

# RSCDS Toronto SET & LINK

www.dancescottish.ca

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 \* Dancing in the Park info inside! \*  
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## From the Chair ...



In my first chair's message to members in June 2024, I spoke of transitions in Scottish country dancing, that we are adept at them whether they are between steps, tempos, or formations, and that they are accomplished with teamwork. This extends to the transition within the board at the AGM.

Here we are again, marking the conclusion of our formal dance year, transitioning into a new season and a re-configured board.

At our April volunteer appreciation dance, we acknowledged the strong contingent of volunteers and the teamwork that marks our success and ensures that we continue to grow and continue to spread the happiness that is SCD.

We also honoured three individuals with awards for their monumental contributions that needed to be recognized and for which they are applauded and thanked.

Volunteer awards were presented to Laurie McConachie for her work over 10 years as Tartan Ball convenor and for her time on the board as program director, and to Anne Bishop for her 15-year contribution as a class rep and class convenor. Wendy Fulton received a branch award for her role on the finance committee followed by her 18-year tenure as our treasurer. At the glorious 60th Tartan Ball held at the Royal York (thank you, anonymous donor!), we also presented Donald Bartlett with a branch award for his 60 years of involvement with Scottish dancing and music.

Every two years, the AGM is a time of transition, with the vice chair stepping up to chair, and the chair moving to past chair, necessitating recruitment of a new vice chair. This year brought additional challenges, with both Moira Korus (education and training director) and Max Fothergill (program director) stepping down. I am grateful to them for all their contributions. If you've attended a monthly dance, enjoyed a special Broadlands class, or last year's Adult Festival, among many other activities, you have them to thank.

Also, I extend huge thanks to all those who have stepped in and up to take on board positions, join a committee, or volunteer for a specific job.

Finally, I am immensely grateful for the support of the board and all members during my two years as chair.

See you soon on the dance floor!

*Arlene Koteff*

## Congratulations to all our 2026 Volunteer and Branch Award Recipients!



Anne Bishop, Volunteer Award



Laurie McConachie, Volunteer Award

Wendy Fulton, Branch Award



See the citations for these three awards in this issue.



Don Bartlett, Branch Award Citation in March 2026 S&L.

## Dancing in the Park — weeks 1 & 2



Programme by the Teachers' Panel

### First four Tuesdays in June - 7 p.m. until dusk

**Place:** Edwards Gardens <map> **Music:** Scotch & Soda

**Rain Location:** Glenview Presbyterian Church <map>

If it rains, a notice will be posted on the website by 4:00 p.m.

**Level of Difficulty:** \* Dances for everyone  
 \*\* Experienced partner would be helpful  
 \*\*\* For more confident dancers

### Week one ~ June 2

* The Jubilee Jig	8 x 32J	RSCDS Leaflet Dances
** The Music Makars	8 x 32R	RSCDS Book 33
* Balquidder Strathspey	8 x 32S	RSCDS Book 24
* The Welcome Reel	5 x 32R	Let's All Dance
* The Greenbelt Jig	8 x 32J	Moments in Time

### Interval

* The Loch Ness Monster	5 x 32R	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book
* Scotland	6 x 32J	RSCDS Book 31
* Seann Triubhas Willichan	6 x 32S	RSCDS Book 27
** Tribute to the Borders	8 x 32J	RSCDS Leaflet Dances
* Flowers of Edinburgh	8 x 32R	RSCDS Book 1

### Extras

* Espie McNabb	8 x 32J	MMM
* Easy Peasy	6 x 32R	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book

### Week two ~ June 9

* A Trip to Crinan	8 x 32J	Coast to Coast
* The Provost Wynd	8 x 32R	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book
** The Silver Tassie	8 x 32S	RSCDS Leaflet Dances
* The Dhoon	4 x 32J	RSCDS SCD for Children
* Kelso Races	8 x 32R	MMM

### Interval

* The Grassmarket Reel	5 x 32R	RSCDS Magazine Dances
* The Duke of Atholl's Reel	6 x 32J	RSCDS Book 16
** Bridge of Nairn	8 x 32S	RSCDS Book 13
** The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8 x 32J	RSCDS Book 22
** Davy Nick Nack	8 x 32H	Dancing Gems 1957-2023

### Extras

* Jig to the Music	3 x 32J	RSCDS 2nd Graded Book
** The Reel of the 51st Division	8 x 32R	RSCDS Book 13

Weeks 3 and 4 will be detailed in the June issue. All information, including video links, will be posted on [dancescottish.ca](http://dancescottish.ca)

**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.**

## Dancing in the Park

Come join us for one of our most popular outreach events every year. We are dancing on the first four Tuesdays in June at Edwards Gardens — that's June 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All are welcome -- dancers, would-be dancers, and spectators alike.

In each half of the programme there is an audience participation dance, and most of the dances are suitable for beginners. It is a special treat to dance outside on the grass accompanied by the wonderful live music provided by Scotch & Soda. There is no official charge but your contribution to the donation box helps to keep the tradition going.

We dance on the lawn behind the barn at Edwards Gardens, located at Leslie St. and Lawrence Ave. East, weather permitting.

IF RAIN THREATENS... Then we will dance at Glenview Presbyterian Church <map> just south of Lawrence Ave., on Yonge St. A notice will be posted on the [website](#) by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the event if we are diverting to Glenview.

As this is our main outreach event, please help spread the word about Dancing in the Park and post a flyer on any bulletin board that you know of.



Please come out for a fun evening. If you arrive early, you'll have a chance to enjoy beautiful Edwards Gardens. I hope to see you all there.

*Dave Drewette, Convenor*

## 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.

## Volunteer Appreciation Dance



It was that time of the dance season when we no longer had to wear hats and mitts, and it was still light outside when we showed up at Havergal Junior School. On April 11, we celebrated our final monthly dance of the season. When I arrived, Laird Brown and Warren Beasley of Scotch & Soda were already setting up their musical equipment in the gymnasium. Just as punctual, Alma Smith and John Clark, the two masters of ceremonies for the evening, were among the first to arrive. Gradually the 48 members, 2 young adults and 3 spectators made their way into the gym, where we sang Oh Canada and got down to dancing. After the beginners' dance in March, the April dance returned to some more challenging dances. The first half had Alma Smith patiently guiding us through *Scott Meikle* and *Gang the Same Gate*. At the interval there were, of course, Branch awards to give out. It seems these were the best kept secrets in the TA. Anne Bishop was speechless and all smiles when she received the first 2026 Volunteer Award. Laurie McConachie received the second, but was at home entertaining family. Her close friend Jane Robinson graciously accepted it on her behalf. Arlene also presented an additional Branch Award for the season, this time to Wendy Fulton, long-time treasurer of the Toronto Association. Right after the interval, Scotch & Soda had us flying around the set dancing *The Aviator*. During a quick break in dancing, Sandra Peden drew the 50/50 winner of another sold out draw. She sold \$200 worth of tickets and Pat Clark won the \$100 prize which she generously donated back to the TA. Keeping up the pace, John Clark had us dance *J.B. Milne*, with another "meanwhile." We ended the monthly dance season with the always energetic *The Montgomeries' Rant*.

Thanks to all who joined us on the floor. Looking forward to seeing you at Dancing in the Park, Tuesdays in June.

Max Fothergill, Monthly Dance Convenor

## Kathleen Kynoch Reminisces on the Tartan Ball



On April 9, Donald Holmes and I had the privilege of visiting Kathleen Kynoch at her retirement residence and talking about the 60<sup>th</sup> Tartan Ball. Kathleen is now 97 years old and in good health. Although she no longer teaches or dances, she is still interested in the organization. I took my laptop and six dance videos to show her. She recognized a few familiar faces and commented on some dancers' footwork during *The Glasgow Highlanders*. She enjoyed watching *Hooper's Jig* and *Bratach Bana*.

Knowing the Toronto contributors to the 60th booklet, Kathleen gracefully accepted a copy and reminded us of her and Gary Coull's Aberdonian connection.

Kathleen was pleased to know her programme from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was still useful and also commented that a ball programme should primarily be fun, focusing on familiar dances so that dancers don't have their heads stuck in a booklet all night. This year's Tartan Ball programme exemplified

what Kathleen envisioned based on her experience: an enjoyable evening with danceable dances (even for newer dancers), and allowing ample time to socialize.

Donald and I left knowing we had brightened her day, just as she had done for us.

Laurie McConachie & Donald Holmes



Oops...speaking of the Tartan Ball, Halyna Sydorenko gently pointed out that the honorific for King Charles is now HM, or His Majesty — not HRH, or His Royal Highness as he was known before ascending to the throne. The editors regret the error in the April S&L.



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



## Dates to Note

### CELEBRATING MAUREEN



### You are invited to a TEA DANCE

Sponsored by the Aurora Social Group  
 Sunday, May 3, 2026  
 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. (doors open 1:30 p.m.)  
 Light Refreshments will be served  
 Aurora Seniors Centre  
 90 John West Way, Aurora, ON  
 On-site Parking available  
 Nearest main intersection:  
 Wellington St. E. and Bayview Ave.



Tickets: \$15.00  
 Pay at the door  
 BUT FIRST...  
 RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY APRIL 10  
 BY SENDING AN E-MAIL TO:  
 scdaurora@gmail.com  
 Space is limited!

Enjoy a demo presentation  
 of a new dance  
 celebrating  
 Maureen

Dance Programme Available [here](#).

### ORILLIA SCOTTISH FESTIVAL



**Where:** Couchiching Park Orillia  
**When:** July 18th, 2026

For further information, please contact  
 Barbara Chapman at [bmchapman10@gmail.com](mailto:bmchapman10@gmail.com)

### Joint London/Windsor Workshop 2026 and Tea Dance



**When:** Saturday, June 6, 2026  
**Where:** Polish Combatants' Hall, 80 Ann St., London, ON N6A 1P9

**Teachers:** Tristan Gerrie; Eleanor Walker

**Cost:** Full-day workshop including Tea Dance and meals \$65/ adult; \$45/youth (35 and under). Dance only \$20; Tea Dance & light supper \$65. Details and registration [here](#).

*Spring has sprung, the grass is ris  
 I wonder where the dancing is?  
 At Glenview Social Group!*

### Glenview Scottish Country Dancers invite you to attend Salute to Spring

*Dance to the live music of Scotch & Soda*

**Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 7:30 p.m.**

Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. Toronto, ON. [<map>](#).

Visit [here](#) for cribs closer to the date.

Tickets: at the door \$20 (Glenview members)  
 \$25 (non-members)



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

### SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

### DANCING ON THE SQUARE

For the first time, RSCDS Toronto has been invited to participate in one of the city's favourite free dance events: Harbourfront Centre's Dancing on the Square.

Our teachers David Booz, Erica de Gannes and Moira Korus will lead participants through a 45-minute beginners' class, then the evening continues with fun and easy dances that can be enjoyed by all, similar to Dancing in the Park. Live music will be provided by Scotch & Soda. Free admission. Watch [dancescottish.ca](http://dancescottish.ca) for details.

Come out and support this great opportunity to introduce Scottish Country Dancing to a wider audience!

© Harbourfront centre

## Volunteer and Branch Awards—2025-2026

### Anne Bishop

Anne Bishop has been class convenor for the Toronto Association for at least 5 years. Before that, she served as class rep for close to 10 years. There are now four classes running in three locations, adding to the complexity of what she has taken on in terms of searching out and booking suitable spaces for classes. Anne negotiates dates, space and contracts from the various venues, and ensures dates are suitable for each of the teachers. She takes responsibility for opening and closing the rented spaces, and making sure payments from the Branch are delivered on time to each location.

Anne always arrives early, in good humour, to greet teachers and dancers alike. She coordinates the advertisement of classes with the communications and marketing teams. She encourages folks to enrol in classes, and finds helper dancers to make classes a good experience for everyone. She cheerfully dances herself as needed. Each week she sends the students a summary of the previous week's dances, and what to expect in the next class. Anne updates dancers on branch events, and other opportunities to get more involved in the dance community. She encourages new dancers to become members of the Toronto Association. She works with the teachers at the end of each term to plan an event that can be enjoyed by all participants, coordinates and compiles all the evaluations for the classes, and offers helpful suggestions for teachers on what works well and what doesn't.

Anne also helps with registration at the monthly dances, especially when it is beginner night, so that newbies feel comfortable and welcome when they - sometimes nervously - attend their first monthly dance.

Anne is always a welcoming face that aspiring Scottish country dancers can look forward to seeing when joining the RSCDS Toronto Association events, and is exceptionally deserving of being recognized with this Volunteer Award.

### Laurie McConachie

Laurie McConachie has been the convenor of 10 Tartan Balls since 2014. She convened the 51st to 55th balls at the Royal York very successfully. When we were unable to return to the Royal York, Laurie searched tirelessly for a new venue that would fit our needs and budget. She secured the Old Mill, where the 56th ball in 2019 and 57th Ball in 2020 were held. No balls were held for three years due to COVID. Increased costs at the Old Mill, and a shrinking of the dance community post COVID, necessitated the search for an alternative location. Laurie secured Havergal College for the 2024 Tartan Ball. Everyone was happy to be back, and the 58th Ball was a great success. While Laurie had hoped to retire as convenor, Sandra Peden agreed to co-chair the 59th Tartan Ball to "learn the ropes". Laurie and Sandra co-chaired the 60th Tartan Ball, which returned to the Royal York Hotel thanks to the generosity of an anonymous Toronto Association member.

All through the years Laurie has been meticulously committed to making sure the balls were a success. She oversaw every aspect of the ball, including arranging both site and catering, volunteers to decorate, liaising with musicians, acquiring teachers to MC, finding Guests of Honour for several balls, assisting with the dance booklet, and contacting out of town dancers. When Laurie joined the board as program director in 2022, she used the same approach when overseeing the monthly dances. After her two years on the board, she made sure the school and musicians were booked right through to April 2025, and continued to assist Max Fothergill, program director.

Laurie is worthy of the Volunteer Award for the many commitments she makes to maintain traditions, adapting to changing needs, and bringing so much enjoyment to dancers.

*Laurie writes:*

*I would like to express my thanks to Christy Barber and Anne Bishop for putting my name forward for the Volunteer Award. It is greatly appreciated. I was sorry to not be at the April dance to accept it in person. My thanks, also, to the committee that approved the award. With thanks, Laurie M.*

### Wendy Fulton

Wendy began highland dancing as a child, and then started Scottish country dancing at a school in Scarborough. As often happens, her interests changed and she gave up dancing for a while. However, she came back to SCD when she happened upon Dancing in the Park one Tuesday evening in June in the 1970s. She has danced ever since with various Toronto groups, including Woodglen, Tayside and Trinity. Along the way, she supported monthly dances, the Tartan Ball, special events and, of course, our annual four weeks of Dancing in the Park in June.

In addition to dancing, Wendy volunteered on the finance committee, and then took on the role of treasurer for the Toronto Association. For the past 18 years, Wendy has managed the bookkeeping, budgeting, accounting, insurance, banking, reporting, and related financial duties for our large membership. Her skill and knowledge of the association's history and procedures have kept us functioning efficiently, and her professional accreditation as an accountant ensured that everything was in order. She did this quietly and efficiently, never expecting thanks or accolades.

Following our Tartan Ball in 2025, Wendy became ill, and the board, the finance committee – indeed the entire Toronto membership – realized how much she had been doing single-handedly for the Toronto Association.

Although she has resigned from the board and her position as treasurer, she remains a huge source of information for the board and continues to provide advice, information, and assistance as an honorary financial advisor. Board members and others who have sought her guidance and input are amazed at the wealth of knowledge she keeps in her head.

Wendy epitomizes the true nature of volunteering, and her long, unwavering support of the Toronto Association warrants the tribute of a Branch Award.

**Volunteers in 2025-2026 — Thank You All!**



**Programme Devisers and Reviewers (Teachers’ Panel)**

Erica de Gannes (Dancing in the Park)  
 Tristan Gerrie (October, November, and January dances)  
 Andrew Collins (December, March, and April dances)  
 Kathleen Kynoch and the Teachers’ Panel (Tartan Ball)  
 Teresa Lockhart (for creating cribs and video links for posting on the website)

**Teachers’ Panel**

Deirdre MacCuish Bark, David Booz (chair), Halyna Sydorenko, Leo Roytman, Colin Campbell, Nigel Keenan, Gavin Keachie, Mairi Collins

**Monthly Dances**

Max Fothergill (program director and convenor)  
 Anne Bishop, Diane Coutts, Jane Robinson, Laurie McConachie (sign-in), Catherine Whitfield (briefers), Sandra Peden (50/50 draw)  
 Leo Roytman and Bill Barber (set up and band equipment)

**MCs**

Tartan Ball – David Booz, Tony Szeto, Fiona Phillips  
 DITP – David Booz, Arlene Koteff, Keith Bark, Deirdre MacCuish Bark  
 Monthly Dances – Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Keith Bark, Erica de Gannes, Moira Korus, Arlene Koteff, Jean Noble, Halyna Sydorenko, David Booz,  
 Leo Roytman, Gavin Keachie, Alma Smith, John Clark

**Tartan Ball**

Laurie McConachie and Sandra Peden (co-convenors)  
 Jane Robinson (ticket convenor) Liz Martin (booklet design) Bill Barber (chief marshal)  
 Christy Barber, Bill Barber, Theresa Malek, Caroline Lensen, Leo Roytman, Lois Adams (decorations)

**Dancing in the Park (DITP)**

Dave Drewette (convenor), Joanne McConnell (information/donation desk), Max Fothergill (admin support), Arlene Koteff (financing), Leo Roytman and Rob Lockhart (flyers and web posting), June Mantle (transporting cooler and water bottles)

**Association Class Convenors, Class Reps, Helpers, Social Group Contacts**

Anne Bishop (convenor) Anne Bishop, Alex Sutton, Cheryl Catt (class reps)  
 Max Fothergill, Bill Barber, Sandra Peden, Valerie Fisher, Catherine Whitfield, Keith Farrell, Suzanne Dubeau, Moira Loudoun, Lorraine Janes, Marjorie Kyle (helpers)

**Social Group Contacts:**

Anne Anderson – Don Mills	Valerie Fisher – Glenview	Lourdes Genosa – Scarborough
Deirdre MacCuish Bark – Erin Mills	Sandra Charlesworth – Clairside	Barbara Grisdale – Tayside evenings
Barbara Kalmuk – Humbercrest	Catherine Whitfield – Trinity	Stella and Andrew Henderson – Aurora
Tristan Gerrie – Spadina Reels	John Clark – Woodglen	Leo Roytman — Beyond Third

**Finance Committee**

Keith Bark, Wendy Fulton (Honorary Advisor), Gary Maidlow, Dorothy Russel, Arlene Koteff (acting treasurer)

**Communications**

**Set & Link:** Suzanne Dubeau, Judy Williams, Sue Kralik, Claire Steep, and all those who have contributed articles and news.  
**DanceScottish website:** Leo Roytman and Rob Lockhart for promptly updating the website, posting helpful information, links, and photos to keep us connected and informed about events near and far.

**Youth Committee/Family Ceilidh**

Erica de Gannes and Tristan Gerrie (Co-Chairs), Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Leo Roytman, Moira Korus, Gavin Keachie, Halyna Sydorenko

**Marketing and Outreach**

Elizabeth McCammon, Christy and Bill Barber (St. Andrew’s Ball practices)

## 38<sup>th</sup> West End Workshop — March 28, 2026

The West End Workshop was founded in 1985 by West End SCD groups in operation at that time, with the first workshop being held March 1986. The teachers that year were three of the local group teachers: Jess Bryden, Wes Clindinning, and Jean Hamilton.

With the exception of one cancellation in its early years, and three cancellations in recent years due to COVID, the workshop has been a consistent feature of the GTA for 38 years.

This year our teachers were Samuele Graziani from Bologna, Italy, and our own Erica de Gannes. We were once again sold out with one hundred dancers, divided into one class of 40 and one of 60, who were challenged and entertained by both teachers. There were two class sessions in the morning so that all the dancers had an opportunity to be taught by each teacher. In the afternoon there was a two hour Tea Dance for all dancers plus a few others.

The musicians for the classes were Don Bartlett, and Scotch & Soda. Scotch & Soda also played for the Tea Dance.

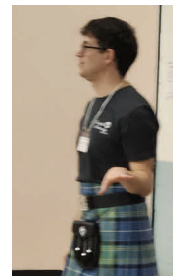
As has been the tradition for many years, aside from the morning tea, coffee, etc, there was a hot lunch (currently mince and tatties) and afternoon tea following the conclusion of the tea dance.

Next year's West End Workshop is already being organized for April 3, 2027, a little later than usual because of Easter. Mark your calendars now and watch for further information later this year.

*Keith R. Bark, WEW Chair*



*Photos courtesy of  
Keith Bark.*

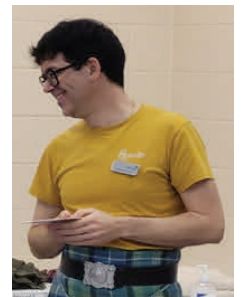


## West End Teachers' Workshop – March 29, 2026

Twenty dancers attended this year's energetic teachers' workshop at the Alderwood Centre in Etobicoke. We appreciate the support from GTA teachers, as well as dancers from Oakville, Ajax, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph and Haliburton.

What an opportunity to stretch our brains and legs and step outside our comfort zones with creative exercises, testing our observation skills and ability to count in 6-bar phrases for 24 bars! Samuele asked us to think on our feet and outside the box, communicate without words, and twist our brains to dance formations such as "corners petronella round a double hello-goodbye setting". Even something as standard as "leading down the middle and up" required innovation on our parts. On a Sunday afternoon, no less!

Samuele chose three dances from Whetherley books to teach, each with interesting takes to challenge us. Before we were allowed to sit down and enjoy a cuppa, refreshments, and socializing, he had the group dance *Circassian Circle* from Book 1 but, of course, added some twists and turns to this as well.



All this was beautifully accompanied by Don Bartlett's musical skills. I'm sure he delighted in our struggles to keep things straight -- except that "straight" is not the direction we were required to dance in most cases!

*Arlene Koteff, Teachers' Workshop*

## **THE MAPLE LEAVES RETURN TRIUMPHANT FROM THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL**

*Halyna Sydorenko, with input from Moira Korus and Alison Sills*

In 2024, a North American team of Canadian and American dancers participated for the first time in the UK's Newcastle Festival. After much success, they returned in 2025. In 2026, the North American team split into local groups for the inaugural North American Scottish Country Dance Festival in Philadelphia. This festival is part of TAC's strategic plan, and the planning and organizing is the responsibility of the TAC Youth Committee. The driving force behind this initiative was Claire Cunin, along with our very own Moira Korus.

The US had teams from San Francisco, the Carolinas, Northern Virginia/Washington D.C., New York, Boston, Delaware Valley, and Minnesota. Our GTA team, the Maple Leaves, was the only one from Canada: Erica de Gannes, Tristan Gerrie, Moira Korus, Leo Roytman and Halyna Sydorenko (all from Toronto), Katerina Brown and Alison Sills (both from Hamilton), and Claire Cunin (from Kitchener).

The daylong competition was both friendly and intense. The Maple Leaves tied for third place in the High Impact Technique class and won the RSCDS St. Catharines Branch Cup in the Open Class Technique (MacNab dance) for the jig *MacDonald of Sleat*: 120 bars of setting and skip change, parallel lines moving in sync, and lots of smiles to make it look easy.



*L to R: Leo, Tristan, Claire, Moira, Katerina, Halyna, Alison, and Erica.*

*Photo courtesy of Claire Cunin and Halyna Sydorenko*

### **Creating the Display Segment** *Halyna Sydorenko*

When the opportunity came up to coordinate our team's display for the North American Festival, I happily volunteered. With just a germ of an idea to start, the final product ended up with five RSCDS dances, three strathspeys and two reels, linked to tell the story of Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers. Why Romeo and Juliet? One day, after I had discovered SCD, I heard Prokofiev's "Dance of the Knights" from his ballet on Classical 96.3 FM. I immediately imagined myself dancing *The Braes of Breadalbane* to the majestic music. That was the 1% inspiration. The remaining 99% came next. And, yes, it was all perspiration! I was thrilled to see our coach, Gavin Keachie, get so excited about the music. He breathed passion into our dancing, and I am delighted and grateful that my teammates embraced my creative vision. We didn't win the display category, but we won the hearts of many fellow dancers.

### **Dancing the Display Segment** *Alison Sills*

How do you take Scottish country dances and put them together to tell a story? How do you dance the uniform tempo of these dances to the emotional and lyrical music of ballet? And how do you express a sword fight with reels and hands across? My first reaction, when we were told about the idea of doing a Romeo and Juliet display, was to say, – Well, you don't. Ballet is ballet, SCD is something else entirely. But then we tried it. What a challenge! And what fun! It wasn't easy, especially dancing to music that doesn't have the strong rhythm we are used to. It also meant I had to dust off those skills I last used in high school drama class many decades ago. But our dances do tell stories, and we sometimes forget this when we think more about the next formation and which is our left hand. Our team loves challenges – otherwise, we wouldn't have entered the festival in the first place. Halyna put a huge amount of work into getting the music and choreography just right. And we had many discussions about the best way to fall in love, to fight, and to die (in only five and a half minutes). It all came together wonderfully, and I was very happy with our festival performance and the audience response.

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Teamwork makes everything look easy. Each team member looked after the many moving parts, from shortlisting dances, booking practice space, arranging for music, ordering t-shirts, organizing food, and videotaping. Our musicians, Atlantic Firth, Don Bartlett, and Laird Brown, created wonderful music to dance to.



Photo courtesy of Claire Cunin and Halyna Sydorenko

And where would we be without our generous sponsors? Many thanks to Marjorie Kyle, the Hamilton Branch, Glenview dancers, and the Glenview Executive who matched donations of individual dancers.

There are many Highland dance festivals in North America. Now there is one for SCD. Mark your calendars for next year's in Vancouver. The date is March 6, 2027.

**Registration is NOW OPEN!**

**Summer School for all dancers!**

at Medicine Hat College  
Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada

**Candidate Course**  
July 19 - Aug 2, 2026

**Teachers Conference Weekend**  
July 24 - July 26, 2026  
with teacher **Angela Young**

**Summer School for all dancers**  
July 26 - August 2, 2026

**This year we are offering a music course in the afternoons.**

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



Music Staff:  
Gillian Stevenson  
music director - UK  
David Oswald - UK  
James Matej MacQueen - US  
Graham Berry - UK

tac-rscds.org

**Board Bulletins**

**New Volunteer Opportunities**

Anne Bishop will be resigning from the position of branch class convener and class rep as of June 2025. We are actively seeking someone who would be interested in succeeding her in this position. Anne is willing to work with the new convener for the first year to ensure a smooth transition for all. Tasks for the convener include booking halls and teachers for branch classes, advertising, registering, and evaluating classes. The convener works with the webmasters, *Set & Link* editors, and outreach/marketing teams as well as the director of education and training. The class convener is supported by class reps in each of the branch classes.

We are also looking for a class rep for the St. Barnabas classes. The class rep attends each week and takes registration, accepts registration fees if paid in cash, makes name tags, and dances as needed in the classes. They also communicate with dancers between classes and are the liaison between the teacher and the class.

Please contact Moira Korus at [moira.korus62@gmail.com](mailto:moira.korus62@gmail.com) if you are at all interested in learning more about these interesting and rewarding volunteer positions!

*Moira Korus*

## Upcoming Events: NEAR (Ontario)

Dancing in the Park — Tuesdays in June, that's June 2, 9, 16, and 23. Details on page 2 and on [Dancescottish.ca](http://Dancescottish.ca).

May 2 — London Branch 65th Anniversary Ball. Polish Combatants' Hall, [80 Ann St, London, ON](http://80 Ann St, London, ON). Details [here](#). Registration form [here](#).

May 3 — Aurora Tea Dance Celebrating Maureen. Aurora Seniors Centre, 90 John West Way, Aurora, ON. [<map>](#) Details on page 4. Contact: [scdaurora@gmail.com](mailto:scdaurora@gmail.com). Programme [here](#).

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

May 13 — Glenview's Salute to Spring. Glenview Presbyterian Church, [1 Glenview Avenue, Toronto](http://1 Glenview Avenue, Toronto). Details [here](#). Contact: [Sandra Peden](#).

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](#).

June 6 — Joint London/Windsor Workshop 2026 and Tea Dance. Polish Combatants' Hall, [80 Ann St, London, ON](http://80 Ann St, London, ON). Details and registration form [here](#).

June 14 — Cobourg Annual Dance. Cobourg Memorial Temple, 412 Victoria St., ON. [<map>](#) Details and programme [here](#). Cribs [here](#).

July 18 — 48th Annual Orillia Scottish Festival. Couchiching Park Orillia, ON. [<map>](#) Details and programme [here](#). Contact: [Barbara Chapman](#).

## Upcoming Events: FAR (Out of province)

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

May 15-17 — Pawling Weekend, New York

May 29-31 — Youth Branch & TAC Weekend Away, New York City, NY

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

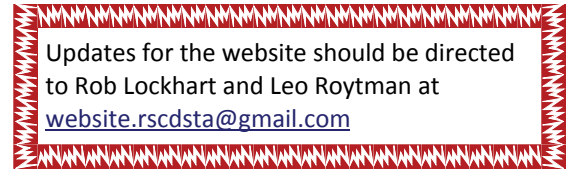
June 20 — Scottish Solstice Ball, Geneva, Switzerland

July 10-18 — Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 2026, Plymouth, Maine

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

July 19-Aug. 16 — Summer School in St. Andrews, Scotland

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](#).

**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.

**Scheduled Dates of Next Board Meetings 2025-2026 season**

May 3  
June 7

Please send submissions to **Set & Link** by the 10th of each month. Send to [setandlink.rscdsta@gmail.com](mailto:setandlink.rscdsta@gmail.com)

### RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

<b>Chair:</b>	Colin Campbell	ccampb64@uwo.ca
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Douglas Pickett	douglas.e.pickett@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Cheryl O'Donnell	cheryl.odonnell@rogers.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dorothy Russel	bookkeeper.rscdsta@gmail.com
<b>Program:</b>	Diane Coutts	couttsdianelea@gmail.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Carol Ann Boothby	membership.rscdsta@gmail.com
<b>Communications:</b>	Judy Williams	junit@pathcom.com
<b>Outreach/Marketing:</b>	Elizabeth McCammon	ea.mccammon@gmail.com
<b>Education/Training:</b>	Vicky Zeltins	vickyzeltins@gmail.com

### Webmasters for dancescottish.ca:

Rob Lockhart 416-759-9845 [robblockhart@rogers.com](mailto:robblockhart@rogers.com)  
Or Leo Roytman at [website.rscdsta@gmail.com](mailto:website.rscdsta@gmail.com).

### Set & Link Newsletter Committee:

Suzanne Dubeau [setandlink.rscdsta@gmail.com](mailto:setandlink.rscdsta@gmail.com)  
Sue Kralik [csuekralik@gmail.com](mailto:csuekralik@gmail.com)  
Judy Williams [junit@pathcom.com](mailto:junit@pathcom.com)



RSCDS Toronto  
c/o Secretary  
145 Lawrence Ave. East  
Toronto ON M4N 1S9



TA-TAC Representative  
Nigel Keenan  
[Nigel.keenan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Nigel.keenan@yahoo.co.uk)



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