

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 57, Number 6

March 2026

Important Dates

Dancing in 2026

Saturday, March 14 – Friends Spring (Ceilidh) Social

Sunday, March 22 – Challenge Class (7 – 9pm)

Thursday, April 2 – last afternoon class

Monday, April 6 – last evening class (Easter Monday)

Saturday, April 18 – Dance Workshop

Monday, May 4 – Wind-Up Social

Thursday, May 21 – 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

At our monthly COM meeting, we shared the positive feedback received after the Robbie Burns night social. It was a cold night but warm inside. The next social is “Friends and Families Social” where you are invited to ask any friends or family to attend this social. It starts at 7:30 - doors open at 7:15. Depending on how many visitors we have, the program of dancing will be # of guests. We will probably also do some dancing so our guests know what we are up to on Monday Evenings or Thursday Afternoons at Churchill Park United Church. The cost of the social will be \$10.00 for

dancers. Friends and families are invited to give a “wee donation” if they wish. There will be a time of refreshments and visiting in the lounge after the social.

We also had a conversation about the environment. The suggestion was made that we could check to find dancers who are near us and carpool. I know there is a group of 4-5 that come together on a Thursday Afternoon. I understand that taking a city bus is a challenge, probably with a transfer, and the nearest bus stop to the church is near Osborne and Jubilee. A good long block walk. Any other suggestions that would help us care for Planet Earth would be welcome.

For those who are travelling in February /March - safe travels. If you are staying in Manitoba - good on you, stay warm!!

Heather Robbins
Next COM meeting – March 4

News from COM

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee (Doug Durnin, Shirley Tinsley, Sharron Bettess) is searching for members interested in joining the COM next season. Please speak to any of us if you are interested in any position on COM.

Positions are being filled, but we are still searching for a member for the position of Social Secretary on the 2026/27 Committee of Management (COM).

Social Secretary: arranges and/or co-ordinates all social activities of the Branch, as authorized by the Committee of Management. They coordinate the food and beverage portion for our dance socials and generally have many volunteers to help out. We have 4 social evenings a season so this not too onerous a position.

Specific responsibilities are available upon request or speak with Ellen Graham.

Please consider supporting your branch by volunteering on COM.

Questions? Contact Doug Durnin at Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

Halls for Dancing

At the last COM meeting (Feb. 3) the situation regarding hall space for dancing was raised. We knew that changes were coming. A few members volunteered to work proactively to locate dance space for next season.

Since that COM meeting an email was received from CPUC detailing what they are planning to do with their facility. As of July 2026 all renters have to vacate as renovations will commence to convert the entire main floor into a day care facility. The upstairs gym will be subdivided, half into a hall and the rest into office space. There is no guarantee of hall availability for renters once renovations are completed, possibly September 2027.

A number of facilities have been contacted regarding available hall space, floor type (wood or concrete base), and cost. We hope we might secure a hall to accommodate both our classes next season but we may be dancing in different halls on different days if one hall is not open for our current class times, which may also change.

If you have any suggestions for us, please call or email me.

Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca / 204-253-4213.

We'll keep you updated as progress is made.

Doug Durnin
Vice-Chair

Have you heard?

Friends & Family Social March 14

There is a wonderful fun evening coming up on March 14. There is no fixed dance programme. It's an evening of ceilidh dances which may change depending on the skills and abilities of those attending.

Bring out your family, friends and neighbours to join the fun!

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Winnipeg Branch

Dance Scottish

Friends & Family Ceilidh Dance
IF THE SOUND OF SCOTTISH MUSIC MAKES YOUR TOES TAP AND HANDS CLAP, THIS EVENING IS FOR YOU!

Saturday, March 14, 2026
Churchill Park United Church
(525 Beresford Ave)
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM Dance Program
9:30 PM – 11:00 PM Refreshments
Admission: A “wee” donation welcome

HAVE FUN, MEET FRIENDS AND KEEP FIT

- ❖ You don't have to wear tartan or a kilt (you can if you like)
- ❖ You don't need special footwear (comfortable flat shoes fine)
- ❖ You don't have to bring a partner (Scottish country dance involves dancing with different partners).

Questions? Contact
info@rscdwinnipeg.ca

From the Classes ...

Monday Class

Further to "The Ladies Man" poem included in the last issue of the Light & Airy (vol. 57 no. 5) I had the opportunity for a turnabout and dance on the "Ladies Side" rather than my accustomed "Mens Side".

The dance did not have any complex L/M figures in it such as Pousette (start with RIGHT foot not left), or an Allemonde or Knot (with right arm coming up and over).

What was most amusing was offering hands to corners (yes, I found my corners) for a two-bar turn in Strathspey time. Do I offer hands with palms facing up or down? Not too complicated, but a point of amusement when my corner was an experienced female dancer on the "Mens Side".

How about one palm up and the other down?

Doug



Thursday Class

The following is taken from www.scottishcountrydanceoftheday.com

Feb 6 - Scottish Country Dance of the Day, "Beginner's Luck"

From Pat Batt, "The Beginner", courtesy of RSCDS London

*"I joined a Scottish Dancing Class,
We started last September.
I'm trying hard – I really am,
There's so much to remember.*

*I know the experienced dancers,
It's very easy to spot 'em.
They gaily stand at the top of the set
And I slink down to the bottom.*

*I keep one eye on the teacher
And one on the rest of the set,
I try to watch my partner as well,
But haven't succeeded yet.*

*It's very important to know the start
Of the dance about to be done.
If you're not quite sure of the first eight bars
You are bound to be number one.*

*Everyone's very helpful
And tells me what to do,
But I get mixed up with my sexes,
When ladies are men, wouldn't you?*

*And when it's reels we are doing
I'm soon a total loss,
There's reels of four and reels of three,
Reels down and reels across.*

*There even are diagonal reels!
But when our teacher said
"Don't do an eight bar reel in six"
My brain reeled in my head!*

*But I'm going to keep on trying,
The music is lovely to hear,
And maybe I'll know which corner is which
At the end of the dancing year."*

Ah those beginning dancing days ... quite the muddle!

No matter the style — Ballroom, Tango, Contra, or Scottish Country — we move through our dancing days starting with the basics and building our skills over time.

Have you noticed that different characters and personalities in the dance floor always seem to appear? Shy Beginners, Bold Intermediates, and Gracious Experts! It seems to be a law of nature!

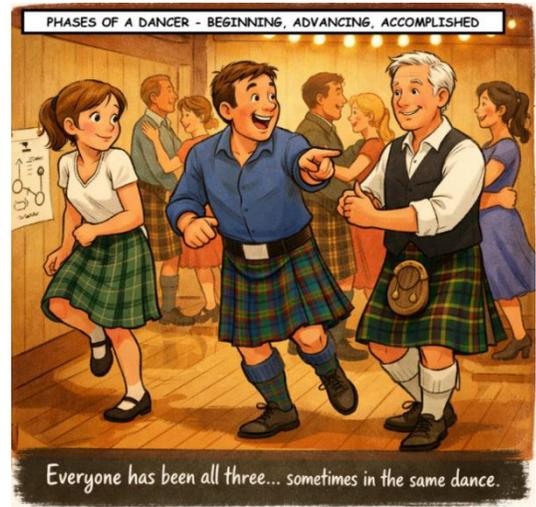
The tentative beginner hovers on the edge of the floor, cautiously observing, watching everyone else first, convinced there's a secret rule or magic skill that they've missed!

The enthusiastic just advancing dancer has learned just enough to be dangerous and now feels personally responsible for the accuracy of the entire room, sometimes offering corrections mid-turn and critiques with the intensity of a NASA launch director.

And then there's the generous advanced dancer, who glides through chaos with a smile, quietly steering, adapting, and making everyone else look better without saying a word.

A big thank you to all dancers who continue to show up and make everything possible, especially the patient teachers and dancers who share their gifts!

For more related facts and folklore along with dancing details, visit the website at: <https://www.scottishcountrydanceoftheday.com/.../beginner...>



Upcoming Events

2026 Spring Workshop



RSCDS Winnipeg

53rd Annual Workshop

Saturday, April 18, 2026

A One-Day Celebration of Scottish Country Dance

Workshop Schedule & Fees

- Morning Class + Lunch — \$55
- Afternoon Advanced Class — \$15
- Evening Social Dance — \$10

Early Registration Bonus:

Register by **March 31** for a chance to **win your registration free.**

Guest Teacher: Alan Twigg (California)

Alan has been teaching Scottish Country Dance since the 1980s and has instructed at workshops across North America and in Norway, the Czech Republic, and Russia.

He also performs with the Red Thistle Dancers.



Registration

Scan the QR code or visit:

www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/wrkshp26



Library

The Library will be available at the March Social on March 14.

Deb

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.

from the editor's desk ...

The March Social is a **Family Fun Ceilidh Night!** This social will feature ceilidh dancing and as such there is no programme of dances to publish. In fact, the dances may change depending on how Sheila reads the group. Invite your friends, neighbours, and family!

Register now for our **Spring Workshop** with guest teacher Alan Twigg. The workshop is coming up on April 18.

If you register before March 31 you might win your registration free!

More dancing excitement is on the way! The [UpTown Waterloo Scottish Country group](#), a newly formed class that opened in September, is hosting their first Workshop and Ball on April 25. We received a lovely email packed with information about their day. The teacher will be **Gary Coull**, current Chair of the RSCDS, and musicians will be Elizabeth Anderson Howe and Victor Lanvin. I can forward the email if you would like further information.

Doug Durnin, Editor

Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

**If money doesn't grow
on trees why do banks
have branches ?**

The PUN / FUN Corner:

**Roses are Red.
Violets are Blue.
Sunflowers are Yellow.
I bet you were
Expecting something
Romantic but no...
Those are just gardening facts.**

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

April 25, 2026 – Waterloo, ON – Waterloo Workshop & Ball (info at scd.waterloo@gmail.com)

July 19 -August 2, 2026 – Medicine Hat, AB -TAC Candidate Courses

July 24 - 26 – Medicine Hat, AB -Teachers Conference Weekend (TCW)

July 26 – August 2 – Medicine Hat, AB -TAC Summer School

Planning to travel? 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: April 2026 Deadline for submissions: March 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