

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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

www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

Volume 41, Number 8

May 2010

Committee of Management 2009 – 2010

Chair:	Shirley Tinsley	256 3835
Vice Chair:	Wendy Land	774 5877
Secretary:	Jean Highmoor	832 8117
Treasurer:	Glen Colquhoun	888 0834
Light and Airy Editor:	Barbara LeBow / Peter McClure	452 2898/489 7712
Social Secretary:	Heather Colquhoun / Sharon Plaitin	888 0834/661 1257
Assistant Social Secretary:	Lorraine Paluck / Donna Robinson	586 4991/253 2519
Membership:	Betty Poole	8883173
Publicity:	Scott MacRae / Reg Curle	885 7111/254 6697
Demonstration:	Agnes Brydon	837 7346
Library:	Reg Curle / Scott MacRae	254 6697/885 7111
Teacher's Rep.:	Christine Wallace	478 1026

From the Chair....

A busy month indeed since our last newsletter. Many thanks to Joan Curle and committee for a most successful "All Things Scottish Sale" on April 17th. Our Basic/Back to Basic Class hosted their first Branch social on April 22nd and did a splendid job, with a program set by their teacher Peter McClure that was enjoyed by all. On April 26th we joined the Ft. Garry Class and after an evening of dance, expressed our gratitude to Gerry Mayes for the contributions she has made to the Branch over the past 35 years, the last 19 years as a Teacher. We will miss her wit and anecdotes relating to the dances that she thought we should come to know.

The Weekend Workshop completed our official dance season. What a terrific registration this year. We were delighted to welcome visitors from East and West and pleased to see many of our newest Branch members involved. Thanks to Peter McClure for the dance review on Friday evening and Elizabeth Frenette for coordinating the Ceilidh. Our teachers Ron Wallace and Margaret Zadworny were wonderful and the Step Dance class on Sunday afternoon provided the opportunity to enjoy yet another facet of dance. The Grand March led by piper Kirby McRae brought back a bit of tradition and as always our Band Scotch Measure provided the music which allowed us to dance with abandon. Many thanks to all of our Branch members who contributed and especially Yvette Berube and the Workshop Committee for a job well done.

This being my last note to you as Chair, I would like to say thank you to the membership and the COM for all of your help and support this year.

Oops, last reminder Spring Dancing May 11th and June 1st and of course the AGM on Wednesday May 19th 7:30 pm.

Best wishes for a safe and restful summer.

Regards,
Shirley

2009/2010 Dance Season

Tuesday May 11 Spring Dancing, St Paul's, 8-10 PM

Wednesday May 19 AGM, **7:30 PM** at St Paul's

Tuesday June 1 Spring Dancing, St Paul's, 8-10 PM

Please note: All dates are subject to change – please check the calendar each month. All socials are at St Paul's Church Hall at 8:00 pm unless otherwise noted. For class socials, the admission charge is \$5; others are as noted.

From the Editor

The **TACTalk Newsletter** printed a two-part article, *Genuine and Invented Traditions in Scottish Dance*, by Rosemary Coupe, RSCDS Vancouver Branch, in the December 2009 and March 2010 issues. The May and June/July editorials in the *Light and Airy* are based on this interesting missive.

In his edited book, Eric Hobsbaum, states that genuine tradition has demonstrable continuity with the historical past while invented tradition may refer to the past, but does not demonstrate continuity to it. An example of invented tradition is the claim that the stags' antlers are represented by the arms of Highland dancers, when the Highlanders' way of life was based on cattle and agriculture. Further evidence in support of cattle horns over stag antlers is the fact that over the past three centuries dancers have snapped their fingers in time to the music, with the position of the thumb closed on the first joint of the middle finger for snapping the fingers looking like a cattle horn.

A weaving of the genuine and invented can be found in the dances of Mary Isdale MacNab of Vancouver. Her dances *Hebridean Weaving Lilt* and *Reel of the Blackcocks* have a genuine basis in Scandinavian and Hebridean traditions, while her claims that some of her dances were danced for Mary Queen of Scots, Red Hector of the Battle of

Flooden, and Prince Charles in Glenfinnan are theatrical fiction.

To determine if there is a genuine tradition of Scottish dance we will explore in the June/July **Light and Airy** the descriptions and depictions of it over the past 250 years.

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM, May 19, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Church.

Thank You!

Thank you so much to all the dancers who helped to make my "final" teaching night so memorable. Special thanks to the Fort Garry class and COM for the flowers and gifts. I intend to keep in touch with you all. -- Gerry Mayes

Good News!

You may recall that our friend Harold Marshall suffered a stroke late in January. In a recent conversation with our Chair person, Harold reported good progress: he is now at home, his mobility has improved to the extent that he can do without support in the house, although he uses a cane when outside, and he has recovered the use of his right hand for writing, keyboarding, etc. He is very appreciative of the concern and good wishes expressed by Branch members.

An Invitation From Jes

I have really enjoyed the last two years that I have spent in Winnipeg. Some of my fondest memories are of the Winnipeg Branch of the RSCDS and its dedicated members. I will miss my fellow dancers and our fun Thursday night stops at Tim's after dancing; and especially Peter and Lynn. Any and all from the Branch are always welcome to contact me and visit in the New England area, where I'll be settling in to a new place. Feel free to contact me by e-mail at jesalexant@cs.com, and we'll enjoy some music and dancing; and maybe go to the New Hampshire Highland Games together! The Dance Gypsy on the web covers Scottish and other country dancing schedules very well in that area, and provides an indication of the breadth of dancing events. Best wishes to all. Jes Alexant

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

The past few weeks at Fort Garry Social have definitely had a celebratory feel to them.

First of all let me take this opportunity to say a few words about the April Social hosted by Peter McClure and the Basic Class. It was a blast! I overheard many favourable comments on the selection of dances, and for my part any programme that includes "Montgomeries Rant", "Reel of the 51st Division" and "The Lairds Diamond Strathspey" cannot help but fire on all cylinders. Scotch Measure, as always, brought life to the party. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, and we all enjoyed the refreshments and lunch afterwards. Thanks Basic Class; you focused on what really matters and gave us a great party.

Over the last few weeks Gerry Mayes has led us through a number of her personal favourite dances and what a joy that has been. Of course, the entire class was in a mood to indulge Gerry, after the announcement of her retirement from teaching. Our "snow day" make up class on April 26th became a tribute to Gerry for her thirty-five years of contribution to RSCDS and the Winnipeg Branch. Branch Chairperson, Shirley Tinsley, gave a very touching farewell speech along with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Branch. We will miss Gerry's innate charm, wit and graciousness as a teacher. Some people spread joy by leaving a room,

but with Gerry, a palpable joy enters the room with her. Gerry commands great respect in Winnipeg Branch as the attendance numbering around fifty at this event attested. This too was a great evening of celebration.

With the exception of spring dancing, our dance season has now drawn to a close. Most members are looking forward to summer holidays or weekends at the lake. Enjoy, have a great summer, and we hope to see all of you back in September, renewed and refreshed. On second thought, you won't likely see me in September as the Giesbrechts are planning a grand Mediterranean cruise holiday that will keep us away all of September. I will, however, renew my membership early, so as not to miss more of the dancing next season than absolutely necessary. Bon Voyage!

John Giesbrecht

Tuesday Technique Class

Hard to believe we have reached the end of the dancing term and we all look forward to warm days and night time rains to continue to keep some moisture in the ground.

We have had some very inspiring Tuesday night dance evenings this year with Margaret setting a high standard for footwork/phrasing and introducing us to different forms of dance such as the quadrilles. There seems to be an extensive array of possibilities in Margaret's repertoire bag and we hope to be exposed to other challenges in the next season. Due to health problems Margaret has had to be away for some classes and Christine has very capably taken our class to finish off the term on April 20. We had our wind up evening with lots of delicious snacks that night and were able to thank Christine and wish her well for her present trip to Scotland. A message today from Agnes let us know Christine had arrived OK in Manchester and was picked up by her brother there to go to Scotland. Apparently the Iceland volcano had been spewing once again and closed some Scottish airports. We wish Margaret well over the next few weeks and a speedy recovery. Good summer to all! -- Lynn

Thursday Class: Basic and Back To ...

Thanks to all who came to our class social on 22 April; your enthusiastic participation made the evening a success, and helped us new members feel

that we really belong. Special thanks to Donna for managing all the organizational details.

Those of us who were able to attend enjoyed the Monday class make up on 26 April, which turned out to be a rather special occasion, and gave us a vision of the deep roots of the Winnipeg Branch. Quite a few of us were also able to attend the weekend workshop, where there was excellent teaching from teachers we hadn't met before, and the chance to meet dancers from other centres, showing that this dancing flourishes far and wide. Also, Joan attended the Ladies' Step Dance workshop on Sunday, to sample another form of traditional Scottish dance. The title may be a bit misleading: while historically, this was the women's version of the men's highland dancing, both styles are now done by both women and men.

To finish the season, we'd like to thank our regular experienced supporters Berna, Lynn and Shirley, as well as a number of others who came when we really needed you. We look forward to next season.

All Things Scottish Sale

I would like to thank all the people who helped make our Branch All Things Scottish sale and tea a success. The articles for the sale were mostly in the categories of clothing, housewares, music, and books. One supportive dancer from Dryden mailed me an article of clothing for the sale. Many thanks for the generous donations.

It couldn't have been done without our committee of Heather Ferguson, Debbie Forrest and David Kroeker, Bob and Betty Poole, Chris Wallace and Reg Curle. Not only did they work hard, they donated many items and bought several as well. Thanks go to the people who stopped by to browse and visit. I think our shoppers were evenly split between members of RSCDS and the public. Some people just enjoyed the refreshments and visiting. David Morrison won the guess the number of peanuts in the whisky bottle contest and Jean Highmoor won the raffle. Both won a triple chocolate cake made by Betty. The kilt skirts were popular sellers especially by the young barman who bought three to wear low on the hips to work. Many of our dancers found a skirt or shirt that fit. More sales were made at the workshop and we will have more unsold items at the second evening of spring dancing.

Hopefully, those who donated clothing and items for the sale are able to enjoy the new found space in their closet. -- Joan Curle

From the Workshop Committee ...

Yvette Berube, on behalf of the workshop committee, would like to thank the Branch members for all the support they gave to the workshop.

The Friday evening started out with a fun filled dance practice, with a couple of Ceilidh items. Peter McClure did the dance briefing, with Elizabeth Frenette announcing the events.

Our Saturday workshops with Ron & Ken's accompaniment were exceptional as always. Ron Wallace teaches with such energy and enthusiasm, one cannot help but be infected. He is certainly full of life. We will certainly remember the fun & unique warm up exercises.

Margaret Zadworny has a gentle but firm manner with the Scottish expectation that you give of your best and one does.

Our 21 out of town guests were from Vancouver, Lethbridge, Calgary, Regina, Kenora, Dryden and Toronto. The evening dance briefing was done by Peter. Scotch Measure was fabulous.

I would like to thank the many volunteers on Friday & Saturday. Our event was a success due to the many that helped from the Master of Ceremonies, to Ron's host, to the library set up, dance note preparation, our hostesses, all the silent auction work and those who supported it, contributors of food and the decorations for the workshop. Thanks to the great workshop team, Christine Wallace, Sandy Kizuik, Reg & Joan Curle, Bob & Betty Poole, Jean Highmoor, and Janet Newediuk.

I JUST NEED A NAP

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar:

'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

--- Thanks to Duncan MacKenzie and the Ceilidh Dance Newsletter

Dance Shoes

Just a reminder that Avriel International, a leading purveyor of shoes for all kinds of Scottish dance, is now located in Winnipeg. Bruce Griffith has let us know that they now have a colour catalogue. You can contact him by phone at 477 5299 or on the web. www.avriel.com

Dancing Holiday?

Ever think of including dancing in your holiday? In an e-mail sent with their workshop notice, the St Giles Club points out that the various groups in Calgary offer classes on most nights of the week. You could attend their weekend – see notice below, under Out of Town Events – and spend a week sightseeing in Calgary and getting in lots of dancing. If interested, contact Peter for a copy of the e-mail with the contact information for the various clubs, as well as brochures re the weekend. Also, there are a couple of brochures on the notice board at St Paul's.

Out of Town Events:

Beloit WI (100 mi NW of Chicago)

11-13 June 2010

Weekend, including Friday dance, workshops and Ball

More info and forms:

<http://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend/>

Waterloo, ON

8-15 August, 2010

TAC Summer School

More details and forms at www.tac-rscds.org

Washington State

10 –12 September 2010

Fort Worden Workshop

Details and forms at

www.rscds-seattle.org

Kenossee, SK

1-3 October 2010

Saskatchewan Branch annual workshop and ball

Details and forms at

www.rscdssaskatchewan.org/

Ottawa, ON

1-3 October 2010

Ottawa Valley Dance Scottish Weekend

Details and forms at

www.ottawadancescottish.org

Calgary AB

15-16 October 2010

St Giles SCD Group

Ceilidh, Workshop and Ball

Teachers: Sharon Barker (Calgary), Fred

DeMarse (San Francisco, CA), Ferne Katzberg

(Yorkton, SK)

Music: Ron Krug and Ken Natrass (Winnipeg)

See brochure on St Paul's notice board

COM meetings: first Wednesday of the month, October 2009 to May 2010.

Next L&A: TBA; watch your email or mailbox in June.

Contributors are requested to send their submissions either in Word (.doc) or .pdf format, or typed directly into an email message. Other formats cause us difficulty.

Please note that on the advice of our web master, we are no longer including members' personal email addresses; if not included, phone numbers are available from the membership list.