

Social Group Scoop

From Set & Link November 2005



Calvin Scottish Country Dance Group

The Calvin Scottish Country Dance Group was formed in 1957. For several years, it was the location of the Toronto Branch Monthly Dances until the hall could no longer accommodate the numbers of dancers. The purpose of the formation of this group was to provide fellowship and activity for members of the congregation as well as the community. Margaret Birnie, Forbes Brown and Ed Mason were inspired to start the group. Isabelle MacPherson, who is also a teacher at Calvin, is one of the charter members.

The teachers in the early days were Alex McGregor, Matthew Sutherland and Coll Black. Iain Macfarlane taught for the following twenty years. Since 1980, Frances Gray has taught the group. The musicians have been Ed Brydie, Alex Jappy, Stan Hamilton, Bobby Frew, Larry Pichko, Anna Robertson, Elma Grech and Don Bartlett. Many of the Past Chairmen

and members of the executive of the Toronto Branch/Association have been members of the Calvin Group.

The Calvin Group have been keen participants in all Gala Days, demonstrations at the C.N.E. and Skydome, performed at military institutions, retirement homes and churches over the years.

On Friday, September 23, 2005, the Calvin Scottish Country Dance Group were invited to be part of the Calvin Presbyterian Church's Eightieth Anniversary of the opening of that church. The event was celebrated with a buffet dinner and ceilidh. Members of the Calvin Group danced at this event. It was a delight to be part of this celebration.

The Calvin Scottish Country Dancers have met at Calvin Presbyterian Church each Tuesday evening from September to May from the year 1957. All are welcome.

~Douglas Smith, Chairman, Calvin