

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 56, Number 10

August / September 2025

Important Dates

Dancing in 2025

Monday, September 8 – Open House & Registration evening **Churchill Park UC 7:30 – 9:30**

Monday, September 15 – evening classes start 7:30 – 9:30 at CPUC

Thursday, September 18 – afternoon classes start 1:30 – 3:30 at CPUC

Saturday, September 27 – Ceilidh Fundraiser for ALS Manitoba 7:30 at CPUC

Sunday, September 28 – Challenge Class

Monday, October 13 – no class. Thanksgiving Holiday Monday.

Sunday, October 26 – Challenge Class

Sunday, November 23 – Challenge Class

Monday, November 24 – St. Andrew's Social

Thursday, December 11 – last afternoon class of 2025

Monday, December 15 – last evening class of 2025

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

A Word from the Chair of COM

Summer time and the living is easy. I hope you are all finding time for R&R as August moves us closer to fall! The Committee of Management (COM), met in early August. We shared a few moments of how our summer had been so far before we got down to business! Registration for 2025-2026 is open now and you can find the form on the RSCDS - Winnipeg Branch website. We have new members working on COM. Sharon Plaitin is our new membership rep, Debbie Peters is the librarian, and John Hayles as the webmaster. Thanks to all of them for their work.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at the Scottish Folklorama Pavilion August 10 - 16. Special thanks to James and May Sutherland for their organization and all the supplies James totes along.

Open House is on September 8, 2025 at Churchill Park United Church. There is no charge for this event. Bring your family and friends. There will be a mix of dances and treats and a cold drink before heading home. I'm looking forward to see you on Monday Sept. 8th.

Heather Robbins

Next COM meeting – September 9

News from COM

The Committee of Management for the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch has held several meetings to organize for the upcoming dance season. The COM members are:

Committee of Management 2025/26

Chair:	Heather Robbins	204-295-1542
Vice-Chair:	Doug Durnin	204-996-4716
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
Treasurer:	Sharron Bettess	204-801-1410
Social Secretary	Ellen Graham	204-825-7891
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Claire Buys	204-388-4832
Publicity:	May Kong Sutherland	204-256-2919
	James Sutherland	204-791-2906
Membership:	Sharon Plaitin	204-771-3386
Library:	Debbie Peters	204-292-5527
Light & Airy:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Teacher's Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-291-4213
Webmaster:	John Hayles	204-482-5249

Have you heard?



OPEN HOUSE

Scottish Country Dancing

Lively reels, graceful strathspeys, happy jigs, and the infectious energy of traditional Scottish dance.

Whether you are a seasoned dancer or brand new to the floor, you will be swept away by the music, movement, and camaraderie!

No partners needed; just bring your enthusiasm!

When: **Monday, September 8**
Time: **7:30 PM**
Cost: **FREE!**
Where: **Churchill Park United Church**
(525 Beresford Ave)

A warm welcome to all!
Come for the steps; Stay for the smiles.

Folklorama

Scotland Pavilion – August 10 - 16

Another whirlwind week of Folklorama is in the books. Many thanks to all who helped out setting up the RSCDS display area, greeting visitors coming by the table during the week, showing a few dances, and encouraging those willing to give it a try.

Our pavilion was alive with energy as guests enjoyed a variety of dance demonstrations and participation dances led by James and the RSCDS volunteers and the Lads 'n' Lasses!

The floor was full, the music was lively, the TV was inviting and the Scottish spirit was felt throughout the evening!

So many people shared in the fun and laughter of participation dancing and were very excited to receive the information regarding the Open House on September 8, 2025!

A heartfelt “thank you” to all the volunteers who worked and danced tirelessly to make the Pavilion a true success and a celebration of culture and community!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their help at the RSCDS Display at the Pavilion of Scotland. It made the event a great success. We handed out many pamphlets for our open house, all with your help.

Thank you all!

James and May



End of an Era – The Flying Scotsman

The Royal Train will soon leave the station for the last time.

The **Flying Scotsman** train is nearing the end of its lifespan and will be decommissioned before 2027. The train, a suite of nine railcars that can be hitched to a locomotive, originated in 1869 when Queen Victoria commissioned a pair of railcars to accommodate her travels. Alas, modern operational costs and upgrades required for the more advanced rail systems exceed resource availability.



King Charles III arrives by royal train, pulled by the Flying Scotsman, in Yorkshire, England, in 2023.

Source: Winnipeg Free Press July 7, 2025

But the historic train will live on!

A SCD dance called The Flying Scotsman is a popular fun ceilidh and children's dance with figures involving organizing the cars, hooking up the locomotive and whoosh away down the track to London. Sometimes there is even a train whistle blowing for the crossings!

TAC Weekend & Summer School Report

As the teacher representative of the Winnipeg Branch I attended the Teachers' Weekend August 1 – 3 at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke Quebec. It was a wonderful weekend of connecting with other teachers from across North America and beyond. As well as dancing in classes with guest teacher Andrew Nolan from Edinburgh we were able to share ideas related to dancing, gaining and retaining of new members.

At this event I was awarded my 40-year membership certificate to Teachers Association Canada. It is hard to believe that I gained my prelim teaching certificate 40 years ago. Upon attaining your prelim certificate, you receive a one-year free membership, and I have continued my membership ever since.

I was asked to teach an afternoon class of Ladies Step Dancing at Summer School (August 3 – 10) specifically a dance "Celtic Jig" that I devised in 1999. It was well received and was performed at the Ceilidh evening. I was thrilled to watch 3 dancers perform the dance with Karen Steven playing the music for the dance on her fiddle.

I am grateful to COM who continue to offer financial support to help send the teacher rep. to the TAC weekend. It is a most valuable weekend. The Summer School is also a remarkable time as we watch the progress of each class and see the newer dancers gain skills and confidence as the week goes along.



Marjorie McLaughlin, (TAC Chair)
Ward Fleri, & Cheryl Durnin

But it's not all work at TAC!

There's lots of fun with evening dance programs, concerts, ceilidh, and themes.

Cheryl Durnin



Vicky Zeltins, Cheryl Durnin,
& Alison Booz

From the Classes ...

Classes will be back in September, on both Monday evening and Thursday afternoon.

Pick your favourite or come out to both!

Fundraising Ceilidh for ALS Manitoba – September 27

Mark your calendars for September 27 at 7:30 for the annual ceilidh to raise funds for ALS Manitoba. There will be dancing, singing, other entertainment bits, door prize, silent auction items, 50/50 draw, and of course food.

This event is greatly appreciated by ALS Manitoba as the organization receives NO money from government grants and carries on wonderful work educating and assisting families affected by this debilitating disease.

Come out for fun in support of ALS Manitoba.



A Night of Dance, Music
& Scottish Cheer!

SCOTTISH CEILIDH

Saturday,
September 27th

Join us for the silent auction,
and light refreshments as well.
An all ages event that's fun for the
whole family!

Fundraiser in memory of **Doreen Mennie**
7:30 pm to 10:30 pm
Churchill Park United Church
525 Beresford Ave., Winnipeg
Admission by donation to the ALS Society of Manitoba
The event is wheelchair accessible.

from the editor's desk ...

We are off dancing for another season!

September 8 is the Open House and Registration evening of dancing and mingling after the summer. Bring a friend or two to enjoy the love of dance!

September 27 is the fundraising ceilidh for ALS Manitoba.

The St. Andrew's Social is November 24 in the usual Monday class time slot.

Challenge classes are being offered for more experienced dancers. Not sure if this is for you? Ask your class teacher.

Be sure to keep the **Dancing Dates** handy to see what is happening in addition to the regular weekly classes.

Doug Durnin, Editor

Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

Planning to travel? If you have an internet connection, browse for RSCDS & city for dancing where you are going. 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](#)

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: October 2025 Deadline for submissions: September 17.

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