

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another dance season is upon us, and all the clubs will be starting up over the next few weeks. Start dates can be found later in the newsletter. We are delighted to announce that we will now have a Beginners' Class in North as well as the South class continuing. Debby Henderson will be returning to teaching and has agreed to take on the North It will be held on Thursday Beginners' Class. evenings at St. Barnabas Anglican Church from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. The beginners will then be invited to participate for the first dance in the regular CSCDS (St. Barnabas) class. Sheree Iffla will continue teaching the South Beginners' Class at Haysboro Community Association on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm - 8:15pm. If you have any friends that are interested in SCD these beginners' classes are a great place to start. So, please inform them of these classes.

A little further afield, one of our members travelled to Australia for Australian Winter School and seven members travelled to Sherbrooke, QC for TAC Summer Events. It was great to be back in Quebec for Summer Events. The campus is beautiful and compact, and the little town is very quaint. Also, it was nice to reconnect with dancers and friends from past summer schools.

Plans are really coming together for our Fall One Day Workshop to be held on October 18, 2025. Fred DeMarse (California) and Linda Henderson (California) will be teaching us. Mary Ross (Victoria) and Lukasz Wieczorek (Vancouver) will be playing for classes and the evening dance. Those of us who attended TAC Summer Events this year had the pleasure of hearing Lukasz play. TAC has a scholarship each year called the Bobby Brown Music Apprentice. It gives musicians a chance to be fully immersed in Scottish music for an entire week and they get to work with some very experienced and well-respected SCD musicians. Mary was the very first Bobby Brown Scholar in 2015 and Lukasz was this year's scholar. Registration forms are included in the email this newsletter was attached to. Stay tuned for an announcement about our 2026 fall event coming up where we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary as a Branch.

I hope you all have a great dancing season, and I look forward to dancing with you in classes and at our events over the next few months.

Yours in dancing,

Sharon Barker



Find fun, fitness & friendship with Scottish country dance!

RSCDS BRANCH MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not already renewed your membership, now is the time to please consider renewing. The membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th each year. This year, membership dues have been increased, as per the membership vote at the May AGM. The following is the new fee structure:

Age group Cost (Plus a small fee if using PayPal online)
Adults (age 25+) \$30.00

Young adults (age 18-24) \$24.00

Youth (age 12-17) \$15.00

Youth (under 12) Free

Why Join the RSCDS Calgary Branch?

Our Branch receives charitable gaming funds raised with the support of the AGLC. This funding is used to help with hall rentals and insurance for your weekly classes allowing your weekly class fees to stay low. The funding is also used to support our members attending workshops in Alberta – up to \$200 per workshop!

Being a Branch member covers the cost of membership in The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS), the worldwide organization of which Calgary is a Branch. As a member of RSCDS, you have an account to log into the 'My RSCDS' section of the rscds.org website.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Bre S.

Lucy W.

Carla P.

Thank you for joining us!

Be sure to take advantage of all your membership benefits: https://rscdscalgary.org/membership-benefits/. For the latest information on classes, events, and more, check out our website at https://rscdscalgary.org/.



Download the New Member's Membership Guide:

https://mcusercontent.com/5ec57552b339d6fcide5f6c53/files/45601477-b820-aa5d-be4a-2bc6f6ieaeff/New Members Welcome Pack 2024.pdf

See you on the dance floor!

BRANCH NEWS

Canmore Highland Games

The 34th annual Canmore Highland Games were held on August 30 and 31. The weather was spectacular. Crowd turn out for both days was quite good. RSCDS had 14 people volunteering at our booth at the games over the two days. On the Sunday, the second day, we did some demonstration dancing in the main tent, led by our wonderful Sharon Barker. Although we had some purely demonstration dances ready for the games, Sharon opted to take the cue from the music groups that were on stage before us, and get some really good audience participation going in the Ceilidh dances she had planned. Our dancers went and got more people from the crowd to dance with. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves, as there was a smile on every face. Several people showed interest in possibly following up with some dancing in the fall, or at least finding out more about who we are and what we do.

-- Janet N.

New Beginners' Class in the North

This year, in addition to our South Beginner Class (in Haysboro), Debby Henderson will teach a Beginner class at St. Barnabas Anglican Church Hall in the north of Calgary. Thank you Debby!

This class is for beginner dancers (or those who wish to improve their technique). It will focus on footwork and basic formations. Since this class immediately precedes the long standing CSCDS St. Barnabas class, the beginners will be invited to take part in the first dance of that class.

Have you ever considered asking your family or friends to come and try a class or two to see what it is all about? As you already know, no partner is required and no special shoes or clothing (just shoes with soft, flexible soles and comfortable clothes). Kilts are definitely welcome! Don't forget to bring a water bottle.

This class runs on Thursdays from 6:30 until 7:30pm, from September 11th until December 18th.

This class is free for those in their first year of dancing. After completing two beginner terms (i.e. fall and winter) the cost will be \$5 per person per class.

PLEASE NOTE: New students are welcome to join the class up until the end of October after which they will be asked to wait until the class resumes January.

For more information, please see https://rscdscalgary.org/classes/ or contact secretary@rscdscalgary.org.

St. Barnabas Class

The Calgary Scottish Country Dance Club - St. Barnabas, will continue to be held on Thursday evenings at St. Barnabas Anglican Church. However, with this new dance year, there will be some changes to the format.

The first change is the addition of a North Beginner's class, taught by Debby Henderson. This will run from 6:30-7:30 pm. At 7:30, there will be a crossover dance with the new dancers having an opportunity to dance with the experienced dancers. More details have been listed earlier in this newsletter.

The second change will be in the teaching staff for the regular St. B classes. With the retirement of Jim Adamson, the teaching duties will now be split between Sharon Barker, Sheree Iffla, Nancy Laing, and Ann Longair.

There has been a planning meeting and the schedule for the fall classes has been set. The four teachers will continue to communicate throughout the season on which dances have been done each week and directions for future classes. We hope that everyone will give this new format a try and a chance to succeed.

Calgary One-Day Fall Workshop

RSCDS Calgary branch is planning a full one day workshop and evening dance for Saturday, October 18th, 2025. There are two class levels being offered:

Beginner/Improver Level: This class is open to dancers with a minimum of 4 months of dance experience. Emphasis will be given to standard steps and formations and how they are incorporated into the dance.

Experienced Level: This class is open to dancers with a minimum of two years of dance experience, with at least 1 year in a class NOT labeled as a beginner or basic class. In addition, these dancers have a good standard of footwork and technique, good phrasing and are VERY familiar with the common standard formations (including but, not limited to: reels of three and four, poussettes, allemandes, promenades, rights and lefts, chains and corner formations).

RSCDS Calgary Branch reserves the right to reallocate dancers to another level to ensure that all dancers receive the maximum benefit from the classes.

Teachers:

Fred **DeMarse**



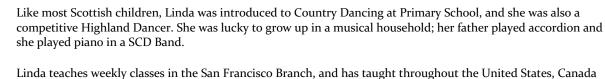
I started Scottish Country Dancing in 1986 in the San Francisco Branch. I attended St. Andrews Summer School for teacher training and passed my Full Certificate in 1996. I achieved my Highland Dance teaching certificate in 1995 and my Highland Dance judging qualification in 2002 after retiring from Highland dance competition.

In the San Francisco Bay area, I teach Scottish Country dancing and Highland dancing to children and adults. Since 2018, I have been the Artistic Director of the Red Thistle Scottish Dancers performing group.

I am very fortunate to have traveled to different parts of the world and to have met many wonderful people - all because of Scottish dancing. As a dancer, teacher, and judge, I have travelled to many places, including all around the US and Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Cyprus, the United Kingdom, and many countries on the European continent.

My viewpoint on teaching and dancing is to have fun and to make it fun for others. I strongly believe in learning and practicing the basics of Scottish dancing - this is the way I have been taught by the many wonderful teachers whom I have had - and my goal is to impart the knowledge I have learned and the desire to dance well to my students while creating a social environment that is friendly, supportive, and fun.

Linda Henderson



Originally from North Berwick, near Edinburgh, Linda now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, but travels home to Scotland whenever she can. She has 3 grown children and works part-time in Elementary School.

Linda teaches weekly classes in the San Francisco Branch, and has taught throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, and has been on staff at Summer Schools in St. Andrews, TAC (Canada) and in Australia.

Linda is delighted to be teaching at the Calgary Day School and is looking forward to meeting up with friends old and new.



RSCDS Calgary Branch Newsletter - September 2025

Musicians: Mary Ross



Mary's Scottish heritage contributes to her strong ties to Celtic Music. Highland dancing and accordion lessons started at an early age. Her musical career has taken her from Greenland to Texas, as well as Scotland and various Canadian and USA destinations. Mary has been a SCD musician since 1991 and is a member of the Van Isle SCD Society and the RSCDS Vancouver

She was honoured to receive the 2016 Bobby Brown Musician's Scholarship and being mentored by Kathy Fraser-Collins at TAC summer school in Farmville, Virginia. In addition to Scottish music, Mary plays a variety of styles of music and has been an accompanist to the Victoria Police Chorus since 2000.

She enjoys being an accordion instructor, performing for private functions, senior residences, and is a Victoria Accordion Club member. Mary is thrilled to return to her home town as a musician for Calgary's 2025 October Workshop and Ball.

Lukasz Wieczorek



Lukasz started playing violin at the age of 8, primarily studying classical music, and eventually receiving his ARCT in Violin Performance. However, he also grew up playing fiddle music with the West Coast Fiddlers and travelled to Scotland with the group on a musical tour in 2008.

Lukasz has been playing Scottish Country Dance music since 2012; highlights include travelling to Edmonton to play for their Workshop and Ball in 2019 with the Tartan Players, as well as being selected as the 2025 Bobby Brown Apprentice for the TAC Summer School in Sherbrooke.

In his professional life, Lukasz works as a Pension Analyst for an HR consulting company in Vancouver; outside of work, you can find him playing viola in the West Coast Symphony Orchestra.

Workshop Evening Social Dance Program

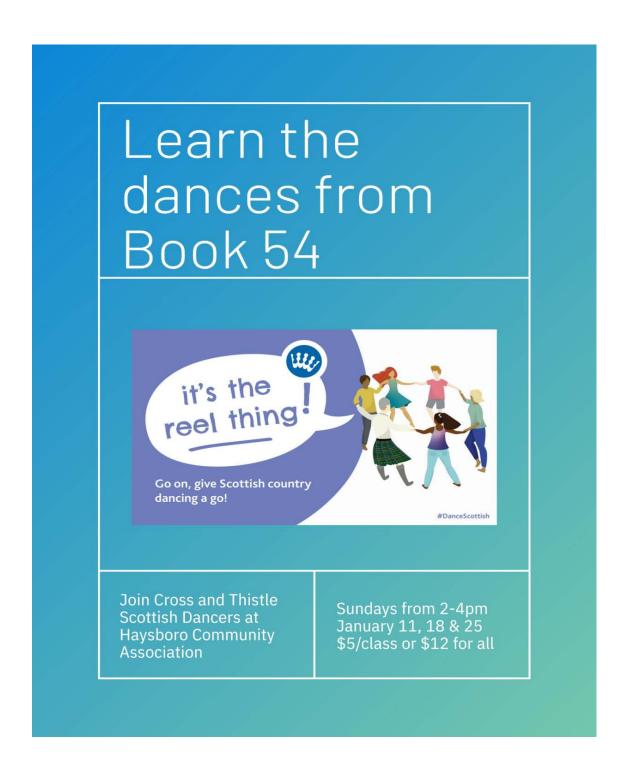
Doors will open at 7:00pm, with dancing to start at 7:30pm. Light refreshments will be served at the intermission.

Evening Social Dance Program				
Come What May	RSCDS Book 51	J6X32	2C/3C L	Beginner
Delvine Side	RSCDS Book 02	S8X32	3C/4C L	Beginner
Maxwell's Rant	RSCDS Book 18	R8x32	3C/4C L	Intermediate
Ciamar a Tha	Goldring - Auld Friends Meet	J8x32	3C/4C L	Intermediate
The Spirit of the Dance	TAC 50th Anniversary	S8X32	3C/4C L	Advanced
Bohemian Reflections	RSCDS Book 51	R8x32	3C/4C L	Beginner
The Hazel Tree	Drewry - Brodie	J8x32	3C/4C L	Advanced
Culla Bay	RSCDS Book 41	S4X32	4C/4C S	Intermediate
Shiftin' Bobbins	RSCDS Thirty Popular Vol 2	R8x32	3C/4C L	Intermediate
INTERMISSION				
The Greenbelt Jig	Brunken - Moments in Time	J8x32	3C/4C L	Beginner
Monymusk	RSCDS Book 11	S8X32	3C/4C L	Intermediate
The Whistling Wind	RSCDS Book 36	R8x32	3C/4C L	Advanced
The Wild Geese	RSCDS Book 24	J8x32	3C/4C L	Beginner
Triple Happiness	RSCDS Book 52	S3X32	3C/3C L	Intermediate
Deil Amang the Tailors	RSCDS Book 14	R8x32	3C/4C L	Beginner
Scottish Waltz		Waltz		

Click here for the dance cribs and diagrams: https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/62288/

RSCDS Book 54 Dances

Earlier this year, RSCDS released "Book 54", which is the 54th compilation of dances and accompanying music. All branches have been encouraged by RSCDS Scotland, to make a special effort to help their members learn the dances in this latest book. To further this, Sharon Barker is offering to run three Book 54 teaching sessions in January. Details on the poster below:



DANCE SPOTLIGHT

Shiftin' Bobbins is one of the most popular Scottish country dances. It is included in the evening dance program of the One Day Fall Workshop on October 18th.

It was devised by Roy Clowes of Lancashire, UK, who dedicated it to the spinners and weavers of Lancashire. It is danced to a tune of the same name composed by Muriel Rimmer. Another song, "Oh Dear Me" (aka The Jute Mill Song) by Mary Brookbank who was an activist and jute worker in Dundee, mentions the bobbins in the jute mills there:

Oh dear me, the mill's gaen fest The puir wee shifters canna get a rest Shiftin bobbins coorse and fine They fairly mak ye wark for yer ten and nine

Shiftin' Bobbins tune: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5FQ2eSIN50
The Jute Mill Song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3QJs5XiDaE

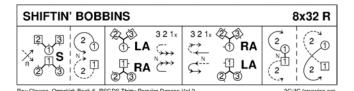
A bobbin is a spindle or cylinder on which yarn or thread is wound. Bobbins are typically found in sewing machines and used in spinning, weaving, knitting, sewing, or lacemaking. The bobbin provides temporary or permanent storage for the yarn or thread. The "shifters", often children, exposed to the noise of the spinning frames and the danger of open drive belts, removed the full bobbins and replaced them with empty ones.

Listen to an interesting 4-minute video portraying the difficult working conditions of the jute mills in Dundee of the women who worked there: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhxKDg6KgmM

You may recognize some of the dancers in the following video. It was taken at the 35th Annual St. Giles Workshop Ball in 2018. The musicians are Ron Krug on keyboard, Dennis Orr playing the accordion and Scott Duncan on fiddle: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5ajX6FE3Fg

SHIFTIN' BOBBINS

- 1-8 1C cross RH to double triangle position (2C step up bars 1-2), set, 1C cast up, and dance down between 2C&3C
- 9-16 1L dances RH across with 2M & 3M while 1M dances LH across with 2L & 3L, 1C followed by 2C & 3C dance down middle
- 17-24 3C followed by 2C & 1C dance up and 3C & 2C cast down to places, 1L dances LH across with 2M & 3M while 1M dances RH across with 2L & 3L
- 25-32 1C dance up, cast off 1 place, 1C dance ½ Fig of 8 around 2C to end in 2nd place on own sides.



A demo by dancers from the Twin Cities RSCDS Branch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sQyMClZNjU

More information:

Shiftin' Bobbins: https://my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/6048/

Lancashire Cotton Mills: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XI x-OWiqo
The Jute Mill Song, lyrics and other info: https://www.unionsong.com/u313.htm l

NEWS FROM TAC

First North American Festival of Scottish Country Dance

Scotland has the Newcastle Festival (https://thenewcastlefestival.co.uk/), and now North America will have its own festival of Scottish Country Dance, this inaugural event to be held on Saturday, April 4th, 2026, in Philadelphia.

The idea is to encourage youth engagement, strengthen technical and teamwork skills, and foster lasting connections among young dancers across North America.

The North American Festival will follow a similar format to Newcastle, featuring team-based performances and friendly competition open to dancers of all ages.

For each competition category or "class," the winners of each will receive a trophy engraved annually with the winning team's name. The Calgary Branch's Board of Directors has approved sponsoring one of the trophies.

Further details here: https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/na-festival

CLASSES

Calgary Branch Supported Classes

Tuesdays

- CALGARY BRANCH BEGINNERS' CLASS SOUTH − 7:00 − 8:15pm
 - Classes from September 23rd until December 16th
 - ➤ Haysboro Community Centre 1204 89th Avenue SW
 - ▼ Contact: <u>secretary@rscdscalgary.org</u>
- **▼ CROSS AND THISTLE SCOTTISH DANCERS** 8:15 10pm
 - ✓ Classes from September 23rd until December 16th
 - Haysboro Community Centre 1204 89th Avenue SW
 - Contact: Sharon Barker 403-701-3218 or crossandthistle@hotmail.com
- **▼ DOUGLAS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** 7:00 9:00pm
 - ✓ Classes from September 9th until December 9th
 - Cambrian Heights Community Hall 600 Northmount Drive NW
 - Contact: Janyn Bertram 403-585-3842 or douglasscdclub@gmail.com

Thursdays

- ▼ CALGARY BRANCH BEGINNERS' CLASS NORTH 6:30 7:30pm
 - Classes from September 11th until December 18th
 - × Haysboro Community Centre 1204 89th Avenue SW
 - ▼ Contact: secretary@rscdscalgary.org
- X CALGARY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY (St. Barnabas Group) 7:30 9:30pm
 - ✓ Classes from September 11th until December 18th
 - St. Barnabas Anglican Church Hall -- 1407 7th Ave NW
- ▼ CONFEDERATION PARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB 7:00 9:00pm

 - Cambrian Heights Community Hall 600 Northmount Drive NW
 - ➤ Contact: Janyn Bertram 403-585-3842 or confedparkscdclub@gmail.com

Saturdays

- **▼ AIRDRIE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** 7:00 9:00pm
 - Classes from September 6th until December 13th
 - Airdrie United Church Hall, 212 1 Ave NE, Airdrie
 - Contact: Ann Vanderwal 403-912-8086 or see: <u>www.airdriescottishdancers.org/</u>

Other Area Classes

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Within Calgary - Branch Events

- CALGARY ONE-DAY FALL WORKSHOP Saturday, October 18 2025
 - ➤ Hosted by: RSCDS Calgary Branch at St. Barnabas Church
 - For more information, see: https://rscdscalgary.org/event/calgary-weekend-workshop/
- ➤ HOGMANAY 2025 DANCE Wednesday, December 31 2025
 - ➤ Hosted by: Airdrie Scottish Dancers and RSCDS Calgary Branch
 - For more information, see: https://rscdscalgary.org/event/hogmanay/

Also in Calgary

- ST ANDREW'S BALL Saturday, November 22 2025
 - Mosted by: the Calgary St. Andrew-Caledonian Society
 - For more information see: https://standrewcaledonian.ca/upcoming-events-2/

Within Alberta

- EDMONTON 54th ANNUAL WORKSHOP & BALL Weekend of February 13-15 2026
 - Mosted by RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch
 - For more information see: https://danceeccds.ca/

Outside Alberta

- ▼ FORT WORDEN WORKSHOP October 3-5 2025

 - For more information see: https://rscds-seattle.org/fort-worden/
- ASILOMAR SCOTTISH DANCE WEEKEND October 31-November 2 2025
 - ➤ Hosted by RSCDS San Francisco
 - For more information see: https://rscds-sf.org/events/asilomar-weekend-workshop-2/
- **▼ RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL** February 15 20, 2026

 - For more information see: https://rscds.org/events/winter-school-2026
- **BLUE RIDGE SCOTTISH DANCE SCHOOL** Week of July 5-11 2026
 - Hosted by: Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, USA
 - For more information see: https://www.blueridgesds.org/
- **▼ RSCDS IB DANCE WEEKEND** October 16-19 2026
 - ➤ Hosted by: RSCDS International Branch
 - For more information see: https://www.rscds-ib.org/index.php?page=24



Saturday: Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball Music by Flindrikin

Friday: Welcome Dance Music by Caroline McCaskey & Andy Imbrie

Teaching Staff

Lori Howard Pleasant Hill, CA
Jody Kulas Pembroke, Ontario
Deb Lees Perth, Scotland
Jen Schoonover Rockland, MA
Geoffrey Wood Milpitas, CA

The 141st St. Andrew's Ball Saturday, 22 November 2025

Polish Canadian Cultural Centre 3015—15th Street NE (Free Parking)

Doors open at 5:30pm

Dinner starts 6:30pm

Ball Program - Main Hall

Jamie's Jig Virginia Reel Bonnie Wee Glen The Avon Reel Dashing White Sergeant The Last of the Lairds The Whistling Wind



Friendships
Neil M Grant
Catch the Wind
MacDonald of Keppoch
Links with St. Petersburg
The Highland Rambler

Piping, Choir, Wilson School of Highland Dance

Members - \$65 Non-Members - \$80 Ticket Sellers:

Christin Lundgren 403-616-7169, Cathy Turnbull cturn1@telus.net, Debby Henderson 403-852-4242 debbyhenderson@yahoo.ca, Ann Vanderwal, 403-968-7866 Annvanderwal@shaw.ca Table reservations: Ann Vanderwal 403-968-7866 Annvanderwal@shaw.ca

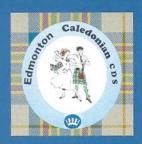
Ball Practices:

Northmount Baptist Church, 451 Northmount Drive NW, Tuesday, 21 & 28 October, 4 & 18 November 7:00pm.





RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch



54th Annual Workshop and Ball

February 13–15th 2026 Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton, AB

Teachers

Fiona Miller

Lethbridge, AB

William Williamson

Amisfield, Scotland

Alison Moen

Vancouver, BC

Musicians

Keith Smith

UK

Anne-Laure Latour

UK

Ian Muir

Prestwick, Scotland

For more information email danceeccds@gmail.com





CATEGORIES

High Impact

Social

Improvers

13 & Under - 18 & Under

MacNab

Display

Day of Festival followed
by an energetic evening
of dance open to all!

Saturday 4th April 2026

Philadelphia, PA, USA



FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FEES

US\$40/team/entry

Visitor: US\$10

Visitor under 18: free

EVENING DANCE TICKET

Sliding scale US\$40-60 Student/Low Income: US\$20

Under 18: US\$10

http://tac-rscds.org/NA-Festival



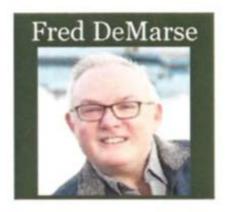
https://blueridgesds.org

July 5-11, 2026

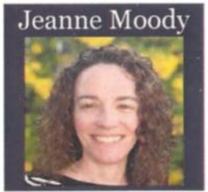


Appalachian State University Boone, North Carolina

Teachers







FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

It is with deepest sympathy that we offer our condolences to the family and friends of two long-time members of the Calgary Branch and the Calgary dancing community.



Ilo Ann Torgerson– June 20, 2025



Longtime RSCDS Calgary dancer, Ilo Torgerson passed away on June 20, 2025. For those of us that have been dancing for a while, I'm sure you'll remember Ilo as a kind, thoughtful, lovely person who was always very helpful and happy. Here's the notice from her family:

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Ilo Ann Torgerson, on Friday, June 20, 2025, at the age of 83 years. Mom passed away peacefully in her sleep in the early morning hours at Southwood Hospice in Calgary. She will be missed deeply by her sons, Kelly and Kevin (Joanne); sister, Elva McKinnon; brothers, Bruce (Sylvia) Pugh, Keith (Ruth) Pugh and Murray Pugh; sister-in-law, Debbie (Marvin) Dease; along with many cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws and lifelong friends.

A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at Willow Park On The Bow in Calgary.

For the full obituary, please see:

https://www.choicememorial.com/obituaries/Ilo-Ann-Torgerson?obId=43258601



Hanne Lore Nielsen – August 28, 1942 – August 8, 2025

Sadly we must announce the passing of a long time member of the Scottish Country Dance community, Hanne Lore Nielsen

Hanne Lore danced with the Grace and Calgary Scottish Dance Club - St. Barnabas, for many years. She attended the St. Andrew's Ball several times over the years. Occasionally her husband Ed - not a dancer - would also attend and visit with the other guests.

Hanne Lore also volunteered as a "White Hatter" at the Calgary airport. Whether it was directing someone to their gate or finding somewhere to eat, she would help people navigate throughout the airport.

Hanne Lore was a kind, calm, and experienced dancer and was a great help to less experienced dancers. We will miss her on the dance floor.

SEE YOU ON THE DANCE FLOOR!



Chartible 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

newsletter@rscdscalgary.org
www.rscdscalgary.org