



RSCDS Ottawa Branch Bulletin

May 2026



Message from the Chair

Charlie Inglis



That Diamond Anniversary Ball was a real gem (pun intended) — it perfectly blended the right amount of formality with fun! The months of planning paid off, and the ball committee, led by Denise Jeanes with the help of Ruth Cooper, Tobe Odel, Gillian Huntley, and Todd Moxley, should be thanked for making the evening such a success. The little extra touches throughout the evening really made it special.

It was wonderful to see all the out-of-towners who came, and especially how many dancers from the Ardbrae group joined us to celebrate.

I didn't know Denise was such a talented baker who made the delicious dessert cake!

The AGM was well attended . I was especially happy the presented the Branch award to Elma Mooney and an Honorary Life Time Membership in the Branch to Eileen Black for her nearly 60 years of dedication to the Branch.

So, this month marks our official branch anniversary when we became recognized as a branch of the RSCDS. I found it really interesting to look through all the history on the website, thanks to Lorraine, Tobe, and Todd. If you haven't had a chance to check it out yet, now would be a great time!

The dancing season seems to have flown by, even with the long winter we had. All classes had their year-end parties last week, It feels like they come around so fast each year.

Summer dancing kicks off at the end of the month, where we'll be dancing along with dancers from Ardbrae for 12 weeks of relaxed fun, and the CAMMAC dance weekend follows in June.

We're also planning to dance in a park on August 16. More details on the date and location to follow.

Have a fantastic summer!

Charlie Inglis

Chair

OTTAWA BRANCH EXECUTIVE 2025/2026/2027			
Chair	Charlie Inglis	Secretary	Denise Jeanes
Vice-Chair	Ruth Cooper	Chair of Teachers	Emily Porter
Treasurer	Marc Raymond	Chair of Communications	John Cooper
Past Chair	Heather Caswell		
Bulletin editor: bulletin.rscdsottawa@gmail.com			
Branch website: www.rscdsottawa.ca			

Teacher's Corner



Thank you all for another wonderful year of dance. It's a joy teaching when every class is full of eager, smiling dancers.

As discussed at our AGM, we will be moving to three separate teaching classes on weekday evenings in addition to the Wednesday afternoon social class. If you are unsure which level might be most suitable, we encourage you to consult the class syllabuses available on our website and linked to in this bulletin (below the Schedule of Classes). Once the self-assessment tool has been finalized, it will be available on the website as well, in addition to being sent out to members ahead of the new dancing year. Dancers should be able to perform approximately 85% of the steps and formations for a given level correctly and from only a brief recap before moving on the next level. Everyone gets the most out of a class when it is at their correct level—the lesson is focused on the aspects needed to progress.

Though classes are finished, there's a lot to look forward to over the next few weeks with CAMMAC and the start of summer dancing; I look forward to seeing many of you there. Have a wonderful summer and see you on the dance floor again soon.

Emily Porter

Chair of Teachers

Schedule of Social Dances 2026/2027

Event	Date	Time*	Location
Welcome Dance	Tuesday September 8 th , 2026	7:00 – 9:30pm	Parkdale
October Social	Friday October 16 th , 2026	7:30 – 10:30pm	Parkdale
Christmas Dance	Saturday December 5 th , 2026	7:30 – 10:30pm	Parkdale
January Social	Friday January 29 th , 2026	7:30 – 10:30pm	Parkdale
March Social	Friday March 12 th , 2026 (provisional)	7:30 – 10:30pm	Parkdale
Spring Ball	TBD		
AGM & AGM Social	Friday May 7 th , 2026	AGM 7:00 – 8:00pm Dance 8:00 – 10:30pm	Parkdale

* Doors open 15/30 minutes before the advertised start time

Schedule of Classes 2026/2027

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

If you are unsure which level you should be in, talk to your teacher.

2026 RSCDS Ottawa Branch Award – Elma Mooney



The RSCDS Ottawa Branch is honoured to present the 2026 Branch Award to Elma Mooney, recognizing years of dedicated service to the Branch.

Elma has been a member of the Ottawa Branch since 2011, having first attended several classes in Osgoode after moving to Greely in 2010.

She was elected Branch Secretary in May 2014 and served two terms in that role. During her tenure, she also managed the membership portfolio, acting as the Branch liaison with the RSCDS Headquarters membership database in Edinburgh.

After completing her term as secretary, Elma volunteered to continue overseeing membership duties, which had by then been separated from the secretary's responsibilities. At the time, membership processing was primarily paper-based, requiring close coordination with the Branch Treasurer to ensure all membership applications were accurately recorded in both the web-based system and the Edinburgh database.

Elma worked closely with the Branch webmaster to develop a more efficient online membership process, improving data collection and streamlining transfers to Edinburgh. This effort included regular communication with her contact there, particularly when unique or complex cases arose.

When the Branch decided to move the Ottawa website to a new platform, Elma was an integral part of the design and implementation of the new membership system, further enhancing efficiency and ease of use.

Throughout her many years in this behind-the-scenes role, Elma has contributed tirelessly and with little public recognition. She has collaborated with successive treasurers, trained them on the system, and consistently demonstrated good humour, patience, and meticulous attention to detail. Her dedication has been instrumental to the ongoing success of the Branch.

RSCDS Ottawa Branch AGM

The RSCDS Ottawa Branch AGM was held at Parkdale United Church on Friday, May 8, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

❖ The Chair highlighted the major points from his report

- This year marked the branch's 60th anniversary. The Chair thanked the members of the 60th Anniversary Committee and presented them with flowers.
- The CAMMAC workshop weekend this coming June was sold out quickly due to the success of the past two years.
- Eileen Black who has provided 60 years of dedicated service to the branch is retiring from teaching.

❖ The Treasurer (Marc Raymond) was given full approval for the 2026-2027 budget which included fee increases as follows:

- Membership fees by \$5 (from \$195 to \$200) to meet \$5 increase in fees by RSCDS HQ in Scotland.
- Non-dancing membership fees increase from \$61 to \$70.
- New category 'Friends of the Branch' – fee of \$20.
- Guest dancer fees from \$5 to \$10 (for RSCDS members) and from \$10 to \$15 (for non-RSCDS members).

❖ The Chair of Instructors (Emily Porter) was pleased to report that, for the 2026/27 season, the branch will be offering 4 classes a week.

- Mondays – Level 3 with Emily
- Tuesdays – Level 1 with Guy
- Thursdays – Level 2 with Marion
- Wednesday afternoon social with Charlie

Emily Porter will continue to be the Chair of Instructors for the 2026/27 season.

❖ The Chair of Communications, John Cooper, reported that

- Recruitment 'Dancing in the Park' event on August 16 in Stanley Park (New Edinburgh).
- YouTube channel now has a couple of dances posted.

John thanked Maria Romanovskaia for all her work on keeping social media updated.

Tobe Odell chair of the committee next year.

❖ The Branch Award for 2026 was presented by Charlie Inglis to Elma Mooney. Further particulars appear in this Bulletin.

Charlie also presented an Honorary Life Membership, the first ever, to Eileen Black for her nearly 60 years of dedicated service to the branch

❖ The Nominations Report was given by Heather Casswell and approved. There were no nomination from the floor. The Branch Executive for the 2026/27 were approved by acclamation and are:

- Charlie Inglis - Chair
- Ruth Cooper - Vice Chair
- Marc Raymond - Treasurer
- Denise Jeanes - Secretary

❖ It has been a busy year, and the Chair thanked all the volunteers for their contributions.

[Full draft minutes of the AGM](#)



Branch History

History of the RSCDS Ottawa Branch 2016-2026 - Updated, including Ball pictures

Discover the Branch's inspiring journey of resilience, innovation, and community spirit in the 2016-2026 History of the RSCDS Ottawa Branch. Relive the highlights, milestones, and heartfelt moments from a decade of dancing!

Tap the link for the full document: [2016-2026 History of the RSCDS Ottawa Branch](#)

Summer Dancing



Summer Dancing Is Just Around the Corner!

The Summer Dancing planning team has been hard at work preparing an exciting lineup for this year's Summer Dancing. Thanks to your wonderful suggestions of favourite dances, we're delighted to present a series of thoughtfully crafted programmes we hope you'll truly enjoy.

This year, Summer Dancing will run for 12 weeks, taking place on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the [Churchill Seniors Centre](#). The season kicks off on May 26, with a weekly entrance fee of \$5 payable at the door. Please note there will be no dance on June 30, due to the proximity of Canada Day.

We're especially pleased to welcome our friends from Ardbrae, who will lead three evenings:

- Guy Quesnel on June 9
- Craig Williams on July 14
- Emily Porter on August 11

We will use last year's Summer Dancing email list merged with the current Branch mailing list to share updates and programmes. If you want your address removed, please contact Jo Anne Thorp (thorps@rogers.com).

If you're new to Summer Dancing, please note that these evenings are not instructional. Some prior experience is recommended to fully enjoy the dances. Programmes and cribs will be sent out approximately one week in advance, and all dances will be briefed and walked through at least once during the evening.

For a preview of the dances, the programmes for the Branch led evenings can be found on My.Strathspey, e.g., <https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/59397/>

For other nights, search for 'RSCDS Ottawa Summer Dancing' on <https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/>.

We look forward to dancing with you this summer!

The Summer Dancing Planning Committee

(Mary Bridson, Ruth Cooper, Marion Hamilton, Jo Anne Thorp, Phil Worthington)

A Diamond Evening to Remember: 60th Anniversary Ball Shines

On April 11, 2026, RSCDS Ottawa Branch members and friends gathered at the Nepean Sportsplex to celebrate a milestone 60th Anniversary Diamond Ball—an evening that seamlessly blended tradition, elegance, and a shared love of Scottish country dancing.

Guests were welcomed into a beautifully coordinated spring-and-diamond setting, with cherry blossom accents and sparkling table décor creating a festive atmosphere. A looped slideshow of past events played throughout the evening, drawing smiles and sparking memories, while a thoughtfully curated memorabilia display added to the sense of nostalgia.



Following a delicious sit-down dinner, Joan Taillefer piped in the Grand March, expertly marshalled by Todd Moxley, setting the stage for an evening of dancing. Music by Atlantic Firth carried dancers through a lively and well-balanced program of jigs, reels, and strathspeys, keeping the floor full and the energy high.

Special presentations to Eileen Black, who is retiring, and Katie Shaw, a long-standing branch member, added a special note to the celebration. The evening drew a diverse gathering of attendees, with strong representation from Ardbrae, and visitors from Montreal, Toronto, and Michigan, all contributing to the festive spirit.

Whether they came to dance every set, reconnect with friends, or celebrate six decades of Scottish country dancing in Ottawa, guests enjoyed an evening that was both memorable and meaningful.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped us bring the Diamond Ball to life. If this celebration is any indication, the spirit of RSCDS Ottawa is as vibrant as ever—and the next decade is off to a brilliant start.



Denise, Gillian, Tobe, Ruth, and Todd

The full photo album can be found [here](#)



Wednesday Class Party



Other Events



*** Summer SCD Class ***

- Open to dancers of all levels.
- Continue to develop your dancing skills
- Learn some new and interesting dances
- Air Conditioned Dance Studio

For more information please visit the website <http://ottawadancescottish.org> and subscribe to the the site to get updates about what dances are being done that week.

Or contact Craig Williams

Email: cwilliams@ottawadancescottish.org

Phone: 613-700-7224

When: Wednesday Evenings, 7:30-9:30pm - May 14 – July 30

Where: Churchill Seniors Recreational Centre, 345 Richmond Rd, Ottawa,

Cost: \$7 per person per class.



P.S.C.D.S.
Peterborough Scottish Country Dance Society

*Scottish Country Dance Weekend
at Stoney Lake
May 22-24, 2026*



*Guest teachers:
Blair & Tristan Gerrie
Musicians:
Don Bartlett &
Blair Mackenzie*

Schedule

FRIDAY

3:00- 6:00 Pine Vista Check in ♦
7:30- 9:30 Dancing at Sunset Pavilion
10:00-11:00 Social at Pine Vista

SATURDAY

9:00-12:30 Workshop at Sunset Pavilion
12:30- 1:30 Lunch at Sunset Pavilion
1:30- 3:00 Ball practice at Sunset Pavilion

5:00- 6:30 Dinner at Hobarts Lighthouse
2281 McCracken's Landing Rd
7:30-10:00 Ball at Sunset Pavilion
10:30-11:30 Ceilidh at Pine Vista

SUNDAY

10:00-11.00 Dancing at Sunset Pavilion
11:30 Lunch at Sunset Pavilion

♦ Please inform the Resort if you will be arriving after 7:00 pm

Full details can be found [here](#)

RSCDS YOUTH BRANCH & TAC WEEKEND AWAY

Youth Branch RSCDS 

NEW YORK CITY
MAY 29 - 31, 2026

Teachers:
Robert McOwen (TAC)
Deborah Leary (YB)

Musicians:
Torrent
Nadia Gaya
Sarah Parker
Ross Parker



More information, schedule, and registration:
For those **36 and over** www.tac-rscds.org
For those **35 and under** - www.rscds-youth.org

Registration is NOW OPEN!



TAC Summer Events

at Medicine Hat College
Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada



Candidate Course
July 19 - Aug 2, 2026

Teachers Conference Weekend
July 24 - July 26, 2026
with teacher Angela Young

Summer School for all dancers
July 26 - August 2, 2026

This year we are offering a music course in the afternoons.

Teaching staff:
Angela Young - Scotland
Arthur McNair - US
Fiona Miller - Canada
David Queen - England



Music Staff:
Gillian Stevenson
music director - UK
David Oswald - UK
James Matej MacQueen - US
Graham Berry - UK

tac-rscds.org



All Dancers Welcome!

Great Teachers and Music!

Beautiful Location!

SAVE THE DATE
Summer's End 2026
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

SAT - MON, AUGUST 29-31, 2026
Hulbert Outdoor Center - Fairlee, VT

Teachers:
A SPECIAL GUEST FROM UP NORTH

TED RANDOLPH (MA)

Musicians:
TERRY TRAUB & FRIENDS

More information:
<https://rscdsboston.org/event-summars-end.html>