

December 31, 2008



The Cockade

Newsletter of the RSCDS Windsor (Ontario) Branch

www.rscdswindsor.org

Hello there – From the Chair

Well, we are at the end of another year and it's time to reflect on the year that has just gone by.

It was a difficult year with the loss of people near and dear to our hearts.

However, in the midst of our troubles, there were a lot of positive events. With the help of June Dey, our three candidates passed Level 1 of the Teacher's Certificate, although there was no time to bask in the glow of our achievements before June started our training for Unit 4.

Enough new people

came to our Open House in September to form a beginner's class and Joyce Smith has done a great job with them. You can see the progress made every week when they join us for the social hour and they now look as if they are actually enjoying themselves.

We had a very successful Ball on October 25, 2008 when around 80 people attended and a well deserved Branch award was presented to Catherine Graham from Ann Arbor. We also had a pilot Tea

Dance on Sunday, November 23rd which was very well attended.

We are definitely in a rebuilding mode at the moment, but the outlook for our Branch is very good. We are grateful for the joy that we get from dancing and for the support and love of our fellow dancers.

May we all be blessed by the spirit of the Christmas Season and may 2009 be a wonderful year for us in our personal lives as well as in RSCDS.

Yours aye, Isobel

Dates to Remember!

- Open House

January 7, 2009
8PM
McKenzie Hall

- Valentine Tea Dance

February 8, 2009
Scottish Club

- 13th Annual Border Cities Workshop

March 20-21, 2009
Windsor Light Music Theater

- AGM

May 13, 2009

- Pot Luck

May 30, 2009
Bedford United Church

The Tea Dance

Mark Sunday afternoon, **February 8, 2009** on your calendars!



The Windsor Branch is planning our second afternoon social dance. The venue will be the Scottish Club on Tecumseh Rd known to be the location for a good time. Our committee is busy planning the dances and the nibbles so plan on joining us as we celebrate Valentine's Day with friends and family.



Summer School 2008 – The Highlights

First of all, the three of us must thank the Windsor Branch for your wonderful support and kindness; without it we'd never have got there, let alone pass. Who'd have thought that we'd be the only branch to have three successful candidates for units 2&3 at this year's Summer School. Must be something to do with our teachers/ past and present/, or what do you think? We must be the envy of a lot of branches is what I'm thinking.

Two weeks. Week one is how well do we dance? Week two is how well do we teach? Our tutor, Stella, for week one was challenged – let me explain, there were no spring chickens in the group - thank God! Stella put us through our paces practicing the 15 (since reduced to 12) set dances at an exacting though not completely exhausting pace. We were allocated partners to practice with, and this was the format of the set we were to dance in for the unit two exam. Isobel was teamed up with Heather, a doctor and very experienced dancer from the Boston area; so expert was Heather that Isobel had to be a lady and not much fun– for once. Pat had the good fortune to be

partnered with Marty from Texas. Marty was already a very experienced teacher and even came to Summer School knowing to bring a powered-calf/thigh-massager for all to enjoy in the evenings in the communal rest area. I was blessed with Pat from California, not only a lovely woman but a beautiful dancer.

At this point I/we must mention the “shadows’ that were there to aid the tutors. Rosemary and Fiona were a constant delight in their support and, above all, depth of knowledge of all there is to know about Scottish Country Dancing; it was wonderful the way they shared this knowledge and supported the tutors.

Week two - the teaching. What would we have done without the three girls showing up? What a morale booster! We were the envy of everybody: Windsor doesn't mess around was the message that was out. After my lesson on pas de basque, I was quizzed by our unit 3 tutor, John Middleton, why I hadn't stressed the jeté, “Well”, I said, “It's not my strong point. Tara even came up to me after the class and said it was really nice to see me doing a

real jeté for the first time”. And I was supposed to be doing teaching!

Talk about the three of us bonding! Of all the many stories at Summer School the Laundry Story must be told:- After a week, we all needed to do laundry. We three met downstairs with all the appropriate stuff. While loading my machine with male adroitness, I couldn't help but notice how involved Pat and Isobel were with sorting out their three or was it four machines. Before I could toss the detergent in, I was interrogated about my laundry technique, lectured, and my machine emptied by Pat as garments, both large and small, were tossed across the room into the confusion of machines that Pat and Isobel were creating. Unfortunately another units 2&3 candidate, probably the most talented, experienced and knowledgeable of all of us all – Marty -, was doing his laundry at the same time. Later that night while discussing laundry facilities at summer school in front of tutors and shadows, Marty made the mistake of accusing Isobel of tossing **her** undies around in public, “They weren't mine, they were Griff's,” was Isobel's response, and the tutor gave me an approving nod.



Dancing for two weeks in front of mirrors and tutors and shadows really improved all our footwork. At the next Windsor/Detroit Workshop we have mirrors and invited teachers

Once again, thank you Windsor. We three are all looking forward to becoming fully certified teachers next time round. We know we can't do it without your support, or the guidance of our teachers June and Joyce. the Branch. You danced Griff, (for the three of us).

Celebrations and Introductions

Congratulations and welcome to an addition to the Hunter Clan. Cameron Steven Hunter arrived in December, a grandson for Isobel and a nephew for Julie.

RSCDS welcomed eight new members to the Branch this fall. We are happy you have joined us and hope you will enjoy Scottish Country Dancing as much as we do. Welcome to

Cheryl Barnett,
Catherine Belanger,
Averil and Jon
Elcombe, Nancy and
George England,
Cathy Sceli and Jodi
Stone.

Anne Hammond -

She has been sighted. She joined us at the November Tea Dance, but only to meet, greet and watch us dance. It was good to see her out and about, however we await her return to the dance floor. From all of the regular members and the new ones who have yet to meet Anne, we send our positive thoughts for continued return to good health. Come join us, as soon as you can, in 2009!

The 13th Annual Border Cities Annual Workshop



The 13th Annual Border Cities Workshop is March 20-21, 2009 and the Workshop Committee, with members from Windsor and Detroit, is working on organizing the weekend. They have located a new venue which will meet our needs and be gentle with our joints. Look for a flyer, with all of the details, coming soon. .



Coming Attractions

London Ontario
Ceilidh, Workshop & Dance
February 27-28, 2008

Email Gayle Frisa – gayle.frisa@execulink.com

Windsor Workshop
March 20-21, 2009

Windsor Light Music Theater, 2491 JoeStLouis

Windsor Ontario

Dorothy Huynh treasurer

Ann Arbor Scottish Ball

May 9, 2009

Pittsfield Union Grange Hall

[Music by Debbie Jackson & Friends](#)

Raspberry, Pine-Nut & Cinnamon Muffins – Scotland Magazine September 2007

225g/8oz self-raising flour

1 level tsp baking powder

1 level tsp cinnamon

100g/3.5 oz golden caster sugar

1 large free-range egg

75ml/2.5 fl oz sunflower oil

150ml/5 fl oz soured cream,

150g/5.5 oz raspberries

55g /2 oz pinenuts.

1. Sieve the 1st three ingredients into a bowl, stir in the sugar
2. Whisk together the egg, oil and soured cream than gently fold this into the dry ingredients
3. Very gently fold in the berries and pinenuts then spoon into 12 muffin cases set in muffin tin
4. Bake at 200^oC/400^oF/GAS 6 for 20-25 minutes until golden