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## 2009 Monthly Dances

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>, held at MacNab. Music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent
- February 7<sup>th</sup>, held at MacNab. Music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent
- March 7<sup>th</sup>, held at MacNab. Music by Don Bartlett and the Scottish Heirs

## Hamilton Ball

- Keep April 4, 2009 free for fun at The Scottish Rite



**This is your last issue of THE RANT unless you renew your membership for 2008/ 2009.**

## Chairman's Message

John Dinsmore  
Chairman

The dancing season is now well underway for the 08/09 season. We were all saddened to learn about the death of Anne Chrysler and I'm sure many of you will be attending the memorial service on Monday.

Congratulations to Scott Reid and his extensive and hard-working committee for a most enjoyable weekend. There are some great photos on the website. There's plenty of dancing coming up as you can see from the schedule on page 6, including Bobby's party on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec and the Monthly dance on the following evening. John Middleton also assures me there are still openings in the candidates' class. It is a great way to improve your knowledge about dancing and to improve your own skills. It is also not too early to plan on attending the Hamilton Ball in April. The price has now been set at \$55. for dancers and \$45. for non dancers.

Thanks to Pierre for the report on the World Pipe Band Championships. Canada again leads the world but watch those Irish bands!

## DANCE TIP for the SET

### The Wild Geese. 8x32J 24-3

On bars 1-2 and, again, on bars 9-10, the dancers move forward with 2 pas-de-basque to join hands on bar 2. The line formed is in the shape of a shallow "W". This means that the dancers' hands are extended slightly forward from the shoulder with the elbows slightly bent so that they can look comfortably at the person on either side as they set. With this arm position, it also means that the entry into the turns which follow will be a little smoother.

The Dance Tip for the Set is a new feature of the RANT. Members are to select a popular dance, preferably one that is coming up on a dance programme, where they have experienced some difficulty in flow or phrasing for the set, not the dancing couple alone. The Dance Tip is expected to improve the dance significantly for the set. One of our teachers will be assigned to unravel the problem even although the solution or suggestion has probably been taught and often repeated in class.

Send your dance problem to Teachers' Council Chairman, Ann Harrison, aharrison11ATcogeco.ca, (905) 845-6718 (Oakville).



## Flowers of the Forest

**ANNE CHRYSLER**

In her 63<sup>rd</sup> Year, Anne died peacefully at home on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 after a brave and courageous battle with ALS.

Friends are invited to a Celebration of her Life at St Paul's United Church, 29 Park St W, Dundas on Monday, November 3 beginning at 10:00am with service at 11:00am.

A featured article will appear in the next Rant.

## Sounds Familiar

Jane Robinson is the Chairman of the RSCDS Toronto Association. She recently wrote to members of the Scottish Studies Foundation, Guelph.

*Extract by Jane Robinson*

"Since we are interested in teaching people a part of Scottish culture we would like to ally ourselves more closely with other groups who are doing the same with other aspects of this culture. Providing information to the other groups would be a start.....

..... I realized that I have little idea of what Scottish groups exist in the area. A trip to the internet using "Scottish groups" and "Toronto" supplied 124,000 pages, a bit overwhelming, but certainly all-encompassing. Why do we hear so little? Why do we not sell out our many different events in record time? Why do we not communicate and advertise better? Many new dancers tell us they wish they had started dancing years ago, but didn't know we existed.

..... I believe we should work together to promote Scottish culture to everyone, not just Scots. Our heritage is a rich one – let's flaunt it. Let's start by keeping each other informed of what each group is doing that is of general interest and encouraging our members' support.  
....."

## Teachers' Class

Classes for RSCDS Teaching Certificate Part 1, Unit 1 have started at MacNab, held on Sunday afternoons and scheduled every 3 or 4 weeks. Hamilton is a registered Teaching Centre. Therefore all examinations will be in Hamilton. The Unit 1 written exam will take place in February 2009. The prescribed book for Unit 1 is "The Manual of Scottish Country Dancing", available from TAC Books or order through your class teacher. Essentially anyone can get a good theoretical handle on the theory, and are encouraged to do so.

Unit 2 is Dancing, and Unit 3 is Teaching and will be examined in March/ April at the same time.

Units 2 & 3 require 12 dances to be committed to memory:

Duke of Perth, Gates of Edinburgh  
General Stewart's Reel, Westminster Reel  
Wooded Married an 'A, Starry Eyed Lassie  
Miss Hadden's Reel, Mrs Stewart's Jig  
Alltshellach (tournet), Miss Gibson's Strathspey  
Mrs Hamilton of Wishaw, Village Reel

If you are interested in joining the class, and catching up, even if it is just for Unit 1, please contact master teacher John Middleton at (905) 522-2151. The next class is scheduled for Nov 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Bobby Brown's Christmas Party

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 in Etobicoke**

If the past provides any indication, this is your opportunity to meet dancers from all over Ontario, from Windsor to Kingston, from Ottawa to Niagara. It has been some time since Bobby Brown held a Christmas Dance; may be you should go this time around even although this dance is held on the Friday before our own Christmas Dance. For more details see "Events".

Programme

Kendall's Hornpipe J, Flowers of Edinburgh R, Balquidder Strathspey, Dancer's Wedding R, Balmoral Strathspey, Hunting Horn J, Wind that Shakes the Barley R, Well Done Jack J, Memory Lane R, Largo Law S, Tribute to the Borders J, The Sailor R, Minister on the Loch S, Montgomerie's Rant



## MIFFED, FEES and THE RSCDS WORLDWIDE SEMINAR

By Pierre Arnold

The foregoing is my commentary and not the Branch's. Ref: Scottish Country Dancer, Oct 2007 and April 2008.

THE RSCDS increased subscription fees by 50%. I'm miffed at this shoddy treatment that our international branches have received. The large and sudden increase is passed off as "still modest in comparison with other comparable organizations" and, "This is the first increase since 2002....". Now THE RSCDS has become better intentioned, "Trustees are increasing their emphasis on the future well-being of SCD".

Our Branch committee has sensibly seen fit to soften the blow and pass on half of this increase to our members for the current season. The other half will no doubt be paid from our reserves.

The Management Board of THE RSCDS "has resolved to devote more resources to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy SCD in the way that we do now". Therefore the subscription fee needed to be increased to pay for this.

"The Management Board is sponsoring a worldwide seminar on issues of SCD, for dancers, teachers, and musicians, especially those outside Scotland. The event, named Kaleidoscope, will be held in the Geneva area (Switzerland) over the weekend of 3-5 July 2009. It is intended as an international forum to promote ideas and....."

Gasp 1. Why would Switzerland be chosen when Scots including many dancers from around the world are likely to be in Scotland for the The Gathering, or Homecoming in 2009 and Summer School?

Gasp 2. "Some branches may wish to sponsor or support the event and have their logo associated with it. This is encouraged....."

Miffed again.

## 2008 World Pipe Band Championship

By Pierre Arnold

On 16<sup>th</sup> August, 8000 pipers performed on Glasgow Green. And the winners of Grade 1 were:

1. Simon Fraser University, Vancouver.
2. Field Marshal Montgomery, N Ireland
3. House of Edgar-Shotts & Dykehead, Scotland

In Grade 4B, the Paris Port Dover Band came in second. That must have been a thrill for them.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August at Cowal, Dunoon the winners were

1. Field Marshal Montgomery, N Ireland
2. St Laurence O'Toole, Dublin, Ireland
3. House of Edgar-Shotts & Dykehead, Scotland

The Grade 1 contests for 2008 are now complete. The Dublin band finished Supreme Champions for 2008.

You can view some of the 2008 playing on You Tube.

## Dancing in Florida!

By Valerie Harris

If you just happen to be in Florida for the first half of February 2009, you are welcome to attend the Sarasota SCD Ball on 7<sup>th</sup> February, or the Dunedin SCD Ball on 14<sup>th</sup> February, or both. There will be live music. The Sarasota and Dunedin Scottish Country Dance Groups are members of the RSCD Orlando. Please call me at 727-842-9772 for further details. I'll be in Florida suuuuuuuuuuuun, I mean soooooooooooooon.



Valerie Harris at Hamilton Weekend Ceilidh

## Next Rant

October Editor was Pierre Arnold  
Deadline next Rant: 21 Nov 2008  
Editor next Rant: Pierre Arnold  
Email: pw.arnoldATsympatico.ca  
Or call (905) 648-2519

Are you waiting for an interesting article in the Rant?  
Try your hand and liven up this Newsletter.



## Hamilton Weekend 2008

By Scott Reid, Weekend Chairman 2008

### And Oh what a weekend that was

Was all the work worth it? It sure was. To see the whole project come together seamlessly was a joy. The new facility, the Burlington Seniors' Centre, seemed to work out well and numbers were up from last year for all events. The welcome addition of new committee members including all of last year's members formed a great team. Many thanks to all who helped, particularly David Milmine, with help from others, for his endless hours in the kitchen over the weekend preparing for the Friday night food, Saturday's nutrition breaks and the after-ball hospitality. Thanks also to Errol Ellis and Kathleen O'Donnell for the decorations and meal setup. And we can't forget our "Bar Staff", Alan Lipp and Martin Fulcher, for keeping the bar stocked and the wine and beer cold, and Errol Ellis and Claire Collier who sold the bar tickets.

**Friday night** started off with a short but lovely "Welcome Dance" put together by J'ina Middleton, followed by our annual Ceilidh with our own "Haggis the Hunk" (aka John Middleton). John organized all thirteen acts and kept them running smoothly. There was laughter everywhere. We were treated to a violin solo presentation (Anne Harrison), sword dancers in perfect motion (the Oakville Boys), pirates galore (I don't like it!), a recitation (Paul Miller), Antonio and his hooker chorus, as well as many more hilarious performances. Thanks to everyone who "put on a different hat" to join in and have some fun for the enjoyment of others.

### Then came the serious part, Saturday morning classes.

We had expected a lot and we were not disappointed. **Ruth Jappy** didn't come in with a big stick or a big frame, but she did come in with a big smile, confidence, poise and purpose. Everyone in the class was attentive and just hung on every word she said. She made us think of the precision of dancing and the guidance of the music and we all left her classes knowing a lot more than we came with.

**Craig Williams**, a relatively new teacher to teaching workshops, was fully prepared for us as well. He exhibited the confidence and knowledge needed to keep his program moving along at a good pace with clear and concise instruction woven into some appropriately selected formations and dances.

**The Banquet and Ball, what can I say?** Dinner was catered by the Black Bull, Burlington and it was quite delicious. The dance program, put together and walked through in the afternoon by Anne Miller, was very enjoyable and well praised and the dances flowed smoothly throughout the evening. Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent were in great form as usual. Bobby sure knows how to get Ruth Jappy going, doesn't he? The chairman's hospitality after the ball was shorter in length than usual and it wasn't conducive to sitting and talking. The committee will look at improving that for next year.

Overall, participants seemed very favourable to the current venue and format. We have booked for next year and I am hoping that the Branch will get the continued ongoing support from its members as well as the surrounding dance communities to keep our Annual Weekend going for a long time.

### SEE OUR WEBSITE for PHOTOS

*Editor's Comment: This was a Weekend filled with quality features at affordable prices. There appears to be only one major downside and that is the hard non-resilient floor. Some participants attending both Saturday's Classes and the Weekend Ball mentioned that their legs were killing them. This downer could be corrected if only the Branch could find a venue that can accommodate all or most of the needs required to run a successful Weekend. The ultimate venue is hard to find. Such a venue would have to offer facilities as good as the Burlington Seniors' Centre and hopefully the illusive resilient floor. If you know of any affordable facility that could possibly accommodate the Hamilton Weekend, please let a member of the Committee of Management know about it.*



## Hamilton Weekend Wine Tour

By Scott Reid, Chairman Hamilton Weekend

### Sunday's Wine Tour

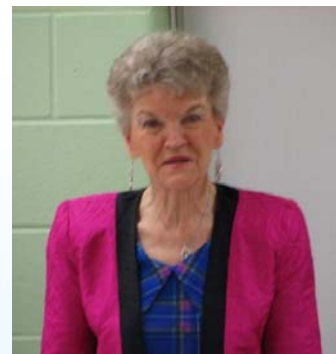
A big yellow bus, 35 half awake people and a whole day ahead. It was a great day with lots of fall sights, sunshine, laughter and delicious wine tasting. It couldn't have turned out better. We shopped the tourist street in Jordan, visited and toured some interesting wineries and had a catered lunch at Hernder Estates. Our Stoney Ridge winery visit which offered shopping in the boutique and gourmet cheese shop, put us behind schedule by thirty minutes, as several were in their glory buying up their favourites by the carton! I don't know how we will follow this one up next year.



We prefer sun to shade



Winetasting Tour Participants and Friends



## Ruth Jappy visits the Monday night class

By Kathleen Noble

Our Monday night classes are shared between various Hamilton branch teachers teaching several consecutive nights, which makes classes interesting. Firstly, class members never know who will be teaching and secondly, we benefit from many different teaching techniques. Talking to teachers tells me this is not an easy class to teach because there are many teachers that attend our class and also long time dancers who expect a high standard of teaching.

When Ruth Jappy (Vancouver) taught us on October 20<sup>th</sup> it was a very interesting night. The thing that amazed me was the quietness; you could hear a pin drop. It was so unusual for a Monday night hearing that silence. Ruth had a unique way of getting the attention of the class, and forcing her "love on dancing" onto others.

She taught 3 dances during the evening, and snuck in a music lesson; thus recognizing music as a significant part of the dance. She played several of her husband Alex's recordings. Among the dances Ruth taught was one titled Hand in Hand from Book 44. We had fun learning the dance but I think the consensus was that we'd keep it away from the monthly dances. The other dances were Mount Seymour Strathspey from the Vancouver Collection and Leith Country Dance from Book 18. We were joined by several dancers from Mississauga and Toronto that night mostly folks who had already experienced Ruth during our Weekend Workshop. Ruth sure made the class an evening to remember.

*Editor's Note: A few members from our Intermediate Classes who somehow managed to attend also had some good things to say about their experience at this class.*



## EVENTS

Date	Who, What, and Where	Info	Contact
Nov 8th	Toronto Workshop Toronto French School	Teachers: include Claire Collier Musicians: Bobby and Laird Brown, Don Bartlett	<a href="mailto:barkd@rogers.com">barkd@rogers.com</a> Deirdre MacCuish Bark (905) 822-1701 Carol Bell (905) 822-1707
Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>White Cockade, Monthly Dance MacNab</b>		Stella Parr (905) 628-6436
Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	RSCDS Toronto St. Andrew's Ball Royal York, Toronto	About \$125 each	
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bobby's Christmas Party Westway United Church Auditorium 8 Templar Drive, Etobicoke	\$20. Flyers available at class. Lots of free parking. 8 – 10:30pm	<a href="mailto:Lisa_bobby@sympatico.ca">Lisa_bobby@sympatico.ca</a> (905) 897-0287
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>RSCDS Hamilton Hamilton Christmas Dance The Scottish Rite, Hamilton</b>	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent Booking for Dinner required	Rhonda Moore (905) 525-1591
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	RSCDS Toronto Association, Erin Mills Christmas Dance, Mississauga	Tickets \$15 Music by "The Reel Thing"	<a href="http://www.rscdstoronto.org">www.rscdstoronto.org</a> The Hamiltons (905) 566-9599
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	RSCDS St Catharines Christmas Dance	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	<a href="http://www.rscdsstcatharines.ca">www.rscdsstcatharines.ca</a>
Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	RSCDS London Christmas Dance	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	<a href="http://www.rscdslondoncanada.org">www.rscdslondoncanada.org</a>
Dec 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>White Cockade Auld Year's Dance MacNab</b>	Tickets required	Stella Parr (905) 628-6436
<b>2009</b>	<b>RSCDS Hamilton</b>	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	Rhonda Moore (905) 525-1591
Jan 3 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monthly Dance, MacNab</b>		
Jan 11 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Valerie Harris, Cruise and Dance, Eastern Caribbean from Fort Lauderdale	MC: Valerie Harris Music: Fred Moyes Cabins from \$768 to \$1148	Valerie Harris (905) 524-0772 or Ellen McRanor (941) 776-3044 Booking: Janet at Travel (800) 311-1511
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>White Cockade Monthly Dance MacNab</b>		Stella Parr (905) 628-6436
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	Blair SCD Robert Burns' Night		Moraig Waite (519) 653-3438 <a href="mailto:Swaite3438Atrogers.com">Swaite3438Atrogers.com</a>
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>RSCDS Hamilton Monthly Dance, MacNab</b>	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	Rhonda Moore (905) 525-1591
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>White Cockade Monthly Dance MacNab</b>		Stella Parr (905) 628-6436
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tartan Ball Royal York, Toronto	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	Jim Stark (416) 691-8035
Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>RSCDS Hamilton Monthly Dance, MacNab</b>	Don Bartlett	Rhonda Moore (905) 525-1591
Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>RSCDS Hamilton Annual Workshop</b>		Sheila Richards (905) 627-9697 Errol Ellis (905) 525-7447
Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>White Cockade, Monthly Dance MacNab</b>		Stella Parr (905) 628-6436
Mar 28 <sup>th</sup>	Blair SCD Blair Ball, Cambridge	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	Moraig Waite (519) 653-3438 <a href="mailto:Swaite3438Atrogers.com">Swaite3438Atrogers.com</a>
Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>RSCDS Hamilton Annual Ball The Scottish Rite, Hamilton</b>	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	Carol Dinsmore (905) 945-5744
Apr 12 <sup>th</sup> Sun	EASTER		
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>White Cockade AGM Dinner Dance MacNab</b>	Booking required	Stella Parr (905) 628-6436
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	RSCDS London London Ball	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>RSCDS Hamilton Gala Night</b>	Various Branches & Affiliates dance their stuff at this party night	Cate Reid (905) 332-2049
May 15 <sup>th</sup> - May 17 <sup>th</sup>	RSCDS New York Pawling WeekEnd	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	<a href="http://www.rscdsnewyork.org">www.rscdsnewyork.org</a>
May 18 <sup>th</sup> Mon	VICTORIA DAY		
Jul 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thistle School	Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent	<a href="http://www.members.cox.net/rlwalker2/thistle">www.members.cox.net/rlwalker2/thistle</a>



## Membership

*By Ruth Mueller, Membership Secretary*

For all who have been wondering how membership is this year, your questions are about to be answered! Have a look at the table below.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	CLASS REGISTRATION						TOTALS	
	PRE-PAID CLASS		PAY-AS-YOU-GO		NO CLASS			
	07-08	08-09	07-08	08-09	07-08	08-09	07-08	08-09
<b>Member</b>	66	54	13	19	15	12	94	85
<b>Introductory Member</b>	9	10	0	0	--	--	9	10
<b>Non-member</b>	4	3	2	3	5	5	11	11
<b>TOTALS</b>	79	67	15	21	20	18	<b>114</b>	<b>106</b>

The table compares our Hamilton Branch membership statistics for about the same time in October of 2007 and 2008. The shaded columns indicate October 2007 (2007-2008 membership year), while the unshaded columns indicate October 2008 (the current membership year). As you can see, our membership at this point is less than at the same point last year. This difference is entirely due to there being fewer full members (at the date of writing, 85 compared to 94 last year). The number of people trying out Scottish Country Dance in the Introductory Class has remained essentially the same.

We know that we have “lost” members through moving, through illness, age, or mobility limitations, and through death, but by far the largest category of “loss” is that group of people who have decided that Scottish Country Dance is just not for them. The drop-out is typically greatest during and after the Introductory year.

The other interesting trend is the shift from pre-paying for classes, to the pay-as-you-go option. Several people have commented that they prefer the latter payment option due to cash flow issues, whereas others prefer it knowing that they will not be able to attend class regularly due to travel plans, other activities, or winter driving concerns.

Non-members were included in the table. Those who dance in the Hamilton Branch classes that are members of other branches. Those in the “No Class” category are those who pay to receive their copy of the RANT in a timely fashion, rather than waiting for it to appear on the website.

Class membership is as follows:

Introductory	13
Level 1	11
Level 2A (MacNab)	16
Level 2B (Knox)	24
Level 3	35

Note that there are quite a few dancers who attend more than one class. Therefore, the class membership numbers totals more than the Branch membership numbers. At registration, each member is designated a “home” class regardless of their intent to attend more than one class.

# December Monthly Dance

## RSCDS Hamilton Branch



Saturday, December 6, 2008  
The Scottish Rite, 4 Queen Street South, Hamilton, ON

\$36.00 per person  
\$26.00 non-dancers

Cash Bar	6:00 – 6:30 pm
Dinner	6:30 – 8:00 pm
Monthly Dance	8:00 – 11:00 pm

### MUSIC BY BOBBY BROWN AND THE SCOTTISH ACCENT

Haste to the Wedding	8x32J	25-6
College Hornpipe	8x32R	20-12
Land o' Cakes	8x32S	29-1
Falconer Hall	4x48J	Archives #17
The Lea Rig (3c sets)	6x32S	21-5
The Luckenbooth Brooch	8x32J	Glendarroch #28
Reel of the 51 <sup>st</sup> Division	8x32R	13-10



The White Cockade	8x32R	5-11
Old Nick's Lumber Room	8x32J	26-5
The Sands of Morar	8x32S	45-6
The Blooms of Bon Accord	4x32R	Drewry
The Hunting Horn	8x32J	Archives #66
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8x32S	L-10
Mairi's Wedding	8x40R	Cosh

**Registrations must be received by December 1<sup>st</sup>.** Send your reservations to: Anna Lipp, 19 Princess St, Dundas, ON L9H 2X6. Make your cheque payable to: RSCDS Hamilton Branch  
Questions: Anna Lipp (905) 628-9853

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Table Seating Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_