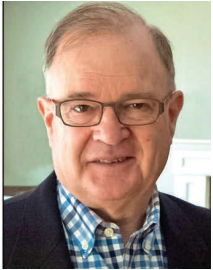




CELEBRATIONS WRAP UP

From the Chair ...



As this issue of S&L lands in your inboxes, the 100th anniversary of the RSCDS will have just passed on November 26. Earlier in the month the Trinity Scottish Country Dance Group celebrated its own 50th birthday [with a dance in Seeley Hall at Trinity College](#), its original location. Attending the

dance was Trinity's founder Professor John Hurd, who fondly recalled during conversation being certified as a teacher of Scottish country dance by RSCDS co-founder Jean Milligan, thus connecting Trinity to the RSCDS centenary.

Congratulations are due to Moira Korus and her troupe of dancers for their dance *Ten Decades of Dances and Dancers*, which received [honourable mention](#) in this year's RSCDS Virtual Festival as the set one would "Most likely join in with." (Full disclosure: I filmed and edited the performance.) This year's festival was successful, attracting entrants from far and wide. One can view all the videos on the [RSCDS Youtube channel](#) (winners [here](#)).

We normally associate lessons in Scottish country dancing with beginners and intermediates, but with the creation of the [Dancing Achievement Award](#), the [RSCDS has created a path](#) for dancers at various skill levels to aspire to become better dancers. If we can find enough dancers to enroll in a Toronto course, we can create a class here. Let [Moira Korus](#) know if you are interested. I recommend that everyone consider doing so.

Organizations like ours are fueled by the efforts of volunteers. The rewards we get from our dancing events - whether it is a weekly class, a monthly dance, or a Tartan Ball - depend on the work of many people. I think I speak for all of them when I say that there are great rewards to be had from seeing one's efforts come to fruition in events appreciated by all. Please consider stepping forward if you can.

Don't forget to join the monthly dance at Havergal on Saturday, December 9 when we hold our annual Family Christmas Dance. I hope to see many of you there so I can extend season's greetings and wish you the best in the New Year, which will bring with it the return of the Tartan Ball.

... Paul Barber



More photos
and
stories inside....



Marion McNaught and Bea Sannino
Photo courtesy of Tristan Gerrie

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
☆☆ **The Tartan Ball is**
☆☆ **back!** ☆☆



☆☆ The Tartan Ball Committee is
☆☆ pleased to announce that the
☆☆ 58th Tartan Ball will be held
☆☆ at **Havergal College** in the
☆☆ beautiful B. Robson Hall.
☆☆ We will be dancing on over
☆☆ 3000 sq. ft. of wood floor. A
☆☆ light buffet will be served
☆☆ during the evening. Ticket
☆☆ sales begin on Dec. 1 and
☆☆ close on Feb. 9, 2024. You
☆☆ must be 18 years of age or
☆☆ older to attend. Please check
☆☆ the website for further infor-
☆☆ mation. We look forward to
☆☆ seeing you there!



Association Classes

All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto (beginners are excused until their 2nd term).

The ten-week sessions are \$100.00, and payable by cash, e-Transfer to rscdsta@gmail.com, or cheques made out to "RSCDS Toronto."

Classes Convenor: [Anne Bishop](#)

COVID PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See elsewhere on this page.

Level 1 Beginner Classes: Dancers learn the five basic steps of Scottish country dance and a variety of formations. These elements are combined in learning simple dances that incorporate some of the steps and formations taught.

Mondays: Alderwood Community Centre, 2 Orianna Dr., Etobicoke

[<map>](#) near Brown's Line and Horner Ave. Go to the meeting room. Lots of free parking.

Winter Semester: Jan. 8 - Mar. 18, 2024 (no class Feb. 19, Family Day). 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Teacher: Alma Smith

Email contact: [Alex Sutton](#) 416-915-1417

Mondays: Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave., just off Yonge, north of St Clair [<map>](#) in the lower hall. Enter the church by the east side door, downstairs, hall is on the right. Close to transit and Green P parking.

Winter Semester: Jan. 8 - Mar. 18, 2024 (no class Feb. 19, Family Day). 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Teacher: David Booz

Email contact: [Cheryl Catt](#)

NEW LOCATION

Thursdays: East End United (previously Eastminster United Church),

310 Danforth Ave. [<map>](#) in the gymnasium. Enter east side doors, go downstairs and follow the signs. Near Chester subway station.

Winter Semester: Jan. 11 - Mar. 14, 2024. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Teacher: Keith Bark

Class Co-ordinator: [Anne Bishop](#) 416-466-4631

Level 2 (Intermediate) classes build on the steps and formations learned at the beginner level, as well as introducing more complex formations. Dancers become more confident in their skills and abilities, and enjoy the challenge of more complex dances.

Thursdays: East End United (previously Eastminster United Church),

310 Danforth Ave. [<map>](#) in the Hurndale Room. Enter east side doors, go downstairs and follow the signs. Near Chester subway station.

Winter Semester: Jan. 11 - Mar. 14, 2024. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Teacher: Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Class Co-ordinator: [Anne Bishop](#) 416-466-4631



You can pre-register for class by filling out this [form](#).

Occasional Sunday Classes Update

On November 19, Blair Gerrie, assisted by son Tristan, taught two full sets of dancers some interesting dances from his new book *A Delightful Diversion*. We had a young dancer, Bia Rosin, visit our class from Dresden, Germany. She was in Toronto for a few days following a conference in Vancouver and was going straight to the airport to fly home directly after class! We also had two additional visitors: Dean and Amara Shim, former students who lodged with Blair and Patricia and subsequently became good friends. One of the dances Blair taught, "Our Korean Flowers," is inscribed to Dean and Amara as they told Blair that one of the flowers growing in his garden, the Rose of Sharon, is the national flower of South Korea and is mentioned in the Korean National Anthem.

By the time you read this article we will have had three occasional Sunday classes at Broadlands Community centre this fall, and we have had good attendance at each of them. We have one more class scheduled for December 3rd, from 2:00—4:00 p.m., led by Erica De Gannes, and we hope to be continuing these classes in the 2024. Please check the RSCDS website at the beginning of January for next year's dates.

Classes are held at Broadlands Community Centre at 19 Castle-grove Blvd. near Lawrence Ave. East and the Don Valley Parkway. The fee for these classes is \$10.00 per person, per class.

.... Moira Korus

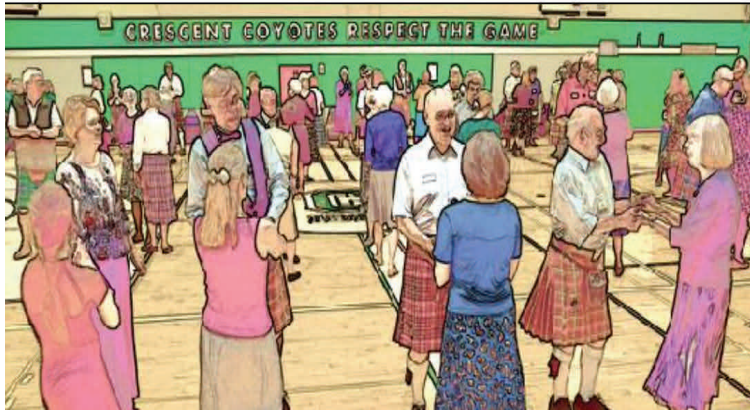
Can you spot the visitors?



COVID Protocols

1. Vaccinations against COVID are highly recommended for those attending an RSCDS Toronto event.
2. Masks are recommended but not mandatory.
3. No-one should attend an RSCDS Toronto event if they have symptoms of COVID or any other contagious disease; have tested positive for COVID in the last 7 days; or have a household member or close contact who tested positive for COVID in the last 7 days.
4. Hand Sanitizer will be available at all RSCDS Toronto events.

Occasionally there is a medical emergency while dancing. All dancers are reminded to have their emergency contact information on their person at all Scottish Country Dancing events.



January Monthly Dance

Programme devised by Colin Campbell

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Havergal College Junior School, 460 Rosewell Ave. [<map>](#)
(Parking and entrance is off Rosewell, 1 block east of Avenue Rd., south of Lawrence.)

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. ~ Dancing: 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs

If possible, please print your own crib sheets from [here](#).

COVID PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See page 2.

New Year Jig	J8x32 RSCDS Book 51
John McAlpin	S8x32 RSCDS Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Inverneill House	R8x32 RSCDS Book 35
Les Remparts de Séville	J8x32 RSCDS Book 50
Mrs. Hamilton of Wishaw	S8x32 RSCDS Book 23
The Gates of Edinburgh	R8x32 RSCDS Book 15

Interval

The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J6x32 RSCDS Book 16
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S8x32 The Leaflet Dances with Music
Bratach Bàna	R8x32 Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2
Pelorus Jack	J8x32 Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2 (also RSCDS Book 41)

There's Something About Thirty	S3x32 RSCDS Book 50
Mairi's Wedding	R8x40 Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2

Extra

It's Nae Bother	J6x32 Second Graded Book
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Members: \$27 (includes HST); Non Members: \$32 (includes HST);
Young Adult Members (18-34): \$10; Youth (< 18) and Spectators:
\$5

Please note: Monthly Dances are SCENT FREE

It's never too late to renew your Toronto Association membership...

Just complete the membership form found under "Membership" on our website dancescottish.ca and send your payment along via your preferred payment option of e-Transfer, PayPal, or cheque payable to RSCDS Toronto Association.

Special Events



Laurie McConachie, Program Chair



The 58th Tartan Ball

Programme devised by Mairi Collins

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Havergal College, B. Robson Hall. 1451 Avenue Road, just south of Lawrence Ave. West. [<map>](#) Free parking.

Doors open at TBA. ~ Dancing: TBA.

Music by Laird Brown, Scotch Mist. Formal attire is requested.

A light buffet supper will be served.

Tickets go on sale December 1st, 2023, and close on February 9th, 2024. Attendees must be 18 years of age or older.

Crib sheets and video links will be available [here](#).

COVID PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See page 2.

The Machine Without Horses	J8x32 RSCDS Book 12
Bridge of Nairn	S8x32 RSCDS Book 13
Jessie's Hornpipe	R8x32 RSCDS Book 8
The Silver Tassie	S8x32 RSCDS Leaflet Dances with Music
A Trip to Crinan	J8x32 Coast to Coast CD
The Australian Ladies	R8x32 Glasgow Assembly

Interval

The Nurseryman	J8x32 RSCDS Book 37
Wisp of Thistle	S8x32 RSCDS Book 37
City of Stirling Reel	R8x32 RSCDS Book 53
The Gentleman	S8x32 Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2 (also RSCDS Book 35)

Bill Clement MBE

J8x32 RSCDS Book 47

Interval

Mrs. Stewart's Jig	J8x32 RSCDS Book 35
Davy Nick Nack	R8x32 Glasgow Assembly
Seann Truibhas Willichan	S6x32 RSCDS Book 27
Hooper's Jig	J8x32 Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2 (also MMM 2)
Mairi's Wedding	R8x40 Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2

Extra

Corn Rigs	J6x32 RSCDS Book 4
The Isle	J8x32 RSCDS Graded Book
The Lea Rig	J6x32 RSCDS Book 21

Dec. 1 — South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers' Christmas Celebration. 7:00 p.m. Knox Presbyterian Church Hall, 160 King Street S., Alliston ON L9R 1B9. Music: Laird Brown & Don Wood. \$20 cash at the door. Tea and goodies to follow.

[<map>](#)

Glenview's Christmas Dance

Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. ~ \$20 at the door.

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue. [<map>](#)

While we may never know whether Santa's reindeer dance (after all they do have a full set), we do know that there will be lots of dancing and tasty treats at Glenview's Christmas Dance with music by Don Bartlett. Refreshments provided following the dancing. Masks are highly recommended, but not required.

Info: v.fisher@sympatico.ca



Glenview's Hogmanay Dance

Sunday, December 31, 8:00 p.m. Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Avenue. [<map>](#)

If your resolutions this year included listening to good music, getting more exercise, and spending time with friends, then this is your last chance to fulfill all three at once. Come join us at the Glenview Hogmanay party for live music, lots of dancing, and good company.

Music provided by Laird Brown and Don Wood, with refreshments and a ceilidh to follow the dancing. Masks are highly recommended, but not required. Tickets \$40 in advance from Caroline Lensen: caroline.lensen19@gmail.com



Family Ceilidh is back — December 2

Save the afternoon of Saturday, December 2nd to gather your friends and family and join us at the Family Ceilidh! It will be held at St. Leonard's Church (25 Wanless Ave.) [<map>](#). Doors will open at 2:45 p.m. and dancing will be from 3:00-5:00 p.m. after which we will serve pizza and goodies. No experience is necessary to dance at the Ceilidh. All dances will be walked. It is a fun event to invite your non-dancing friends of all ages to, and is a great introduction to the joy of Scottish dancing!

Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (over 5) with a maximum per family of \$30. Contact [Tristan Gerrie](#) or [Erica de Gannes](#) for more information.



Last Call for Those Interested in DAA

A Dancing Achievement Award course will run from the end of January to the end of April 2024. If you are interested in learning more, see [here](#). If you are interested in taking the course, contact Moirakorus62@gmail.com

... Moira Korus

Dec. 16 — Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance, London Canada Branch. Doors open 5:00 p.m. Polish Combatants' Hall, 80 Ann Street, London. [<map>](#) Music: Laird Brown and Scotch Mist. More details and registration form [here](#). Contact: Helen Bell at 519-471-0623 or bellpoppy20@gmail.com



The Ardrae Dancers invite you to join them at their Diamond Jubilee Ball on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the Glebe Community Centre, Ottawa. Music will be provided by the Atlantic Firth Scottish Country Dance Band. Enjoy a Winterlude weekend in Ottawa, ending with a Sunday Brunch before you set off for home. For programme and ticket details

see the Events page at ardbrae.org.

2024 May 24-26 — Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society Annual Stoney Lake Weekend.

Teacher: Arlene Koteff. Musician: Don Bartlett & Blair Mackenzie. Accommodation: Pine Vista Resort. Dance Venue: Upper Stoney Lake Pavilion. Website: www.pscds.ca.

West End Workshop

When: March 23, 2024

Where: Humberwood Community Centre in north Etobicoke [<map>](#)

Teachers: David Queen (from England) and Gavin Keachie (from Toronto).

Fees for the full-day workshop which includes two classes with live music, lunch, and the afternoon tea dance will be \$85.00 for adults and \$40.00 for youth (35 and under). Laird Brown's three member band will provide the music for the tea dance. Admission for tea dance only will be \$20.00.

More details to come.

West End Teachers' Workshop

When: March 24, 2024

Where: Alderwood Community Centre in south Etobicoke [<map>](#)

Teacher: David Queen

Tayside's 40th Anniversary Celebration



Photo courtesy of Tristan Gerrie

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, members and friends of Tayside dancers gathered to celebrate the 40th (Ruby) Anniversary of the founding of the Tayside social groups. Over 60 people joined the celebration, including some visitors from out-of-town.

We all danced our way down memory lane at Westview Presbyterian. The hall was beautifully decorated with balloons, Scottish tea towels, banners and exhibits of photos from years past.

The dance programme was created by our teacher, Blair Gerrie, to reflect Tayside's past and present. Blair and Tristan Gerrie briefed the dances that were thematically connected and very enjoyable. Included were two dances devised by May Macfarlane, the founder and long-time teacher of

the Tayside groups. A brand-new dance, Ruby Twos-days, was written by Blair for the occasion and Tristan approached Don Bartlett to have a tune composed for the anniversary dance. Don gifted his composition, a new tune titled 'Tayside' to the Tayside dancers, and provided a custom recording which enhanced the special moment of dancing Ruby Twos-days at the anniversary party.

At the conclusion of the dancing, greetings from the Toronto Association were delivered by Arlene Koteff, and then everyone sat down to feast on delicious sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and various homemade jams, cookies and cups of tea. After our high tea, Sue Kralik read a poem written in 1997 that May Macfarlane had sent to Blair for the occasion. It recounted the unique dancing exploits of the groups that elicited a few chuckles and rekindled many memories. During the lucky draw, four attendees each won a prize: either an RSCDS Centenary tea towel from Scotland or Coronation Tea. Following the draw, the fabulous celebratory cake, baked by Culbert's Bakery in Goderich, Ontario, was cut by Marion McNaught and Bea Sannino, the two longest members of Tayside.

Even the washing of dishes and cleaning up after the event were performed in the spirit of the dance with participants pitching in and working together as a team.

Homemade jam was sold at the event with proceeds supporting Evangel Hall Mission – an agency of the Presbyterian Church in Canada that supports individuals experiencing homelessness. Funds were given in recognition of the congregation of Westview Presbyterian Church who have been generous supporters of the Tayside groups over the decades. Jam sales have raised over \$800 dollars for Evangel Hall, with a significant portion being raised at the anniversary party.

The following segments from messages of congratulations sent to Blair are a testament to the wonderful time experienced by us all:

The tea was splendid and beautifully laid out. I hope I danced enough to wear off all the glorious calories I consumed.

From the first moment until the last, every detail was attended to, and all I saw were smiles, smiles, and more smiles. So much to be thankful for, like greeting old friends long absent, as well as dancing friends we are lucky to see more regularly.

Everything was perfect! We realize and appreciate how much planning and coordination went into an event of that size.



Photo courtesy of Rob Lockhart

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful celebration, with special thanks to the Gerries. Tayside's 40th anniversary will be a fond memory for years to come.

... Sue Kralik

Virtual Festival Results 2023

Ten Decades of Dances and Dancers

Overall Judges' Winner and The People's Choice Winner was Central Germany Branch!

Winner of creative category – SCD Basel

Special commendations have been awarded to:

Oxford University Scottish Dance Society for Best Choreography

Budapest Scottish Dance Club for Best Team Work

Toronto Association as *Most likely to join in with*



Max Fothergill

November Monthly Dance Report

We had another great monthly dance on November 11th. Don Bartlett and the Scottish Heirs were energizing us all night thanks to Don, his daughter Lesley on bass and Blair Mackenzie on fiddle. The programme was devised by Colin Campbell and the theme of the first half seemed to be “meanwhiles,” as they were in many of the fun dances like Bonnie Stronshiray, Gardeners’ Fantasia, and Australian Ladies. Vicky Zeltins was the emcee for the first half of the dances, and Erica de Gannes emceed the second half. It had its own fun and slightly technical dances like Linnea’s Strathspey and The Inimitable Derek. In between all that fun we had our 50/50 draw, \$91, which was won by Elizabeth Clunie. Thanks to all the 51 people who attended, which included a few out of town friends from Buffalo and Peterborough. I look forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas Dance on December 9th.

... Max Fothergill, Monthly Dances Convenor

Trinity's 50th Anniversary Assembly

On November 4th, the Trinity social group celebrated their 50th Anniversary with the Trinity Assembly in Seeley Hall. In the autumn of 1973, John Hurd, Professor of New Testament at Trinity College, founded the Trinity social group. Professor Hurd had been prompted by RSCDS founder, Miss Milligan, who upon examining him for his first certificate and learning he was at a university said, "Now, Professor Hurd, you should go out and start a group." The Trinity group danced in the Gothic style Seeley Hall up to 2020. We have since moved to Rosedale Presbyterian Church.



We were happy that Professor Hurd was able to attend the celebration along with his daughter who also danced with the group. Professor Hurd cut the cake after the dancing when we had Trinity's traditional party food. Most of Trinity's previous teachers were also there: Fiona Philip, David Booz, Arlene Koteff, and our present teacher, Teresa Lockhart. Many other guest teachers have taught in the breezy Seeley Hall when Trinity had dancing in the summer. I remember Professor Hurd wondering if Trinity would continue when he retired from the university and teaching the dancing class. Many “Thank You’s” go out to Vi Knight who first took over the class after Professor Hurd retired.

We had a full room of over 80 new and old Trinity dancers. Everyone enjoyed the dancing, visiting with original dancers, current dancers, and the food after. We heard many comments that they had a good time at the 50th dance. Scotch Mist was in top form to add to the enjoyment of the well chosen dances.

... Ken Adamson & Catherine Whitfield

Trinity Assembly Story Snapshots

The New Dancer

While the Trinity dancers were preparing for the 50th Anniversary Assembly, a stranger walked into the hall where dancing had already begun. He put on ghillies, and immediately joined the dancers. He didn't recognize the dances, but he caught on quickly, and moved cheerfully from dance to dance. His name tag said Peter Renzland. At the end of the evening, he came to offer thanks, and a story.

Turns out he danced long ago with John Hurd, founder of the Trinity social group. How did he start? Seems Peter was involved with ballroom, and did "a mean rhumba." His teacher said he should try the Scottish dancing on campus. He did. He walked into a busy, friendly hall (five sets or more), to the call of "We need a man, we need a man." Well, he thought, "I'm a man," and he joined the needy set. The dance? *A Trip to Bavaria*. The result: great success!

Left to Right: Judy Williams, Peter Renzland, Kathleen McMorrow



John Hurd admiring the anniversary cake.

A Gentleman's Address

After welcoming the approximately eighty dancers, one of the previous Trinity chairs, Paul Barber, introduced the 95 year-young Trinity founder and Guest of Honour, John Hurd. Following the first dance, John was concerned that dancers might get the wrong impression. Taking the microphone, he said, "I am not ignoring the dancing." Because of a knee injury, rendering him unable to dance, John continued: "I can walk on it, and that's okay, and I'm grateful for that. But, dancing, I'm afraid is out. So I'm admiring your dancing, and I'm extraordinarily happy to see all of you and so much happiness all around."

Later, when asked why he decided to start the Trinity social group, John said it was natural, as his family had already taken up SCD, and his parents entertained Miss Milligan when she visited Toronto. "I thought it was pretty fussy stuff, so many steps this way and that way. Then I got roped in and converted."

Trinity's Teachers Through the Decades

Trinity was founded by John Hurd (1973-1990), followed by Vi Knight (1990-1997), Fiona Philip (1997-2006), David Booz (2006-2020), Arlene Koteff (2022-2023), Teresa Lockhart (2023-present).

Left to Right: David Booz, Teresa Lockhart, John Hurd, Fiona Philip, Arlene Koteff, and Vi Knight (inset).

Kathleen McMorrow: (See photos above and to the right.)

One of the charms of SCD for me is the freedom from gender concerns! When John Hurd was teacher, there were red ribbons available to identify women who danced on the opposite side. He had great technique as a teacher and as a dancer. He could illustrate figures on the blackboard with chalk or physically with elegance. If he had been running the party afterwards, there would have been wine. He always managed to have some at our Christmas and end of term dances. The fact that he was a distinguished scholar* in a rather arcane area was never obvious. See <https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B0035LXX5A/about> for more information about John.

*John graduated from Harvard and received his doctorate from Yale.



... Stories collected by Teresa Lockhart with photos courtesy of Rob Lockhart

Lest We Forget



The St Andrew's Ball practices went a little differently this year. Instead of one teacher over four nights, there were three: David Booz, Teresa Lockhart and Arlene Koteff. They co-ordinated lesson plans to provide progressive instruction of the 18 ceilidh dances on the Ball programme. On Teresa's evening, there were more than 100 dancers in the massive cavern of the Moss Park Armoury, home of the 48th Highlanders regiment, co-sponsors of the Ball with the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Some dancers were old hands, but many were new, all ages, and all ready to take their first steps. Newbies included some officers of the 48th in uniform, kilts and all.



Teresa was eager to meet the new Pipe Major, Alexander Brown, to discuss her musical requirements. He was a little late arriving, having a previous gig piping for Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, who was in Toronto at a fundraiser for the University Health Network. With Pipe Major Brown's help, the dance training went super smoothly. It was a great, fun evening. Teresa thanked Pipe Major Alexander (his requested sobriquet) for his skillful co-operation and fabulous

music, and she asked if it would be inappropriate to give him a hug. He grinned. "Yes, it would be inappropriate, but I'll allow it."

As we were leaving by the postern gate (exit to the motor pool), we met one of the dancing officers and his wife. He thanked Teresa, and told us that after the Ball, he is "Off to Latvia." Teresa cheerily said, "Oh, off to see its wonders?" His wife leaned in and quietly added, "He's being *deployed*... to join the NATO mission there." It was a thoughtful moment for us, and a timely reminder. The men dancing so spiritedly that evening make Canada and other countries safe. Lest we forget.

... Rob Lockhart

TAC Workshop on RSCDS Book 53

Organizing Committee



Nigel Keenan & Arlene Koteff

Teachers Who Took Up the Challenge



Keith Bark



Helena Sydorenko



Deirdre MacCuish Bark



Bethany Wright from Buffalo



David Booz



Colin Campbell

For the full story, see page 11.

Photos courtesy of Nigel Keenan.

Another 1923 birth worth remembering

My mother, Betty Grant, was born in Toronto, on December 9th, 1923. She lived a full life dedicated to both her natural family, and the family of Scottish Country Dancers locally, and around the globe. She, and my father David Grant, began dancing in the mid 60s, having first enjoyed watching the Scottish country dancing in the Concert Hall of the Royal York at the St. Andrew's Ball. Betty and David received their teachers' certificates in 1976 and 1978 respectively, and they hosted a social group at Grace Church on-the-Hill for over 20 years. In 1999, they were the first non-Scottish couple to be awarded the Scroll of Honour. In the *Set and Link* of January 2006, Jean Hamilton, another cherished icon of our dance community, described Betty, who had recently died, and the many qualities for which she was appreciated. Her words convey so well the inspiration I carry with me in my own dancing experiences. I invite you to read Jean's article [here](#).



I would like to share the catalogue of dances Betty devised, some of which may be familiar to you. My father said she sometimes woke up and asked him not to talk to her until she had written down a dance she had dreamt of.

1981: Jedburgh Jig — Betty's Scottish ancestral home.

1982: Ring of Friendship — Betty's idea behind this dance is "the ring of dancers around the world who start to dance in a small group, then intermingle with neighbouring groups and, giving hands across border, continents and seas, move on in a never-ending Ring of Friendship." Published in the Laurel Collection, for the TAC Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund.

1984: (1) White Pine — This tree was declared Ontario's Arboreal Emblem that year. (2) The Meeting Place — Toronto is believed to be the English version of a Huron-Wendat word for the meeting place. (3) Bedrule — RSCDS Book 33. Devised in memory of Betty's great-great-grandmother who immigrated to Canada from her Scottish Borders' home of Bedrule in 1834. (4) Three's a Crowd — Published in SCD for Children and Teens. (5) Ghillies — Published in the Enid Smith Memorial Booklet.

1986: (1) St. Andrews Gardens — RSCDS Book 35. Double entendre: both the fabled Scottish gardens, and the street in Toronto on which Betty lived when she was born. (2) Chrysanthemum — Devised for Bob Blackie, renowned Toronto teacher, to take to Japan for a tour with a group of Toronto dancers. (3) Dalmeny Green — Inspired by a village green, not common in Scotland, in West Lothian, (4) Pitlessie Fair — Inspired by a 19th century painting by Sir David Wilkie of a crowd at an agricultural fair which included a fiddler and a piper.

1987: (1) Molecular Dance — inspired by the work of Toronto dancer Dr. John Polanyi, co-winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. (2) Douglas Henderson of Dundee — Celebrating Douglas who devised the Spurtle. (3) Sleipnir — inspired by her Shetland Island brooch of an 8-legged charger of Odin, chief of the Norse Gods.

1988: (1) Queen's Park. (2) Gluehwein and Mulled Cider.

2001: A Family Gathering — Each year the international family of dancers, teachers and musicians meet for Summer School in St. Andrews. The triangular set represents three sides of that family.

Several dances were devised for Betty and David. Among them are: A Society Disciple (Marie Boehmer); Betty Grant's Strathspey and Friendship Set to Music (Anne Campbell); Dance For Me (Kim Horne); HISCD - Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing and Island Fling (Douglas Henderson); Splat the Tattie (John Drewry); and Grant's New Rant (Roy Goldring).

Mom and Dad produced several albums with Stan Hamilton and Bobby Brown. Seven bands have also recorded music for Mom's dances.

It's quite a legacy of creative initiatives and leadership. I am so proud when one of her dances is included in a programme.

1923 was a very good year.

...Christy Barber



TANGLED UP IN HALLOWE'EN

Every dark and stormy Hallowe'en, many social groups prepare their spooktacular line-up of dances and thematic music.

Many of us know the slithering strains of *Slytherin House** or perhaps the restless beats of *Midsummer Common*. The music affects us and our dancing. No program is complete without David Wiesler and Mara Shea's unforgettable track for *Ferla Mor*. The Drewry dance is, in Drewry's words, a "top-pop," and David's playful tunes are irresistible – listen for skeletons scuttling down the stairs and monsters in the cellar. The music slyly, and benignly, beckons the dancer to join the dance and evocatively builds to an on-your-toes-and-run terrifying climax. The tunes, appropriately, are: *Lochiel House* by Angus Fitchet, *We Are Devils*, *Monsters in the Cellar*, *Phantom of the Opera* by David Wiesler, and *Popcorn Behavior* by Jay Ungar.

We've enjoyed several of David's Scottish dance CDs and Zoom concerts, and recently I was reminded of an early [YouTube video](#) of him playing guitar and singing a parody of Bob Dylan's *Tangled Up in Blue*. David's hilarious *Tangled Up in Reels* reflects his early learning-to-reel days. David kindly permitted us to share his song lyrics, allowing each of us to remember how we faced the daunting experience of learning the various reels formations, not always successfully. As one dancer wrote, "We've all experienced that 'brain congealing' moment."

Maybe next year, we'll all dance Drewry's *Ferla Mor*, with its phantom tandem reels, to David's music – if we dare.

...Teresa Lockhart

*David's tune, *Elegy for Bennett*, is used by Jim Lindsay in his track.

Left to Right: Keith Wallace, David Hawkins, Theresa Malek, Dawn Allaby, Peter McHale, and Arlene Koteff (subbing for Alma Smith who was subbing for Keith Bark).

Tangled Up in Reels

Music: Bob Dylan Words: © 2004 Dave Wiesler

She was living in Takoma Park, looking for a little fun.
I had a place in the suburban sprawl, outside of Washington.
She saw an ad in the Sunday Post, one weekend just by chance.
We ended up in Arlington at a Scottish country dance.
As the music started playing, we were thrust into a set.
The chaos that we started, no I never will forget
The way it feels – tangled up in reels.

Well I got through the dance somehow without falling on my ass.
Someone said we'd have more fun if we went to a weekly class.
So I drove to Greenbelt next Tuesday night, and they explained it all to me:
They said, "You trace an eight out on the floor when you do a reel of three."
But when I traced the eight out, it was a reel of four instead.
I crashed into my partner, and she took a tumble, head
Over heels – tangled up in reels.

All that summer I persevered and started to understand
Skip change of step and pas de basque, poussette and allemande.
I mastered wheels and rights and lefts, I mastered six hands round,
Corner-partner and the finer points of stepping up and down.
But one thing still eluded me, time and time again,
And every time I hear that word, something in my brain
Just congeals – tangled up in reels.

Sometimes you reel on your own side, sometimes you cross over.
Sometimes you dance in a dizzy path, looks like a four-leaf clover.
Sometimes you join in right away, sometimes you first gotta wait.
Sometimes you use up just six bars, sometimes you use all eight.
You can do it with a Strathspey step, you can do it while you skip.
The only thing in common is I always feel I've slipped
On banana peels – tangled up in reels

If the instructions say to reel across, I'll reel along the side.
If I should pass left shoulders, well, I'll probably pass right.
I join in when I'm standing out; it's enough to make you laugh.
'Cause I mix up mirror and parallel, I mix up full and half.
There's crossover, diagonal, tandem, dolphin, too.
The word is so innocuous, it's amazing what confusion it conceals – tangled up in reels.

So here I am at <_____>, straight down from Delaware.
There's music in the <great hall> at night, there's confusion in the air.
I dance with mathematicians and reference librarians.
We do Tullochgorm and Inveran, Red House and Shiehallion.
And all the while I'm so confused, and my whole set's the same.
From the way we are so clueless, it's clear we only came
Here for the meals – tangled up in reels.



Courtesy of Erin Mills Facebook

TAC Workshop on RSCDS Book 53

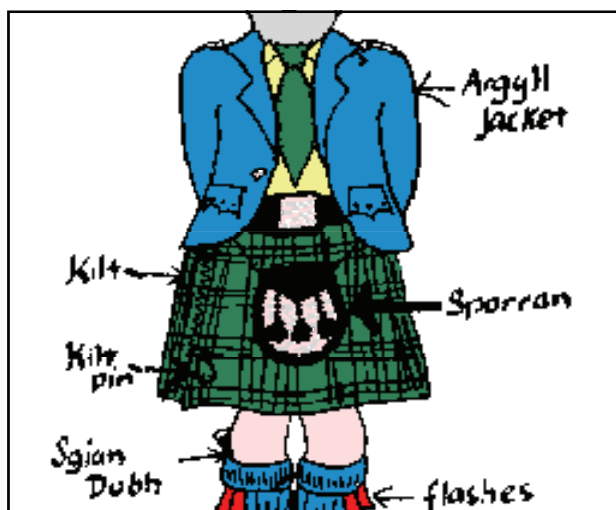
The Teacher's Association of Canada (TAC) organised an in-person workshop to expose the newly published RSCDS Book 53, which was held at Alderwood Community Centre in Etobicoke on Sunday, October 15, 2023.

Some may question the need for such an in-person "gathering of the clans," as during the "COVID era" we moved into the "digital era" with virtual meetings for many events. The "digital era" has added much to Scottish Country Dancing (SCD), with online access to difficult-to-acquire publications and diagrams. There are also videos of formations and dances difficult to "envisage" from the written word as "a picture paints a thousand words," although "not all videos are created equal!" However, many still believe there is a place for in-person meetings of SCD teachers to "dissect, discuss and debate" new dance material. As the locally elected TAC rep. to the Toronto Association (TA-TAC, brother what a mouthful), I was "given the honour" (aka "volun-told") by the Teachers' Panel to organise the workshop. It would not have come about, however, **without** my aide-de-camp, nay "Right Arm" of Arlene Koteff. Arlene not only "cut through" the red-tape "procuring the permits," but organised the programme and kept the TA-TAC rep from not only "going off the rails," but also from disappearing "into the deep end!"

There were 16 teachers in attendance, not only from Toronto and around the "Golden Horseshoe," but as far East as Peterborough and even over the 49th Parallel to Buffalo, USA. We showcased eight of the published dances, three never before published "in print" and five previously published. The organising committee (aka Arlene and yours truly) "gave the honour" (aka "volun-told") to eight of the teachers attending the "opportunity" to showcase their teaching talents and teach one dance each, to which each of them generously "agreed!" One of the dances, *Elspeth Gray's Reel*, was SO challenging none of the "greying" Teacher's Panel with oodles-of-experience would "touch it with a barge-pole," so we naturally gave it to the youngest teacher-in-training present! That young "B of Buffalo" (not to name names) not only showcased the dance with aplomb, but "showed up" the "greying" Teachers Panel! Keith Bark was our "Music Man" using the RSCDS recording for Book 53; thank you Keith.

The "review and resulting repartee was rewarding," as it clarified the "who, what, when, where, and why" of teaching the dances! I doubt this could have happened to the same degree in an online class, so where possible SCD is still better when we're together "in person!"

...Nigel Keenan, TA-TAC Representative



For Sale—A selection of men's Scottish attire including kilts, jackets, shirts, sporrans, belts, shoes, and accessories is being offered for sale. All good quality and reasonably priced. For a complete list with pricing, contact Kathryn McCallum Pipes at Kathryn@ccplus.ca or 905-882-0456.



The Royal Scottish
Country Dance Society
1923 - 2023

CELEBRATING DANCE SCOTTISH
For info about the centenary of RSCDS:

<https://rscds.org/blog/rscds-centenary>



Do you miss the Gently Used Garment Sale that used to run in conjunction with the Toronto Workshop? The West End Workshop (booked for Saturday, March 23, 2024) would be happy to provide space for the sale if there are a few volunteers to coordinate and run it. It would be a great opportunity to donate clothes that have collected in your closet since the last workshop and/or find some tremendous bargains to wear at upcoming events. If you are interested, please email Theresa Malek at theresamalek@rogers.com

Upcoming Events: NEAR (Ontario)

Toronto Monthly dances 2023/2024 — Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Mar. 9, Apr. 13. Note: ALL dances will have doors open at 7:30 p.m. with dancing starting at 8:00 p.m.

Occasional Sundays at Broadlands 2023 — Dec. 3 from 2:00 — 4:00 p.m. See details on page 2.

Dec. 1 — South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers' Christmas Celebration. 7:00 p.m. Knox Presbyterian Church Hall, 160 King Street S., Alliston ON [<map>](#) \$20 cash at the door. Info: [Lyn Barsevskis](#). 705-458-1006.

Dec. 2 — Family Ceilidh. 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at St. Leonard's Church (25 Wanless Ave.). [<map>](#) Details on page 4.

Dec. 9 — St. Catharine's Christmas Dance. 7:30 p.m. at Parish Hall of St Columba Anglican Church, 7 St Columba Drive, St Catharines [<map>](#)

Dec. 13 — Glenview Christmas Dance. 7:30 p.m. at Glenview Presbyterian Church. Details on page 4.

Dec. 15 — Peterborough Monthly Dance. 7:00 p.m. St. John's Anglican Church Hall, 99 Brock St., Peterborough. [<map>](#) Music: Blair Mackenzie & Helen Batten. www.pscds.ca

Dec. 16 — Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance, London Canada Branch. Polish Combatants' Hall, London. More details on page 4.

Dec. 31 — Glenview Hogmanay Dance. 8:00 p.m. at Glenview Presbyterian Church. Details on page 4.

2024 Feb. 17 — The Tartan Ball. Havergal College, 1451 Avenue Rd, just south of Lawrence Ave. W. [<map>](#) More details on pages 1 and 3.

2024 Feb. 17 — Ardbrae Dancers Diamond Jubilee Ball. Glebe Community Centre, Ottawa. More details on page 4.

2024 Mar. 23/24 — West End Workshop and Teachers' Workshop. Details on page 4.

2024 May 4 — The Great Lakes Group RSCDS Centenary Ball. Binge-mans Conference Centre, Kitchener, 425 Binge-mans Centre Drive (just minutes from Highway 85/Conestoga Parkway) [<map>](#)

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2024 May 24-26 — Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society Annual Stoney Lake Weekend. More details on page 4.

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Upcoming Events: FAR (Out of province)

Dec. 2-3 — Zürich Scottish Country Dance Weekend

Dec. 28 - Jan. 5 — RSCDS New Zealand Summer School, Nelson

2024 Feb. 16-18 — Isle of Wight Weekend

2024 Feb. 18-23 — RSCDS Winter School, Pitlochry

2024 Mar. 8-10 — 28th Iberian Gathering of Scottish Country Dance, Évora, Portugal

2024 Apr. 12-14 — Spring Fling 2024, Cambridge, England

For up-to-date info on events near and far, and more, visit dancescottish.ca

Social Groups are Back!

Please support all your favourite social groups, and try out new ones. They are the life blood of the Toronto Association. For details about groups in the Toronto area that have restarted, check out the Social Groups page [here](#).

Scheduled Dates of Next Board Meetings 2023-2024 season

December 3
January 4
February 4
March 6
April 8
May 6
June 3

Scheduled Date of Spring AGM Meeting

April 21
7:30 p.m.



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