

THE REEL NEWS

Volume 21, Issue #1 August 2014
ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
LONDON, CANADA BRANCH
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Submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to
kmacrone@rogers.com by October 1, 2014

Chairperson's Message

Marel Fielding

Welcome to all our returning members and those who are joining us for another year of Scottish Dancing. Scottish Dancing is a social activity and provides us with opportunities for friendship as well as enjoyable exercise. I wish everyone a good dancing experience.

We will be continuing with our usual format of three classes on Wednesday evenings at Carling Heights Community Centre and the Social class on Fridays at Elwood Church hall.

As is our practice there will be free classes for the month of September and fees are due by September 30.

I would like to congratulate Helen Bell and her committee for a great Commonwealth Ceilidh held on June 21 and also to Marg Boss for arranging a visit from the CTV cameras which resulted in a report on the eleven o'clock news. Well done everyone.

As announced at the AGM, Elfriede Rollo has resigned as Branch Treasurer after more than 15 years in that position. We indicated that we would honour this contribution to the Branch with a celebration dance for Elfriede in the fall. Elfriede will be on a river cruise in Europe this fall and won't be back in Canada until October 5. With our usual schedule of social dances in the fall, we decided that it was not feasible to add another event. We are going to suspend the Men's Dance for this year and hold Elfriede's dance on Friday, November 14th at Colborne United Church Hall in its place. Marie McLennan is putting together the dance program to include some of Elfriede's favourites and some tribute dances written especially for her. The Committee of Management meets August 28 and we will have more details available to announce following that meeting.







We have some new and returning people on the Committee of Management this year. Peter Auksi returns to the committee as Membership Secretary and Goretta Reynen and Maureen Graham join us as Treasurer and Vice Chair respectively. A big thank you goes out to Margaret Campbell and Dorothy Sample for their service on the committee over the past years.



There is a bit of insanity in dancing that does everybody a great deal of good. - Edwin Denby

Branch News

Congratulations


	Lori and John Ferguson welcomed their 2 nd grandchild this past Spring. Phoebe Maybellene Bond was born Thursday, May 15 th , 2014. This is the second child for their daughter Margaret and son-in-law Andrew of Calgary. A baby sister for Eleanor.
	Phyllis and Declan Dunne became first time grandparents on Friday, July 4 th , 2014. Their son Ryan and daughter-in-law Sheila of London are the new proud parents of Olive Charlotte Dunne.
	Christine Neufeld and John Barker announce the birth of their 5th grandchild, Callie Chrislynn Inez Antle, born Monday, August 4 th , 2014. Proud parents are daughter Tara and son-in-law Shaun Antle. A baby sister for big brother Ethan.
	Gayle and Norm Frisa welcomed their 12th grandchild on Tuesday, August 12, 2014. Iris Koreen Frisa is the fourth child for their son Karl and daughter-in-law Kristen. A baby sister for Keane, Sylvia and Margaret.

Condolences

	Mary Woods' husband, Michael, passed away peacefully at Parkwood Hospital in London on Thursday, April 17 th , 2014 at 76 years of age. <i>Our deepest sympathies go out to Mary and her family.</i>
	Gayle Frisa's mother-in-law, Waltraut "Trudy" Frisa, passed away peacefully at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital on Thursday, August 14 th , 2014 at 79 years of age. <i>Our deepest sympathies go out to Gayle and her family.</i>

Norine Gilkinson Update

Helen Bell

	Recently on a sunny July morning, Sandra Gilmour, Alison Robinson and I took a trip to Sarnia to visit Norine Gilkinson, who is in a care home, recovering from a stroke. On our arrival we met Norine and Merlin taking a walk, part of her daily exercise to improve her balance. They were delighted to see us. Norine was in good spirits, and we enjoyed lots of conversation. We learned that Norine goes home for two days each weekend which is good progress. We left knowing that Norine is in good hands and that with her determination and Merlin's daily presence giving support, her recovery will continue. Norine's address is Twinlake Terrace, 1310 Murphy Road, Sarnia, Ontario, N7S 6K5.
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Membership Renewal

Peter Auksi



Savings! Communications! Special Events!

As the new Membership Secretary for the Branch, I have the pleasure of telling you how you can immediately **save \$10 ... by sending in your membership renewal by October 1st**. After that, the membership fee for the year is \$145, not \$135. [Still a fabulous bargain ... what other weekly activity in town can you get for this low price, i.e., about \$4.00 a night?]. Please include postal codes in your forms as they enable HQ in Edinburgh to ship RSCDS Newsletters to you. Please include your telephone numbers as well. Occasionally the Committee needs to inform members of a class cancellation due to a snow storm, for example, or to let them know of special events (i.e., the annual August picnic), and phone contact is most effective here. Emails are a quick and efficient way of communicating with members, but if you don't have email access, the Newsletter or membership form, for example, will be sent to you by mail or handed out in class. Karen at the Newsletter desk would appreciate getting news from members about births, deaths, and special events or anniversaries ... as would I: one of my tasks is to provide appropriate cards for signing by Branch members on Wednesday/Friday evenings as we celebrate, or express sympathy, with our larger dance family.

The Basic Class Dance

John Ferguson

As a newcomer to Scottish Country Dancing it was a little intimidating to be asked to write an article for our newsletter. "What do I say?" I asked the editor. "Well you know something like: It was a great dance, wonderful food, and a good time for everyone", she replied. However I'm fairly certain that relaying that conversation hardly constitutes the kind of report anyone enjoys. So let me try to give it a little more detail.

The dance was held in the hall of Elmwood Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 28th, at 8:00 pm. Thanks to all those who came early to set up as we were ready to get started well before the appointed hour. Special thanks to all those who brought such wonderful edible treats that we couldn't possibly consume them all and continue dancing. To everyone who stayed after to return everything to its place, please accept the appreciation of the entire Basic class.



Fred Moyes and his accordion were present to get us out on the floor and moving to the music of his lively jigs and reels as well as the elegant strathspeys. It's so nice not to have to whack the source to get the music to flow properly! I'm sure that Fred is glad not to have to bear the complaints (never any cursing) that don't seem to faze the stubborn machines that sometimes plague our classes with their recalcitrant behaviour.

Catherine Shaw held numerous draws throughout the evening for a variety of donated items raising more than a hundred dollars for our Branch. It seemed only fair that one member of the Basic class won more prizes than should be expected, as it was our dance after all.

The words of Eliza Dolittle, "I could have danced all night!" were appropriate for every member of the Basic class. This is due entirely to our marvelous teacher, the very same Catherine Shaw, who has patiently instructed us in all the dances we chose for the program. To honour her I have written this epic poem:

There once was a lady named Shaw,
Who found a dancer in everyone she saw,
If they came within range,
She taught them skip change,
And the correct way to spell patty bah!

Okay, you noticed that it's a limerick. You must admit that the Irish do get something right every now and again. Some of them even came to the Basic class dance and seemed to be enjoying themselves! But after all is said and done this is SCOTTISH Country Dancing!!! This is no excuse for my inability to compose lines in the style of Robbie Burns, but that said, let's give Scotland's Favourite Son the last word:

O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as ithers see us!
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion:
What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,
An' ev'n devotion!



Sarnia Spring Dance

Sheilagh Manning



Saturday April 5th, 2014 saw a large contingent of London dancers head to Sarnia to help celebrate their 55th “Spring Fling”. The evening started off with a piper playing as we entered the church. A large group from the Windsor/Detroit area, as well as Bob and Sue from Goderich, ensured a full dance floor. As usual, Fred Moyes kept things lively with his music. The program was a nice variety of easy and not so easy dances; as one set discovered...thanks Griff for trying to keep us straight.

London did well with the door prizes. John Ferguson won for having his birthday closest to April 5th. Alasdair and Dennis both won for being married the longest and closest to 55 years. They are 52 and 58 respectively. Congratulations on the milestones!!!

A light lunch was served

halfway through the evening giving the dancers a chance to visit and rest their tired feet and legs. The evening ended with the ever popular Mairi’s Wedding and Auld Lang Syne.



Thanks to Christine Neufeld and the Sarnia group for:

- A lovely evening
- Good music
- Good company
- Great dancing

If you have never been to a Sarnia dance (which I hadn’t) it should definitely be on your list for next year.

Dancing Around the World



If you think that Scottish Country dancing is cool, then you are going to love **Dancing at the Arctic Circle in Lapland with Santa Claus!** It is a Scottish Country Dance Weekend being held **February 6-9, 2015** for advanced and intermediate dancers in **Rovaniemi, Finland.**

Pat Houghton will be teaching at the event with James Gray and Andrew Lyon supplying the dance music. There is an optional tourist programme that runs the week after (February 9-15, 2015) that includes some **once-in-a-lifetime experiences.**

For more information about both the dancing weekend and the following tourist programme, click [here](#) for the **2015 Dance in Lapland brochure.**

Ailsa Craig Spring Fling

Janet Schreiber

The Ailsa Craig dance group held their Spring Fling Dance on Saturday, April 26th in The Ye Olde Towne Hall. Approximately 60 people attended from Goderich, Elmira, Sarnia, Coruna, London and the Ailsa Craig area. It was a wonderful night of dancing and friendship. What made it wonderful? A new wooden floor, great ambiance (a century old restored town hall), fantastic music and dance program, new and old friendships, an excellent MC and an amazing country lunch. The best part of all was that it was only \$5.00. One of the out of towners commented that people actually talked to her and asked her to dance. Thyra Kundsén won the 50-50 draw.

Proceeds from the dance were used to buy a new music machine for the Ye Old Towne Hall so that Marie McLennan will not need to bring one from London. If you are interested in Scottish Country Dance Classes on a Thursday evening at 7:30 pm from September to the end of May for \$2.00 a night, contact Marie McLennan at 519-471-5493 for more information.



Dear Miss Millie Ganz,
I have just started Scottish Country dancing and am learning about reels. What is the difference between a mirror reel and a cross over reel?

Confused Connie

Dear Confused Connie,

A mirror reel means that the dancers in each line of dance come together, and then apart as though they were viewing each other in a mirror located down the centre of the set. This means that **the 1st man and the 1st woman start dancing in opposite directions** (i.e. the man giving left shoulder and the woman giving right shoulder in their respective lines of dance). Cross over reels are mirror reels

where **the first couple dances slightly down across the dance between their corners to reel on opposite sides** with the 1st woman giving left shoulder to the 3rd man, and 1st man giving right shoulder to the 3rd woman. (Don't forget that the woman always crosses first in front of her partner). This formation is usually referred to as "reels of three on the opposite side and then on your own side".

Miss Millie Ganz

If you have a question for Miss Millie Ganz, just send it to kmacrone@rogers.com and I'll be sure to forward it on to her.



We are offering **4 FREE classes** again this September (the 3rd, the 10th, the 17th and the 24th) at 7:30 pm at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre. So tell your family, friends, neighbours, co-workers and anyone else you can think of, to come out and give it a try! The more the merrier!



The 52nd annual Ball of the London Branch was held on May 3rd, the fine spring weather mirroring the mood of the attendees. Dancers were greeted at the entrance to the Great Hall at Western University by the piping of Pat Taylor. The Great Hall, probably the most imposing room in London, was decorated with our unique and colourful collection of banners, each celebrating a clan name. The tables were adorned, as usual, with the Campbell flowers. Great Hall catering services, as always, excelled themselves with a fine buffet supper.

Following the Grand March, Laird Brown and the Scotch Mist provided the music for a dance programme devised by the teachers. The highlight of the dancing portion of the evening was, without doubt, "1314", danced on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of Robert the Bruce's victory at Bannockburn. In 1314, the air rang with the war cry of the Scottish warriors. In 2014, the war cry of the men of London could be heard as the dread Schiehallion reels approached: "Cross on one, cross on one". The reels were duly vanquished (thanks to Marie's tireless efforts). After a rousing finale of Montgomeries' Rant and Auld Lang Syne, we wended our way homeward, tired but happy, already looking forward to next year.



Special thanks are due to those who prepared the Great Hall – Peter Auksi, Dorothy Sample, Marel Fielding, Elfriede Rollo, Scott MacCrone, Brian Campbell and Sheila Brown and to the briefers – Marie, Helen and Catherine.



Gayle Frisa was presented with the RSCDS London Branch Award by Dorothy Sample (Past Chair) and Marel Fielding (Chair). Congratulations Gayle!



Kitchener Ball

Dorothy Drew

Every two years, the Kitchener RSCDS group hosts a banquet and ball. This year, 18 dancers from London RSCDS attended the ball at the Kitchener Crowne Plaza hotel. This is a new venue with a good dance floor. After we arrived, there was time for a meet-and-greet of friends from far and near. Some were from the West coast and others from the Maritimes. There was a wonderful meal that included special home-made shortbread for dessert. Having the dance in June meant there weren't a lot of other dance activities at the same time, so there was a good turnout of approximately 150 dancers.



The week before the ball, Alasdair and Leslie arranged a practice for everyone in London ahead of time. This practice was great fun and especially useful for some new challenging dances. Many of the dances are favourites here in London, and I hope some of the other dances will become new London favourites. It was a well-planned programme of dance that started off with a Grand March. *Scotch Mist* provided the music and was as lively as ever. We're all looking forward to going back in 2016!

Scottish Trivia - Things you maybe didn't know about Scotch Whisky and Robert Roy MacGregor

1494 - An entry in Scotland's Exchequer rolls records the king's distribution of malt to Friar John Cor for the purpose of making "aqua vitae", the first documented distilling of whisky in Scotland.



1671 - Robert Roy MacGregor is born in Glengyle at the head of Loch Katrine. Stemming from his red hair, he's widely known by the Gaelic *Raibeart Ruadh* – in English, "Rob Roy" – Scotland's legendary rancher, rustler, soldier, bandit and folk hero.



1894 - The opening of *Rob Roy*, a Broadway musical loosely based upon the exploits of Scottish folk hero Robert Roy MacGregor, inspires New York's Waldorf Hotel to create its own Rob Roy, a new cocktail of Scotch whisky, Italian vermouth and bitters.



1897 - In a landmark move for advertising, Dewar's (Scotch) partners with Thomas Edison's company to produce the first ever filmed commercial. This short movie, which promotes Scotch whisky, is projected onto a building in New York's Herald Square, where it immediately stops traffic. [Click here](#) to see the commercial.



Commonwealth Ceilidh

Margaret Campbell

What do the summer equinox and the Commonwealth Ceilidh have in common? They both took place globally on Saturday, June 21...and both were much anticipated.

Starting at 7:30 p.m. local time, RSCDS branches around the world held a Ceilidh to mark the Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, Scotland from July 23-August 3. Everyone danced the same program to the same music.

Our Ceilidh was held at Colborne United Church with approx. 100 people attending. Several out-of-towners joined in from Ailsa Craig, Guelph, Kitchener, Sarnia, Windsor and even Scotland. Banners representing the flags of each country were festively strung around the hall, and there was an air of excitement to be part of this worldwide event.

Under the guidance of our teachers, Helen, Marie and Catherine, dancers and non-dancers alike filled the hall to capacity and enthusiastically learned some new dances and met new friends.

Special entertainment was provided by Catherine's colleague, Vidya Natarajan, who danced a one woman show at the Fringe Festival this year. She performed an East Indian dance that mixed Celtic and Indian music together. It was beautiful to watch and her costume was spectacular. My feet ached in time to every one of her barefooted stomps!

Click [here](#) to see a short video of Vidya Natarajan's dance performance that night.



To top things off, CTV London aired a story and some footage of the first dance on the 11:00 news that night.

Many thanks go to Helen Bell and her organizing committee (Margaret Allan, Karen MacCrone and Lori Ferguson), the teachers and all those who brought food for making it a memorable evening.



Intermediate Class Dance Programme

Friday, October 17, 2014 7:30 p.m.
 Elmwood Presbyterian Church Hall, 111 Elmwood Avenue

Nice To See You	(R4x32)	40-3
It's All Right	(J8x32)	2 nd Gr. Bk.
MacDonald of the Isles	(S3x32)	Carnforth 2
Domino Five	(R5x32)	Carnforth 4 & 2 nd Gr. Bk.
Miss Allie Anderson	(J8x32)	Leaflet 14
Bridge of Nairn	(S8x32)	13-11
Nan and Dan	(R8x32)	London's 50 th – Bk. 2
Napier's Index	(J8x40)	45-8
Seann Triubhas Willichan	(S6x32)	27-9
Hedwig's Reel	(R8x32)	2 nd Gr. Bk.
The Cranberry Tart	(J8x32)	7 Year Itch
Wisp of Thistle	(S8x32)	37-4
Scott Meikle	(R4x32)	46-3
Hooper's Jig	(J8x32)	MMM-2
Catch the Wind	(R8x32)	45-5

The briefs for this dance programme can be found on the [RSCDS London Canada Branch website](#).



A Celtic Love Story

Patrick Capper



Patrick has written a story using song titles. Enjoy!



He met "The Maid Behind the Bar," and she was a "Nameless Lassie" who was fascinated by his discussion on how to "Reduce Squirrel Unemployment". "Fair Jenny" who was also known as "The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord" said "I Fell in Love with a Red-haired Boy" "Because he was a Bonnie Lad" and a "Hopeful Lover". She said "John Come Kiss Me Now", "Kiss me Quick My Mither's Coming". He said "Marry Me Now", but she said "Ask my Father" when you "Come to Dinner," but her father said she was "O'er Too Young to Marry Yet." He was not the "Rejected Suitor" as he thought "My Love is Like a Red Red Rose" and sang "If Ever you were Mine" as they walked in "Caddam Woods". He asked "Are you Willing"? "She replied "I Wina Gae to Bed Until I'm Married" so soon he bought "The Wedding Ring", a "Gold Ring", and it was "Haste to the Wedding", for the "Runaway Bride", "Jenny's Wedding", an "Irish Wedding".

He said "Lassie Come and Dance with Me" so they danced "The Bride's Reel," the "Newly Wed's Reel", and "Fair Jenny's Jig". The guests commented how "Merrily Danced the Quaker's Wife". They only had "Cheap Mutton" and there was just "A Jug of Punch", because "The Ale is Dear" so they had a few "Drops of Brandy" after they reached "The Bottom of the Punch Bowl". They left for a "Trip to Windsor" for their "Honeymoon" and returned to a huge "Welcome to Hamilton House" near "Bonnie Banchory". They experienced "The Joys of Wedlock" and soon it was "Up in the Morning Early" "Dancing the Baby".

When asked how was married life, she replied only, "Middling Thank You", as she felt like an "Irish Washerwoman" and Johnnie was "Drunk at Night and Dry in the Morning" so she insisted it was "Farewell to Whisky", so he was again the "Joy of My Life". One day he was distraught because "They Stole my Wife from me Last Night" but "Thro the Moor She Ran" through the "Bog of Gight" on a "Cold and Frosty Morning" as she was "Down for the Lack of Johnnie" he said "I Love My Wife and She Loves Me" and it was back to "The Joys of Wedlock" because "Cameron has Got His Wife Again".

Upcoming Out of Town Events

Sept 27, 2014	The Fergus Gathering (Bellwood)	Fergus Gathering brochure
Oct 3-5, 2014	Saskatchewan's Annual Fall Workshop	Sask Workshop brochure see Events page
Oct 17-19, 2014	Hamilton Weekend	Hamilton Weekend brochure
Oct 18, 2014	Kincardine Annual Fall Dance	contact Sheila Yalden 519-396-3622
Oct 25, 2014	Windsor RSCDS Annual Ball	Windsor Ball brochure
Oct 31, Nov 1-2	48 th Annual Kingston Workshop and Ball	Kingston Workshop & Ball brochure
Nov 22, 2014	The Toronto Workshop & dance	Toronto Workshop
Jan 29, 2015	The Scottish Tattoo: The Music of Scotland	Sony Centre for the Performing Arts

The Story Behind a Dance

The Dancing Bees (R8x32) 3C (4C set) R Goldring 24 G and S Dances



The term “waggle dance” is used in beekeeping to describe the figure-eight dance of the honey bee. Bees perform this dance to tell other members of the colony the distance and direction to find the best patches of flowers yielding nectar and pollen, to water sources or to new housing locations.

Nicola Benedetti MBE

As a classically trained Scottish violinist, Nicola Benedetti is in great demand with major orchestras and conductors around the world. She was invited to be part of the 2014 Commonwealth Games opening ceremonies along with Susan Boyle, Amy MacDonald, Julie Fowlis and Rod Stewart. Her latest album entitled *Homecoming – A Scottish Fantasy* “is a celebration of Scottish music and how it travelled and inspired composers”.

Click [here](#) to preview some of the tracks on the album and check out the **FREE download** of *My Love is Like a Red Red Rose*.



Committee of Management for 2014-2015

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