

RSCDS Toronto SET & LINK

www.dancescottish.ca

From the Chair...



Louis Racic

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

The weather cooperated and provided us with a lovely sunny weekend.

We are starting to see some light at the end of the COVID tunnel. I heard today that the fourth wave is no longer growing in Canada. This is

positive news. Let us hope that this slowing trend continues and the fourth wave diminishes quickly.

The restarting of dancing after a pandemic is new to us all. The masking and physical distancing are the most problematic for dancing. Early on, I naïvely thought that there would come a day when we would be told that masks are no longer needed, physical distancing was abolished, and we could resume our pre-pandemic activities. We could get back to normal, running our classes, monthly dances, workshops, and balls. Well, that was an optimistic thought. Unfortunately, there is no magic switch to get us back to normal. Restarting will be a longer and slower process. We will take small tentative steps forward towards a time when we all will be dancing again.

Staying on the cautious side, we are planning a Virtual Christmas dance this December, similar to the one we ran last year. It will be good to see everyone, albeit virtually.

Pushing the boundary a bit, we are planning to hold an in-person refresher class in November to test the waters. It is too early to run an in-person dance; however, we felt a trial class would be a good place to start. The number of attendees is small, and we can test the mechanics of holding a class. With all of the rules we need to follow, there is an added layer of complexity that is required to run any event. This includes all of the protocols laid out by the Ontario Government's stage 3 restart plan. If all goes well, we will plan additional in-person events.

We all look forward to getting back on the dance floor. We will get there, one step at a time.

...Louis Racic

Will ye no come back again?



Nov. 23: We are holding a refresher dance class as our first in-person event. This is a trial to determine the

current demand for in-person events. If this proves successful, we will plan additional events. We wish to see how many people are now comfortable to attend in person.

We will not be charging a fee to attend this one class. It is open to all Toronto Association members. The class will be limited to a maximum of 48 dancers.

This in-person refresher class will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at [Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue](#) M4K 1N6. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. to handle the pre-screening requirements. The class will begin at 7:30. Jean Noble will teach the class. She promises it will be a gentle class. Attendance at the class will require pre-registration, as we need to know how many people will be coming. Registration will close on November 20th.

We will be following all of the current government restart regulations and required protocols. These include a pre-screening questionnaire that will be sent out to the attendees prior to the class. Upon entry to the church, proof of vaccination must be shown, either vaccine certificate or two-dose receipt, and a temperature check must show less than 38°C. Masks must be worn at all times. If you are comfortable coming to an in-person class and would like to attend, please send your name, email, and phone number to Sue Ann Bryce. Use the handy online [JotForm](#), or email Sue Ann sueann2@sympatico.ca ...Louis Racic

REFRESHER CLASS INFO & PROTOCOLS...

- [Pre-registration JotForm](#)
- **Members In Good Standing only (limited to 48 dancers).**
- **Bring proof of full COVID-19 vaccination – easily obtained here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/>**
- **Arrive at 7:00, Eastminster side doors. Dancing is 7:30-9:30.**
- **Bring your own mask and water (no food).**
- **A COVID-19 screening form will be emailed 24 hours prior.**

Classes Zooming and Dancing Back!

MONDAY EVENINGS: IN PERSON

Scarborough ~ 7:30 - 9:30pm

Westview Presbyterian Church, 233 Westview Blvd, East York

Proof of vaccine, completed covid attestation forms, and masks are required to attend classes. [details](#)

All are welcome. Contact: [Nigel Keenan](#)

TUESDAY EVENINGS: ZOOM

Erin Mills / Bloorlea ~ 8pm 60-90 mins

Keith Bark and Arlene Koteff teach week about.

All are welcome. Contact: [Keith](#) or [Arlene](#)

Alma's Social Classes ~ 7:30 - 8:30pm

Alma Smith teaches social dancing for dancers with some SCD experience. Contact [Alma](#)

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: ZOOM

Humbercrest ~ 8pm 60-90 mins

Deirdre MacCuish Bark teaches.

All are welcome. Contact: [Deirdre](#)

Glenview ~ 8:00 - 9:00pm

Moira Korus teaches social dancing for dancers with some SCD experience. Contact [Erica](#)

THURSDAY EVENINGS: ZOOM

Basic Technique ~ 7:30 - 8:30pm

Keith Bark teaches basic technique for Levels 1 and 2.

Contact: [Keith](#)

FRIDAY MORNINGS: ZOOM

Alma's Beginner Classes ~ 10:00 - 11:00am

Classes include step practice and teaching of basic figures and dances. New dancers welcome. Contact [Alma](#)

FRIDAY EVENINGS: ZOOM

Woodglen ~ 8:00pm ~ 60-90 mins

Deirdre MacCuish Bark teaches.

All are welcome. To join: [Deirdre](#)

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS: ZOOM

Alma's Scottish Step Classes ~ 2:00 - 3:00pm

Full dances will be taught over a number of weeks. Classes include teaching of traditional Highland Steps, in the Ladies Step Dance style. All are welcome. Contact: [Alma](#)

SATURDAY MORNINGS: ZOOM & IN PERSON*

Rosedale Kids Classes ~ active ~ Starts Oct 16

Zoom: Under 12s: 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

Children under 12 and/or families are welcome.

* **In Person:** Dancers age 12+ dance 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

All 12+ and 20-somethings are welcome!

Proof of vaccine, completed covid attestation forms, and masks are required to attend classes.

Contact [Moira Korus](#) for info or Zoom link.



It's that time again!

Time to kick (or pas-de-basque) off the holiday season with our Christmas on-line dance:

Saturday, Dec. 11th, 2021 - 7:30pm

Put on your finery and come and join us for a fun dancing evening with break-out chat rooms. Please register with Keith Bark barkk@rogers.com

• A BONUS, PERFECT DANCING TECHNIQUE IS NOT REQUIRED!!
...Sheena Gilks

The Programme

Virtual Christmas Dance

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

Place: *Chez vous* via Zoom

Host: Contact [Keith Bark](#) for Zoom link

The Royal Deeside Railway	R 3x32	R Arrowsmith, RSCDS Book 40
The Haar On Skye	S 3x32	M Watson, RSCDS Graded 3
The Castle Of Mey	R 3x32	J Walton, RSCDS Diamond Jubilee
A Capital Jig	J 3x32	T Mackay, 5 Dances 2009
City Of Belfast	S 3x32	L Mullholland, RSCDS Book 48
The Lass of Richmond Hill	R 3x32	F Turnbull, RSCDS Graded Book 2
St Andrew's Fair	J 3x32	R Goldring, 5 SCDs
Holyrood Strathspey	S 3x32	M Short, RSCDS Book 51
The Australian Ladies	R 3x32	R Campbell, Glasgow Assembly
The Irish Rover	R 3x32	J Cosh, Thirty Popular Dances, Vol 2

Entry fee: None

Briefs with video links:

[2021-Xmas-Virtual-Dance-Briefs+video.pdf](#)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership Director, Carol Ann Boothby is happy to report...

222 persons are now MIGS
(Members In Good Standing)

Teachers' Pet Dances: Diana Hooper



Diana Hooper

Choosing only five favourite dances was extremely difficult, and I admit to feeling a little guilty that the majority of my choices are not RSCDS dances — but I love many, including *Monymusk*, *Balquidder Strathspey*, *Miss Milligan's Strathspey*, *Neidpath Castle*, *Jubilee Jig*, *The Montgomeries' Rant*, *De'il Amang the Tailors*, *Machine Without Horses*, etc. A huge impetus for

many of our dances is the associated music.

My all-time favourite dance is [The Glasgow Highlanders](#) (S8x32, RSCDS Book 2). Other close favourites:

- [Australian Ladies](#) (R8x32, Robert Campbell, Glasgow Assembly)
- [Bonnie Stronshiray](#) (S8x32, Robert Campbell, Glasgow Assembly)
- [The Reel of the Royal Scots](#) (R8x32, Roy Goldring, Leaflet), and
- [The White Heather Jig](#) (J4x32, James Cosh, 22 SCDs).

Previously, it was traditional to include both *The Glasgow Highlanders* and *The White Heather Jig* on the Tartan Ball programme. Regrettably, this is no longer done. *The Glasgow Highlanders* was usually danced fairly early in the evening and the sight of hundreds of dancers proceeding down the middle and up was truly a magnificent sight. *The White Heather Jig* was usually near the end of the programme, ensuring that the evening ended on a really high note. My ball days are basically over due to various aches and pains, but I have wonderful memories of many Tartan Balls over the years at the Royal York.

Having been born and raised in Australia, I might have a built-in bias in nominating *Australian Ladies*. That said, I think Bob Campbell (of Oakville) had a real knack for devising interesting dances, especially those with “meanwhiles” involving multiple couples, this applies to both his *Australian Ladies* and *Bonnie Stronshiray*. I really like the half-reel progression at the beginning of *Bonnie Stronshiray*, and I'm particularly partial to two-handed turns in strathspeys — done properly, they look extremely elegant and allow for longer interactions with other dancers.

The Reel of the Royal Scots also flows really well, and Bobby Brown's recording*, with its inclusion of bagpipes, provides tremendous impetus for dancers (music again!). I also enjoy the *Reel of the 51st Division*, but it was originally devised for men only, in a 5-couple set, and I thought *The Reel of the Royal Scots* would be a good alternative as, in some ways, these dances are similar. The Royal Scots Regiment (The Royal Regiment) has an interesting history, and Roy Goldring devised the dance to commemorate its 350th anniversary in 1983. The dance includes a well-balanced selection of formations and, again, involves all three dancing couples.

* **Ready ... And!** “Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent, with the Cape Breton Symphony, and Guest Artists”; track #7.

Album: \$12 from [TACsound](#)

WE'RE BACK... YES “REELY”!

Scarborough SCD club launched back into “REEL” in-person dancing on Monday 27th September, receiving permission from our ever-supportive church only four days afore to once again “take the floor”!



Nigel Keenan

After receiving our insurance certificate from our ever-efficient branch treasurer, Wendy Fulton, I put out a call to arms to the faithful. Within days we had a group of committed SCDers, although some might say we should be “committed” to Bedlam (London's first insane asylum founded 1247). Note: We also abide by the Provincial Protocols, so check the website for our procedures.

Our first classes have seen numbers around a set-ish, “We few, we happy few, we band of brothers” and sisters (apologies to the English bard for taking liberties with his Henry V St Crispin's Day speech). The provincial regulation on numbers allowed lists Social Gatherings at 25, but an Event Space at 50% capacity. Our church has chosen to define their church hall as an event space, as “nobody in public health has said they can't define it so”. This allows us up to 67.5 bodies — very useful as the extra 0.5 accommodates my size 15 wide Sasquatch feet!

Our dancers are not only ladies as we have three REEL men who get to dance with every “belle in the hall”; now gentlemen, how can you resist that offer? We “roll with the punches” regarding the programme, depending on numbers and experience, but also accommodate requests for olde favourites danced to “the best of the bands”, such as Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent or Don Bartlett & The Scotians. We can even experience new dances — last week we danced *The Wilma of Oban Strathspey*, written for the 80th birthday of one of our new members.☒

As regards money matters, we will E-VEN-TU-ALL-Y have to take Mr. Micawber's advice from Dickens' *David Copperfield*:

“Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds nought and six, result misery.”

However, for now, our fee remains at \$5.

Our luv-e-ly teatime needs some modification, as use of the communal kitchen is still out of bounds. We wouldn't want it to become a “communicable kitchen” spreading COVID, so we have to bring our own vitals and *vitae (aqua)*.

The provincial “Mandate on Masking” may be a concern for some, but, at present, Scottish country dancing has become more like Scottish county walking, for as my first teacher Isabelle MacPherson used to say: “Never mind the footwork, just get back to place on time”. At this stage of the proceedings, most will not be dancing at Stan-the-man-Hamilton speed and getting too out of breath, so the wearing of masks may not be as much of an issue as thought by the SCD fraternity. ...Nigel Keenan



A page of Good News !

A Special Birthday



Howard Kingsland at 100

On October 4, I had the privilege of delivering a letter from Louis Racic, on behalf of all the dancers to Howard Kingsland, the father of Wendy Tamminen, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Howard is also my neighbour, and I see him often for a driveway chat while he's cleaning up his yard or taking things to the garbage. Howard has been an avid supporter of RSCDS events since Wendy started dancing with us. He has attended the Tartan Ball, Dancing in the Park, and many monthly dances. Its always nice to see his warm smile on the side lines as we dance by him.

Our very best wishes to Howard on this momentous occasion.

...Laurie McConachie, Tartan Ball Convenor

Spaldings Celebrate 70th Anniversary

Congratulations to Ann and Jim Spalding who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 29, 2021.

Both Jim and Ann come from Arbroath on the east coast of Scotland. They were married in 1951 and came to Canada in the 1950s.

They began dancing in 1982 in both of the Erin Mills groups, initially with Doug Stephen in the Tuesday beginner class, then with Jean Hamilton on Fridays.



They also danced with Jean Hamilton's Ceilidh Dancers Demonstration team from about 1985 until it folded around 2002.

Ann and Jim served on the West End Workshop committee for years and attended many West Toronto Balls, as well as monthly dances, and Tartan Balls. Until Covid closed everything down, Ann was occasionally attending Jean's Friday night class

...Deirdre MacCuish Bark

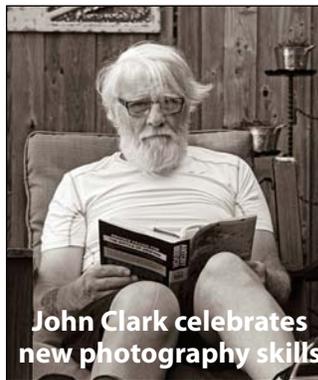


The Philip Clan celebrates Gillian's 21st birthday, Oct 2021

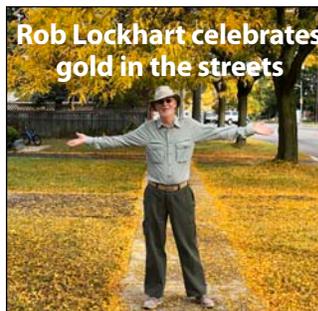
L-R: Gillian, Fiona, Colin, Gavin



Tamara Krievins celebrates her retirement in Lunenburg



John Clark celebrates new photography skills



Rob Lockhart celebrates gold in the streets



Forbes & Marie Duncan Oct 17, 1959

Posted to Facebook on their 62nd Wedding Anniversary

Tony Szeto: A Tale of Two Vaccines



Tony, PCR test sample in hand at Hong Kong airport in 2019. "Yes a wee bit of overkill, but that's how I was attired getting on and off the plane."

Response to a vaccine varies with individuals. I made an empirical study that may interest you. Disclaimer: my sample size is only two.

In December, 2020, Lorraine and I travelled to Hong Kong to pay an extended visit with Lorraine's mum, Phyllis.* Given the restrictions placed on everyone at the time, it was a rare opportunity where we weren't going to "miss out" too much by being away from our Toronto friends, and I could always conduct Board business on Zoom there as well as in Toronto. But I digress.

Vaccines became available in Hong Kong for my age group in early 2020. Lorraine and I jumped at the chance, thinking that it might be ages before we would receive one back home. We stayed until we received both doses before returning to Toronto. Only Sinovac was available at that time.

Fast forward to July 2020. Since Sinovac is not recognized by Canada, we decided to receive Pfizer so we would be able to travel internationally — not to mention that we anticipated other conveniences that would accompany a vaccinated status.

Being a scientist by trade, I thought it would be interesting to measure my antibody level before and after the first Pfizer shot.

My result came back some 27 units/ml; Lorraine's was about twice my count. Such is the variability in immune response among individuals. 0.8 units/ml is the threshold level regarded as a positive immune response. Below that, one is regarded as more or less unprotected. (Those with better medical knowledge, please don't jump all over me.) About three weeks after our first Pfizer jabs, we undertook another antibody count. This time, we were both "off the scale", meaning above 2499 units/ml.

There you have it. One Pfizer shot elicited an antibody response in me that's about 100-fold of that triggered by two Sinovac shots. For Lorraine, her multiple is at least 50. Since we're off the scale, there's no way of knowing how much greater our Pfizer response is than the upper end of the reported range. Needless to say we didn't bother taking another test after our second shot.

...Tony Szeto



* Some of you may recall meeting Phyllis briefly a number of years ago when she observed an evening of fun and games at Hillcrest.

Fiona Alberti: A Mask Follow-up

In May 2020, I wrote about using my hands instead of my feet: by sewing masks. By the time I closed the "workshop," I had made over 750 reusable cotton masks. I managed to get 450 of them to Sick Kids Hospital before they banned cloth and mandated paper medical masks. I was left with a wide variety of styles for my own use. Somehow, because I had used leftover fabrics, I've been left with masks that almost, but not perfectly match my clothes. Normally, this mismatch would bother me; however, I figure as I am wearing a mask... *no one will recognize me.*

I was thrilled to set off walking in my quasi-fashionable gear. I soon discovered that I shouldn't judge a mask by its looks, especially in the winter, and especially when walking quickly. Inhaling a mouthful of soggy, cold fabric is a huge deterrent to remaining active while trying to keep off the COVID weight.

Unwilling to have to start making new clothes, as well as new masks, I was relieved when a very odd device caught my eye as I scrolled through Instagram. Several companies were advertising Mask Brackets (also called Mask Frames). They're very odd-looking things (I used it as my 'something ugly' when doing a scavenger hunt last year), but what a relief to put it on and use it. This little plastic frame means all that cold, ickyness stays away from my mouth; all I get is air. Any time I mentioned them to people, I got blank looks, until I was talking to Tony — he too is a fan.



Tony: These so-called "mask frames" happen to be quite popular in Hong Kong, and inexpensive. I have procured quite a few, so that I can give them away to a few dancers at our return-to-in-person-dancing event. They cost next to nothing in Hong Kong. Lorraine and I wear them every day.

In the meantime, you can find mask frames online:

ocanadamasks.ca avivahealth.com amazon.com walmart.ca

...Fiona Alberti

The College of Dance Optimists says...

For way too many months, we have been walk-dancing in our Zoom capsules. As dancers, our technique has been sapped by a lack of space, a dearth of company, and perhaps a creeping, COVID-inspired lassitude regarding dance excellence. As we look forward to some in-person dance experience, we need to come up to speed gradually. One our keystone principles is to step in time to the music — even if just stepping up and down as a supporting couple. For a master class in stepping precision, we suggest a visit to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo of 2019 and the bravura performance of New Zealand's Lochiel Marching Drill Team

<<< The September Survey of Members — Survey says... >>>



Louis Racic

The September survey of members captured a snapshot of our dancers' views. If we ran the survey again a month from now, the results would likely change, or not, as they are based on the current circumstances. It does, however, provide us with numbers, which help guide our planning.

The overall theme that emerged from the survey, and the comments we received, is one of proceeding with caution. Most dancers are not quite ready to dance in person, although some are. When planning any event, we need to be aware of how many dancers will attend. We do not want to run events and have no one show up. Here is how we used the survey results to help plan activities.

Are you planning to dance at some point this 2021-22 season?

Only 60% (81 dancers) said yes, 10% (13) said no and 30% (41) were unsure. Assuming this ratio holds true for our entire membership, that is 120 dancers who will dance at some point this season. This provides us with an upper limit of potential attendees.

Refresher course [page 1]

37% (50 dancers) said they would attend a refresher class. 25% of all dancers also said they would return to TA events by November — this is 33 dancers, which would make a four-set refresher class. That seems doable. **Action:** Run a Refresher Class as a trial. See how many dancers attend. We have planned one and will see how it goes. Depending on the result, we may run another.

Returning to Social groups

33% said they would return to a social group by the fall — this is a total of only 44 dancers, spread across our 16 Toronto social groups. That works out to an average of approximately three dancers per social group. It comes as no surprise then that most social groups have not yet started.

Returning to Toronto Association events

25% (34 dancers) said they would return this fall. This is too few to run a dance. However 60% (80 dancers) said they would return by the winter/spring. This is a better number for holding an in-person dance. **Action:** Plan a virtual dance in the fall and plan an in-person dance in the new year.

[See Christmas dance, page2]

Mask wearing

Mask wearing is an issue for some. I suspect most dancers would prefer not to wear a mask. There were some strong opinions on this. Some said it was better to dance with a mask than not at all. At the moment it is a regulation. We must wear a mask while dancing. 23% (30 dancers) said no outright. They would not dance if they had to wear a mask. 59 said yes and 41 said they were uncertain, which means potentially willing to try it.

Whether or not you are willing to dance with a mask is a personal choice. From a planning perspective, the requirement of wearing a mask may limit the total number of dancers who will come to the events.

... Louis Racic

Plus ça change... Time for 'Flu Shot (from Set&Link, October 2009)

'Flu Epidemics and Pandemics



The Late, James Graham
RSCDS Toronto Chair,
2009 - 2011

Scottish Dancing is a contact sport! We work hard at sharing our beautiful hands. This year we need to be vigilant that all we will be sharing is goodwill. This 'flu season, more than ever, the importance of hand washing is emphasized.

Therefore, ample supplies of hand sanitizers will be available at Toronto Association classes, dances and workshops. Teachers of children are asked to confirm the safety of products for use with children. As to coughs, sneezes and runny noses, we

should all exercise good personal judgement. If you think you might have 'flu or feel you may be coming down with 'flu, the best plan is to take the night off. It is not heroic to risk spreading the 'flu bug. There is some doubt about the severity of the predicted pandemic of (so called) Swine 'Flu. The Board asks members to follow the information and advice in the media. If your doctor recommends a 'flu shot, please take it.

The Ontario Government website www.ontario.ca/flu has up to date information.

Thank you all for doing the right thing. Have a healthy winter.

... James Graham, Chair, RSCDS Toronto



We got letters...

RE: Modestine's Romp —

The writeup of *Modestine's Romp* in *Set&Link* prompted me to write. Jim and I, both dancers and hikers, walked the Robert Louis Stevenson Trail in the spring of 2017 — a year before the big anniversary. It took us slightly longer than it took Stevenson. I had downloaded a copy of his book, *Travels with a Donkey*, and every day I read the relevant chapter to compare his experiences on the trail with ours. Unlike Stevenson, we took the easy way and used a Scottish-based tour company to support us by booking our accommodation and carrying our bags from inn to inn. RLS camped out.

... Liz Stark

RE: Branch exchange copies of Set&Link —

Thank you for the issues of *Set&Link*. The Canadian dancing life appears very lively even though there is no dancing.

... Prab Gondhalekar, Isle of Wight SCD

RE: Why Would CTI be for Me? —

I also took the Core Training for Instructors Trainer's Course along with another 5 Western North American folks, so I believe that the number of qualified trainers in North America is now at least 12 (around 28 world-wide). The RSCDS office now has the complete list available.

... Fiona Miller, TAC

Grace Notes



John Gerard Koopmans
d. 25 Aug 2021 at age 82

John loved to sing. He sang with The Swinging Eight for 8 years on CBC's Country Hoedown. He also got "a real job" for a career with the Ontario civil service. John danced mainly at Hillcrest, with his wife Isabel [[Set&Link, Jan 2021](#)].

[John's obit](#)



Thomas Bryce Gorman
23 Feb 1919 ~ 4 Oct 2021

Tom was born in Glasgow, and served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946 as a Chief Petty officer. For the first 3 years his ship, *HMS Chitral*, patrolled from Glasgow to Iceland.

Tom came to Canada in 1954 with his wife, Betty, and two children, just in time for hurricane Hazel. He worked at General Motors, and upon retirement, he took up golf. But true love, both for him and Betty (née Young) was Scottish country dance. No matter the celebration, his dance requests were: *Australian Ladies* and *Bratach Bàna*.

"Tom will be remembered as the most gentle of gentlemen with a delightful sense of humour. Tom and his wife Betty could outdance us all."

— Jess Houseley, Celtic Connections, Richmond Hill



Dr. Theo Hoffmann
20 Feb 1924 ~ 5 Oct 2021

Theo Hoffmann was born in Switzerland. He met his wife Doris in Aberdeen, while doing post-doctorate work. He was a world-renowned researcher and biochemist at UofT and he enjoyed many hobbies (birder, canoeist, mountain climber, skier). Theo and Doris formed The Gay Gordons, a

Scottish dance group in Richmond Hill, which ran from 1967 to 1990. The Gordons' demo team performed at the CNE, and Tom Gorman was part of it. We extend our condolences to Doris and her family.

[[Theo & Doris were featured in Set&Link, April 2015](#)]



Margaret Rita Sprague
26 Sept 1939 ~ 15 Oct 2021

Rita was born and raised in Glasgow. She went to New York in the 1960s, but settled in Toronto. Rita danced for many years with the Calvin Group, with Frances Gray, Isabelle MacPherson, and most recently with Vicky Zeltins. Rita was always a picture of grace and elegance, and attended many a

Tartan Ball. She will be missed by her many friends, and by those who shared her joy in Scottish country dance.

Remembering Gerry Gray

[Gerry Gray's passing was noted in the September Grace Notes. It's fair to say, he was unknown to most current Toronto dancers — but those few who *did* know Gerry were moved to share their thoughts on the man and his passing.]

Alison Booz:

Gerry was always such a fun dance partner. Back when Gerry lived in Toronto, we were both on Georgina Finlay's demo team. He was very supportive of Toronto Branch events, so was around a lot. I knew he was a performer before he came to Toronto, but I was not aware how extensive his career was. No wonder his SCD was so lovely, given his history of dance!

Sara Patricia Donaldson:

We all used to marvel at Gerry's ability to jump so high while Highland dancing that he could manage to execute triple, or even quadruple high cuts, before landing! He was a truly amazing dancer! We saw him perform with Les Grandes Ballets Canadiens several times. I had sent Bob Waugh, my former husband, a video of Nureyev dancing *La Sylphide* when I received the news, and we had been reminiscing about how Rudolf's foot and legwork brought back memories of Gerry.



Paul Maloney:

Before he moved to P.E.I., Gerry and I were in Joan (Doran) Waters' Highland dance class at Fort York armouries. Gerry had danced professionally with Les Feux-Follets, so he was just keeping his technique in good stead, while I was very much a beginner.

We were also together in the same class, taught by Frances Gray, when we completed the RSCDS Preliminary Certificate and Full Certificate for teaching Scottish country dance.

I remember one time when I had been teaching a group of beginners in Brampton. At the St. Andrew's of Brampton end-of-year dance, Gerry and his wife, Wallena (who had been a ballerina), were there. I told one of my beginners to watch them carefully because a year earlier they had been in my beginners' class. She believed me for about three seconds!



Dancing Gerry's adaptation of Victor Silvester's instructions for *Waltz Cotillion*, to The Berkeley Scottish Players' Wandering Waltzes on None So Pretty, was for me a sublime experience.

Gerry was an athletic and graceful dancer. It was a joy to watch him, either in solo dances or partnering Wallena. What an awful affliction Huntington's must have been for him.

Requiescat in pace, Gerry.

Gerry's [YouTube channel](#)
Wandering Waltzes Cotillion, 1986 Gala [video](#):
[The video quality is poor, but the dancing is superb! Gerry may be spotted by his grace.]

Events & Aspirations

2021: Nov 7 ~ Shiftn' Bobbins with Alicia Manson

2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Russell Hill Road. Alicia Manson will guide us back to dancing with a "nice and easy" program of old favourites briefed and walked through. COVID restrictions will apply (including no food).

Please pre-register by email to: shiftnbobbins@gmail.com

Programme and cribs will be sent by return email. \$10 at the door.

2021: Nov 27 ~ St Andrew's Celebration Dance

Postponed to a later date. Info: shiftnbobbins@gmail.com

2022: Feb. 18-20 ~ Aloha Winter Weekend, Honolulu

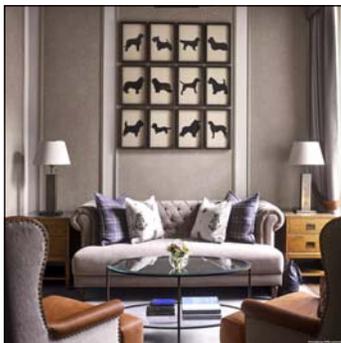
Aloha nui loa from RSCDS Hawaii. Join us for an event-filled weekend of dance lessons, social dances, and a ceilidh, with live music by The Humuhumunukunukuapua'a and Strathspey Society Band. Teacher: Jeanne Moody, San Diego. Info/registration at: <https://rscdshawaii.org/workshop/>

2022: July 24-31 ~ TAC Summer School, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta

Welcoming, supportive classes for dancers of all levels. Daily classes, evening social dances, formal ball and banquet. Evening after parties, ceilidh, silent auction. Teachers: Raphaëlle Orgeret (France), Robert McOwen (USA), Jeanne Moody (USA), Barbara Johnston (Canada). Musicians: Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins, Terry Traub, and Mary Ross. Info/registration at: tac-rscds.org/

2022: Sept 30-Oct 3 ~ International Branch's Italy 2022

International Branch invites you to come and discover the charm of Le Marche and Emilia-Romagna. Teachers are Antoine Rousseau (France), Zsófia József (Scotland & Hungary), and Samuele Graziani (Italy). Live music by Elke Baker, Andy Imbrie, and Phill Jones. Optional tourism programme. Info/registration: [International Branch website](http://InternationalBranchwebsite)



Raise A Glass

InterContinental Hotels are celebrating 75 years with a limited edition Diamond Stay at London Park Lane, then private jet to The George, Edinburgh, including a sumptuous dinner at Edinburgh Castle. Toast the chef with Botanist's Islay dry gin. This grand adventure will cost you a mere \$75,000.

Info: [InterContinental Hotels](http://InterContinentalHotels)

RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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Please send submissions to Set & Link by the 10th of each month. Send to Donald Holmes deholmes@sympatico.ca

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Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Winter School 2022

February 20-25 at Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry

Teachers: Fiona Mackie, Sue Porter, William Williamson, David Hall | Musicians: Mo Rutherford, Shona MacFadyen, Adam Brady, Neil Copland

<https://www.rscds.org/events/winter-school-2022>

Summer School at St Andrews

24 July ~ 14 August

Three weeks of dancing fun and instruction in beautiful St Andrews. Directors Jim Stott & Janet Johnston. Morning classes at all levels, optional afternoon classes, evening social dances, and serendipitous ceilidh evening fun.

<https://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2022>

DANCE WITH ME

Three years in the making, Kim Horne's new book is now available. \$10 from Kim:

khorne56@sympatico.ca

(Postage may be added)

The dances are accompanied by personal stories, with nine original dance tunes by 6 musicians.

The Puffer - R8x32	Scottish Engineers - R4x32
The Border Link - S8x32	Cock-a-Leekie Soup - J8x32
Ochilview - J8x32	Canada 150 - S4x32
Helen of Meikel Alden Brae - J8x32	Margret and Charlie Simpson - R4x32
Golden Reeling - R4x32	Circumspice - S4x32
Dance for Me - S8x32	Merry Mayhem - R8x32
Chief of the Lake - S4x32	The MacTier Lassie - R8x32
In the Mist - J8x32	Controlled Abandon - S4x32
Ian of Highridge - Medley	Kim's Birthday - S8x32

Scheduled Dates of Board Meetings, 2021-2022 season

Nov 8	Dec 9	Jan 5	Feb 7
Mar 10	Apr 6	May 9	Jun 9