



# Spring 2022 Newsletter

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## Message from Nancy Laing, President



Happy Spring!! For those of us who have ventured back to in-person dancing, I know it is being enjoyed by all!! It has been a bit of a crazy dance season with classes starting and stopping as the pandemic ebbed and flowed. Sadly, we had to cancel our in-person Hogmanay celebration at the last minute. Thank-you to Ann Vanderwal and her Airdrie dancers for all their work preparing for the event. Let's hope we can celebrate Hogmanay 2022 in person together!

And here's hoping that we are now ready – almost – to say farewell to our virtual events. A special thanks to Sharon Barker who kept weekly virtual classes going throughout the pandemic allowing dancers from all over Calgary, Alberta and Canada to 'dance together' even if we couldn't be together.

Thank-you to all of those who made the **Calgary Branch Virtual Robbie Burn's Night** happen on January 24<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended with between 80 and 90 people attending via Zoom from Calgary, Alberta, across Canada and the US and from as far away as Scotland. Big thanks to Don Hunter who did a wonderful job pulling together the program at the last minute as we realized there would be very few Robbie Burn's night in-person celebrations to attend. Thanks to Bill Mulloy for the *Address to the Haggis*, Jim Osborne for *The Immortal Memory*, and Karen McKenzie for her recitation of *Kate O'Shanter's Tale*. Duane Martin & I had fun providing the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply. Ross Barker provided 5 new piping tunes for the evening, plus music for piping in the Haggis, and Tartan Ties allowed us to replay their 3 dance tunes from 2021 along with Auld Lang Syne from 2021.

Our last (hopefully) virtual event will be the **Calgary Branch AGM**. We hope you can join us via Zoom!

In this newsletter you will find all sorts of **opportunities to volunteer** in the coming months. We are looking for new Calgary Branch board members. Please consider joining the board.

The Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada) **(TAC) Summer School** is going ahead this summer with events from July 17 to 31 and the Calgary Local Committee needs volunteers – lots and lots of volunteers! Please take a look at the call for volunteers in this newsletter and contact Sharon at [crossandthistle@hotmail.com](mailto:crossandthistle@hotmail.com) and/or myself, Nancy Laing at [president@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:president@rscdscalgary.org).

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Summer School is loads of fun and we hope you can help us out, and/or register for a wonderful week of dancing!!

## RSCDS CALGARY BRANCH AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS Calgary Branch will be held Saturday, May 28, 2022. This will be a virtual meeting again this year. Zoom links will be sent out to all Branch Members.

Next year in person with a dance!

## Call for new Calgary Branch Board Members

Please consider volunteering to stand for election to the RSCDS Calgary Branch Board of Directors. Our board consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as well as up to seven Directors at Large. We have 8 people currently willing to stand for election / re-election to the board and are looking for at least 3 more people to join the team.

What tasks do board members take on? We have monthly meetings throughout the year. We plan to continue these meetings as zoom meetings as board members are enjoying no commute, no parking challenges, and comfortable chairs. 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 with the monthly newsletter, 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 many ways for board members to contribute.

Although board members need to be re-elected by the membership each year, they can sit on the board for up to 5 years. In general, board members serve for the 5 years although that is not mandatory. After their five years, some keep on coming back to serve again after taking a year off. We hope you will consider joining the team. We work hard but have lots of fun working together.

For more information, please contact Nancy Laing at [president@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:president@rscdscalgary.org)

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## Remembering Bill Shanks

We are sad to report that Bill Shanks, very active in the Calgary Scottish Country Dance Community passed away December 11, 2021. Jim Osborne was kind enough to provide this remembrance.

### **William (Bill) Shanks** **“A Friend to all” Jim Osborne remembers**

I, like many others, was fortunate and privileged to have known Bill and to have had him as a friend.

I only knew Bill through coming to Canada and I met him some forty-five years ago at St. Barnabas Scottish Country Dance class. Very soon after, he married Alis and announced their marriage at the Banff Springs workshop. All I know of his childhood and early teens is that he grew up in Gorgie, a suburb of Edinburgh, west of the city. When he left school, he started in the printing trade as a compositor, and also did his National Service. Bill joined The Cameron Highlanders, a regiment he was very proud of up until his last, and made a point of not confusing it with The Cameronians. He was stationed at Fort Augustus and served overseas in Burma. He was also very proud of the fact that his regiment was the last to wear the kilt as battle dress. He was a gentleman and dressed as such. There was never a person so immaculately dressed, especially when it came to Highlandwear. He boasted that the kilt he wore up until his last, was the same one he wore in service (show off). His hobby was collecting Scottish militaria and he had a collection that was of museum quality.

Bill was a keen Scottish Country dancer and filled the position of president of St. Barnabas Scottish Country Dancers (CSCDS) and president of the Banff Springs workshop committee. He was a member of Schiehallion, a Scottish Cultural Society which was a member of the Robert Burns World Federation. Bill loved Burns poetry and recited many of his works. He contributed to the Calgary Scottish Societies annual Stampede Parade float, and carried the Saltire proudly ahead of the float at every parade. I also carried a flag, and when we finished the parade, the first stop was the St. Louis Hotel. When asked, “Why do you march right into the pub?” he replied, “Well no one told me it wasn’t part of the parade route.”

Bill and I ribbed each other quite a bit, me being from Aberdeen and he from Edinburgh. You couldn’t help but laugh at his dry and cheeky humour. I remember him once telling someone that, “The best thing to come out of Aberdeen was the train for Edinburgh.” That, of course, he said in a loud voice and it was directed at me. At the after party at the Banff Springs Hotel one year, Bill and I were standing with our backs to the door like a couple of sentries when a knock was heard. It was Mac, the hotel detective. He said he was having a lot of complaints from other guests about the noise, to which Bill replied, “I’ll tell the piper to take his shoes off.”

You could see the camaraderie of his service years in his friendship. In spite of all the ribbing between us, we had each others backs. I miss Bill and I always have a laugh when something he said comes to mind and think of him when I have a wee dram.

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Sadly, in addition to Bill, we have also lost two other members in the past few months.

Bob Watson – a member of the Red Deer Scottish Country Dancers passed away on January 6, 2022. Bob was the long-time convener for the Red Deer SCD St. Andrew's Night that used to be held at Balmoral Hall. Bob's favorite dance was Blooms of Bon Accord. For those that knew Bob, let's remember him when we dance that dance in the future.

Peggy Linklater – Peggy was a long-time dancer and died earlier this year at the age of 101. She was an inspiration to all of us as and even when she was doing her last Scottish country dancing at the age of 98, her technique was very solid!

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## Free Beginners Class – Spread the Word!

The Branch continues to offer a Scottish Country Dance beginners class Tuesdays at Haysboro Community Center – a poster is below (and also attached to this email.) We are encouraging branch members to please pin up this poster if you have access to a bulletin board where you work, where you shop, or otherwise. Also feel free to invite anyone who might be interested in attending.



are ye dancin'?

Free Adult Beginner Class!

Jig your way into the world of Scottish Country Dance!

No partner necessary  
No Scottish heritage required  
No special clothes, just soft shoes

Haysboro Community Association  
1204 89 Ave SW  
Tuesday Evenings  
7:00pm ~ 8:15pm  
[www.rscdscalgary.org](http://www.rscdscalgary.org)

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## St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary – Tartan Ball

Did you miss having Robbie Burns Day celebration in person – the St Andrew – Caledonian Society is making up by hosting the Tartan Ball. Tickets and check for updates at <http://standrewcaledonian.ca/upcoming-events-2/>

### Tartan Ball on Saturday, April 9, 2022

Time: 5:30 pm doors open

Where: Polish Canadian Cultural Centre

Address: 3015 15th Street NE

Dress: Semi-formal

Dance musicians: Scott Duncan's Band

Entertainment: Toasts to William Wallace and Robert the Bruce, Highland Dancers, SACS Pipers and choir and more!

All participants must be fully vaccinated for Covid. This requires two doses of vaccine with the last dose received at least two weeks prior to attendance. Vaccination records will be checked at the door. Cloth or medical masks which cover the nose and mouth will be worn at all times except while eating or drinking; this includes while dancing.

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# TAC Summer School

2022 TAC Summer School is confirmed and is going ahead – details are included in poster below or on the TAC website at <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school>. Registration will open shortly, so keep checking the website.

This year, there are three components to TAC's Summer Events:

**Summer School – July 24-31, 2022** – Open to dancers of all levels. There will be Scottish Country Dance classes in the morning, specialty classes in the afternoon, and in the evenings, we have social dances, a ceilidh and the week finishes with a formal banquet and ball.



The poster features a background image of a Scottish Country Dance event. Text on the poster includes: "Registration begins in early March!", "2022 TAC Summer School", "Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada", "July 24-31, 2022", "Welcoming, supportive classes For dancers of all levels", "Basic | Intermediate | Advanced", "Daily classes | evening social dances | formal ball and banquet evening after parties | ceilidh | silent auction", "Teachers: Raphaëlle Orgeret (France), Robert McOwen (USA), Jeanne Moody (USA), Barbara Johnston (Canada)", "Musicians: Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins, not pictured: Terry Traub, Mary Ross", "For registration information, go to: tac-rscds.org", and "Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)". There is also a small logo for TAC and RSCDS.

**Teachers' Conference Weekend – July 22-24, 2022** – Open to members of TAC. There will be classes and discussion sessions geared toward teaching Scottish Country Dancing and TAC's AGM during the days, a social dance on the Friday evening and a formal banquet and ball on the Saturday evening.

**Teacher Candidate Classes – July 17-30, 2022** – Open to those who wish to undertake the formal training to become a certificated Scottish Country Dance teacher.

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# Volunteers Needed from Calgary Branch for TAC Summer School

To give the visitors a proper Calgary welcome - volunteers are required to support the TAC Summer school. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Sharon at [crossandthistle@hotmail.com](mailto:crossandthistle@hotmail.com).

Here are some of the ways that you can help:

- Transportation – we need to pick up the teachers and the musicians from the airport and take them to MRU and at the end of the summer events, we need to get them back to the airport
- Hospitality – every evening there is an after party where everyone can unwind, enjoy each other's company along with a beverage and a bite to eat. In 2019, the Calgary dancers provided plates of baked goods and we would love to have those goodies again this year. We also need help each evening with making of the tea and coffee, putting out the food and some light clean up duties
- Decoration – we need help with decorating the tables for the two balls and with decorating the gym and after party room. Ahead of summer school, we will also need help in assembling the table decorations
- Welcoming Committee – as people arrive at the residence, it is nice to have a friendly face to welcome you, show you where your room is located, etc.
- Sound Equipment – we will need help with the transportation, set up and tear down of the sound equipment. Last year, we also borrowed a number of extension cords from a number of members and would like to do that again this year.

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# Dancers Needed from Calgary Branch for TAC Candidate Classes July 17-30

Dancers are also required July 17 – 30 to be Angels for the Teacher's Candidate Classes. If you are willing to help, please contact Nancy at [president@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:president@rscdscalgary.org)

**What is a Teacher Candidate Course?** - This is an extremely important component of TAC Summer Events as not every branch has the resources to run a teacher training course in their own location. There are many places around the world that would not be able to train new teachers if it wasn't for the Teacher Candidate Courses that take place at TAC Summer Events, St. Andrew's Summer School, Australian Winter School, and New Zealand Summer School. At TAC's candidate course this year, we will have two classes.

**What is an Angel?** – An Angel is someone who will come to class and be a student for our teacher candidates to practice with before they take their exams. Many of you were Angels a few years ago when Sheree Iffla and Nancy Laing were preparing for their teaching exams here in Calgary. TAC needs Calgary Branch's help in providing Angels for their candidates to practice on. Angels will be needed from July 18 through to the exams which will most likely take place on July 28 and 29. This is an opportunity to dance with many different teachers over the two weeks for FREE. Calgary dancers are needed especially during the first week, as the regular Summer Events attendees, who will also participate as Angels, will not have arrived yet.

Angels should have a minimum of 3 years dancing experience and have a good knowledge of the most common formations including reels of three, reels of four, grand chains, ladies chains, turn corners and partner, set to and turn corners, set to corners and partner (hello-goodbye), allemande, promenade, double triangles, the knot, poussette in reel/jig time and strathspey time, rights and lefts, set and link, and figures of eight.

Ideally, we would like to have at least one set of dancers for each class, every day of the course. You don't have to commit to the whole two weeks. Even if you can only give an hour or two, that would be appreciated. Every little bit helps.

Nancy will be coordinating the exact times that Angels are needed, so if this is something that interests you, please let Nancy know and she will add you to the roster.

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## Dance Classes Update

We are so excited to be dancing again in person!

With Covid numbers continually evolving, status of these classes may well change. We recommend that you contact the teacher or class contact to confirm class status prior to attending.

### **Calgary Branch Beginners Class - Tuesdays 7:00-8:15** – note: classes roll into Cross and Thistle Class

Haysboro Community Centre - 1204 89th Avenue SW

Teacher: Nancy Laing

Contact: Sharon Barker – [teachersrep@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:teachersrep@rscdscalgary.org) – 403-701-3218

All dancers must provide proof of vaccination, wear masks, and sign Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk form. Hand sanitizer will be used, at a minimum, before each dance starts.

### **Cross and Thistle Scottish Dancers General Class** – Tuesdays 8:15 -10 pm

Haysboro Community Centre - 1204 89th Avenue SW

This class is open to dancers of all experience levels – beginner through advanced.

Teacher: Sharon Barker

Contact: Sharon Barker, 403-701-3218, [crossandthistle@hotmail.com](mailto:crossandthistle@hotmail.com)

All dancers must provide proof of vaccination, wear masks, and sign Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk form. Hand sanitizer is provided and will be used, at a minimum, before each dance starts.

### **Douglas Scottish Country Dance Club** – Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:00

Triwood Community Centre - 2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW

Membership \$20.00 Fees \$5.00

contact: [douglasscdclub@gmail.com](mailto:douglasscdclub@gmail.com) or John/Janyn Bertram at 403-585-3842 or 403-585-3944

### **Calgary Scottish Country Dance Society** – Thursday 7.30-9:30 pm

St. Barnabas Anglican Church Hall - 1407 7th Ave NW

Teacher: Jim Adamson

Contact: Jim Adamson, 403-271-1208

All dancers must provide proof of vaccination, wear masks, and sign Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk form

### **Confederation Park Scottish Country Dancer Club** – Thursdays 7:00-9:00

Brentwood Sportsplex - 1520B Northmount Drive NW.

Membership \$5.00 and Fees \$2.00

Teacher: Janyn Bertram

Contact: [confedparkscdclub@gmail.com](mailto:confedparkscdclub@gmail.com) or Janyn Bertram 403-585-3842

### **Airdrie Scottish Country Dancers** – Saturdays 7 to 9 pm

Airdrie United Church Hall - 212 1 Ave NE, Airdrie, AB T4B 0R4

Teacher: Ann Vanderwal

Contact: Ann Vanderwal, 403-968-7866, [www.airdriescottishdancers.org](http://www.airdriescottishdancers.org)

Covid protocols (only fully vaccinated dancers and masks) for the rest of the season.

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### **Grace Scottish Country Dance Group**

Due to space rental issues Grace Scottish Country Dance Group operation has been suspended pending further notice

**St. Giles Scottish Country Dance Group** – regrettably we have been informed that St Giles will either cease operation or merge with another SCD club.

### **Non-Calgary Branch Classes**

#### **St. Andrew-Caledonian Society Scottish Country Dance** – Tuesday 7:30

Northmount Baptist Church Hall - 451 Northmount Drive NW

Contact: Robert Henderson [roberthenderson@yahoo.com](mailto:roberthenderson@yahoo.com) 403-245-5514

<https://standrewcaledonian.ca/classes/scottish-country-dance/>

Covid protocols (only fully vaccinated dancers and masks) for the rest of the season.

Please check St Andrews Caledonian webpage for update on class status.

#### **St. Andrew-Caledonian Society Ceilidh Dancing** – Monday 7:00

Northmount Baptist Church Hall - 451 Northmount Drive NW

Teachers: Adam Dahmer and Dhanya Baird.

<http://standrewcaledonian.ca/classes/ceilidh-dancing/>

Covid protocols (only fully vaccinated dancers and masks) for the rest of the season.

Please check St Andrews Caledonian webpage for update on class status.

#### **Confederation Park Seniors Scottish Country Dance** – Friday 10:00 to 11:30

Ongoing - check website - <https://yycseniors.com/event-4337742>

Confederation Park 55+ Activity Centre

Triwood Community Association, 2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW

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Robbie Burns Night in May – Why Not? Check out



<https://www.cochranepipeband.ca/>

Feedback on this newsletter is welcome - please let me know if this information is useful to you and/or if there is anything you would like to see added or any corrections needed. Thanks.  
Acknowledgements: We gratefully acknowledge the support of The Province of Alberta through Alberta Foundation for the Arts funding and Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission casino funding.  
Happy Dancing!!  
Bill Mulloy RSCDS Calgary Branch  
[Newsletter@rscdscalgary.org](mailto:Newsletter@rscdscalgary.org)

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## UPCOMING Events (Still happening at this time)

If you have an event in your area that you would like to see added to this list, just let us know.

- Midwest Weekend Workshop – June 10-12, 2022 – Beaver Dam, Wisconsin
- Pinewoods Scottish Sessions – July 8-16, 2022 – Boston, Massachusetts
- Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School – July 3-10, 2022 - Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina
- TAC Teacher Candidates Course – July 17 – July 30, 2022 – Mount Royal University, Calgary
- TAC Summer Teachers' Conference Weekend – July 22-24, 2022 – Mount Royal University, Calgary
- TAC Summer School – July 24 – July 31, 2022 – Mount Royal University, Calgary
- RSCDS Summer School – Mid July – Mid August 2022 – St. Andrews, Scotland
- Lethbridge Scottish Country Dancers 25<sup>th</sup> Weekend Workshop – March 31, April 1 & 2, **2023** – Lethbridge <http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html>

### Webpages

- RSCDS Calgary Branch: <http://www.rscdscalgary.org/>
- RSCDS Headquarters: <https://www.rscds.org/>
- Teachers' Association (Canada): <https://tac-rscds.org/>
- Strathspey Server and the Scottish Country Dance Database: <https://www.strathspey.org/>
- RSCDS Ottawa Branch: <https://rscdsottawa.ca/rscds/> - They have a blog called "Dance-A-Day"

### YouTube

- RSCDS Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2mNV40nY6C2akB5Z8yE27w>
- RSCDS Archives Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpTmBx4w6Lt\\_doXdI8jkbyg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpTmBx4w6Lt_doXdI8jkbyg)
- Pas d'basque Practice: Scottish country dancing in everyday life - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtMW6Z0st-c>
- Or do a search of Newcastle Festival – there are many great examples of dancing being done at a competition in Newcastle
- RSCDS Edinburgh – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaZediRLF7-Jqy3x10mzZjQ> - check out their "Bite Sized Lessons"
- RSCDS Aberdeen - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC79tY82gxTC5pnCmJfpd0-A>
- RSCDS Paris - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6uiCPNy3qGxbO8cQUAyxwQ>
- RSCDS Lyon - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgd3QkrXFKAxufxxF1ySRWg> - check out The Toilet Roll Reel
- Here is a video of Derek Haynes doing a step dance called Come Ashore Jolly Tar - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK9cxGJ\\_YQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK9cxGJ_YQ) – he wrote many dances including MacDonald of the Isles, Gaelforce Wind and It's Nae Bother

### Music

- BBC Scotland's "Take the Floor" a weekly broadcast of Scottish Music with more than half of the programme being dedicated to SCD music: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07y72yv>
- Denis Snowdon's "A Little Breath of Scotland" a weekly Canadian broadcast of Scottish Music of all genres: <http://www.denissnowdon.com/blog/>

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Facebook (here are just a few, there are tons – just search for Scottish Country Dance and there will be no shortage of things to look at)

Groups:

- Cross and Thistle Scottish Dancers - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/147490665289793/?ref=bookmarks>
- Scottish Country Dance Teachers - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5808618015/> (anybody can join – you don't have to be a teacher)
- Pages:
- RSCDS Calgary Branch - <https://www.facebook.com/RscdsCalgary/>
- RSCDS Headquarters – <https://www.facebook.com/RSCDS/>
- Teachers' Association (Canada) – <https://www.facebook.com/TAC-Teachers-Association-Canada-214700221929380/> (anybody can like the page – you don't have to be a teacher)
- Tunes in the Hoose - <https://www.facebook.com/TunesInTheHoose/>
- Ian Robertson Music - <https://www.facebook.com/Ian-Robertson-Music-113581186750478/>
- Scotscores (Muriel Johnstone) - <https://www.facebook.com/scotscores/>
- Highland Wellness and Strength - <https://www.facebook.com/highlandwellness83/> - for strengthening exercises

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