



**Tartan Ball Dances**  
Tartan Ball cribs are posted [here](#).

## From the Chair ...



I was asked recently why I took on treasurer duties in addition to my role as TA chair when Wendy Fulton became ill. Simple answer: Why not? If someone doesn't step up, vital tasks won't get completed, and financial tasks are key to our very existence.

In my November message, I raised the dual issue of honouring our volunteers and the need for new volunteers to step up. We have done well with the first part, but we are now at a crucial time for the second part.

We don't have changes in the board every year, as volunteers often stay on for longer than the two-year suggested limit, but every two years, we do need a vice chair, as we function on a two-year rotation from vice chair to chair to past chair.

Usually, we have only one or two board positions that need filling; this year, we have four! In addition to a vice chair, we need an Education and Training Director (E&T), a Program Director, and a Treasurer. You can read about these positions in the [Yellow Book](#) (our operations manual) on the members' home page of our [website](#).

Every one of us has skills, abilities, and knowledge that would help in one of these positions. And I can tell you from experience that, even if you think a position sounds daunting, you will be amazed at what you can learn and how much help and support is available if you just ask.

Remember that most positions have committees to help share the work. A helpful strategy we are adopting is to create a "how-to list" for specific tasks, such as insurance, that will assist in easing the transition to new responsibilities. An additional strategy is focused on making the role of treasurer more manageable. We are breaking down the responsibilities into subtasks such as bookkeeping that can be delegated to someone other than the treasurer.

It continually amazes me that our organization runs entirely on the generosity of volunteers. Here's a secret: Not only does this allow us to run events, but volunteering benefits us mentally, physically, and spiritually, and knits our community together.

The title of one of Ann Campbell's dances is *I Cannot Dance Alone*. The same goes for the Toronto Association. A warm welcome awaits you.

**Tartan Ball News**

Tickets are now sold out, but, if you would like to attend the ball, please join the [waiting list](#). We are looking forward to a night to remember!

More information regarding the Tartan Ball, including practice sessions, can be found on the "Dance Scottish" website on the [Tartan Ball page](#).

*Sandra Peden, Co-Convenor*



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

*Just complete the [membership form](#) found under "Membership" on our website [dancescottish.ca](http://dancescottish.ca) and send your payment along via your preferred payment option of e-Transfer or by cheque payable to RSCDS Toronto Association.*

*Happy Valentine's*





## 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 [rscdsta@gmail.com](mailto:rscdsta@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 Classes:** Dancers learn the five basic steps of Scottish country dance and a variety of formations. These elements are combined in learning simple dances that incorporate some of the steps and formations taught.

**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: Jan. 5 - Mar. 16, 2026. 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
(no class Feb. 16, Family Day)

Teacher: Tristan Gerrie Email contact: [Cheryl Catt](#)

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

When: Jan. 13 - Mar. 24, 2026. 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
(no class Feb. 17)

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

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

**Tuesdays: St. Barnabas on the Danforth Church**, 361 Danforth Ave. [<map>](#) In the Upper Hall for the first 1/2 hour for step practice, moving to the Reception Room thereafter. Near Chester subway station.

When: Jan. 13 - Mar. 24, 2026. 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
(no class Feb. 17)

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



**Registration is now open.**  
You can register by filling out this [form](#).  
Take out or renew your membership [here](#).

## Special Classes at Broadlands in 2026

Sunday afternoon classes, and Tartan Ball practices, will be back at Broadlands in 2026, although some classes are awaiting confirmation. Please check on the [website](#) closer to the date of interest to you. Times vary. 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, Feb. 1, 2:00-4:30 p.m. — Tartan Ball Practice. Full.**

**Sunday, Feb. 15, 2:00-4:00 p.m. — Blair Gerrie.** The theme is 'love'. For intermediate and advanced dancers.

**Sunday, Mar. 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m. — Deirdre MacCuish Bark & Keith Bark.**

**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.**



## Beginners and Family March Monthly Dance

Programme devised by Andrew Collins  
Saturday, March 14, 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 Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs

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

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT. See page 2.

* Cabbages and Kings	J8X32	Harbour City
* Lennox Love to Blantyre	S8X32	RSCDS Book 6
* Flowers of Edinburgh	R8X32	RSCDS Book 1
** The Shetland Shepherdess	J8X32	RSCDS Graded Book 3
* The Cabrach	S8X32	Goldring Graded & Social
* Shifftin' Bobbins	R8X32	RSCDS 30 Popular Dances Vol. 2

### Interval

* The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J6X32	RSCDS Book 16
** Bedrule	S8X32	RSCDS Book 33
* Hedwig's Reel	R8X32	RSCDS Graded Book 2
* Espie McNabb	J8X32	MMM
** The Paisley Weavers	S3X32	RSCDS Graded Book 3
* The Deil Among the Tailors	R8X32	RSCDS Book 14

### Extras

* The Wild Geese	J8X32	RSCDS Book 24
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### 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](#).

## January Dance



As I drove to Havergal Junior School on the night of January 10th, I knew the rainy weather and the dropping temperatures weren't going to help us get a lot of dancers out to the first monthly dance of the new year. Anticipating slow traffic, Laird Brown and Warren Beesley of Scotch & Soda were already parked outside and waiting to bring in their instruments and sound equipment. Just before 7:30 dancers started trickling into the school. By 8:00 David Booz was the last dancer to arrive, and made our overall attendance 43 people. I could see it was mostly our core Toronto dancers that made it out, but Andrew and Mairi Collins, along with Nigel Keenan and Lourdes Genosa, deserve recognition for having to drive more than an hour through messy weather. Leo Roytman was our first MC for the evening. He was a busy briefer, having to join in the dancing often to complete our sets. In the first half of the dance, Tristan Gerrie's programme had the unique and elegant *Miss Nancy Arnott*, the energetic *Montréal Rendezvous* and *Valerie's Reel*, a dance written to thank our own Valerie Fisher for finding an alternate dance venue on very short notice. In the second half, Gavin Keachie briefed *Asilomar Romantic* with its poussette right round, *Miss Eleanor* with a bourrel, and the much anticipated *Les Jumelles De Saint-Laurent* — another dance with a Toronto connection as it was written by Blair Gerrie. *Les Jumelles* was written about the twins Margaret and Patricia Fairhurst. After learning to dance in Montreal, they moved to Toronto in 1980 where they met their husbands. Despite our low numbers, Sandra Peden sold \$128 worth of 50/50 tickets. The winner of the \$64 prize was Alison Booz. Thanks to all who made it out on that cold and rainy night. In less than a month we'll be getting decked out for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tartan Ball.

*Max Fothergill, Monthly Dances Convenor*

## We get letters....

*I'd like to thank my Scottish Dance friends for coming out to the première of my piece 'Echo' with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and KW Symphony. I really appreciate your support and kindness!*

*All the best, Stephanie Martin.*

[www.stephaniemartinmusic.com](http://www.stephaniemartinmusic.com)





## Dates to Note

### Tartan Ball Practice

Wednesday, Feb. 4, [Glenview](#), 7:00-9:15 p.m.



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.



The Ardbrae Dancers of Ottawa invite you to join them at their Annual Ball on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Glebe Community Centre, Ottawa. Music will be provided by the Atlantic Firth Scottish Country Dance Band. Enjoy a Winterlude weekend in Ottawa, ending with a Sunday Brunch before you set off for home. For programme and ticket details see our website: [www.ardbrae.org](http://www.ardbrae.org)

### West End Workshop — Save the Date

- **When:** Saturday, March 28, 2026
- **Where:** Humberwood Community Centre in north Etobicoke [<map>](#)
- **Teachers:** Samuele Graziani from Bologna, Italy, and Erica de Gannes from Toronto.
- **More details on page 5 of this newsletter.**

### West End Teachers' Workshop

- **When:** Sunday, March 29, 2026
- **Where:** Alderwood Community Centre in south Etobicoke [<map>](#)
- **Teacher:** Samuele Graziani
- **More details on page 5 of this newsletter.**

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](mailto:mrs.mck@hotmail.com)

**Save the Date**  
Oakville SCD Group

**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Dinner Dance**

Live music by Scotch and Soda  
at St Joseph's Banquet Hall  
300 River Oaks Blvd E (at Trafalgar)

Saturday May 23 6:00pm  
\$95

More details to follow

### 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 – Aug 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/>

### Save the Date

39th Stoney Lake Weekend — May 22-24, 2026

Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society

Teachers: Father & Son duo: Blair and Tristan Gerrie

Music: Don Bartlett & Blair Mackenzie

More details [here](#).

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

## West End Workshop

**When:** March 28, 2026

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

**Teachers:** Samuele Graziani from Bologna, Italy, and Erica de Gannes from Toronto.

Fees for the full-day workshop, which includes two classes with live music from Don Bartlett and Laird Brown, lunch, and the afternoon tea dance, will be \$85.00 for adults and \$50.00 for young adults (35 and under).

**Pre-registration for the workshop is required.** Fees payable by cheque or e-Transfer. Due to last year's workshop being a sell-out, we advise you to register early. **The cut-off date for receipt of the registration form is March 23, 2026.**

If attending the tea dance only, it is not necessary to pre-register. Admission for the tea dance only will be \$20.00, payable at the door. Scotch & Soda (Laird Brown and Warren Beesley) will provide the music for the tea dance.

8:45 a.m. Doors open  
9:15 a.m. Two classes with a 15 minute break  
12:45 p.m. Lunch\*  
2:00 p.m. Tea Dance  
4:00 p.m. Tea and cake  
5:00 p.m. Farewell

\* Traditional mince and tatties lunch. There is a vegetarian option only if pre-ordered on the registration form. **Note:** No other special diet or allergy restriction can be accommodated.

Registration information and dance cribs are available [here](#). Social group and class teachers will have a limited number of brochures.

## West End Teachers' Workshop

**When:** March 29, 2026, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

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

**Teacher:** Samuele Graziani                      **Music:** Don Bartlett

**Contact:** [Arlene Koteff](#)

The workshop is open to teachers, teacher candidates, and CTIs. Doors open at 1:45 p.m. There is plenty of free parking. Light refreshments will be served. \$15.00 cash at the door.

## Board Bulletins

### AGM Motions

Anyone who wishes to make a motion at the AGM on April 26, 2026 must submit it to the Board Secretary, [Cheryl O'Donnell](#), by February 26.

### Special General Meeting

At the Special General Meeting for members on Nov. 23, 2025, a resolution was proposed to discontinue the compilation engagement with Williams & Partners. Notice of the meeting was published in the November 2025 *Set & Link*, on the members' home page of our [Dance Scottish website](#), and in the October e-notes.

The motion was passed with 27 in favour, 3 against, and 1 abstention.

### Volunteer Awards

Nominations for the Scroll of Honour and the Branch Award are now closed, but if there is someone you would like to nominate for the Volunteer Award, please submit their name and information to the vice-chair Colin Campbell by February 15, 2026.

The **Volunteer Award** is bestowed by the Toronto Association for exceptional service to a social group on the recommendation of the Volunteer Awards Committee. For a nomination for the Volunteer Award, please complete the [nomination form](#) and send it to the secretary as indicated on the form.

The names and citations of prior recipients of these awards can be found on the website at

[www.dancescottish.ca/VIPs.html](http://www.dancescottish.ca/VIPs.html).



Here's another item about dancing and the brain, this time from a researcher at York University in Toronto:  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/13872877251393640>  
[EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2025\\_12\\_08\\_08\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c5c853464a-577135906](mailto:EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_12_08_08_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c5c853464a-577135906)

## 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.

Tartan Ball Practices 2026 — Feb. 1 (Broadlands), Feb. 4 (Glenview).

Special Classes at Broadlands 2026 — Feb. 15, Mar. 8, Apr. 19. 2:00-4:00 p.m. See details on page 2.

Feb. 7 — The 60th Tartan Ball, THE ROYAL YORK HOTEL. Toronto. See details [here](#).

Feb. 7 — Ardbrae Ball, Glebe Community Centre. Ottawa. Details [here](#).

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

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](http://www.pscds.ca)

Mar. 28 — West End Workshop. Humberwood Community Centre, 850 Humberwood Blvd, Etobicoke <map>. Details on page 4.

Mar. 29 — West End Teachers' Workshop. Alderwood Community Centre, South Etobicoke <map>. Details on page 4.

Apr. 25 — RSCDS Hamilton Branch Spring Ball. Programme [here](#). Contact: [Diana McKenzie](#). More details to come.

May 9 — West Toronto Ball, Royal Canadian Legion. Port Credit, ON. Save the date. More details to come.

## Upcoming Events: FAR (Out of province)

Feb. 15-20 — RSCDS Winter School, Pitlochry, Scotland

Feb. 27 - Mar. 1 — Oslo Winter Workshop, Norway

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](http://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

February 1  
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
Treasurer:		
Program:	Max Fothergill	maxfothergill@gmail.com
Membership:	Carol Ann Boothby	membership.rscdsta@gmail.com
Communications:	Judy Williams	junit@pathcom.com
Outreach/Marketing:	Douglas Pickett	marketing.rscdsta@gmail.com
Education/Training:	Moirra Korus	Moirakorus62@gmail.com

### Webmasters for dancescottish.ca:

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Or Leo Roytman at [website.rscdsta@gmail.com](mailto:website.rscdsta@gmail.com).

### Set & Link Newsletter Committee:

Suzanne Dubeau	<a href="mailto:setandlink.rscdsta@gmail.com">setandlink.rscdsta@gmail.com</a>
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