



# The Cockade

## Deeply Missed

Phyllis Oxley



Phyllis (l) and Linda Edwards share a smile at the 2007 Ball

Phyllis Oxley passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family on April 10, 2011. Survived by husband Dr. Marven Oxley, son Allan, sister Helen and brother-in-law John, and sister-in-law Bar-

bara. Phyllis was a proud and active member our Windsor Branch. Her generous smile, energy, love and good humour will be missed by each of us on Wednesdays. This edition of *The Cockade* is

### Remembering Those Who Loved the Dance



In May 2010, we dedicated a memory tree at MacKenzie Hall for beloved members we have lost. Next time you are at MacKenzie Hall take a minute to stop and see the tree dedicated to Those Who Loved The Dance.

dedicated to Phyllis who edited it so enthusiastically and who brought so much joy to our branch. We will remember her as one Who Loved The Dance.

### SAVE THE DATES:

- May 11th: Annual General Meeting
- May 25th: Request Night
- May 28th: Year End Potluck



- September 7: First night of dance season: registration night
- September 14: Bring a Friend Open House Night
- October 29: Annual Ball



## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR, JENNIFER LEVACK

Wow, I'm amazed at how quickly the 2010-2011 dance season has flown by! I send out a big thank-you to our teachers and candidate teacher who have taught us so much this year.

Although I was out of town and could not attend, I heard our tartan tea dance was the "tartaniest ever!" Our workshop this year, which was held over in Troy, Michigan, was a huge success with our fine teachers Elaine Brunken and Lee Fuell and the wonderful Fred Moyes entertaining us all afternoon and into the evening. It was the first time I've danced a highland Schottische Pousette!

Our spring session was not all fun and dancing, as we were forced to say good-bye to a dear friend and dancer. Phyllis Oxley passed away on April 10th. She was an enthusiastic dancer; always quick to ask a question, and quick to help a fellow dancer both on the dance floor

and off. She was a very active member of our branch, serving as both secretary and Cockade editor-- no small task, but one she took in stride and with vigor. I will remember Phyllis for her wonderful positive outlook, for her giving nature, her love of Scottish Country dancing, and her beautiful smile.

Looking around the corner to May, we have our annual general meeting on May 11th at 7 pm and our special request night on May 25 which is always a fun class. And of course our dance season ends with a special night of fellowship on Saturday, May 28th with our pot-luck supper. A night to celebrate yet another great dance season for the R.S.C.D.S. Windsor branch! My own children have been looking forward to the pot-luck since... well since the last pot-luck! "When is the day that kids can go to your dancing Mom?" is something I hear every Wednesday as I grab my shoe

bag to head to class. So bring your family with you on May 28th so they can spend an evening with our group (which I like to call "my dancing family").

In closing, I wish you all a restful summer. Put your feet up by the pool and rest your toes. Just make sure they're ready to dance in September. Meet you on the dance floor, Jennifer



## WE'RE ON FACEBOOK



As a way for us to keep in touch share photos, news and resources, we've just set up a Facebook page

for our branch. Being on Facebook also helps us reach new members and connect with other dancers and branches. If you're not already on Facebook, it's free and easy to do. Just go to <http://www.facebook.com> and sign

up. To become part of our page, log in and search for "Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Windsor Ontario Branch" and then click "Like." We think you'll like it.



## FEBRUARY TEA DANCE

The most recent Tea Dance was held on February 20, 2011. It was a unique dance because the members were able to vote on a theme, and the theme that was chosen was the “un-unique” tartan theme. Jean Rook, Val Proctor, Anne Hammond, Sandy Morgan, and Kim Munro did a lovely job decorating the Scottish Club in as much tartan as possible, and many of the dancers decorated themselves in as much tartan as possible! The unofficial prize for the most tartan worn goes to Griff Evans and June Dey, who each had about 4 different tartans in their outfits. They were quite a sight! Despite the low number of dancers due to the long weekend travels and a blizzard, we all had a great time dancing, eating, drinking, and laughing. It was a great dance program, June!

Tara Fuerth



## CROSS BORDERS WORKSHOP 2011



It's hard to believe that the Detroit-Windsor Cross Borders Workshop has now been in exis-

tence for 15 years. The 15th Annual workshop was held on March 26th in Troy, Michigan at the beautiful First United Methodist Church.

Our teachers, Elaine Brunken from Maryland and Lee Fuell from Ohio, were fantastic and taught us so much about phrasing and steps, as well as several new dances. The fabulous Fred Moyes was in great form and played during classes, as well as at the evening dance for which Laurel Paterson of the De-

troit Branch put together a very interesting and enjoyable program.

My co-chair, Rachael Harrer of the Detroit Branch, was a joy to work with and we demonstrated that we could not only work together but also that we were capable of high kicking in rhythm!!

Thanks to all the members of the committees and also the volunteers for making the event such a success.

Yours aye, Isobel Hunter



## SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

Chair	Jennifer Levack
Vice Chair	Tara Fuerth
Past Chair	Isobel Hunter
Treasurer	Anne Hammond & Valerie Proctor
Secretary	Isobel Paterson
Social Convener	Mary Cunningham
Members at Large	Valerie Wright & Alexandra MacTavish
Cockade Editor	Heidi Jacobs

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## ON THE ROAD WITH GRIFF



On April 9<sup>th</sup> June, Jennifer and I drove to the first RSCDS Chair Conference of Branches and Affiliated Groups of the Southern Great Lake Area held in Toronto. There were dancers from Ottawa to Windsor and New York. The meeting was designed to introduce the various branches and groups to each other and discuss issues that each group thought important. Predictably, recruiting new dancers was uppermost in everyone's mind; then came equipment, branches holding events that are in conflict and, interestingly, finding and training local musicians to play for classes and dances.

• Recruitment: what with an election, Stanley Cup Playoffs, The Royal Wedding and the prospect of warm weather, most people are preoccupied. But then do we really want politicians or hockey players? I did once dance with Susan Pupatello at a demonstration and she was good if a bit wobbly in her high heels. The dangers of colliding with a hockey player while doing a reel are obvious. The Royals would, of course, always be welcome; we could put our bows and curtsies to good use; it's just that they're so busy. The general consensus was that potential dancers will turn up having been bullied by friends and it is our duty to make them feel as welcome as possible and that they are an important part of the group from the very start.

• Equipment: everyone seems to be going to laptops using an assortment of speed control programs and whatever speaker(s) the teacher has the strength to lug around.

• Conflicts: in order to reduce the number of conflicting events it was determined to have a dedicated web page listing all events of all groups: it was hoped this might also encourage dancers to attend out of town events.

• Local musicians: finding local musicians capable of playing for our dancing is a challenge. Several groups pointed out that the main bands we enjoy – Bobby Brown, Fred Moyes and Don Bartlett – are getting on; some more than others. We are doing nothing to encourage and train new musicians and bands. It was decided to suggest that a musicians' course be offered at TAC summer school complete with scholarships.

It was a stimulating afternoon with some lively dancers in a beautiful house, complete with dance floor in the basement.

Griff Evans

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## END OF SEASON POTLUCK



Our end of season potluck will be held on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at Bedford Hall. The potluck begins at 6:00. Dinner at 6:30. Dancing to follow. There is no charge but please bring a dish to share, your dishes and your cutlery. The dance programme is as follows: Jessie's Hornpipe, A Capital Jig, Duchess of Atholl's Slipper, The White Cockade, It Should be Fun, Mrs Garthland's Strathspey, The Music Makars, The Dhoon, The Royal Wedding, The Duke of Perth, Rachel in Maryland, Seann Triubhas Willichan, Round Reel of Eight, EH3 7AF, Jean Martin of Aberdeen and West's Hornpipe. Briefs for the dances are available at the website <http://www.rscdswindsor.org/events.php>. We look forward to seeing you at a fantastic night of fun and dancing.



GETTING TO KNOW A FELLOW DANCER: JEAN DICKSON MOORE ROOK



**Birthplace:** Bellshill, Scotland

**Hobbies:** crafts, gardening, grandchildren

**Least favourite subject in school:** math

**Favourite movie:** *Gone with the Wind*

**Your best time of day:** Morning, I can get more done.

**A lesson you had to learn the hard way:** Not everyone thinks the way you do. People have different opinions.

**Employment:** shorthand typist and bookkeeper for a bank and a travel agency.

**If you could travel back in time and meet yourself as a 10 year old, what advice would you give her?** Feel good about yourself.

**Favourite saying:** "Take one day at a time."

**Pet peeve:** when people don't respect others.

**Favourite food:** fish, especially trout and salmon

**Famous person you would most like to spend time with:** Bob Hope, he always made me laugh.

**When you are alone, what do you most enjoy doing?** Knitting, crocheting, and sewing.

**Something you would like to be remembered for:** Being a good wife, mother, and grandmother; a good friend.

GETTING TO KNOW A FELLOW DANCER: CHERYL BARNETT

**Birthplace:** Windsor

**Hobbies:** Reading, doing anything I please.

**Least favourite subject in school:** Chemistry

**Favourite TV show:** The Sopranos

**A lesson you had to learn the hard way:** To try not to be abrupt.

**Your best time of day:** nighttime

**Employment:** Currently retired. I was a grade school French teacher at

Gilmore, Gordon McGregor, Percy P. McCallum, and Northwood Schools.

**If you could travel back in time and meet yourself as a 10 year old, what advice would you give her?** Continue on the way you are. I wish the person I was then would have continued into adulthood. To continue to be a forthright and genuine person.

**Favourite saying:** "That drives me nuts!"

**Pet peeve:** rude drivers

**Favourite food:** Prime rib and Yorkshire pudding

**Famous Person you would most like to spend time with:** Stevie Nicks from Fleetwood Mac

**When you're alone, what do you most enjoy doing?** Reading

**Something you would like to be remembered for:** For trying.





### RSCDS WINDSOR BRANCH THINKS GLOBALLY

Last year (Feb. 2010) the executive voted to send a small donation to Haiti on behalf of R.S.C.D.S. Windsor branch, to help with relief for those suffering in the aftermath of the hurricane there. At that time the idea of a yearly donation to an important organization helping those less fortunate than ourselves every February was also discussed. This year, it was decided that we donate to Guatemala Hope. Anyone with an organization they would like considered in the future may speak with any member at large. We look forward to any and all suggestions.

Jennifer Levack

### ABOUT GUATEMALA HOPE

This Non-profit Organization originated as a small committee working to assist the poor villagers of Triunfo, Guatemala. St. John the Evangelist Parish in Woodslee sponsored a refugee family from this village in the early 1990's. After a few years had passed they learned that the poverty level in the village was getting worse, so they established a committee to work with the villagers to meet some of their needs. In 2003 the non profit organization "Guatemala Hope" was established and became a Canadian Charity in 2008. It is non denominational and people from all walks of life have become involved in the work. Over the last eight years Guatemala Hope has been effective in fundraising to provide a new Church, livestock, seeds, fertilizer, bi-annual mission trips to the village for numerous projects including medical, dental and eye clinics, establishing local committees, initiating a student sponsorship program, a housing program, small business enterprises, adult education programs, a clean water project, building safe stoves, along with many other initiatives. Our work has spread to other villages near Triunfo. The vision of the Corporation is to improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency of the villagers of Triunfo, Los Tiestos and the surrounding area through the improvement of health, education and economic conditions. We welcome and appreciate any support from our Canadian community. 96% of all donated funds go directly to the poor. We also collect various items that support the projects, and these are carried to the villages by our missionaries who travel there three times a year. We thank the Scottish Country Dance Association for your continuing support. (For further information or questions, please call 519-975-2959 or visit our website at [www.guatemalahope.ca](http://www.guatemalahope.ca))

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### THE COCKADE NEEDS YOU

If you have news, pictures or ideas for *The Cockade*, your humble editor would be happy to receive stories big or small. You can contact Heidi at [hjacob@uwindsor.ca](mailto:hjacobs@uwindsor.ca) or talk to her at class.

