

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 57, Number 9

June / July 2026

Important Dates

Dancing in 2026

September – Dancing starts up! (In new locations)

Monday, September 14 – Open House and Registration at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall 8:00 pm

Thursday, September 17 – first Thursday afternoon class 1:30 – 3:30 at Harrow UC

Monday, September 21 – first Monday class 8:00 – 10:00 at St. Paul's Hall

Saturday, October 3 – Ceilidh Fundraiser for ALS Manitoba 7:00 at St. Paul's Hall

Monday, October 12 –no class. Thanksgiving Holiday Monday

Saturday, December 5 – St. Andrew's Social at St. Paul's Hall

Thursday, December 10 – last afternoon class of 2026

Monday, December 14 – last evening class of 2026

Note: **Monday** events are held at **St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall** (830 North Drive at Point Road)
Thursday classes are held at **Harrow United Church** (955 Mulvey Ave. at Harrow St.)

A Word from the Chair of COM

I am changing hats again! A year ago I gave up the Membership role to assume the Vice-Chair seat at the COM table. This season I move up to be Chair of COM. As I also continue as editor of the Light & Airy I now have the first AND last word in the newsletter!

Welcome to all for another dance season. Last year was fun (as always) and brought changes. We had danced at Churchill Park United Church for 5 years but that facility is undergoing renovations and we have to move. Our hall search committee found halls for dancing on our established days and times but the locations will be different. Mondays we will return to St. Paul's Anglican Church to a hall we danced in for many years until Covid shut down the world. Thursdays we will dance at Harrow United Church which is also a homecoming as we danced there years ago when we had two classes on Tuesdays.

I hope you can assist with our table at Folklorama August 2 – 8. It's a great opportunity to display our Scottish Country dancing to a wide audience – and we gain new members too.

Our **Open House** on Sept. 14 will be a special evening featuring live music played by **Alister MacDonald** (accordion) and **Karen Steven** (fiddle). Come out to meet with old friends and bring some new ones out for a great evening.

RSCDS Headquarters in Scotland has launched their new branding and website. Check it out at: <https://rscds.org/brand-launch-2026/>

WOW! I better save something for my next "Word from the Chair". See you dancing soon.

Doug Durnin

Next COM meeting – July 8

News from COM

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at CPUC on May 21 with 29 members present.

Approval of Agenda, Minutes of May 22, 2025 AGM, and reports from members of COM went smoothly.

The Special Committees' reports were accepted with the membership approving the reported Hall Search report and granting approval to proceed with signing rental agreements for dance spaces.

In the election of the members to the new Committee of Management, Sharron Bettess indicated circumstances prevented her from continuing in the Treasurer position. Hilary Hayles was nominated for Treasurer from the floor, and Secretary Sharyl Eaglesham's term was extended for another year.

Out-going Chair Heather Robbins thanked Sheila Careless and Cheryl Durnin for their organizing and teaching of classes during the past year. Heather also thanked Sharron Bettess for her years of service as Treasurer of the branch.

Incoming Chair Doug Durnin took responsibility for the remainder of the meeting. He thanked Heather for her dedication as Chair over the past year, and again thanked Sharron Bettess for being our Treasurer. Both ladies were presented with flowers as tokens of our appreciation. A moment of remembrance was held for Joyce Cormack (dancer & teacher) and Ian Fillingham (long time supporter with our band Scotch Measure) who passed away in spring of 2025.

Announcements were made for Folklorama (August 2-6) and the Open House with live music (Sept. 14).

COM Members

The Committee of Management for the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch has held several meetings to organize for the upcoming dance season. If you have any questions or suggestions be sure to speak to one of them. The COM members are:

Committee of Management 2026/27

Chair:	Doug Durnin	204-996-4716
Vice-Chair:	Ellen Graham	204-825-7891 / 204-744-2857
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
Treasurer:	Hilary Hayles	204-881-2711
Social Secretary	Sheila Careless	204-794-2092
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Claire Buys	204-388-4832
Publicity:	May Kong Sutherland	204-256-2919
	James Sutherland	204-791-2906
Membership:	Elise Marie	204-583-1100
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

Halls for Dancing

Our dancing days at CPUC have ended as they begin to renovate their building. A committee was formed to search out possible dance spaces for the 2026-7 dance season. Consideration in the search was given to available hall space, floor type (wood or concrete base), and cost.

Two halls with wooden flooring have been arranged for next season – one hall for Thursday afternoon and one hall for Monday evening. These halls have been tentatively booked with the facilities to keep our days and times available. These arrangements were considered and approved by COM and the membership at our AGM in May.

St. Paul's Anglican Church - Monday evening at 8 - 10 pm

Harrow United Church - Thursday afternoon at 1:30 – 3:30 pm

(Sunday evening is also available at St. Paul's which may be used for additional classes or rehearsals.)

The street addresses are given under the "Dancing Dates" on page 1.

Thanks to Ellen Graham, Ray Plaitin and Shirley Tinsley who helped out in the search for dancing space for next season.

Doug Durnin
Chair

Have you heard? Words of Thanks ...

A sincere thank you to the branch for the generous gift I received at the AGM from the dancers. These are some of my favourite stores and I am excited to make use of the gift card in the very near future. I enjoy teaching the Monday night class and look forward to the fall when we will all be dancing together again.

Sheila Careless

I would like to thank the branch dancers for the lovely gift card and kind words that I received at the annual meeting. It was very much appreciated.

Cheryl Durnin

scatterscaping

*v. When you were pruning a
branch but then you
saw a weed so now you're
watering petunias*

To Everyone - and especially to my Very Able Assistant, Claire Buys -
Just a note to say "Thank You" for all the support while I was "Social".
Greatly Appreciated!

I shall now be "social" with a small S, and hand the Official Apron over to
Sheila Careless.

Ellen Graham

Thank you to the dancers who came out to the two practices in preparation for dancing at the Selkirk Highland Games on Sunday June 21. The performance at the games was very well received, with several audience members joining in the participation dancing section of our time there. We had many compliments on our dancing and even one who wanted more information for our upcoming dance season.

Cheryl Durnin

Sad News ...

Geraldine Mayes, a former member and SCD teacher in Winnipeg, passed away on May 31. Gerry (as we knew her) discovered Scottish Country dancing in the mid-1970's. She made many cherished friendships, attained her teaching certificate, and led classes for nineteen years mostly at the Fort Garry Social class. A highlight was being part of the group that danced for Queen Elizabeth II in a multicultural show in the old Winnipeg Arena.

In 2023 her children Brian and Alison brought Gerry out to our big workshop at the Victoria Inn. Many of us greeted Gerry with smiles and hugs.

Upon her retirement, one dancer said "We will miss Gerry's innate charm, wit, and graciousness."

A celebration of Gerry's life will take place on July 11 at the Glen Lawn Funeral Home.

Gerry Mayes [Geraldine \(Gerry\) Mayes | Obituary | Sharing Memories](#)

If you come, please wear tartan!

Wind-Up Social

The final social of the season took to the floor on May 4 at CPUC. The numbers weren't large but the enthusiasm was great. Our teachers put their heads together and came up with a great program with old favourites and new dances for all to enjoy.

As always there was ample goodies to nibble on after dancing and our social conveners have begun providing goody bags for take-home treats. So it's "Yummy Yum Yum All the Way Home!"



Travelogue ...

Dancing with UpTown Waterloo - Sharyl Eaglesham



“You have been dancing longer than I have been alive” was the greeting I received to set the youthful tone on International Dance Day, April 25th. I was fortunate to be in Ontario to attend the **UpTown Waterloo Scottish Country Dance** social at their first workshop. It was a whirlwind event organized by Claire Cunin, who started dancing only 10 years ago. When I first spoke to Claire, she was finalizing the Waterloo workshop after just returning from RSCDS Spring Fling in Lyon France (April 11th) and after organising the North American Festival in Philadelphia (April 4th).

Claire did a wonderful job of pulling together some great teachers for the workshop:

The guest workshop teacher **Gary Coull** gained his full teaching certificate in 2013. Gary has taught at various weekend and day schools in Scotland, Europe, North America and Australia including TAC Summer Schools in Vancouver and Halifax. He is currently the Chair of the RSCDS.

Guest Music Teacher **Elizabeth Anderson Howe** plays the fiddle and teaches music around the greater Boston area. As a Scottish dance musician, she has played the Boston Highland Ball, Twin Cities Highland Ball, and is a frequent staff

musician at Pinewoods Dance Camp.

Guest Pianist **Victor Lanvin (France)** is a classically trained pianist who discovered Scottish Country Dancing seven years ago. Victor and Elizabeth provided music that was clear, lively, and a lot of fun to dance to.

The dance social began with music by the 6-8 fiddlers who attended the workshop (many of whom had never played SCD music before). It was a longer dance program compared to Winnipeg programs, with



16 familiar “beginner friendly” dances – The Happy Meeting, Flowers of Edinburgh, Braes of Breadalbane, Trip to Glasgow, St. Andrew’s Fair, Catch the Wind, Sugar Candie, Granville Market, The De’il among the Tailors.



It was a pleasure to represent our Winnipeg Branch and proudly wear my Manitoba Tartan at the beautiful Church of the Holy Saviour & St. Louis Gym in Waterloo. I did get one dance - Flowers of Edinburgh with Gary Coull and made sure he knew that Winnipeg is the “center” of Canada. What a nice surprise to see friends from the 2024 candidate class and receive well-wishes from dancers who know other Winnipeg dancers. I felt very welcome and comfortable because of the friendly people, and because RSCDS has standardized dancing so that we can strathspey through France, Scotland, USA and Canada with ease.



Congratulations to Claire and the UpTown Waterloo SCD group on their inaugural workshop. No doubt UpTown Waterloo group will continue to thrive and promote the love of Scottish Country Dancing into the future.

Saskatchewan Workshop – Moose Jaw May 23, 2026

The Saskatchewan RSCDS held a day workshop on May 23, 2026. Three intrepid members from our Winnipeg Branch, Ellen & Donald Graham and James Sutherland journeyed to beautiful downtown Moose Jaw. This was their first workshop since the pandemic. Thirty-one attendees from Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba spent Saturday morning learning quick time from teacher Betsy Brydon and Strathspey from teacher Linda McIntyre. After lunch together, we had the afternoon off to either explore downtown Moose Jaw and its Tunnels, practice for the Ball or rest. The evening program started with a sitdown meal and conversation. After a Grand March the dance Programme had many familiar favourites to enjoy. Then it was time for coffee, refreshments and more conversation with friends - old and new. It was a day well spent.

James Sutherland



Upcoming Events

Folklorama - The Pavilion of Scotland

The Pavilion of Scotland will be open August 2 to 8 and the RSCDS will be there!

Setup will take place during the day of Sunday August 2. Let Doug Durnin (doug.durnin@gmail.com)

know if you can help. Volunteers are needed throughout the week to greet visitors, tell them about SCD and even get them up dancing!

You will need to register for volunteering at the pavilion. Here is the link to register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfi1YmQNg9my3hqsVFmMggD1DjMpL4uk-uoYQv2e7nhpIYOQ/viewform>

See you there!

****Open House & Ceilidh****

September 14th!!

Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss the opportunity to dance to the music of **Alister MacDonald** (accordion) and **Karen Steven** (fiddle) who will be playing for our branch Open House on Monday September 14th starting at 7:30 pm. It all happens at St. Paul's Anglican Church hall on Point Road.

Bring your family and friends to join in this evening of Ceilidh and Scottish Country dancing.

Here is a sampling of what we'll hear. Can you name the dances?

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qfPyxcMNjG2ilqmLgXoJ7wl553flxZiF/view?usp=drive_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PFNDw2_BZWsV94q7TL9Tzgb-9JKaTzel/view?usp=drive_link

While attending bring your registration form and cheque. Applications will be received that evening.

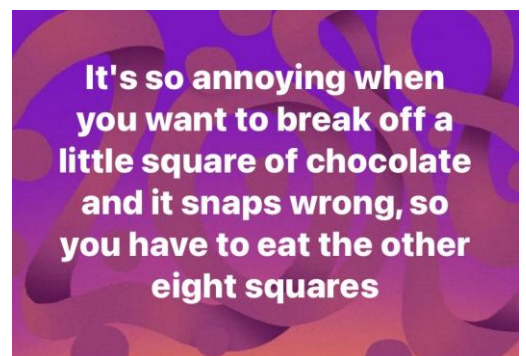
from the editor's desk ...

We just finished our AGM and sat down. Now it's up and at it once again! It looks to be a busy summer with many events coming up.

We have danced at the Highland Gathering in East Selkirk and are looking forward to Folklorama.

AND our first dance evening of the year will be marvelous! Not only will there be free admission but also the treat of live music! And dancing friends! And food! Be sure to come out.

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



The PUN / FUN Corner:

While many of us complain about life in general and the cost of living.

I am sitting on a couch that costs \$3,500.

Lovely and cool in front of an air-con unit costing \$2,300.

Watching the latest film on a 70" smart TV that costs \$4,000.

Right now, I'm happy, with no worries and not a care in the world.

Not even the employees at Leon's,
who keep asking me to leave can spoil my day..... 😊

Here and There...

July 11 – Winnipeg – Scotland Made the World with Bruce Fummey speaker & comedian.

At Prairie Theatre Exchange (see <https://www.brucefummey.co.uk/> for details and tickets)

Some Out of Town Events

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: August / September 2026 Deadline for submissions: August 12.

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