

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 57, Number 2

November 2025

Important Dates

Dancing in 2025

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

Dancing in 2026

Monday, January 5 – evening classes start 7:30 – 9:30 at CPUC

Thursday, January 8 – afternoon classes start 1:30 – 3:30 at CPUC

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

A Word from the Chair of COM

Happy Autumn Dancers!

We are well on the way learning and reviewing our steps of the various dances. October has been a busy month. I hope that you had time to spend with family, friends or neighbours during Thanksgiving.

Many, I am sure, have been putting their summer adventures at the cabin, cottage, etc and closing up for the season. I hope your summer memories will sustain you as we approach winter days.

At COM we have forwarded names for the proxy vote at the AGM of the RSCDS head office on Coates Crescent in Scotland.

I hope you are enjoying your classes and making new friends and renewing friendships that have formed over the years. Enjoy the remaining days of fall as we prepare for what is to come! (The S word). lol.

Blessings,

Heather Robbins

Next COM meeting – November 4

Have you heard?

Sad News - Ian Fillingham

Condolences are extended to friends and family of Ian Fillingham, who passed away on September 25th. Long time members will remember Ian as a very important figure during the years with the branch band “Scotch Measure”. He arranged all the sound equipment, picked it up, set it up, and balanced the sound. Ian certainly contributed to our enjoyment of dancing.

Step Dance?

Are you interested in Step Dancing? Is this something you have wanted to try?

I have heard from a few dancers who are interested and you can still sign up if this is something you want to try. The class will start in the new year. Stay tuned for more information.

Cheryl Durnin

St. Andrew's Social – November 24

Our first social of the season is coming up on November 24. This is the usual Monday class time at Churchill Park United Church with dancing starting at 7:30. Following the dancing there will be a chance to enjoy some tasty goodies and visit. Here is the programme of dances for the evening. This is also available on the website along with dance crib notes.

Come and enjoy!

Cost of social evenings is \$10.

Winnipeg Branch

St. Andrew's Day Social

Monday, November 24, 2025

PROGRAMME

A Scottish Jig	J32	2RR
St Andrew's Fair	J32	3/4L
The Lairds' Chain**	S32	2/4L
Flowers of Edinburgh	R32	3/4L

BREAK

The Reel of the 51st Division	R32	3/4L
The Highland Fair	J32	2/4L
Fair Donald	S32	3/4L
The Deil amang the Tailors	R32	3/4L

EXTRA DANCE

The Wild Geese	J32	3/4L
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**** Recommended for experienced dancers**



From the Classes ...

Monday Class

We had a few orange shirts out dancing on September 29, Reconciliation Day eve.



Travelogue – Jeff Bradshaw

Recently while I was away on vacation to visit a friend in Nanaimo I was able to add a few extra days to do some country dancing out in Victoria, B.C.

The trip started with the 3-day English country dance workshop, Hands Across the Water, put on annually by the Victoria English Country Dance Society from September 5th to 7th.

While still visiting Victoria I was also able to attend the open house for the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society on September 9th.

Turnout exceeded expectations for them. Within a room a bit smaller than ours, they didn't think there would be any issues with available space, but we filled the place with approximately 75 attendees. Music was provided by their group band.

The dances were done in tight spaces with either 2 circles or 3 longways lines going at all times. The night started with Beacon Hill circle, a mixer done to the tune of the Teddy Bears Picnic, followed by Hospitality Circle. The rest of the night included some basic step instruction and a number of 4 couple longways set reels, jigs, and a strathspey.

They usually hope to get out up to 8 new members a year joining following the open house, and have multiple weekly classes separated by level of skill and knowledge with each class having somewhere around 18 to 25 people in it.

A good time was had by all.

Jeff

Challenge Class

The second Challenge class was held on Sunday October 26, at 7 pm in the gym at Churchill Park United Church. Check the calendar for the rest of the dates.

Cheryl Durnin

Fundraising Ceilidh for ALS Manitoba – September 27

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

The ALS Ceilidh was a huge success again this year. About 50 people attended the actual event with donations still coming in a week later.

This year we raised well over \$4,500 for the ALS Society of Manitoba.

To all who donated, the team who helped with the organizing, I thank you all for your continued support.

I am very grateful to all who supported this cause which is very close to my heart.

Cheryl Durnin

St. Andrew's Society Dinner

The St. Andrew's Society of Manitoba is hosting their 145th St. Andrew's Dinner on Saturday November 22.

In preparation for this event, they are offering Scottish Country Dance lessons to their members. The four evenings are listed below. To that end I have been asked to lead these evenings of dance instruction and our branch members have been invited to come to assist with the dancing. If you would like to join in, please let me know prior to the evenings. It would be nice to have a few experienced dancers there to help.

The evenings are as follows:

Dance Practices (7:00 – 9:00 PM):

Thursday, October 30th

Thursday, November 6

Thursday, November 13

Thursday, November 20

Location: *Royal Canadian Legion #4 1755 Portage Avenue*

Thank you for considering,
Cheryl Durnin

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

from the editor's desk ...

Back from our Danube River cruise. Where am I?
What day is it? Time? I'll get this issue out soon

Procrastination is not laziness.
It's a childhood trauma response.

I have included a note on the passing of Ian Fillingham. Although not a Scottish Country dancer, Ian played an important part in making our band Scotch Measure sound so wonderful to dance to at our socials and balls.

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.

If you have been travelling and dancing, let me know so I can add to the travelogue file.

Doug Durnin, Editor
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The PUN / FUN Corner:

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years old.

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became a father only when I was born.

(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?

Class: Maria!

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

November 14 – 16, 2025 – Minneapolis – Twin Cities Branch workshop weekend

February 7, 2026 – Toronto, ON – 60th Tartan Ball returning to the Royal York Hotel.

This is more than a ball... it's a celebration of tradition, dance, and community in one of Canada's most elegant venues.

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: December 2025 Deadline for submissions: November 21.

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