

## Ruth Jappy's Scroll of Honour - 2006

Ruth Jappy started dancing in Scarborough, just north of Toronto, in 1962. She soon became an accomplished dancer, became Chair of the Scarborough group in 1968, and was also a member of the Demonstration Team. While she lived in Ontario she participated in all the local dancing activities. Ruth served on the Toronto Branch Executive from May 1973 to April 1976, being Secretary of the Branch in 1975-1976. She was also Treasurer and Ticket Convenor of the 1971 and 1972 Toronto Branch Tartan Balls. Even though she left the area almost thirty years ago, she is still remembered there for her lively personality and organizing ability.

In 1978, Ruth and her husband, Alex, traveled across Canada and settled in Delta, just south of Vancouver. She gained her RSCDS teaching certificate in 1979 and became the teacher of the newly founded Delta Borderers Club. Since that time, under Ruth's leadership, ably assisted by Alex on the accordion, this club progressed from strength to strength. It is now one of the two largest clubs in the Vancouver area with a membership approaching one hundred and a regular attendance of fifty to sixty dancers at its weekly meetings. The club is renowned for Ruth's teaching and for its friendly atmosphere.

Ruth's dancing is beautiful and appears effortless, but this belies the many hours of practice that have brought her to this level of expertise. She is an inspired and inspirational teacher and it is for this ability that Ruth is best known. She regularly teaches at major workshops all over North America and has also taught, more than once, in Japan and at the annual Winter School in Australia. Her support of the Vancouver Branch has been constant and she has been awarded a Branch Award for her services to the Branch. Ruth is also a long-time supporter of the Teachers' Association of Canada, having attended all their week-long Summer Schools and taught many of them.

Ruth has a wide knowledge of Scottish country dance music. She has used this knowledge to give special emphasis to the importance of listening to the music when dancing and always incorporates this consideration into her teaching. Ruth has been innovative in using a computer to support live music as well as producing useful teaching aids on the computer. She has been invited to be a "teachers' teacher" and has instructed classes for teachers only. At these special classes she has demonstrated her strength in listening to the music, her ability to interpret the dances and her talent of succinctly briefing dances. She has always been ready to help dancers at all levels with their individual problems and has acted as a mentor to many teachers, especially those who have newly qualified or are about to do so.

Ruth's willingness to give of herself for the benefit of the club and all Vancouver dancers is demonstrated annually in her organization and running of the "Spring Fling" Ball. Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent usually play at this event and it is one of the highlights of the Scottish country dancing year in Vancouver. She also started and trained the "Scotia Dancers", a demonstration team that was formed in 1980 and entertained at local events.

It is difficult to capture on paper all the many ways in which Ruth has supported, fostered and enlivened the Scottish country dance community in Vancouver and in many other places. She has given outstanding service to the Society for well over forty years. Her loyalty and affection for the RSCDS has been demonstrated again and again as she stimulates and leads all those that she teaches to strive for the highest standards. Her vivacity pervades her teaching and her obvious enjoyment and deep knowledge of the Society's dances and dancing are remarkable.

The Board of Directors of the Vancouver Branch has voted unanimously to nominate Ruth Jappy for the Society's Scroll on Honour as a fitting tribute to the way in which she has brought her enthusiasm for Scottish country dancing to so many and has encouraged them to fully experience the joy of the special form of dance.