

# THE REEL NEWS

Volume 22, Issue #1 August 2015  
ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
LONDON, CANADA BRANCH  
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Submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to  
[kmaccrone@rogers.com](mailto:kmaccrone@rogers.com) by October 7, 2015

## Chairperson's Message

Maureen Graham

It's difficult to realize that we are nearing the end of a summer which has been, to say the least, quite unusual with record rain falls and cooler weather for much of the time. One consolation has been that the grass is always green and the gardens are flourishing. As are the mosquitoes! However, July presented us with a number of record hot days just to remind us what summer in Southwestern Ontario can be all about, lest we forget. September will soon be here and we will start another great year of Scottish Country Dancing.

Gayle Frisa is the new Chair of the Publicity committee and they will be looking to develop new ways to promote the benefits of Scottish Country Dancing for our group. Hence our new website, which is up and running with the same web address. Thanks to Scott MacCrone for his many hours of hard work to make this happen.

June, July and August saw us fortunate enough to enjoy three evenings of dance at Carling Heights and an equal number of opportunities at Ailsa Craig. If the numbers of dancers attending these events is any indication, it would seem that this may well be something to repeat next year. Special thanks to our teachers - Marie McLennan, Helen Bell and Christine Neufeld.

Open classes are on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> so be sure to encourage your family members and friends to come and enjoy these free events. The Intermediate Class will host the first social event of the season at Elmwood on October 16<sup>th</sup> and Helen's first Friday social class at Elmwood is on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

By the time this newsletter is distributed, the summer picnic at the Watson's will be a pleasant memory. I would like to thank Linda and Bob for opening up their lovely home to us and for their warm hospitality.

It is my pleasure to be your new Chair for the next two years and I hope you will feel free to contact me or another member of the Committee of Management at any time to express concerns, questions or to clarify any issues which may arise.



## Branch News

### Condolences

	Linda Adamson's mother, Elsie Adamson, passed away peacefully, at her late residence, on Sunday, April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2015, in her 87 <sup>th</sup> year. <i>Our deepest sympathies go out to Linda, John and family.</i>
	Former member, Charles Murray Carmichael, passed away at University Hospital on Sunday, April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 in his 92 <sup>nd</sup> year. <i>Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Charles' family at this difficult time.</i>
	Gayle Frisa's aunt, Lillian McKenzie, passed away at University Hospital on Tuesday, August 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 in her 94 <sup>th</sup> year. <i>Our deepest sympathies go out to Gayle and her family during this difficult time.</i>

### A Note from the Nobles

To our London Branch Friends,

We hope everyone is enjoying a great summer! As you read this edition of the Reel News we, David and Ruth Noble, should be getting settled into our new home in Stratford.

Our new address and phone number will be included on the next updated membership list. As for our future dancing activity, we anticipate joining the Wednesday evening classes with the Stratford folks, but hope to maintain our connections and friendships with London Branch by attending as many monthly dances as possible. Ailsa Craig should actually be closer for us to travel from Stratford than from Avon so you may see us there occasionally as well.

Should any of you find yourselves in Stratford, whether to attend the theatre, enjoy the park or whatever the reason, we would be delighted to have you drop by to see us. The coffee pot and tea kettle are always close at hand.

Best to all,  
Ruth and David



In a few short weeks, our 2015-2016 dance year will begin with four free dance classes starting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We need your help to attract new members.

**If you are able, please print and post the poster at suitable locations in your neighbourhood. Cut along the dotted lines at the bottom of the poster so that people can detach the stubs.**

If everyone posts at least **2 posters**, we will be well on our way to attracting new dancers.

Suggested locations include notice boards at community centres, churches, coffee shops, grocery stores, libraries, laundromats, stores, apartment buildings and any other locations you can think of.





Check out our great new look. It's a work in progress that will only get better and better.

<http://www.rscdslondoncanada.org>

## Membership Renewal

Peter Auksi

A happy note to begin with: Branch membership fees will remain the same as for last year -- \$135 for Active Members (Joint Members \$260), Associate Members (no weekly classes) \$55, and Friend of the Branch (Newsletter alone) \$15. Remember to renew by Oct. 1, 2015 ... after that there is a \$10 late fee. Registration forms are included with the August Newsletter; and they will also be available at the registration desk in Carling Heights. What other social activity can you get for nine rousing and energetic months in the London area for our low price?



HQ in Edinburgh has informed all Branches world-wide that they will be distributing new plastic membership cards with your name and individual number (which was given to you last year) -- these are permanent, have no expiry date, and are yours for life. Even if don't re-join this year, the number is 'archived' with your personal file and re-activated when you re-join in the future. The cards enable you to order merchandise from Edinburgh at a discount price, and to get tickets for the Tartan Ball, for example, at a lower price too.

One request: when you hand in your Membership Forms to me this fall, please fill in all the information requested, especially addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. The Branch needs up-to-date information so that we can contact you for cancellations of classes on 'snow days,' and Edinburgh sends out magazines, news up-dates, and special announcements during the year ... to current addresses, both by mail and electronically. Several memberships forms last year came in with only a Christian name on them (who is Biff? and Muffie?), and that leads to a lot of extra double-checking.

A reminder: our best method of gaining new members in the past has involved word-of-mouth. Tell your friends, able-bodied gym-mates, and curious neighbors about our wonderful activity. They can try it for free on Wednesday nights in September. And don't forget to put up posters about these free nights in your local supermarkets, libraries, and clubs/organizations. We can pursue our present range of activities only if we have a large and growing membership!!!

## The Story Behind a Dance

THE SPRING FLING REEL (R8x40) 3C (4C set) Samantha Burton

Spring Fling 2015 was a RSCDS event for Scottish Country Dance youth aged 12-35 years old. It is held in a different city each year. This year it was held over the weekend of April 17th to the 19th in Hounslow, England (London).



On the last day of Spring Fling, a dance competition was held to choose a dance for the upcoming Book. 46 dances from around the world were submitted with 7 finalists chosen to be voted on by Spring Fling attendees. The winning dance, shown here in a [video clip](#), was devised by Samantha Burton and danced by those attending. Check it out!



Never let your feet run faster than your shoes. (Scottish Proverb)

A good proverb to remember when the Basic Class hosted a well attended Dance at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 27, 2015.

Approximately 40 dancers warmed up nicely with the “Eva Three Step”, moving into “Catch the Wind” and “Espie McNabb” to keep the blood flowing and keep those who came to watch entertained.

The fabulous music of Fred Moyes on the accordion kept us on the dance floor with many favorites, both old and new. The Dance Program, all chosen by the Basic Class, was a good mix of easier dances and some of the more complicated dances we have learned this year. I noticed a preponderance of dances included right hands across (or as I call it – that wheely thing). Domino 5 was a new one for many, being a 5 person set, with 4 on the corners and the 5th in the middle. All the reels and jigs were interspersed with the more dignified strathspeys giving us the opportunity to show off our more formal side.

All the members of the basic class briefed the dances and managed to keep the confusion to a minimum. This might not have been possible without the helpful prodding from our more experienced dancers. I definitely heard “Go right – GO RIGHT!!” when I was turning left.

Catherine Shaw organized a multitude of donated items for a raffle with selections for everyone and raised \$127.00 from the raffle for the branch coffers. Although: One must wonder at Alasdair’s need for a ladies shaver or Marc’s need for a hair dryer when their tickets were drawn.

Thank you to all who contributed the wonderful goodies enjoyed at break time and to those who came early and stayed late to help set up and clean up. The Basic Class sends a special thank you to Lori Ferguson for coordinating our food for the enjoyment of all.



The American Bryan Brothers travel to a number of Scotland’s iconic tourist sites to attempt some amazing trick golf shots. Check out the [video](#) to see them for yourself. The scenery is pretty awesome as well.

## London Spring Ball

Heather Kissinger



After months of instruction by our teachers and much planning by the committee of management led by Marel Fielding, the day for our ball finally arrived on May 2nd. A smaller group this year assembled at The Great Hall, UWO for an evening of entertainment and fun. After greeting one another and the many guests from afar, we enjoyed a delicious meal. Seconds of the tomato mozzarella ball salad and fish were enjoyed at our table. The fresh fruit and crème brulees topped off the meal very nicely.

Then it was time for the Grand March directed by Peter Auksi. The dancing began to the lilting tunes of Scotch Mist. We were treated to one of the last dances which included the fiddler as she is off to Finland for her PHD. The program included long time favorites "A Trip to Bavaria", "The Wild Geese" and "Montgomeries Rant" as well as newer dances "Culla Bay" and "City of Belfast". At the intermission, several lucky people won door prizes. The evening flew by, even with at least 4 encores of the 16 dances. All of a sudden it was time for "Auld Lang Syne" and a final waltz. We were surprised to see that it was only 10 pm.



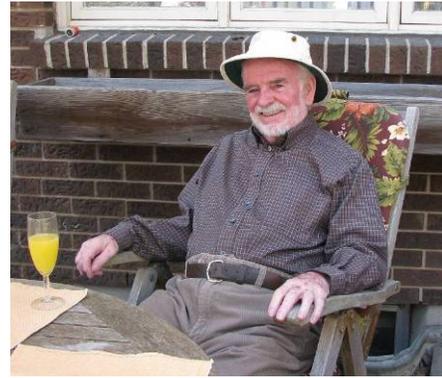
Thank you to all who spent hours arranging the details, Sheila Brown for her imaginative table decorations, Brian Campbell who raided his garden for the flowers, and those who loaned their banners for the walls. Also thanks to Catherine, Helen and Marie for their briefings. We need reminders!

For those who missed out on this year's ball, I suggest that you make plans to attend in May 2016 for the highlight of the dancing season.

*"Dance first. Think later. It's the natural order." - Samuel Beckett*

## Ball Brunch

Janet Schreiber



The Ball Brunch was held at the home of Bill and Marie McLennan on May 3rd. It was a perfect spring day to enjoy brunch and socialize with approximately 30 brunch members. The weather cooperated once again with plenty of sunshine, allowing for an al fresco dining experience. Brunch was started with the usual Champagne and orange juice. The menu was changed this year to baked scrambled eggs, sausages, potato casseroles, fruit and vegetable trays, smoked salmon and a variety of squares.



This year's brunch committee was made up of Maureen Graham, Marie McLennan, Elfriede Rollo and Janet Schreiber with Jean Cameron and Calla Mahon helping out. Bill and Marie were presented with 2 beautiful hanging baskets for their front porch in appreciation for hosting the brunch again this year.



Cary Grant dance clip from the 1958 movie *INDISCREET*.

Have a look at Hollywood's version of "The Eightsome Reel" in this [video clip](#). 54 year old Cary Grant acts up while Ingrid Bergman looks on in disgust. It will certainly make you smile!

## Dancing Around the World

### Rendez-Vous à Vichy — March 26-28, 2016

Every 4 years, RSCDS Paris organizes a wonderful Easter dance weekend for advanced dancers. This year they invite you to the spa town of Vichy, France, in Auvergne (centre of France). Dance in the beautiful Palais des Congrès, which was built by Napoleon III in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Graham Donald is the guest teacher, with Muriel Johnstone (piano), Ian Robertson (fiddle) and Jim Lindsay (accordion) providing the music. Click [here](#) for more information.



Dear Miss Millie Ganz,

Our dance group is having difficulty getting new members to join. Any that we do manage to attract seem to come for a good part of a year and then gradually stop coming out to classes. Have you any suggestions on what we can do as a group to get and then keep these new members coming back?

Concerned Conrad

Dear Concerned Conrad,

You really are asking about two things here. The first is about attracting new members. Scottish Country dancing has experienced a drop in membership worldwide, but service groups and other interest groups also have had difficulty finding new members! There are probably many factors that make people reluctant to make a commitment to regular attendance or involvement in a group. People who have erratic work hours, children involved in many extra-curricular activities, long commutes, or are primary care providers for relatives are probably not going to be looking for something new that they should be doing every week. That being said, your members need to be the advocates for the group. Let people know that you dance. Be enthusiastic. Invite people to come out to class. Be visible in the community. Encourage your friends and family to come out and join in the fun. Advertise.

Your second issue is about keeping new members. Membership in a lot of activity based groups does have a pattern of decreasing attendance. People start with good intentions, but get discouraged when they don't seem to be getting the results they want. With SCD, people need to feel that they are not just exercising, but are being welcomed into a new social community. New members need to be recognized and embraced by the larger group. Learn names of new members (That's why you wear name tags!). Dance with them. Talk to them. Let them know that everyone makes mistakes and messes up at times, but that recovery does become easier with a bit of experience. Let them know that their partner does have some responsibility to help. Try walking through a new dance to music so that new dancers are seeing the pattern and pace of the dance, looking at their partners and not worrying about footwork. Encourage them to come out to Branch events. If you live close to a new member, suggest that they drive with you. Put some non-dancing social activities into your calendar. Smile, a lot! and have a wonderful new dance season!

Miss Millie Ganz

*If you have a question for Miss Millie Ganz, just send it to [kmaccrone@rogers.com](mailto:kmaccrone@rogers.com) and I'll be sure to forward it on to her.*

## Upcoming Out of Town Events

Sept 11, 2015	<a href="#">Welcome Dance &amp; Open House (St. Catharines)</a>
Sept 12, 2015	<a href="#">Registration &amp; Welcome Dance (Kingston)</a>
Sept 18-20, 2015	<a href="#">Scottish Weekend XXVII (Highview WV)</a>
Sept 26, 2015	Fergus Gathering (Belwood Ontario) – email sent out with flyer
Oct 3, 2015	<a href="#">Montreal Workshop &amp; Social</a>
Oct 3, 2015	<a href="#">Welcome Dance 2015 (Hamilton)</a>
Oct 3, 2015	<a href="#">Monthly Social Dance (Kingston)</a>
Oct 9-12, 2015	<a href="#">Calgary Scottish Cultural Gathering</a>
Oct 23-24, 2015	<a href="#">Golden Anniversary Weekend (Ottawa)</a> – email sent out with info
Oct 24, 2015	<a href="#">50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball (Windsor)</a>
Nov 6-8, 2015	<a href="#">RSCDS AGM Conference Weekend 2015 (Perth Scotland)</a>
Nov 6-8, 2015	<a href="#">49<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop and Ball (Kingston)</a>
Nov 7-8, 2015	<a href="#">Jeannie Carmichael Ball, New York</a>
Nov 14, 2015	<a href="#">Toronto Workshop and Dance</a>
Nov 21, 2015	<a href="#">RSCDS Detroit Branch 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball</a>
Feb 20, 2016	<a href="#">53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tartan Ball (Toronto)</a>

## *The Ladies Man*

*By Pat Batt (RSCDS London England)*

*I'm a two sex Scottish Dancer  
And may seem rather dim  
But I never spend one evening  
As a full time her or him*

*I change my sex from dance to dance,  
My corners always alter-  
It's really not surprising I  
Occasionally falter.*

*The old and simple dances  
I can manage very nicely,  
And I can learn a new dance  
And do it most precisely-*



*But when it comes to next week,  
I don't know if I can,  
For I learnt it as a woman  
And dance it as a man.*

*And so, you men who have the luck  
To stay always the same,  
When female gentlemen go wrong  
Be sparing with your blame.*

*I'll add a postscript to this tale-  
One comfort I have got-  
When both the women change their sex  
It doesn't show a lot.*

Patient: "Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'"  
Doc: "That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome."  
Patient: "Is it common?"  
Doc: "Well, 'It's Not Unusual.'"



# Intermediate Class Dance Programme

Friday, October 16, 2015 7:30 p.m.  
 Elmwood Presbyterian Church Hall, 111 Elmwood Avenue

1. Jig to the Music	J-3x32	2 <sup>nd</sup> Graded Book
2. The Edinburgh Castle Reel	R-8x32	Children's Book
3. Glasgow Country Dance	M-8x(S16+R16)	RSCDS Book 23-6
4. The Isle	J-8x32	Graded Book
5. The Dancing Bees	R-8x32	24 Gr. & Soc. Dances (R. Goldring)
6. Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S-8x32	Leaflet #10
7. Granville Market	J-8x32	2 <sup>nd</sup> Graded Book
8. The Australian Ladies	R-8x32	Glasgow Assembly (R. Campbell)
9. Neidpath Castle	S-3x32	RSCDS Book 22-9
10. Kendall's Hornpipe	J-8x32	Graded Book
11. Catch the Wind	R-8x32	RSCDS Book 45-5
12. Butterscotch and Honey	S-4x32	J. Alexander
13. It's All Right	J-8x32	2 <sup>nd</sup> Graded Book
14. Hedwig's Reel	R-8x32	2 <sup>nd</sup> Graded Book
15. The Cranberry Tart	J-8x32	7 Year Itch (T. Glasspool)



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

**DON'T  
MISS  
THIS!**

This is the first major dancing event of the season, so get ready to kick up your heels and have a great time. \$15 dollars at the door includes a light lunch and a whole lot of fun!

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Our second major event is the ever popular **Men's Dance** which includes a potluck dinner. Be sure to mark **Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>** on your calendars. It will be held at the **Air Force Association Hall** starting at 6 pm. Alcoholic beverages will be available at the bar. Non-dancers are welcome to come and enjoy the evening and the great meal that the men cook up for us. So invite your spouse, friends and/or relatives to join us for a fun night.



## Committee of Management for 2015-2016

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