

## **Directors' Reports**

### **AGM, April 27, 2025**

#### **2025 AGM Communications Report (Judy Williams, Director)**

##### ***Set and Link***

The *Set and Link* team headed by Suzanne Dubeau has continued to do great work on the newsletter. We are lucky to have them. Please consider writing something for *Set and Link* about your experiences and stories, since we want the publication to represent our entire membership.

The average monthly cost for printing 11 copies of the newsletter (9 for members and 2 for the archives) is just under \$40, which works out to about \$3.65/copy. This is less than last year, since the printing is now being done by Rhonrose, which has given us a lower price.

Postage for the printed copies varies between \$1.75 and \$2.60 per issue, depending on the length.

##### **RSCDS TA Website**

Many thanks to Rob Lockhart for the hours he spends maintaining our website. It's essential for getting up-to-date information on everything from social groups, lessons, events, obituaries of members and links to things related to Scottish dancing. Please remember to check in on it often.

##### **Social Group Liaison Meeting**

No social group liaison meeting was held in 2024–25, but there will be one soon, in May 2025. Connecting with social groups helps to create a supportive social community and keeps dancers, both new and old, coming to classes and events. The meeting is also important to let social group contacts know about the options of lessons, social groups, monthly dances, Dancing in the Park, and other events.

##### **Summary**

We communicate with our membership through *Set and Link* and e-notes, delivered by mass emails to our members. There have been some problems with delivery in a few cases, but the sending of both items is running well now, thanks to Carol Ann Boothby's updated address lists. Please be sure to let the communications director know if you do not receive either publication.

#### **2025 Education & Training Report (Moira Korus, Director)**

##### **Association Classes**

We have had three beginner classes and one Level 2 class for 20 weeks this year. Extension classes (7 or 8 weeks, depending on location) and Level 3 classes (7 weeks) began the week of March 24. Enrollment has been similar to previous years with an average per term of 19 at Calvin, 6 at Alderwood, 11 at St. Barnabas on the Danforth, and 8 in Level 2 at St. Barnabas. Thanks very much to Anne Bishop for all her hard work as Association Class Convenor, and to Cheryl Catt, Alex Sutton and Anne Bishop as class co-ordinators for the Calvin, Alderwood and St. Barnabas classes respectively. Thanks also to our class "ringers" who come along to help the newer dancers: Bill Barber, Valerie Fisher, Cheryl Catt and Sandra Peden at Calvin; Sue Ann Bryce, Max Fothergill, Catherine Whitfield, Eleanor Bishop, Suzanne Dubeau and Olivia Shintani at St. Barnabas; and Moira Loudoun at Alderwood. Thanks as well to the teachers for doing such an excellent job: David Booz, Jean Noble, Arlene Koteff, Gavin Keachie and Moira Korus.

### **Occasional Sunday (and Saturday) Classes**

We held two occasional classes in the fall and 3 in the winter/spring term. There has been good attendance at most of these classes, ranging from one to two sets. The classes have been able to be run from 2-4 PM this year, which has improved attendance, but availability of the hall at that time is limited, so there have been fewer classes. We chose to run some classes on a Saturday as opposed to a Sunday, and these have been well attended.

### **Teacher Candidate Classes**

Although it is a year that we could have run a teacher candidate class, we did not have enough interest to make this financially viable.

### **Youth Events**

The Youth Committee ran a successful ceilidh at the Horseshoe Tavern on August 27, with music by Laird Brown. It was attended by 58 people, and it made a small profit. Another similar event is in the planning stages for May. The youth committee also organized a Family Ceilidh on January 5. This was held at the Winchester Theatre and unfortunately was not as well attended, with only 20 dancers. There was a small loss.

The Youth Committee also created a Youth Grant for dancers under 35 to apply for funding to attend events.

Finally, the Youth Committee is planning a small workshop on the morning of Saturday May 10 for dancers under 35 at Rosedale Presbyterian Church with David Booz teaching.

Thanks to the Youth Committee members for their hard work this year: John Clark (who has now stepped down), Erica De Gannes (co-chair), Tristan Gerrie (co-chair), Gavin Keachie, Moira Korus, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Leo Roytman, Linda Steggles and Halyna Sydorenko.

### **Festival of Dance**

A Festival of Dance is planned for Saturday, April 26, 2025 at St. Barnabas on the Danforth. We hope that a number of classes and social groups will perform a dance at the event. Audience participation dances will be done in between.

### **2025 Membership Report (Carol Ann Boothby, Director)**

There has been an increase of five members for the 2024-2025 membership year.

Our membership numbers are as follows:

Joint Members = 66

Joint Members (half year) = 4

Single Adults = 113

Single Adult (half year) = 10

Life Members = 11

Partners of Life Members = 4

Young Adults (18-34 years) = 11

Young Adults (18-34 years) (half year) = 3

Keep-in-Touch (no voting privileges) = 23

Junior/Youth Associates (12-17 years) (no voting privileges) = 9

Full members with voting privileges = 222

Total membership = 254

45 members are under the age of 60 (17% of our membership)

207 members are over the age of 60 (83% of our membership)

2 members' age range is unknown

**We welcomed 33 new members, 8 of whom are young adults.**

**In the last 2 membership years we have welcomed a total of 58 new members.**

The Board hosted a new members' tea on April 13, 2025.

Thank you for supporting the RSCDS Toronto Association through your membership.

**2025 Outreach/Marketing Annual Report – No report since the position was not filled.**

### **2025 Programs Report (Max Fothergill, Director)**

**Monthly Dances** – Our attendance numbers since COVID have been largely unchanged.

Seasonally we're down 6. If we get 50 people out for the April dance, we'll have the same attendance as in the previous year. But we had 22 fewer people than last year out at this year's beginners' dance in March. Musicians' costs were up slightly. The spreadsheet that has been set up starting in 2019 hasn't differentiated between beginner/youth/young adult properly. The observation is that our young adult attendance is up overall. Catherine Whitfield is still helping with MC/Briefer organization. Laurie McConachie and Anne Bishop are a great help with ticket sales and other specific monthly dance needs. Sandra Peden ran the 50/50 draws again this year.

**Tartan Ball** – Sandra Peden and Laurie McConachie worked together with their committee to run another successful Ball. Ticket sales were down by 10%, due to some TA members competing at the Newcastle Festival and last-minute illness. Venue, musician and catering costs were similar to last year; the ticket sale drop accounts for the money loss.

**Dancing in the Park** – 2024 was a great success. David Drewette is still the convenor, and his recruitment of Mayor Olivia Chow to attend last June added interest and publicity.

Unfortunately the success of each year will be based on weather. 2024 was a perfect season because there were no rain dates, avoiding extra costs for a back-up venue, and greater attendance maximized donations. 2025 will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be a small increase in musician costs. Dancing in the Park continues to be a great outreach event that appeals to regular TA dancers and people with no prior dance experience. We encourage all who attend to donate generously to pay for the cost of the musicians, the permit, and the rain venue, if needed.

### **2025 Vice-Chair Report and Volunteer Report (Colin Campbell)**

The following were carried out in the 2024-25 dancing year:

1. The required documentation for persons working with children was completed.
2. A new general by-law was prepared, incorporating both the former by-law No. 1 and the Procedures Manual, to remove inconsistencies and bring the by-law into compliance with the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* (Ontario) by the end of October, as required by the Act.
3. Articles of amendment were prepared for submission to the members at the AGM confirming the right of full members to vote at all meetings of members, again as now required by the Act.
4. A Volunteer Award Committee was constituted (chair, Paul Barber, with members Jane Robinson and Colin Campbell) and considered volunteer award nominations.