

THE REEL NEWS

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ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
LONDON, CANADA BRANCH
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Submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to
kmaccrone@rogers.com by October 4, 2017

Chairperson's Message

Brian Campbell

Welcome to Scottish Country Dancing! For new members, and those who are trying this out for the first time, you're in for a blast! - New friends, great music, great exercise and new skills. We hope that you will find the toe-tapping beat of a reel or jig irresistible, and that you will be swept away by the sweep and grace of the strathspey.

As a member of the London Canada Branch, you are joining the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS), a world-wide organization devoted to this unique social dance form. Our London Branch was chartered in 1961. Your teachers have all received RSCDS training, and will teach you the formations, steps and style of our dances. I urge all of our members, new and old, to attend classes consistently and to attend and support our branch functions to improve your dancing confidence and skills. Skill development is cumulative, and while it takes time and effort you will be rewarded in unimagined ways.

This E-newsletter is the first of four that will keep you informed of our Branch classes, dances and other activities during the year. A Calendar of Events accompanies this edition, along with our membership registration form. Please complete the form fully, and sign and return it promptly along with your cheque to Dorothy Drew, our new Membership Secretary.

Our Branch is operated by an elected group of volunteers, assisted by all of our teachers and unsung helpers. Contact information for the Committee of Management is contained in every newsletter. If you have any concerns, ideas or suggestions, please forward them to any member of the Committee. Our dedicated teachers are there to help you succeed and our unsung volunteers make it happen. Thank you to all who participate in the Branch. Active involvement enhances your own experience and makes the total experience better for all. If you would like to help in any way, or would consider joining the Committee of Management, please let us know.

Our dance year runs from September to May. In addition to our regular classes, we will have several monthly dances. Our dance year culminates with our Annual Ball which is held in May. Laird Brown and Scotch Mist will play at the Christmas Dance and the Ball. More information on these events will be provided closer to the event. Please be sure to attend. Whether or not you feel able to dance all of the program dances, watching others dance is a valuable learning experience.

See you on the dance floor!

"You miss 100% of the shots you never take." - Wayne Gretzky

Branch News

Condolences



Duncan Gray's father, Neil F. Gray, passed away on Wednesday, June 21st, 2017 in London. He was 88 years of age.

Our thoughts go out to Duncan and Kathy and their family during this difficult time.

Membership Renewal

Dorothy Drew



It's time to renew your membership for the 2017-2018 dance season. This year's fees are as follows:

Active member \$145
Joint member \$280
Young adult \$110
Youth \$85
Associate \$60
Friend of the Branch \$15

Again this year, a 4 class introductory session is available for \$20 (new members only). The \$20 will be applied to the regular membership fee if the participant joins our Branch.

Please bring your completed registration form and money to the September classes. The registration form can be found on the RSCDS London Branch website. Remember that any registration received after October 6th will have a \$10 late fee applied.

Dance Demonstrations Update

Alasdair Campbell

On April 8th, 2017 a team from the Branch participated in the Annual Recreation and Leisure Fair known as Rexpo at the Kiwanis Seniors Centre on Riverside Drive here in London. We were with a number of exhibitors from different organisations offering information on recreation and leisure activities to individuals thinking of retirement or have already retired. We had a table with information available on Scottish Country dancing here in London. We also demonstrated a jig, a strathspey and had a couple of audience participation ceilidh dances. They were well received.



On May 25th, 2017 we participated in The Creative Age Festival Showcase at the Wolf Performance Hall located in the Central Library. Once again, we demonstrated a couple of dances and spoke about Scottish Country dancing. This too, was well received by those attending. We are currently researching possible future events ...all part of our effort to raise awareness in London for our Branch and Scottish Country Dancing.

Thanks go to everyone that helped make these two events happen.

Annual General Meeting Recap

Marg Allan

Thirty three of our members gathered at Carling Heights on May 17 to take care of Branch business. This was the last General Meeting to be presided by our Chair, Maureen Graham. Maureen has dedicated many hours to taking care of all of the details necessary for our group to continue. She will continue to be a voice on the Committee of Management in the role of Past Chair. Positions for the Committee were not contested, but it was necessary to confirm all appointments. Your new Chair is Brian Campbell. Brian has served as Chair before and has been a member of the Committee lately in the role of Librarian/Archivist. He has agreed to be Chair for a one year period. Karen MacCrone will continue to be our capable, creative Newspaper Editor. Gayle Frisa will continue to organize her team as Publicity Coordinator. Dorothy Drew will be joining the Committee as Membership Secretary so you will be talking to her as soon as you bring your fees to class in September. At the time of the meeting we had no one ready to assume the role of Librarian/Archivist. Since then, the Committee has confirmed the appointment of Margaret Campbell.

For the first time, members of the Branch were able to nominate someone who has been an outstanding volunteer. Doris Guy was chosen to be our first recipient. Doris has created and donated many of her quilts to raise money for the Branch. Her jams are always the most desired items in the draws at dances. As well, Doris has often taken care of providing name tags for events. She was presented with a pin in recognition of her efforts.

We learned from our Treasurer, Goretti Reynen that our financial position has improved. She noted that we continue to use Branch funds to subsidize the Workshop and the Ball. The Committee is working to apply more cost saving measures.

There was a concern by many members that proper dance etiquette is not always being observed. Members are urged to speak up if someone is not using the proper protocol. We need to ensure all members are educated in the standards accepted worldwide by RSCDS.

Thank you to the members who represented the membership at the meeting.



Canada's 150th Birthday



RSCDS Edinburgh put on a Ceilidh for Canada on Saturday, July 1st in Princes Street Gardens. More than 300 people either joined in or watched the festivities. Have a look at the [video](#) of Canada's birthday celebrations in Scotland.



Did you know that there is a horticultural event to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday? It is called MosaiCanada 150 and is taking place in Gatineau Quebec (just across the river from Ottawa). It runs from June 30th-October 15th, 2017. There are 33 different sculptures representing the 10 provinces, 3 territories plus a few others. Check out their [website](#) and have a look for yourself.



Dancing Around the World

24th Iberian Gathering – Algarve, Portugal – March 16-18, 2018

The Lisbon-Lapa Scottish Country Dancing group will be hosting the event at the 5 star “Grande Real Santa Eulalia Resort & Hotel Spa”. Luke Brady’s band will be providing the music and Antoine Rousseau (Paris) will be teaching.

The Algarve is famous for its historical towns (Tavira, Silves & Lagos), its beaches and its food. Check out their [website](#) for more information on this very interesting sounding dance opportunity.



Upcoming Event



The RSCDS London Branch will be hosting a **CEILIDH** on **Friday, October 13th, 2017** at Elmwood Presbyterian Church. This will kick off our dancing year and anyone 8 years and older is welcome to attend.

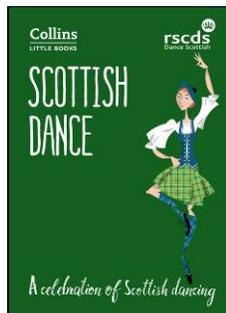
Make sure you promote it to our newest members so they can find out for themselves just how much fun we have!



The lovely ladies of the Basic Class.

Another wonderful dance programme was hosted by the Basic Class at Elmwood Presbyterian Church on Friday, April 6th. They did a fabulous job briefing the dances, helping with the ever popular “Shaw Draw” and supplying a great feast for us all. We had a wonderful turnout with 49 people showing up, ready to “party down”. Thanks to everyone that helped set up and clean up afterwards.

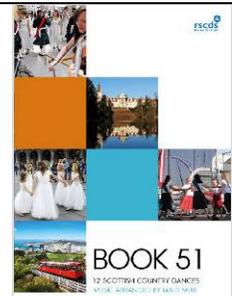
It was a fun night for everyone! Make sure to put it on your calendar for next year.



The Royal Scottish Dance Society has recently released the following:

[The Little Book of Scottish Dance](#) is published by Harper Collins Publishers and written and edited by RSCDS teachers Peter Knapman, Linda Gaul and William Williamson.

[Book 51](#) – 12 Scottish Country Dances (for young dancers and festivals) with music arranged by Ian R. Muir.



Spring Ball

Scott MacCrone

End of a Great Era...

The company was "great".

The food was "great". (Thanks to Great Hall Catering)

The band was "great". (Thanks Laird Brown and Scotch Mist)

The dancing was "great". Even the gentleman from the United Kingdom was amazed with the hall and that we only briefed the dances!

The teachers were "great". (Thanks Marie, Catherine, Colin, Christine)

The decorations were "great". (Thanks Sheila, Peter, Lori, Colin, Scott, Brian, Maureen)

The Grand March was "great". (Thanks Peter)

The service was "great".

The hall was "great". (Check out this [video](#) and see for yourself)

I for one will miss the "great" place; it had character! Hope to see you next May at the Polish Hall.



The RSCDS London Branch Award was awarded to Alasdair and Anne Campbell at the Spring Ball. Maureen Graham (Chair) made the presentation to Alasdair (Anne was home recovering from knee surgery). Congratulations Alasdair and Anne!

Trivia... The person voted the Greatest Canadian by Canadians was born in Scotland... Kiefer Sutherland's grandfather, Tommy Douglas.

Report from Summer School

Colin Campbell

As some of you know, I attended the first two weeks of summer school in St. Andrews in order to complete my teacher certification. It requires classes morning and afternoon so there was not much time to enjoy the weather – which was actually quite good - or the sights in and around St. Andrews. Our group of candidates reflected the growing international face of Scottish country dancing – two Hungarians, one Japanese, one German, two English, two Scottish and me, the lone Canadian. After 9 intensive days of alternately teaching and stooging for the others, we were each given a dance and 24 hours to prepare our 40 minute lesson for the exam (I was assigned a Canadian dance, Wisp of Thistle). We all passed!

The classes did not prevent us from enjoying social dancing in the evenings (including the "bouncy" floor of the Younger Hall), not to mention the odd party, but our legs and feet certainly reminded us in the morning what we had been doing the night before! I also danced in the week 1 demonstration team in a medley to mark the 90th anniversary of the publication of Book 4 (which is also the 90th anniversary of summer school at St. Andrews).

I want to thank the Branch for a grant from the Bursary Fund which assisted me and to thank all of you who wished me well – it supported me and spurred me on and I deeply appreciate it. I am looking forward to seeing you in September on the dance floor.



Justin Timberlake's recording of "**Can't Stop the Feeling**" has been mixed with 66 of the most famous movie dance scenes of all time. Your toe is sure to be tapping as you watch this [video](#). Enjoy!

Canada 150 Dance Programme

Saturday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Metropolitan United Church, London

1. Land of Evangeline	J-4x32 R the R	Keppie Step We Gaily	
2. East Coast Fiddlers Ball	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Gray Collection 2	
3. Inukshuk Shuffle	S-3x32 3C set	Dancing in the Haliburton Highlands	
4. The St. John's Jig	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Dance Around This One 2	
5. Maple Leaf Rant	R-8x40 3C(4C set)	Leaflet	
6. Montreal Rendezvous	8x16S/16R 3C(4C set)	Farewell My Fancy	
7. The London Jig	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Leaflet – Bob Campbell	
8. Bobby Brown's Canadian Breakdown	R-4x32 4C sq set	Leaflet – Bob Millar	
9. Saint John River	S-4x32 4C set	New Brunswick Collection	
10. The Glenora Ferry	J-8x40 3C(4C set)	Itch to Dance	
11. Calgary 88	R-4x32 4C set	Leaflet	
12. Prairie Crocus	S-3x32 3C set	Prairie Gold	
13. Terrace Loggers' Jig	J-4x32 4C set	Ruby Anniversary Collection	
14. Canadian Landscape	S-3x32 3C set	Scott & Karen MacCrone	
15. Granville Market	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	2 nd Graded Book	

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



The Story Behind a Dance

[THE GLENORA FERRY](#) (J8x40) 3C (4C set) Terry Glasspool Itch to Dance

The Glenora ferry runs between Adolphustown and Glenora on the Bay of Quinte, which is an inlet of Lake Ontario. It runs every 15 minutes in summer and 30 minutes in winter and is free for both vehicles and pedestrians. The ferry links the western and eastern halves of one of the oldest colonial roads in the province, the Loyalist Parkway. The dance was written by Terry Glasspool after visiting the area to teach at a weekend workshop with the Prince Edward County Dancers in the nearby town of Picton.



Trivia... The first 24 years of Canada's existence (6 four year terms) had a sitting Prime Minister that was born in Scotland.

Upcoming Out of Town Events

Sept 9, 2017	Welcome Dance (St. Catharines)
Sept 15-17, 2017	Scottish Weekend at Timber Ridge, West Virginia
Sept 20, 2017	Guelph Scottish Country Dance 60th Anniversary (Belwood)
Oct 6-8, 2017	Scots Gathering in the Canadian Rockies, Canmore, Alberta
Oct 6-8, 2017	Fall Workshop (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia)
Oct 14-15, 2017	Jeannie Carmichael Ball & Brunch Weekend (Briarcliff Manor, NY)
Oct 28, 2017	Annual Ball (Windsor)
Nov 3-5, 2017	51st Annual Workshop and Ball Weekend (Kingston)
Nov 11, 2017	The Toronto Workshop
Nov 17-19, 2017	Asilomar Weekend
Nov 25, 2017	RSCDS Toronto's 60th Anniversary Dance

As we celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday, we need to acknowledge the many inventions that we, Canadians, have given to the world. Insulin, the telephone, wireless technology, the light bulb, the snowmobile, Superman, basketball, standard time, walkie talkies, the prosthetic hand, the snow blower, the fog horn, sonar, IMAX, the electron microscope, the cardiac pacemaker, the alkaline battery, the jolly jumper, the garbage bag, plexiglass, the pager, the 56 K modem, the Blackberry messaging system, peanut butter, key-frame animation, the java program language, the Canadarm (used on the space shuttle), Essiac (an herbal cancer treatment) and the electric oven, just to name a few.

We really do have reason to be proud to be a Canadian!



Committee of Management for 2017-2018

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