

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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February 2025

Important Dates

Dancing in 2025

Sunday, February 9 – challenge class (7:00 -9:00)

Saturday, March 15 – Spring St. Patrick’s Social

Sunday, March 23 – challenge class (7:00 -9:00)

Monday, April 7 – last evening class

Thursday, April 10 – last afternoon class

Sunday, April 13 – challenge class (7:00 -9:00)

Saturday, April 26 – Dance Workshop

Monday, May 12 – Wind-Up Social

Thursday, May 22 – 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

Classes in the new year started on Monday evening, January 6th, taught by Sheila Careless and on Thursday afternoon, January 9th, taught by Cheryl Durnin. Both classes are going well and with good attendance despite the weather. The Challenge class on January 12th was also well attended. The next Challenge class will be held on February 9th at CPUC.

RSCDS held its Burns Social on January 18th at CPUC. Robert Burns, the Scottish poet, born in 1759 in Alloway and died in Dumfries, is revered and celebrated all over the world, especially on January 25th, the date of his birth. At our social, the Haggis was piped in by John Hayles to the drum of May Kong Sutherland. James and May Kong Sutherland recited the famous poem, Address to a Haggis, after being marched in by Don Johnson, Ray Plaitin, Donald Graham and James Sutherland. After dancing, a lovely lunch was organized by the Social Committee (Ellen Graham and Claire Buys) complete with Haggis, neeps and tatties! Thank you to all the members who provided sweets to round out the evening. A grand evening for all!

The next RSCDS social will be the Spring Social on March 15th.

Please mark your calendar for the RSCDS workshop, April 26th, at CPUC.

Pat Clubb

Next COM meeting – February 6 (Zoom)

Have you heard?

Burns Social

The Social on January 18th, celebrating Robbie Burns, was a whopping success, with a large convivial crowd of dancers and guests, 39 in total. We enjoyed a dance program put together by Sharyl and James. At the mid-point break, the procession for the toast to the Haggis marched in led by our piper John Hayles and accompanied by May on the drum. Also in the procession were the sword bearer, the haggis bearer, the scotch bearer, and the addresser. All were kitted out with tams by James and May. The Toast to the Haggis was recited (performed) by James and May, and then the group was piped out with everyone clapping along.



Don Johnson cooked 2 Wee Beasties, and brought them (hot) to the Social. After the second half of the dance program, Claire and I (with many helpers) arranged tables with the tartan cloths, showcasing the sweets and the savouries, the hot and cold dishes and the Star Attraction - the haggis, tatties, and neeps! Tables were set down the center of the hall and we all sat enjoying the food.

Many, many thanks to our wonderful helpers - the food contributors, the dish driers, the chair stackers, Joan's Library and Shop.

Donald and I were so pleased to have our kids there on such a special night - to see and experience the warmth and the joy of getting together to dance.

A WONDERFUL start to the New Year!



Upcoming dancing

March St. Patrick's Social - March 15

Programme - is on the branch website and will be included in next L & A issue.

From the Classes ...

Classes have resumed for the term and the teachers have been preparing the dancers for the Burns Social (now passed). One particular dance – Toast to the Mousies – garnered attention in both classes. Thank you to Sheila and Cheryl for working on this dance as we were familiar with it which helped dancing it at the social. There were a few glitches but was fun to dance knowing the figures.

We are fortunate to have our teacher candidates – Sharyl & James – willing to fill in for our regular teachers when illness befalls them. Thank You!

From the Library ...

Please visit the library when at the socials to browse or just to say hi. There are books on the history and technique of Scottish country dancing to borrow. Our new cd's have been sold but there are usually a few donated ones for sale for a few dollars. We also have a box of donated pamphlets and booklets of dances which are free for the taking.

Congratulations to the winner of our Tartan or Plaid contest, Jan Coats. The Coats from Kenora plan to attend our branch workshop in April so I will be able to give her the prize of a donated cd or tea towel. The tartan is Royal Stewart. The man's kilt displayed for the contest is for sale for \$50.00. Offers will be considered. The waist size is 36 inches and the length is 23 1/2 inches.

Thanks to those who bought a kilt skirt or two at our size 28 liquidation sale last month. Deb Peters modelled the lovely skirt with the slimmer style and box pleats she remade from the fabric from one of the skirts she bought—a great reuse of a skirt. Has anyone else remodelled one?

You will notice there are few magazines available in the public libraries these days but they are still easy to get. With your public library card you can log onto Libby on a mobile device for audiobooks, books, and magazines. I recently read Scotland magazine on my ipad. The best part of downloading your magazine is not having to go outside to get a copy and it automatically returns in a week. I often download audiobooks and e books as well.

Thanks to those who help out at the library table and to those donate gently used Scottish items to the nearly new table. All funds raised go to support branch activities.

- Joan

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 COM.

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

Spring Workshop - April 26

Plans are underway for the Winnipeg Branch One-Day Workshop coming in April with guest teacher -

Rebecca Blackhall-Peters from B.C.

The day will consist of morning dance classes (9 – noon), followed by lunch.

The evening social dancing will begin at 7:30 and be followed by socializing.

The poster, link for registration form will be available very soon in both an online and downloadable version. The evening dance programme, crib notes, and diagrams will also be available soon.

Watch your emails and our Branch website for more news.

James Sutherland
Workshop Committee Chair



TAC Summer School 2025



Early Bird Registration starts
February 15
**SUMMER SCHOOL IN
CANADA!**
AUGUST 3-10, 2025
Bishop's University
Sherbrooke, Quebec
For dancers of all levels
Partial week attendance options

Teaching Staff
Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, BC Canada
Linda Henderson, California USA
Andrew Nolan, UK
Cecily Selling, Pennsylvania USA

Music Director
Gary Thomas, California USA

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
tac-rscds.org
Scottish Country Dance
Teachers' Association (Canada)

from the editor's desk ...

Well, the holidays are now past and we are wearing off our excess calories by dancing. It's good to be back into our routines. The Burns Social was a great success and came complete with the entrance of the haggis and Burns poem - A Toast to the Haggis.

A big Thank You to our teacher candidates Sharyl & James who planned the dance programme and guided us through the evening.

Our weather has been flip-flopping from frigid cold to well above normal temperatures. Just fine conditions for the catching of colds. We've had a few dancers missing due to health issues and hope all are soon well and join the dance once again. Our teachers have also succumbed and missed class.

Stay healthy and keep dancing!

Doug Durnin, Editor
Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

A priest, a rabbit, and a minister walk into a bar.
The bartender asks the rabbit "What'll ya have?"
The rabbit says "I dunno. I'm only here because of autocorrect."

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

February 14 – 16, 2025 – Hawaii - Aloha Winter Weekend

February 14, 2025 – Edmonton – 53rd Annual Workshop Weekend and Ball

April 5, 2025 – Victoria – Vancouver Island SCD Society - Workshop & Ball

August 3 – 10, 2025 – Sherbrooke, Quebec – 2025 TAC Weekend and Summer School

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: March 2025 Deadline for submissions: February 20.

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