

RSCDS Toronto SET & LINK

www.dancescottish.ca

From the Chair...



Louis Racic

I trust everyone had a happy and enjoyable summer. There was a lot of rain in July which was great for my garden; my lawn and plants are as lush as they have ever been.

Welcome back to a new season of dancing. It will be better than last year. This will be the transition year where we move from virtual Zoom dancing back to in-person

dancing. We are looking forward finally to getting back to being face-to-face after a much-too-long hiatus.

The big questions that remain are how and when. We do not know the answers yet. At the time of writing, we are still in Step 3 of Ontario's three-step Roadmap to Reopen Plan. We also know that the fourth wave has started. We do not know how that will unfold and what additional restrictions, if any, we will be under. We are still in a bit of a wait-and-see mode, although we are getting closer.

I have always felt that because of the high touch nature of our dancing, we would not be able to return to dancing in person until social distancing and mask wearing requirements are lifted.

We have contacted Toronto Public Health for guidance on restarting our season. Their interpretation under the current Ontario Regulation 364/20 is that dancing is allowed and that dancers are exempt from physical distancing requirements while dancing, but face coverings must be worn at all times, and we must follow all other rules and restrictions such as the venue capacity limits. So, we are not quite there.

Other restarting requirements include the creation of a safety plan for each venue which includes screening of all attendees, contact tracing, cleaning requirements and actions to follow in the event that someone gets Covid. We are all quite familiar with these as every business has to follow these rules.

First and foremost, we want to ensure the safety of all our dancing community. We need to hear from you. We have created a short survey to help us understand what you currently feel is required for you to be comfortable to return to dancing. This will help our planning efforts. The survey will be sent out by the middle of September.

Finally, a thank you to everyone who has renewed your membership. It is that time, if you haven't renewed yet, please remember to do so.

...Louis Racic

Remembering Jean Hamilton

Jean and Gordon Hamilton emigrated from Manchester, England in 1966. They settled in the Lakeview area, east of Port Credit, where they encountered fellow Scots, and through them, Scottish country dance classes. Their teacher was Jean Anderson (Bobby Brown's sister).

Jean danced with Bob Blackie's Lothian Dancers, and participated over many years in the Perth Scottish Pavilion in the Toronto Caravan Festival, and Scottish functions in the Toronto area. She danced at events throughout Canada and the U.S. and frequently attended St Andrews Summer School.

Jean was a kindergarten teacher by profession, and she progressed to teaching SCD. She got her Full Certificate at TAC in 1980.

Starting with the Erin Mills Beginners' class in 1979, Jean taught the main class from 1980 until Covid in 2020. Jean also taught several levels of Toronto Branch classes and day workshops in Ontario and further afield. She was particularly encouraging to beginners, emphasizing that this was social dancing and everyone should go home feeling as if they had had fun.

Jean also taught The Ceilidh Dancers demo team, which she directed for over 20 years. She guided her dancers through all aspects of country dance with demonstrations in the Royal York Hotel on Canada Day, complete with a giant cake. Her dancers participated in the Toronto Branch's 512some at CNE stadium in 1991, in the 1024some at SkyDome in 1993, and in dance festivals and innumerable other events. Several members of her classes went on to become SCD teachers.

Dancers were encouraged to attend workshops, dance weekends, balls, and dances along with the inevitable after-parties. Under Jean's influence the Erin Mills Pub came into being for after-class socialising. This was hosted by assorted dancers, very hospitable—and a home from home for exiled Scots.

Jean served several sessions on the Toronto Teachers Panel and on sub-committees helping to keep events flowing in Toronto Branch. She was a founding member of the West End Workshop and involved in the West Toronto Ball. Both Jean and Gordon organised the Erin Mills Hogmanay Balls for almost 20 years, as well as end-of-season dances at the Boulevard Club and other venues.

In 2008 Jean and Gordon were awarded the Branch Award and in 2011 Jean received the Society Scroll of Honour.

Jean loved and owned West Highland Terriers and Scottie dogs, throughout the years, beginning with Kyle and Sadie and progressing to Dougal and Ailsa. Latterly, they gave homes to several Westie rescue dogs. Jean was also a keen theatre lover with annual subscriptions. She was celebrated for her collection of colourful St. Augustine dance skirts, which graced many events.

Jean was a much loved and admired person in our Branch. Her lively personality shall be greatly missed.



Jean (MacLellan) Hamilton:
25 May 1935 - 7 June 2020

...Keith and Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Virtual Classes Zooming Back!

TUESDAY EVENINGS:

Erin Mills / Bloorlea ~ Starts Sept 14

8 p.m. 60-90 mins

Keith Bark and Arlene Koteff teach week about.
All are welcome. Contact: [Keith](#) or [Arlene](#)

Alma Smith's Social Classes ~ Starts Sept. 14

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS:

Humbercrest ~ Starts Sept. 15

8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

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

THURSDAY EVENINGS:

Alma's Beginner Classes ~ Starts Sept 16

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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

Basic Technique ~ Starts Oct (date TBA)

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (subject to confirmation)

Keith Bark teaches basic technique for Levels 1 and 2.
Contact: [Keith](#)

FRIDAY MORNINGS:

Alma's Beginner Classes ~ Starts Sept 17

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

This is a repeat of Alma's Thursday evening classes.
New dancers welcome.

Contact [Alma](#)

FRIDAY EVENINGS:

Woodglen ~ Starts Sept 17

8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS:

Alma's Scottish Step Classes ~ Starts Sept 18

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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](#)



~ Carol Ann Boothby ~ Our new Membership Director

I am delighted to be your new Membership Director. I love Scottish country dancing. I started dancing in 2011 at beginner classes at Swansea Town Hall under the gentle and experienced tutelage of May Divers. We had a lot of laughs in those beginner classes. Glenna MacDonald and Ken

Adamson were wonderful and encouraging first partners for the beginners. I continued dancing at beginner-friendly Humbercrest.

My family life was busy at the time, and I looked forward to dancing every Wednesday night. Recently, I now also dance at Bloorlea and Trinity. I enjoyed being the Promotion and Publicity Coordinator for the West Toronto Ball for the last three years. My favourite events are the glorious Tartan Ball, the cheerful West Toronto Ball, and both yearly workshops.

My husband Bob and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this year. We have two daughters, Jennifer and Christina, who both graduated (virtually) from university this past spring. I retired from my career in education in 2017. In addition to SCD, I enjoy golfing, listening to music, visiting the exhibits at the AGO, and walking outdoors in almost all weather conditions. I plan to do my best as Membership Director of this wonderful organization.

It's time to... **re-MEMBER**

Membership maintains our vibrant community of Scottish country dancers, especially under current circumstances. The Society is doing great things to keep dancers educated, trained, and connected worldwide. The Toronto Association Board is monitoring developments and preparing for the 2021/22 season when we go back to dancing. Fun, fitness, and friendship will once again prevail — and won't we be HAPPY to embrace new dance opportunities with music and friends! **Membership Period: October 1 — September 30**

Membership Categories: (other options on Membership Forms)

- Single Adult: \$68
- Joint Membership: \$126
- Young Adult (18-34 yrs): \$43
- Under 18 yrs and Life Members: \$0
- Keep-in-Touch (*Set&Link* by email): \$25

Payment options — We have three easy ways to RENEW your membership and/or to join us in this worldwide community. We recommend fast and easy Interac e-Transfer. It's convenient, and it avoids transaction fees.

1. **Interac e-Transfer**

Easy, if you do online banking. Transactions are usually free, and it avoids a 3% fee for TA. Sign in to your on-line bank account and, if you are a new user, register for Interac e-Transfer. Add RSCDSTA@gmail.com as a recipient, and complete the payment.

2. **PayPal** (PayPal also accepts VISA and MasterCard)

There is a 3% transaction fee to RSCDS Toronto.

3. **Membership-form-paper.pdf**

Print, complete, and post it with your cheque to:

Membership Director, 12 Markwood Cres, Toronto M9C 1L2

NEW MEMBERS: Use any of the 3 payment options. You will be warmly welcomed.

Privacy Policy: Your personal data will only be used for RSCDS Toronto Association and RSCDS (the Society) purposes and will not be shared with other organizations.

Images: Notice will be posted at events where photos and/or video may be taken. Please inform the event convenor if you do not wish your image to be used.

...Carol Ann Boothby

Teachers' Pet Dances: Keith Bark



I was asked to list my three to five favourite dances. This is the best I could do.

My favourite dances vary from week to week, month to month. What makes a dance a favourite of the moment is a combination of the music, the dance, and the dancers in the set. The set should be large enough to enjoy the full movement. The dancers should all be showing their enjoyment.

All the formations and movements should flow smoothly from one to the next and, finally, the dance should not be "bitty" and it should require most of the dancers to be moving most of the time. A few current examples that I like are:

Strathspeys

Traditional [Braes of Breadalbane](#), S8x32, Skillern, *Book 21*

Pastoral [Miss Gibson's Strathspey](#), S8x32, Derek Haynes, *Lft 18*

Schottische [Garry Strathspey](#), S4x32, James Cosh, *22 SCDs*

Reels

Traditional Scottish [De'il Amang the Tailors](#), R8x32, *Book 14*

Hornpipe [Davy Nick Nack](#), R8x32, R Campbell, *Glasgow Assembly*

Song type [The Lass of Richmond Hill](#), R8x32, *A Second Book of Graded SCDs*

Jigs

Traditional [Mrs Stewart's Jig](#), J8x32, Frans Ligtmans, *Book 35*

Song type [Pelorus Jack](#), J8x32, Barry Skelton, *Book 41*

Other [White Heather Jig](#), J4x32, James Cosh, *22 SCDs*

On my Wish List: *The Earl of Errol's Reel*



James Hay, 15th Earl of Erroll
(1726-1778)

The Hays have served in the hereditary position of Lord High Constable of Scotland since being appointed by Robert the Bruce for standing by him throughout his struggle against the English. The Earls of Erroll still hold extensive lands in Perthshire and Aberdeenshire.

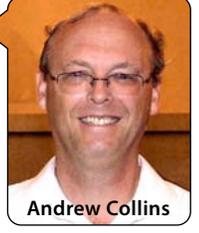
While waiting for the pandemic to flee, I created a wish list of Scottish country dances I would like to try once we can get back on the dance floor. At the top of my list is *The Earl of Errol's Reel* which, counter-intuitively, is a four-part jig for three couples in a long-wise set.

The dance has origins in France, and was collected in Québec by Mary Isdal MacNab. With its 200 bars of music, the dance may seem daunting, but there is an anticipatory natural flow to its movements, which alternate between setting and travelling — thus, lessening the Herculean preponderance of Pas de Basque, including progressions by three-couple poussette. I will need to be fit to try this dance. What's on your wish list?

...Donald E. Holmes

[The Earl of Errol's Reel, Thornhill Dancers, 2003](#)

Teachers' Pet Dances: Andrew Collins



There is a plethora of dances that could be classed as favourites. What are the criteria? The dance itself, the music, the memories, the story or event it immortalizes, or, as a teacher, the success of teaching a challenging dance? Here are my choices, at least for now:

[JB Milne](#), R8x32, Hugh Foss, *Thirty Popular Dances, Volume 2*

This is the first dance that comes to mind when I think about Scottish country dancing. It's a complex dance with lots of interaction — 1st couple flirt with 2nd couple, then with each other before casting off to start the "meanwhile" figure. Thanks to fiddler Angus Fitchet for the music.

[Bonnie Stronshiray](#), S8x32, Bob Campbell, *Glasgow Assembly*

This elegant strathspey is arguably the best dance devised by Bob Campbell. It has received international acclaim. An elegant opening 8 bars is followed by setting and turning corners with two hands, then flowing into a meanwhile figure, to finish with half reels of four. All three couples are engaged throughout the dance.

[The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord](#), S1x56, John Drewry, *Bon Accord Book*

This elegant square set dance was performed by the Finlay

Dancers at many events. At one event the music

went dead for eight bars. We just kept dancing, and we were on time when the music returned. On another

occasion, the hoops in a dancer's crinoline came

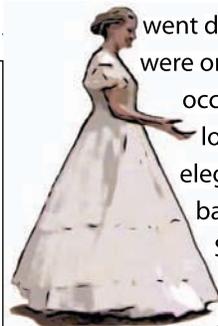
loose. Two-handed turns necessarily became

elegant dance arounds, and eight hands round and

back became seven with a gap. Thanks to J. Scott

Skinner for the music (same name as the dance),

and all honour to his inspiration, Wilhelmina Bell of Aberdeen.



[The Restless Ghost](#), R8x32, Angela Bulteel, *Ribble Valley Book*

A complex dance with 16 bars of meanwhile for 3 couples, using ½ reels of 4 between corner positions while the other corners chase halfway around the set. After bars 9-24, all three couples heave a sigh of relief and ask what next? Something as hard as the previous 16 bars! Thanks to Nicol McLaren for a glorious recording.

[Fugal Fergus](#), J8x48, Hugh Foss, *Waverley Fugues*

This dance, and the other Waverley fugues, embody Hugh Foss, the cryptographer. Based on the dance *Waverley*, it is a fugue with successive imitations of figures. I derive great satisfaction when teaching this dance, watching the dancers' apprehension dissolve into delight as the dance unfolds.

We appreciate your contributions to *Set & Link*.

Please keep them coming.

Your article may be edited for clarity and length.

**Cats have claws at the end of their paws;
but commas signify pause at the end of a clause.**



RSCDS Virtual Summer School



St Andrews Summer School could not go ahead this year. Instead, the Society brought us three 1-½ hour samples of Summer school magic via the internet. On July 19, 21, and 23, we were invited to join

(from the comfort of home) a typical day at Summer School in St Andrews. Each session included the opportunity to:

- attend a Scottish country dance class and enjoy seeing it taught in favourite locations around St Andrews;
- attend a Scottish Step dance class;
- discover insights into Summer School through interviews with some *weel-kent* faces;
- trip down memory lane to previous Younger Hall evening dances;
- join the gang in the 'party room' for a musical *stramash*.

Everyone hopes 2022 will see many of us in person on the dance floors, residences, cafés, pubs, and cobble streets of St Andrews.

Visit: <https://www.rscds.org/events/virtual-summer-school-2021>

TAC Virtual Summer School



TAC's Virtual Summer School events were held over four days, July 28-31. Events were open to all; no need to be a member of TAC. Offerings included classes, evening dancing, a concert, and a talent ceilidh.

The ceilidh had many contributors, including from some Toronto dancers. However, for those of us weary of our own four walls, the highlight must be the stunning, Deep Cove setting of Vancouver's Katherine Shearman's graceful presentation of [The Jolly Tar](#).

There were six teacher's classes. Ron Wallace taught three dances, building variations on a theme and telling the sometimes emotional stories and connections behind the dances.

Geoffrey Selling taught with a full set of dancers in his parlour. Geoffrey is renowned for his Christmas cookies and he offered a box of 50 for the silent auction fundraiser. Bidding was fierce, and Geoffrey raised over \$1000 by upping his game mid-auction — he declared each of the top three cookie bidders would be winners. Two of those boxes of 50 are coming to Toronto!

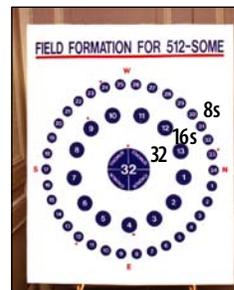
Music was a big part of the events. Music for the Virtual Ball was by Tartan Ties (Judi Nicolson, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser-Collins, and Fred Collins). The Musicians' Concert comprised members of Tartan Ties, plus Mary Ross and Terry Traub (on banjo!).

Recordings of these delights are available on the TAC website — though the cookies involved will be digital; not, alas, comestible.

<https://tac-rscds.org/~tacscds/index.php/tac-summer-school/links-to-daily-event-recordings>



August 2021 marked the 30th anniversary of the Toronto 512some Reel. It was the brainchild of my Vice Chair, Esther Goodfellow, with her unwavering commitment to Scottish country dancing. Inspiration came from Vancouver branch's previous performance of a 256some Reel, as recorded in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Esther was not to be outdone. She promptly formed a committee, dealt with CNE Exhibition Stadium, and arranged a celebratory dance at the Royal York Hotel.



Toronto social groups, and dance groups from other branches, practised component eightsome reels. Massed rehearsals were held in Toronto to arrange three concentric circles: a 32-some in the centre, surrounded by thirteen 16somes, and 34 eightsomes on the perimeter. As a participant in various tattoos, such rehearsals usually feel chaotic, but somehow people catch on.

On Warriors' Day at the CNE, 17th August 1991, all the dancers, including a few from England and New Zealand, assembled at Exhibition Stadium and made their way onto the field. Broadcaster Denis Snowden was MC and the music was a special recording by Bobby Brown. The dancers performed flawlessly, finishing in three concentric circles for each of the eightsomes, 16somes and 32somes. Mairi and I watched from the sidelines, having given up our places to two of the many extras. The 512some was duly recorded in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Further inspiration for the 512some was G.M. Fraser's book, *The General Danced at Dawn* (a memoir of life in a Highland regiment c. 1945). An officer of the Gordon Highlanders, Fraser describes the staging of a 128some reel in Libya. Like our 512some, there was a diverse range of dancers: two Scottish regiments, military police, the local populace, three Senussi Arabs in burnouses, three POWs and, lastly, a visiting general. At its conclusion, the organizer comments: "*as a dancer the General was no bad... for a Campbell*".



To all of those who danced at the CNE thirty years ago: you were no bad, regardless of your background.

...Andrew Collins, Chair, Toronto Branch 1991 - 1993



Barry Pipes and Bill Goodfellow gave a thorough account of the 512some in [Set & Link Sept 2011](#).

For a fascinating, detailed, behind-the-scenes report of how RSCDS Toronto achieved this awesome world record event, [read the October 1991 report](#) prepared by Esther Goodfellow and Betty Brannen. You will be impressed!

Fred Collins: *And the music plays on...*

While the pandemic has interrupted the pleasures of dancing and playing, it has allowed me to reflect on my drumming career and episodes with the various bands and musicians I have had the pleasure of accompanying over my years in Canada. Thank you to the Scottish country dance community for giving me the opportunity to enjoy watching and playing for many monthly dances, branch classes, and balls in my travels across North America, Britain, Europe, and Australia.

Kathy and I remain involved with our local band TORRIDON, where we are joined by four talented young musicians who we hope will continue to carry the torch. We have also been playing and recording with TARTAN TIES, which includes accordionist Ian Muir from Prestwick, Scotland, and fiddler Judi Nicolson from Banchory, now living in Katy, Texas. Since March 2020, we have recorded many videos; some we

posted on Facebook and some we have provided for various virtual balls. We were also pleased to provide [music for the 2021 TAC Summer School's virtual celebration](#).

What lies ahead is anybody's guess; however, in the meantime, we are enjoying life down on the farm with our horses, highland "coo", Newfoundland dog, and cat. Thank you to the RSCDS Toronto Association for including some of my musical adventures and reminiscing in your monthly newsletter.

Once again, to all Scottish country dancers, I thank you for your friendship and support over my 70-year career. Stay safe!

... Fred Collins



Tartan Ties: [2021 TAC Summer School's virtual celebration](#)

P.S. What do you call a person who hangs around with musicians?
A drummer!



Don't be **SCAMMED**

A colleague recently lost \$15,000 in an elaborate scam. She was aware of the danger, and on alert during the contact, but she was fooled by a perfectly imitated RBC client screening process. Some personal information was mentioned during the call so she was convinced it was a genuine attempt by a bank-affiliated company to protect their client from an ongoing fraud. During an after-the-incident investigation by RBC's security department, she was told that losing just \$15,000 is fortunate — many people lose \$50,000 or more, and elaborate scams are rising.

After the incident, I thought about an article on avoiding scam schemes, but I'm not much of a writer, so it was a happy coincidence that *The Guardian* (of Australia) published a good article on the subject (see link below). The article is perfectly applicable to Canada. Just before you jump to the link, take a minute to read this general recommendation:

Please do not think your best judgement will protect you. Scammers have ways to upset you and pressure you to make quick decisions. They are getting better and better, forming teams and precisely targeting individuals, and armed with some leaked personal information about you. Scammers are very clever people whose full-time job is to develop convincing scams. Do not rely on your judgement; rely on correct procedure.

If you get a call related to personal or financial information – just thank the person who calls you, and say you can't talk right now. Tell them you will contact the customer support line later, then hang up. If you are pressed to make an immediate decision during the call, it is undoubtedly a scam. Hang up immediately.



Never call back the number you received the call from, and never call any number they give you. Phone your bank using the number in your records or on the main website of the institution.

Similar cautions apply to emails, text messages, and pop-up dialog boxes on the screen of your computer, tablet, or cell phone. Disregard such unsolicited messages and contact an official phone line/email. If a message or a dialog box is "sticky" (won't go away), power off your device and start it again. Most computers power off by holding down the power button for a few seconds (varies from 2-3 to 5-6 seconds).

Never allow a dialog box with scary messages to prompt you into doing something at once, even if it looks genuine! Just shut down the device and start it again. If the problem persists, power off and contact a computer specialist.

If someone contacts you out of the blue, do not give out *any* personal information, bank details, or superannuation info. Do not give them money, and do not permit remote access to your computer.

Common scams suggest that something is urgent — you owe money, or you need to fix something, or do something pronto. If the caller is in a hurry, aggressive, or threatening in any way, the best advice is to pause and hang up the phone.

If you want to return a call or text from someone who claims to be your phone provider, or a government department, Google the provider or agency's official contact details and get in touch that way.

If you are asked to pay via a gift card, hang up immediately. Thanks for reading, and stay safe in our amazingly complex modern world!

... Leo Roytman with Keith Bark

Link to the article (*The Guardian*, June 14):

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2021/jun/14/hanging-up-on-scammers-how-to-protect-yourself-from-phishing-phone-calls>

Serendipidance: The Encore



As you may know, I am a fan of connections and serendipity in both my regular and dancing life ([Serendipidance, Jan. 2021 Set & Link](#)). I find these connections, especially during this overly long pandemic, particularly uplifting and heart-warming. Here is another I hope you enjoy:

On April 27, my virtual program comprised dances honouring "original" Bloorlea dancers – and a few others, myself included – who began dancing about the same time and are still dancing via Zoom. Before each dance, I asked each person to tell their story about starting Scottish country dancing. Here is Norma Lumsden's story in her own words:

"Twenty years ago, a friend had seen flyers advertising Dancing in the Park and suggested meeting at Edwards Gardens on a lovely Tuesday evening in June. Being a dancer whose focus was classical ballet, I was very excited to learn about SCD. When it came time for the *Dashing White Sergeant* audience participation dance, Ron Macnaughton who is, as you may know, an avid amateur astronomer, invited a passing jogger and me to join him in the dance. We had so much fun dancing with all the joy-filled, high-spirited dancers to the incredible live music of Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent."



Lucky for us, Bloorlea was the closest location for her to continue her dance journey.

For Norma, I chose an unpublished dance called *Norma's Fancy*, a 3x32-bar jig written by the late Mike Briggs for his wife Norma that contains rights and lefts for three couples. I had danced it at a Sunday afternoon Shiftn' Bobbins session taught by Keith and Deirdre — stay tuned for more links!

Norma contacted me the next day to say she enjoyed doing the dance, and it brought back a memory that *she* devised a dance years ago containing the same 12-bar formation. That intrigued me. I asked if she remembered the other 20 bars of the dance or if she had a copy of it, and whether it was a jig, reel, or strathspey. It was in fast time. She had devised it for a competition in 2013 for a dance to be submitted to Scotland for possible publication in Book 49. Coincidentally, I was the person responsible for organizing the unidentified dance submissions for the "judging" session. (Side note: the winner of the competition was Deirdre MacCuish Bark for *The Countess of Dunmore's Reel* — another link.)

In any case, after sleeping on it, the rest of the dance came back to Norma. She called me and I copied it down. The first formation in the dance is set and link (I warned you!). I suggested one minor change to improve the flow of the dance for first man: changing it to set and mirror link.

Next, we needed a name for the dance. I suggested *The Jogger, the Astronomer, and the Ballerina* to reflect her introduction to SCD. It also had to be a reel because *Dashing White Sergeant* is a reel. The fact that the dance has rights and lefts for three couples and DWS requires three dancers is just icing on the serendipity cake. Good things happen in threes!

On May 11, the combined Erin Mills and Bloorlea groups danced *The Jogger, the Astronomer, and the Ballerina* after warming up with a modified *Dashing White Sergeant*.

And that's the story of serendipity, the rebirth of a hidden gem of a dance and, as Norma put it, "a reel celebrating a most memorable introduction to SCD."

But what happened to the jogger? She dashed off!

...Arlene Koteff

The Jogger, the Astronomer, and the Ballerina

8x32 Reel for 3 couples in a 4-couple set
by Norma Lumsden, 2013

- 1-4 1s and 2s set and mirror link.
(In bars 3-4, 1s cast off as 2s dance up the middle and curve into place.)
- 5-8 1s, nearer hands joined, dance down between the 3s, divide and cast up to 2nd place.
- 9-20 Rights and lefts for 3 couples. 2 1 3
- 21-24 1s turn person on their right by the right hand for 4 bars; 1st woman turns 2nd woman and 1st man turns 3rd man.
- 25-32 Left shoulder reels of 3 on the side. First woman dances in and down and 1st man dances in and up. Corners dance loops at the end of the reel.

Finish in the order 2, 1, 3, ready to begin again.

ARLENE NOTES: In choosing the music for the dance, I wanted it to suit the flow of the dance, Norma's personality and musicality, and bring joy. I chose Melville Castle from the CD *Dancing Forth Too*, with musicians Doreen McKerron, Pete Clark, Anne Evans, and Wendy Weatherby.

Whisky Galore... in Mongolia

As part of a £3m "design and build" deal, an entire distillery near Moray, Scotland, is being shipped 5,000 miles across the ocean to be reassembled in Inner Mongolia. The distillery in question is a state secret, except to say it's "a long-established firm". So, should your favourite tippie disappear from the market, a 25-hr, \$12,000 flight from Toronto may reward your search. Diligence is all...!

[BBC Scotland travelling distillery](#)



Dear Editor...

RE: *Set & Link* — Just want to say a great big thank you to the *Set & Link* Committee for all the wonderful newsletters received over the past 15 months. These have really helped me feel connected to Scottish country dancing and to my dancing friends in particular. In the last few months, I have been enjoying watching the videos of teachers' favourite dances included in *S&L*, which always makes me anxious to be back on the dance floor although, goodness knows if I'll be fit enough when the time comes!

...Anne Anderson

A Sweet Fundraiser

Tristan Gerrie, a member of the TA Youth Committee, is also an Elder at Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church, Toronto. Tristan wrote this for *The Presbyterian Connection*, Spring 2021. Used with permission.



What started with a few loonies has grown into an annual fundraising campaign that has raised over \$20,000 in a decade for Morningside-High Park (MHP) Presbyterian Church in Toronto.

In 2011, MHP held a summer stewardship campaign called Seedtime to Harvest. Congregants were each given a loonie as their “seed money” and were challenged to “grow” their loonie over the summer months and then “harvest” the rewards in the autumn.

While trying to decide how to “plant” their “seed,” Blair, Patricia, and Tristan Gerrie (elders at MHP) looked to one of their typical summer activities – preserving jars of jam, jellies, soup, chutney, and chilli sauce. They pooled their loonies to purchase their first bag of sugar and package of pectin. Much of the fruit used in their jam comes from their cottage garden on Lake Huron. What they don’t grow, they purchase from local farmer’s markets or Mennonites nearby.

Blair and Patricia were amazed by the enthusiastic response to their sale. What excited them most was the opportunity to bring in funds from outside the congregation – extended family, friends, and co-workers eagerly purchased jam and shared the order form with others.

After the success of the first year, the Gerries saw an opportunity to continue to support the ministry of MHP. The congregation had long planned to replace the outdated sound system at the church; however, unexpected costs and competing priorities from the operating budget made the project difficult to complete.



Patricia Gerrie (centre) with some of the bounty of her garden.

As a series of special fundraisers for the worship team, the Gerries continued to increase their jam sales, and they now sell over 1,000 jars annually. The whole family plays their part. Patricia is often searching for new and unique flavour combinations to create, and now makes over 40 varieties of jam, including *Carrot Cake Jam* and *Peach Blush*. In addition to tending to the berry bushes, a bumper crop of tomatoes led Blair to begin canning tomato soup to add to their inventory. Their son, Tristan – sales staff and red pepper jelly maker – encourages

friends, co-workers, and acquaintances to distribute the order forms far and wide.

The Gerries have always preserved fresh fruit. When they first married, a peach tree in their backyard provided the first fruit they preserved so they could enjoy peaches all year round. Preserving became a treasured family tradition with grandparents and children joining the production line to help peel, stir, and snack. Years later, the Gerries purchased a cottage on Lake Huron that had a number of red currant bushes. Unsure of what to do with them, Patricia began to experiment with jam making. Blair, an avid gardener, quickly began to plant more fruit – raspberries, black currants, blackberries, crabapples, gooseberries – all of which provided Patricia with more latitude to experiment. They enjoy and value the opportunity to give back to their community of faith by doing what they love.

During MHP’s 125th Anniversary, proceeds from the jam sales helped the congregation begin to install a new audio-visual system. Over the years, funds from the jam sales have been used to enhance existing resources and purchase new music and vibrant banners for the sanctuary. [\[Patricia Gerrie’s jam recipe, at right, gets rave reviews\]](#)

May Macfarlane at 94

Newcomers to Scottish country dance may not know of May Macfarlane, but May was Chair of RSCDS Toronto 1997-1999, and for many years May taught three social groups in Toronto: Tayside Morning; Tayside Evening; and Fallingbrook.



Blair, Patricia, and Tristan Gerrie recently drove to London to visit May Macfarlane on the occasion of her 94th birthday (July 28). They presented her a bouquet, comprising two roses and one poppy, and tied with a bow – symbolic of a commemorative dance Blair devised for May.

The dance, *A Bouquet for May*, features the ROSE PROGRESSION, the POPPY FORMATION, and the BOW PROGRESSION.

A Bouquet for May

32 bar strathspey for 3 couples in a 3-couple set

1-8	1C/2C dance the Rose Progression
9-16	1C/3C dance the Rose Progression
17-24	2C/3C dance the Poppy
25-32	3C/1C dance the Bow Progression

Dedicated to May Macfarlane, founder of the Tayside Scottish Country Dancing Groups in Toronto. This dance was written by Blair Gerrie, current teacher of the classes, and presented to May on the occasion of her 94th birthday in July 2021 in London, ON.

Recommended music: The Orchards of Armagh, Marian Anderson, Belfast 90th CD.

[Complete instructions](#)



Scottish Garden Jam Recipe

Makes 12–13 250 ml jars of jam

Ingredients:

- 4 cups black currants
- 4 cups blackberries
- 3 cups raspberries
- 4 cups strawberries
- 9 cups white sugar
- 1 tbs of butter

Method:

- Sterilize jars, lids, funnel, and tongs, and keep hot.
- Put black currants in a large preserving pot and add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water.
- Bring to a boil and simmer until berries are almost soft (about 10 minutes). Stir constantly.
- Add a tablespoon of butter to prevent excess foaming.
- Add the rest of the fruit and simmer gently, stirring occasionally for approximately 10 minutes, or until fruit is turning soft.
- Add sugar and stir over gentle heat until sugar is dissolved.
- Bring to a boil and cook until setting point is reached, stirring constantly (about 24–30 minutes).
- Setting point is reached when the mixture reaches 220°F.
- Skim off foam and pour jam into sterilized jars and seal with warm sterilized lids.
- The jam can take up to 24 hours to set. Store in a cool place. Refrigerate after opening.

Events & Aspirations

Nov 27, 2021: Shiftn' Bobbins' St. Andrew's Celebration Dance

We hope to dance to live music, subject to prevailing regulations. A "nice 'n easy" programme of well-known dances, walked through, will ease us back to dancing. Places may be reserved on the standby list (now open) by emailing shiftnbobbins@gmail.com

Standby assists early planning but is not an obligation in the event of cancellation due to health and safety rules. Should dancing be permitted, tickets will be available for sale, with priority given to the standby list.

2022: Nov. 5 ~ 100 years of Dancing in Waterloo Region

Kitchener-Waterloo Branch was established in 1960; Blair Scottish Country Dancers group was established in 1980. Add those legacies together and we can celebrate 100 years of dancing in Waterloo Region. We hope this event will be real, not virtual.

Grace Notes



Gordon MacDonald

8 April 1936 - 20 June 2021

Born in Lions Head, ON, Gordon lived a long and fulfilled life. He was a born-again Scot, who found great pleasure in all things Scottish, particularly the poetry of Robbie Burns and Scottish country dancing. He started at Rosedale with Prof. Ronald Smith, then at Glenview. For many years, Gordon was Chair of the St. Andrew's Ball. Each January, on Burns' birthday, he and devoted Society colleagues, all kilted, paid tribute to Burns at the statue in Allan Gardens. Our condolences to Sheila and to his family. Donations in Gordon's honour can be made to the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. [Obit](#)



Jean Clement

19 April 1941 - 9 June 2021

Jean died at Sunnybrook hospital in her 81st year. For many years, she drove several people to and from Scottish country dances at Petronella, Newtonbrook, and Celtic Connections. She was kind to beginner dancers. Her car was usually loaded with others for bowling at Newtonbrook. In the background, she was quietly efficient, yet displayed a great sense of humour. Jean was an astute, caring, and unpretentious woman. We extend our sympathy to her daughter Heather Wadden and family.



Ian McHaffie

13 July 1934 - 5 August 2021

Ian came from a Scottish country dancing family. His parents danced at Rosedale taught by Professor Ron "Sanskrit" Smith, and at Glenview. Ian "caught the bug" and eventually became a teacher. He and Paddy Ann attended many Toronto dances and balls. Ian was a lifelong member of the St. Andrew's Society and did their website and newsletter. Our condolences to Paddy Ann and family. [Obit](#)

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Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Autumn Gathering + AGM 2021

November 5, 6, 7

The next Autumn Gathering event in Perth will go ahead, subject to Scottish Government restrictions.

<https://www.rscds.org/events/autumn-gathering-2021>

Planning for Resumption

Soon, we hope...

Considerations for resumption of in-person dancing are ongoing. To read current advice, please visit:

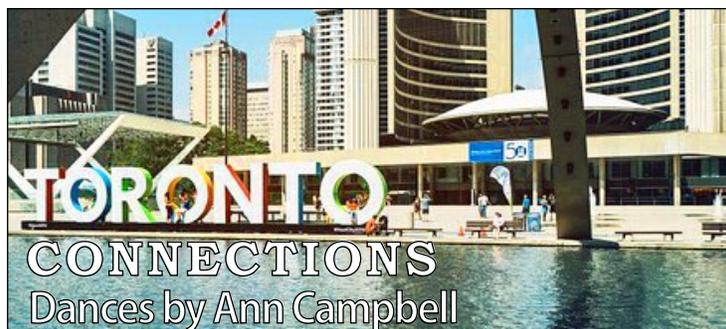
<https://www.rscds.org/blog/return-dancing-scotland>

100th Anniversary of RSCDS

November 26, 2023

Big plans are afoot to celebrate this historic milestone. Branches are encouraged to develop their own projects.

www.rscds.org



Ann Campbell has published *Toronto Connections*, a new book of 16 Scottish country dances — each one for people in the RSCDS Toronto Association. Paul Maloney prepared and digitized the manuscript. It is available for [download from TACbooks](#) for \$7.

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. The Award of Excellence – 8r32 | 9. John Clark's Jig – 8j32 |
| 2. Bobby Brown's Fifty Musical Years – 5j48 | 10. Knight's Honour – 8s32 |
| 3. Chocolate Bunnies – 3r32 | 11. Let's Have a Swig – 3r32 |
| 4. A Dance for David – 8s32 | 12. The Seal of Approval – 3j32 |
| 5. Dancing Not-in-the-Park – 4r32 | 13. Stefan's Strathspey – 8s32 |
| 6. The Friday Night Musician – 8r32 | 14. Toronto's Teachers – 4r32 |
| 7. Friday Nights at Erin Mills – 8s32 | 15. A Well Tuned Ear – 8r40 |
| 8. Heinz Rieger's Strathspey – 8s32 | 16. The Zoomers – 8s32 |

Scheduled Dates of Board Meetings, 2021-2022 season

Sept 9 Oct 13 Nov 8 Dec 9
Jan 5 Feb 7 Mar 10 Apr 6 May 9 Jun 9