

RSCDS
Toronto

www.dancescottish.ca



SET & LINK

Happy Valentine's Day!



From the Chair ...



At our forthcoming annual meeting in April, Toronto Association members will be asked to approve an increase in fees for the Toronto Association. At its annual meeting in Glasgow in November, the RSCDS approved a fee increase for every member worldwide of two UK pounds,

from £26 to £28. Although the Toronto Association has been able on occasion in the past to avoid passing on an increase from Scotland, we are unable to do so this year. In addition, the Association, like the rest of society, does face inflationary pressures. The Board is therefore proposing that fees be raised by an average of 5.5%. It is also likely that prices for specific Toronto Association programs will rise as we cope with budgetary pressures. This is regrettable but unavoidable.

If there is bad news on the financial front, there appears to be better news elsewhere. Enrollment in Association classes is up and our overall membership is at least a little higher this year than last. The gains are modest but welcome nonetheless. I am confident brighter days are ahead.

February brings a renewal of a longstanding Toronto tradition - the Tartan Ball. This grand event returns Saturday, February 17, so ensure you get your tickets early (consult the [website](#) for details). Take advantage of the opportunities to practice the dances that make up the highly accessible Tartan Ball program in your social groups and the special practices scheduled for Broadlands (details on page 2, and on the website). It will be a great opportunity to get out the Prince Charlies and the ball gowns and celebrate.

In most years past, Toronto dancers could look forward to the West Toronto Ball come spring. However, this year the West Toronto dance has given way to the Great Lakes Ball to be held to celebrate the RSCDS Centenary. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, in Kitchener, and will gather dancers from around Ontario -- and even some from the United States. I look forward to attending that ball as well.

... Paul Barber



The 58th Tartan Ball

WHERE: Havergal College, the B. Robson Hall with its beautiful wooden floor.

WHEN: Saturday, February 17, 2024 with the Reception starting at 6:30 p.m.

TICKETS: \$110 for Members, \$135 for Non Members. Attendees must be 19 years and older. Order forms are on the website at www.dancescottish.ca.

See page 3 of this newsletter for the dance programme.

... Laurie McConachie, Program Chair

Practice makes it more fun for everyone!

Brush up on your skills at the following Tartan Ball Practices:

Feb. 4 (Broadlands), Feb. 7 (Glenview), Feb. 11 (Broadlands),

Feb. 14 (Glenview). See details on pages 2 and 4.



Association Classes

All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto (beginners are excused until their 2nd term).

The ten-week sessions are \$100.00, and payable by cash, e-Transfer to rscdsta@gmail.com, or cheques made out to "RSCDS Toronto."

COVID PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See elsewhere on this page.

Level 2 (Intermediate) classes build on the steps and formations learned at the beginner level, as well as introducing more complex formations. Dancers become more confident in their skills and abilities, and enjoy the challenge of more complex dances.

Thursdays: East End United (previously Eastminster United Church), 310 Danforth Ave. [<map>](#) in the Hurndale Room. Enter east side doors, go downstairs and follow the signs. Near Chester subway station.

Winter Semester: Jan. 11 - Mar. 14, 2024. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Teacher: Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Class Co-ordinator: [Anne Bishop](#) 416-466-4631

Extension classes are designed as a bridge between the end of regular classes and the beginning of Dancing in the Park evenings in June. The classes extend the learning experience as dancers review steps and formations previously taught, and are introduced to new ones.

Thursdays: East End United (previously Eastminster United Church), 310 Danforth Ave. [<map>](#) in the gymnasium. Enter east side doors, go downstairs and follow the signs. Near Chester subway station.

Mar. 28 - May 16, 2024. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Eight weeks for \$80.00.

Teachers: David Booz, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Keith Bark

Class Co-ordinator: [Anne Bishop](#) 416-466-4631

Level 3 (Advanced) classes build on the skill base of the dancers. New formations and dances of more complexity in their combination of patterns are introduced to challenge the more experienced dancer.

Thursdays: East End United (previously Eastminster United Church), 310 Danforth Ave. [<map>](#) in the Hurndale Room. Enter east side doors, go downstairs and follow the signs. Near Chester subway station.

Mar. 28 - Apr. 25, 2024. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Five weeks for \$50.00.

Teacher: Moira Korus

Class Co-ordinator: [Anne Bishop](#) 416-466-4631



Deirdre



Keith



David



Moira



You can pre-register for class by filling out this [form](#).

Occasionally there is a medical emergency while dancing. All dancers are reminded to have their emergency contact information on their person at all Scottish Country Dancing events.

Occasional Sunday Classes Update

We have had a good response to our Occasional Sunday Classes and the board would like to continue these classes in the New Year. We have secured the upstairs room at Broadlands going forward.

All classes are scheduled from 4:00 — 6:00 p.m. EXCEPT March 17 which will run from 2:00 — 4:00 p.m. Our proposed line-up for 2024 is listed below. The fee for these classes will be \$10.00 per person, per class. Classes will be held at Broadlands Community Centre at 19 Castlegrove Blvd. near Lawrence Ave. East and the Don Valley Parkway. We hope you will come out to dance, support the teachers, and have fun.

Feb. 4 — Tartan Ball Practice 1, taught by Halyna Sydorenko. For beginner and intermediate dancers.

Feb. 11 — Tartan Ball Practice 2, taught by Halyna Sydorenko. For beginner and intermediate dancers.

Mar. 17 — Dancing Murrough Landon dances, taught by Halyna Sydorenko. For intermediate and advanced dancers.

Apr. 7 — Theme to be determined. Taught by Arlene Koteff.

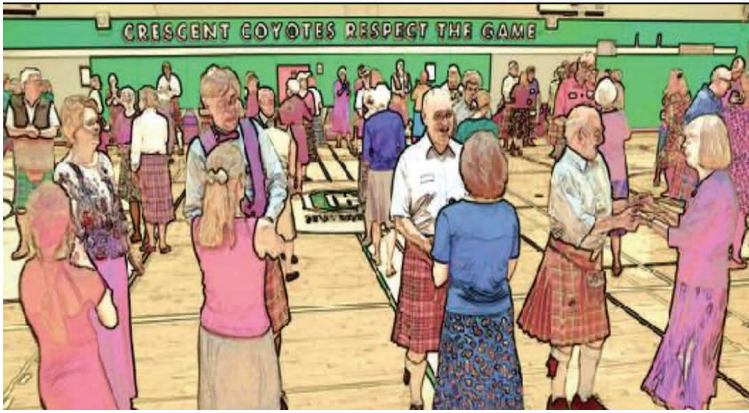
... Moira Korus

Young Adults Class

Classes are every Thursday evening from January 11 to March 18. If you are 14-41, come along and join us any Thursday night at St. Thomas's Anglican Church. (Huron and Bloor) Pay for all 10 sessions for \$90 or drop in any night you are available and pay \$10. Beginners are welcome, as are experienced dancers. Beginners and technique starts at 7:00 p.m. Dances will get gradually more challenging as the night progresses. Experienced dancers are welcome to join in technique at 7:00 p.m. or come at 7:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome to leave at 8:45 p.m. or stay for a challenge for the last 45 minutes. For more information contact Erica De Gannes at erica.degannes@gmail.com

COVID Protocols

1. Vaccinations against COVID are highly recommended for those attending an RSCDS Toronto event.
2. Masks are recommended but not mandatory.
3. No one should attend an RSCDS Toronto event if they have symptoms of COVID or any other contagious disease; have tested positive for COVID in the last 7 days; or have a household member or close contact who tested positive for COVID in the last 7 days.
4. Hand Sanitizer will be available at all RSCDS Toronto events.



Beginners and Family March Monthly Dance

Programme devised by Moira Korus
Saturday, March 9, 2024

Havergal College Junior School, 460 Rosewell Ave. <map>
(Parking and entrance is off Rosewell, 1 block east of Avenue Rd., south of Lawrence.)

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. ~ Dancing: 8:00-10:00 p.m.
Music by Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs
If possible, please print your own crib sheets from [here](#).

COVID PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See page 2.

The Greenbelt Jig	J8x32	Moments in Time
Mary Erskine	R8x32	Second Graded Book
Karin's Strathspey	S8x32	Third Graded Book
Barley Bree	J4x40	RSCDS Book 13
The Braes of Tulliemet	S8x32	RSCDS Book 7
Hedwig's Reel	R8x32	Second Graded Book

INTERVAL

The Express	J8x40	RSCDS Book 20
John McAlpin	S8x32	RSCDS Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Pugwash and Tatamagouche	R8x32	The San Andreas Collection
Linton Ploughman	J8x32	RSCDS Book 5
Balmoral Strathspey	S4x32	RSCDS Book 22
The Reel of the Royal Scots	R8x32	The Leaflet Dances with Music

Extra:

EH3 7AF	J8x32	RSCDS Book 40
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Members: \$27 (includes HST); Non Members: \$32 (includes HST);
Young Adult Members (18-34): \$10; Youth (< 18) and Spectators:
\$5

Please note: Monthly Dances are SCENT FREE

It's never too late to renew your Toronto Association membership...

Just complete the membership form found under "Membership" on our website dancescottish.ca and send your payment along via your preferred payment option of e-Transfer, PayPal, or cheque payable to RSCDS Toronto Association.

Extra Special Event



Laurie McConachie, Program Chair



The 58th Tartan Ball

Programme devised by Mairi Collins
Saturday, February 17, 2024

Havergal College, B. Robson Hall. 1451 Avenue Road, just south of Lawrence Ave. West. <map> Free parking.

Reception at 6:30 p.m. ~ Dancers assemble at 7:00 p.m.

Music by Laird Brown, Scotch Mist. Formal attire is requested.

A light buffet will be served.

Ticket sales close on February 9th, 2024. Attendees must be 19 years of age or older.

Crib sheets and video links are available [here](#).

COVID PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See page 2.

The Machine Without Horses	J8x32	RSCDS Book 12
Bridge of Nairn	S8x32	RSCDS Book 13
Jessie's Hornpipe	R8x32	RSCDS Book 8
The Silver Tassie	S8x32	RSCDS Leaflet Dances with Music
A Trip to Crinan	J8x32	Coast to Coast CD
The Australian Ladies	R8x32	Glasgow Assembly

Interval

The Nurseryman	J8x32	RSCDS Book 37
Wisp of Thistle	S8x32	RSCDS Book 37
City of Stirling Reel	R8x32	RSCDS Book 53
The Gentleman	S8x32	Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2 (also RSCDS Book 35)

Bill Clement MBE

J8x32 RSCDS Book 47

Interval

Mrs. Stewart's Jig	J8x32	RSCDS Book 35
Davy Nick Nack	R8x32	Glasgow Assembly
Seann Truibhas Willichan	S6x32	RSCDS Book 27
Hooper's Jig	J8x32	Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2 (also MMM 2)

Mairi's Wedding

R8x40 Thirty Popular Dances Vol. 2

Extra

Corn Rigs	J6x32	RSCDS Book 4
The Isle	J8x32	RSCDS Graded Book
The Lea Rig	J6x32	RSCDS Book 21

Dates to Note

Dancing Achievement Award (DAA) Update

Classes for the Dancing Achievement award will run on six Sundays commencing February 4th and finishing on March 17th (there is no class February 11th). The Assessment will take place on Sunday, March 24th. Classes will be held at Broadlands Community Centre, in the downstairs room. Preparations will take place during these classes for both the intermediate award and the very advanced award. David Booz and Moira Korus will teach the course together. Please reach out to [Moira](#) if you are interested in joining this course .

... Moira Korus



Glenview's Tartan Ball Practices

Wednesdays, 7:30—9:15 p.m.

Feb. 7 — First half of programme

Feb. 14 — Second half of programme

Glenview Presbyterian Church,
1 Glenview Avenue. [<map>](#)

Masks are optional.

Info: v.fisher@sympatico.ca

West End Workshop

When: March 23, 2024

Where: Humberwood Community Centre in north Etobicoke
[<map>](#)

Teachers: David Queen (from England) and Gavin Keachie (from Toronto).

Fees for the full-day workshop, which includes two classes with live music, lunch, and the afternoon tea dance, will be \$85.00 for adults and \$40.00 for youth (35 and under). Laird Brown's three member band will provide the music for the tea dance. Admission for the tea dance only will be \$20.00.

8:45 a.m.	Doors open
9:15 a.m.	Classes begin
12:45 p.m.	Lunch and used clothing sale* opens
2:00 p.m.	Tea Dance
4:00 p.m.	Tea and cake
5:00 p.m.	Farewell

Registration information and dance cribs are available [here](#).

Brochures are available from your teacher.

*Pay by cash, cheque, or e-Transfer. See also page 7.

West End Teachers' Workshop

When: March 24, 2024 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Where: Alderwood Community Centre in south Etobicoke
[<map>](#)

Teacher: David Queen **Music:** Don Bartlett

The workshop is open to teachers, teacher candidates, and CTIs. The cost is \$15.00. Doors open at 1:45 p.m. There is plenty of free parking. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact [Arlene Koteff](#).



<https://rscds.org/blog/rscds-centenary>

Youth Centenary Weekend Welcome Dance & Workshop—May 3 + 4

Young Adult dancers are invited to a special warm-up in Toronto for the Great Lakes Centenary Ball in Kitchener.

Friday, May 3rd at 8:00 p.m. : Welcome Dance with live music by Laird Brown and company, at [Glenview Presbyterian Church](#). Download the programme [here](#).

Saturday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m. : Morning Workshop at [Rosedale Presbyterian Church](#).

More details to follow.



Save the Date

June 1, 2024

Afternoon Tea Dance

Fundraiser for the 2025 West Toronto Ball

Clarke Memorial Hall, Mississauga [<map>](#)

Details to follow.



January 2024 Monthly Dance

Thankfully our dance took place just 24 hours after the GTA had its first significant snowstorm of the season. This made the trip to Havergal Junior

School for the first dance of 2024 much easier on the 47 people who attended. It was also helpful timing for Don Bartlett and the Scottish Heirs for their commute to Havergal to provide the energizing music for the dance. Don was accompanied by Blair MacKenzie on fiddle, and his daughter Lesley on bass. Jackie, Don's other daughter in his band, was given the night off, due to the adverse weather in Cambridge where she lives. And once again Colin Campbell's programme was a great mix of dances, some familiar, like Pelorus Jack and Mairi's Wedding, and some more challenging dances like Inverneill House and Bratach Bana. Amazingly, Liz Clunie won the 50/50 draw for the third time. She generously chose to donate her winnings to DITP, and to the young adults competing in the Newcastle Festival. Another coincidence at the dance was that both Theresa Malek and Kathy Bralten were celebrating birthdays. Thanks to all who attended a great night of dancing. Next month will be our 58th Tartan Ball on February 17th and on March 9th will be our Beginner's Dance.

... Max Fothergill, Monthly Dances Convenor

Notice from the Membership Director

The RSCDS annual membership fees were increased at the Society's AGM in November 2023.

It is necessary for the Toronto Association to **propose** the following increase of approximately 5.5% in membership fees for the 2024/25 dance season:

Single Adult	\$77
Joint	\$141
Spouse of Life Member	\$70
Young Adult	\$48
Keep in Touch	\$26

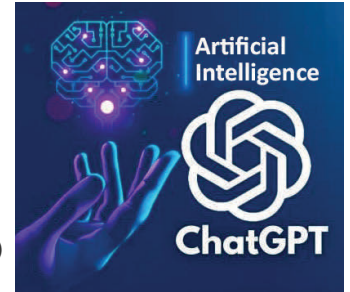
Our 2023/24 membership fees for Scotland will be Single £28. After paying Scotland, we are left with the rest of the money to run all our programs and to subsidize Association events.

On a happier note, we are thrilled to welcome this year's new members to the Toronto Association. The Board will host a New Members Tea on Sunday, April 14th to celebrate. The location and more details will be announced at a later date.

... Carol Ann Boothby

Worried about Artificial Intelligence?

THE BLURB: "ChatGPT is a free-to-use AI system. Use it for engaging conversations, gain insights, automate tasks, and witness the future of AI, all in one place." (Note the wonky grammar.)



Rob Lockhart reports: Artificial Intelligence is all the buzz these days. I took it for a brief test drive and asked ChatGPT to "Design a 32-bar Strathspey for three couples in a 3-couple set." Perhaps it was rude not to say "Please," but can you really insult an algorithm? ChatGPT responded rather quickly with the dance shown here. Clear as mud, eh? Makes me appreciate all those very clever, truly intelligent human devisors who devise beautiful dances, often based on a creative metaphor, or a sense of fun — which qualities I suspect are beyond the ken of AI. My cyber friend failed to offer a title. I suggest ***Fear Not... Yet.***

... Rob Lockhart

[Thus spake ChatGPT]

Creating a 32-bar Strathspey dance for three couples in a 3-couple set requires careful choreography. Here's a basic outline:

The Set: Three couples in a line, with the first couple at the top, second couple in the middle, and third couple at the bottom.

Part A (16 bars):

1. Bars 1-4: First couple, lead down the middle, releasing hands and turning individually to face up.
2. Bars 5-8: First couple, lead back up to the top, releasing hands and turning individually to face down.
3. Bars 9-12: First couple, cast off into second place (couples one and two switch places), while the second and third couples move up.
4. Bars 13-16: First and second couples, dance a right shoulder reel of three across the set (1st couple dances with 2nd couple).

Part B (16 bars):

1. Bars 1-4: First couple, dance a half figure of eight up around the second couple (2nd couple stays in place).
2. Bars 5-8: First couple, dance a half figure of eight down around the third couple (2nd couple stays in place).
3. Bars 9-12: First couple, cross giving right hands, and cast off to second place.
4. Bars 13-16: First and third couples, dance a right shoulder reel of three across the set (1st couple dances with 3rd couple).

Repeat Part A and Part B once more to complete the 32-bar Strathspey. This dance should flow well for three couples in a set, combining traditional Strathspey movements with reels and figures of eight.

No Means No

One of the first words my sister mastered was, “no”. My mother had to very quickly figure out that ‘no’ actually meant ‘yes’, and ‘NO’ meant ‘no’. Thankfully my sister grew out of that stage and life became clearer for the rest of us.

The RSCDS has published a [Guide to Scottish Country Dance Etiquette](#). One section involves respecting boundaries and says that it is okay to say no. It also gives the direction that when someone says no, you should respect the decision and move on. In the context of their guidelines, it is about respecting personal boundaries. When I think about saying ‘no’ to a dance, it is for a variety of other reasons.

All of us head to our lessons, social groups, monthly dances, workshops and balls hoping to have fun and to have a successful session of dancing. We get pleasure in doing dances well and getting through the whole thing without any noticeable glitches, or at least glitches that don’t really affect the rest of the set. In order for that to happen, sometimes we say no.

A dancer may have a variety of reasons for saying no. While we are a very young at heart group, our bodies are not quite so young anymore. Many of us have aches and pains that make dancing challenging at times. For others, balance has become a bit of an issue and dances with multiple turns are not enjoyable. For some, the memory isn’t as good as it used to be, and while the music does indeed tell us what to do, with slower processing speeds our feet can’t always carry out the music’s commands in a timely fashion. Some of us have dances we just don’t like. Many of us attend social groups during the week where we do 6-8 dances; an event like a monthly dance or ball has 12-16 dances, and sometimes the stamina just isn’t there. For less experienced dancers, they may have scanned the program and carefully chosen which dances to do, sitting out those they aren’t comfortable doing, or even for experienced dancers, there are dances with figures we know will not go well. Whatever the reason, my no should mean no.

I’m sure we’ve all been in situations where the ‘no’ was not respected, with the best intentions in mind. As a bunch we tend to be very kind-hearted people and we don’t like to let others down. More than once I have both witnessed and been a part of a ‘no’ that turned into a ‘yes’ when various persuasive tactics were used: we only need one more couple/dancer to complete the set; it’s not that fast a dance, you’ll be fine; it’s not too complicated, don’t worry, the set will help you get through – I mean what’s the worst that could happen? Consequences can vary. For those with aching body parts, it could be just one dance too many and a need to then take time off to recover; for those with stamina issues, it can mean being unable to do much the next day (or two or three – speaking from experience); for those persuaded to do a dance they weren’t comfortable doing, it can greatly reduce the joy experienced. My first Tournee was done at a monthly dance. I had read the briefs, I had watched the video, but I could not figure out what they were doing. I decided it would be wise to sit the dance out. I was persuaded, by a very experienced dancer, that he would get me through. To be fair to him, he did; however, I got no enjoyment from that dance as I was constantly on edge trying to figure out what I was going to have to do next, worried about messing up the rest of the set. Often we think we are being kind and inclusive when we encourage less experienced dancers, who were prepared to skip the dance, onto the floor. We aren’t. If the dance then goes wrong, no matter how many times people say, “Oh it’s okay, we’ve all forgotten things sometimes,” it can be very discouraging to think you ruined a dance for others, especially if you can sense the frustration in the set. When someone has judged for themselves that they are not ready for a dance, it is not up to you to change their mind. Let them enjoy watching.

How can we better respect these boundaries in a way that allows us to continue to encourage all dancers while also respecting that sometimes a dancer just wants to sit out? Our briefers, after letting it be known that more dancers are needed, should then wait. If no one steps forward to dance, then sets need to be re-arranged rather than coaxing people to the floor. In the past, to make sure that I don’t have to explain myself when I say no, I have removed myself from the room, to hang out in the hall. That doesn’t always work either. We’ve all heard briefers say, “Is there anyone in the hall?” or had a face peek out to look. Accept my first answer. When I say no, I mean no. Please don’t make me have to go hide in the parking lot in the middle of winter!

... Fiona Alberti





How to Have a Great Time at the Tartan Ball

I am very excited that the Tartan Ball is returning on February 17. I have always had a great time at the Ball, and I hope that everyone else will too.

The first thing you need to do to have a great time is to come out. Yes, it is cold and snowy in February, but I think the best cure for cold weather is dancing.

The next thing you need to do is to be prepared. I learned soon after I started dancing that the dancing was much more fun when I was well prepared, and I still do this. You can be well prepared too, by doing the following:

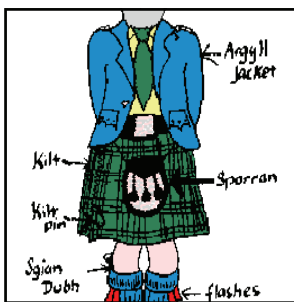
1. Study! Download the crib sheet from dancescottish.ca and review it carefully. Click on the links and watch the videos of the dances. Then walk each and every dance, by yourself in your living room (or wherever). Try to walk every dance from each position to get a handle on how the dance goes for the first, second, and third couples.
2. Attend the ball practices at Broadlands and/or at Glenview (details elsewhere in this issue). Actually dancing the dances in a class situation will really improve your confidence at the ball.

3. Be strategic – you don't have to do every dance. More experienced dancers are happy to help the less experienced dancers, but there are limits – even experienced dancers make mistakes, but you won't be popular if you attempt a dance that you are simply not ready to do, and it is never fun when a set falls apart. Review the program with your teacher/social group leader and get their advice on which dances you are ready to do and which dances you are better to enjoy from the sidelines, this year. As you gain dance experience, you can look forward to enjoying the more challenging dances next time. Finally, don't be persuaded to attempt a dance you don't know, or don't want to do, because they need one more couple. It may not go well and you will be unhappy and the rest of the set will be unhappy, too.

If you employ all of the above tools, not only will you have a great time, the other dancers will too, and everyone will go home happy (and tired)!

See you at the Ball!

... David Booz



Help new dancers dress for success

Do you have kilts and ball gowns that you no longer wear? Wouldn't it be great to see another dancer bring them back to life? We have heard from many dancers that they miss the Gently Used Clothing Sale, so the West End Workshop committee is planning to bring it back as part of our workshop on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Proceeds from the sale will be donated to the R.S.C.D.S. Toronto Association.

The committee would greatly appreciate donations of the following items: Ball gowns, evening or semi-formal skirts, ladies kilted skirts (long or short), tartan sashes and shawls, dancing shoes, formal purses and Celtic/Scottish themed brooches and jewellery. Men's kilts, tartan trews, day jackets, Prince Charlie jackets, kilt hose and flashes, ghillies, kilt buckles and belts, sporrans, tartan neckties, bow ties, sgian dubhs, and kilt pins.

We will start collecting them in the New Year at monthly dances or any dance class – you can always send them on the famous “ghillies express” (pass it on via another dancer). Please bring items on hangers to help us to keep everything in the best shape possible.

We would love to have you join the clothing sale team. You could help collect clothing from your class, help us to price out the items and help unload the cars the morning of the workshop. (It will also give you a preview of sale items you might like to purchase on the workshop day.)

Items can be given to Theresa Malek or Arlene Koteff. You could also call Theresa at 416-535-4447 or email at theresamalek@rogers.com

Upcoming Events: NEAR (Ontario)

Toronto Monthly dances 2023/2024 — Mar. 9, Apr. 13. Note: ALL dances will have doors open at 7:30 p.m. with dancing starting at 8:00 p.m.

Occasional Sundays at [Broadlands](#) 2024 — Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Mar. 17, Apr. 7. All classes from 4:00-6:00 p.m. except Mar. 17 which runs from 2:00-4:00 p.m. See details on page 2.

Tartan Ball Practices: Feb. 4 (Broadlands), Feb. 7 (Glenview), Feb. 11 (Broadlands), Feb. 14 (Glenview). See details on pages 2 and 4.

Feb. 16 — Peterborough Monthly Dance. 7:00 p.m. St. John’s Anglican Church Hall, 99 Brock St., Peterborough. <[map](#)> Music: Blair Mackenzie & Helen Batten. www.pscds.ca

Feb. 17 — The Tartan Ball. Havergal College, 1451 Avenue Rd, just south of Lawrence Ave. W. <[map](#)> More details on pages 1 and 3.

Feb. 17 — Ardbrae Dancers Diamond Jubilee Ball. Glebe Community Centre, Ottawa. For programme and ticket details see the Events page at ardbrae.org.

Mar. 15 — Peterborough Monthly Dance. 7:00 p.m. St. John’s Anglican Church Hall, 99 Brock St., Peterborough. <[map](#)> Music: Blair Mackenzie & Helen Batten. www.pscds.ca

Mar. 23/24 — West End Workshop and Teachers’ Workshop. Details on pages 4 and 7.

Apr. 19 — Peterborough Monthly Dance. 7:00 p.m. St. John’s Anglican Church Hall, 99 Brock St., Peterborough. <[map](#)> Music: Blair Mackenzie & Helen Batten. www.pscds.ca

May 4 — The Great Lakes Group RSCDS Centenary Ball. Bingemans Conference Centre, Kitchener, 425 Bingemans Centre Drive (just minutes from Highway 85/Conestoga Parkway) <[map](#)>

May 24-26 — Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society Annual Stoney Lake Weekend. For more details see www.pscds.ca.

June 16 — Afternoon Dance, Cobourg Scottish Country Dancers. Victoria Hall in Cobourg. <[map](#)> Teacher: Diane Coulombe. Music: Blair Mackenzie & Helen Batten. www.pscds.ca

Upcoming Events: FAR (Out of province)

2024 Feb. 16-18 — Isle of Wight Weekend

2024 Feb. 18-23 — RSCDS Winter School, Pitlochry

2024 Mar. 8-10 — 28th Iberian Gathering of Scottish Country Dance, Évora, Portugal

2024 Apr. 12-14 — Spring Fling 2024, Cambridge, England

2024 Apr. 20 — RSCDS Vancouver Diamond Jubilee Ball, Vancouver, B.C. Details at <https://rscdsvancouver.org>

For up-to-date info on events near and far, and more, visit dancescottish.ca

Social Groups are Back!

Please support all your favourite social groups, and try out new ones. They are the life blood of the Toronto Association. For details about groups in the Toronto area that have restarted, check out the Social Groups page [here](#).

Scheduled Dates of
Next Board Meetings
2023-2024 season

February 4
March 6
April 8
May 6
June 3

Scheduled Date of
Spring AGM Meeting
April 21
7:30 p.m.



RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

Chair: Paul Barber 416-534-0516
 Vice-Chair: Arlene Koteff 416-272-7217
 Secretary: Theresa Malek 416-535-4447
 Treasurer: Wendy Fulton 416-951-5029
 Program: Laurie McConachie 416-567-0010
 Membership: Carol Ann Boothby
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Board Bulletin

Nominations: Board Positions

Here's a chance to shape the destiny of the RSCDS Toronto Association.

Several positions on the Board of Directors are open, but members are reminded that any position can be proposed. Elections to the Board take place at our AGM on Sunday, April 21, 2024. In particular, the following board positions need to be filled:

- Vice Chair
- Program
- Outreach/Marketing

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or wish to suggest someone, contact a member of the Nominations Committee. Download a [Nominations Form](#) from the website (Members' Home Page) or ask Theresa Malek. Submit the form to [Louis Racic](#) or [Theresa Malek](#) by February 20.

All Board positions imply commitment to at least two consecutive one-year terms.

The Vice Chair position should be filled by someone who:

- Has previously served as a member of the Board (this has been waived in the past)
- Has been a former Executive member (this has been waived in the past)
- Has been a convenor
- Has been a committee chair.

The incumbent Vice Chair is expected to fill the position of Chair, with a two-year commitment in each role.

For further information, contact Secretary [Theresa Malek](#), or the Nominations Committee Chair, [Louis Racic](#) via email or 647-780-4365.

Annual General Meeting Draft Agenda

Sunday, April 21, 2024 — 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

1. Welcome
2. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Scrutineers
3. Motion to Accept the Agenda
4. Motion to Accept the Minutes of the 2023 AGM
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Reports from the Board
 - a) Chair
 - b) Treasurer
 - c) Secretary
7. Report of the Nominations Committee
8. Election of the Board of Directors
9. New Business
 - a) Motions
 - b) Any other business
10. Motion for adjournment

AGM Motions Deadline: February 20

February 20 is the deadline for submission of motions from the membership for the 2024 Annual General Meeting. Submissions must have the support of 10 full members as indicated by their signature.

Send motions to:

Theresa Malek at theresamalek@rogers.com

Motions received will be posted 30 days prior to the AGM.

AGM Motion

MOTION. The Board moves that the membership fees for the 2024/25 season be as follows: Single \$77—Joint \$141 — Spouse of Life Member \$ 70 — Young Adult \$48 — Keep in Touch \$26.