

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
kmacrone@rogers.com by March 1, 2017

Chairperson's Message

Maureen Graham

Our fall season of dancing has ended and during that time our dancing routine has shown some changes from previous years. The introduction of a combined class on the first Wednesday of each month has been welcomed by the majority of members. It provides an opportunity for everyone to get to know one another and allows newer members the chance to dance with more experienced dancers.



November saw our first big social event with the Tartan and Taffeta Gala held at the Polish Combatants Hall. Dancers enjoyed wonderful music provided by Laird Brown and Scotch Mist and of course the bountiful feast served by Chef Andrej. This was a fun event and enjoyed by all attendees. However, the earlier date did not rule out an unexpected snowfall! On December 31, New Year's Eve was ushered in by 40 celebrants and all enjoyed the dances and activities leading up to the midnight hour.

The New Year has arrived and we can look forward more events in the coming months. On Friday, January 27th, we will celebrate Robbie Burn's birthday at the social class held at Elmwood Presbyterian Church. Plans are well underway for our annual Workshop and Ceilidh on February 24th and 25th. This weekend presents a unique opportunity for all to learn new skills and dances at the workshop, but also to let loose the frustrated actor and performer which lurks inside all at the Ceilidh. So make your plans now and use this chance to become a star.

Plans are also underway for our annual Ball on Saturday, May 6th which will be held in The Great Hall at Western University. Don't forget to mark these dates on your calendar and spread the good word about these special events to your family and friends.

On behalf of the Committee of Management, I would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy New Year filled with many enjoyable dancing opportunities.

"There is no such uncertainty as a sure thing." - Robert Burns

Branch News

Congratulations



Scott and Karen MacCrone's son, Kevin, married Tara Negrave on Friday, December 30th, 2016. The wedding took place in Wallaceburg with the reception following at the Links of Kent Golf Club in Chatham. The happy couple will reside in London.

Member Update



Jean Cameron fell and broke her arm just before Christmas. Hope to see you back dancing soon!

Condolences



Calla Mahon's mother, Pauline Mae Males, passed away on Thursday, November 24th, 2016 at University Hospital in London in her 90th year.

Our thoughts go out to Calla and her family during this difficult time.



Former member, Ross Cameron, passed away in London on Sunday, November 27th, 2016 in his 68th year.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the Cameron family during this difficult time.



Alasdair Campbell's brother, Donald Thorburn Campbell, passed away on Monday, December 5th, 2016 in Paisley, Scotland.

Our thoughts go to Alasdair and his family during this difficult time.



Dorothy Drew's mother, Georgina Grace Hodgins, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 27th, 2016 in her 95th year at University Hospital in London.

Our heartfelt thoughts go out to Dorothy and her family during this difficult time.



John and Lori Ferguson's son, Edward Isaac Ferguson, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 in Fort McMurray, Alberta. He was 28 years of age.

Our heartfelt thoughts go out to John and Lori and their family during this very difficult time.

News from the Thrift Store

Janet Schreiber

Thank you to all the shoppers at the Thrift Store Sale in November. Your support raised \$230.00 for the Bursary Fund. The Thrift Store will be at the Workshop on Saturday February 25. If you have any donations from your early spring wardrobe purging or well made crafts, you may bring them to class on either Wednesday or Friday evenings.



Notice of AGM and Agenda Items

Marg Allan



Annual General Meeting - May 17, 2017

According to the Branch Constitution: "The agenda of items to be discussed at the meeting will be available to the members 21 days prior to the meeting. Any member who wants an issue discussed at the Annual General Meeting must provide the Committee of Management with the details of the issue in writing sixty (60) days prior to the Annual General Meeting." Therefore, any such request should be given to a member of the Committee of Management by **March 17**.

RSCDS London Branch Volunteer Award

The RSCDS London Branch Volunteer Award is awarded to honour the efforts and dedication of outstanding volunteers in the Branch. The number of awards given shall be limited to two per year. It recognizes and encourages the valuable and various services performed by volunteers in the Branch over a period of years by any one or more of the following:



1. conscientiously performing one or more volunteer activities over a period of years;
2. taking unusual initiative to identify and solve a critical problem or meet a specific need;
3. organizing and directing an activity of importance to the Branch;
4. active participation in and/or support of Branch activities;
5. inspiring the spirit of volunteerism in others.

A nominee must be a member (active or associate) of the London Branch. Previous recipients of the RSCDS Branch Award or the Society's Scroll of Honour are not eligible.

To nominate an individual, please provide a written description (maximum 500 words) of your nominee's contribution and how that contribution has had a significant impact on the Branch's operation. Nominations must be submitted to the Committee of Management no later than February 28.

Canada's 150th Birthday



As you are aware, this year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. The birth of Canada as a nation took place in 1867. Originally, there were only 4 provinces; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec. There are now 10 provinces and 3 territories. Throughout the year, there will be hundreds of celebrations nationwide to mark this historic event. **RSCDS London Canada Branch would like to be a part of the festivities, so we are counting on you, the membership, to think of ways we can do so.** So put on your patriotic thinking caps and let any Committee of Management member know your thoughts. All ideas will be gratefully accepted.



WANT AD

The London Branch requires the use of a PC projector to assist in presentations to service clubs to promote Scottish Country Dancing in the next few months. Marg Boss has contacted a number of service clubs this past fall and in her words, "While service clubs seem keen to have presentations in the New Year, they expect us to bring our own laptop and PC projector".



If you are able to help us, please contact Marg Boss at 519-453-1737 or familyboss1@hotmail.com.

Tartan & Taffeta Gala

Alasdair Campbell



On Saturday, November 19th, the Polish Combatant's Hall was the place to be as the Branch held their Christmas Dance with music by Laird Brown and Scotch Mist. About 70 dancers and friends came to dine, dance and be merry. All dressed appropriately and raring to go!!! We had an excellent variety of dances and the evening ended with the ever favourite *Mairi's Wedding* being requested for one more time!!!

We had a number of guests from out of town and all the feedback from them was they had a great time and are

looking forward to our Ball in 2017. There was the ever popular draw and Calla Mahon won the beautiful quilt created by Doris Guy. We thank all the volunteers who helped make this a special evening and the members for their support. On a final note, it was felt that as the dance was being held in November we would avoid the snow, but Mother Nature proved us wrong!!!



Look forward to seeing you all at the weekly sessions and of course, THE BALL.



It's Bagpipes. It's Rock. It's Bagrock. AC/DC meets Robert Burns – where rock anthems sit comfortably alongside the great tunes from the glens and the mountains of Scotland. It's the **Red Hot Chili Pipers** - a 9-piece ensemble consisting of pipers, guitarists, keyboardists and drummers. Check out this short [video](#) to see them in action. They are coming to the Macomb Center (Clinton, Michigan) on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2017**. Click [here](#) for more information and tickets.



Hogmanay

Barb Jessop

Forty revellers welcomed 2017 with great company, food and dancing at the Colborne Street United Church. Helen Bell provided the music and briefing. Basic and advanced dancers alike joined in for both fun and challenging dances ranging from *The Canadian Barn Dance* to *The Lochalsh Reel*.

It wasn't all dancing, though...everyone enjoyed food, visiting, games and prizes before donning hats and singing Auld Lang Syne to welcome in the New Year. The group was entertained by Maxine who dropped by with her humorous, albeit sometimes crabby, words of wisdom and advice. The 'pass the orange under the chin' challenge provided lots of entertainment, particularly for those who were watching instead of participating! The buffet was delicious; highlights included Sue's mini trifles and the thistle cake to celebrate Karen's 29th (so we're told) birthday.



Be sure to mark your 2017 calendar for this fun event!



A new year is like a blank book. The pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



The Story Behind a Dance

KIRRIEMUIR JIG (J8x32) 3C (4C set) Dorothy Bell Starters Collection

Kirriemuir, which is sometimes called Kirrie, is a burgh in Angus Scotland with a population of approximately 6,000 people (2006). In its past, it has been a major religious centre, was identified with witchcraft and in the 19th century, was an important player in the jute trade. It is well known as the birthplace of Peter Pan creator and Rector of the University of St Andrews, J.M. Barrie. His birthplace still stands on the Brechin Road and is now a museum owned by the National Trust of Scotland. His simple grave can be found in the town cemetery. A statue of Peter Pan stands in the town square in front of the old toll booth.



Workshop Weekend Tea Dance Programme

Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
 The Polish Combatants Association Hall, 80 Ann Street, London

1. Espie McNabb	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	MMM 1
2. The Sailor	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 24-4
3. Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	Leaflet 20
4. Light and Airy	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 4-5
5. Davy Nick Nack	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Campbell Glasgow Assembly
6. Merchant City	S-3x32 3C set	Glasgow 90 Anniversary Book
7. Hooper's Jig	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	MMM 2
8. <i>Teacher's Choice*</i>		
9. <i>Teacher's Choice*</i>		
10. Shiftin' Bobbins	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Ormskirk 6



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

** The "Teacher's Choice" dances will be provided by the guest teachers and will probably be ones taught at the workshop. If their choices are other than what is taught that day, you will be notified.*

This year's workshop teachers are Claire Collier and David Booz. Each class (Basic or Advanced) will have one session with each teacher. Live music will be provided by Laird Brown and Donny Wood.



Claire Collier fell in love with Scottish Country Dancing while a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin and was soon dancing three times a week. She danced with the Loch Leven Scottish Country Dancers performing team for over 10 years. Since receiving her full certificate in 1996, she has taught the introductory, social, and advanced classes in the Hamilton Branch and currently teaches the intermediate technique class. Claire has also taught in the Buffalo Branch and St. Catharine's Branch as guest teacher, and taught workshops in Oakville, Toronto, London, Windsor, and Hamilton. Claire has served on the TAC executive as treasurer, corresponding secretary, and membership secretary; was membership secretary and teachers' council chair of the Hamilton Branch; and is the former chair of The White Cockade.



David Booz began Scottish Country Dancing as a child in Toronto with Betty Thompson of Newtonbrook, returning to dancing in 1985. As a member of The Finlay Scottish Country Dancers for many years, David performed in countless demonstrations locally and in Florida and Scotland. David has attended numerous workshops and weekends, including TAC Summer School and RSCDS Summer School in St. Andrews, where he learned from many fine teachers. He earned his Teacher's Certificate in 1999 with Jean Noble as Tutor. David has taught the Woodglen group in Toronto, Toronto Branch Classes, and workshops in Picton, Toronto, Kingston, Lethbridge and Red Deer as well as guest teaching at TAC Summer School. He currently teaches the Trinity Scottish Country Dancers in Toronto. He also regularly dons his pants and enjoys ballroom dancing with his favourite partner Suzanne.

Dancing Around the World

35th Anniversary Fall Workshop, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia - October 6-8, 2017

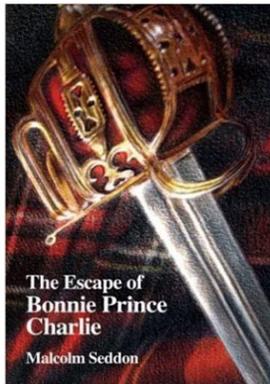


This dancing weekend offers ceilidh dancing on Friday evening, classes on Saturday with the Banquet and Ball in the evening and a Teacher class on Sunday. The two teachers are Ron Wallace (USA) and Jim Stott (Scotland). Live music will be provided by Dean Harington and Mara Shea (USA). For more information check out their [website](#).



Extend your stay and enjoy the fall colours on Cape Breton.

A book befitting
a Scottish
library



The Escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie by Malcolm Seddon describes the exciting adventures of Bonnie Prince Charlie over five months after his defeat at the battle of Culloden in 1746. On the run from his enemies, he desperately sought a ship in which to escape from Scotland. In the process, he and a few companions secretly trekked for five hundred miles over remote mountainous areas of the Western Isles and the North-West Highlands of Scotland. Eventually, he was rescued by friends, and taken to France.

The author has thoroughly researched the story from contemporary accounts. Over ten years, he has also walked and explored the whole route that Charles followed on foot.

For the benefit of present-day hillwalkers, there is a companion Hillwalkers' Guide. It contains details of walks that together cover Charles' complete route, and lead to places that figure in the story. The Guide can be accessed free of charge from the dedicated [website](#).

The **Barra MacNeils**, one of the world's finest Celtic ensembles, returns to **Kitchener's Circle in the Square** for two nights this June. A high-spirited concert featuring tight harmonies, precise step dancing and multi-instrumental skill, this will be a true celebration of all things Celtic. Concert dates are **Friday, June 2nd and Saturday, June 3rd 2017**. Contact **Marg Allan** at **519-679-9366** if you are interested, as a group rate is available for parties of 10 or more. More information can be found on the [Kitchener Waterloo Symphony website](#). In honour of Robert Burns' upcoming birthday, enjoy the Barra MacNeils version of [My Heart's in the Highlands](#).



Upcoming Out of Town Events

Jan 28, 2017	Burns Supper (Kitchener)
Feb 10-12, 2017	Edmonton Caledonian Ball
Feb 11-12, 2017	Ardbrae Dancers of Ottawa Ball
Feb 12, 2017	Tea Dance (Windsor)
Feb 17-19, 2017	Aloha Winter Weekend (Hawaii)
Feb 18, 2017	The 54th Tartan Ball (Toronto)
Mar 3-5, 2017	Belleville Workshop Weekend & Ball – contact Bill Cunningham 613-965-4212
Mar 4, 2017	Hamilton Workshop & Tea Dance
Mar 11, 2017	St. Giles Workshop & Ball (Calgary)
Mar 25, 2017	West End Workshop & Tea Dance (Brampton)
Mar 25, 2017	Border Cities Workshop (Troy MI)
Apr 29, 2017	RSCDS Hamilton Branch Spring Ball
May 7, 2017	35th Anniversary Royal Tea Party (Truro, Nova Scotia)
May 13, 2017	West Toronto Ball
May 26-28, 2017	Stoney Lake Weekend – contact Joan Reeves 705-748-5255
Aug 14-18, 2017	Scotch on the Rocks (Wolfville, Nova Scotia)



This good looking group enjoyed a lovely Friday night Social Class at Elmwood Presbyterian Church on November 11th, 2016. Tea time included birthday cake and the singing of “Happy Birthday” to Helen Bell.

Committee of Management for 2016-2017

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