

Stoney Lake 2024

Having attended my first Stoney Lake weekend workshop, I want to start first and foremost by praising Toronto's own Arlene Koteff for her leadership. Her theme of "connections" wound its way throughout the program and beyond. Indeed, fun was had and connections made.

The connections began with *A Jig for Joan and John*, which was devised by Dorothea McKenzie and printed in The Reeves Wedding Ball booklet. The dance was chosen to honour and thank Joan and John Reeves, who welcomed Arlene to Stoney Lake with open arms the first time she attended and they have maintained strong ties ever since.

Arlene artfully wove the theme throughout, encouraging us to see the connections between the various dance phrasings as well as between the dance and the music. And, speaking of the music..... it was performed beautifully - and patiently - by Don Bartlett of Toronto and Blair Mackenzie of Lakefield.

When I reflect on my love of SCD, which is a fairly newfound love for me, I know it is in part rooted in my Scottish heritage. However, the connections this community has afforded me have kept me coming back. I've met so many fantastic people through SCD and it was a pleasure to deepen those connections with an excellent representation of the Toronto dance community at the workshop. I also had the opportunity to make some new connections with people from London, Kingston, the Buffalo area, as well as the wonderful Peterborough host group.

I plan to make the Stoney Lake weekend a perennial kick-off to summer!

Sandra Peden



Rebecca Strange, Tristan Gerrie and Sandra Peden at Hobert's Lighthouse before the ball.



Some of the Toronto contingent at Stoney Lake: Rebecca Strange, Irene Bailey, Glenna MacDonald, Sandra Peden, Pippa Kilbourn, and Caroline Lensen.