



Chairman's Message

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The Sporran: Definitely Scottish

While most cultures feature unique dress and costume, no where in the world but Scotland can say it specialises in the sporran. Take a colourful look at the history and heritage behind this unique clothing accessory.



Application Form for:

➤ Hamilton Weekend, see page 6 plus it is posted on the Hamilton web pages

Reminder, renew your Membership

➤ Forms on Page 8

Special Contribution

Traveling to other Weekends – Picton and Grand Cayman- by Lauren Woods

Pawling New York – Kathleen Noble

Financial Facts – where does your Membership Monies Go....

Page 3, continued on 4 by
Pierre Arnold

Branch GARAGE SALE on September 22, 2007

Attachments

2007 Weekend Registration
Branch Membership – page 9
Class Schedule – page 8

We have now come to the successful conclusion to a rather busy dancing year. In this last week of May we saw the completion of our third teaching session for our Introductory Dancers. John Middleton reported that he had 16 enthusiastic participants who worked well and are looking forward to continuing their dancing in the fall. On May 30, over 24 dancers from our Level II and III classes met to try out some new dances for the TAC 50th Anniversary Book. It was most interesting to experience new formations and derivations of old formations. It was a very challenging and hot evening, but fun for all. Thanks to Claire Collier and Anne Miller for organizing this.

At the beginning of May we had an excellent, well attended **Gala Evening**. It was a delight to watch dancers from within our branch classes, as well as representatives from neighbouring dancing groups, join us in “strutting” our accomplishments. Many thanks to Andy Fallas, Rhonda Moore, John Middleton, and others for organizing this event.

Our **Annual General Meeting** in late April was well attended and I felt that we are now better prepared to meet the challenges for the 2007-2008 dancing season. Many of our traditional events such as our Hamilton Weekend and the Annual Ball are well into the planning and implementation stages. Many thanks to those of you who responded to our survey on the “monthly dances”. We had nearly 45% response which is good. Your comments and suggestions have provided the Committee of Management with the information it needs to better decide on the best course of action to increase our attendance and to save us some money. We were pleased to welcome our new members to the Committee of Management: Stewart Patch (Treasurer), Trang Huynh; Scott Reid, and Cate Reid (members at large). We bid adieu to departing members, with many thanks: John Walton (past Chair), Pierre Arnold (Treasurer), Anna Hounam & Tom Hounam.

I am eagerly looking forward to the upcoming year. The Committee of Management will be meeting early in June to finalize our year's events and to assign tasks.

Our **Registration Night** is set for **Wednesday September 12, 7:30 p.m. at MacNab Church**. Please mark the date on your calendar and we hope to see you there. There is a Membership Registration Form in this edition of the RANT. Please bring it with you when you register.

At this time I would request that you send in your application form for the **Hamilton Weekend**. We have a new location and format and a much lower price. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in a great weekend of dancing at a very reasonable cost.

Have a great relaxing summer. I look forward to meeting you all again in September.

John



Events Near Home (by date)

Ceilidh Dance, Oakville

September 21, 2007,
Bronte Legion on Jones Street
music by Fred Moyes. Tickets
Anne Harrison 905 845-6718

Guelph 50th Anniversary Dance

September 29, 2007, \$22 ea
Evergreen Seniors Centre
683 Woolwich Street, call Doreen
Cherry 519-822-4612 or email Lou
Emslie at lemslie@sympatico.ca

Events Away from Home

T.A.C. Summer School

July 29th to August 5th
Shawnigan Lake, BC
Keith Bark, S.S. Director
Tel: 905 822-1707

Cruise & Dance in the Western Caribbean

January 5 – 12, 2008
From Fort Lauderdale visiting
Ocho Rios, Grand Cayman,
Cozumel and the Princess Cays
Cost \$999 or \$599 + tax, contact
Valerie Harris 727 842-9771 (until
April 10th) or after 905 524-0772

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE

Performing at Hamilton Place
June 17, 2007

If you use the password "BRAVE"
you will save \$10 on your ticket

*This Rant was edited by:
Kathleen Noble*

Deadline for next Rant is:
August 1st 2007

Editor for next Rant is Pat Baker
pjbassociates@compuserve.com

Gala Night May 2, 2007

Another fun and successful Gala Night was held at MacNab with a record attendance. Rhonda Moore was our MC, Andy Fallas helped co-ordinate the function with lots of participation from local and visiting classes.



Group Participation



Level "1" Church of the Ascension



Level "2" Dundas Class

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| ...GARAGE SALE..... | | | ' | " ; , _ .
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3rd Annual Garage and Bake Sale

On Saturday September 22, 2007 at 30 Sun Drive, Dundas (off Hwy. 8 above the escarpment). Contact Carol Dinsmore 905 45-5744 or by email at john.dinsmore@sympatico.ca for further information.

Save your used treasurers for this event. Profits to help our major events.



Dancing Away

Over the past years I have always tried to take my dancing shoes on holiday and find a local group to dance with. I have joined groups in NYC, Lincoln, England, Columbu, Ohio, Texas and now Grand Cayman. I think it would be fun to share these experiences. Some groups are easy to find through the RSCDS route online....but some are by luck!

My March 2007 experience was by luck. We were off to the Grand Cayman to visit my son and I asked him to look around for a SCD group. He heard of a group through a Burns Dinner and made contact for me. I danced in Grand Cayman! Leslie Jennings taught and was energetic and fun. She brought her art of teaching dance to each of us.

Grand Cayman is 21 miles long and 8 miles in its widest diameter. It is well known for off-shore banking, high-end jewellery stores, 7 mile beach, Rum Point, sting rays and now SCD.

Leslie and her family have lived in a number of places and she has always started a group and to my surprise will be in Kingston, Ontario in August 2007 for a sailing school for her son. We danced for an hour and a half and then went and drank beer with a beach view and 80° weather!

If you are ever in Grand Cayman on a Thursday night call:

Lesley Jennings
P.O. Box 1043 G.T.
Georgetown, Grand Cayman]
Cayman Islands

For a good time!

Lauren Woods



Picton 2007 Weekend

- P** Pat Coyle was the guest teacher. We all enjoyed her teaching skills and her “witty” sense of humour.
- I** Interesting sights. Picton’s a beautiful sleepy Ontario town where people ask you where you’re from and really want to know the answer. One must see the Lake on the mountain, the sand dunes, and “Dead People’s Stuff Antiques”.
- C** Company of old friends, making new friends, and hugging the ones we made last year.
- T** Technique – we learned “Quadrills” (one dance = 20 min)
- O** Opportunity to dance in a fire hall, eat at the Clearing House, enjoy Fred Moyes.
- N** Nautical – we danced in the yacht club on the harbour!
- G** Great dancing takes all the set.
- R** Remember to always ask a “new friend” to dance with you.
- E** Envelop your set, and dance with all of them!
- A** Always try and help in some way! Arrive early, arrange chairs, and stay late to clean up!
- T** Teamwork! It’s not golf!
- W** We all love to dance.
- E** Each dances to the best of their ability.
- E** Even the best make mistakes.
- K** Kindness prevails.
- E** Excellence in technique never tops enthusiasm.
- N** Never loose the beauty of the dance for the “negativity of criticism”.
- D** Determination to encourage others to dance! Deliver a smile, a hand, a nod!

Picton creates the atmosphere for a great weekend....Picton delivers!

Hotel Stuff

Do you often bring home those little soaps and small shampoos from hotels? I do! Most often they are not used, but I have heard of a wonderful idea to help those who are less fortunate than us.

I propose that we all collect them (unless you forgot your shampoo!) and get them all together and put them in a zip log bag and deliver them to shelters – can you imagine arriving with your children at a woman’s shelter with nothing but your dignity?

When you pay for your room, these “essentials” are included. So, please collect them and deliver them to me at a dance or weekend, and when I get a bunch I will ask for volunteers!

Now remember - - - we didn’t pay for the Bible, the towels, or the TV so don’t be tempted! Thanks.

Lauren Woods



EXTRACTS Part 2: THE RSCDS, Report and Financial Statements

The headquarters Financial Report for the financial year ending 31 March 2006 was approved October 2006. The writer has examined that Report to give you a rough idea of where all the money is going. For simplicity the rate of exchange is taken as \$2=£1.

The RSCDS annual membership fee (subscription) for the period under review was \$20 for members of Branches, and \$34 for direct members. (Branch members age 25 and under subscribe \$16, and those joining the Branch after 1 January, subscribe \$10).

In our Branch, a member pays \$20 to Scotland out of our \$30 Branch membership fee. The other \$10 pays for the Rant printing and distribution, membership expenses, and general liability insurance.

INCOMING FUNDS

Subscriptions: \$340,222
Investments Income and Other: \$197,212
Revenue from Activities: \$906,802
Total Incoming Funds including unrealised gains: \$1,444,236
Therefore the subscriptions from Branches provided about 24% of total income.

SPENDING

Charitable Activities: \$1,352,670
Governance (Legal & Audit): \$28,766
Total Spending: \$1,381,436

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

These activities include:
Cost of schools, training, and examinations
Cost of Sales (CDs, Music, Books)
Staff Costs
Building and Operation Costs
Website and Database Management
Accountance Fees, Interest, Finance Charges, Depreciation

For the year ending March 2006, the Sales of CDs, music, and books made a profit. For analysis purposes and simplicity, I'm going to allocate most of this profit from Sales to the overall gain on the Income Statement. The value of each is about the same. This means that Sales is self funded and is responsible for realizing the overall gain on the Income Statement. This will make it easy to allocate how the remaining Expenditures are paid for by subscriptions.

	Remainder of Spending (Portion that requires funding)	
1	Schools, Exams, Medals, AGM, Family Weekend	13%
2	Staff Costs	48%
3	Building and Operating Costs, Equipment Depreciation	24%
4	Accountancy, Bank Charges, Governance, Website, Data Management	15%
		100%

For Charity Accounting, Lines 3 & 4 less Governance are apportioned to Activity or Programme on the basis of staff time spent on Educational Activities or Information and Dancing Services. Similarly 70% of Staff costs (line 2) are apportioned to Educational Activities and 30% to Information and Dancing Services. The average monthly number of employees during the year were six.

Continued over.....



Extracts Part 2 continued.....

VALUE FOR SUBSCRIPTION

The allocation of subscription to activity or service at headquarters in Edinburgh is not an easy one to determine accurately unless financial reports disclose the details and results of an appropriate weekly time management system in place, rather than, estimating the allocation by account at the end of the year. Also, the allocation of subscription will change from year to year depending on how well self funding activities fare. In any event, almost 50% of your subscription is spent on salaries. Therefore, we are beholden to the quality and performance of staff to achieve the objectives and aims of the Society.

Do we get our money's worth?

Our Branch currently has over ten certified teachers to draw on within the Branch, and more outside the Branch. There is no doubt that we meet the aim of The RSCDS by maintaining a high standard of tuition. Consider the value of joining an international organization that is dedicated, loves to dance, and upholds high standards consistently throughout the world and preserves its history of dance and music. This has got to be worth the \$20 each that we pay.

We are now receiving a high quality magazine, albeit, twice per annum so far. How much is the magazine worth? Given a limited print run of about 20,000 copies, and if you compare the price of any high quality magazine sponsored with ads and with high circulation; then the "price" of our magazine is probably worth about \$10 per issue. It remains to be seen if the quality of The Scottish Country Dancer will be maintained.

From this analysis, we certainly get our money's worth. It takes more than a subscription to run a successful Branch. We will only remain as long as our membership is loyal, enthusiastic, and cooperative. I know it is, that's why we join.

By Pierre Arnold



THE SPORRAN – Definitely Scottish

CULTURES worldwide are associated with unique clothing design. Scotland is best known for Highland dress and an essential set piece of any male kilt-wearer's outfit is the sporrán. A survival of the medieval purse, the sporrán was the Highlander's pocket they did not have.

The sporrán, or *sporan* in Gaelic, has come a long way from a doeskin bag containing ammunition or daily rations. Nowadays they are made from PVC leather, faux fur and even buttons and carry everything from car keys to condoms. But despite modern enhancements sporrans have retained their basic design.

As early as the 12th century Highland warriors were described as being "bare-legged, with shaggy cloaks and a scrip [small bag] hanging *ex humeris*". But function was a feature over fashion in medieval life. As such, sporrans were worn on a tight belt around the waist. Only when the sporrán became largely ornamental did it descend to its present position - and for obvious reasons.

Nonetheless, the sporrán is important in historical fashion terms. Trends and fashion in mainland Europe, and later in North America, influenced dress in Scotland – both through tourists visiting Scotland and Scots traveling abroad. Clothing styles changed and new fabrics were introduced.

Early sporrans were made from leather or skin alone (deerskin and calfskin proved popular) and were gathered at the top by basic drawstrings or by thongs with small tassels. In some cases cloth pouches (called *trews*) would have been worn. These were quite common in the Western Isles.

From the late 17th century and early 18th century sporrans were generally fitted with clasps. Made of brass or occasionally silver, the metal work of some existing clasps from this period are seen as works of art. The goat-hair variety, *sporrán molach* (hairy sporrán), was introduced by the military in the 18th century, and was likened to the "costume fever" of the age. Such sporrans often had flap-tops and large tassels with a shaving-brush appearance. A variety of furs and hair such as fox and horse were also used. Some sporrans were even made from sealskin and the head of a badger.

While various original sporrans from the 14th century and onwards are on display at Scottish museums, the history and evolution of the sporrán can also be seen in early British military paintings and portraits of Highland soldiers. Some of these sporrans were elaborately decorated with studs or had distinctive clasps and locks.

Continues on Page 7



R.S.C.D.S Hamilton Branch Annual Weekend

Our annual Weekend is being held on Friday and Saturday, October 12th and 13th, 2007.
The Format for the weekend has changed from the past weekends and will be held in
Burlington, Ontario.

at a local high school so that we can get the great wooden dance floors that we need.
Registrants can stay at the Guelph Line Holiday Inn where we have block booked so use
ID#58688 to reserve this block.

Teachers: **Tracey Applebee** guest teacher from Cincinnati
Claire Collier Hamilton Branch Teacher

Friday October 12 at a High School location, in Burlington. Registration at 7:30 p.m. followed by a welcome dance (music by Bobby Brown) with a Ceilidh at the Black Bull Pub on Guelph Line in Burlington to follow the dance.

Saturday October 13 at the same High School location in Burlington. Enjoy four different dance class sessions. That's two sessions with each of these two skilled teachers, **Tracey Applebee and Claire Collier.**

Lunch is included and will be catered in for all those registered in classes. Weekend Dinner and Ball – Music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent

Detach the form below and mail your cheque to the Registrar
Cate Reid, 227 Previn Court, Burlington, On., L7P4J3

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Class Level Preferred (Intermediate or Advanced) _____

Fees: Full weekend package	\$135.00 cdn or \$123.00 usd	_____
Friday Night Dance and Ceilidh	\$ 20.00cdn\$ 18.00usd	_____
Saturday Night Dinner and Ball	\$ 70.00cdn \$ 63.00usd	_____
Saturday Classes with Lunch	\$ 65.00cdn \$ 60.00usd	_____

TOTAL Enclosed _____

Please make cheques payable to R.S.C.D.S. Hamilton Branch Weekend

Email: _____

To book your hotel room at the **Holiday Inn** for Friday and/or Saturday phone 905-639-4443 and state that you are with RSCDS Hamilton Branch.

Rooms are blocked in and reserved for \$125.00 plus taxes (Approximately \$145.00 total per night)

Your R.S.C.D.S. Branch _____

Will you have a Ceilidh act for Friday nights social, please check? Yes NO



The Sporrán – Continued.....

Sporrans have intrigued writers too. It is said that poet and novelist Sir Walter Scott was inspired by an 18th century sporrán he saw on display at a Scottish museum. The sporrán – now featured at the National Museum in Edinburgh - had a clasp of brass and steel with four concealed pistols. The contraption was meant to be discharged in a reckless attempt to open the locked purse, thus injuring the intruder. Scott incorporated this device into his story *Rob Roy* where Roy himself declared, "I advise no man to attempt opening this sporrán till he has my secret." Surely this is something that Edinburgh's own Sean Connery as James Bond could have used.

Marney Carmichael
Scotsman Heritage & Cultures

Fifteen Dancers go to Pawling N.Y.

We had 15 dancing friends (mostly Hamilton dancers but one from Burlington, N.F., & Buffalo) participated in the Pawling New York Weekend which is always held on the Victoria Day weekend to allow us Canadian's to travel to N.Y. The dancers with a * beside their names were first time visitors to Pawling. Do talk to one of them for more information on a dance weekend.

* Anna Lipp	Lauren Woods
* Barb Brush	* Marie Ziccaralli
* Cate Reid	Maggie McEwan
Claire Collier	Pat Coyle, N.F.
Gillian Young	* Pat Elgin
J'ina Middleton	* Pat Faith
Kathleen Noble	Sue Gilbert
Kimberly Noble	



Pawling is one of my favourite weekends, along with Hamilton (no prejudice there) and Kingston. It was really great to see more dancers traveling to events and enjoying the different teachers, different dances and different people. I only say different dances cause each area seem to have their favourite dances that they repeat and when you travel you run into dances you haven't done for ages or haven't see at all. Having helped on the Hamilton Weekend Committee many times it's wonderful to just go and enjoy the weekend with no working commitments and look for tips on how to improve our weekend. You find out that Pawling runs a bazaar which helps you sell old kilts, dresses or other dress accessories. They also serve free Scotch, wine and beer at the two hospitality parties. It's interesting to stay at a Jewish Camp (Kimberly was impressed with the pictures and the video's for rent) an we all manage to survive a weekend without bacon.

The weekend was cold this year forcing some dancers to wear their jackets at class until they warmed up. The band (Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent) had to have extra heaters beside them to keep warm – since they don't jump around much while playing. Most of us are not used to going to a ball where you need a wrap on your shoulders, but the old Scottish saying "Dina' cast a clout till May is out' " is good advice for that weekend. The N.Y. branch are always so welcoming to their Canadian friends (hence the 3 anthems) and they like to reciprocate by coming to our weekend in October.

We are so lucky to have so many SCD opportunities in the area and/or to travel to. A few of us are going to St. Andrew's in Scotland this year for a week's workshop. The T.A.C. Summer School is also a week of dancing and this year it is out west at Shawnigan Lake in BC, back in our area next July/August.

Some of us performed a fashion show at the ceilidh (thank you Cate for devising the act) on the Saturday night but the pictures were censored by the Rant. The group of us that went this year enjoyed the shopping, the get-together practice prior to going to N.Y. and overall the socializing with old and new dancing friends.

Kathleen Noble



R.S.C.D.S HAMILTON BRANCH EVENTS FOR 2007 – 2008

<u>Registration Night</u>	Wednesday September 12, 2007 MacNab Church - Social Dance to follow	7:30 p.m.
<u>Classes Begin for Term I</u>		
Introductory	Tuesday September 18, 2007 MacNab Church (John Middleton)	7:30 p.m.
Level I	Wednesday September 19, 2007 Church of the Ascension (J'Ina Middleton)	7:30 p.m.
Level II (a)	Wednesday September 19, 2007 MacNab Church (Rhonda Moore)	7:30 p.m.
Level II (b)	Wednesday September 19, 2007 Knox Church, Dundas	8:00 p.m.
Level III	Monday September 17, 2007 MacNab Church (Andy Fallas + Guest Teachers)	8:00 p.m.
Children's	Saturday September 22, 2007 Chalmers Church - (Ann Malley)	10:00 a.m.
<u>Hamilton Weekend</u>	Friday October 12-Saturday Oct 13, 2007 Burlington (Scott Reid)	
<u>Monthly Dances</u>	(* tentative dates and location)	
November	Saturday November 3, 2007 MacNab Church ** note location	8:00 p.m.
December	Saturday December 1, 2007 Scottish Rite, Hamilton This will be a dinner dance	6:00 p.m.
January*	Saturday January 5, 2008 YWCA	8:00 p.m.
February*	Saturday February 2, 2008 YWCA	8:00 p.m.
March*	Saturday March 1, 2008 YWCA	8:00 p.m.
<u>Hamilton Workshop</u>	Saturday March 8, 2008 Burlington	
<u>Hamilton Ball</u>	Saturday April 5, 2008 Michaelangelo's, Hamilton	
<u>Gala Night</u>	Wednesday May 7, 2008 MacNab Church	7:30 p.m.

Membership Registration Form

RSCDS Hamilton Branch 2007 – 2008

Name: _____
Address: _____

Postal Code: _____
Tel No.: () _____ **(home)** () _____
Email Address: _____

Please check which method you would prefer to receive your RANT (Newsletter):

- Via email.
 Picked up at the next monthly dance or mailed to the above address
 Picked up from my weekly class location

Membership Fees:

Annual RSCDS Branch Membership (includes the RANT)	\$30.00	\$ _____
Annual RSCDS Junior Membership (under 16) – First child	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
– Second child	\$ 3.00	\$ _____
Teachers' Council Membership: Active <input type="checkbox"/> Inactive <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 3.00	\$ _____

Class Fees:

Introductory Class	10 weeks (September – November)	\$55.00	\$ _____
Class Lessons	1 st Term (September – December)	\$65.00	\$ _____
Class Lessons	2 nd Term (January – April)	\$65.00	\$ _____
Children's Class	Per Term`	\$35.00	\$ _____

Note: "Pay as you go" rate is: \$8.00 per lesson (adult) Levels I,II,III
 10 weeks, @\$6.00 ea. Session (introd. class) \$ _____
 \$6.00 per lesson(1st child)
 \$4.00 per lesson (2nd Child)

Rant only, (our Newsletter) -- no membership privileges \$10.00 \$ _____

Names of children enrolled
 1. _____
 2. _____

Total: \$ _____

Cheques should be made payable to RSCDS Hamilton Branch

I WISH TO ENROL IN THE FOLLOWING CLASS

Children	Chalmers, Saturdays	_____
Introductory	MacNab, Tuesdays	_____
Level 1	Church of the Ascension Wednesdays	_____
Level 2(A)	MacNab, Wednesdays	_____
Level 2(B)	Knox, Dundas, Wednesdays	_____
Level 3	MacNab, Mondays	_____

This completed form, along with payment, can be sent to:
 Ruth Mueller, 52 Longwood Road S., Hamilton, ON L8S 1S5

Office Use

Amount Received \$ _____ Cheque Cash

Date Received _____