

RSCDS SET & LINK

Toronto
www.DanceScottish.ca

THE TORONTO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ Vol. 13, #6 ~ February 2017

The Tartan Ball – *What? No briefing!*

From the Chair...



Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Dancers and coordinators in the Demo Pool have had a very busy January, participating in numerous dance events. Thank you to all for your energy, time, and dedication. Also thank you to Stella

Henderson, who is responsible for the overall organization, and to Moira Korus, the Demo Pool teacher. Dancing at Robert Burns events in January is especially effective in chasing away the winter blues, as well as good exercise after the Christmas break.

Although it is cold and wintry outside, we are all comfortable in our centrally heated homes. I really appreciate this evenly distributed heat, after growing up in the north of Scotland in a house built in the 1870s. Our home had coal fires and some central heating in the main rooms, but this was not extended to the children's bedrooms. We children dressed under the bed-clothes in winter, as the air in the bedroom was icy, and ice formed on the inside of windows making interesting frost patterns. This house was stone, built with thick walls, but it had single-glazed windows from which the heat escaped.

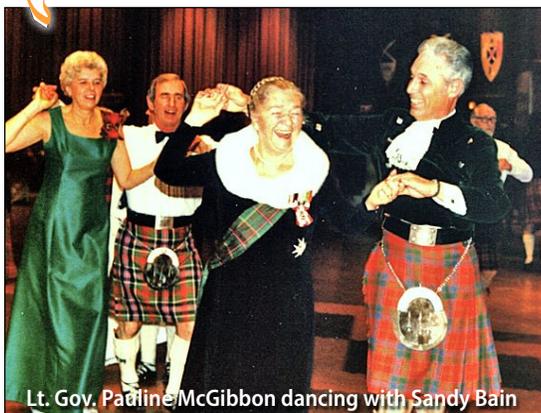
Milk left on the doorstep early in the morning would be frozen, so the foil caps would be pushed up. The birds, especially the greedy blackbirds, would try to steal the cream from the top of the milk.

Hand-knitted wool sweaters from my aunt in the Western Isles kept us warm, although itchy. Harris wool was natural and hand made, not machine processed, so it tended to be rough and hard wearing! Inverness is at sea level, so there is not a lot of snow, although plenty on the surrounding hills and the roads south. We had the icy winds from the North Sea instead!

Dancing is our preferred way of keeping warm. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Tartan Ball later this month.

Sláinte!

Deirdre



Lt. Gov. Padline McGibbon dancing with Sandy Bain

The ANNUAL BALL was forerunner to Toronto's Tartan Ball. The first Annual Ball was in the War Amputations of Canada Hall at 62 Wellesley St. West on Friday, November 16, 1956. Guests were told dress was optional! The single ticket price was \$3.50. Twenty dances were on the programme and a half-hour buffet supper break occurred at 10:15 p.m. In 1963, Iain MacFarlane instituted the name change from Annual Ball to Tartan Ball.

Over the years, naturally, there have been changes. In 1971, the buffet was replaced by a full-course dinner prior to dancing. That year, 440 dancers attended the Tartan Ball and 80 were on a waiting list for tickets. In 1974, group shields were displayed for the first time. In 1977, the first stay-over-rate was negotiated with the Royal York Hotel. Two years later, tickets sales were limited to 600 dancers. We ate in the Concert Hall (where we now dance) and danced in the Canadian Room. I clearly recall having to purchase tickets before St. Andrew's Day (November 30), if one wanted to be assured a Ball ticket. At that time, Toronto Branch was the largest Branch in the world with over 1200 adult members.* In 1987, the Tartan Ball was limited to 450 dancers.

While we might imagine we've always had a Guest of Honour, on 29 occasions the Tartan Ball had none. In the early years there were few Guests. The practice has become established tradition over the last 25 years. Lieutenant Governors of Ontario have been Guests of Honour ten times. Most joined us once (P. McGibbon, L. Alexander, D. Onley); some twice (J. Aird, N.R. Jackman). J. Kieler McKay was an exception: he attended 1958, 1959, and 1960. Miss Jean Milligan, one of the founders of the Society, was our Guest in 1961. The Chair of the Society, Dr. Alastair MacFadyen, was the 30th Anniversary Guest in 1988, Bill Clement was the Guest for the 40th Anniversary in 1988, and Irene Bennett for the 50th in 2008. The remaining 20 Guests included Gen. John de Chastelain, Iain MacFarlane, Dennis Snowdon, Betty and David Grant, Frances Gray, Alan Mair, Lloyd Robertson, Bobby Brown and Georgina Finlay, John Christie, Jean Noble, Colin Mochrie and Debra McGrath, Ken McGoogan, Michael MacMillan, Gail Nyberg, Michele Dubé, Dr. Kirsty Duncan. This year our Guest of Honour is John A. Fraser.

We have enjoyed dancing to delightful music offered by a variety of bands over the years: The Flying Scotsmen, Stan Hamilton and his band, and for nearly 20 years Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. This year, we again dance to Laird Brown's Scotch Mist band.

Traditionally, at Tartan Balls dancers were expected to *know* the dances announced by the MC. *There was no briefing.* Part of the reason was that many dances (though not all) on the Ball programmes were repetitions from previous years, and people already knew them well. With new formations, a plethora of new dances, and newer dancers without much Scottish dance background, we no longer rely on a diet of favourites. In 2003, following acrimonious debate and some boycotting of the event, briefing was introduced at the Ball. Frances Gray was the first to brief, followed by Sandy Bain. The third briefer was Ian McHaffie, who, according to Ann Campbell, Chair of the 2003 Ball, said "he did such a great briefing of *The Robertson Rant* that he got a round of applause." Today, concise briefing of dances at the Tartan Ball continues, reducing stress for all and encouraging less experienced dancers to participate in a grand occasion. ... Donald E. Holmes

* Around the same time (6 February 1965), the first Children's Festival was similarly large— 1100 participants with 170 of them from Grace Harris' class at St. Clement's Church. One of those kids still dances with St Clement's group.



Ann Campbell & Lloyd Robertson

Special Events

South Simcoe's Valentine's Workshop & Tea Dance

Saturday, February 11

Knox Presbyterian Church, King St. South, Alliston



Welcome to our traditional Valentine's Workshop and Tea Dance. Our teachers are mother-and-daughter team Jean Noble and Fiona Philip.

Contact: Susan & Ed Elliotson 519 941 2134

Erin Mills' (Fri.) Pre-Workshop Dance

Friday, March 24 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$8 at the door

Mississauga Seniors' Centre, 1389 Cawthra Rd.

Fred DeMarse will warm up a winter's evening with California Sunshine as Guest Teacher of the Erin Mills class (celebrating the 32nd West End Workshop experience!). Don Bartlett will provide the music, an added incentive to join in the fun! We hope to welcome you. For more directions: 905 566 9599

West End Workshop & Tea Dance

Saturday, March 25 8:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tea Dance at 2:30 p.m. followed by afternoon tea

Turner Fenton Secondary School, 7935 Kennedy Rd., Brampton

Don't miss out on the fun! Easy access from 401. Free parking. Comfortable wood floor. Teachers: Fred DeMarse (San Francisco), Christine Basnett (London), Deirdre MacCuish Bark (Mississauga). Musicians: Don Bartlett, Laird Brown, Fred Moyes.

Cost: \$68 Full day workshop, lunch, tea dance and afternoon tea;

\$35 Youth (age 14+); \$20 tea dance only, plus afternoon tea

Registration info and form are on the website (What's on Near).

Teacher bios on Page 7.

Teachers' Workshop

Sunday, March 26

Cooksville United Church, 2500 Mimosa Row, Mississauga

Time: TBA Teacher: Fred DeMarse Musician: Don Bartlett

Further details to be announced.



January Monthly Dance

Those attending the January 14, 2017, Monthly Dance received a pleasant surprise. We know how the music can make such a difference to your dancing — it can give you energy to last all night. Well, Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs were joined by Karen Reed playing fiddle and Laird

Forbes Duncan Brown on accordion. The music was tremendous. Most of the 95 attending that night were still on the floor at the end of the evening and begging for more.

Thanks to Keith Bark for giving us an interesting programme, from *Amhuinnsuidhe Castle* to *The Glens of Angus*, and even adding *The Argyll Strathspey*, with the once-dreaded, now-familiar Tournée.

Our next dance will be March 11, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. This is our Beginners' Dance. Please come out to support and help our new dancers enjoy an evening of dancing to live music. ... *Forbes*



Beginner Night Dances

Date & Time: Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Place: Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Avenue

Music: Scotch Mist

Hosts: •ASTA •Hillcrest •Petronella

Le Papillon J 8x32 Skillern, SCDs for Children

Flowers of Edinburgh R 8x32 RSCDS Book 1/6

Adieu Mon Ami S 8x32 RSCDS Book 24/11

The Happy Meeting J 6x32 RSCDS Book 29/9

John McAlpin S 8x32 Three Dances by Hugh Foss

The Edinburgh Castle Reel R 8x32 SCDs for Children

Interval

Well Done Jack J 8x32 RSCDS Book 29/3

Monymusk S 8x3 Preston, RSCDS Book 11/2

The Castle of Mey R 8x32 Walton, RSCDS Diamond Jubilee

Joe MacDiarmid's Jig J 8x32 Richards, 5 SCDs 1982

Bedrule S 8x32 Betty Grant, RSCDS Book 33/7

The De'il Among the Tailors R 8x32 RSCDS Book 14/7

Extra

The Frisky J 8x32 Bremner, RSCDS Book 26/10

2016/2017 programme by Keith Bark

Association Classes



All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto

Association. The Extension Classes cost \$80 for the eight week session. The advanced classes are "pay per class" and are \$10 for each evening/class. Please make cheques payable to "RSCDS Toronto".

Classes Convenor: Glenna MacDonald

416 763 0073 glenna.macdonald@sympatico.ca

All classes are 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Extension Class: More information to come

Thursdays: March 30 - May 25 (No class April 13 – Maundy Thursday)

Auditorium at Eastminster United Church*

Level 3 Advanced Classes: *These classes 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.*

Thursdays: April 20 - May 18

Hurndale Room, Eastminster United Church*

Teacher: Fiona Philip

* **Location Addresses:**

Eastminster United Church

310 Danforth Ave. 2 minutes from Chester station

Class Representative: Margaret Roper 416 285 0367



fifty-fifty draw

At the January Monthly Dance, May Divers won \$120.50 in the 50/50 draw.

54th Tartan Ball News

**FEBRUARY
18, 2017**



Elegant, formal, and steeped in tradition. Head Table dignitaries are piped into the Concert Hall, where we all enjoy a fine meal and lively table talk. Over dessert, our Guest of Honour shares brief remarks that are always informative, usually funny, sometimes nostalgic, and often inspiring. Ceremonies done, it's time to *dance!* The room is cleared. Dancers don ghillies and assemble in fours (two couples) for the Grand March. The piper pipes, the band joins in with a rousing march, and we make a spectacular procession of the ballroom, ending in rows of eight, ready for the first dance.

After *O Canada*, set lines are formed, and top man counts the sets. Protocol demands we join at the end of a set line, neither cutting through a formed line nor leaving a set after it's counted. If your partner is slightly delayed, stand in the man's place to be counted.

Tartan Ball etiquette is inclusive: we discourage booking dances in advance and hospitality calls us to dance with out-of-towners and others we don't know. Anyone can ask anyone to dance but a woman who asks another woman traditionally dances as a man.

We all are capable of dance error, and dance help. We strive to help quietly and cheerfully and to recover gracefully. When the dance ends, graciously thank your partner and your set before clearing the floor.

Carriages: In the afterglow of The Tartan Ball you will treasure the satisfaction of having participated in a memorable and elegant dance event.

We all share the air, and some have allergies, so please be scent-free.

Ticket Order Forms are on our website, both paper-based and interactive online version: www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html

... Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor

Special Tartan Ball Practices for Newer Dancers

Sunday afternoons 2-4:00 p.m.
Feb. 5, and Feb. 12
\$6/class (Reserve by email)
Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd.

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

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



Decorate your life ~ and the Tartan Ball

Christy Barber needs your help to decorate the Concert Hall in preparation for the Ball. There will be coffee, doughnuts, maybe sticky buns ~ and great fellowship. 416 489 2384 or barber72@sympatico.ca



Tartan Ball Practices

Most social groups will cover some Tartan Ball dances. Several groups have specific and special classes close to the Ball:

Calvin: FEB 7 ~ 7:30-9:30 ~ \$6

First 6 dances will be taught

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

Glenview: WEDNESDAYS ~ 7:30-9:15 ~ \$6

Feb. 8: First half of programme

Feb. 15: Last half of programme

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. (nr Yonge & Lawrence)

St Clement's: MONDAY, Feb. 13 ~ 6:30-9:30 ~ \$6

Tartan Ball run-through: The entire Ball programme, in order, walked, briefed, and in some cases abbreviated,

The Great Hall of Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road





Virginia Reel in Putonghua

A member of the congregation in Unionville Presbyterian Church heard about Scottish country dancing, and approached the minister to see if lessons could be arranged. They were. The classes were taught by Tony Szeto, who required the assistance of a translator as the dancers mostly spoke what we used to call Mandarin, and understood very little English. (Putonghua is the current recommended way of referring to the Mandarin dialect.)

Initially, there were four consecutive weekly sessions. The group enjoyed the activity so much they asked for an extension and ended up with six evenings of dance lessons. The dance form and music were new to all the dancers, who understood very little English. Attendance varied between two to three sets.

Tony was ably assisted with small group coaching by Lorraine Ng, Andy and Stella Henderson, and Maureen Richardson. Maureen substituted for Tony one evening. The students were introduced to basic steps and formations, and danced relatively simple dances such as *Kingston Flyer*, *Virginia Reel*, *Corn Rigs*, and *St. John River*.

This picture shows the group dancing *Virginia Reel* on their final night. You can also watch the dance on YouTube at the link below. The voice you will hear in the video is Tony calling out the formations in both English and Putonghua.

<https://goo.gl/ewnAaE>



For Intermediate Dancers: Eight 2-hour Sunday afternoon classes will prepare dancers for the Intermediate DAA.

Participants must know six specified dances before starting the course (list of dances and formations at www.rscds.org). Under the excellent tutelage of Moira Korus and Barbara Taylor, dancers will improve and refine footwork and technique, as individuals and as dancers in a set.

Please let Maureen Richardson know immediately if you are interested in participating. schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com

When: 2-4 p.m. Sunday afternoons

January 22, February 19, 26,
March 5, 19, April 2, 9.

April 30 (probable Assessment day).

Where: Broadlands Community Centre, 19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills



Devise a Dance Programme

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

The Dance Devisor Programme for the 2018 Volunteer Appreciation Dance has been extended to February 28, 2017. Please consider devising the 2018 programme. The offer is open to all members and it's an exciting opportunity to exercise your creative juices. The criteria and guidelines will be sent to those who express an interest in participating. For more information contact Maureen Richardson at schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com or waynefraser@me.com.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dance, April 8, 2017, will feature the winning programme devised by Theresa Malek.

It's ~~MID-WINTER~~ . . . Time to think about ~~SUMMER~~ ~~SCHOOL!~~

St Andrews Summer School

July 16 - Aug 13 @ St Andrews University, Scotland



Over four weeks the best SCD teachers and musicians in the world assemble at St Andrews University and dancers have a brilliant time in this glorious sea-side town. You stay in dormitories and dance in halls, and perhaps frequent pubs well-known to Prince William and Kate. Most folk opt for one of the four weeks, but some go for two. Each week has different teachers and musicians from Scotland and abroad. It's an international

congregation and celebration of Scottish dance.

There are classes suitable for all levels of experience, beginners and youth included, but it's best to have prior beginner classes at home so you can participate fully in the evening dances in the legendary Younger Hall. Teachers include Alison Robertson, Elaine Cameron, Ellie Briscoe, Jane McIntosh, Mervyn Short, Pat Houghton, Sue Ronald, Trish Reid, Jim Stott, and Malcolm Brown.

A week at St Andrews is something you will always remember.

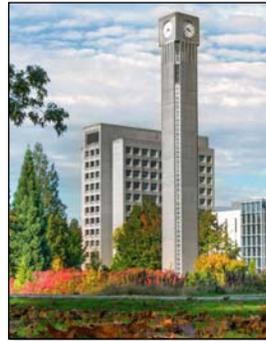
Register: www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2016

or contact Moira.Thomson@rscds.org Tel: 011+44+0131 225 3854



TAC* Summer School

July 21-30 @ University of British Columbia, Vancouver



Come Scottish country dancing with some of the world's best teachers and musicians. TAC Summer School is full week of Scottish country dancing for all levels of experience. There will be 6 mornings of dance classes, 4 evening social dances, and a formal banquet and ball. At our much-loved ceilidh evening you can show off your talents of music/dance/rhetoric, or simply enjoy the talents of fellow dancers.

Teachers:

- * Gary Coull from Morayshire, Scotland;
- * Andrew Smith, Kansas;
- * Tracey Applebee, Ohio;
- * Jean Noble, Toronto.

Musicians: Lisa Scott, Music Director; Ian Muir, Mary Ross, Judi Nicolson, Don Wood, Deby Benton Grosjean.

This year TAC will also offer Dance Achievement Award classes.

Enjoy a week of Scottish country dancing in a beautiful location with some of the world's best teachers and musicians.

Registration opens Feb 15. More info: www.tac-rscds.org



*TAC is the Teachers' Association (Canada)

IAN BRODRICK:

Ian Brodrick, long time member of the Erin Mills Group(s), died at home on January 1, 2017.

Ian was a true English gentleman, multitalented, kind and caring. He loved all things Scottish... pipe bands, military tattoos, Highland games and, of course, Scottish country dancing.

He continued to support the Group(s) even when his health did not permit him to dance, and he always took an interest in special events.

Ian was a regular attendee at Dancing in the Park over the years and always appreciated live music. As a snowbird he danced with the Dunedin Group in Florida.

Ian was largely responsible for establishing the first Hogmanay Ball at the Skyline Hotel and securing the Bobby Frew Band to provide the music. He continued to organize this event for several years and the Ball was a fixture on the West End Calendar for over 20 years.

Ian was a man of letters, never failing to congratulate fellow dancers on special efforts or achievements, to express his enjoyment of some special occasion (like the Tartan Ball) and sometimes to make careful suggestions where he saw that changes might be required.

We shall miss Ian's cheerful, practical support and his many kindnesses to us all.

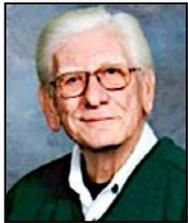
...Jean Hamilton

Grace Notes



Ian with his wife Betty seated beside him.
Jean Hamilton is next to Betty.

#90 What's in a Name? *The Dream Catcher*



Barry Pipes

The dream catcher is a significant object in the culture of the Ojibwa people. Using willow wood and sinew, the mothers and grandmothers of infants would create a hoop on which would be woven a loose net of yarn, decorated with feathers and beads. The end result of this activity would be rather like a spider web. It would be hung over the infant's cradle. Its purpose was to filter out all bad dreams, allowing only good thoughts to enter the child's mind. Come daybreak, bad dreams would have disappeared. In the Ojibwa language a dream catcher is called *asabikeshiinh*, a form of the word for spider.



Now let's talk about *The Dream Catcher* as a Scottish country dance. As a 96-bar square set strathspey, it seems to have recently attracted quite a lot of attention and popularity. It first surfaced, I believe, in a *Silver Anniversary Book of Dances* published by an RSCDS Branch in the UK about 15 years ago, after which *The Dream Catcher* was recognized by the "powers that be" in Edinburgh as being worthy of worldwide publication in *RSCDS Book 45*. Given its background, and that the Ojibwa culture is centred mostly in that part of Ontario to the north of the Great Lakes, one would have expected it to have been devised by a dancer from, say, RSCDS Ottawa, or Sudbury, or Thunder Bay. But surprise, surprise — it was devised by a teacher named Eileen Orr of RSCDS Tunbridge Wells.

Tunbridge Wells? The Royal Tunbridge Wells? About 40 miles south of London in the County of Kent? Yes! The very one!

The likelihood of encountering anything to do with Ojibwa culture in that part of "England's pleasant pastures seen" would be quite remote. So, I'm guessing that at some point in her life, Eileen Orr took a trip to Canada and may have seen or heard of a dream catcher.

I am sure that Tunbridge Wells is a lovely place to visit. I recall that it has an historic shopping centre called The Pantiles, built in the late 17th century. It received its Royal prefix in 1909 during the reign of King Edward VII, probably because as a spa it had been a favourite of his mother Queen Victoria and other "blue bloods" of the day.

Pantiles are a type of clay roof tile. However, to my knowledge, they have no dream-catching claim that they are capable of making one's good dreams come true. ...Barry Pipes, mccallum.pipes@rogers.com

The Scottish Tribute



Wayne Ellwood

Every year a chunk of our RSCDS membership fee goes to headquarters in Edinburgh. How much? A single adult membership fee for 2016/17 is \$68 and nearly half that, £20 (\$32 CDN at the current exchange rate), is paid to Scotland. All branches around the world contribute the same £20 fee.

One of the questions sometimes raised about this annual subscription fee to Scotland is: what do we get out of it?

Edinburgh has taken this on board. At the AGM last autumn they put together this breakdown of our £20.

Item	£ per member	% of the £20
Enquiries, Branch support and liaison	4.00	20.00
Education & Training Programme	3.80	19.00
Member Magazine	3.30	16.50
Governance of RSCDS	3.30	16.50
Website and other information	2.10	10.50
Financial management of RSCDS	1.95	9.75
Youth development and events	1.05	5.25
Annual Conference / AGM	0.50	2.50
totals:	£20.00	100%

Here's a summary of what you get personally as an RSCDS member according to headquarters:

- 2 copies yearly of the member magazine, *Scottish Country Dancer*.
- Access to RSCDS trained teachers in your local branch or group.
- Access to a thriving and developing dance repertoire including books, CDs, and dance videos.
- The ability to dance anywhere in the world because the dances are standardised.
- Access to training, awards, and scholarships that help you develop your own personal technique.
- Information on what is going on in the SCD world through our email newsletter.
- Discounted prices on RSCDS events such as Summer School – including high quality opportunities to learn dance and music from top teachers.

In addition...

- Teachers can access teaching materials, videos of dances, CDs and also network with other teachers.
- Branches get support and advice about developing the branch, licensing, health and safety.
- Branches can share experiences and learn from one another, particularly on areas such as member recruitment, marketing and planning events.

For more information on fees see www.rscds.org/document/1349

.. Wayne Ellwood, Communications Director

Toronto Dancers... They DO Get Around



Sarasota, Florida

John Kennedy, Elizabeth Hannah, Catherine MacDonald, Don Lancaster, and teacher Ellen McRanor



Buffalo, New York

Bill Goodfellow addresses The Haggis



The Demo Pool was everywhere for Burns Celebrations

The West End Workshop



Fred DeMarse, San Francisco

Fred started Scottish country dancing in 1986 in the San Francisco Bay area. He gained his Full Certificate in 1996, his Highland Dance teaching certificate in 1995, and his Highland Dance judge qualification in 2002 after retiring from dance competition. In the Bay area he teaches weekly both Highland and Scottish country dance to children and adults and one

night a week he practises as part of the Red Thistle Scottish Dancers performing group.

Fred strongly believes in teaching the basics of Scottish dance; this is the way he has been taught by many wonderful teachers. His goals are both to impart his knowledge and also to encourage the desire to *dance well* while creating a friendly, supportive, and fun environment.



Christine Basnett, London

Christine was born in Crosshouse, near Kilmarnock, Scotland. She emigrated to Canada in 1982. While living in Prince George in 1995 Christine discovered her passion for Scottish country dancing. She gained her RSCDS teaching certificate in 2006 while a member of London branch. Since then, she has taught workshops in Japan in 2007, Calgary in 2015 and

Hong Kong in 2017. She has been guest teacher at the Prince Edward County Tartan Tea Weekend and Peterborough's Stoney Lake weekend.

Between 2009 and 2012 she taught classes in Sarnia and Kitchener and currently teaches the beginners' group in Kitchener and a mixed-level group in Stratford. Fred Moyes provides music for all her classes.



Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Mississauga

Born in Scotland, Deirdre grew up in the northern town of Inverness where she started Scottish country dancing through the Girl Guides, dancing in primary school, and participating in music festivals. As a primary school teacher in Midlothian, she ended up teaching her classes everything, including ceilidh and Scottish country dances.

After immigrating to Canada, she re-discovered SCD in 1979. Since then, Deirdre has spent a great deal of time dancing in classes, demonstration teams, and workshops in North America, the UK, and Europe.

Deirdre obtained her Teacher's Certificate in Toronto in 2001. She currently teaches two classes a week in the Toronto area and has taught children, and Level 1 beginner and Level 3 Toronto Association classes. She has taught workshops in Canada and the United States.

Deirdre is on the TAC (Teachers' Association, Canada) executive committee. She serves on the RSCDS Toronto Board, of which she is currently the Chair, and several other dance related committees.

"I have loved Scottish country dance since I was 12 years old and would like to communicate that love to others."

Board Bulletins

Nominations: Board Positions

Now is your chance to shape the destiny of RSCDS Toronto!

Four positions on the Board of Directors are open:

- Vice-Chair,
- Communications Director,
- Marketing Director
- Education and Training Director.

Elections to the Board take place at our AGM, April 29.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or wish to suggest someone, contact a member of the Nominations Committee. Download a Nomination form from the website (Members' Home Page) or ask Nancy White. Submit form to John Clark or Nancy White by **deadline: February 20.**

All Board positions imply commitment to at least two consecutive one-year terms.

The Vice Chair position should be filled by someone who:

- has previously served as a member of the Board,
- has been a former Executive member,
- has been a Convener or,
- has been a Committee Chair.

The incumbent Vice-Chair is expected to fill the position of Chair, with a two-year commitment in each role.

More info: Secretary, Nancy White nawhite15@gmail.com or Nominations Comm. Chair, John Clark clark62@sympatico.ca

AGM Motions Deadline: March 1st



March 1 is the deadline for submission of motions from the membership for the 2017 Annual General Meeting. Submissions must have the support of 10 full members as indicated by their signature.

Send motions to: Nancy White nawhite15@gmail.com

Motions received will be posted March 29; 30 days prior to AGM.

Volunteer Appreciation Awards



VOLUNTEERS

We will show our gratitude to people we could not do without at the April 8 Volunteer Appreciation Dance. Individual members, social groups, and the Board can nominate members deserving of recognition for their contribution to RSCDS Toronto and /or our social group allies.

Download a **Volunteer Nomination Form** from the website, Members' Home page. The VIP section has many example citations for your guidance.

Please take the time to consider and nominate a fellow dancer whose volunteer efforts you admire.

If you have questions or need assistance, feel free to contact waynefraser@me.com or 416-465-3433.

Download: [www.dancescottish.ca/ Members_Home.html](http://www.dancescottish.ca/Members_Home.html)

Deadline, 28 Feb. 2017: Submit nominations, including details of service, to Jane Robinson janer1@sympatico.ca

Upcoming Events: NEAR

Feb 11 - **Valentine Workshop:** Teachers Jean Noble and Fiona Philip. A tea dance follows. Knox Presby. Church, King St. South, Alliston. Info: Maureen Richardson 416 520 1705

Feb. 12 - **Shifftin' Bobbins Dance:** 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd. This session welcomes teacher Moira Korus. Info: <http://shifftinbobbins.webs.com>

Feb 18 - **The Tartan Ball:** Elegance and drama; great music and great dancing at the Fairmont Royal York.

Mar. 11 - **March Monthly Dance: Beginners' Night:** 7:30 p.m. at Crescent School. Scotch Mist will play.

Mar. 18 - **The White Cockade:** Dance to recorded music, 8-11:00 p.m. at MacNab Presby. Church, 116 MacNab St. S., Hamilton. \$7 at the door. Info: Lou Emslie 519 843 2145

Mar. 24 - **Erin Mills' Pre-Workshop Dance** with Fred DeMarse and Don Bartlett. 8 p.m. at the Mississauga Seniors' Centre, 1389 Cawthra Rd.

Mar. 25 - **West End Workshop and Tea Dance 2017** at Turner Fenton Secondary School, Brampton. Join us for a great day of dancing.

Apr. 8 - **April Monthly Dance: Volunteer Appreciation:** 7 p.m. at Crescent School. Scotch Mist will play. Volunteers are payment optional for this dance.

May 6 - **The Youth Ball.** Young people ages 10-35 are invited to dance to Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs. Save the date. Details will be announced soon. Programme and details at www.dancescottish.ca

May 13 - **The West Toronto Ball.** Save the date for the 48th annual West Toronto Ball. Music by Scotch Mist. Programme and details at www.dancescottish.ca



Calling All Cooks

Recipes have started to arrive. They all look great so far, but there is room for more.

Since this is a cookbook for the 60th anniversary, include hand-me-down recipes from those who no longer come dancing.

We plan to order the cookbook in a book form but if there is interest we can also order a digital copy. Let me know if digital would be your preference.

Submission deadline: Saturday, April 8, 2017

To get a form: www.dancescottish.ca/Members_Home.html

To submit online go to: www.cookbookprinter.com

Log in as: DanceScottish Password: Cookbook

To submit by email: theresamalek@rogers.com

To submit by Canada Post: Theresa Malek
607-60 Southport St.
Toronto M6S 3N4

If you need to speak to me, call: 416 535 4447

RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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Upcoming Events: FAR

Feb. 11-12 - **Ardbrae Dancers of Ottawa 53rd Ball:** At the Glebe Community Centre. Music by Torridon.

Doug Squires condoug@gmail.com www.ardbrae.org

Feb. 17 - **Peterborough Monthly Dances** at St John's Anglican Church 7:30 p.m. Also on March 17(Blair Mackenzie music) and April 21 (Don Bartlett music).

Feb. 24-25 - **London's Annual Workshop Weekend.** Teachers: Claire Collier (Lewiston NY) and David Booz (Toronto). Live music by Laird Brown and Don Wood. Info: Anne or Alasdair Campbell 519 641 3550 or atcampbell9@hotmail.com or www.rscdslondoncanada.org Registration deadline: February 15. Accommodation info: Maureen: moe.graham@hotmail.com or 519 472 3422.

Mar. 3-5 - **Belleville SCD Workshop and Ball:** Teachers: Ruby and John Wilkinson from Scotland. Music: Scotch Mist. Contacts: david.aston@kos.net 613 399 3258 or Bill and Jan Cunningham 613 965 4212.

Mar. 4 - **RSCDS Hamilton Annual Spring Workshop & Dance - "Three's Company"** 12 p.m.-5 p.m. at Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton. Teacher: Kay Munn, Kingston. Music: Fred Moyes. Tickets: \$25. Information: www.rscdshamilton.org

Mar. 11 - **St. Giles Workshop, Ceilidh and Ball:** Calgary. Teachers: Bob Anderson (Victoria, BC), Ferne Katzberg (Yorkton, SK), and Gail Michener (Picture Butte, AB). Music: Glen Morin. Info: Jany Bertram 403 585 3842.

Mar. 18 - **Madison Scottish Dancers' Ruby Ball.** We are delighted to welcome the renowned fiddle/cello duo, Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, as musical guests for this special occasion. madisonscottishcountrydancer.org

Apr. 28-May 1 - **International Branch Weekend, Pafos, Cyprus.** Teachers: Ellie Briscoe, USA; Jean Dodds, Australia; William Williamson, Scotland. Music by James Gray, Ian Robertson, and Andrew Lyon. www.rscds-ib.org

May 7 - **35th Anniversary Royal Tea Party.** Honouring 35 years of RSCDS Nova Scotia. Truro, NS. Information: Marlene Cormier-Cox at marblemuse.1@xplornet.com or www.rscdsnovascotia.ca

May 26-28 - **Peterborough's 33rd Annual Scottish Country Dance Weekend.** Now at Pine Vista Resort on Stony Lake, Ont. Teacher: Sandy Gallamore, Richmond, Virginia. Music: Fred Moyes. Contact Joan Reeves 705 748 5255 or jfreeves@sympatico.ca

June 9-11 - **Midwest Scottish Weekend.** Chicago, Madison, and Milwaukee welcome you to the Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Info: <https://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend>

More events, near and far, listed at dancescottish.ca

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

Winter School

23-28 February 2017

Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Scotland

5 days of dancing and music with Janet Johnston, William Williamson, Jim Lindsay, Ian Robertson and others

www.rscds.org/news/winter-school-2017

Spring Fling: Bonn, Germany

28-30 April 2017

BaseCamp Hostel (an indoor fake campsite!)

For young dancers ages 12 - 35 yrs.

Teachers: Fiona Brunk, Raphaëlle Orgeret, Duncan Brown

Scholarships are available. Info:

www.springfling2017.de



Scotland's National Tourism Organisation

www.visitscotland.com

Demo Pool Practice Dates

2-4 p.m. Sunday afternoons at

Broadlands Community Centre

19 Castlegrove Blvd, Don Mills

◆ Mar 26 ◆ Apr 23

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

Contact: Stella Henderson 416.498-1940

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: nawwhite15@gmail.com



RSCDS Toronto
c/o Secretary
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