

RSCDS Ottawa Branch Bulletin

AUGUST 2026



Message from the Chair

Charlie Inglis



Welcome back!

With the 60th Anniversary year behind us, we're excited about our next decade of dancing. Thanks again to all the branch members who helped make the 60th anniversary year such a success. I'd love to list you all, but Phil doesn't have space in my message for all the names! You know who you are.

This first event of this 26/27 season is on Tuesday, September 8th, at the Welcome Dance at Parkdale United Church. Bring your family, neighbours and friends to join us for a fun evening led by Guy Quesnel. Classes start on their regular days after the Welcome Dance, see the class schedule on page 4 for details.

This coming year, we're returning to pre-COVID classes by offering 3 levels of dancing on three nights as well as the afternoon social class. If you haven't already completed the dancing level assessment and indicated which level you plan to attend, please do it soon.

I've just received the news that Guy Quesnel has passed his level 5 certification in Saint Andrew's and is now a fully qualified SCD teacher. Congratulations Guy!

With a sell-out, the CAMMAC retreat was highly successful. I wish to once again thank Marion Hamilton, Emily Porter and Jody Kulas for organizing the workshop.

Summer dancing was very ably coordinated by Jo Anne Thorp as always with her amazing volunteer briefers. Thank you all for a fun summer of dancing!

As our final event of the 60th anniversary, the dancing in the park attracted branch members, some Ardbrae members and onlookers who joined in enthusiastically. A total of four sets were on the floor... err grass during the event. Some of the onlookers indicated they were interested in joining us this coming year.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Welcome Dance.

Charlie Inglis

Chair

In Memoriam
Betty Anderson



It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of Betty Anderson, our friend, fellow dancer, and retired Branch teacher.



Betty and her husband, Thane, joined the Ottawa Branch in 1979; and, from that moment on, they both became committed supporters of the Branch and of Scottish Country Dancing in general. Betty was a gifted teacher who taught all levels of Ottawa Branch classes. She also served as Branch Chair of Teachers for many years and was a long time Branch representative to Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada) (TAC). Betty organized and taught at Ottawa Branch workshops and was a guest teacher at a number of workshops outside of Ottawa. Along with Thane, she convened some of our Branch Balls and Christmas dances. She contributed to all aspects of Branch life and was a recipient of our annual Branch Award in 2023.

With her Infectious smile and sparkling personality, Betty inspired all of us to be our very best on and off the dance floor. Who could not help but smile when, as Betty was briefing a particular dance such as "John McAlpin" or "Triple Happiness" (both of which open with the first couple advancing to briefly and gently touch right hands with their partner before retiring); she would point this out as what she called a "magic moment." At Socials she always ended her briefings with the single word instruction to the dancers: "Enjoy." We have so many wonderful memories of such a lovely lady.

When we look up at the sky at night, we can rest assured that Betty has now joined her beloved Thane and has been welcomed by the ever-growing group of our late friends and former dancers as they organize sets, cue up the music, and dance forever among the stars.



For Auld Lang Syne

OTTAWA BRANCH EXECUTIVE 2026/2027			
Chair	Charlie Inglis	Secretary	Denise Jeanes
Vice-Chair	Ruth Cooper	Chair of Teachers	Emily Porter
Treasurer	Marc Raymond	Chair of Communications	Tobe Odell
Past Chair	Heather Caswell		
Bulletin editor: bulletin.rscdsottawa@gmail.com			
Branch website: www.rscdsottawa.ca			
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rscdsottawa (over 1000 followers!)			

Teacher's Corner



Welcome back to another dancing year! We hope that you've had a restful summer and are eager to get back to regular dancing—I know your teachers are!

I want to wish a hearty congratulations to Guy Quesnel, our level 1 teacher for this coming year. He travelled to Scotland this summer and was successful in completing his fifth and final unit of the teaching certification process. A lot of time and dedication went into this, and we could not be more pleased to welcome him as another fully-certified teacher within the Branch. Congratulations, Guy!

If you haven't already done so, please take the time to perform a [self-assessment](#) and select your class via the [online form](#). We ask that you please do so by September 1st so that the teachers may better proceed with planning.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual Welcome Dance in a couple of weeks. Please bring along friends or family with whom you'd like to share the joy of dancing. Remember—new dancers receive their first 3 classes free!

Emily Porter

Chair of Teachers

Schedule of Social Dances 2026/2027

Event	Date	Time*	Location
Welcome Dance	Tuesday September 8, 2026	7:00 – 9:30pm	Parkdale
October Social	Friday October 16, 2026	7:30 – 10:30pm	Parkdale
Christmas Dance	Saturday December 5, 2026	7:30 – 10:30pm	Parkdale
January Social	Friday January 29, 2027	7:30 – 10:30pm	Parkdale
March Social	Friday March 12, 2027	7:30 – 10:30pm	Parkdale
Spring Ball	Saturday April 24, 2027	5:30pm – 11:30pm	Glebe CC
AGM & AGM Social	Friday May 7, 2027	AGM 7:00 – 8:00pm Dance 8:00 – 10:30pm	Parkdale

* Doors open 30 minutes before the advertised start time

Schedule of Classes 2026/2027

Class	Teacher	Time
Level 1	Guy Quesnel	Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:00pm First class September 15 th No class on February 9 th
Level 2	Marion Hamilton	Thursdays 7:00 – 9:00pm First class September 10 th No classes on September 24 th , October 29 th , April 22 nd
Level 3	Emily Porter	Mondays 7:00 – 9:00pm First class September 14 th No classes on October 12 th , March 29 th
Afternoon Social	Charlie Inglis	Wednesdays 12:30 – 2:30pm First class September 9 th

The class syllabuses can be found [here](#), or on the Branch website.

There is also an [Etiquette Guide](#).

To determine which class you should be in, you can find a self-assessment tool [here](#). If you are unsure of your level you can also talk to your teacher.

A New Season Beckons – Spread the Word!

A new dancing season is upon us so let's spread the word of the fun of Scottish Country Dancing!

Our Welcome Dance is fast approaching; it is at Parkdale United Church on Tuesday, September 8th, starting at 7:00 pm.

Please invite your relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues so we can fill the hall!

The flyer on the next page is a great way to help get the word around. You can print this, or download the [PDE](#) and post it at work, your favourite coffee shop or your local Community Centre. Email it to friends and post it on your social media. Let's start some buzz!

The referral bonus scheme is in place again this year: When you bring a new member to our RSCDS Community, you will receive a free ticket to a Social Dance of your choice. The voucher is provided after a new member referred by you is registered. Simply bring the voucher to a dance to claim your free entrance!

**** Please note that each member can earn up to two vouchers for the season. ****

So, here is the challenge: Invite at least two people. After that, invite two more and then two more...

Thank you for spreading the word!

Registration for existing members will be open soon. Look out for the registration email from the Branch, heading your way shortly.

We are looking for a convenor for the Christmas Dance, if you would like to volunteer, contact Ruth Cooper, or any of the executive.

RSCDS OTTAWA



WELCOME DANCE



SEPTEMBER 8, 7 PM

- NO PARTNER NEEDED
- CASUAL DRESS
- FREE

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH
429 PARKDALE AVE

WEEKLY CLASSES SEPT - APRIL
FIRST THREE CLASSES FREE
SOCIAL DANCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Dancing by the Lake

CAMMAC Scottish Country Dance Retreat 2026

This year's CAMMAC Scottish Country Dance Retreat brought dancers together for a weekend of music, movement, friendship, and fresh air at the CAMMAC Music Centre on the shores of Lake MacDonald in Harrington, Quebec. Held June 12-14, the retreat offered an all-inclusive weekend where participants could leave everyday routines behind and immerse themselves in Scottish country dancing.

The 2026 teaching team featured Faye McNeil of Edinburgh, Arthur McNair of Pittsburgh, and Jen Schoonover of Boston. They were joined by an outstanding musical team: Elizabeth Anderson Howe, Katie McNally, and Dave Wiesler, representing Boston, Portland, and Newark respectively.

With three days devoted to Scottish country dancing, the retreat was an opportunity to learn from experienced teachers, dance to live music, and meet dancers from across the region and beyond. But CAMMAC has always been about more than classes. Shared meals, informal conversations, lakeside surroundings, and time with old and new friends are what give the weekend its distinctive character.

One of the highlights of this year's retreat was the high-energy youth contingent. Their enthusiasm was impossible to miss: they brought speed, sparkle, and an infectious sense of fun to the dance floor. Whether tackling demanding figures in class or throwing themselves into the evening dances, the younger dancers added an extra buzz to the weekend.

Much gratitude is owed to the organisers of this excellent event, so a huge thank you to Emily Porter, Marion Hamilton and Jody Kulas, we had a wonderful time giving us many happy memories.



CAMMAC Teachers and Organisers



Jody Kulas, Jen Schoonover, Arthur McNair, Faye McNeil, Emily Porter, Marion Hamilton

Everybody!



More photos can be found in the [Branch website gallery](#)

Dancing in the Park

What better way to enjoy a summer day than dancing outdoors with friends? Members and friends of RSCDS Ottawa gathered in Stanley Park on an August Sunday for an afternoon of Scottish country dancing, music, and good company.

With the sunshine overhead and plenty of enthusiasm on the dance grass, Branch members and bystanders enjoyed the chance to dance together in the fresh air. With familiar favourites and some new dances, the event showcased the fun, friendship, and community spirit at the heart of Scottish country dancing.

Thank you to the teachers and communications committee for putting together the event, and to everyone who came along and helped make Dancing in the Park such a joyful occasion. We look forward to dancing together again soon!



Summer Dancing at Churchill 2026

Another summer of Scottish country dancing has come to an end for the RSCDS Ottawa Branch and our friends, bringing to a close another lively season of music, movement and fun.

Summer dancing has become an important part of the Ottawa Branch calendar. Although the regular dancing season runs from September to early May, informal dancing continues through the summer, providing a wonderful bridge between seasons. The success of summer dancing at the Branch is part of a much longer tradition. Summer sessions were organized independently for many years before the pandemic interrupted dancing in 2020. When restrictions were lifted in 2022, summer dancing returned to extend the short 2021/2022 season, eventually becoming a formal Branch activity. Since then, it has continued to flourish through the efforts of organisers, teachers, volunteers and, most importantly, the dancers who turn up each week ready to dance.

This year's planning committee consisted of Marion Hamilton, Jo Anne Thorp, Ruth Cooper, Mary Bridson and Phil Worthington, who were busy in the Spring putting together the dance programmes, incorporating many of the suggestions of favourite dances from Branch members. So many thanks to them.

Many extra thanks must go to Jo Anne Thorp, who once again convened the summer dances, ensuring everything ran very smoothly. Also thanks to Chris Thorp for putting together the weekly crib sheets and to our friends from Ardbrae for devising, hosting and briefing 3 nights of dancing: Guy Quesnel, Craig Williams and Emily Porter.

Not least, thanks also go to our volunteer team of MCs, briefers and music suppliers:

Mary Bridson	Ruth Cooper	Ruth Fudemoto	Prem Grainger	Breda Gusen
Kathy Hatherill	Gillian Huntley	Denise Jeanes	Jimmy Kirkhope	Patrick Mackenzie
Rowena MacKeen	Karen Moxley	Steve Moritsugu	Jackie Pothier	Jim Paulin
Maria Romanovskaia	Leslie Roster	Jean Scott	Janet Shorten	Jo Anne Thorp
Marion Xhignesse	Phil Worthington			

Most of all, thank you to all the dancers who made each Tuesday evening something to look forward to. The laughter, good humour and willingness to take a partner and join a set are what make Scottish country dancing such a special community.



Summer may be drawing to a close, but the dancing certainly isn't. With the regular season approaching, we look forward to seeing everyone back on the dance floor — and to welcoming new dancers who would like to discover the fun for themselves.

Other Events



SAVE THE DATE

LONDON (CANADA) BRANCH RSCDS

ST ANDREW'S DINNER AND DANCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2026

Further details and registration to follow

[Dance Programme](#)

www.rscdslondoncanada.org