



Look [here](#) for lots more photos of the grand event!

From the Chair ...



The 60th Tartan Ball is now just a memory, but what a magical evening it was.

It all began with a lavish donation that allowed us to celebrate in the majesty of the Royal York, with its long history of Tartan Balls. That the donor wished to remain anonymous is a tribute to the nature of giving in support of Scottish country dancing, and I applaud this generosity wholeheartedly.

Because of this, we could experience the pageantry of the grand march, where you could give a nod to dancers as they passed by, admire the glittering gowns and magnificence of the men's kilts that painted a glorious picture of elegance. We then enjoyed a fabulous programme that melded old and new dances to honour our past and future. Receiving a message from Mark and Susie before dancing the jig devised for them, and having the devisers of *Canadian Landscape* on the dance floor, added to the splendour and enchantment.

Of course, music is key. Even though we did not have an official guest of honour, unbeknownst to him, it was Don Bartlett who, in essence, filled this role in his first time playing at the Tartan Ball. As I presented him with a Branch Award and cited his lengthy accomplishments as a dancer, a dance deviser, a musician, a composer, mentor and supporter, the audience was rapt. This is someone who does not expect accolades and is humble, someone who epitomizes what it means to be part of the SCD community. When he wrote to me the following day, he noted further connections between music and dancing:

They both involve physical exercise and mental concentration, they are both a lot of fun, they both open doors to lasting friendships, and they both can inspire a commitment of time and energy that is life changing. What wonderfully rich hobbies to share! And, oh, the memories!

So what makes an event like this both unforgettable and enchanting? Ultimately, it comes down to people weaving a thousand little things into a tapestry, a lot of it behind the scenes.

Let's continue to build memories as we support the March monthly dance, the West End Workshop, and the Teachers' Workshop, when Don will be playing for us again.

Happy Dancing!

Arlene Koteff

Tartan Ball Thank You



Thank you to everyone that came out to support the 60th Tartan Ball. I have one apology and two thank yous to make:

My apologies to Tony Szeto for having a 'senior' moment on remembering his surname! My thanks to Donald Holmes for editing and expanding on my speech. And many thanks to Kathleen Kynoch for her original programme and the Teachers Panel for making a few updates to it! From all the dancers on the floor till the last dance, I'd say it was a big hit with everyone. Photos are up on the website now.

Laurie McConachie, Co-Convenor

As the song goes..... "The party's over" and what a party it was! I certainly enjoyed my first Tartan Ball at the Royal York Hotel, and if the fullness of the dance floor was any measure, I think everyone else had a good time as well. There were so many memorable moments for me during the ball, and one that stands out was while dancing *The Glasgow Highlanders*. Dancing down the hall, with everyone in unison, was a moment of such grandeur that I will remember it fondly forever.

It was wonderful to welcome guests from across Canada, from the USA, and also from Scotland and Belgium. Thank you to everyone from the Toronto Association for giving our guests such a warm welcome.

Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to send kind words to Laurie and me; I think Carol Ann Boothby summed it up well: "I'm sending this note with much gratitude for the wondrous experience of the Tartan Ball last night. I'll never forget it. I so appreciate the glorious hall, delicious food, sparkling chandeliers, warm friendships, favourite music (still playing in my head), and, of course, beloved dancing!"

And, the last word is from our generous donor, without whom the event could not have happened "I was super happy with numbers. Thrilled to see so many dancers that lasted [until the end], which speaks volumes for the programme and the band."

Sandra Peden, Co-Convenor



Association Classes

All dancers must be members of RSCDS Toronto (beginners are excused until their 2nd term). For members and first timers, the ten-week sessions are \$125.00. For other non-members, the ten-week session is \$150.00, or \$20.00 per class. Not sure if you want to commit? Come and try your very first class for free. **Fees are payable by cash, e-Transfer to rsdستا@gmail.com, or cheques made out to "RSCDS Toronto."**

Classes Convenor: [Anne Bishop](#)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See elsewhere on this page.

Level 1 Beginner and Level 2 Improver Classes will restart in early September. Check Dancescottish.ca for more information.

Extension Classes (Levels 1 and 2): These classes are designed as a bridge between the end of regular classes and the beginning of Dancing in the Park. The classes extend the learning experience as dancers review steps and formations previously taught and are introduced to new ones.

You can register [here](#).

Tuesdays: St. Barnabas on the Danforth Church, 361 Danforth Ave. [<map>](#) In the Upper Hall. Near Chester subway station.

When: Mar. 31 - May 19, 2026. 7:30-9:30 p.m. (8 weeks)

Teachers: Moira Korus, David Booz, Tristan Gerrie

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

Cost for members: 8 week session \$100 or \$12.50 per class.

Cost for non-members: 8 week session is \$120 or \$15 per class.

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

You can register [here](#).

Mondays: Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave., just off Yonge, north of St. Clair [<map>](#) in the lower hall. Enter the church by the east side door, go downstairs, hall is on the right. Close to transit and Green P parking.

When: Mar. 23 - May 11, 2026. 7:30-9:30 p.m. (7 weeks; no class Apr. 6, Easter Monday)

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

Cost for members: 7 week session \$87.50 or \$12.50 per class.

Cost for non-members: 7 week session is \$105.00 or \$15 per class.



Registration is now open.
Take out or renew your membership [here](#).

Special Classes at Broadlands in 2026

Sunday afternoon classes are back at Broadlands in 2026, although some classes are awaiting confirmation. Please check on the [website](#) closer to the date of interest to you. We will be in the bright airy room upstairs. These classes are typically "themed" classes and aimed at various levels of dancers. The fee will be \$10.00 per person, per class, cash only please. Broadlands Community Centre is located at [19 Castlegrove Blvd.](#) near Lawrence Ave. East and the Don Valley Parkway. Watch this space for more information.

Sunday, Mar. 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m. — Formations with a Difference. Taught by Deirdre MacCuish Bark & Keith Bark. For strong intermediate and advanced dancers.

Sunday, Apr. 19, 2:00-4:00 p.m. — Leo Roytman. Details TBC.

Rosedale Children, Teens and Family Group

Rosedale children, teens and family group have started up again for the New Year. We welcome children from age 4 up to 8 dancing with their parents or grandparents, and from 8 years and up either alone or with parents. Teens can also join our classes with any level of experience. Dancing at Rosedale costs a family \$15 per week for the family class or \$325 from September to May. Intermediate and teen groups also cost \$325 per year. Given that there are 30 classes in the year, it's one of the best deals in the city!

Moira Korus

Protocol for Preventing the Spread of Infectious Diseases

The Toronto Association hopes that the following guidelines will help lower risk to dancers attending RSCDS Toronto events and/or social groups.

1. The Toronto Association highly recommends that its member and non-member dancers continue to keep their COVID vaccinations up to date.
2. Seasonal vaccines for flu and other respiratory infections are also highly recommended.
3. Masks are recommended but not mandatory.
4. No one should attend an RSCDS Toronto event if they have symptoms of illnesses such as COVID, flu, or any other contagious disease; have tested positive for COVID in the last 7 days or have symptoms of respiratory infection, such as sore throat, fever, or unexplained cough, runny nose, or congestion; or have a household member or close contact who has tested positive for COVID in the last 7 days, or has shown symptoms of a contagious respiratory infection.
5. Hand sanitizer will be available at all RSCDS Toronto events.

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. Look for the handy card for emergency contact information at dancing events and slip it into your shoe bag.



April's Monthly Dance is Volunteer Appreciation Dance

Programme devised by Andrew Collins
Saturday, April 11, 2026

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 Scotch & Soda

If possible, please print your own crib sheets from [here](#).

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See page 2.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------|
| * EH3 7AF | J8X32 | RSCDS Book 40 |
| ** Dalkeith's Strathspey | S8X32 | RSCDS Book 9 |
| *** Scott Meikle | R4X32 | RSCDS Book 46 |
| * Joie de Vivre | J8X32 | RSCDS Book 39 |
| *** Gang the Same Gate | S8X32 | RSCDS Book 36 |
| ** Starlight | R8X32 | RSCDS Book 44 |

Interval

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| *** The Aviator | J8X32 | RSCDS Book 52 |
| ** Rannoch Moor | S5X32 | Goldring Graded & Social Dances 3 |
| *** J.B. Milne | R8X32 | RSCDS 30 Popular Dances Vol. 2 |
| * Good Hearted Glasgow | J8X32 | Collins Book |
| ** Wisp of Thistle | S8X32 | RSCDS Book 37 |
| ** The Montgomeries' Rant | R8X32 | RSCDS Book 10 |

Extras

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|--------------|
| * Corn Rigs | R6X32 | RSCDS Book 4 |
|-------------|-------|--------------|

Level of Difficulty:

- * Dances for everyone
- ** An experienced partner would be helpful
- *** For more confident dancers

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



The RSCDS Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

Glenview has live music!

Evenings to Remember at Glenview

On January 7, the Glenview Group started the new year with an evening of dancing to live music provided by Don Bartlett and Kyle Mash followed by Don on his own on February 4th.

The live music brought an extra dimension to the enjoyment of the dancing. It was energizing and reminded us just how integral musicians are to the Scottish country dancing tradition. They were great evenings of dancing, music and camaraderie that will be fondly remembered, and we look forward to repeating it on March 11, April 1, May 6. This live music has been made possible through a generous donation from Dennis Ridley, who enjoyed dancing at Glenview for many years. Our thanks go to Don and Kyle for helping to make the dancing such a success.

On May 13 we will dance to the music of Scotch & Soda at our final dance of the season. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Valerie Fisher

Photo courtesy of Erica de Gannes



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 or by cheque payable to RSCDS Toronto Association.



You are invited!!

THE RSCDS OTTAWA BRANCH INVITES YOU TO COME TO OUR
DIAMOND BALL
 CELEBRATING OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

APRIL 11, 2026 - 5:30PM
 NEPEAN SPORTSPLEX, OTTAWA

*Join us for fine Dining and
 fun Dancing!*

SAVE THE DATE
 RSCDS Hamilton (Ontario)

**SPRING
 BALL**

APRIL 25, 2026
 Scottish Rite, Hamilton

Programme:
<https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/62207/>

For more information,
 contact Diana McKenzie
mrs.mck@hotmail.com

Dates to Note



London Branch 65th Anniversary Ball

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026
Time: Doors open 5:30 p.m.; Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Where: Polish Combatants Hall, [80 Ann St, London, ON](#)
Music: Scotch & Soda

Cost for dancers: \$110.00 EARLY BIRD, \$125.00 after Apr. 17th; **Cost for non-dancers:** \$85.00.

Registration [here](#). More details [here](#).

UpTown Waterloo Scottish Country Dance



International Dance Day Saturday 25th April 2026



Gary Coull - RSCDS Chair
 Dance Teacher (UK)



Elizabeth Anderson Howe
 Fiddle - Music Teacher (USA)



Victor Lanvin
 Piano (France)

Dance Workshop
 10am-12:15pm
 1:15pm-3:30pm

Music Workshop
 10am-12:15pm
 1:15pm-3:30pm

Evening Dance
 Time TBA

Registration Opens February 1!

Full Day: \$80
Discount: 25-35 yo: -20% | Under 25 yo: -40%
Or à-la-carte:

- 1 Workshop \$25
- 2 workshops: \$45
- Evening Dance Only: \$45

Beginner-Friendly*
More info: scd.waterloo@gmail.com
<https://linktr.ee/scd.waterloo>

*Not intended for complete beginners.
 Participants should have attended a few Scottish Country Dance classes previously.



Save The Date

TAC Summer Events
 at Medicine Hat College
 Medicine Hat, Alberta

Summer School for all dancers
 Fundamentals to Challenge levels
 July 26 – August 2, 2026

Teacher Candidate Course
 July 19 – August 2, 2026

Teachers' Conference Weekend
 July 24 – 26, 2026

Registration Opens Late Feb 2026

Teaching staff:
 Angela Young – Scotland
 David Queen – England
 Fiona Miller – Canada
 Arthur McNair – US

Music Director
 Gillian Stevenson – Scotland



For more info: <https://tac-rscds.org/>

Ed.'s Note: Not sure if TAC summer school is for you? See [here](#) for more information.

And the Branch Award Goes to..... Don Bartlett

At the Tartan Ball on February 7, the Chair of the Toronto Association, Arlene Koteff, had the following to say about the recipient of the Branch Award. Photo courtesy of David Booz.

We are nearing the end of the dancing this evening. I know you have been enjoying the programme and the music that has lifted, guided, and inspired us throughout the evening. If I am not mistaken, this is Don's first time playing at the Tartan Ball. It only took 60 years! Don, would you please join me at the podium?

As a child, Don took piano lessons, but as often happens, other interests lured him in other directions. Then something fortuitous happened: Don was introduced to Scottish Country Dancing at Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church when he was 13 and the passion was ignited. He kept dancing and was a founding member of the adult group at the same church.

But most of us know him as a consummate musician. So how did this happen? SCD rekindled his interest in learning piano, since dancing and music are inextricably linked. Fortuitously, he was taken under the wing of one of Bobby Brown's sisters, and he progressed speedily. More luck: accordionist Alex Jappy heard Don play at church and introduced him to fiddler Angus MacKinnon. A few years later, Angus recruited him for his band *The Scots-Canadians* while Don was still in high school. They were in demand for events in Toronto, including Dancing in the Park.



In 1972, he formed his own band, *Don Bartlett and the Scotians*. They had the distinction of playing for the first Teachers' Association of Canada (TAC) Summer School Ball in Kingston in 1973, and played at TAC across Canada on five other occasions. They played 60-70 events a year across Canada and the U.S., until the band was retired. Don's present band, *The Scottish Heirs*, includes daughters Jacquie (fiddle) and Lesley (electric bass), and close family friend Blair Mackenzie (fiddle).

His two albums, *In Triumph* in 1978, and *Play Favourites* in 1979, contain many gold standards that remain popular, as do two jigs, a reel, and a strathspey in *Memory Lane* (1991), which was a tribute album to Canada's SCD musicians. Of course, we've just enjoyed his arrangement for *Davy Nick Nack* this evening.

In December 2020, he recorded, mixed and mastered a CD of solo piano music, *The Well Tuned Piano*, which features both old and new RSCDS dances. It includes two dances he devised, *A Bonnie Lassie* (*The Centennial Collection*, 1967) and *Smiling Lila* (*Dancing Gems*, 2024).

Not only is he a consummate musician, he is a prolific composer of tunes, with over 30 to his credit. You can hear 19 of them on *The Well Tuned Piano*, including three delightfully sprightly tunes he composed for his engaging reel *Smiling Lila*.

Don's solo playing began early on when he would play for social groups and classes. It continues to this day, when he is in demand for day and weekend workshops plus candidate classes and exams. In 2019, he delighted dancers in Week 4 classes at St. Andrews, and accompanied the Thursday evening SCD demo team. On that note, I was in that class, and fellow dancers, knowing that I was from Toronto, asked me if I ever get to hear him play at Toronto events! They were most envious.

He is also a great supporter of teachers. March 2025 marked 10 years playing for our Teachers' Workshop that is associated with the West End Workshop. At teacher candidate classes in Toronto, he combined his skill and vast knowledge with gentle guidance that was instrumental in easing candidates' nerves. He wrote "Making Effective Use of a Class Musician," an article full of tips for budding teachers.

His support of SCD in Toronto includes dancing, devising dances, composing and arranging music, mentoring, and support of our Toronto Association through membership since 1990.

Acknowledgement is long overdue!



Tartan



Ball



60th





Check out the photo gallery and videos on the website [here](#).



Finlay dancers alumni



Thank You!

For many of the dancers in the Spadina Reels Social Group, the Tartan Ball was their first formal Scottish Country Dancing event. Thanks to the generosity of the Toronto dancing community, the men of the class were able to attend the event in full regalia! Thank you to Liz and Ian Clunie, Margaret Dudley, Blair Gerrie, Arlene Koteff, Moira Korus, and Laurie McConachie for your efforts to help the class show up to the ball in style!

Tristan Gerrie

L to R:

Nelson Mendez, Kyle Marsh, Nick Silver, Daniel Robinson and Tristan Gerrie.

Photo courtesy of Jane Wiczorek.



Burns' Night

On January 19th we celebrated our Burns' Night, as we like to call it. Normally, the Scarborough social group gets eight or nine participants. When word spread about our grand event with special guests, and our 6lb haggis, our numbers swelled to 16 people. Our old friend Bill Goodfellow joined us to perform the "Address to the Haggis." Donald Horner, or Wee Donald as he's affectionately known, joined us to read "The Immortal Memory," an account of the life and times of Robert Burns. We danced, read poetry, toasted Robbie Burns, and we ate. Along with haggis we had the traditional neeps and tatties, shortbread, mince tarts, Eccles cakes, Empire cookies and even a trifle. Thanks to all who joined us for a fun evening.



Max Fothergill



Bill Goodfellow doing the honours as Nigel Keenan and Douglas Pickett supervise.



You're Invited to the 53rd Annual West Toronto Ball!

Saturday, May 9, 2026
Registration is open.

Reception and delicious 4-course meal (see menu [here](#)). Full cash bar.

Dances (popular and familiar) will be briefed and walked (see program [here](#)).

Wonderful Live Music: Scotch & Soda and piper Ellen Mole

Location: Royal Canadian Legion, Port Credit, Branch 82 – [35 Front St. North, Mississauga](#) (spacious riverside banquet hall with wood floor). Free Parking ~ close to Port Credit Go Station.

Tickets:

Early Bird Special (until April 11) : \$135 (ages 35 and up); \$130 (Youth ages 19-34)

April 12-28: \$140 for all ages.

April 28 is the last day to register. No refunds after April 28.

[Click Here](#) to register on-line or print [this form](#)

West Toronto Ball Registrar: Susanne Cuffe at wtbascd@gmail.com

Grace Notes

The Toronto Association is saddened to inform the community of the loss of the following members of our community since our last issue. We welcome hearing your stories of what these people meant to you, and of their contributions to Scottish country dancing. We extend our condolences to their families.

Kirsty Duncan, 1966-2026



Kirsty made a positive impression on everyone who met her, whether as a dancer, a professor and medical geographer, a Member of Parliament, or a cabinet minister. It was impossible not to like her. A 'Georgie girl,' who embraced all things Scottish, including becoming fluent in Gaelic, Kirsty was the guest of honour at the 53rd Tartan Ball in 2016. You can listen to and view her remarks at that event [here](#) where her personality shines through. A full obituary can be found [here](#).

Joan Reeves, 1934-2026



Joan was a member of the Toronto Association, and regular participant and dancer at Toronto Association events, bringing along many new dancers from her home base in Peterborough. Joan was passionate about SCD and made friends wherever she went. Along with her husband, John, she was a founder of the Stoney Lake Weekend, and a long-time supporter of TAC. An obituary of her fascinating life and a lovely photo-gallery can be found [here](#).



Please contact [Douglas Pickett](#), Outreach and Marketing director, if you are interested in obtaining advertising materials for SCD: flyers, posters, and business cards with QR codes.

Upcoming Events: NEAR (Ontario)

Toronto Monthly dances 2026 — Mar. 14, Apr. 11. Note: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with dancing starting at 8:00 p.m.

Special Classes at Broadlands 2026 — Mar. 8, Apr. 19. 2:00-4:00 p.m. See details on page 2.

Mar. 7 — Stratford Tea Dance. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave., Stratford. <map> Programme [here](#). Contact: [Carol MacDougall](#).

Mar. 14 — Kitchener-Waterloo Branch Spring Tea Dance. 1:30-5:30 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church Hall, 137 Queen St. South, Kitchener. <map> Programme [here](#). Contact: [Kathryn Lecocq](#).

Mar. 20 — Peterborough March Dance. 7:00 p.m. St. John's Anglican Church Hall, 99 Brock St., Peterborough. <map> [www.pscds.ca](#)

Mar. 28 — West End Workshop. Humberwood Community Centre, 850 Humberwood Blvd, Etobicoke <map>. Registration details [here](#). Contact: [Theresa Malek](#).

Mar. 29 — West End Teachers' Workshop. Alderwood Community Centre, South Etobicoke <map>. Details [here](#). Contact: [Arlene Koteff](#).

Apr. 11 — 60th Anniversary Diamond Ball RSCDS Ottawa. Details and programme [here](#). Register [here](#).

Apr. 25 — International Dance Day—UpTown Waterloo Scottish Country Dance and Music Workshop. Details and registration [here](#). Contact [here](#).

Apr. 25 — RSCDS Hamilton Branch Spring Ball. Programme [here](#). Contact: [Diana McKenzie](#). Details [here](#). Register [here](#).

May 9 — 53rd Annual West Toronto Ball, Royal Canadian Legion. Port Credit, ON. Programme [here](#). Details [here](#) and on page 9. Registration form [here](#).

May 22-24 — 39th Annual Stoney Lake Weekend. Near Peterborough, ON. Details [here](#). Registration form [here](#).

May 23 — 70th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Dance. Oakville SCD Group. Oakville, ON. Programme [here](#). Details and registration form [here](#).

Upcoming Events: FAR (Out of province)

Apr. 4 — North American Festival, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Apr. 10-12 — Spring Fling & Fringe in Lyon, France

May 1-3 — Catalina Island Workshop & Ball, Southern California

June 12-14 — CANMAC Scottish Country Dance Retreat, Harrington, Quebec

July 19-Aug. 2 — TAC Summer School, Medicine Hat, Alberta

For up-to-date info on events near and far, and more, visit [dancescottish.ca](#)



Social Groups Need You!

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, check out the Social Groups page [here](#).

Scheduled Dates of Next Board Meetings 2025-2026 season

March 1
April 12
April 26 (AGM)
May 3
June 7



RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

Chair:	Arlene Koteff	amkoteff@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Colin Campbell	ccampb64@uwo.ca
Secretary:	Cheryl O'Donnell	cheryl.odonnell@rogers.com
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