

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 55, Number 2

November 2023

Important Dates

Dancing in 2023

Saturday, November 18 – St. Andrew’s Social

Thursday, December 7 – last afternoon class of 2023

Monday, December 11 – last evening class of 2023

Dancing in 2024

Monday, January 8 – evening classes start 7:30 – 9:30

Thursday, January 11 – afternoon classes start 1:30 – 3:30

Saturday, January 27 – Burns Social

Saturday, March 16 – St. Patrick’s Social

Monday, April 8 – last evening class

Thursday, April 11 – last afternoon class

Saturday, April 20 – Dance Workshop

Saturday, May 6 – Wind-Up Social

Monday, May 13 – AGM

Note: all events are held at Churchill Park United Church (CPUC) 525 Beresford Ave. unless otherwise stated.

A Word from the Chair of COM

Well into October now and so far, no snow, which along with the above normal temperatures is a bonus for this time of year!

We held the last COM at Joan Curle's home where the pumpkin pie was the after meeting treat. Thanks to Joan for hosting this meeting in the absence of our front steps and porch... soon to be rectified I hope before Halloween.

There has recently been some interest in developing links with other Scottish organizations in Winnipeg/ Manitoba for purposes of communication and support. We as a branch were invited to an exploratory meeting on October 19/23 by St Andrews' Society who initiated this. Wendy Land was our representative and James Sutherland also attended on behalf of the Lads and Lassies group and the Manitoba Living History Association. Another meeting is to be held in 3 months and Wendy will send a summary report of this recent meeting. Thanks to both Wendy and James for their participation and contributions to this committee on our behalf.

Sharyl Eaglesham has been accepting revisions to the Operating Procedures for the Branch, incorporating the changes into the document, and I hope we can give these a final OK at the next meeting. We appreciate the time and work Sharyl puts into the "nitty gritty" of keeping documents like these up to date.

Have a Happy Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night !

Lynn McClure

Next COM meeting – November 2

Have you heard?

ALS Manitoba Ceilidh

WOW!

Again this year, on September 30th, which happens to be the 100th Anniversary of the RSCDS, I hosted a fundraising Ceilidh for ALS Manitoba in memory of my mother Doreen Mennie. This event was well supported by members of our branch and many others from the Community.

There were silent auction prizes, 50/50 tickets, dancing, entertainment, and of course, food.

This year we raised over \$2,000.00.

I would like to thank each and every one who helped in any way at all (and there are too many for me to list) to make this event such a success.

My heart is full of joy and gratitude.

Thank you one and all.

Cheryl Durnin

Upcoming

St. Andrew's Social

November 18 at Churchill Park United Church

Programme

| | | | |
|------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | The Wild Geese | 32J3 | Bk 24 |
| 2. | Sandy O'er the Lea | 32S2 | MMM |
| 3. | Shiftin' Bobbins | 32R3 | 30 Popular Vol 2 |
| 4. | Joie de Vivre | 32J3 | Bk 39 |
| 5. | Triple Happiness | 32S 3 cpl set | Bk 52 |
| 6. | Catch the Wind | 32R3 | Bk 45 |
| 7. | St Andrew's Fair | 32J3 | 5/82 |
| 8. | The Lairds' Chain | 32J2 | Leaflet |
| 9. | The Kissing Bridge | 32R3 | Bk 47 |
| 10. | Reel of the 51st Division | 32R3 | Bk 13 |

From the classes

Monday Evening

The Monday class started the year with a huge turnout at the open house: more than 16 couples if I remember correctly. We've since settled to between one and two dozen dancers each week, with a good ratio of experienced to completely new. We're confused enough to get a good laugh but not so much that it becomes a struggle.

We've learned the basic steps: skip change, strathspey travel, strathspey setting step, and pas de basque. We also know a few figures by name, like "corners pass and turn", and we've learned a mirror reel of three and a crossover reel of three. Remembering an entire dance is still a challenge, but we beginners can always trust our experienced partners to remind us where to go.

We're having so much fun that Monday is now my favourite day of the week. See you there!

Elise

Thanks to new dancer Elise for sharing her perspective on SCD and the Monday class.
Ed. Doug

Drop-in Guests to Monday class



Thursday Afternoon

We've had a good month, some lovely weather. It was good to welcome Claire back, after some covid isolation (husband Jim, not Claire herself) and travel to visit family farther west. Speaking of covid and such, we do appreciate it when someone not feeling well lets us know, and misses class.

Also this month we welcomed a new member, Janet. She has prior experience with other forms of formation dancing, and is a quick study. Having a new member has been good for all of us, we have been paying more attention to things we often take for granted, such as the transitions between skip change and pas de basque, and the way progression works in a set.

Reviewing dances from the upcoming social programme has provided opportunity to look closely at things such as mirror reels of three, then crossover reels (the Kissing Bridge); corners (Triple Happiness); and reel of four (The Lairds' Chain).

We try to finish with something relatively easy and familiar. At that point, Doug often pipes up with The Wild Geese, a witty reference to the fact that the dance was done several times earlier in the term. Will it reappear? Stay tuned.

From Dance Anon

From the Library ...

The library has a number of books with information on Scottish country dancing that can be borrowed. Could you use a little help with your dancing? A useful book we added in 2022 is Step We Gaily, A Scottish Country Dancing Manual. The introduction says the book is a manual for dancers and teachers covering the basic steps in Scottish Country dancing. It provides specific foot positions for basic steps and outlines modifications to the basic steps when danced in specific formations. It discusses more complex footwork such as changing feet while doing the strathspey. It also discusses the importance of the rhythm of the music in dancing. You can review the steps at your own pace. This book will be as helpful to experienced dancers as well as new ones.

We had many correct answers to the Tartan or Plaid? contest. The prize of a donated cd or tea towel goes to May Kong Sutherland for having her name drawn for correctly naming the tartan of the kilt skirt shown at the open house. It was the Royal Stewart. It has a 32 inch waist and a 31 inch drop.

Can you name the newest contest tartan of the kilt skirt below, or is it a plaid? It has a 29 inch waist and is 25 inches in length. It will be on display at the St. Andrew's social where you can deposit your entry in the jar. The kilt skirts will be for sale at the social.

Joan

Tartan or Plaid?



Committee of Management 2023/24

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Chair: | Lynn McClure | 204-489-7712 |
| Vice-Chair: | Pat Clubb | 204-774-2796 |
| Secretary: | Sharyl Eaglesham | 204-888-6662 |
| Treasurer: | Sharron Bettess | 204-256-2248 |
| Social Secretary | Barbara Lambert | 204-256-8738 |
| Asst. Soc. Secretary: | Ellen Graham | 1-204-744-2857 |
| Publicity: | May Kong Sutherland | 204-995-2388 |
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| Library: | Joan Curle | 204-254-6697 |
| Light & Airy: | Doug Durnin | 204-253-4213 |
| Teacher's Rep: | Cheryl Durnin | 204-253-4213 |
| Webmaster: | Sheila Careless | 204-233-8808 |

From the editor's desk ...

Classes are back in full swing and our first social is coming soon – November 18. Admission is \$5 for RSCDS members or \$10 for non-members.

**"Some things have to be believed to be seen".
- Ralph Hodgson**

It seems we just finished up Summer School in Halifax and the poster is now out advertising the 2024 Summer School at Brock University in St. Catharines. I better start planning!

Doug Durnin, Editor
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Here and There...

***Time to think ahead to July 2024
Summer School 2024!***

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.

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](#)



Summer School in Canada!
July 28 – August 4, 2024

SAVE THE DATE

Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario
Only 20 Minutes from Niagara Falls
and 1 hour from Toronto

Not just for teachers! Welcoming, supportive classes for dancers of all levels
basic | intermediate | advanced

Registration opens March 1, 2024

For more information:
tac-rscds.org
Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)



L&A Submissions

Next L&A: December 2023 Deadline for submissions: November 23.
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
This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca