

# *Light and Airy*



**Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg**  
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Volume 54, Number 6

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## ***Important Dates***

### **Dancing in 2023**

#### **Winter Term 2023**

**Mondays** – evening class 7:30 – 9:30

**Thursdays** – afternoon class 1:30 – 3:30

**Saturday, March 11** – social evening Churchill Park UC 7:30

**Sunday, March 26** – RSCDS Wpg. Dance & music show  
Winkler P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall 2:00pm

**Week of April 10** – Second Term Classes end

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

**Monday, May 15** – AGM at Churchill Park UC 7:30

### ***A Word from the Chair of COM ....***

Our second term classes began on January 9th and 12th respectively and although we have experienced some of the coldest weather so far this winter, our class attendance has been at an all time high. Further indication that we are on the right track as we continue our return to dancing. Many thanks for our teachers this term Sheila, Peter and Sharyl.

Traditionally, January sees the Branch hosting a Burns Dinner but this year, with our focus on the Workshop and Ball, we held our monthly Social on January 21st. We were treated to a delightful program planned and presented by Sharyl and Peter. Thank you to our Social Committee Barbara

Lambert and Ellen Graham with assistance from Donald Graham for setting up the Lounge and to everyone who contributed to the reception. A fantastic start to the year indeed.

Plans are progressing as regards the Workshop and Ball in April. We hope you participate as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary.

Shirley Tinsley

Next COM meeting – March 1

## ***Have you heard?***

### ***January Social Evening***



A New Year and more evenings of SCD! Saturday January 21 had us on the floor enjoying dance favourites of Peter and Sharyl. Although few in number, we were great in enthusiasm. The snacks and visiting afterward were wonderful.

### ***February Social Evening***



We were out dancing again on February 11 enjoying another evening of SCD. The date was moved a week earlier than originally planned due to a booking conflict for halls. Sheila hosted the dancing having us enjoying several of her choice dances. We know where headquarters is having danced both 12 Coates Crescent and EH5 7AF (aka the postal code dance). We danced a beautiful strathspey The Sheltered Cove from the Aye Afloat book, a book of dances devised by Margaret Zadworny dedicated to the town of Portknockie where she grew up. The music for all of the dances was composed by Muriel Johnstone.

## ***March Social Evening***

Mark your calendars to attend the March Dance Social on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:15 pm) at Churchill Park United Church (525 Beresford Ave). Admission \$5.00 (members) or \$10 (non-members) at the door (cash only).

## ***From the Classes ...***

Did you know Churchill Park United Church has an AED located inside the front door next to the entrance to the sanctuary? There is also a first aid kit beside the AED and another in the gymnasium where we dance.

## **Monday**

A funny thing happened at class on February 6. All the dancers were quiet and listening intently. A teacher's dream!

Actually this resulted from a technical glitch – so more of a teacher's nightmare!

Sheila had her computer and speaker all set up and working fine. She stepped out of the room for a minute and when she returned she couldn't hear the music. It turned out her computer audio output jack had decided to stop working. She tried all she could think of but still no speaker sound. So, she ran the music on her computer built-in speakers. These do not play very loud so the class had to be quiet to hear the music. We moved a small table to a spot between the two sets so Sheila wouldn't have to carry the computer around.

Wouldn't you know it, it worked fine when she tried it after arriving home! Just like a squeak in your car when you take it into the shop.

Doug

Still looking for a scribe for Monday class.- ed.



## **Thursday**

February 2 was Groundhog Day and we were dancing, the first Feb 2 in 3 years. It was the coldest day so far (-25°C) and 18 dancers present! Dancing is a good way to warm up. Peter and Sharyl keep us learning and reviewing. Where are my corners? This month we have danced the “all round poussette”, and the poussette with three couples. That was new, but it soon became smooth. Again, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February, we had 3 sets of 3 = 18 dancers.

It took a while to catch on to Mrs. Stewart's Jig, but in the end it was fun. Sharyl led us in another beautiful strathspey called Neidpath Castle. Strathspey is such an elegant dance. We also gave

Flowers of Edinburgh a whirl in the last 10 minutes. We enjoy chatting in our breaks and mix up the partners often. Great camaraderie.

Another excerpt from Gaelic in Your Gob - four dozen English words that came from the Scottish Highlands by Michael Newton. The word is shindig - known as a lively party featuring music and dance. There is a connection to another word "Shinty" which is a ferocious stick and ball game surviving primarily in the Scottish Highlands. There's nearly a millennium and half of references to the game in the Gaelic literature of both Ireland and Scotland. The chain of association...the game of shinty which Gaelic speakers associated with the word "sinteag" which not only describes the movement of the shinty players, but could also be used to describe the movements of dancers who entertained themselves after the game. The word shindig is similar in sound to the Gaelic word sinteag. After a raucous game of Shinty, there would be a shindig of social dancing. "If you don't believe Highlanders throw the best parties, you deserve a kick to the shins." Ouch! Let's show our highland heritage at our next shindig!!

Heather Robbins

## ***Winkler show***

The branch was asked if we might put on a show of dancing and music in the performing arts centre in Winkler, a city 150 km from Winnipeg. The task was taken up by Cheryl Durnin who planned the show, organized the dancers, and the music. The event takes place on March 26 at 2 pm and the poster is found here with details. All are welcome! Come and enjoy!

The P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall Proudly Presents

# ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY

## DANCE SOCIETY

MARCH 26, 2023 at 2:00 pm

TICKETS: \$5.00

**Get your tickets today!**

Online: [www.winklerconcerthall.ca](http://www.winklerconcerthall.ca)  
In Person: Meridian Exhibition Centre



## **2023 Winnipeg Anniversary Workshop**



### **RSCDS Winnipeg Branch 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 50<sup>th</sup> Workshop and Ball April 21-23, 2023**

When: April 21-23, 2023  
Where: Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Why: Great company, Great teaching, Great music,  
Great dancing, Great food!  
A time to get together and have .....FUN!!!!  
How: On-line registration forms and information on Teachers  
and Musicians are on the RSCDS Winnipeg website

Well, you may have missed your chance for a free weekend of dance and instruction as the early bird deadline for the draw basket is past! ***Sorry if you missed the basket!***

**However** there is still lots of opportunity to send in your registration.

Please come and join us to celebrate this occasion. When is such a celebration likely to happen again? Never! There won't be this convergence of anniversaries again. (Kind of like the comets cruising by Earth every 50,000 years.)

**Come one, Come all! The more the merrier!**

Jim Stott from Scotland and Linda Henderson from San Francisco are our guest teachers. They will inspire you to learn and improve your dancing skills, as well as to enjoy all that dancing has to offer. Mary Ross (accordion), Janette Polson (fiddle) and Ron Krug (piano) will be your musicians for the weekend. Mary and Janette are both from Vancouver Island and looking forward to meeting everyone here. Please join us for our special weekend of entertainment, music, dance and socializing.

Your Workshop Committee with the support of the Committee of Management has been working hard at planning a great weekend of music, dance, good food and great company. If you haven't already signed up, now is the time, as we have deadlines to meet in regards to ordering food and setting up classes. Information about cost, location, accommodation, and registration forms/e-transfers are all on the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch website.

**We are counting on your support!**

A Workshop musical note:

Ken Natrass was the leader and accordion player of the Winnipeg band Scotch Measure for many years. He spent countless hours arranging music for the band that we enjoyed at our class socials and ball events. Oh, how we miss the live music!

Jane Natrass has gifted Ken's musical archives to Mary Ross who will be treating us to live music once again as she plays accordion along with Janette Polson on violin, and Ron Krug on piano. Mary wrote a letter to Jane thanking her for the music and Jane wanted to share the note from Mary.

Jane

What a surprise I received this morning!!

I feel very humbled and appreciative that you have gifted to me a set of all of Ken's SCD music.

What an amazing collection and so well documented.

I am looking at many years work, preparing sets, adding harmony and cataloguing it all.

My eyes really popped open when I saw that there were over 4000 files.

I like the way Ken catalogued the tunes by key signatures. That is a great tip, which I will try and apply to my music files.

I can also imagine all the hours that it took for someone to scan all the pages.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I have all the sets made for the Winnipeg ball and we will be playing the 3 sets from the Prairie Gold cd from Scotch Measure.

Prairie Crocus

Trip to Sucker Bay and

The Golden Boy

Ron has also sent me a waltz medley that were favourites for your club and ones that Ron and Ken enjoyed playing.

It will definitely be a trip down memory lane for music for Winnipeg's anniversary celebrations.

Wishing you all the best and thank you so much for the honour of using Ken's Arrangements.

Mary

Jane Natrass

Workshop Chair and Committee

### ***From the Library ...***

Congratulations to our January winner who correctly named the tartan of the previous month's highlighted skirt. It is our chair, Shirley Tinsley. It was Royal Stewart.

The library will be set up at our next social with free giveaways, books for loan, and CD's for sale as well as listings of donated records and cassettes.

A number of beautiful tartan skirts have been donated which came from a time when we were younger and slimmer. Here is a tip to make a waistband larger for a tartan skirt you love or have outgrown and want to make wearable. I have snipped the stitches of the front band as far back as the reverse pleats at the side and released them giving you extra inches. You will probably need to add an extension to

the waistband ends before stitching the lengthened waistband back on. You may find the overlap is less than before. I have decreased the front overlap so much I had to stitch the flap closed 12” from the top and the same distance up from the bottom to keep it from opening. You still have the front flap for your kilt pin. Try to keep the centre of the tartan in the centre of your front flap. With a little hard work your kilt will be wearable before you lose those few extra pounds. May said you can buy kilt extensions which you add on to lengthen the waist straps if your skirt or kilt has buckles. Some of the ladies kilt skirts have the straps. Men’s kilts have them. Have you noticed the front flap on men’s kilts is opposite to the ladies?

### **Contest-**

Can you name the tartan on this skirt? Please email me your answer as I expect several correct answers and I will draw the winning name. It will be available for sale for \$15.00 . The waist can be extended to 30 inches with the buckles and it is 26 inches long.



Joan Curle  
Librarian

## TAC Summer School



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



**Nova Scotia**  
**TAC 50<sup>th</sup>**  
**Summer School**

**Teachers**  
Sharon Barker (Canada)  
Gary Coull (Scotland)  
Alan Twigg (USA)  
Ron Wallace (USA)

**Musicians**  
Kathy Fraser Collins (Director)  
Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Judi  
Nicolson, Gary Thomas, Don  
Wood

*Enjoy a week of dancing in  
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

**Dancers of all levels welcome**

**Celebrate!**  
**65**  
1958-2023

Check website for updates and  
online registration  
**tac-rscds.org**  
Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers'  
Association (Canada)

Registration  
opens in  
March

For dancers wishing to plan add-on travel, the links below, including the Nova Scotia branch website, offer useful information:

<http://www.rscdsnovascotia.ca>

<https://www.novascotia.com/>

<https://www.explorenovascotia.com/>

### ***From the editor's desk ...***

Our first class social took place on Saturday January 21 and the second social has also been enjoyed by the time you are reading this L & A. The dates for February & March needed to be changed to accommodate the hall booking. Next social is Saturday March 11.

I hope to return to our system of having a class scribe to write a wee report each month about what the class has been doing. I have a volunteer from the Thursday class who has an idea for an ongoing bit of fun. Haven't heard of an interested dancer from Monday yet but maybe this week. It's not a big job, and one that can easily be shared.

We have received notice of a dance and music workshop weekend in Lethbridge which includes a ball (of course). It is wonderful that our fellow dance groups are getting back to hosting events. If you want more information please contact me or look on the Lethbridge website.

A friend sent me an email with amazing home remedies for tricky tasks. I will share some as I have room.

Doug Durnin, Editor

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**FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SUFFERERS  
~ SIMPLY CUT YOURSELF AND BLEED  
FOR A FEW MINUTES, THUS REDUCING  
THE PRESSURE ON YOUR VEINS.  
REMEMBER TO SET A TIMER.**



## ***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.

**March 31 – April 2 – Lethbridge – Dance, Music Workshops, & Ball**

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

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

**August 13 - 20, 2023 – Prague – Prague Scottish Dance Week**

**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](http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org)

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

### ***L&A Submissions***

**Next L&A:** April 2023      Deadline for submissions: March 14.

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](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca) or to the editor at [Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca)

This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)