

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

P. O. Box 175, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2G9

www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

Volume 43, Number 3

December 2011

Committee of Management 2011/12

Chair:	Pat Clubb	774 2796
Vice Chair:	Christine Wallace	478 1026
Secretary:	Gerri Stemler	488 7386
Treasurer:	Joan Curle	254 6697
Light and Airy Editor:	Heather Ferguson	795 2337
Social Secretary:	Anne Morrison	488 9548
Assistant Social Secretary:	Rose Klusowski	775 5281
Membership:	Debra Forrest	284 4667
Publicity:	David Kroeker	284 4667
Demonstration:	Agnes Brydon	837 7346
Library:	Reg Curle	254 6697
Teacher's Rep.:	Margaret Zadworny	667 0599

From the Chair....

The St. Andrew's Day Social, organized by the Fort Garry Social Class, was the highlight of the dance season! The band, Scotch Measure, with Ken Natrass on accordion, Ron Krug on piano, and Jim James on bass fiddle, had the hall simply bouncing to the rhythms of our favourite tunes. The dance program, set by Peter McClure, was perfectly set for the dancers' enjoyment. Thank you to the Fort Garry class for a lovely evening.

The silver collection at the St. Andrew's Day social raised \$50.00 on behalf of Water Aid International. The Branch is hosting a social between Xmas and New Year's (on December 28) at St. Paul's Church, to fill the "gap" between the end of fall classes and the beginning of the second term of dancing. The "Betwixt and Between" social will be open to friends and family. At aToonie for admission (music by CD), I think it is a steal of a deal!

There have been no applications for the Investment Fund yet. I started to worry that the Branch members would not approach the Fund for new projects in case we were in a financial deficit for 2011/12. I would like the use of investment funds for new ventures to be a priority rather than waiting until the end of the fiscal year to release funds. We will discuss this conundrum at the COM meeting.

At the December 7 meeting, the COM had a brainstorming session regarding plans for Branch activities, particularly in the next year. I have been speaking to members who have lots of ideas and concerns and I hope this will be a venue to bring this “conversation” to a larger audience. The discussion focused on the following issues:

1. Our membership is decreasing, which is happening world-wide. What can we do to stabilize the Branch?
2. We have cancelled the Basic Class on Thursdays for the second term. We might lose this spot at St. Paul’s if we don’t use it. How does the Branch want to continue? Two evenings a week? Three evenings a week but use the third evening for flexible programming?

Please feel free to bring your comments and concerns to my attention, or ask to speak at a future COM meeting.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas!

Pat Clubb

2011/12 Dance Season

Week of December 12, 2011	Last classes of Fall Term
December 28	Betwixt and Between Social, \$2
Week of January 9, 2012	Winter Term classes begin
Saturday January 28	Burns Dinner and Dance
Tuesday February 28	Class Social (hosted by the Technique Class)
Thursday March 29	Class Social
Week of April 16	Last classes of Winter Term
Saturday April 28	Workshop and Dance
Wednesday May 16	AGM

Please note: All dates are subject to change – please check the calendar each month. All socials are at St. Paul’s Church at 8:00 pm, with admission at \$10.00, unless otherwise noted.

From the Editor

The Christmas season provides an excellent opportunity to socialize with other dancers in our classes and show our appreciation to our teachers for a fun term. Our Branch is fortunate to have such dedicated teachers who put so much care and thought into making our classes both interesting and challenging.

It is always nice to have some time to get to know our fellow dancers better. I have learned the most interesting things while enjoying some refreshments during our Christmas parties at the end of class. There just isn’t time to do much socializing during regular class time.

This year we will again be able to socialize during the holidays with the Betwixt and Between Social on December 28. This will be a fun night, with a mixture of dances for all levels and time to socialize.

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Heather Ferguson

Branch Library

Our Branch lending library has CDs for loan - including highlights of past Mug Pub performances at Folklorama and dancing technique videos. We also have books on Scottish history and books about dancing footwork and formations. For further information, contact Reg Curle at rcurle11@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Betwixt and Between Social

December 28, 2011

There will be a "Betwixt and Between" social held between Christmas and New Year's (Wednesday, December 28) at St. Paul's Church Hall. Dancing will begin at 8:00 pm sharp. Guests are welcome, so bring your friends and family. The program will include dances for all levels as well as dances for our non-Scottish Country Dancing guests. The music will be provided by CDs.

A small donation to the food table would be appreciated. The charge for admission will be a "Toonie". For further information, contact Christine Wallace at 478-1026.

Robert Burns and the Ladies of the Time

January 17, 2012

R. Lawrence Cormack is giving a talk on Robbie Burns and the ladies of the time - their connections to his poems and stories. The talk will take place at 11 am on January 17, 2012 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The Braemar dancers will also demonstrate Scottish dancing. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Jacqui by email at jdblanch@mts.net or phone 489-6960.

Burns Club 105th Annual Burns Supper

January 25, 2012

The Winnipeg Robert Burns Club #197 will be hosting the 105th Annual Burns Supper at the Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 1330 Pembina Hwy, on January 25, 2012. Cocktails are at 5:30 pm, with dinner starting promptly at 6:30 pm.

Tickets are \$40 for club members and \$45 for non-members, and can be purchased from Lawrence Cormack (telephone: 224-2291 or email: rljccormack@shaw.ca).

Winnipeg Branch Burns Dinner and Dance

January 28, 2012

As a forerunner to the 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Branch will be hosting a Dinner and Dance to honour the birthday of Robert Burns.

The event will be held at St. Paul's Church Hall on Saturday, January 28, 2012. The dance program will include Scottish Country Dances as well as modern dances. The evening will include the recitation of *Address to a Haggis*, the Immortal Memory, and the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Tickets for the event are \$20 and can be obtained from Betty Poole (888-3173) or Jean Highmoor (832-8117).

The Dance Program for the evening is as follows:

Burns Dinner and Dance Dance Program

The Gay Gordons

Kendall's Hornpipe 32J2 Graded Book 22

The Silver Tassie 32S3 Leaflet - Book 1

Modern Dance (Spot Dance)

Intermission

Light and Airy 32J3 Book 4 - 5

Burns Hornpipe 32R4 Book 27 - 4

The Lea Rig 32S2 Book 21 - 5

The "Cloutie Dumplin" (Modern Dance)

Intermission

The Wild Geese 32J3 Book 24 - 3

Ca' the Ewes tae the Knowes 32S2 Book 16 - 8

Maxwell's Rant 32R3 Book 18 - 10

Tam O' Shanter 32R3 LADT - p. 52

Waltz

Auld Lang Syne

Crib notes for the dances are available on the Branch website.

2013 -The 50th Anniversary of the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch!

The year 2013 is approaching faster than we realize. Earlier this year, the COM gave approval to have an advance planning committee for this special year. The main thrust of the celebrations will be around the annual workshop, which for that year only will be held over the long weekend in May (Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday). This will make it easier for former members from out of province to join us for this occasion. We are presently looking at hotels and/or hall venues for a possible location. On the Saturday evening, we plan to have a 50th Anniversary Ball.

To open the year, we plan to have a Burns Dinner and Dance, similar to what we used to hold, and what we are having in January 2012. As a special project for this anniversary year, we hope to publish a book of Scottish Country Dances devised by present and former Winnipeg Branch members, with the possibility of an accompanying CD.

We will continue to keep you, the membership, informed with updates each month in the *Light and Airy*. If you have ideas or suggestions, please pass them on to the COM.

Thank you.

Christine M. Wallace

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

On December 5, Peter had us “merrily” doing an exercise dance emphasizing reels, getting in gear for the Basic Class, who will be joining us after the Christmas break. Another dance exercise for five couples required the middle couple to be looking both ways and participating with two sets, teaching the borrowing concept. We also enjoyed dancing *The Bonnie Tree* and *Wild Geese*, the latter of which obviously needed some refreshing!

In this issue, three members of the Social Class have graciously consented to give us a variety of glimpses into their lives. I decided to just include all of what they wrote, not wanting to leave out anything. Perhaps this will make up for my too brief contribution last month.

Lynn McClure on her ‘summer misadventures’, as she calls them, writes:

“Rose asked me to correct an entry she had made in the last issue when she had noted my fall, and subsequent painful backside, and connected this with our daily dog walks. Actually, on this occasion the dogs were at home and I was out with our four year old grandson Mowgli, who is an adventuresome fellow. He spotted a path near a local playground that led down to the Assiniboine River. Having made the discovery, he was keen to follow up, so off we went to encounter a fairly steep slope to the river, where the ground was hard and the dirt was loose - a likely situation after our dry summer. My feet went quickly out from under me, much like on ice in the winter.

I limped home with Mowgli who was sympathetic but undeterred in wanting to try that path once again with his sister on a subsequent visit. I, however, was reminded daily for 4-6 weeks that whacking one’s sacrum is a nasty affair, and it was only by October, after several visits with my friendly chiropractor, that I felt ready to return to dancing.

We often take the ease and joy of dancing for granted so when you have a tap on the shoulder (or the bottom), and can’t do this for several weeks, it is a reminder to remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. With that in mind, I just today got a new pair of grippers for winter walking. Hope everyone has a safe and happy winter walking season!”

Sheila Somers writes about some highlights in her and Dwayne’s lives:

“We had the birth of our first granddaughter in May 2011 – Aubrey Claire. After five grandsons, it’s great to have someone to make frilly dresses for.

I attended a sewing expo and classes in Minneapolis in November with a couple of friends. Recently, I was in Regina serving as the on-site seamstress for the Skate Canada Challenge event with 500 skaters competing. They were very long days in a very vibrant environment.

My business has grown by leaps and bounds in the past couple of years – we are currently re-designing the business website and hope to launch it on January 1, 2012.

What do I do? I design and sew athletic performance apparel for figure skaters, gymnasts, dancers, swimmers, bodybuilders, fitness competitors and more.”

For this last one you might want to put on 3-D glasses as you picture John Giesbrecht’s travels.

“In early October, the Giesbrechts embarked on yet another of their “bucket list” trips - a grand Mediterranean voyage.

We flew to Barcelona, where we boarded a Holland America cruise ship that served as our hotel for the next twelve days. Large cosmopolitan cities like Barcelona (population 3 million+) can be quite overwhelming for travellers from Manitoba. Next day we toured Barcelona’s Gothic Quarter, enjoyed a Flamenco theatre performance and visited the awesome architectural wonder, the Sagrada Familia church designed by Antoni Gaudi (started in 1888 and to be completed by 2026). Next stop was the French Riviera, including Monaco, and Ez and Nice in France - absolutely glorious! Florence was my favourite Italian city, particularly the Old Town limited to pedestrian traffic. In Rome, I spent eleven hours on tour, while Janet stayed onboard to rest. Highlights included the Roman Forum, the Coliseum, the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps and, finally, the Mouth of Truth. We had a one day break from touring as we sailed the Strait of Messina to Sicily. The high rates of unemployment were very evident in Italy, especially in Sicily (20 per cent).

Next major ports were three Greek destinations: Corinth, Katakalon (Olympia) and Corfu. In Corinth, I walked in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and at Katakalon we visited a Greek olive farm, complete with a splendid farm lunch and Greek folk dance demonstration. On the island of Corfu (where Prince Phillip was born), we fell in love -clean, friendly, great hospitality and food - absolutely dreamy. Next stop: Croatia, first Dubrovnik and the ancient fortress and then lunch in the countryside beside a mountain stream restaurant. Our final port of call was Venice, the city of canals. The city had a distinct foul odour from the mould growing on buildings and poor sanitation practices. Never get into a gondola with four obese handicapped Americans and feel like you are about to be plunged into the canal! However, at least the tenor and the musician on the gondola were somewhat redeeming.

In my experience, cruising is a luxurious hassle-free way to travel with a handicapped spouse. For those contemplating such a trip, do your research and decide beforehand where you want to focus your energies, and take a few Spanish or Italian language classes. Our focus for this trip was art, architecture, music and dance and we were not disappointed. I might add that onboard entertainment included the Adagio Strings and four tenors in concert that gave one goose bumps. Unlike most travellers, I lost weight because of the rigorous tour schedule I maintained.”

Have a most joyous and blessed Christmas!

Rose Klusowski

Technique Class

Greetings from the Technique Class!

It has been a very interesting and challenging first term. For the past number of weeks, Margaret has been taking the class on a tour of Scotland, with all kinds of dances named for areas of Scotland. For several weeks, Margaret had us working on *St. Andrews Square*, a four couple, square-set dance comprised of a jig, strathspey and reel. We have now concluded our visit to St. Andrews and have travelled to Dundee.

Best wishes for the holiday season from the Technique Class.

Debbie Forrest

Basic Class

Season's Greetings from the Basic Class.

We have been working hard on our steps and figures and this past week did a dance called the *Scottish Snowman* - to seasonal music. We will be celebrating our last class with our Christmas party this week. Our thanks to teachers Cheryl and Maureen for the time spent with us and to the branch members who came out each week to dance with us.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to joining the Fort Garry Class in January.

The Basic Class

Demonstration Team

Upcoming demonstrations:

March 24, 2012	Kildonan Presbyterian Community Church
April 6	Tartan Day
June 23	Manitoba Highland Gathering
September 1-11	Selkirk Settlers Bicentennial Celebrations

Anyone with two years of dancing experience is invited to come out and join the Demonstration Team. If you are interested, call Agnes at 837-7346 or email: brydona@Yahoo.com.

Agnes Brydon

Here and There

Thinking It Over

Submitted for your enjoyment by Rose Klusowski

- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Dijon vu, the same mustard as before.
- Practice safe eating, always use condiments.
- Shotgun wedding - a case of wife or death.
- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it's two tired.
- The definition of a will? A dead give away.
- In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism, your count votes.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- I heard that the man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

- Local Area Network in Australia - the LAN down under.
- A lot of money is tainted - taint yours and taint mine.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
- Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.

Men's Helpline

Hi Larry,

I really need your advice on a serious problem.

I have suspected for some time now that my wife has been cheating on me. I'm seeing some suspicious signs: if the phone rings and I answer, the caller hangs up. Or all of a sudden she has started going out a lot to be with the girls. Anyway, last night I hid in the shed behind the boat. About midnight she came home and got out of some guy's car.

It was at that moment, crouched behind the boat, that I noticed a hairline crack in the outboard engine mounting bracket.

Is that something I can weld or do I need to replace it??

For Sale

Filing cabinet

- two drawer
- legal type with hanging files.

To make an offer, contact: jcurle11@hotmail.com.

Found at the St. Andrew's Social

One black dancing shoe - pleated toe. Contact Anne Morrison (488-9548).

Name Tags

Is your RSCDS name tag lost or broken? The Branch will be submitting an order for name tags. There will a cost. To order a new name tag, please contact Debbie Forrest (284-4667).

Christmas Quiz

The following is a pot pourri of questions to test your logical thinking skills and knowledge of Christmas trivia.

1. It's Christmas time and 9 children are playing in the snow. If each child throws one snowball at every other child, then the total number of snowballs thrown is 72.
 True
 False
2. If the blue present is bigger than the green present and the red present is smaller than the blue present, then the green present is bigger than the red present.
 True
 False
3. The number of toys in each of six boxes is as follows: 3, 9, 13, 17, 20, 22. An elf delivers three boxes containing a total of 32 toys.
 True
 False
4. Mom bought a reel of red ribbon 106 feet in length. If it takes 1 second to cut a 1 foot strip from the reel, it would take 1 minute 46 seconds to cut the total length of reel into 1 foot strips.
 True
 False
5. The word 'ELF' can be formed with exactly nine matchsticks without bending or breaking any matchsticks.
 True
 False
6. All the vowels appear in the following sentence: 'Rudolph is the red-nosed reindeer'.
 True
 False
7. The plural of reindeer is _____ .

8. Who introduced Christmas carols to formal church services?
 Oliver Cromwell
 Father Terrence D'Souza
 St. Francis of Assisi
 St. Nicholas
9. Who wrote "T'was the Night Before Christmas"?
 Dylan Thomas
 Clement Moore
 Robert Frost
 Charles Dickens
10. For which festival was the song 'Jingle Bells' originally written?
 Thanksgiving
 Easter
 Advent
 Christmas

The answers are on page 8.

Out of Town Events

Chicago, IL

January 7-8, 2012

RSCDS Chicago Branch

Scottish and English New Year's Ball (Saturday)

Tea Dance (Sunday)

Music: Earl Gaddis and Debbie Jackson

Contact: Tammy Bretscher

(<http://rscds-chicago.org>)

St. Andrews, Scotland

January 27-29, 2012

RSDCS Edinburgh Branch

2012 Weekend Away

Teacher: Muriel Johnstone

Pianist: Peter Shand

Bands: Gary Donaldson (Friday) and David Cunningham (Saturday)

Contact: weekend@rscdsedinburgh.org or telephone +44 (0) 131-652-0057

Ottawa, ON

January 27-29, 2012

Ardbrae Dancers of Ottawa

Ardbrae Ball Weekend

Music: Laird Brown & The Scottish Accent Band

Contact: Elaine Hoag (613-729-6198 or elaine.hoag@gmail.com)

Honolulu, HI

February 17-19, 2012

RSCDS Hawaii Branch

Aloha Winter Weekend

Teacher: Eileen Hsu (Seattle)

Music: Humuhumunukunukuapua'a & Strathspey Society Band

Contact: Melissa Lindsay (808-256-3347 or MLindsay@hawaii.rr.com)

Edmonton, AB

February 17-19, 2012

RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch

Workshop and Ball Weekend

Teachers: Graham Donald, Elaine Brunken and Robin Lynch

Music: Ken Natrass and Ron Krug

Contact: Louise Lattimore (780-468 2879 or louise_12@live.com)

Toronto, ON

February 18, 2012

RSCDS Toronto Branch

49th Tartan Ball

Music: Scottish Accent Band

Tickets: Jane Robinson (416-463-5016 or janer1@sympatico.ca)

Vancouver, BC

March 17, 2012

RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Heather Ball

Music: The Scottish Accent

Tickets: Mary Ann McDevitt (604-929-2944 or mamcdevitt@shaw.ca)

Beloit, WI

May 18-20, 2012

Chicago, Madison and Milwaukee Scottish Country Dancers

Midwest Scottish Weekend

Teacher: Bruce Hamilton

Music: Waverley Station

Contact: Diana Hankes (262-679-8522 or midwestScottishWeekend@gmail.com)

Be sure to check the Inter-City Scot website for more information on dancing events in other cities (there is a link on the Winnipeg Branch website).

Christmas Quiz Answers

1. True

Each child throws one snowball at every child except himself / herself ($9 \times 8 = 72$).

2. False

What can be concluded is that the blue present is the biggest. No definite conclusion can be made about the relative sizes of the red and green presents.

3. True

The elf delivers three boxes containing 3, 9 and 20 toys: $3 + 9 + 20 = 32$.

4. False

It would take 1 minute 45 seconds to cut the total length of reel into 1 foot strips because the last 1 foot strip left after cutting 105 strips would not require any cut.

5. True

The word 'ELF' can be formed with exactly nine matchsticks as follows: 4 matchsticks for E, 2 matchsticks for L and 3 matchsticks for F.

6. False

The five vowels are 'a e i o u'. The sentence 'Rudolph is the red-nosed reindeer' does not contain the letter 'a'.

7. Reindeer

8. St. Francis of Assisi

9. Clement Moore

10. Thanksgiving

Important Dates

COM meetings: the first Wednesday of the month from October to May.

Next L&A: Deadline for the January 2012 issue is **January 6, 2012.**

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members.

This and the past 11 issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website (rscdswinnipeg.ca).