

THE REEL NEWS

Volume 24, Issue #3 January 2018
ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
LONDON, CANADA BRANCH
14 Hyatt Avenue
London ON N5Z 1Y5
www.rscdslondoncanada.org

Submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to
kmacrone@rogers.com by March 7, 2018

Chairperson's Message

Brian Campbell

Well wasn't that a wintry blast! The unusually cold weather did not sour our high spirits at our Hogmanay Dance. Thank you to all who attended and helped to make this evening a success. We have a long tradition in this Branch of combining good eating with good dancing, and once again our two passions came together on a sociable, memorable evening.



I also want to thank all those who supported our Christmas Dinner Dance on December 16th. After an excellent dinner, we danced to the music of Laird Brown and Scotch Mist in our finery. It was a splendid evening. Our treasurer informs me that we covered our expenses!

Our next event is our homage to Scotland's National Poet- Robert Burns. Our Burns celebration will take place at Elmwood Church Hall at 7:30 pm on Friday, January 26th, 2018. The format will be similar to last year, and yes, there will be haggis. This is open to all members and the cost is \$10 at the door. Coming up on February 24th is our London Workshop, which will be held at the Polish Hall. Please get your applications in and support this event.

On May 5th we will have our Annual Ball and on May 6th our Brunch-After-The-Ball. Keep an eye out for more details. We hope that you will plan to attend.

Once again we look past our Annual Ball to our Annual General Meeting where you will elect your Committee of Management. I committed to act as Chair for one year only, ending in May. It has been increasingly difficult to enlist members to perform the C.O.M. duties, although I am very grateful for the support, expertise and commitment that your current C.O.M. members have shown. The jobs are not onerous, and the duties and expectations are well documented. Please consider working on the C.O.M. Maureen Graham will be chairing the nominations committee and will be happy to provide you with specific details. We have a lot of fun planning the events for the upcoming year, and did I mention that there is food?

The C.O.M. is currently struggling with a number of proposed changes to our class structures, necessitated by our falling membership and falling attendance at classes. We, like many branches in North America and in Scotland, are declining in numbers. To maintain sociability and viability changes will be made for the upcoming year and will be outlined at the May A.G.M.

"Or like the snow falls in the river, a moment white - then melts forever" - Robert Burns

Branch News

Condolences

	Peter Maurice Bell passed away on Saturday, November 18 th , 2017 at Parkwood Hospital in London. He was 80 years of age. <i>Our thoughts go out to Helen and her family during this difficult time.</i>
	Karen MacCrone's mother, Shirley Lorraine Seeley, passed away on Monday, December 18 th , 2017 at Victoria Hospital in London. She was 88 years of age. <i>Our thoughts go out to Karen and Scott and their family during this difficult time.</i>
	Marie McLennan's sister, Muriel (Jo) Jean Martha Turner, passed away on Monday, January 15 th , 2018 in her 80 th year. <i>Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Marie and Bill and their family during this difficult time.</i>

Announcements

	Emma Matilda McLennan was born on Thursday, November 2 nd , 2017 at 2:30 am weighing 8 lbs 1 oz. Proud parents are John and Angel McLennan. This is the 1 st grandchild for Bill and Marie McLennan.
	Conner Reynen was born on Wednesday, December 20 th , 2017, weighing 9 lbs. Proud parents are Steve and Lindsay Reynen of Brights Grove. This is the 6 th grandchild for Joe and Goretti Reynen.
	John and Lori Ferguson's 6 th grandchild was born at 12:14 pm on Friday, January, 5 th , 2018. Ralph Sullivan Bond was born in Calgary, Alberta to their daughter Margaret and her husband Andrew. A little brother for Eleanor, Phoebe and Juliet.
	Scott and Karen MacCrone's 1 st grandchild was born at 1:20 pm on Sunday, January 7 th , 2018, weighing 5 lbs 6 ozs. Joshua Murray MacCrone was born in London to their son Kevin and his wife Tara.
	Sloane Petranella Reynen was born on Friday, January 12 th , 2018, weighing 7 lbs 5 ozs. Proud parents are Paul and Andrea Reynen of Calgary, Alberta. This is the 7 th grandchild for Joe and Goretti Reynen.

News from the Thrift Store

Janet Schreiber

I am planning on bringing The Thrift Store to the Workshop. The inventory is small. If anyone has items to donate they may bring them to class. Well made crafts are welcomed.



Notice of AGM and Agenda Items

Marg Allan

	<p>Annual General Meeting - May 16, 2018</p> <p>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 16.</p>
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Nominating Committee

Maureen Graham



The New Year has just begun and winter still has a firm handhold on the weather but it is not too early to plan for the future. To that end, I ask that you consider being a part of the Committee of Management. This group is essential to the future of London RSCDS. It ensures that our dancing experiences run smoothly, from booking the venues, keeping us in a viable financial position, communication with Scotland, publicity and so many other things which we as dancers, take for granted. **This coming year, 2018/19, we have five positions coming vacant, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Social Convenor.** Prospective members will be provided with a comprehensive job description and lots of cheerful help and advice. All is not work, we have interesting meetings, good food and the feeling that we are a valuable part of the larger group. The Nominating committee is being formed and soon we will be approaching the membership for willing volunteers. In the meantime please give some serious thought to the positions that are vacant and do feel free to approach any COM member if you need further clarification. Remember, our RSCDS London Canada Branch needs YOU!

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.

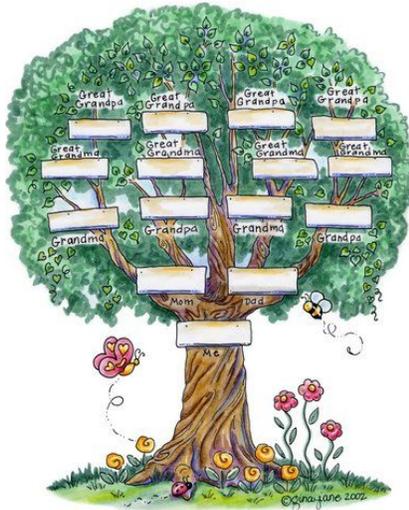
To nominate an individual, please provide a written description (maximum 500 words) of your nominee's contribution and how that contribution has had a significant impact on the Branch's operation. Nominations must be submitted to the Committee of Management no later than February 28.

34th Annual Stoney Lake Workshop – May 25-27, 2018



This weekend is hosted by the **Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society** at the Pine Vista Resort located on Stoney Lake in the beautiful Kawartha region of Ontario.

This year the guest teacher is **Rebecca Blackhall-Peters**. Rebecca was born and raised in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. She trained in classical ballet and earned her Advanced Certificate in the Royal Academy of Dancing. She has worked as Artistic Director of the Valley Dance Company and taught Ballet and Jazz. In the 1995 Rebecca took up SCD in Vancouver and earned her Teacher's Certificate in 2001. Currently she teaches at the Vancouver Branch, as well as a General Class in Fort Langley and Children's classes. She was a core teacher at the TAC Summer School in 2006. **Fred Moyes** will again provide the live music for this great weekend of dancing. Check out their [website](#) for more information as it becomes available.



Thursday (Jan.18) I received emails from a researcher in Calgary in response to a copy of a letter I had sent to New Zealand 20 years ago. The researcher googled my name and found it in an edition of "The Reel News". He emailed Karen MacCrone, who sent him my email address. The result was several emails back and forth and finally an hour long phone call to Calgary. The family history is around Kinloch Rannoch in Perthshire Scotland and the McKercher/Stewart connection. Several of my questions were answered and some were created. I am now back another generation and pages of information to ponder over. He proved that Jean Watson (founder of Tartan Day) in Nova Scotia and I are related. I met Jean at the Gathering of The Clans in Halifax. We discovered that we were in Kinloch Rannoch in 2001 within weeks of each other looking for information on our McKercher/Stewart genealogy. We decided that we were probably related somehow, but a way back in time and no proof.

The emails on Thursday proved it --- Jean's great grandfather and my second great grandfather were brothers. Mine stayed in Kinloch Rannoch and hers immigrated to Nova Scotia. The next coincidence is that Bob and Linda Watson have met Jean Watson and maybe related to her. We both have an original painting by Jean.

Dancing Around the World

Dancing in Nikko, Japan – April 6-8, 2018

Enjoy Scottish country dancing and discover the rich culture and beauty of Japan at cherry blossom time. There is an optional tourist program which includes many beautiful places and interesting activities: tea ceremony, sushi making, kabuki theatre and an overnight stay in a Buddhist monastery.



The teachers for this event will be Graham Donald and Yoshiki Oyama . Live music will be provided by Jim Lindsay and Hiroko Kokai. This event is designed for advanced and intermediate dancers.

For more information contact Katalin Konya at kkonyakatalin@gmail.com.



[RSCDS](http://www.janetmccrorieartist.co.uk) is offering a limited edition pack of 5 art greeting cards by the Scottish artist Janet McCrorie on their website. 10% of the sale of the pack will go towards the RSCDS Development Fund, which is aimed at growing our Scottish Country Dancer community. Remember that you get a 10% member discount off the purchase price. To see more of Janet McCrories' work, please visit her website: www.janetmccrorieartist.co.uk.

Canada 150 Dance

Calla Mahon

In honour of those: who fought and continue to fight for our country, who volunteer or work in community service, who, at home and abroad, extend Canadian values and hospitality, a very lively "Canada 150 Dance" was held at the Metropolitan United Church on November 11th, 2017. The costumes were dramatic, colourful and very patriotic and winners, selected by the church security guard, were Declan Dunne, Catherine Shaw, Dorothy Sample and Gavin Morham.



Everyone enjoyed the charm of the old church with a good dance floor and lovely parlour for those not dancing. As always, Lori's organized potluck was delicious featuring many homemade "Canadian" treats.



All the dances were related to Canadian inspired places: "Calgary 88", "Land of Evangeline" and, by the end of the evening, we had danced across the whole country. Declan and Gayle kept us very entertained with music, song and humorous anecdotes whenever we stopped for a rest.



An extremely good time was had by all! Thank you to everyone who made this dance so enjoyable.



10 incredible things you didn't know about Canada. Watch this [video](#) to find out what they are! You'll be glad you did, eh?



Christmas Dance

Helen Bell

The Christmas season was upon us as soon as Halloween had passed. Christmas music in malls and on the radio and of course the usual shopping frenzy for Christmas wish lists had begun. During the next few weeks, preparations were being made to hold our annual Christmas Dance. The Branch teachers had devised a dance program, carefully selected to enable dancers of varying levels to attend. The band, Scotch Mist and the Polish Combatants Hall had been retained for the evening. A great deal of planning had taken place by The Committee of Management in previous months to ensure that our annual Christmas Dance would be an evening to enjoy and remember.



In the weeks leading up to the event, the dance program was taught and reviewed by our teachers in their classes. As the Christmas dance drew nearer, dance tickets were printed ready for distribution. The dinner menu was discussed and confirmed with the chef at the Polish Hall.

December 16th, finally arrived and the weather cooperated for those travelling from out of town which was a big relief for all. At noon, Brian and Sheila joined me to add table decor and as we met, the wonderful aroma of turkeys cooking in the kitchen drifted into the hall. The Christmas tree and decorations were lit, everything was ready. As guests arrived that evening they were welcomed by Dorothy Drew, our designated greeter. Alasdair and Anne Campbell, who had diligently kept records of attendees, presented each guest with their selected menu.

After a time to meet and greet friends, we were invited to take our seats. The grace was given by John Ferguson and we all settled down to enjoy dinner.

After a most enjoyable meal, and conversation, the band began to warm up on stage. It was time to put on our dancing shoes. The dancers were invited onto the floor for the first dance aptly called "A Christmas Ceilidh". Marie, Catherine and I were ready to brief the dances and throughout the evening there was a great feeling of merriment as the band played and the dancers danced. Renewing old acquaintances, making new ones and enjoying each other's company is such a big part of Scottish Country dancing. During an intermission, Catherine held a draw which was very successful and there were a many happy winners. Some of us were able to obtain a copy of the latest recording by Scotch Mist. Too soon, the last dance was announced, just time for one more dance before heading home. Thanks go to all those involved in planning, advertising and running the Christmas Dance of 2017.



Hogmanay

Marg Campbell

What better way to spend New Year's Eve than among friends socializing and dancing the night away! That's exactly what 38 members and friends did to bring in the New Year.



Helen and Catherine organized an entertaining evening of easy dances, including a spot dance and an elimination dance, and Catherine held one of her famous draws. Karen and Scott MacCrone were the lucky winners of a beautiful, double sized quilt that was completely hand-stitched and donated by Doris Guy. I'm sure it's been put to good use in the cold, snowy days this January. Thanks go to Calla and her helpers for looking after the pot luck lunch.

A great time was had by all! Mark your calendars for next year so you don't miss the fun.



Trivia... January is named for the two-headed god Janus who could look backward and forward, to the old year and the new, at the same time.



Evolution of Dance

Starting with the 1920's and ending in the 2000's, watch how two guys dance through time in this [video](#). Enjoy!

Burns Night Dance Programme

Friday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Elmwood Presbyterian Church, London

1. A Highland Welcome	R-32 R the R	Collins Book
2. Linton Ploughman	J-8x32 2C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 5
3. The Silver City	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	John Drewry Silver City Book
4. The White Cockade	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Preston RSCDS Book 5
5. Just as I was in the Morning (The Deuks Dang Ow'er My Daddy)	J-8x40 2C(4C set)	Rutherford RSCDS Book 19
6. The Silver Tassie	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	John Drewry Bon Accord Book
7. Scotland's Gardens	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Roy Goldring
8. Neil M Grant	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Christine Grant RSCDS Book 49
9. Scarborough Castle	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	Ann Dix Leeds Golden Collection
10. Tam O'Shanter	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Let's All Dance

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

The Story Behind a Dance

[THE WHITE COCKADE](#) (R8x32) 3C (4C set) Preston RSCDS Book 5

Robert Burns rewrote the lyrics to this popular tune of the time. A cockade was a ribbon in the shape of a rosette used as a decoration on hats, and was a way to display the wearer's loyalties like a button or a bumper sticker is nowadays. Jacobite Troops had no formal uniform. The white cockade on a blue bonnet became their emblem. It is said to have originated when Bonnie Prince Charlie picked a wild rose and pinned it to his hat. Check out this [video](#) to watch a performance of Burns' "The White Cockade".



Trivia... Michael Jackson's smash-hit *Thriller* was inspired by Burns' *Tam O'Shanter* poem.



A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough".

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer", the father says. "We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her".

Frantically, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone, "Like hell they're getting divorced", she shouts. "I'll take care of this".

She calls Scotland immediately and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back and we'll both be there tomorrow.

Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up the phone and turns to his wife. "Done! They're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way!"

London Workshop Tea Dance Programme

Saturday, February 24 at 2:30 p.m.
Polish Combatant's Hall, London

1. Flowers of Edinburgh	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 1
2. Tribute to the Borders	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Roy Goldring RSCDS Leaflet Dances 31
3. Seann Truibhas Willichan	S-6x32 2C(3C set)	Thomas Wilson RSCDS Book 27
4. Glastonbury Tor	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	2Duncan Brown RSCDS Book 47
5. Black Donald	J-8x32 2C(4C set)	Derek Haynes Camforth Collection 2
6. Culla Bay	S-4x32 square set	Ann Dix RSCDS Book 41
7. Catch the Wind	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Romaine Butterfield RSCDS Book 45
8. Best Set in the Hall	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Helen Greenwood RSCDS Book 46
9. City of Belfast	S-3x32 3C set	Mullholland Belfast Dia. Jubilee Book
10. Dunedin Festival Dance	R-32 R the R	Derek Haynes Dunedin Dances Book 4
11. Plus Teacher's Choice		

Mary Lou Howard will be taking registrations for this event. A copy of the Workshop Flyer as well as the dance briefs and video links can be found on the London Branch [website](#). We are happy to announce that our workshop teacher this year is **David Tague**. His biography follows:



I started teaching both highland and SCD in 1976 and performed with several demonstration teams. The highlight of that experience was with The Glen Lomond dancers doing a ten city tour of Western Canada. Other members of the team included Simon Scott, Mary Murray and Ron Wallace. I created my own performance group, The Strathleven Scottish Dancers and we performed all over Southern California doing highland and country dance at Disneyland and several other amusement parks. I became a workshop teacher and taught at several US and Canadian venues including Toronto, Boston, New York, San Francisco and Vancouver and loved every bit

of it. It is a real joy working with dancers that make up this amazing family. I am thrilled to be asked to teach at London after retiring and returning to Michigan.

I have taught highland and country dancing for over forty years and am currently a Scottish Official Board Highland Dance adjudicator. It has been a privilege to have taught alongside many well known teachers such as June Shore, Bob Blackie, Betty Thompson and Ruth Jappy.



Check out Rick Mercer's "Seven Day Forecast".

I'm sure that you can easily relate to this [video](#) this winter – ha ha ha!

Upcoming Out of Town Events

Feb 3, 2018	Betwixt & Between Tea Dance (Grimsby)
Feb 10, 2018	South Simcoe's Valentine Workshop & Tea Dance
Feb 11, 2018	Tea Dance (Windsor)
Feb 16-18, 2018	Aloha Winter Weekend (Honolulu, Hawaii)
Feb 17, 2018	The 55th Tartan Ball (Toronto)
Mar 2-4, 2018	Annual Workshop & Ball (Belleville)
Mar 10, 2018	Stratford Tea Dance – contact cmacdoug23@gmail.com
Mar 24, 2018	Border Cities Workshop
Mar 24, 2018	West End Workshop & Tea Dance
Mar 24-25, 2018	Pittsburgh SCDS 37th Annual Highland Ball
Apr 7, 2018	John Middleton Ball (Hamilton)
Apr 14, 2018	Sarnia Spring Dance – contact neukerc@gmail.com
May 11-13, 2018	55th Annual Pawling Weekend, Copake NY
May 25-27, 2018	34th Annual Stoney Lake Workshop



The **Stratford Scottish Country Dance Group** invites you to their first **Tea Dance** on **Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 1-4 pm** at Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave. Music by FRED MOYES. Program by Christine Basnett. Ample free parking and wonderful wooden floor. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$15 and are available from members of our Stratford group or by contacting Carol MacDougall at cmacdoug23@gmail.com or 519-272-1398.

Dance briefs can be found on the [RSCDS London Branch website](#).

WE SHARE THE AIR – BE SENSITIVE TO OTHERS

Please keep it healthy and fragrance-free.

The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies and other respiratory ailments.

Please 1) DO NOT wear perfume, cologne, lotion, aftershave and other fragrances.

2) USE unscented personal care products.



Committee of Management for 2017-2018

Chairperson	Brian Campbell	briancampbell517@sympatico.ca	519-644-2265
Secretary	Margaret Allan	allangray@sympatico.ca	519-679-9366
Treasurer	Goretti Reynen	gojoreynen@hotmail.com	226-878-8730
Vice Chairperson	Maureen Graham	moe.graham@hotmail.com	519-472-3422
Membership Secretary	Dorothy Drew	dorothy.drew.scd@gmail.com	519-472-3610
Social Convenor	Lori Ferguson	loriferguson@rogers.com	519-666-2270
Newsletter Editor	Karen MacCrone	kmaccrone@rogers.com	519-472-5089
Publicity Coordinator	Gayle Frisa	gayle.frisa@execulink.com	519-666-0847
Library/Archives	Margaret Campbell	mecampbell517@gmail.com	519-644-2265
Teacher Rep	Catherine Shaw	the.shaws@sympatico.ca	519-641-3929