

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 August 7, 2018

Chairperson's Message

Brian Campbell

This has been a busy time for your Committee of Management. Congratulations to Maureen Graham for running a successful dance workshop on 24 February. Thanks to our guest teacher, David Tague, and his wife Rosey. A big thank you to Mary Lou Howard for handling registrations, Karen and Scott MacCrone for the application form, briefs and advertising, to Catherine Shaw and Helen Bell, and to all others who helped to make the weekend welcoming and successful.



It is, however, disappointing that less than half of our membership attended the workshop. We will discuss the issue at the AGM of whether to hold a workshop next year. While we covered our workshop expenses this time, we did so only by eliminating live music, and by serendipitously timing the workshop during an extended spring thaw which left the weather clear and the roads snow-free, and enabled a large out-of-town contingent of dancers to attend and support us.

I strongly urge all of our membership to continue to support our dancing activities, including our monthly dances and our special events, and also to attend our **Annual General Meeting** which will be held at **Carling Heights on 16 May 2018, at 7:30 pm in Room A.**

The great issues today facing the RSCDS and many other organizations are declining membership and activity levels. Your committee of management, and your teachers, are grappling with these realities as we prepare for our Annual Ball and future events and classes. Not only must we be conscious of our financial long-term viability, we must also strive to maintain the sociability of the dancing experience, both in the classroom and at every event. The early collapse of the basic class attendance was unexpected. The intermediate class also struggled to maintain regular attendance in sufficient numbers.

For the balance of this term, the Wednesday classes will continue to be combined and held in the Aerobics Room. The teaching staff will rotate based upon availability. Teaching will include preparation for the 6 April Basic Class Dance at Elmwood Church, and of course our **Annual Ball** which will be held **on 5 May 2018 at the Polish Combatants' Hall.**

Summer Dancing has been arranged in the air-conditioned Aerobics Room on the **second Wednesday in June, July and August** from **7:45 to 9:45pm**. The cost is \$5 at the door.

The Branch's Friday Social Class at Elmwood Church is expected to remain unaltered, as long as members continue to support it in sufficient numbers.

In September **the Wednesday class** will be held in the **Aerobics Room at Carling Heights from 7:00pm until 9:30pm**. Two teachers will take the class, which will be staged beginning at 7:00 with basic level figures and step practice, a brief break and announcements at about 7:50, followed by intermediate level figures and dances. After 9:00 dancing will be at a more advanced and challenging level. The teachers will rotate based upon availability. Members who do not wish to polish their steps and basic formations are encouraged to be ready to dance by 7:50, and can join the class then. Any dancer willing to join the class at 7:00 pm to assist the new and less experienced dancers are encouraged to be ready to dance at 7:00 pm. There will undoubtedly be some tweaking of the schedule once we know how many new dancers come out in September and as the teachers iron out any wrinkles.

The proposed changes are being made after consultation with our teachers, and with input and suggestions from teachers in other branches which operate a single class. With our current membership levels and inconsistent member participation levels we simply don't have the luxury of operating separate classes in three separate rooms on Wednesday evenings. These changes will require the goodwill and cooperation of all of our members.

The application form for your tickets to our **Annual Ball** is attached. The London Ball, with Laird Brown and Scotch Mist playing, is the highlight of our dancing year. This Ball is always a well anticipated, exciting event and is a unique experience of sociability, good food, exciting music and lovely dancing. In my unbiased opinion the London Ball is consistently the best you will ever attend. It also represents the single largest annual expenditure on your behalf of Branch money. I encourage you to get your tickets early to save your treasurer from trauma. Hope to see you there.

“Spring is the time of the year, when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade.” - Charles Dickens

Meadow Park Dance Demo

Helen Bell

In January, Sue Elliot, a member of the London Branch, asked if some of our dancers would come to entertain the residents of Meadow Park, where she works. Sue is the cook at the residence and was eager to have us come on January 25th as she was planning to have a Burns Supper for residents in the evening. However, as not all could attend the dinner, we planned some entertainment for the afternoon. The dancers enjoyed dancing some of their favourite dances as the residents clapped along to the music. Declan played his guitar and sang several songs, and Alasdair recited a Burns poem. Most of all, we enjoyed hearing how much everyone appreciated our visit. Thank you to Sue and the staff at Meadow Park for their invitation.



Branch News

Member Updates



Nancy Duncan has recently received a pacemaker and is now recuperating at home. Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Announcements



Gayle and Norm Frisa's 15th grandchild was born on Friday, February 23rd, 2018. Russel Josef Frisa weighed in at 7 lbs 9 ozs and was 21 inches long. Russel's parents, Alex and Shannon are delighted that he has arrived.

News from the Thrift Store

Janet Schreiber

I would like to thank everyone who made donations to the Thrift Store. Thanks to Gayle and her granddaughter Merrit for their help setting up, selling and packing up the store. The profits so far are approximately \$345.00. If anyone is looking for a dress for the ball, I have 3. A red crepe (never worn) sized 14, a size 14 black velvet top with a coordinating black and gold skirt and a 3 piece long taupe A-Line skirt with a gold and taupe separate top and matching jacket that is size 16. Thanks to everyone for your support.



Important Notice to all Branch Members

Marg Allan



Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 on **Wednesday May 16** at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre. This is your second best place to influence the direction of our Branch. Of course, the best way is to become a member of the management committee.

Before the meeting, you will receive the meeting agenda and the reports of each committee member. Unless requested prior to the meeting, no hard copies will be available. You are advised to print whichever pages you would like to have on hand at the meeting.

Calling All Banners!

Peter Auksi

Although we are in a new location for our Annual Spring Ball on Saturday, May 5th, we should still be able to make the Polish Hall on Ann Street our own 'Scottish Place' by hanging in its interior the many colorful clan banners which our members possess. Our banner hanging crew is an experienced and imaginative lot ... so please bring your wonderful, colorful banners to Peter Auksi the week or two before the Ball, either at the Wed. or Fri. evening dance sessions. Our out-of-town guests have frequently commented on our unique display of banners (no other Branch has our 17-18 specimens!), so let's dazzle and impress them once more.



Bursary Fund



Have you ever considered attending a workshop hosted by another branch or becoming qualified to be a Scottish Country Dance Teacher? Our London Branch has a bursary fund to help pay for you to attend workshops or teacher candidate classes and exams. You may apply for workshop subsidy once in a three-year period. All that we ask in return is a short write up for the Reel News to tell other members about the experience. Letters of application should include workshop dates and registration fees and be given to Margaret Allan.

Burns Night

Kathy and Jim Armstrong

What an enjoyable experience coming to the Burns night social dance. From everyone's warm welcome to the wishes for "safe travel home" it was a delightful evening. We appreciated people talking with us—and what is less common—being invited to dance. Many groups are friendly in their greeting but neglect to make sure guests are invited to dance.

It was fun to share in the enthusiastic atmosphere of your group. We were impressed with the high level of dancing and how the evening flowed smoothly. And we must mention Alasdair's remarkable address to the haggis. We look forward to coming again!

Kathy and Jim dance with the Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society



(above right) Pat Taylor pipes in the haggis.



(left) Scott MacCrone wins the 50/50 draw.



(right) Everyone enjoying a lovely lunch including the haggis!



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

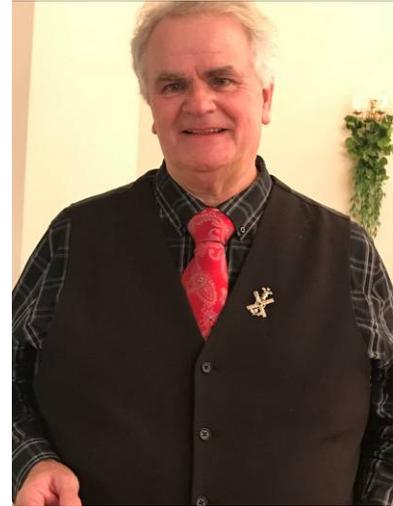


London Workshop and Tea Dance

Maureen Graham

On Saturday February 24, 2018, 61 eager Dancers converged on the Polish Hall to attend the annual Workshop, anticipating a full day of instruction, camaraderie and good food. This year the weather cooperated and we were happy to welcome dancers from many parts of Ontario. After a period of socializing where old friends enthusiastically greeted one another, got caught up on all the news and checked out the many interesting items at Janet Schreiber's sale table, the day began.

We have had many excellent teachers at past workshops and this year was no exception. David Tague and his wife Rosy made the move from Sunny California to Port Huron last year and he was delighted to be our guest teacher. David has been involved with Scottish Country dancing for over 40 years and is currently a Scottish Official Board Highland Dance adjudicator.



The morning began with warm up exercises and then continued as one class with dancers with varied dance experience. David, with Catherine Shaw keeping watch over the CD player in the morning, kept us all busy with correct footwork practice and dance formations in a relaxed, inclusive manner. Everyone was involved and felt part of the experience. Helen Bell took over the CD watch in the afternoon.

Soon it was time to relax and enjoy a delicious hot buffet lunch. As usual, Andrej lived up to his reputation as a talented and creative chef. Instruction continued in the afternoon, with those who wished being offered instruction in a smaller group upstairs. At 2:30 pm the focus shifted to the Tea Dance where a number of familiar dances were enjoyed by all.

The day ended with more food, a variety of delicious sandwiches, decadent pastries and lots of tea and coffee. Perfect for all, but especially for whose dinner would be delayed by travel. By 6:00 pm most people were on their way, leaving behind many positive comments about the day and intentions to be at future London RSCDS events.

Celtic Woman



Multi-platinum Irish music sensation Celtic Woman presents an enchanting new show and world concert tour. An all-female Irish musical ensemble made up of five Irish female musicians who had not previously performed together: four vocalists and a fiddler. Coming to Budweiser Gardens on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:30 pm. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

Trivia... March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war. It was the first month in the Roman calendar and the beginning of the season for warfare.

Basic Class Dance Programme

Friday, April 6, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Elmwood Presbyterian Church, London

1. Southwest Reel	R-40 R the R	Shaw Leaflet	Ye dancin? Ye askin?
2. Flowers of Edinburgh	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 1	
3. The Marquis of Lorne	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	MMM 2	
4. Scotland's Gardens	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Roy Goldring	
5. Lover's Quarrel	J-8x32 2C(4C set)	Keppie Gaelic College SCD Book 2	
6. St. John River	S-4x32 4C set	P Edwards Centennial Collection	
7. Domino Five	R-5x32 5 person	Derek Haynes Carnforth Collection 4	
8. Waverley (Fergus McIver)	J-8x48 3C(4C set)	Button & Whitaker RSCDS Book 15	
9. The Swans of Atlanta	(M-(32S+32R)) sq set	Shaw Leaflet	
10. Catch the Wind	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Romaine Butterfield RSCDS Book 45	
11. Magic Moments	J-3x32 6C set	Clindinning Brock Sum Celebration	
12. The Caterpillar	R-4x32 4C set	D Carr Let's All Dance, Too	
13. Kendall's Hornpipe	J-8x32 2C(4C set)	Book of Graded SCDs	
14. Shiftin' Bobbins	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Roy Clowes Ormskirk 6	

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

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." - Margaret Atwood

Something of Interest

Patrick Capper

I recently received Book 2 published in 1930 (the society was founded in 1923) from my sister which listed 30 branches. All but the one in London were found in Scotland. Book 12, published in 1938, listed 27 branches and 18 affiliated groups. This included a branch in Johannesburg and groups in Calcutta, Lisbon, Shanghai, Dunedin New Zealand and Sydney Australia.



This made me wonder what the current situation is, and I found out that according to the RSCDS, there are 158 branches and 43 groups. Excluding Great Britain and North America, there are branches and or groups (G) in Australia, Austria, France, Germany (G), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Monaco (G), Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway (G), Portugal (G), Russia, South Africa, Spain (G), Sweden and Switzerland (G) as well as an International Branch. This means there is no longer any official group in India or China as far as I can determine, but this leaves a lot of countries to visit that have Scottish Country dance groups.

Dancing Around the World

SCD Weekend in Grenoble France - June 15-17, 2018

Le Chardon du Dauphiné dance group invites you to a weekend of Scottish country dance in beautiful Grenoble in the Rhône-Alps region of France. Guest teachers are Raphaëlle ORGERET and Paul PLUMMER, accompanied by Matthias RANK and Silke GROSHOLZ. There will be a Friday Welcome Dance, Saturday Intermediate and Advanced classes, an Evening Ball, and a Sunday morning Mixed abilities class. Check out their [website](#) for more details.



Spring Ball Dance Programme

Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
Polish Combatant's Hall, London

1. Miss Hadden's Reel	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 23-5	
2. The Old Man of Storr	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Roy Goldring SCDs for Children	
3. Balquidder Strathspey	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	Rutherford RSCDS Book 24-2	
4. Old Nick's Lumber Room	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 26-6	
5. The Australian Ladies	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Robert M Campbell Glasgow Assembly	
6. Midsummer Common	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	T & L Ibbotson RSCDS Book 49-3	
7. The Kelloholm Jig	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Peter Hyssett RSCDS Leaflet Dances 12	
8. Neil M Grant	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Christine Grant RSCDS Book 49-1	
9. The Dream Catcher	S96 sq set	Eileen Orr RSCDS Book 45-9	
10. Hooper's Jig	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	MMM 2	
11. Scotland's Gardens	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Roy Goldring	
12. Wisp of Thistle	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	Pat Kent RSCDS Book 37-4	
13. Shadow	J-3x32 3C set	Lucy Thompson RSCDS Book 50-9	
14. Reel of the Royal Scots	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Roy Goldring RSCDS Leaflet Dances 27	
15. Macdonald of Keppoch	(M-(S64+R64)) sq set	Chris Ronald RSCDS Book 49-11	
16. The Montgomeries' Rant	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Castle Menzies RSCDS Book 10-1	



Please join us for an evening of great food and dancing to great music provided by Laird Brown and Scotch Mist. This year's Ball is in a new location (Polish Combatant's Hall) and will include a sit down meal. A Ball practice is being held on the 27th of April at Elmwood Presbyterian Church at 7:30 pm.

Tickets for the Ball can be purchased from Alasdair Campbell at Wednesday and Friday night classes or by mail. A copy of the Ball flyer can be found on the [RSCDS London Branch website](#).

The Story Behind a Dance

[THE OLD MAN OF STORR](#) (R8x32) 3C (4C set) Roy Goldring SCDs For Children

The Old Man of Storr is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Spiky pinnacles of rock set against a backdrop of rolling green hills and the coastline of the Isle of Skye. This image is featured in Scotland guidebooks, blog posts, and travel posters. Check it out for yourself by watching this short [video](#) on the top 10 things to see on the Isle of Skye.



Upcoming Out of Town Events

March 24, 2018	Border Cities Workshop
March 24, 2018	West End Workshop & Tea Dance
March 24, 2018	Blair Spring Dance
March 24-25, 2018	Pittsburgh SCDS 37th Annual Highland Ball
April 7, 2018	John Middleton Ball (Hamilton)
April 8, 2018	Memorial Dance for John Slawik (Windsor)
April 14, 2018	Sarnia Spring Dance – contact neukerc@gmail.com
April 14, 2018	RSCDS Ottawa Branch Spring Ball
April 27-28, 2018	Mini-Workshop & Tartan Tea in Picton
May 11-13, 2018	55th Annual Pawling Weekend, Copake NY
May 12, 2018	The West Toronto Ball
May 25-27, 2018	34th Annual Stoney Lake Workshop
June 2, 2018	Ailsa Craig Spring Fling – contact marwil@sympatico.ca
June 9, 2018	The Kitchener-Waterloo Ball
July 15-Aug 12, 2018	St. Andrews Summer School
July 21, 2018	41st Annual Orillia Scottish Festival
July 29-Aug 5, 2018	TAC Summer School (Minnesota USA)

Nominating Committee

Maureen Graham

 WE NEED YOU TO JOIN OUR CREW	<p>The good news from the Nominating Committee is that we now have five of the six vacant positions on the Committee of Management filled for the 2018/2019 dancing year. The filled positions are Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Social Convenor. Many thanks to these willing volunteers. However, we still need a Library and Archives member. A person filling this position will experience a gentle introduction into the workings of the CoM with light duties. Brian Campbell has capably performed these duties for the past number of years and would be happy to mentor a new member. So, please consider being a part of this congenial group. Our meetings are always interesting with an added bonus of great snacks!</p>
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Committee of Management for 2017-2018

Chairperson	Brian Campbell	briancampbell517@sympatico.ca	519-644-2265
Secretary	Margaret Allan	allangray@sympatico.ca	519-679-9366
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Membership Secretary	Dorothy Drew	dorothy.drew.scd@gmail.com	519-472-3610
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Publicity Coordinator	Gayle Frisa	gayle.frisa@execulink.com	519-666-0847
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