

# RSCDS Toronto

[www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

## From the Chair...



Liz Clunie

Now that all the Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations are well behind us, it's time to get down to some serious business! I would like to draw your attention to our need to fill specific positions within the

association. We don't seem to lack volunteers, as evidenced by the long lists of names displayed at the Volunteer Appreciation Dances, but we do need to find people to take on some major roles.

There are two board positions to be filled: Secretary and Marketing/Outreach Director. The nomination committee headed by Deirdre MacCuish Bark is seeking nominations to fill those vacancies. You can assist them by making suggestions or, better still offer your services. Nancy White and Lyn Barsevskis are stepping down, but they will be close at hand to assist the transition and to provide advice and information if needed. Deirdre would like to hear from you before February 20.

We are also searching for Demo Pool and November Workshop convenors. Stella Henderson and Christy Barber have masterminded these events for five and two years, respectively, so it's time for them to take a break. Demo Pool convenor administrative tasks could be handled by somebody other than a demo pool dancer, which opens the position to any of our members who are interested in showing off Scottish country dancing to a wider audience. This position might be a good fit for an ex-dancer who would still like to be involved in the dance community. Stella, Christy, and Nancy are prepared to be members of the committees so they can mentor their replacements and offer the benefit of their experience in those roles.

With the support of your predecessor, taking on a new position as a board member or convenor isn't as daunting as you might think. Please give it your careful consideration.

*Liz*



In the December *Queensland Rambler* (newsletter of RSCDS Queensland Branch, Australia), Heather Heron reflects on the value of Scottish country dance teachers. Her perspective is not limited to the southern hemisphere; rather, it mirrors Jean Milligan's determined intent to spread Scottish country dance and its accompanying enjoyment across the world. The sentiments may be Heron's, but corresponding actions could be ours, in every dance group. ...DEH

**We tend to take so much for granted** – our family, our friends, our volunteers, and finally our teachers. It struck me at the end of the St Andrew's Social in 2018 that we gave an enthusiastic ovation to our musicians, which, of course, was richly deserved. Our response to the teacher whom we also thanked wasn't quite as robust. Don't you feel that the teacher deserves the same enthusiastic response?

Did we as individuals approach that teacher and personally thank her for all her hours of dedication, research, and commitment to making the evening the success it was?

Teachers spend endless hours preparing classes, creating interesting programs, following guidelines, travelling for hours, not to mention the expense of purchasing books and music and, finally, the commitment to arrive on time every single week of the year. Teachers are usually the first to arrive and the last to leave.

While teachers make that commitment, dancers can come and go as they please. Teachers do not have that privilege. When was the last time you thanked your teachers?

When was the last time you offered to bring them water or make them a cuppa? Have you offered to unpack their car, set up the sound system, or even escort them safely to their car late at night?

Have you told them how much you appreciate their contribution to our Society and to our Branch in particular? Regardless of what happens in their personal lives, they always arrive on time with a class prepared and ready to teach.

To our teachers—a huge "Thank you!" from me, for everything you do. You are our ambassadors. Your value is priceless. Our teachers are an integral part of our Society, and we cannot afford to ignore them. They need your support as much as you need theirs.

To our volunteers who regularly go unnoticed—thank you also for being so willing to step in and do whatever is needed.

As an aside, the economic value of 25000+ volunteers in (Australian) community radio broadcasting is worth \$617 million. What price would you put on our volunteers for Scottish country dancing?

...Heather Heron, Chair, RSCDS Queensland

# Special Events

## Special Tartan Ball Practices for Newer Dancers

Sunday afternoons • 2 to 4 p.m. • Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10  
Parkway Forest Community Centre, 55 Forest Manor Road  
See page 3 for information about this and other practices.

## South Simcoe's Valentine Workshop & Tea Dance

Saturday, February 9 • 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, 160 King Street South, Alliston



Warm up your winter with a wonderful day of SCD in Alliston with teachers Alma Smith and David Booz. A full day of activities with two classes, an afternoon tea dance, snacks, lunch and a light supper. Registration is limited to 50 people. Carpool with your friends!

Music (Laird Brown & Don Wood) and the Love of your Life (SCD) is the best way to beat the winter blues. Tickets: Maureen Richardson [schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com](mailto:schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com)

## St Clement's "Winter Wonder" Evening

Monday, Feb. 18 - 7:00-9:00. Technique - 6:30 for the interested  
Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road



Celebrate the Family Day holiday with a relaxed evening of "cool" dances — dances which are fun, easy-ish, and perhaps a little different. All dances will be walked and briefed. From 6:30 - 7:00 Teresa Lockhart will refresh your technique and introduce formations from some of the dances on the programme. All dancers are welcome.  
Info: [teresa.lockart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockart@rogers.com)

## Social Dance Evening with Ellie Briscoe

Friday, March 22 • 7:30-9:30  
Mississauga Seniors' Centre, Olga Tyne Auditorium, 1389 Cawthra Road

Erin Mills (Fri.) Social Group welcomes guest teacher Ellie Briscoe from Alexandria, Virginia. Dancing begins 7:30 sharp.  
Info: Jean Hamilton 905-556-9599



## West End Workshop & Tea Dance

Saturday, March 23 • 8:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Turner Fenton School, 7935 Kennedy Rd., Brampton

Enjoy a day improving your dancing skills with three great teachers: Ellie Briscoe, Catherine Reid, and Arlene Koteff (see Bios on page 5). Musicians: Don Bartlett, and Laird Brown with Don Wood.

\$75 Full day workshop, lunch, tea dance and afternoon tea; \$35 Youth (14-25); \$20 tea dance only includes afternoon tea.

Your teacher has brochures, or visit [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

## Teachers' Workshop with Ellie Briscoe

Sunday, March 24 • 2:00-4:30 • Doors open at 1:30 • \$15  
Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore Road W., Mississauga



A workshop for teachers, teacher candidates, those currently teaching a SCD class, and (with permission\*) those considering the teacher certification process. Special guest teacher is Ellie Briscoe. Don Bartlett will play for the class.

\*Contact: Barbara Taylor  
[taylorbarbara@sympatico.ca](mailto:taylorbarbara@sympatico.ca)

# Beginner Night Dances



Programme by Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Date: Saturday, March 9 ~ Dancing starts promptly at 7:30

Place: Crescent School Music: Scotch Mist

Host Groups: • ASTA • Hillcrest • Woodglen

The Provost Wynd	8 x 32 R	Goldring, RSCDS Graded Book 2
The Luckenbooth Brooch	8 x 32 J	Dickson, Glendarroch Sh 28
Gramachie	8 x 32 S	Miss Milligan's Miscellany 1
Corryvreckan	8 x 32 J	Frost, Leeds Silver Thistle
Locheil's Rant	8 x 32 S	Rutherford 1755, RSCDS Book 19
The Barmkin (sq set)	1 x 88 R	Goldring, RSCDS Graded Book 2

### Interval

The Edinburgh Toy Shop	8 x 32 J	Bailey, RSCDS Book 51
Swansea Strathspey	8 x 32 S	Booz, Golden Ghillies
Sailing On Shewnigan Lake	3 x 32 R	Clindinning, leaflet
Haste To The Wedding	6 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 25
Karin's Strathspey	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Graded Book 3
Duke of Perth (a.k.a. Broun's Reel)	8 x 32 R	Trad., RSCDS Book 1

### Extra

Granville Market	8 x 32 J	Vandegrift, RSCDS Graded Book 2
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*All dances will be walked and briefed.*

*ALLERGY ALERTS: Make the dance SCENT FREE, and NO NUTS.*

## TORONTO WORKSHOP CONVENOR OPPORTUNITY



I would like to mentor someone with the committee for the 2019 workshop, anticipating they will assume the role of Convenor the following year.

Our committee is a great team, and we have a lot of fun preparing this important annual event. Consider joining us.

Info: Christy Barber 416 489-2384 [barber72@sympatico.ca](mailto:barber72@sympatico.ca)



**Scottish Government Initiative**  
Self-driving vehicles will be put through their paces on Scotland's single-track roads to see how they handle passing places and wandering sheep. ... The Scotsman

# 56th Tartan Ball News



Feb. 16  
The Old Mill - Brule Ballrooms

**Ticket sales are underway (until February 10th)**

Ticket prices remain the same as last year:

\$135 for members

\$150 for non members.

\$115 for members attending their first Ball,

\$115 for youth (under 30), or non-dancers.

Order your tickets online: [www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan\\_Ball.html](http://www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html)

Paper Application Form: [www.dancescottish.ca/2019-Tartan-Ball.pdf](http://www.dancescottish.ca/2019-Tartan-Ball.pdf)

(Or contact Laurie McConachie, [laurie-m@rogers.com](mailto:laurie-m@rogers.com))

## Tartan Ball Practices

**Parkway Forest CC: Sundays, 2 - 4 p.m. Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & 10**

Barbara Taylor will prepare newer dancers for the ball.

Parkway Forest CC, 55 Forest Manor Rd.

You **must** reserve with Laurie McConachie: [laurie-m@rogers.com](mailto:laurie-m@rogers.com)

**Calvin: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30**

Jan. 29: Dances that follow the 2nd Interval

Feb. 5: Dances that follow the 1st Interval

Feb. 12: Dances before the 1st Interval

Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Avenue

Info: [vickyzeltins@gmail.com](mailto:vickyzeltins@gmail.com)

**Glenview: Wednesdays, 7:30-9:15**

Feb. 6: First half of the programme

Feb. 13: Second half of the programme

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue

Info: [v.fisher@sympatico.ca](mailto:v.fisher@sympatico.ca)

**St Clements: Monday, Feb. 11, 6:30-9:30**

Teresa Lockhart will dance you through the entire ball programme, in order. This is to calibrate your preparedness.

Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road

Info: [teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com)

**Woodglen: Fridays, 7:45-9:45 Feb. 1, 8, 15**

Deirdre will teach the Ball dances over three weeks. All are welcome.

Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church, Kingston Road at Wood Glen

Info: John Clark: [clark62@sympatico.ca](mailto:clark62@sympatico.ca)

### Spectators

Admission to the Tartan Ball, or any portion of the ball, is restricted to those who have purchased a ticket to the ball. There is no balcony or viewing area in the ballroom. Non-dancers are welcome to attend the ball, provided they have purchased a 'non-dancer' ticket, which includes the reception, dinner, and participation in the grand march before the dancing starts. Non-dancers may remain at their tables after dinner to watch the dancing and socialize.

### Extra Practices

Barbara Taylor will teach three extra practices for newer dancers so you will feel well prepared for the Ball. The price each week is \$7.

The venue is a brand new facility, near Sheppard & Don Mills Road, and it has a beautiful dance studio! You must reserve by emailing

[laurie-m@rogers.com](mailto:laurie-m@rogers.com)

Dates: Sunday afternoons, 2-4 p.m, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 10

Place: Parkway Forest Community Centre, 55 Forest Manor Rd.

### Something New: A post-ball collation

Something new! This year, the Tartan Ball committee invites you to linger and wind down from the dancing with a wee snack and some sociability before you go.

The Tartan Ball Committee looks forward to welcoming everyone to the dance floor on February 16.

...Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor

**Tartan Ball Ready**  
*Highland Formal Dress by Paisleys,  
Jamaica Street, Glasgow, 1938*

DUMBARTON ROCK

**T**HIS is the Prince Charlie Coatee, front view, showing the double breasted coatee with silver plated buttons and seal sporran. The vest may be black or red.

*Full description and detailed prices will be found in the Appendix at back*

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PAISLEYS LTD. GLASGOW, C.I.



## The first Monthly Dance of 2019 was a success

when you consider the weather we sometimes get in January. This year it was mild and dry, so no excuses for not attending. We had Scotch Mist playing, and an interesting programme sprinkled with some Tartan Ball dances. Those who attended had a very enjoyable evening.

However, it was not a success when you look at the number of dancers attending — only 76. This is far below what we need to cover expenses. We need about 110 members attending to cover costs. Please come out and support these dances.

Paul Barber won the 50/50 draw and generously donated his prize to support a dancer to attend the Tartan Ball.

Our next dance is March 9, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. at Crescent School. Scotch Mist will be playing. This is our Beginners' Dance. Come and lend your expertise to these new dancers. Many of them will have butterflies as this is probably the first time that they will have danced to live music and in a crowd of people. Beginners will be wearing ribbons so they will be easily recognized.



... Forbes Duncan



## fifty-fifty draw

At the January Monthly Dance, Paul Barber won \$109 in the 50/50 draw.

## Volunteer Awards: I nominate...



Does your Social Group have special people who volunteer all the time? Are there people your group could not do without? Is there someone in the Toronto Association you think is indispensable? RSCDS Toronto wishes to honour those people. Show your gratitude to someone who has given extensive and exceptional unpaid service by nominating them for a Volunteer Award. Nominations may be made by the Board, Social Groups, or by individual members.

At the Volunteer Dance April 13, 2019, we display the names of those who have contributed their time and energy to Toronto Association committees, and activities, and we present framed certificates to those chosen to receive a Volunteer Award.

The criteria and a list of previous recipients can be viewed on the website — Members' Home page, under VIPs.

The deadline for submissions is **February 28, 2019**.

Send nominations to Louis Racic at [louis.racic@gmail.com](mailto:louis.racic@gmail.com)

# Board Bulletins

## Nominations: Board Positions

Here's a chance to shape the destiny of RSCDS Toronto! Several positions on the Board of Directors are open, but members are reminded any position can be proposed. Elections to the Board take place at our AGM, April 27.

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 the form to Deirdre MacCuish Bark or Nancy White by **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 Convenor 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 [nawwhite15@gmail.com](mailto:nawwhite15@gmail.com) or Nominations Comm. Chair, Deirdre MacCuish Bark: [barkd@rogers.com](mailto:barkd@rogers.com) 905 822-1707

## AGM Motions Deadline: Feb. 10



**Feb. 10 is the deadline for submission of motions** from the membership for the 2019 Annual General Meeting. Submissions must have the support of 10 full members as indicated by their signature.

Send motions to: Nancy White [nawwhite15@gmail.com](mailto:nawwhite15@gmail.com)  
Motions received will be posted 30 days prior to AGM.

## AGM Motion: Be it moved...

**MOTION:** to be presented at the AGM

Be it moved, to acknowledge **Jean Lindsay** for her dedication and contributions to the RSCDS Toronto Association, that she be awarded an Honorary Life Membership.



## Teacher Candidate Scholarship

Thinking about becoming a  
SCD Teacher?

Toronto Association is offering a scholarship to a worthy applicant who wishes to take on teacher certification.

Details on the website:

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

## West End Workshop: Teacher Bios



### Ellie Briscoe – Alexandria, Virginia

Ellie Briscoe discovered Scottish country dancing in San Francisco, and later danced in the Boston area before moving to Alexandria. She took her Teacher Certificate at the TAC Summer School at St. Catharines in 1982, where she met her husband Mel, and has taught at workshops across North America and in Japan and Cyprus. She has tutored teacher candidates for many years, and serves on the Society's Education and

Training Committee. Her favourite aspects of SCD are the music and how it drives the covering and phrasing, the teamwork, and the way people grin when they "get it." Before she retired, Ellie was a manager in the National Geographic Society Library in Washington, DC for 25 years, and she enjoys singing in a chorus, and taking photos while scuba diving.



### Catherine Reid – Dundas, Ontario

Catherine was born in Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland and immigrated to Canada at the age of five. Although retired for the past several years, she had a rewarding career as an elementary teacher with the Hamilton Wentworth Board of Education. Catherine now lives in Dundas, Ontario with her husband, Scott. They have four grown children, three daughters and a son, and two grand-children. In their retirement, Catherine and Scott continue to enjoy travel very much.

Catherine started dancing in her teens with June Shore and had a long break from it before returning later in life. She received her Prelim in 2009 and her Full Teaching Certificate in 2011. Catherine has taught every level of Scottish Country dance with the Hamilton, Ontario Branch and currently co-teaches a Level 1 Class. Catherine has taught classes and workshops in Cambridge and Picton, Ontario, the Border Cities Workshop in Detroit, and at Thistle School in North Carolina. She has been coordinator of the Hamilton Demonstration Team for the past seven years.

Catherine enjoys dancing very much and takes the opportunity to visit other dance clubs near and far. She feels very privileged to be a member of the RSCDS and the Hamilton Branch.



### Arlene Koteff – Toronto, Ontario

Arlene began Scottish country dancing through a series of fortuitous friendships, beginning with attending the Orillia Scottish Festival in 1993. At the time, her young family responsibilities limited her participation to once-a-week dancing at Bloorlea, where Mari Thompson took her under her wing to teach her footwork, formations, and dancing. As her children grew, so did the level of her

participation, and she could be spotted all over the GTA at social groups, participating in the Demo Pool and various committees, and supporting as many workshops, balls, and monthly dances as possible, as well as attending events outside of Toronto.

Arlene obtained Part 1 (Units 1, 2, and 3) under the tutelage of Jean Noble in 2013 and has been teaching the Bloorlea group since 2014. She completed her full certificate at Summer School 2018 in St Andrews, Scotland. Fresh off the grill, Arlene is looking forward to sharing the joy of Scottish country dancing.

## MARGARET BAIN ~ a Memoire

Just a few weeks ago, there was a Celebration of Life attended by family and friends of Margaret Bain, a veteran Scottish country dancer who died in late November.

For much of her dancing life in Canada, Margaret was a member of RSCDS Toronto and danced with the Petronella social group in Thornhill under the guidance of first Janette Todd and then Carole Skinner. It so happened that back in the 90s and well into the 21st century, the Petronella dancers had made contact with a concert organization that, every August, ran a week-long series of variety performances at Roy Thomson Hall (RTH). It was called the RBC Seniors' Jubilee. Petronella's involvement started with just eight lady dancers that



Margaret & Donald Horner

included Margaret, but expanded with male dancers for many years thereon. I don't have to tell you that for all of us, Margaret included, facing an audience of nearly 2000 each afternoon at RTH was an unbelievable adrenalin charge never to be forgotten. But wait, there's more! The Jubilee also included a top-performing tap dance group called the Scarborough Show Stoppers. Margaret had learned how to tap as a child and quickly became involved in this group which always opened the Concert Series with the show's overture. I also want to tell you that Margaret was an accomplished ballroom dancer with whom I have enjoyed on numerous occasions doing a mean foxtrot.

How about this? Several years ago, along with another Petronella dancer, Dorothy Freel, she journeyed to China with a group of RSCDS Toronto dancers. Margaret and some of the dancers performed a Scottish country dance on the Great Wall of China, to the delight of a large audience of tourists. Was that a first for SCD?

Early November last year was my final opportunity to share a strathspey with Margaret, following which she said, "Barry, will you give me a big hug?" I complied of course! Was that a premonition or what?

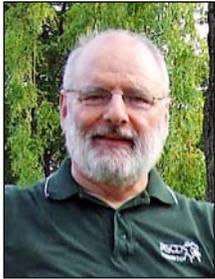
Margaret, Rest in Peace.

... Barry Pipes



Margaret

## Ron Macnaughton: *Thoughts on SCD Photography*



Ron Macnaughton

*I so enjoy the enthusiasm and dramatic moves of other dancers. I'd like to capture those magical moments and share them with non-dancers, but my camera usually misses the magic. Several things about SCD make photos especially challenging.*

**Timing:** I've seen photographers start at the beginning then leave after a few dances. My experience is dancers get more animated once we've warmed up.



**Composition:** A wide angle photograph, such as this from the balcony at the Toronto workshop, can be very grand, especially when dancers are doing large figures like circles or all turning with great covering. But most wide angle shots of mine just show a jumble of people moving in many directions. Images are confusing without a dramatic centre of attention or many doing the same thing. I particularly like photos showing a small number of dancers moving, or individuals showing their exuberance.

**Exposure:** Most Scottish dance venues have low light levels. To get enough light on the chip, you need either a wide lens opening, long exposures such as 1/60 of a second which, give blur, and/or a high ISO setting, which produces speckled noisy images.

**Focus:** With dancers milling around, it's hard to get sharp focus on the person or people of interest. Wide angle shots give sharper focus, but when cropped and enlarged, any problems become more visible. This expanded detail from the above photo, even with a quality camera, has problems compared to a closer sharper photograph.



**Ideas for Camera Settings:** Each camera works differently, so some things I mention might not be available. Reread the manual; in most cameras the SPORT mode acts in a similar fashion to what I suggest.

I've had poor success with automatic exposure mode. That can lead to over long exposures, which don't freeze action. Shorter exposures are needed when close to moving dancers or using a telephoto – the very situations which make for expressive photos. Many cameras have a mode where you set the exposure (e.g. 1/125 second) and the camera adjusts the rest. An alternative is to pick a ISO/exposure/f-stop setting after tests and use that for the whole program — if indoors.

Sharp focus is a bane of SCD photography. Normal automatic focus measures the distance to many points in the image and adjusts the focal distance to nearer points. I find that seldom gives me good focus, especially on dancers in the middle of the set whom I want to be the centre of attention.



I use spot focus mode. The camera adjusts focus to one point, which is shown on the viewfinder. That point by default is the middle, but I set it for the top ¼ of the view. The photo above shows the LCD screen of my camera with a red square marking the focus point. I wanted Louise to be in focus, but not the dancers behind. I particularly like images which capture wonderful expressions of the joy of dancing – a major reason people want to join our world.

Another strategy is to use manual focus. I set the focus distance to where I expect the action to be and then use burst mode to take many pictures a second. As dancers mill around, most images will be out of focus, but some will be golden. Check burst mode at home because some cameras can only take a few images before getting overwhelmed. Faster cards or 'jpeg only' setting helps.

If you use advanced features like these, it is important to recheck all the settings frequently. It's easy to get hundreds of out-of-focus images if you forget to reset it from manual mode.

**Composition:** Composition is where the art of photography comes in. Many of my dud images were taken from the sidelines, with no centre of attention. Watching videos of dances helps to identify special moments. You can plan to be in a good place to image moments such as the hand clap in *Happy Meeting*, flirty eye contact in *Balgeddie Reel*, the Espagnole in *City of Belfast*, balance-in-line in the *Reel of the 51st*.

Non-dancing moments can make great pictures: counting sets, bow and curtsy, briefer in focus with dancers out of focus.

Once at Dancing in the Park, a newspaper photographer saw *allemandes* and decided to get to ground level with a wide angle lens looking up. He captured the moment as my partner and I turned to the centre. A teaching colleague posted that photo in the school staff room in an effort to tease me.

I find the best action shots are in reels such as *Mairi's Wedding*, especially of dancers like Chris (photo below) who has more hair than I have. I wish I had pointed the camera a little lower and the room had been more elegant.

I hope these suggestions give ideas for capturing the incredible happiness of Scottish country dancing.

... Ron Macnaughton



# JIG ♦ Reel ♦ Strathspey

## Devise a Programme for the 2021 Volunteer Appreciation Dance

The winner of the 2020 competition will be announced at the Volunteer Dance on April 13, 2019 — when we shall dance a programme devised by Theresa Malek.

At the 2021 Volunteer Appreciation Dance we could be dancing a programme of *your* devising.

The Board invites your submission. Criteria and guidelines will be sent to those expressing an interest.

If your previous submission didn't win, consider revising your original and resubmitting.

Programme submissions must be received by **April 15, 2019**.

Info: Maureen Richardson: [schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com](mailto:schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com) or Louis Racic: [louis.racic@gmail.com](mailto:louis.racic@gmail.com)



L-R: Lauren Breckon, Valerie Fisher, Tony Szeto, Jon Allen-Friend, Cheryl Catt, Kevin Moloney, Arlene Koteff, Nigel Keenan

Eight intrepid dancers attended the Shiftn' Bobbins social group despite an outside temperature of 15 degrees below, and after the first storm of winter. They were eager to take advantage of something different: an introduction to Highland dance led by Donald Holmes demonstrating and sharing his over 40 years' expertise.

Various steps, feet and arm positions, phrasing, and techniques to enhance Highland Schottische and Glasgow Highlanders' setting steps were taught. He demonstrated five of the less complicated Highland Fling steps as alternatives or complements to the Glasgow Highlanders' setting step for that dance.

Another session will be scheduled for the fall.

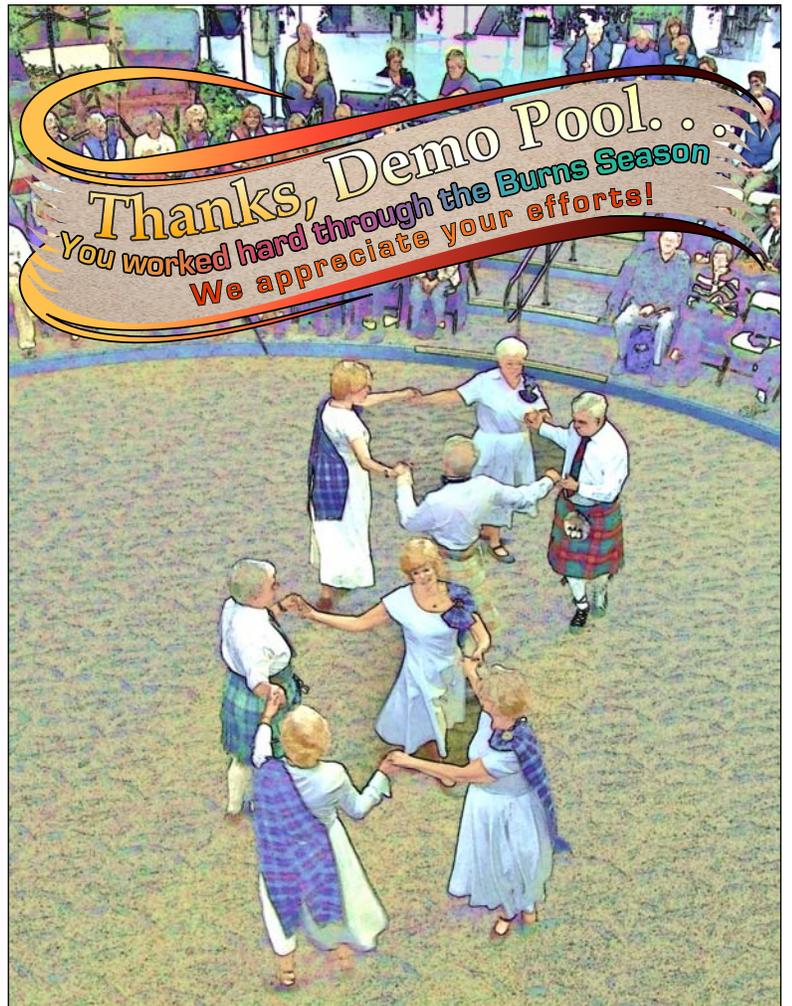
Shiftn' Bobbins meets with a different guest MC one Sunday afternoon a month. Dancers should expect, and be capable of dance challenges.

For more info, visit: <https://shiftnbobbins.webs.com> ... Jon Allen-Friend

**The Demo Pool Needs a New Convenor. It could be YOU!**

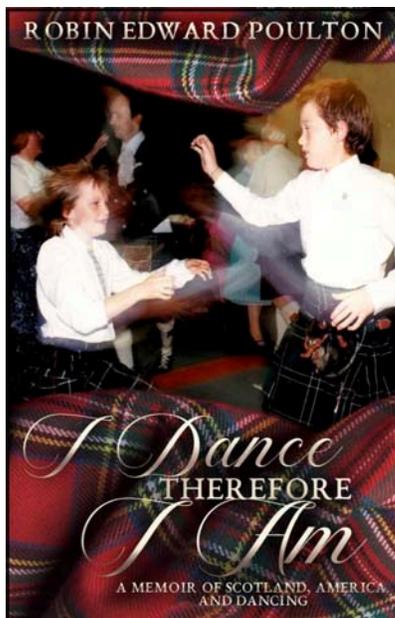
The Demo Pool urgently needs a convenor. We are again looking for a volunteer to take over the position of convenor of the Demo Pool, as Stella is definitely stepping down at the end of this demonstration season.

Please contact Stella at [stellahenderson820@gmail.com](mailto:stellahenderson820@gmail.com)



## I Dance Therefore I Am: A Memoir of Scotland, America, and Dancing

*This cheerful book is about dancing around the world.*



Robin Edward Poulton's book celebrates the world-wide friendship of dancers: peace, love, dancing. It's written with wit and humour, and mixes dance with stories, jokes, limericks, and home-spun lessons from life.

The book rates five stars on [GoodReads.com](http://GoodReads.com):

"Fascinating... tells about his love of dance, and peace making around the world."

All proceeds go to RSCDS HQ. 272 page paperback: \$14.50 or Kindle ePub: \$7.33 (\$us) both from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## Upcoming Events: NEAR

Feb 9 - **Valentine Workshop & Tea Dance** ~ Join your South Simcoe friends-in-dance for a workshop with teachers David Booz and Alma Smith, and music by Laird Brown and Don Wood. Lunch and a tea dance follow. Knox Presbyterian Church, 160 King Street South, Alliston.

Tickets: Maureen Richardson [schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com](mailto:schoolmarm1975@hotmail.com)

Feb 16 - **The 56th Annual Tartan Ball** ~ Dancers come from far and wide to attend this elegant signature event at the Old Mill. Tickets: [www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan\\_Ball.html](http://www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html)

Feb 18 - **St Clement's "Winter Wonder" Evening** ~ Celebrate the Family Day holiday with a relaxed evening of dance. All are welcome. 6:30-7 for refreshing technique; dancing 7-9. At Bishop Strachan School, 298 Lonsdale Road. Info: [teresa.lockhart@rogers.com](mailto:teresa.lockhart@rogers.com)

March 9 - **March Monthly Dance (Beginners' Night)** ~ Scotch Mist will play; all dances will be briefed and walked. Eager beginners will abound, and experienced dancers will be eager to help. At Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave. Starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. Cribs + video: [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

March 22 - **Social Dance Evening with Ellie Briscoe** ~ 7:30-9:30 at Mississauga Seniors' Centre, Olga Tyne Auditorium, 1389 Cawthra Road. Erin Mills (Fri.) Social Group's guest teacher is Ellie Briscoe from Alexandria, Virginia. Contact: Jean Hamilton for information 905-556-9599

March 23 - **West End Workshop & Tea Dance** ~ Teachers: Ellie Briscoe, Catherine Reid, Arlene Koteff. Music by various musicians; Scotch Mist will play for the tea dance.

March 24 - **Teachers' Workshop** ~ 2:00-4:30 Doors open at 1:30 Cost: \$15. Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore Rd. W., Mississauga. Special guest teacher is Ellie Briscoe. Don Bartlett will play for the class. Contact: Barbara Taylor [taylorbarbara@sympatico.ca](mailto:taylorbarbara@sympatico.ca)

March 24 - **Shifitin' Bobbins with Moira Korus** ~ At this meeting Moira Korus will share interesting intermediate and advanced dances. 2 to 4 p.m. Parish Hall, Grace Church on the Hill, 300 Russell Hill Road. <https://shifitinbobbins.webs.com>

May 4 - **15th Annual Youth Ball** ~ Dance to the wonderful music of Fred Moyes. At Willowdale United Church, 349 Kenneth Avenue, Toronto M2N 4V9. Tickets, including dinner, \$30 available soon. Info: Maureen Richardson. Details anon.

May 11 - **West Toronto Ball** ~ Sala Caboto in Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave, Toronto. Save the date for the annual West Toronto Ball. Music by Scotch Mist. Details anon.

## Upcoming Events: FAR

Feb 9-10 - **Ardbrae Dancers of Ottawa Triple-B weekend** ~ Ball, Buffet, and Brunch. Music by Torridon SDC Band.

Hospitality for out-of-towners. At the beautiful Glebe Centre, 175 Third Avenue. Info: Bob Anglin [anglin7576@rogers.com](mailto:anglin7576@rogers.com)

Feb 17-22 or Feb 25- Mar 4 - **The Sunday Class in Madeira** ~ The first week we mostly dance to CDs. The second week features live music on 5 evenings, and impromptu entertainment by Alex Hodgson. Our band is the wonderful Marian Anderson & Her Scottish Dance Band.

Info: [amandapeart@thesundayclass.org.uk](mailto:amandapeart@thesundayclass.org.uk)

Feb 23 - **RSCDS London Ontario Workshop & Tea Dance** ~ London Branch's annual workshop this year welcomes teacher Moira Korus, Toronto. The cost of \$45 includes a hot lunch. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Polish Combatants Hall, 80 Ann Street, London, ON. More info: [2019 London Workshop flyer.pdf](http://2019.LondonWorkshop.flyer.pdf) or [www.rscdslondoncanada.org](http://www.rscdslondoncanada.org)

Mar 1-3 - **Belleville Workshop and Ball** ~ Belleville dancers cordially invite you to our workshop weekend. Our teacher is the legendary Atsuko Clement, so mark the date and book early. The Friday Social, Saturday classes, and Ball are all at the Masonic Temple with its fine wooden floor.

Info: David Aston [david.aston@kos.net](mailto:david.aston@kos.net)

Mar 29-31 - **Madison Scottish SCD Ball Weekend** ~ Great Hall, Memorial Union, UW-Madison Campus. Musicians: Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson with Dave Mullen.

Teachers: TBA. [www.madisonscottishcountrydancers.org](http://www.madisonscottishcountrydancers.org)

Apr 13, 2019 - **RSCDS Ottawa Spring Ball** ~ Enjoy an evening four course meal followed by dancing to the inspiring music of Torridon Scottish Dance Band with Kathy Fraser-Collins and Freddy Collins. Ottawa Conference Centre, 200 Coventry Road. Info: [www.rscdsottawa.ca](http://www.rscdsottawa.ca)

More events, near & far: [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)  
Join the RSCDS Toronto/Dance Scottish FB group:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/55880122664](https://www.facebook.com/groups/55880122664)

**Did you notice?** The lovely bouquet on the front page is not flowers, but cupcakes! Google kerrys boucques

## Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Events

### Summer School

21 July ~ 11 Aug, 2019

St Andrews University, Scotland

Your choice of 4 weeks dancing & music with

- Amazing teachers • Talented musicians
- Friends from all over
- Dance in legendary Younger Hall

[www.rscds.org/article/book-now-for-summer-school-2019](http://www.rscds.org/article/book-now-for-summer-school-2019)

### Ladies' Step Classes

• Feb 2 & 23 • March 2 & 9  
Noon to 1:15



Rosedale Presbyterian Church,  
129 Mount Pleasant  
at South Drive Info: Moira Korus

Teacher:  
Alma Smith

### DEMO POOL PRACTICE DATES

Our new home is Banbury CC,  
120 Banbury Road, Don Mills

Mar 3 ~ 2-4 p.m. ~ Banbury Banquet Hall

(note change in time)

Mar 31 ~ 2-4 p.m. ~ Banbury Lounge

### T.A.C. Summer School ~ 28 July - 4 Aug ~ Calgary, Alberta

Teachers: Jimmy Hill • Linda Henderson • Geoffrey Selling • Moira Korus

Music: Andy Imbrie & Reel of Seven ~ Place: beautiful Mount Royal University

Info: <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school>

### 42nd Annual Orillia Scottish Festival: Saturday, July 20



Parade noon; Opening Ceremonies 1:30

### See you there...



Info: Will Kinghorn

[wuilleam.ailean@gmail.com](mailto:wuilleam.ailean@gmail.com)

### RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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### Newsletter Committee:

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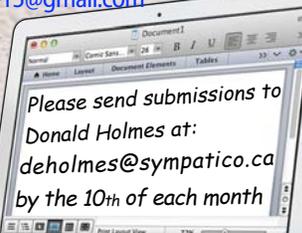


### ~ Attend a Board Meeting ~

Members of RSCDS Toronto are invited to attend Board meetings (i.e. sit in, and silently observe). Please arrange your visit with Nancy White [nawhite15@gmail.com](mailto:nawhite15@gmail.com)

### Dates:

- Wed, Feb 13
- Wed, Mar 13



At the 2019 AGM the Board will be proposing revisions to the Procedures Manual, a process that requires approval by the membership. A revised Procedure Manual illustrating the proposed changes will be posted on the website for review by the membership. Any changes must be submitted to Board by March 27, 2019, 30 days before the AGM and be supported by ten (10) Full Members of the RSCDS Toronto Association (RSCDS TA).

Revisions to the Procedures Manual have come about for the following reasons.

- 1) Article 3.2 and 3.3: With the intent to encourage young adults to join the RSCDS TA, it is proposed that the category “Young Adult Membership” be extended to those 18 years to under 35 years old (currently set for 18 to under 25 years) and that the annual fee for everyone applying in this category be \$43. This age group will still fall under the Single Adult category for Society membership. RSCDS TA will continue to forward membership fees to the Society as required for Single Adult membership fees.

“Junior Associate Members” will be called “Youth Associate Members” and this category will continue to apply to anyone age 12 to under 18 years. This category does not currently pay fees to the RSCDS TA; however, the Association does pay fees to the Society on their behalf.

**MOTION: Be it moved that the Young Adult Membership be extended to member applicants eighteen (18) years to under thirty-five (35) and that the annual fee for everyone applying in this category be \$43.**

- 2) Volunteer Convenor duties have been transferred from the Membership Director to the Vice Chair.
- 3) Article 6.6 Standing Committees: This Article will just outline the Executive, Nominations and Finance Committees. Articles 6.10 to 6.14 providing detailed responsibilities of other Board “Committees” will be removed since, in practice, these committees do not exist except for the current “Marketing Committee” which may more simply be informed by the procedures stated in Articles 6.5.1 and 6.5.2. Any further changes or operational details for this committee or any detailed responsibilities of Directors and Convenors supporting the RSCDS TA will be outlined, if required, in a revised Operations Manual.
- 4) Article 3.4 Membership Application and Admission and Article 3.6 Membership Fees: Further to point 2) and 3), text in the Procedures Manual that has previously referred to the Membership & Volunteer Committee, will now simply refer to the Membership Director’s responsibilities.
- 5) Other minor edits: All proposed changes will be evident through “Track Changes”.

**MOTION: Be it moved that that revisions to the Procedures Manual as presented to the Membership be approved.**

**NOTE: For more details of the proposed revisions to the Procedures Manual with Track Changes visit our website [dancescottish.ca](http://dancescottish.ca)**