising a dance?

Well, this could be your moment. The Society in Edinburgh is inviting submissions for *Book 51*, to be published in 2017. The new book is aimed squarely at young dancers.

Philip Whitley, Convenor of the Society's Membership Services Committee, says it's vital to appeal to young people. That means being open to new ideas, maybe even fusing pop or rap music with traditional forms. He told *The Scotsman* that "innovation is important to maintain country dancing's appeal" and he warned against "complacency". During a recent trip to New Zealand, he recalled seeing youngsters breakdancing in the middle of an eightsome reel.

The target audience for *Book 51* is dancers aged 5 to 16. It will be used in children's festivals and to teach younger dancers but also in dance programmes for less experienced dancers of all ages.

The book will contain a mix of jigs, reels, and strathspeys based on RSCDS formations. The basic rules are simple. All dances should be 32 bars and be danced progressively, either 4 times through for 4 couples in a longwise or a square set, or 8 times through for 2 or 3 couples in a 4-couple longwise set. Of course, devisors must be a member of the RSCDS. No more than one dance per devisor will be selected and devisors can't submit more than two dances.

Submissions will be accepted until March 25, 2016, using this link: <http://goo.gl/q1zp30> which also details the submission process.

... Wayne Ellwood



Stella and I have been dancing in Aurora with Maureen Richardson's social group on Friday mornings for a few years now, where we have a mix of experienced and beginner dancers. We have often talked about the need for a Toronto Association class in York region, and moving to Aurora earlier this year confirmed our belief that the area could support a Beginner Class.

It is a young, vibrant community, and the senior population seems to be pretty dynamic as well, which of course includes us. So I set about putting together a business case for the Board of Directors, with help from Maureen, who agreed to teach a beginner class in Aurora. We were given approval to give it a shot. We secured a good venue in the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Unfortunately, there is not a wooden sprung floor, so it is a bit hard on the legs and feet for beginners.

Then came the challenge of advertising the event. I thought it was going to be an easy task — however, there are regulations attached to placing posters in public places. Doing our best to remain legal, Maureen and I managed to place a good number of posters in libraries and community centres in Aurora, Newmarket, Bolton and Stouffville, and I'm hoping Kijiji might prove to be a successful advertising tool.

So now to the bottom line: after two introductory classes and two actual association classes we only have five new dancers. We are hoping we might see two or three more after the Thanksgiving weekend. It would certainly be nice to have a four couple set, if only to save me from dancing too many poussettes.

... Andrew Henderson

Culture Days



More than sixty dancers and volunteers enjoyed a fun afternoon at Eastminster Church to experience Culture Days, Scottish style, led by the inimitable Keith Bark. Enticed in by gifted pipers Ellen Mole and her student, Deirdre Godsell, passers-by learned skip change and slip step and danced to favourites including *The Kingston Flyer*, *Gay Gordons*, *Circassian Circle*, and *Dashing White Sergeant*. Everyone joined in the dancing with terrific enthusiasm and left with Beginner Classes and Visit Scotland information. As a result of their joyful Culture Days experience, several visitors joined Beginner Classes.

Thanks to the demo team volunteers who provided lively assistance, and to all who donated delicious treats. A special "Thank you" to Walkers, for kindly donating four boxes of their Shortbread Fingers.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the day a success!



Ellen Mole & Deirdre Godsell piped in the dancers



Donated by Walkers Shortbread



Donated (and baked) by Members

Family Ceilidh



Kaelan Graham-Hughes



Rosedale demo of *The Library of Birmingham*

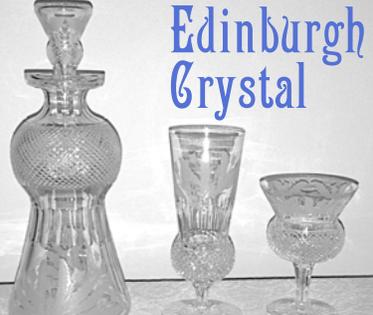
Warm lights glowed in the hall at St. Leonard's Parish, Saturday, October 24, as the afternoon darkened and a cool autumn rain fell. It was a family ceilidh organized by the Youth Committee. The event was designed to make children and beginners particularly welcome.

Teresa Lockhart, Moira Korus, and Gavin Keachie each called the dances and the Rosedale Youth Dancers demonstrated *The Library of Birmingham* and *Neil M. Grant*. There was laughter, smiles, and pure delight as experienced and novice dancers of all ages engaged in the easy, lively dances. People mixed and mingled, meeting those never seen before and chatting with those known well. There were people from the neighbourhood, and visitors from Peterborough and Edmonton.

A Hallowe'en theme, draws, and prizes were mixed in with the dancing — followed by snacks and socializing. Volunteers arranged pizza and other delectable treats. As talking and laughing filled the air, you would be hard pressed to find someone without a wide grin on their face. The event truly brought the participants together.

Describing the atmosphere of a ceilidh adequately may be difficult, but thanking those who made it happen is not. So "Thank you" to the instructors, the volunteers, and the Youth Committee for a wonderful evening.

... Kaelan Graham-Hughes, Rosedale Senior Class



Edinburgh Crystal

For Sale

Edinburgh Crystal in the Thistle Pattern.
 8 Champagne and 8 Hi-Ball glasses.
 1 Thistle shaped decanter.
 These combined items have a list price of over \$3000. They can be yours for \$500.
 Bill Goodfellow 416 694 3753
william.goodfellow@sympatico.ca

Upcoming Events: NEAR

Nov. 13~**Social Dance with Antoine Rousseau** ~ St Clement's and Woodglen host this evening of dance fun 7:30 p.m. at St John's United, 2 Norbert Rd. (Vic Pk & 401).

Nov. 14~**Toronto Workshop** ~ Great teachers, great music, great fun. At Bishop Strachan School, 8:30 a.m.

Nov. 14~**Après Workshop Tea Dance** ~ At Bishop Strachan School, 2:30 p.m. Music by Scotch Mist.

Nov. 15~**Teacher Workshop with Antoine Rousseau** ~ Westway United Church, 8 Templar Dr. 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Nov. 28~**Shifftin' Bobbins St Andrew's Dance** ~ At Grace Church-on-the-Hill. Music by Laird Brown & Donny Wood. Tickets: shifftinbobbins@gmail.com

Nov. 28~**St Andrew's Charity Ball** ~ At the Royal York, dance to the pipes & drums of the 48th Highlanders. www.standrews-society.ca/events/charity-ball-tickets

Nov. 29 ~ **Social Group Liaison Meeting** – Our annual meeting of Toronto Association teachers, social group leaders, and Board members. Broadlands Community Centre, 2:00 -4:00 p.m. Stay tuned for details.

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

Feb. 20 ~ **The 53rd Tartan Ball** – The best Scottish Country Dance Ball anywhere! Music by Scotch Mist.

Apr. 2~**West End Workshop** ~ Save the date!

Demo Pool Practice Dates

2-4 p.m. Sunday afternoons at Broadlands
 ♦ Nov 22 ♦ 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 afternoons at Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills

♦ Nov 8: Unusual Formations

Tony Szeto will teach dances with unusual formations — and he wants requests: aszeto2010@gmail.com.

TBA: ♦ Feb 28 ♦ Apr 24

Upcoming Events: FAR

Nov. 6-8 ~ **RSCDS Kingston Weekend & Ball**. Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, David Booz, Sheila Keller. Music by Scotch Mist. Includes Friday social, classes, dinner, ball, brunch and combined Sunday class. Special beginner package. Info: 613.382-8682 or visit www.rscdskingston.org

Nov. 7-8 ~ **Jeannie Carmichael Ball**. Hosted by RSCDS New York at the beautiful heritage Thayer Hotel on the West Point campus. Music by Hanneke Cassel. Info: www.rscdsnewyork.org

Nov. 13-15 ~ **Asilomar Weekend Workshops & Ball**. Teachers: Jimmie Hill, Ruth Jappy, Elaine Brunken, Jeff Corrigan, Alan Thwigg. Musicians: Fiddlesticks & Ivory, Judi Nicolson, and Andy Imbrie. Hosted by San Francisco Branch. Info: 510 858 7588 www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org

Dec. 11~ **Christmas Dinner and Dance**. Join Oakville SCD at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1494 Wallace Rd., Oakville. Music: Don Bartlett. \$55 tickets: Alicia Manson at manson@globalserve.net or 905 849 7180

Dec. 19 - **RSCDS London Christmas Dinner and Dance**. Polish Combatants Hall. Music by 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 (San Francisco). Music: Humuhumunukunua'ua and Strathspey Society Band. www.rscdshawaii.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

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

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

Scholarships for 2016 St Andrews Summer School

**Deadline for Application:
13 November 2015**

Youth Scholarships, General Scholarships, and Teacher Candidate Scholarships!
www.dancescottish.ca/2016-scholarships.pdf

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

Scottish Outfits for Sale

- **Three Kilts**, waist 36 or 38 in., length 25 in. Buchanan, Lamont, or Mackay
- **Day Jackets** - 42 or 44 inch, One with a vest
- **Black Dress Jacket** - (not a Prince Charlie)
- **Accessories** - Some are available

All items are in good condition.
 Contact: Peter Wood 416 444 4255

Kilts and Jackets are \$75 each



Scotland's National Tourism Organisation
www.visitscotland.com

Gently Used Clothing, etc.

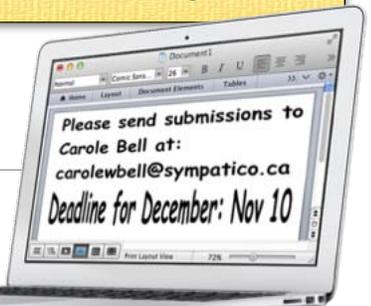
At the Workshop: This annual sale delights dancers who can save on gently used kilts, gowns, jackets, and other great finds. This year there will also be a wonderful collection of Scottish themed books donated by Peter Wood. Cash or cheque only.



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



RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

Chair: Deirdre MacCuish Bark	905.822-1707	barkd@rogers.com
Vice Chair: Jean Lindsay	416.413-9418	jclind.1949@gmail.com
Secretary: Nancy White	416.923-4392	nawhite15@gmail.com
Treasurer: Wendy Fulton	416.951-5029	wbfulton@hotmail.com
Program: Louis Racic	905.430-1255	louis.racic@gmail.com
Membership: Wayne Fraser	416.921-6060	waynefraser@me.com
Communications: Wayne Ellwood	416.536-6240	ellwoodw@gmail.com
Marketing: Paul Barber	416.534-0516	paulbarber48@gmail.com
Education/Training: Maureen Richardson	905.859-0984	schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com



RSCDS Toronto
 c/o Secretary
 942 Yonge St., #113
 Toronto ON M4W 3S8

Newsletter Committee:

Carole Bell (Chair)	416.221-1201	carolewbell@sympatico.ca
Wayne Ellwood	416.536-6240	ellwoodw@gmail.com
Donald Holmes	416.226-6081	deholmes@sympatico.ca
Rob Lockhart (webmaster)	416.759-9845	roblockhart@rogers.com
Teresa Lockhart (youth scene)	416.759-9845	teresa.lockhart@rogers.com
Marian White	416.781-7795	marianwhite@sympatico.ca
Judy Williams	416.924-3658	junit@pathcom.com