



Arlene Koteff  
Toronto, Ontario

Toronto-born-and-bred, Arlene began Scottish Country Dancing through a chance visit to the Orillia Scottish Festival many years ago. Who knew there was Scottish dancing in Toronto as well?!

As her children grew, she immersed herself more deeply into dancing and travelled to various day workshops as well as TAC and St Andrews summer schools. Ultimately, she obtained her teachers' certificate in order to spread the enjoyment that is Scottish country dancing to others. She has been the full-time teacher at the Bloorlea social group, now located at the Alderwood Community Centre, since 2014 and has guest taught at various social groups and events since 2013. The pandemic brought the additional challenge of teaching and dancing on Zoom with a set of ghosts to challenge the brain and entertain the neighbours who happened to walk by the front window. She has also called dances at a number of ceilidh events, taught at the St. Andrew's Ball practices over the last two years and taught at the West End Workshop and the Valentine's Workshop in Alliston.

Through the years, she volunteered on the Tartan Ball, Program, West Toronto Ball and West End Workshop committees. After earning her full certificate, she joined the Teachers' Panel, organizes the West End Teachers' Workshop and led the demo pool from 2018 until COVID shut it down. When the effect of the pandemic on dancing became apparent, she agreed to take on the role of vice chair on the Toronto Board to help with the rebuilding process. By the time the Stoney Lake Weekend arrives, the transition to chair will be complete.

A retired college professor (medical office administration), her newest role is grandma to a beautiful girl. At weekly visits, Olivia loves bopping to reels and jigs, so the next generation of dancers is on the way!

What hasn't been mentioned is that the Stoney Lake Weekend has always been one of Arlene's favourites, one which she considers as the official start of summer. Being invited to teach here is an honour and will provide an opportunity to provide a warm welcome, create and renew connections, and share the joy of dancing.