

RSCDS Toronto

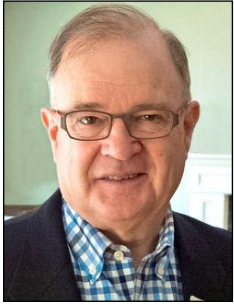
SET & LINK

www.dancescottish.ca



There Were Parties!

From the Chair...



Paul Barber

Bliadhna Mhath Ùr (as the Scots would say in Gaelic), Happy New Year for 2023 to all Scottish country dancers.

New Years is the quintessential Scottish celebration. Because the Calvinist tradition frowned on celebrating Christmas (it only became a public holiday there in 1958), the Scots instead focused their seasonal

celebrations on the New Year or Hogmanay (actually the Scots term for the last day of the old year).

The coming year will mark the centenary of the RSCDS; there are numerous events planned in the lead up to the hundredth anniversary of the founding meeting in November. The full schedule can be found on the Society's [website](#) but of particular interest to dancers here is the Spring Fling event in Toronto on May 26 - 28. Although the focus is on younger dancers, all will be welcome at the accompanying Fringe event.

While we have revived Scottish country dancing in person here this autumn, it has been a struggle for the Association and social groups to get our numbers up. See more on the current issues facing social groups in the report on our social group liaison meeting on page 6.

Nonetheless, December brought welcome developments. There were large turnouts in the December gatherings of both the Trinity and Glenview groups followed by an excellent turnout for the December monthly dance. Santa even showed up there. Quite possibly the New Year will bring news of better days ahead. We can keep this new enthusiasm going with a good turnout at the monthly dance on January 14.

On December 11 the Great Lakes Group met for the first time in over a year by Zoom. We reviewed our individual situations and how the return to regular dance events was proceeding. Planning has started for a ball to be held in late spring of 2024. The Great Lakes meeting was a great example of the power of the internet to overcome distance in bringing geographically separated communities together for a common purpose – stronger organizations committed to Scottish country dancing.

... Paul Barber



Photo: Paul Barber

In past years, Trinity's Christmas dance was always a grand affair. Kilts were the norm; delicious treats were shared by all, and the majestic Seeley Hall was filled with joyful dancers. The post COVID 19 Trinity dance on December 1 portrayed a very different, scaled down scenario, but it was also filled with hope. Although Rosedale Presbyterian Church Hall lacks the ambience of Seeley Hall, it was filled with 28 dancers enjoying a great dance programme delivered by teacher Arlene Koteff. The evening raised great expectations of Trinity moving forward as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2023.

...Ken Adamson



Photo: Linda Patterson

Our South Simcoe Christmas dance in Alliston was enjoyed by one and all on December 1. Three sets danced to the toe-tapping tunes of Laird Brown and Donny Wood – live music really does help tell us what to do and where to be. There's something magical about sharing the dance floor with friends who came from Aurora to Wasaga Beach and points between and beyond. We ended the evening with an "After Dance Tea and Goodies" – thank you Ed Elliotson for coordinating it. The left-over food went to Choices in Orangeville, our local shelter for homeless youth. A special thank you to Maureen Richardson, who keeps us focused, and especially for sharing her contagious love of the dance with us. It was a great night – thanks to everyone who came to celebrate the first major SCD event for most of us!

...Lyn Barsevskis



Photo: Marian White

What a joyful way to start the holiday festivities. After a too long hiatus, Glenview hosted its annual Christmas Dance on Wednesday, December 14. Thanks to Don Bartlett's excellent music and Moira, Halyna, and Erica's skilled briefing, over forty dancers skipped, set, crossed, chased, set, linked, and reeled their way through the hall. This was followed by an assortment of treats while dancers got the chance to sit together and socialize. After so many years of quiet, there was lots of catching up to do. We can all now give our feet a short rest before gathering again for Hogmanay.

...Fiona Alberti

February Dance

This year's programme was devised by Pat Coyle.



Saturday, February 18, 2023

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 7:15 p.m. Dancing 8-10 p.m.

Music: Don Bartlett & the Scottish Heirs

Briefers: David Booz (1st half) ; Arlene Koteff (2nd half)

If possible, in order to reduce paper use, please print your own crib sheets from the website

[2023-February-cribs.pdf](#).

COVID Policy in effect.

Joie de Vivre	J 8x32	RSCDS Book 39
Jimmy's Fancy	S 8x32	RSCDS Book14
Mary Erskine	R 8x32	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book
Mrs Stewart's Jig	J 8x32	RSCDS Book 35
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S 8x32	RSCDS Leaflets
The Reel of the Royal Scots	R 8x32	RSCDS Leaflets
Interval		
The Milltimber Jig	J 6x32	RSCDS Book 41
The Glasgow Highlanders	S 8x32	RSCDS Book 2
Flowers of Edinburgh	R 8x32	RSCDS Book 1
EH3 7AF	J 8x32	RSCDS Book 40
Bill Little's Strathspey	S 4x32	Goldring G & S Dances 2
The Sailor	R 8x32	Book 24, 4
Extra		
The Highlandman's Umbrella	R 4x32	Glasgow Diamond Jubilee

Members: \$27; non-Members: \$32; Young Adult Member (18-34): \$10;
Youth Associate Member (<18) and Spectators: \$5

Monthly Dances are SCENT FREE.

Special Events

Family Ceilidh

January 21, 2023 ~ Dancing from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., followed by a pizza dinner

Glenview Presbyterian Church – 1 Glenview Ave, Toronto

Cost – \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, up to a total of \$30 per family.

Join us for a fun afternoon of easy ceilidh and country dancing led by Keith Bark and Deirdre MacCuish Bark. The Family Ceilidh is a great opportunity to introduce friends, family members, and neighbours to the joy of Scottish country dancing!

No experience required.



Scarborough Burns' Nicht

Monday, January 23, 2023 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Westview Presbyterian Church, 233 Westview Blvd.

[<map>](#)

Cost – \$10 at the door

Masking & vaccination not mandatory, but HIGHLY recommended. RSVP appreciated to get a BIG enough haggis. Nigel Keenan, 416-762 3060 or nigel.keenan@yahoo.co.uk

West End Workshop & Tea Dance

Saturday, March 25, 2023 8:45 (for 9:30 start) - 5:00 p.m.

Tea Dance 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. followed by social hour

Location: The Humberwood Community Centre,

850 Humberwood Blvd., Etobicoke North [<map>](#)

Easy access from Hwy 427. Free parking.



Teachers: Dave Hall (London, U.K.) and Marion Hamilton (Ottawa)

Musicians: Don Bartlett and Laird Brown

Includes two morning classes, lunch, tea dance & light refreshments;

Cost \$80. / Youth (14-35) \$40. / Tea Dance only is \$20.

Registration information and form will be available soon.

Teachers' Workshop

Sunday, March 26, 2023, 1:30 (for 2:00 start) - 5:00

Location: Alderwood Community Centre, 2 Orianna Dr.,

(Brown's Line & Horner Ave.) [<map>](#)

Teacher: Dave Hall (London, U.K.) Musician: Don Bartlett

Watch the [website](#) for information.

COVID Policy

As we welcome everyone to a new dancing season, the following protocols will be in effect.

1. Social groups are responsible for masking and any other protocols they may wish to adopt, or are requirements of the space they rent.
2. For RSCDS Toronto Association programs the following public health protocols will be:
 - (a) Masks are required for indoor events.
 - (b) Vaccination is mandatory.
 - (c) Hand sanitizer must be provided.
 - (d) Attestation forms must be filled out by participants. .
3. COVID-19 policies and protocols will be continuously reviewed and updated by RSCDS Toronto Association as required.



EMPTY CHAIRS AND EMPTY TABLES

Happy & Glorious 2016

St Clement's social group is now closed, but we are reminded of the many opportunities and friends it has provided us.

Many beginnings are discovered and nurtured in a social group: preparing for your first monthly dance, your first workshop, your first ball (remember the St Clement's Tartan Ball boot camp run-throughs?).

New friends who first meet in a social group become *good friends* — sometimes even spouses. Initially puzzling, unfamiliar dances became personal favourites. Some new dancers are inspired to become teachers.

St Clement's social group hosted many special events; to name but a few: Commonwealth Ceilidh, Queen's Coronation Dance, Downton Abbey Night, Red & White Canada 150 Day, the quirky Śmigus-dyngus nights, and Christmas and year-end closing parties with the fabulous talents of Don Bartlett and his music. One of our best events was the **HAPPY & GLORIOUS** celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday, complete with fascinators and fine china. We sent a photo to Buckingham Palace and received a personal note of thanks and good wishes from the Queen herself.

What a wonder and joy it was to prepare for our weekly class. We had a longer season than other groups, and offered an early beginner-improver technique session, always well attended, followed by social dancing. The social group was always a source of infinite wonder and treasures galore for Rob and me.

The St. Clement's group was established by Grace Harris in 1971, and assisted by the talented Maureen Richardson. What began as a thriving children's group morphed over the years into an adult social group. In 2005 Grace invited me to take over her now-small adult group in the Old Parish Hall at St. Clement's Church. We later moved to the Great Hall of Bishop Strachan School and we thrived there, typically attracting three sets or more each week.

Despite its long history, and after much swithering, we have regretfully closed the St. Clement's social group. Rising rents, unsustainable in these Covid-cautious times, combined with declining membership, contributed to the difficult decision.

Sadly, we join the company of disappearing, once great social groups: Petronella, Newtonbrook, Erin Mills (Fridays), Celtic Connections, and Calvin. Too many friends gone.

Thank you to everyone who supported us over our many years of dancing, and who entrusted me as your teacher on your Scottish country dancing adventure. It has been a privilege.

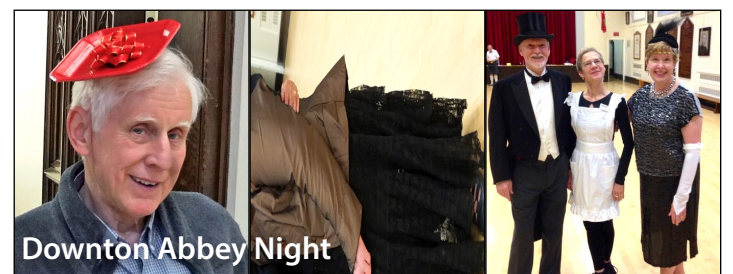
... Teresa & Rob Lockhart



Commonwealth Ceilidh, 2014



June Closer 2015



Downton Abbey Night



Circle Dance in the Great Hall

Association Classes



All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto
(beginners are excused until their 2nd term).
The ten-week sessions are \$100.

Please make cheques payable to "RSCDS Toronto."
Classes Convenor: [Anne Bishop](#)
COVID related policy in place.

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 various steps and formations taught.

Mondays at St. Leonard's Anglican Church* [<map>](#) ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m.

[Pre-register](#) and bring a [COVID ATTESTATION](#) to class.

Dates: Jan 9 to March 20, 2023 (no class Feb 20, Family Day)

Teacher: David Booz

Class Rep: [Cheryl Catt](#)

Mondays at Alderwood Community Centre, Etobicoke * [<map>](#) (Meeting Room, Lots of free parking) ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m.

[Pre-register](#) and bring a [COVID ATTESTATION](#) to class.

Dates: Jan 9 to March 20, 2023 (no class Feb 20, Family Day)

Teacher: Alma Smith

Email contact: [Tony Szeto](#)

Thursdays at Eastminster United Church* [<map>](#). ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m.
(Gymnasium - enter east side doors, go downstairs and follow signs.)

[Pre-register](#) and bring a [COVID ATTESTATION](#) to class.

Dates: Jan 12 to March 16, 2023

Teacher: Keith Bark

Class Rep: [Anne Bishop](#)

Level 2 Intermediate Classes: These classes build on steps and formations learned at the beginner level and introduce more complex formations. Dancers become more confident in their skills and abilities and enjoy the challenge of more complex dances.

Thursdays at Eastminster United Church* [<map>](#) ~ 7:30-9:30 p.m.

(Hurndale Room - enter east side door, go downstairs and follow signs)

[Pre-register](#) and bring a [COVID ATTESTATION](#) to class.

Dates: Jan 12 to March 16, 2023

Teacher: Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Class Rep: [Anne Bishop](#)

* Location Addresses:

St Leonard's Anglican Church Hall, 25 Wanless Avenue
(2 minutes north from Lawrence and Yonge subway station, east side)

Alderwood Community Centre, 2 Orianna Dr., Etobicoke, near Brown's Line and Horner Ave.

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue
(2 minutes west from Chester subway station)



COUNTDOWN TO
SPRING FLING
2023
TORONTO:

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHERS

Happy New Year Everyone!

Today, we turn the spotlight on our teachers. On the weekend of May 26-28, Linda Henderson, Gavin Keachie, and Fiona Mackie will take us on a dance journey at Spring Fling/Spring Fringe 2023 Toronto.

The common thread here is that all three teachers started to dance as children.



Originally from North Berwick, near Edinburgh, Linda started to dance at Primary School. She now lives in California and is an experienced ceilidh caller. For her themed class, get ready for a ceilidh ride!



Toronto's Gavin wanted to join his older sisters so much, he took his first dance steps when he was just three. His themed class is local Canadian dances.



And Fiona has danced most of her life in Dundee, starting at the age of four. She will challenge you with reels of three or four with a twist.

All themed classes are Saturday afternoon for both Fling and Fringe attendees.

Registration is open and we have our first registrants. Have you made that gift of a registration for a Fling age dancer in your dance network? Don't put it off! Early bird rates are good only until February 15, 2023: <https://www.springfling2023.ca>

New Year's Day is here and it's 145 days to the Fling/Fringe.

... Halyna Sydorenko

Scholarships

are available to cover registration and accommodation costs for Fling participants. Application deadline **January 31, 2023**. Please check the [RSCDS Scholarships website](#).

November Monthly Dance



Max Fothergill

Our second monthly dance at Havergal College Junior School went well, despite a handful of regular attendees not being able to make it. Of the 42 people who attended the dance, there were five non-members and one spectator. Don Bartlett and Blair Mackenzie of the Scottish Heirs provided us with great music that kept everyone on the dance floor the entire evening. May Divers briefed the first six dances, and two newer teachers, Leo Roytman and Halyna Sydorenko, shared briefing the last six dances. We were fortunate to have some out-of-town dance teachers join us that evening; Diane Coulombre teaches in Cobourg and Andrew Collins teaches in Burlington and Oakville.

December Monthly Dance



Photo: Ron Macnaughton

The Christmas dance at Havergal Junior School was a huge success despite an early scare. When the band and organizers arrived just prior to 7:00, the gymnasium was full of kids playing basketball. The game didn't end until around 7:10 and there was a period of dancers coming into Havergal while basketball fans were leaving. Despite the congestion we had 84 people in attendance, including 24 non-members. A lot of those were the many beginner dancers from Eastminister, St Leonard's, and young adult classes. Laird and Scotch Mist Trio provided energetic music that kept us dancing for almost three hours. Nigel Keenan briefed the first half of the dance and Deirdre MacCuish Bark briefed the second half. Santa made a brief appearance at the break to give dancers candy canes to help fuel them through the second half of the dance. Everyone seemed to have a great time and we're looking forward to seeing them in the new year for four more dances from January until April.

...Max Fothergill

Getting the word out at the Ball



Back Row- Alan Rosenthal, Bob Boothby
Front Row- Rebecca Marnoch, Beverley Bennett, Ellen Mole, Carol Ann Boothby, Paul Barber, Sheena Gilks

The St. Andrew's Charity Ball on November 26 was a great promotional opportunity for us. A group of our members worked hard to promote SCD. Our thanks go to: Arlene Koteff and David Booz, who prior to the event held dance practice classes at the Moss Park Armoury; Bill and Christie Barber, who set up a table at these practices and advertised our Scottish country dancing lessons with a wonderful video; Alan Rosenthal and Liz Clunie, who organized a table at the event for our members; and Beverley Bennett and Carol Ann Boothby, who distributed Toronto Association business cards at every dining table at the Ball.

The Toronto Reference Library was the venue, its spacious and open area easily accommodating the large number of guests. The continuing bond between the St. Andrew's Society and RSCDS Toronto was maintained by the presence of our Chair, Paul Barber, as an invited guest at the Ball. The evening offered the Toast to the Haggis, a lovely four-course meal (including, of course, haggis, neeps and tatties), a Silent Auction, and a Highland Dancing display. Then, as the Pipes and Drums of the 48th Highlanders swept into the dancing area, ceilidh dancing was off and running. It was great fun. We had used the occasion as an opportunity to promote Scottish country dancing and that only added to the pleasure of our evening! ([Photos](#) and [Video](#))

...Sheena Gilks



When: Thursday evenings, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

January 12 - March 23 (no class February 2)
\$10/class or \$90 for all 10 classes

April 13 - May 25 (no class May 18)
\$10/class or \$50 for all 6 classes

Where: St Thomas's Anglican Church,
383 Huron St., M5S 2G5 [<map link>](#)

Info: erica.degannes@gmail.com

These classes will prepare you for dancing Scottish anywhere around the world, but especially at the [Spring Fling 2023](#) to be held at Glendon College, Toronto, May 26 - 28 ([details](#)).

Covid protocols as recommended by Public Health will be followed.
Link to video of [Paris Spring Fling 2019](#)

Social Liaison Group Zoom Meeting



Attending: *Nigel Keenan, Keith Bark, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Arlene Koteff, Blair Gerrie, John Clark, Ken Adamson, Sandra Charlesworth, Barbara Kalmuk, Lyn Barsevskis, William Scott,*

Susan Scott, Moira Korus, Irene Miller, Paul Barber, Fiona Alberti, Carol Ann Boothby, Ron Macnaughton, Wendy Fulton, Laurie McConachie, Sheena Gilks.

The annual Social Liaison Group meeting was held on Dec. 4, 2022. A brief summary follows:

COVID-19. For the majority of groups masking is mandatory, for others it is voluntary. The dilemma is that some people won't attend if they have to wear a mask, while others won't attend if masks are not mandatory. It was mentioned that teaching with a mask is challenging and for the hard of hearing it is difficult when you can't see the teacher's lips. It was emphasized that consideration for others is critical and dancers must monitor themselves.

ENROLLMENT. As the number of dancers in some groups decreases, mainly for health/aging reasons, some groups may have to consider whether to continue or not. Increasing class costs may also be a consideration for others at some point.

AMALGAMATION. With numbers declining, amalgamation was briefly discussed. For now, however, it is not an issue with the groups represented at the meeting. Many of the groups in the north have formed a network to support one another and each other's events.

TEACHERS. We have a dwindling number of active teachers; one problem is the difficulty in finding people to cover classes when a teacher is away. The hope is that Core Training for Instructors (CTI) will provide us with a few more social group leaders.

ENCOURAGING MEMBERSHIP. We need to match what we can offer with the demographics of an area. Taking advantage of invitations from public events is important, they enable us to introduce ourselves to a larger audience.

Word of mouth continues to be the most effective way and business cards can be very handy. Flyers in general don't work although posters around the university campus (UofT) did attract some young dancers - a niche group we should focus on. The Young Adult class is seeing some success. At the moment they are not required to become members but the hope is they will get hooked and become members when they see the benefits of joining. A greater effort must be made to integrate 'graduates' of Toronto association classes into social groups. Dancers north of the city frequently support TA events and think it would be nice if more Toronto dancers supported their events in the north end. A suggestion was made that we could offer shorter courses for new dancers. A 4-week course would get people interested whereas a 10-week course might seem like too much of a commitment.

This input helps provide TA with a picture of what is going on in surrounding SCD areas. We are very grateful to the groups for their comments and thank them for taking time out to attend the meeting.

Sheena Gilks

Board Bulletins

Nominations: Board Positions

The Nomination Committee is preparing a slate of nominees to be presented for approval at the April 2023 AGM. The following Toronto Association board positions still need to be filled:

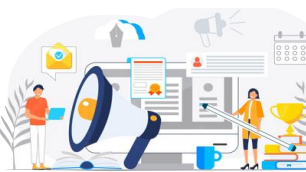
- Secretary • Outreach/Marketing • Communications.

Any member of RSCDS Toronto can nominate a fellow member for a position on the TA board. The nomination form is available [here](#), or on the membership page of the website.

To volunteer, offer your suggestions, or for further information, please contact [Louis Racic](#) 647-780-4365.

Set & Link Needs You!

To continue making our newsletter something interesting and informative to read, we need you to make it happen. Do you have writing skills, editing experience? Do you have computer skills or graphic design talents? We would, of course, welcome new ideas for *Set & Link*. Please consider joining the *Set & Link* team. Contact sheenagilks@gmail.com



AGM Motions Deadline: Feb. 5

February 5 is the deadline for submission of motions from the membership for the 2023 Annual General Meeting. Submissions must have the support of 10 full members as indicated by their signature. Send motions to Fiona Alberti at fiona@alberti.ca Motions received will be posted 60 days prior to the AGM.



Dear Editor...

A Wish Fulfilled

In *Set & Link* September 2021, when we were entrenched in pandemic practices and dreaming of abandoning virtual dance in favour of in-person dancing, my wish was to dance *The Earl of Errol's Reel*, a graceful 200-bar jig for three couples. At Grace Church-On-The-Hill on Sunday, November 27, 2022, Valerie Harris included it on her programme and taught the dance with confidence and conciseness. I had never danced the dance, but it was exhilarating to dance the five sections – a combination of solo and three-couple participation – packed with Pas de Basque. Thank you Valerie, for a wish granted. It was a treat.

...Donald E. Holmes

Masking

Ron Macnaughton received the following email from Alison Booz. He submitted it with her permission.

Hi Ron,
Thanks for your article about the Kitchener-Waterloo Ball. I understand that there were a number of people who got Covid-19 after the Ball. Infectious enthusiasm for sure! Such a shame that people didn't wear masks. They protect us! I wanted to attend; however, I was not willing to do so when folk would not be wearing masks. I am very very pleased that the Toronto Association requires masks at all the association events.

Introducing Scottish Dancing to Navy Cadets at HMCS York



On Tuesday November 29 an energetic and fun evening was spent introducing navy cadets to some Scottish dancing. Adrienne Pelling, a beginner in Keith Bark's class, asked if a teacher could teach them. They meet under her son's guidance (Coxswain Dave Pelling) each Tuesday night and do fitness, learn about ropes and knots. and do drills. Dave's mum suggested that Scottish dance would be a good activity for the fitness part as dance is supposed to be part of their curriculum. Arrangements were made and 22 cadets learned how to dance ceilidh. They learned the slip step, skip change, and danced *Festival Interceltique*, *The Virginia Reel*, *The Kingston Flyer*, and *The Dashing White Sergeant*. Acting Sub-Lieutenant Michael "Scotty" Galita, their training officer, dressed up for the occasion in his kilt and presented Keith and me each with a thank you card signed by all the cadets. They might even have us back sometime!

...Moira Korus

Coxswain Pelling posted on Facebook, "Thank you Moira & friends for visiting RSCCC Vanguard on Tuesday to teach about Scottish Country Dancing! They had a blast!"

"To be or NOT to be" in SCARBOROUGH



Class dancing *The Saint John River*. To see us dance is to hear our hearts speak. (Hopi proverb)

Folklore may have it that the Scarborough SCD club is "way out" east in Scarborough. Well, "not" so, as some years ago we moved to a more central location in East York! So, as we are now "not" Way Out East, there is "not" any good reason "not" to dance with us.

The club was started by Tom and Margaret Cunningham, with Tom as its first teacher. John Christie took over after Tom's untimely death, and following his retirement, Donald Macdonald continued the tradition. The current teacher, Nigel Keenan, although an "Ulsterman" by birth, had a Scottish grandmother (from Ayr of Burns' country no less), so is steeped in Scottish culture and tradition.

Although our group is small in numbers, we are rich in spirit. We invite you to "take the floor" with us on Monday nights at 7:30-9.30 p.m., in Westview Presbyterian Church at 233 Westview Blvd (one block north-east of O'Connor Drive). The major intersection is St. Clair and Victoria Park. There is ample free street parking. Come dance with us!

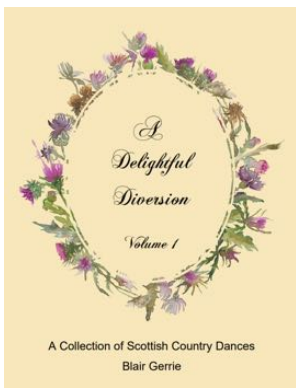
...Nigel Keenan

Happy Birthday, Moira.



On November 23, Liz Clunie, on behalf of Glenview members, presented Moira with festive home-baked brownies to celebrate her 60th birthday.

"A Delightful Diversion" from the Pandemic



A book of more than forty Scottish country dances, written primarily by me, has recently been published. Spurred on by all the extra time I had during the pandemic not preparing for dance classes, I decided to organise a few dances that I had written and started to devise several more. My family gave me the gift of publishing the dances as a collection. Many of these dances incorporate lesser-known formations as well as

some new figures. In addition to those devised by me, the collection also includes dances by Jean Attwood, Tristan Gerrie, and Emily Porter. Additionally, my favourite band, Marian Anderson, has composed original tunes for two of the dances!

One of the most challenging aspects was selecting a title for the collection. During the 18th century, Scottish country dancing was often known as the Darling Diversion. I liked this concept and modernized it as a title for my collection – *A Delightful Diversion*.

Another challenge during the pandemic was to test out the dances – finding a venue as well as participants. Thankfully a team of Toronto volunteer dancers (with excellent phrasing and open-mindedness!) were enlisted and they ensured that all the dances flowed and were not too chaotic.

The book is available for sale through TAC Books. If you would like a hard copy, contact Blair Gerrie at pbgerrie@gmail.com as some copies will be available locally to avoid shipping costs. For those outside of North America, it will also be sold through the RSCDS Bookshop in Leeds. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be supporting the Tayside SCD Groups in Toronto as they prepare to celebrate their upcoming anniversary.

...Blair Gerrie

Great Lakes Group Meeting December 11, 2022

The Great Lakes Group is an informal association of Scottish country dance groups mainly in Ontario but including groups in Detroit and Buffalo as well. First brought together in 2011 by Toronto RSCDS Chair Margaret Rieger, the purpose is to allow the groups to share common concerns and to coordinate our approach to issues with respect to the RSCDS as a whole.

One purpose of the Great Lakes is to coordinate timing of the big events (such as the Tartan Ball) and to come together to plan joint events. In October 2021 the group agreed to organize a joint ball to celebrate the centenary of the RSCDS.

At the December 11, 2022 meeting the group struck a committee to be chaired by Cate Reid of Hamilton and Kathryn Lecocq of Kitchener to commence serious planning of the ball scheduled to be held between the end of April and end of May, 2024. Cate and Kathryn have already begun exploring various venues and getting prices. The Great Lakes Group as a whole will meet again on Zoom on February 26, 2023 to continue the planning work on the ball.

... Paul Barber



Autumn Gathering 2022 and AGM Kelvin Hall, Glasgow

To read about the Autumn Gathering 2022 and the AGM go to the [RSCDS Blog](#)

Grace Notes



John Beckwith Mar 9, 1927 - Dec 5, 2022

John Beckwith, born in Victoria, BC, came to Toronto to study piano at the University of Toronto under Alberto Guerrero, who also taught Glenn Gould. John wrote more than 160

works ranging from opera to folksongs, including works for voice, piano, orchestra, chamber groups, stage, and more. He was the recipient of many awards, held honorary doctorates from five universities, and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1987.

According to his son Larry, in a CBC interview, besides being a musician and composer, John was also a historian, teacher, author, and critic. He always wanted to know more about the history of his country and how music affected all the communities within it. John taught at the University of Toronto for over 40 years. One of his

courses was for those who had an interest in music, but were not necessarily musicians themselves. As Larry said in the interview, he loved to turn people on to music.

Larry also said that his father, while not large in physical stature, was a "ball of energy" who loved to party, had a great sense of humour, was witty, was encouraging, and enjoyed seeing others being celebrated. He was also a cook, who made great pies.

John was introduced to Scottish country dancing by his partner, Kathleen McMorrow, and was a well-loved member of Trinity group for over 40 years. In his opera [Tuptool](#), which told the story of the War of 1812 there is a scene in which *De'il Amang The Tailors* appears.

We extend our condolences to Kathleen, John's children, and his extended family. [Obit](#) and [In Memoriam](#)

(Photo: Ron Bull/Toronto Star Photograph Archive, Toronto Public Library)



January 25, 2023

Burns Statue Celebration

2023-01-25 | 11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Robert Burns Statue (Allan Gardens at Sherbourne and Carlton)

Everyone is welcome to celebrate of the birthday of Scotland's national bard. There will be piping, haggis, neeps, tatties, singing, and good cheer!

This event can be chilly, but the haggis is warm and so is the company. We gather at the Burns Statue and then repair to a cozy pub to continue with the festivities..

Free. A [St. Andrew's Society](#) event.

Eat Your Haggis and Ceilidh On



In June, just prior to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, I chanced upon a fellow walking his corgi. As is usual with Scottish country dancers, we chatted and I learned the dog's name was Haggis. Also turned out Dave, the "owner", had a great recipe for haggis and wanted to share it.

Dave's Haggis Recipe (in his own words)

I usually buy a two pound Haggis (I've always found the best haggis from the Healthy Butcher), and cut it in half, so I can do multiple turkey dinners with this stuffing.

- * Peel the skin off the haggis, and break up into small pieces
- * Add half a package of sausage meat
- * Add a cup of melted butter and 1 egg
- * Add breadcrumbs - the amount really depends on the group - obviously if they already enjoy haggis I'd use less breadcrumbs!
- * You can be very creative with other additions - onion, mushrooms, etc.

Mix these ingredients until they seem ready to use as a stuffing. I soak a cheesecloth in more melted butter and line the turkey with it ... if you are beginning to see the secret to this entire recipe it is indeed tons of butter - more on this in a bit.

For the turkey - I prefer fresh but can easily use a butterball. I usually make my own poultry seasoning - using fresh herbs

if I have them: sage, thyme, nutmeg, marjoram, rosemary, pepper. Before I stuff the bird I liberally coat the cheesecloth with the poultry mix. Then in goes the stuffing.

I always have enough left over to cook a non-haggis mix for the occasional guest who isn't keen on the main stuffing.

Now, the turkey. I use a lot of unsalted butter. I slice into the skins between the thighs, across the breast areas and between the wings as well. Forces slices of butter into each of these areas. Then liberal coating of poultry seasoning all over the bird.

- * Oven to 425 - in goes the turkey for 30-45 minutes, helps the skin get a wee bit crispy
- * Lower oven to 325 - and tent with aluminum foil
- * Check after 2 hours - basting is really important - especially at the opening of the cheesecloth!
- * When you feel you have an hour or so to go, in goes the additional stuffing in a casserole dish.

I never need to use a meat thermometer - because it's easy to see how things are going simply by a wee slice deeper into the thigh area - and more basting of course!

And when you feel your turkey is ready, turn the oven off completely. Let things stand for 15-20 minutes, then bring out to snooze for another 30 min. After that I usually pull out the cheesecloth with the stuffing and put it into another bowl that can stay warm in the oven.

Make sure you have very sharp knives for carving - not really to manage the turkey but to successfully threaten those family members sneaking in to steal a few pieces to taste!

Enjoy

...Dave

Upcoming Events: NEAR

Jan. 21 - Family Ceilidh ~ Dancing from 3:00. – 5:00 p.m., followed by a pizza dinner. Glenview Presbyterian Church – 1 Glenview Ave., \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, up to a total of \$30 per family.

Jan. 23 - Scarborough Burns' Night ~ Westview Presbyterian Church, 233 Westview Blvd, Monday 23rd January 2023 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. \$10 at the door. RSVP appreciated to get a BIG enough haggis

Jan. 29 - Shiftin' Bobbins with Tony Szeto (Markham)

Feb. 26 - Shiftin' Bobbins with May Divers

(Brampton) ~ 2 to 4 p.m. Parish Hall, Grace Church on-the-Hill, 200 Lonsdale Rd. & Russell Hill Road. Easily accessed by TTC. Ample parking. Info: [Shiftin Bobbins](#) or contact [Tristan Gerrie](#) or [Secretary](#)



Mar. 25- West End Workshop ~ At the Humberwood Community Centre, 850 Humberwood Blvd., Etobicoke North. Teachers: Dave Hall (London, U.K.) and Marion Hamilton (Ottawa) Musicians: Don Bartlett and Laird Brown. Includes two morning classes, lunch, tea dance & light refreshments; Cost \$80. / Youth (14-35) \$40. / Tea Dance only is \$20.

Apr. 22- West Toronto Ball ~At the Crystal Grand Banquet Hall \$125.00 per person ~ Tickets go on sale in February. Celebrate the 51st Anniversary of the West Toronto Ball with wonderful live music by the Scotch Mist Trio.

May 26-28, 2023 – Spring Fling 2023 ~ at York University's Glendon Campus. This young-adult-oriented event is definitely a go! Teachers are Fiona Mackie (Scotland), Linda Henderson (USA), Gavin Keachie (Toronto). Music by Don Bartlett, Laird Brown, Donny Wood, and Mara Shea on fiddle (USA). More details to follow.

Upcoming Events: FAR

Jan 28 - The Kitchener-Waterloo Branch Burns Tea Dance ~ At the historic St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 137 Queen Street South, Kitchener, 2-5 p.m. Dance to the music of Best of the Bands. Refreshments to follow. Tickets \$15. [Briefs](#) and [Information](#)

Jan 28 - The Oakville SCD Branch Celebrates Rabbie Burns ~ At the Bronte Legion. 79 Jones St. Oakville. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Address To The Haggis 7 p.m. Traditional Haggis Supper 7:15 p.m. Dance to the music of Best of the Bands. Tickets \$30. [Information](#). (Do not park in the Legion parking lot. You will be towed.)

Feb 10 - 12 - Edmonton Caledonian Branch 51st Annual Workshop and Ball ~ At the Château Lacombe, Edmonton, Alberta. Teachers: Geoffrey Selling, Raphaëlle Orgeret, and Louise McGillivray. Musicians: Tartan Ties: Judi Nicolson, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser-Collins, Fred Collins, and Mary Ross. Info and registration: edmontonballchair@gmail.com

March 25 - RSCDS Centenary Ball, Edinburgh ~ Members from around the world are invited to join our Centenary celebrations at a special Ball hosted in Edinburgh's stunning Assembly Rooms. Music will be provided by some of the best Scottish country dance musicians, and dancers will be able to move between the Ballroom and the Music Room to enjoy both Marian Anderson's Band and David Oswald's Band. Info and Registration: [Centenary Ball](#) Download: [Ball programme](#)

For other away events, visit:

dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Far.html

For up-to-date info on events near, visit



Check this link to the Scottish website for info about the centenary of RSCDS:

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



Please send submissions to **Set & Link** by the 10th of each month. Send to Sheena Gilks sheena.gilks@gmail.com

Scheduled Dates of Board Meetings 2022-2023 season
Jan. 4 Feb. 6 Mar. 6
Apr. 5 May 16
June 19

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