

# Ottawa Branch Bulletin

February 2023



## Message from the Chair Denise Conway



Hello Lovely Dancers!

What a wonderful February social we had! Thanks to Eileen Black and the Wednesday Afternoon Social class for making the evening so enjoyable. See further details on the “Changing Snowflakes to Hearts” social later in this bulletin.

We are approaching our first-year anniversary of resuming dancing after a two-year COVID hiatus. Our cautious approach has proved successful. Our Safety Plan has endeavoured to be in compliance with Ottawa Public Health and Government of Ontario policies as they evolve. Just recently we have made masking optional, yet strongly recommended. We will continue to update our Dancing Safety Plan as the context evolves.

Our Past Chair, Todd Moxley, has formed a small Nominating Committee to identify candidates willing to stand for election. The Nominating Committee is looking to fill the position of Vice Chair. Please give Todd your support. Further details are included in this bulletin.

The excitement builds as our Spring Ball is just under two months away. We’re anticipating a wonderful evening of dancing to live music and socializing with dancers from near and far. Tickets can be obtained from your class Convenor or from the Ball Convenor, Breda Gusen. It will certainly be a night to remember. The Ball practice will take place on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 pm at Parkdale. At that evening, we look forward to seeing all branch members with tickets to the Ball, and all other dancers who have purchased Ball tickets.

We continue to increase our membership numbers. We are now at 104 members, which is getting close to where we were prior to COVID. Keep spreading the word about the fun, fitness and friendship opportunities through Scottish Country Dancing.

We are still looking for a Branch Historian. If you are a history buff or are just curious about how the Branch has evolved since its inception in 1966, we would love for you to take on this role. The Branch’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History (1966-2016) is available on our website, and it will be important to update that history for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2026. We encourage new ideas and approaches to capturing our history. Please let me know if you would like more information on this exciting position or if you’d like to volunteer.

Our incredible webmaster, Charlie Inglis, would very much appreciate some assistance in managing our website. If you have knowledge of HTML, Javascript, MySQL, or any combination thereof, please let me know so that we can get you started helping Charlie as soon as possible.

Happy dancing!  
Denise Conway, Chair

## OTTAWA BRANCH EXECUTIVE 2022 – 2023

Chair	Denise Conway	<a href="mailto:chair@rscdsottawa.ca">chair@rscdsottawa.ca</a>	613-741-7085
Vice-Chair	Phil Worthington	<a href="mailto:vicechair@rscdsottawa.ca">vicechair@rscdsottawa.ca</a>	613-828-1524
Treasurer	Richard Hatherill	<a href="mailto:treasurer@rscdsottawa.ca">treasurer@rscdsottawa.ca</a>	613-726-1331
Secretary	Tobe Odell	<a href="mailto:sec@rscdsottawa.ca">sec@rscdsottawa.ca</a>	613-680-4808
Past-Chair	Todd Moxley	<a href="mailto:pastchair@rscdsottawa.ca">pastchair@rscdsottawa.ca</a>	613-316-1521
Chair of Teachers	Marion Hamilton	<a href="mailto:teacherschair@rscdsottawa.ca">teacherschair@rscdsottawa.ca</a>	613-270-9787
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*We welcome additions to the bulletin! Send us your news, stories, and photos. Please email any submissions for the next RSCDS Ottawa Branch Bulletin to the [Bulletin Editor](#) by **March 27<sup>th</sup>**.*

## Weekly Class Schedule

Class	Day	Teacher	Location	Time
Level 1 & 2	Tuesday	Marion Hamilton	Parkdale	7:00-9:00
Afternoon Social	Wednesday	Eileen Black	Parkdale	12:30-2:30
Level 2 & 3	Thursday*	Charlie Inglis	Parkdale	7:00-9:00
*Note that Parkdale Church is unavailable the evening of <b>Thursday, April 27</b> . There will be no class on that evening.				

## Schedule of Socials and Events 2022-2023

Event	Date	Time	Doors Open	Location	Programme	Convenor
March Social	17 Mar 23	7:30 pm	7:00 pm	Parkdale	Marion Hamilton and the L1/L2 Class	L1/L2
Spring Ball	29 Apr 23	5:30 pm		Glebe Centre	Eileen Black	Breda Gusen
AGM	5 May 23	7:00 pm	6:30 pm (Dancing at 8 pm)	Parkdale		



## Valentine's Day Social

While Mother Nature was busy sprinkling a hefty amount of snow over the cars in the Parkdale Church parking lot, 50+ Scottish Country dancers were busy inside the church hall turning snowflakes into hearts as they danced the evening away to a fine programme of dances devised by the Wednesday Afternoon Social Class's teacher, Eileen Black. The programme included dances for everyone such as *Granville Market*, an easy to execute dance for beginner dancers, to more challenging ones like *MacDonald of Keppoch and Polharrow Burn*, for the more experienced. We even danced to two very topical dances devised by former Branch members: *The Winterlude Reel* by Monica Robertson and *Gibb's Valentine Party* by Phil Campbell, both of which are included in **25 Dances for 25 Years** published in honour of the Ottawa Branch's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The members of the Wednesday Afternoon Social Class lived up to the word "Social" in the name and shone as well-prepared and gracious hosts, with beautiful posters by Heather Bale, a lovely spread of food for the break, and cheerful decorations with lots of sparkle.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make the evening such a success including the MCs (*Eileen Black and Charlie Inglis*), the briefers (*Eileen Black, Mary Bridson, Marion Hamilton, Charlie Inglis, and Emily Porter*), and everyone who stepped in to help in the kitchen and to assist with the take-down and the clean-up at the end of the evening. Truly a job well done!

*Leslie Roster*



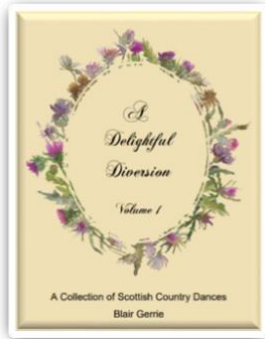
## A Delightful Diversion...

(by Emily Porter)

For those interested in new Scottish Country Dance publications, my father, Blair Gerrie, has recently published a book of more than 40 new and original dances entitled *A Delightful Diversion*, a play on Scottish Country Dancing being known as a “darling diversion” during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Blair is a long-time teacher with the Toronto Branch and currently teaches the two Tayside social groups in Toronto’s east end.

Many of the dances were inspired by unusual formations he has come across while compiling his own personal library of published dances. My first taste of post-pandemic dancing was travelling down to Toronto to test out these dances with a small group of open-minded volunteers. Any rust we had was forced to be shaken off quickly as he took us through formations like the *philabeg* and *non-progressive interlocking double figures of eight*! However, despite the inclusion of some unfamiliar formations, the dances range from simple to complex.

The book contains music for original tunes composed by Marian Anderson for two of the dances. Marian and her band were featured on the January 21, 2023, episode of BBC Radio Scotland’s *Take the Floor* and debuted one of them, *Tristan’s Joy*. The collection also includes a handful of dances by other devisers, including, with permission from her family, a previously



unpublished dance by the late Jean Attwood. Proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to the Tayside groups who will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. If you are interested in more information or in obtaining a copy locally, please reach out to me. The book will also be available shortly through TACBooks (ebook and print copy) and the RSCDS Leeds Branch Shop (ebook only).

## Sporran in need of a good home!

This sporran belonged to a former dancer with the Ottawa Branch. It is available free, if you would like it and can make use of it. Please contact Rosy Carter [rbbc@bell.net](mailto:rbbc@bell.net) if you are interested.



## Calling All Dancers!!!

Your Executive needs you!!! Your Executive Council has one position, Vice Chair, that will need to be filled at our upcoming Annual General Meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please consider joining the Executive. It is a strong team where decisions for the Branch are discussed and made together. Please contact [Todd Moxley](#), Past-Chair, if you are interested in this position.

The position of Branch Historian also needs to be filled. This position offers a great opportunity to give back to the branch. If you need more information or are interested in taking on this role, please contact [Denise Conway](#), Chair.



# MARCH SOCIAL



Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm (doors open at 7 pm)  
Parkdale United Church Hall

**Please join the Level 1/2 class for a lively evening of Scottish Country dancing and fun!**

There will be punch and refreshments at intermission.  
The cost will be \$10 at the door (exact change, notes only – appreciated).

If you're feeling Irish, please do wear something with a bit of **green**!

## Dance Programme

*Programme by Marion Hamilton (with help from the L1/L2 Class)*

The Ferry Louper; Catch the Wind; From the Broomielaw;  
\*The Australian Ladies; The Galloping Carousel;  
12 Coates Crescent; Shifting Bobbins;  
The Machine Without Horses; \*The Irish Rover;  
Monymusk; Domino Five;  
\*Linnea's Strathspey; EH3 7AF;  
The Highland Rambler

*\*For more experienced dancers*

The cribs, diagrams and videos are available on [My Strathspey](#).



***May the luck of the Irish always be with you!***



## Dancing Near and Far

### March 25, 2023 – Toronto West End Workshop and Afternoon Tea Dance.

The workshop includes two morning classes, lunch, tea dance, and light refreshments. The teachers will be Dave Hall and our very own, Marion Hamilton! Cost \$80. / Youth (14-35) \$40. / Tea Dance only is \$20. Links to more information and dance cribs:



[2023-WEW-brochure-&-Registration.pdf](#) [2023-WEW-Tea-Dance-cribs.pdf](#)

**March 31, April 1 & 2 – Lethbridge Scottish Country Dance Club Milestones Workshop and Ball.** Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> workshop and 40+ years of dancing. Event takes place at the Signature Sandman Lethbridge Lodge. Information and the registration form can be found on the website:

<http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html>

**April 1, 2023 – The Hamilton Ball.** Scottish Rite, 4 Queen St. S., Hamilton. Music by Scotch Mist. [Link to Details.](#)

**April 21 and 22, 2023 – Washington Branch Capital Weekend Event.** Registration for this event is now open. Details and online registration can be found on the website:

<https://www.capitalweekend.org/>

**April 21-23, 2023 – RSCDS Winnipeg Workshop and Ball.** Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the branch and the 50<sup>th</sup> workshop and ball. Musicians: Mary Ross, Janette Polson, and Ron Krug. Check the RSCDS Winnipeg [website](#) for more information.

**April 29, 2023 – RSCDS Ottawa Annual Spring Ball.** The RSCDS Ottawa Branch spring ball will take place at The Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Avenue, Ottawa with live music by The Scottish Heirs. See poster included in this bulletin for more information.

**April 22, 2023 – The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual West Toronto Ball.** Come Reel at the 51st Anniversary West Toronto Ball, which will be held at the lovely Crystal Grand Banquet Hall, Mississauga. ([Ball Programme](#) and [Briefs](#)). Musicians: Scotch Mist Trio. Tickets are \$125 and can be purchased [online](#) or by [mail](#). More information can be found at [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca).

### May 6, 2023 – RSCDS London Branch Coronation Ball.

Music by Scotch Mist. Further details regarding price and registration will be available in the coming weeks:

<https://sites.google.com/view/rscdslondonontariocanada>.



#### LONDON BRANCH CORONATION BALL

Saturday, May 6th

Music by Scotch Mist

Reception 5:30, Dinner 6:30, Dancing to follow

Polish Combatants' Hall

80 Ann St, London

Shine up your tiaras and practice your bows and curtseys!!

[rscdslondoncanada.org](http://rscdslondoncanada.org)

[rscdslondonon@gmail.com](mailto:rscdslondonon@gmail.com)

**May 26-28th, 2023 – RSCDS Toronto Spring Fling and Fringe Weekend.** Registration for this event is now open.

<https://dancescottish.ca/events-near.html>.

**June 2-4, 2023 – Stoney Lake Scottish Country Dancing Weekend, 2023.** Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Weekend on beautiful Stoney Lake with Fiona Miller, teacher and Fred Moyes, musician—both RSCDS Scroll of Honour recipients. Dancing will take place at Lakefield Public School, Lakefield, Ontario. Information on the program, accommodation, and how to register can be found on the website: [News | Peterborough Scottish Country Dancers \(pscds.ca\)](https://www.pscds.ca)

**June 18, 2023 – Afternoon of Scottish Country Dancing, Victoria Hall, Cobourg.** See the poster included in this bulletin for more information or email Diane Coulombe [cobourgsod@gmail.com](mailto:cobourgsod@gmail.com). For the cribs, click [here](#). For tickets, please email Joanne Racic [joanne.racic@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.racic@gmail.com).

**July 30 to August 6, 2023 – TAC Summer School.** Enjoy a week of dancing in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Details can be found on the [website](#).



**TAC Summer School**  
July 30 – August 6, 2023



**TAC 50<sup>th</sup>**  
Summer School

**Teachers**

Sharon Barker (Canada)  
Gary Coull (Scotland)  
Alan Twigg (USA)  
Ron Wallace (USA)

**Musicians**

Kathy Fraser Collins (Director)  
Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Judi Nicolson, Gary Thomas, Don Wood

**Celebrate!**



1958-2023

Enjoy a week of dancing in  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Dancers of all levels welcome**

Check website for updates and  
online registration

**tac-rscds.org**

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)

Registration  
opens in  
March

**Summer School 2023 – St. Andrews.** An action-packed four weeks of dancing in the historic town of St. Andrews. More information is available on the [website](#).

## COBOURG DANCE AT HISTORIC VICTORIA HALL



After the Highland games, Scottish Country Dancers are welcome to an afternoon of Scottish Country dancing

Sunday June 18, 2023, 3PM  
Victoria Hall (Concert Hall), 2nd floor  
55 King St W, Cobourg, ON

Musicians: Blair Mackenzie (violin) & Helen Batten (piano)

Tickets \$25  
Tickets must be purchased in advance  
For tickets contact Joanne Racic [joanne.racic@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.racic@gmail.com)  
For further information contact Diane Coulombe [cobourgsod@gmail.com](mailto:cobourgsod@gmail.com)

**Dance Program**

The Highland Fair	J (8x32)	Book of Graded SCDs
Wisp of Thistle	S (8x32)	P. Kent, Book 37
Flowers of Edinburgh	R (8x32)	Book 1
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J (8x32)	Lord Craigmyle, Book 22
The Montgomerie's Rant	R (8x32)	Book 10
Friendships	S (4x32)	J. Miller, A Third Book of Graded SCDs
Craigleith	R (88 bars)	R. Goldring, A Third Book of Graded SCDs
Fair Enough	J (4x32)	L. Halpenny, Book 51
The Minister on the Loch	S (3x32)	R. Goldring, Four Dances 2008
The Royal Deeside Railway	R (8x32)	R. Arneworth, Book 40
New Year Jig	J (8x32)	M. Robson, Book 51
The Whistling Wind	R (8x32)	E. Goossen, Book 36
The Hair on Syle	S (8x32)	M. Watson, A Third Book of Graded SCDs
The Wind that Shakes the Barley	R (8x32)	J. Duthie, 8 SCDs

Masks are optional. Hand sanitizer will be provided.  
Please bring your own water bottles.



Dance the night away in the Nation's Capital!

RSCDS Ottawa presents

## The Spring Ball 2023

April 29th at 5:30 pm  
175 Third Ave, Ottawa

Ball Flyer and Registration form at

<https://rscdsottawa.ca/branch-documents/BallFlyer2023.pdf>

Don't hesitate to share the details with your friends at other Branches and Affiliates. Limited number of tickets on sale now.

See you there!



**100 YEARS**  
CELEBRATING DANCE SCOTTISH



## Teacher's Corner

Hello all!

It's so encouraging to see so many of you enjoying your dance experience as we move through the 2022/2023 dance year.

The February Social was so festive and I'm sure the March 17th dance will be something to look forward to. These activities are the culminating events to share as a whole dance community when all the classes come together, socialize and share their enjoyment of our dance form.



Looking forward to seeing you there. Until then....  
Happy Dancing !

Marion Hamilton  
Chair of Instructors

