

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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December 2022

Important Dates

Dancing in 2022

Fall Term 2022

Mondays – evening class 7:30 – 9:30

Thursdays – afternoon class 1:30 – 3:30

Saturday, November 19 – 7:30 social evening Churchill Park UC

Week of December 5 – First Term Classes end

Dancing in 2023

Winter Term 2023

Mondays – evening class 7:30 – 9:30

Thursdays – afternoon class 1:30 – 3:30

Week of January 9, 2023 – classes resume

Saturday, January 21 – social evening Churchill Park UC 7:30

Saturday, February 18 – social evening Churchill Park UC 7:30

Saturday, March 18 – social evening Churchill Park UC 7:30

Week of April 10 – Second Term Classes end

April 21, – 23, 2023 – Winnipeg Anniversary Weekend Workshop

A Word from the Chair of COM

November already and things are slowly getting "back to the before times." Attendance is consistent at both Thursday afternoon and Monday evening classes. In fact Maureen Burnham had a little surprise for us a couple of weeks ago as she had asked Sharyl Eaglesham to teach the Maple Leaf Rant. Needless to say we were reeling in all directions. Our Branch Social on October 22nd was a very successful evening, A good turnout, a great dance program and briefing by Peter McClure and treats provided by the Branch set out by Barb Lambert and friends. The following week, a clear and crisp Thursday evening October 27, 12 "passengers" from the Winnipeg Branch boarded "The Flying Scotsman" on a brief journey in the Rotunda of the Via Rail Union Station. Lead by our "Engineer" Cheryl Durnin, Signalman Peter McClure and travel videographer Jody Morgan, We had a great deal of fun while taking part in Headquarter's invitation for branches from all over the world to submit a video performing the dance, Thanks to everyone involved and to Via Rail who allowed us time and space to "pop in" and dance.

Due to the success and in response from members of the Branch we are pleased to say that we will be hosting another Social on Saturday November 19th, 7:30pm at Churchill Park United Church. We are planning to continue monthly socials in the New Year. Dates will be posted.

Doug has told me there is a lot of good material in the L&A this month, so I will conclude and ask that you read on, enjoy the photos. Familiarize yourself with the Building Access procedure as well as the Snow Day Notice Policy. By the way "The Bombers are going to the Grey Cup!!" Stay warm and drive safely

Shirley Tinsley

Next COM meeting – Dec. 1.

Have you heard?

New Class Access Procedure !

There has been a change for access to our dance classes at Churchill Park UC. The church has changed their door key system to a fob key. This means the door is locked at all times. When arriving for class, if another dancer is entering then come in when the door is open. If the door is closed/locked, push the blue square doorbell button to the right of the door. The receiving unit will ring in the dance hall and someone will come to let you in.

November Social Evening

Mark your calendars to attend the **November Dance Social on Saturday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.** (doors open at 7:15 pm) at Churchill Park United Church (525 Beresford Ave). **\$5.00 at the door (cash only)**

The evening's dance program can be found on the website at www.rscdswinnipeg.ca under "Upcoming Events" or click on this link: [Nov Social Dances](#) and [Nov Social Mini Crib Notes](#).

An evening of hospitality and refreshments – **hope to see you there.**

Milestone Birthdays ...

Rena Laird

Rena Laird celebrated her 100th birthday in September with her family at Brightwater Seniors Residence where she has lived for the past few years.

Rena and her husband Adam came to Winnipeg from Scotland in the 1940s when Adam took on a position with the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. For most of their time here they lived with their family on Ash Street, a place where many people were warmly welcomed.

Peter and I became friends with Adam and Rena after we began Scottish Country Dancing in the late 1970s and for many years were fortunate recipients of the famous Laird hospitality. I recall not just one choice of dessert when first invited to dinner but three! It was a wonder I ever had the courage to invite them back after that first exposure to Rena's culinary accomplishments. Rena herself became involved with SCD and attended classes while Adam, an excellent pianist, was recruited by John Trevenen to be involved with the creation of a Scottish Country Dance Band which was named "Scotch Measure". They produced a CD in 1997 entitled "Skip-Change With Scotch Measure", and for many years we were able to have wonderful live music for all our socials, workshops and balls.

On her birthday, Rena received greetings from Queen Elizabeth II, a lovely picture of the Queen and best wishes, which she now has framed and hung in her suite at the Brightwater. The birthday occasion was quite special with a piper playing, and Rena quickly and correctly identified his kilt as that of the Fraser clan, which he apparently very much appreciated.



A wonderful friend to many of us; funny, smart and accomplished at so many things including her "Address to the Haggis", delivered often at Burns Dinners.

We wish Rena health and happiness on this birthday milestone and celebrate all that she and Adam have contributed to the Winnipeg RSCDS over the years. We always take our dog Jessie when we go to visit. Rena and other residents, very much like to see her and vice versa, as treats are offered in a most generous manner. We all look forward to more visits and treats as well!

Lynn and Peter McClure

From the Classes ...

CANCELLATION POLICY FOR SNOW DAYS

The COM has agreed to the following policy for cancellation of classes, when necessary because of inclement weather conditions:

A decision to cancel that day's class will be made no later than 3:00 pm on Mondays & 9:00 am on Thursdays.

An email will be sent out to all members as soon as possible.

IF THE WEATHER IS NASTY, PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL BEFORE HEADING OUT TO CLASS.

If you do not have access to email, please let your class teacher know and leave a phone number where you can be reached. If in doubt, please call your class teacher. If you cannot contact your teacher, then call the chair of the Committee of Management.

Note: This policy will also apply to extra or special classes and socials that are not on a class day.

Monday

(Channeling Garrison Keillor) It's been a quiet month at the Monday class....

Enough of that. A couple evenings were cancelled, one for Thanksgiving, and Halloween by consensus, as most people preferred to be at home for that occasion. Still, we've managed to revisit a number of standards, among them Jubilee Jig, The Wild Geese, Reel of the 51st, and Trip to Bavaria. For me, the highlight of the month was a presentation by Sharyl of The Maple Leaf Rant. Author unknown. Possibly someone riffing on The Montgomeries' Rant? A really great work up, teaching (I think it would have been new to some class members) the spoke, and explaining the various reels occurring in the dance. I'm hoping we get an opportunity for her to review the dance, as I didn't get to try it first time out. Looking forward to November!

Peter

Thursday's Halloween - "Every Witch Way"

All ends are up at Halloween! Cheryl had us dance a definitely spooky dance – Every Witch Way at our last class before Halloween.

The set is for 3 couples in a triangle formation. It starts easily enough with a circle, but the witchin' way – to the right and back to the left. Then comes Ladies dancing RH across while Men chase anticlockwise to meet their partners. Now it calls for a Tournee for the three couples. (It actually dances easier than with two couples.) The last figure is reverse Schiehallion Reels with progression around towards the left rather than the right.

Lots of fun especially when you're dressed for it!



Cheryl teases me about my lists but she has one of her own – the ball program. We continue to “pack” our brains for a Trip to Bavaria to ready ourselves for the Workshop Ball in April.

Doug

Dancing out

Harvest Festival 2022 - Ste Anne, MB

Oct 1st was the 2nd annual Harvest Festival in Ste Anne, MB. Shameless plug here: my daughter Jamie & her partner Luc run a company called Farm-Dog. All locally made food (and very good!). They organized this event for the last 2 years. They had about 40 vendors booked but the weather was not great so some did not show up. But there was still quite a variety of shopping one could do. Jamie asked me if I could get a group of dancers together to do a demonstration as they had entertainment throughout the day. Since it was short notice, I gathered a few people together and 6 of us went to dance for about 30 min. Cheryl picked some lovely dances for us to do and I had picked out some participation dances to try to get the audience up. Well as I said, the weather that day was cold and rainy so the attendance was down a lot from the previous year. There had been about 200 people at the pancake breakfast but then they all went home out of the cold I guess.

When I was beginning the participation dancing, a lady came up and asked if we could do the Gay Gordons. I had not put that on my list but we said we could do that one as we all knew it. She said they were from Scotland and that was the only dance her husband would come up for. So we did that one and one other and had a few others from the audience come up. It was nice time out and a chance to do a bit of shopping.

I want to thank all of the dancers that came out at short notice. Jamie & Luc really appreciated it as well. Check out their website. They are at the St. Norbert's Farmer's Market every weekend and during the winter they sell hand pies and other things in cases. They live in Steinbach and I work in Steinbach so I could pick up any orders.

Sheila Careless



The Flying Scotsman - RSCDS Centenary Project

What?

Headquarters asked branches and affiliate groups from around the world to video themselves dancing the Flying Scotsman. Once all the videos have been received, they will create one main version to be displayed on RSCDS platforms to celebrate the Society's 100th Anniversary. The Winnipeg Branch expressed interested received an invitation to participate in this RSCDS Centenary project.

Dancers assembled for a rehearsal and were set to perform and record this on October 27 in an iconic Winnipeg venue – the rotunda of the VIA Rail Union Train Station on Main Street at Broadway Avenue.

Where?

Winnipeg's **Union Train Station** survived many generations of train travellers to exist today as a local landmark and historical monument.

Built from 1908 to 1911, Union Station was designed by New York architects Warren and Wetmore, whose most notable project was Grand Central Station (or Terminal) in New York City. Winnipeg's Union Station was meant to be essentially a younger sibling of this famous train station.

In the early 1900s, traveling by train was the norm and was the main form of inter-country transportation. Canadian Northern Railway (CNR), the National Transcontinental Railway (NTR), and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (GTPR) were the major lines connecting cities around the country and to the United States.

The Winnipeg Branch chose this location because to many, heritage pieces (in the form of buildings and trains) may appear as simply "things" that someone built a long time ago. However, the Winnipeg's Union Station and trains such as the "Flying Scotsman" stand as markers of the hopes, dreams, and memories of the families, and train travellers in the past and if honored will offer many more stories to tell in the future!

Information and excerpts from Heritage Winnipeg.

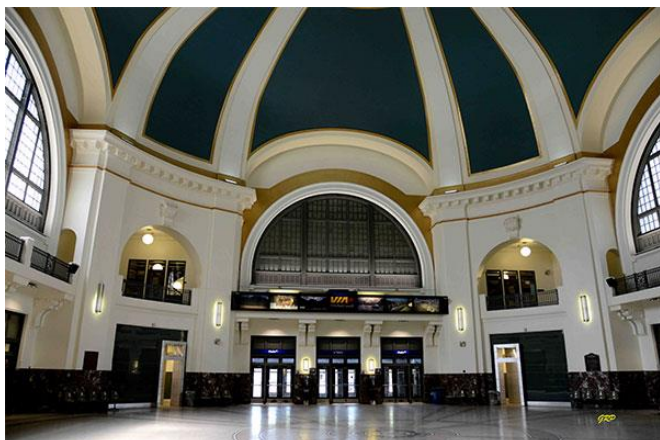
View of the Union Station rotunda (circa 1918)

taken by the Winnipeg Sales Company

Source: [Rob McInnes](#), WP1695



Rotunda, Union Station, Winnipeg, Man.



Interior of Union Station (August 2015)

Source: [George Penner](#)

Who?

Members of the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch



When?

Thursday October 27 at 7pm. A train pulled in as we entered so the building was open. Arriving passengers filtered in through the rotunda as we danced. One couple identified themselves as Scottish Country Dancers from Montreal here for a holiday!

Watch it here!



Link to utube: <https://youtu.be/xAhSW2OwbKM>

Link to the video: Control+Click to follow the link.

[RSCDS Team Site - RSCDS-002HD.mp4 - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

2023 Winnipeg Anniversary Workshop

🌟 TIME TO CELEBRATE 🍷

Mark your calendars! 📅 Our 50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball and Branch 60th Anniversary celebrations will be held at the Victoria Inn on the weekend of April 21-23, 2023! We have been promised the set rate of \$139 per night.

Our weekend gets underway with a Ceilidh 🎵 on the Friday evening, so get your item ready and let Ray Plaitin know! There will be classes Saturday morning, a lunch, the dinner and Ball in the evening, class on Sunday morning and a brunch/lunch to end the weekend. All the events will be held at the Victoria Inn. Our teachers are Jim Stott from Scotland and Linda Henderson from San Francisco. The 🎵 musicians for the weekend include

Mary Ross from Victoria, B.C., playing 🎸, Janette Polson, from Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, B.C., playing 🎻, and our own Ron Krug from sunny St. James, Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the 🎹.



Victoria Inn, Winnipeg MB

Teachers: **Linda Henderson & Jim Stott**

Musicians: **Mary Ross, Janette Polson & Ron Krug**

We would love to see you in Winnipeg!
Get a group of friends and travel together.

Registration forms are now available on the branch website (<http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/>). A form can be printed , filled out, and sent in, or an online form is available to be filled out and submitted. Payment can be made by cheque or by etransfer for your convenience. Your Workshop Committee is working hard at making this an event to remember so please mark your calendars!

Your 2023 Workshop and Ball Committee

From the Library ...

Is it a plaid or tartan? All tartans are plaids but all plaids aren't tartans. Plaids are any crisscross patterns with at least two or more colours until it is registered at The Scottish Registrar of Tartans for £70 as a unique pattern and then it can be called a tartan. We had a winner in last month's name the tartan contest. Scott MacRae identified the kilt pattern as a Davidson at our last social. With this exposure the kilt skirt has been sold. Proceeds go to the branch.

I have picked another lovely tartan skirt from our donated kilts for this month's puzzle. Let me know if you can identify it correctly and you can win a prize (a donated CD or tea towel). The kilt skirt has a ~33 inch waist and is 29 inches long and will be available for sale at the social for \$15. So you can be ready for our next social.

Are you looking for a Scottish brooch for your sash? Two recently donated Scottish brooches will be available at the November social and also a necklace selling for \$15 each. Also for sale are two kilt pins and several brooches selling for \$10. Also available at the social just in time for relaxing at Christmas are donated Celtic Christmas CD's: 2 vol Celtic Christmas, Pipes of Christmas, Celtic Christmas, Canterbury Organ and Chimes of Christmas, and Celtic Christmas for \$5 each except for the two CD set for \$8. The library will be available at the social with select items for borrowing or buying as well as a few giveaways.

Joan Curle
Librarian



Contest-



Is it a plaid or tartan? If you are the first to name the tartan of this featured skirt from our donation collection correctly you can pick a prize of a donated CD or tea towel. The kilt skirt has a ~33 inch waist and is 29 inches long and will be available for sale at the social for \$15.

From the editor's desk ...

What a great month it's been! I have submitted Light and Airy issues from the last three years for uploading to the archives in Scotland.

In October we enjoyed getting together for a social with a wonderful program – Thanks Peter. We have had our regular Monday & Thursday classes with fun dances to challenge us. Thanks Peter for the Prairie Home Companion reference. It has been a while since we have had “News from Lake Wobegon”.

We recorded a Centenary Project video of us dancing The Flying Scotsman in the rotunda of Winnipeg's Via Rail Union Station. Thanks to friend Jody Morgan for being our videographer and forwarding the video to HQ in Scotland. The story of our event, photos and link to the dance video are included. I am putting the Flying Scotsman article into a separate mini-issue to submit to the archives in Scotland.

Looking ahead the local dance program is filling up! The new year looks to be a busy one on the dance floor.

Ps. Apologies for the lengthy issue but there were many exciting articles and photos to include.

Doug Durnin, Editor

Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

If you think you are too small to have an impact, try going to sleep with a mosquito in the room.

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

If you have an internet connection, browse for RSCDS & city. For instance, RSCDS Toronto hosts workshops and monthly dances and has links to dancing events all over the world. Almost every city in Canada has an RSCDS group. Many have a Facebook site as well.

Fall, 2022 - dance classes resuming/continuing in various centers. Check local branch websites for specific details as restrictions permit dancing together in person.

February 10 – 12, 2023 – Edmonton – 51st Annual Workshop and Ball

May 26-28, 2023 – Toronto – 1st Spring Fling / Spring Fringe in North America

July 30 – August 6, 2023 – Halifax – TAC Summer School

Scottish Country Dancing and Walking Holidays – 5 tours scheduled in 2023. March, May, Sept., Oct., & Nov. check <https://www.scottish-country-dancing-and-walking-holidays.com> for more information

Here are links to some branch sites:

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)

[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)

[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)

www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: January 2023

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

Submissions for the *Light and Airy* can be sent to the Branch e-mail address: info@rscdswinnipeg.ca or to the editor at Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca Deadline for submissions: December 15. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca