



Nov  
2024

# RSCDS Calgary Branch Newsletter



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! What a busy fall we've had: highland games, casinos, workshops, and classes. I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered over the last few months. With your help, these events were a roaring success. Thank you, thank you, thank you! There is more information about these events later in the newsletter.

Up next, we have our Hogmanay celebration. Airdrie Scottish Dancers are once again hosting the Hogmanay dance on December 31, 2024, at Mount Pleasant Community Association. This year, we will have live music from Scott Duncan and Friend. The programme will include dances suitable for people who have never danced before, so encourage your non-dancing friends to join us for a fabulous evening. Thanks to the Airdrie Scottish Dancers for volunteering to host this event. They do such a great job every year!

We are looking into starting a Beginners Class in the north side of Calgary on Thursday evenings. These plans are in development and as soon as they are finalized, we will let you all know. It will be a great class for all our new friends from Hogmanay to come and learn the basics of Scottish Country Dancing.

On March 15, 2025, Rebecca Blackhall-Peters will be the teacher for our mini-workshop at Mount Pleasant Community Association. As in past years, there will be two 2-hour classes. The morning class

is for our newer dancers and all those that wish to work on the basics. All dancers should have been attending classes during the fall term and any dancers who have been dancing longer and are interested in improving their basic technique are ideal candidates for this class. The afternoon class will be for more experienced dancers, those that have at least 2 years' experience, and are familiar with all the basic figures including reels of three and four, allemandes, promenades, knots, rondels, most corner formations, rights and lefts, poussettes, etc. If you have any questions about which level is most suited for you, please ask your regular class teacher. More details will follow in the next newsletter and on our website.

In the last newsletter, we had an announcement about an information session for all dancers that were considering becoming a teacher, and for all dancers who were interested in improving their technique. We had a great response with 3 people interested in taking some teacher training and 8 people interested in becoming better dancers. Those that are interested in becoming better dancers are going to pursue the Dancing Achievement Award at the Intermediate level. We plan on starting classes in the early spring of 2025 where we will be improving our technique. Then after the summer, we will resume classes and focus specifically on the dances for the Intermediate level with the assessment taking place sometime in the autumn of 2025. If anyone else is interested, please



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friendship with Scottish  
country dance!

have a look at the documentation on the RSCDS website at <https://rscds.org/learn/dancing-skills-assessments/dancing-achievement-awards> and let me know. It is so encouraging to see that so many dancers want to become the best that they can be. Good technique makes dancing easier, and therefore you have time to enjoy the dance and the people you are dancing with, making it a truly joyous and sociable endeavor.

Check out the upcoming events around the province this spring. There are workshops in Edmonton in February and Lethbridge in April. Remember that your membership in the RSCDS Calgary Branch entitles you to be reimbursed for some of your workshop fees and hotel accommodation.

There are a number of dancers heading out to New Zealand for Summer School and Scotland for Winter School. We wish you safe travels, fabulous dancing and great catch up with friends from near and far. We would love to hear about your adventures in our next newsletter, so please consider sending us some pictures and a write up of your experiences.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year when it comes.

Yours in dancing,

*Sharon Barker*

## 2024 Hogmanay Dance Programme

Riverside

Dashing White Sergeant

Waltz Country Dance

The Kingston Flyer

The Gay Gordons

Delvine Side

The Merry Oddfellows

Cumberland Square 8 Alt

The Reel of the 51st Division

~ Intermission ~

The Galloping Carousel

Virginia Reel

Lady Glasgow

New Year Jig

Shiftin' Bobbins

The Lea Rig

Postie's Jig

Flowers of Edinburgh

The Highland Rambler

Dance cribs and diagrams will be out soon!

## MEMBERSHIPS

We would like to thank everyone who has renewed the RSCDS membership for 2024/25.

We would also like to welcome the following new members:

<i>Noelle B.</i>	<i>Roy L.</i>
<i>Margaret F.</i>	<i>Ruby M.</i>
<i>Asha and Kyla K-W.</i>	<i>Lynette M.</i>
<i>Maggie and Mark L.</i>	<i>Mike and Pat S.</i>



**Download the New Member's Membership Guide:**

[https://mcusercontent.com/5ec57552b339d6fc1de5f6c53/files/45601477-b820-aa5d-be4a-2bc6f61eaeff/New\\_Members\\_Welcome\\_Pack\\_2024.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5ec57552b339d6fc1de5f6c53/files/45601477-b820-aa5d-be4a-2bc6f61eaeff/New_Members_Welcome_Pack_2024.pdf)

Membership forms for 2024/25 are available at the dance classes and on the website.

## Another Great Reason to Join the RSCDS Calgary Branch...

A major benefit of being a Branch member is that it includes membership in The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS), the worldwide organization of which Calgary is a Branch. As a member of RSCDS, you are able to log into the 'My RSCDS' section of the [rscds.org](https://rscds.org) website. For more information on how to login, please email Freda Osborne at [membership@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:membership@rscdscalgary.org).

RSCDS members receive printed copies of the RSCDS Scottish Country Dancer magazine, or you can request to be sent the digital copy by updating your profile after you have logged in. Past issues the magazine may be viewed or downloaded from here: <https://issuu.com/rscds>

The April 18, 2024 issue of newsletter includes an interesting article on the pros and cons of different types of footwear for Scottish country dance. See page 15 for "Footcare and Footwear".

In addition to the magazine, there is a monthly eNewsletter that members can sign up for and it will be delivered directly to your email inbox. Sign up at the bottom of the [rscds.org](https://rscds.org) web page by clicking on the arrow:

**Sign up for the RSCDS  
eNewsletter**



## CALGARY BRANCH NEWS

### Call for Additional Board Members

We would still like to fill the Board positions of Corresponding Secretary and Director at Large. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work”, so it does as well for the activities of the RSCDS Calgary Board. For more information on these positions, please contact Sharon Barker at [president@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:president@rscdscalgary.org).

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY** – This is a new position and will be a Director at large position. The Corresponding Secretary will be responsible for keeping the membership informed – generally through email, but if your skills lie in social media, then this position could include keeping Facebook up to date as well. Emails go out to the membership with the quarterly newsletters, to announce events or ask for volunteers. If enquiries are received from the public interested in joining beginner classes, the Corresponding Secretary would respond to those as well. Skills needed include sending emails from Apple Mail or MS Outlook, and managing the contact list for members. A MacBook Air laptop is available for the Corresponding Secretary which will have access to the contact lists of the membership.

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE (DAL)** – We encourage each dance club/group to have a representative from that club or group to inform the board of any issues coming up, and to be able to report back to their club/group with what is going on at the Board level. The DALs would attend as outlined below.

The board meets monthly generally on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to noon. We do event planning including setting up for events, decorating, buying food and drink and organizing volunteers to help. We manage communications with Branch members like the newsletters, maintain our website, post to social media, and take memberships. We do the governance work for the Branch such as drawing up policies and procedures, financial management and strategic and budget planning. There are a lot of ways for board members to contribute.

**We hope you'll consider joining our team!**

**Current Board Members:**

<i>President</i>	<i>Sharon Barker</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Ann Longair</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Sheree Iffla</i>
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	<i>[vacant]</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Kathy Moorcraft</i>
<i>Casino Chair</i>	<i>Freda Osborne</i>
<i>Directors at Large</i>	<i>Don Hunter, Cathy Turnbull, Janet Newediuk, Lorraine Girodat, [2 vacant positions]</i>

### Our Branch's Website

For the latest information on RSCDS Calgary classes and events, as well and membership forms and more, please check out the website at <https://rscdscalgary.org/>.

## Canmore Highland Games

On August 31st and September 1st this year, the Canmore Highland Games were held. Thank you to the many volunteers for helping to represent the RSCDS Calgary Branch at our information tent.

A special thank you to Sharon Barker, Freda Osborne, Nancy Laing and Duane Martin for making sure that the tent was put up and taken down at the right times. Also, thank you to Janet Newediuk, Nancy Laing, and all of the dancers who did some demo dancing in the main tent. With their energy and enthusiasm they were able to get quite a number of the audience up and dancing.

## Casino

On September 3rd and 4th, RSCDS Calgary Branch had their latest fundraising casino. We are very thankful to everyone who came out, volunteered, and had some fun doing the various tasks.

The funds that RSCDS Calgary Branch receives from the casinos help to keep dancing more affordable not just at weekly classes, but at events such as the Welcome Back dance, Hogmanay, and the AGM. Casino funding also helps to keep the costs of workshops in Calgary affordable and is the reason that the Branch can offer some assistance for workshop costs at other locations in Alberta.

Another benefit of volunteering at the casino that is not strictly financial, is that of getting to know dancers from a variety of groups across the city. This helps to strengthen and bring together our dancing community.

A super special thank you goes out to Duane Martin who organized this year's casino. Duane has been our "Casino Guy" for the last few casinos and is now retiring from this position.

## One-Day Fall Workshop

On October 19th, 2024, RSCDS Calgary held a very successful one day workshop. Gael Forster (Victoria BC) and Ron Wallace (Santa Rosa CA) were the teachers. The musicians for the classes were Gary Thomas and Lisa Doyle (both from Santa Rosa CA). In the evening we danced to the music of Flindrikin: Gary Thomas, Lisa Doyle and Ron Wallace, with special guest Fiona Carnie. The music was wonderful and everyone enjoyed the classes and dance program.

Forty four people were registered for the classes and fifty eight came out to dance in the evening with 12 dancers from Edmonton, Lethbridge and Red Deer. Thank you to everyone who attended and all the volunteers that made this day happen. Special thanks to:

- Nancy Laing for organizing the workshop with Sharon Barker's help and being MC for the evening;
- Sharon Barker and Freda Osborne for hosting the teachers and musicians;
- Ross Barker for providing the audio equipment, setting it all up and making sure the sound for the evening was spot on;
- Sheree Iffla, Janet Newediuk, Fiona Carnie, Sharon Barker for briefing the dances;
- Don Hunter; Freda Osborne and Ann Longair for managing the catering;
- Lorraine Girodat, Sheree Iffla, Martha McLary, Kathy Moorcraft, JoAnn Repchuk, Cathy Turnbull for coming early and helping to set up the rooms and register the attendees;
- And thank-you to all the dancers who helped at the end of the dance to put all the chairs and tables away and help with the final clean-up.

Airdrie Scottish Dancers &  
RSCDS Calgary Branch

# Hogmanay!

**Easy Ceilidh and Familiar Dances  
BEGINNER AND NON-DANCER  
FRIENDLY!**

**Music: Scott Duncan's Band**

**Dress: semi-formal**

**\$25 Pre-purchase\* \* CASH \* FOOD \* MUSIC \* DANCE  
BAR**

## WHEN

Dec 31, 2024, at 8pm

## WHERE

Mount Pleasant  
602 22 Ave NW, Calgary

Tickets online @ [AirdrieScottishDancers.org](https://AirdrieScottishDancers.org), your local Calgary class  
or contact Ann (403) 968-7866 or [Annvanderwal@shaw.ca](mailto:Annvanderwal@shaw.ca)

\*Members and guest price is \$25 pre-purchase and \$35 at the door. Tickets are non-refundable.

Non-members tickets (\$30) are available for pre-purchase only (includes ASD membership).



RSCDS EDMONTON CALEDONIAN  
53rd Annual Workshop and Ball

Fri, Feb 14 | Chateau Lacombe Hotel, Edmonton

This weekend has everything, a Ceilidh for everyone, a 2-day  
workshop & a Ball.



### Time & Location

Feb 14, 2025, 7:30 p.m. – Feb 16, 2025, 12:30 p.m.

Chateau Lacombe Hotel, Edmonton, 10111 Bellamy Hill Rd NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 1N7, Canada

### Teachers

Linda Henderson - California

David Booz - Toronto, ON

Janet Johnston - Edinburgh, UK

### Musicians

**Marian Anderson & Her Scottish Dance Band**

# Lethbridge Scottish Country Dance Club



[www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org](http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org)

## Workshops, Banquet and Ball

April 4-6, 2025

### Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge Hotel

320 Scenic Drive South  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4B4

### Teachers and Musicians

#### Musicians

Karen Steven and Alastair MacDonald: **Atlantic Firth**  
Lorraine McCormick and Peter McCormick: **The Spurtles**

#### Dance Teachers

Sharon Barker  
Jody Kulas  
Gavin Keachie

### Weekend Fees

Complete Workshop (includes Saturday lunch, ceilidh, classes, banquet and ball) \$145

Workshop - dance classes only (includes Saturday lunch) \$70

Ceilidh - \$15

Banquet and Ball - Dancer \$80

Banquet and Ball - Non Dancer \$55

Ceilidh, banquet and ball - \$95

Ceilidh and Banquet - Non Dancer - \$70

### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, April 4, 2025

Registration and Ceilidh  
7:30-11:00 PM

#### Saturday, April 5, 2025

Late registration and dance classes  
8:45 AM - 2:45 PM

#### Banquet and Ball

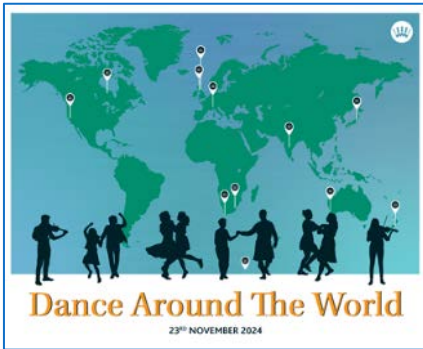
Begins with cocktails at 6:00 PM

#### Sunday, April 6, 2025

Early Bird Class 9:00 AM Combined Class 10:00 AM



# NEWS FROM RSCDS HEADQUARTERS



On Saturday the 23rd of November, dancers from every corner of the globe will get together to enjoy dances from around the world.

[https://rscds.org/blog/dance-around-world?mc\\_cid=42145ad9b7](https://rscds.org/blog/dance-around-world?mc_cid=42145ad9b7)

Most clubs around the world will be celebrating on November 23rd, however with the St. Andrew-Caledonian Society’s St. Andrew’s Ball falling on the same day, our branch decided to celebrate a little early and included some of these dances on our Fall Workshop programme.

	<i>Dance</i>	<i>Continent</i>	<i>Location Connection</i>
ST R A TH S P E Y	<i>The Swan and the Tay</i> (Perth 800 / Leaflet)	<i>Oceania / Australasia</i>	<i>Australia and Scotland</i> Deviser Audrey Saunders, Perth WA
	<i>Oriel Strathspey</i> (Book 32)	<i>Oceania / Australasia</i>	<i>New Zealand</i> Deviser Ian Simmonds, Wellington
	<i>Capetown Wedding</i> (Book 39)	<i>Africa</i>	<i>Capital of South Africa</i>
	<i>From Scotia’s Shores we’re noo awa’</i> (Leaflet)	<i>North America</i>	<i>Canada</i> Deviser Bob Campbell, Ontario
	<i>A Trip to the Drakensberg</i> (Book 38)	<i>Africa</i>	<i>South Africa</i> The main mountain range of SA
J I G S	<i>Antarctica Bound</i> (Scotia Suite)	<i>Antarctica</i>	<i>Celebrating the Scottish National Antarctica Expedition of 1902/1904</i>
	<i>Shetland Shepherdess</i> (Graded Book 3)	<i>North America</i>	<i>USA</i> Deviser Ron Wallace, Santa Rosa, CA
	<i>The Laird of Milton’s Daughter</i> (Book 22)	<i>Asia</i>	<i>India</i> Devised by Lord Craigmyle while In India
R E E L S	<i>Cadgers in the Canongate</i> (Book 9)	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Scotland</i> Edinburgh
	<i>Dancing in the Street</i> (Book 42)	<i>Asia</i>	<i>Japan</i> Deviser Tom Toriyama, Tokyo
	<i>Castle in the Air</i> (Book 43)	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Switzerland</i> Deviser Minnie Banninger, Bruten
	<i>The Homecoming Dance</i> (Leaflet )	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Scotland</i> Deviser Anne Thorn, Helensburgh

## CLASSES

### Branch Supported Classes

#### *Tuesdays*

- ✘ **CALGARY BRANCH BEGINNERS CLASS - SOUTH** - 7pm – 8:15pm
  - ✘ Fall session ends December 17, Winter session starts January 7
  - ✘ Haysboro Community Centre - 1204 89th Avenue SW
  - ✘ Contact: [secretary@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:secretary@rscdscalgary.org)
- ✘ **CROSS AND THISTLE SCOTTISH DANCERS** - 8:15pm – 10pm
  - ✘ Fall session ends December 17, Winter session starts January 7
  - ✘ Haysboro Community Centre - 1204 89th Avenue SW
  - ✘ Contact: Sharon Barker 403-701-3218 [crossandthistle@hotmail.com](mailto:crossandthistle@hotmail.com)
- ✘ **DOUGLAS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** - 7pm – 9pm
  - ✘ Fall session ends December 10, Winter session starts January 7
  - ✘ Cambrian Heights Community Hall - 600 Northmount Drive NW
  - ✘ Contact: Janyn Bertram 403-585-3842 [doulasscdclub@gmail.com](mailto:doulasscdclub@gmail.com)

#### *Thursdays*

- ✘ **CALGARY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** (St. Barnabas Group) - 7:30pm – 9:30pm
  - ✘ Fall session ends December 19, Winter session starts January 9
  - ✘ St. Barnabas Anglican Church Hall -- 1407 7th Ave NW
  - ✘ Contact: Jim Adamson 403-271-1208 [dancie@shaw.ca](mailto:dancie@shaw.ca)
- ✘ **CONFEDERATION PARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** - 7pm – 9pm
  - ✘ Fall session ends December 12, Winter session starts January 9
  - ✘ Cambrian Heights Community Hall - 600 Northmount Drive NW
  - ✘ Contact: Janyn Bertram 403-585-3842 [confedparkscdclub@gmail.com](mailto:confedparkscdclub@gmail.com)

#### *Fridays*

- ✘ **AIRDRIE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** - 7pm – 9pm
  - ✘ Fall session ends December 13, Winter session starts January 10
  - ✘ Airdrie United Church Hall, 212 1 Ave NE, Airdrie
  - ✘ Contact: Ann Vanderwal 403-912-8086 or see: [www.airdriescottishdancers.org/](http://www.airdriescottishdancers.org/)

### Other Area Classes

- ✘ **ST. ANDREW-CALEDONIAN SOCIETY**
  - ✘ For more information see: <https://standrewcaledonian.ca/classes/scottish-country-dance/>
- ✘ **CANMORE SENIORS ASSOCIATION**
  - ✘ Contact: Margaret Boyle [mboylecanmore@gmail.com](mailto:mboylecanmore@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Within Calgary – Branch Events*

- ✘ HOGMANAY – December 31 2024
  - ✘ Hosted by: Airdrie Scottish Dancers and RSCDS Calgary Branch
  - ✘ For more information see: <https://rscdscalgary.org/upcoming-events/>
- ✘ CALGARY SPRING MINI-WORKSHOP – Saturday, March 15 2025
  - ✘ Hosted by: RSCDS Calgary Branch
  - ✘ For more information see: <https://rscdscalgary.org/upcoming-events/>

### *Also in Calgary*

- ✘ ST ANDREW'S BALL – November 23 2024
  - ✘ Hosted by: the Calgary St. Andrew-Caledonian Society
  - ✘ For more information see: <https://standrewcaledonian.ca/upcoming-events-2/>

### *Within Alberta*

- ✘ EDMONTON 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL WORKSHOP & BALL – February 14-16 2025
  - ✘ Hosted by RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch
  - ✘ For more information see: [www.rscdsedmonton.com](http://www.rscdsedmonton.com)
- ✘ LETHBRIDGE SCDC 2025 WORKSHOP & BALL – April 4 – 6 2025
  - ✘ Hosted by Lethbridge Scottish Country Dance Club
  - ✘ For more information see: <http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop-and-ball-2025.html>

### *Outside Alberta*

- ✘ ALOHA HAWAII - February 14 – 16, 2025
  - ✘ Hosted by RSCDS Hawaii
  - ✘ For more information see: <https://rscdshawaii.org/workshop/>  
or contact [dance@rscdshawaii.org](mailto:dance@rscdshawaii.org), or [melissarlindsay@icloud.com](mailto:melissarlindsay@icloud.com)
- ✘ RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL - February 16 – 21, 2025
  - ✘ Hosted by RSCDS HQ
  - ✘ For more information see: <https://rscds.org/events/winter-school-2025>

## SEE YOU ON THE DANCE FLOOR!



Charitable gaming funds raised with the support of



We gratefully acknowledge the support of  
the Province of Alberta through



*Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
Calgary Branch*

*[secretary@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:secretary@rscdscalgary.org)  
[www.rscdscalgary.org](http://www.rscdscalgary.org)*