

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Important Dates

Fall Term 2018

Thursday, December 27, 2018 – The Third Day of Christmas

Winter/Spring Term 2019

Week of January 7, 2019 – Second Term Classes begin

Monday, January 14 – Fort Garry Social Class 50th Anniversary evening

Saturday, January 26 – Burns' Night Gala at the Masonic Memorial Centre

Tuesday, March 5 – March Social - hosted by the Tuesday Class

Thursday, April 4 – Spring Social - Hosted by the Thursday Class

Week of April 15 – Second Term Classes end

Friday to Sunday, April 26 - 28, 2019 – Spring Dance Workshop *see workshop brochure*

Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21 – Spring Dancing 2019

- All dance events are at 8pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall unless otherwise indicated.

A Word from the Chair of COM

Where has December gone! It has flown by with all our preparations for family and friends! Our first dance semester is complete, we have thanked our respective teachers and we have nourished ourselves with party treats! Remember the Third Day of Christmas Social, December 27th, at St Paul's from 8-10. Enjoy the company and dancing! What a way to end another year!



We still have more exciting things to come in the New Year! Get out your new calendars and mark Monday, January 14th, Saturday, January 26th and the weekend of April 26-28th. Keep reading your Light and Airy and you will find out why!

COM Meetings continue on a monthly basis. Our main topics of discussion have been related to the possibility of an afternoon class and the organizing of a few special social events coming up in the New Year. We are also reviewing our involvement with the Festival Du Voyageur and will let you know if and when we might need some volunteers.



Here's wishing you a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and Holiday Season.

Jane Natrass, Chair, and all the members of the COM

Next COM meeting is January 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

The Third Day of Christmas

The Third Day of Christmas promises a fun time on December 27 at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall beginning at 8:00pm. There is no charge for the event. The evening is open to all Branch members and their friends and family. There is no set dance programme. Dances will be chosen to suit the attendees.

Share your leftover Christmas snacks and baking. Contributions for the social aspect would be appreciated.

Maureen Burnham

Library News

I was delighted dancers looked over the library materials and took advantage of our lending library of books about Scottish Country Dancing at the St. Andrew's Social. It will be out at future social events.

If anyone wishes to purchase books or music from TAC Books or TAC Sound, please note the Branch discount is only available through the librarian. The inventory of available books can be viewed at www.books.tac-rscds.org and music at www.sound.tac-rscds.org. Should you wish to order anything, please contact me at sbettess@mts.net.

Sharron Bettess

Burns' Dinner Celebrations

On January 26, 2019 the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch is organizing a Burns' Night Dinner and Dance to celebrate with Scots all over the world. It promises to be an evening for all who appreciate Scotland's beloved poet, its music and dance. The haggis will be piped in followed by the recitation of the famous "Ode To A Haggis". The Burns' Night Gala will be held this year at the Masonic Memorial Centre, 420 Corydon Avenue (at Confusion Corner). Please join in for an evening of good food, good friends, dancing, and some impromptu recitation of Burns' poetry! Everyone is welcome!

Tickets are now available at your dance class or from the Burns' Committee, namely Pat Clubb (Fort Garry Social Class), Heather Colquhuon (Technique Class) and Barbara Lambert (Basics Class). Cost is \$60/person with tickets being available until Jan. 19.

Pat Clubb
Burns Night Committee

Burns' Dinner Programme

The Gay Gordons		
Waltz Country Dance	40W2	RTR Book 4 8
Maxwell's Rant	32R3	Book 18 10
Quickstep		
The Silver Tassie	32S3	RSCDS Leaflet
Burns' Hornpipe	32HP4	Book 27 4
Waltz		
Bramble Circle	32R2	RTR LAD 1
Ha! Ha! The Woonin' O' It	32R2	Misc 1
Just as I was in the Morning	40J2	Book 19 3
Polka		
A Man's a Man, for a' That	32S3	Book 30 5
Tam O' Shanter	32R3	LAD 2
Last Waltz		
Auld Lang Syne		

Have you heard?

How Winnipeg! Branch snow policy. Early wintry weather brings out branch snow policy for classes. Check the website or October issue of L & A for the policy.

Afternoon Class

As you may be aware COM is planning on expanding our class options to include an afternoon class.

St. Paul's Hall is available on Monday afternoon and we are hoping the afternoon class can start at the beginning of February from 1 – 3 pm. It will be a class for all dancers regardless of abilities. If this is a class that interests you, and you have not already contacted me to say you are interested, please do so now so we have an idea of numbers. My phone number is 204-253-4213 or email at durninch@gmail.com

Cheryl Durnin

In Memorium

November brought us the news of the declining health of our friend Jean Highmoor and then her death on November 25, 2018. She was not only a friend in dance but also a close personal friend to many in our dance community. Although she had been ill and not able to dance with us for a couple of years now, she continued to attend many of our social functions. Jean supported our dance family in many ways, enjoying our company and we, hers.



Her Celebration of Life Service included many hilarious stories from her family life, nursing life and dancing life! I never realized how much she had traveled until seeing some of the photos in the video presentation. Songs were sung, bag pipes played and everyone smiled at her choice of Urn! May we look to her as an example of how we would like to live our lives while supporting those around us. We will think of her often with kind thoughts and smiles!

Jane Natrass

Obituary for Jean can be found at <http://www.neilbardalfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/3667440/Highmoor-Jean/service-details.php>

Winnipeg Branch 2019 Weekend Workshop Reminder and Update

While Christmas is coming fast upon us just a little reminder that so is the New Year. We hope everyone has a Merry time over the next couple of weeks, happiness, health and lots of dance in the next year.

We met with the COM in early December to discuss our plans for the Workshop and to get approval for our budget so now having that in hand, the time will go more quickly than we can imagine until spring arrives and the Workshop happens on April 26-28. As many of you will have your 2019 calendars in hand now, remember to write in the dates.

The brochure and registration forms are on the website and it is never too early to get your registration form to our registrar, Glen Colquhoun. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact any of us on the committee. Your experience and suggestions would be most appreciated this year as we transition to different venues and food catering arrangements. In the next few months we may also be looking for volunteers to assist with transportation at the time of the Workshop, and other activities such as contributing talent and/or decorating St Paul's for the Friday ceilidh.

Stay warm and have a wonderful holiday season!

Lynn and Shirley
Workshop Committee

Fort Garry Social Class 50th Anniversary

The date set for the Fort Garry Social Class fiftieth anniversary is Monday, January 14th, 2019 starting at 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Parish Hall. Mark your calendars accordingly.

The Fort Garry Social Class came into being in late January 1969, right here at St. Paul's. Plans are for an abbreviated evening of dances followed by a tea and dessert reception, as was customary in those days. In light of the fact that our January branch calendar is already quite full, our committee decided to scalp a Fort Garry Class dance evening to stage this event. Peter McClure has graciously agreed to plan a program of half a dozen dances reminiscent of those early days. Also, we have assembled photos found for publicity at the time, into a display. Come, look, reminisce, and take home those photos you would like to have in your own collection. Whatever is not taken, will likely land in the recycling bin!

Even if you are no longer a dancer, but would like to connect with current and former dancers and members of Fort Garry class, please come and join us. We especially would like to welcome members and teachers from those early days. Unwittingly, those very members set an enviable standard for our present day branch classes. Maybe some of them will share their recollections.

Come out and join our class for the evening.

See you at the party!

John Giesbrecht

A History of the Winnipeg Branch 1963 - 1988

With acknowledgement to Monique Henderson and Marge Krip

Part 2.

Mrs. Mina Corson, whose later visit we would all enjoy in May of 1988, first came to Winnipeg in 1967 for the candidate's examination.

We were in the big time---our first live band, Jimmie Gowler's Orchestra played for our 1967 Ball. That same year, under Margaret Bowie's leadership, we put on a "Scottish Fancy" at Tech-Voc School's Auditorium May 24th-25th. This was a production of songs, dances and poems depicting the folklore of Scotland.

The Fort Garry Social Class came into its own January 1969 at St. Paul's. From there we move on to 1971, which saw the start of "floats" in parades, the May long weekend workshops and "Mug Pub", which for the first time saw us financially in a less precarious situation.

From our early beginnings until now, the class fee structure in all these years has not changed and I used to think that \$1.00 a night in those days was a bargain.

For many years, we all had a dream and that dream was to be able someday to have our own band. With the help of our money fund that had been invested carefully by David Williams in our early beginnings, plus profits from "Mug Pub", this dream became reality. The "Scotch Measure" Band was the culmination of this work when it was formed in 1981.

Looking back over those twenty-five years, what a treasure of memories we have. To Archie and David, our co-founders, we are thankful for bringing Scottish Country Dancing to us. We face the future with the true Friendships we formed and still remain. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude Winnipeg. We salute their memory and spirit of the dance as we say

"Won't You Join the Dance!"

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

Happy New Year to all of you! Here we are coming to a brand new year, a new dance season, and with a new dance teacher Peter McClure. We hope that two of our class members - Quinton McNaught and Scott MacRae, who were absent for the first term will be joining us in the dance again.

We had a pleasant surprise at the St. Andrew's Day social in November. Mike Lynch, long time member and husband of a much loved former dance teacher Robin, now both living in B.C. joined us for the evening and it was great seeing him once again.

Our last several classes prior to the end of the dance term were fun filled evenings as always. I would like to mention that Virginia Lockett is very diligent in jotting down the dances we do in class in my little book if at times I forget to. Thank you Virginia! We danced "Burns Night" for which the accompanying music was played by a 28 piece orchestra. This was certainly evident too by the sound of that wonderful music! We danced "Fare Thee Weel A While". This was actually written by a number of members of the Intermediate 2 class for the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Winnipeg Branch in 1988 and is in the dance booklet of the same name. This dance was dedicated to Robin Lynch and Archie Nixon with gratitude to them both prior to their leaving for B.C. Another dance we did was "A Man's a Man For A' That". We were told by Maureen that if we danced it nicely we may be treated to Shirley Tinsley singing it to us as it is in her repertoire of songs. However she did not sing....I wonder why! We danced the 96 bar jig Farewell to Balfour Road again and I think we are becoming very proficient at it. I don't know if the teacher would agree with me!



To get us into the Christmas spirit we danced “A Christmas Ceilidh” to a medley of favorite Christmas songs. I think I was more into singing along with the songs than actually doing the dance properly! At our last class of December we danced “Triple Happiness”, the title alone putting us even more into the Christmas spirit. Maureen added a special touch to the evening by bringing cute Christmas decorations from home some of which were “talking” and animated. After eating delicious Christmas goodies which everyone brought, expressing our thanks and the season's best wishes to Maureen and to each other we left contented, looking forward to our new dance season.

Marilyn Piniuta

Technique Class

The last class of the season was well attended. Joyce chose fun dances. It took us a while to get going on City Lights, and we asked for a repeat as we were finally dancing the formations with some fluidity. Other dances for the evening were Jenny’s Well, Slytherin’ House, The Music Makars and we finished with A Christmas Ceilidh. As per usual, at end of season dances, we sat down to a table laden with delectable nibblies. Joyce was presented with a small gift in appreciation of her efforts this last season. She has certainly come up with some challenging dances, which have kept our brains active. She was travelling to Tofino the following day, and

we wished her a good trip and visit with family. During the course of casual conversation around the table, we discovered that Debbie Peters had an interesting story to tell about the tartan skirt she was wearing that evening. The skirt was made from the kilt her father wore during WWII. Once the war was over, the kilt was taken apart and made into several items – a skirt for Deb’s mother, a pair of trousers for her father and a little pair of trousers for Deb’s brother. Debbie was wearing her mother’s skirt at the Tuesday class. The tartan is the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders. Janet pointed out that the material would be 80 years old.

Hilary Hayles

Basics Class

This past term went by quickly, with all the activities of the season. We worked on practicing our steps and figures to be put into use in future dances with the upcoming Third Day of Christmas and then the Burns Gala in January.

The SCD Dictionary can be a nice supplement to things learned in class, reminding us what we may have missed in class.

The last class of this term was fun. Cheryl had us work through some dances we had done during the term, using Christmas music when possible. It was sometimes distracting – Do I sing, or dance? Can I do both at the same time?

We thanked Cheryl for her patient guidance through our classes this term, and look forward to having Sheila Careless as our teacher in 2019. Looking forward to seeing all of you again soon.

Donna Daniels



From the editor's desk

I have included Part 2 of the early years of the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch as compiled in 1988 by Monique Henderson and Marje Krip. Enjoy a stroll back in time.

We have been saddened by the passing of our long-time life member Jean Highmoor. Although she has not been dancing recently, we will miss her gentle nature and kindness. Might I add that many smiles were shared at the service for Jean. Those young dancers in the photo! And the appropriate choice of urn for Jean's ashes – a Glenfiddich Scotch Whiskey tin!

All the Best for the Holiday Season and New Year!

Doug Durnin, editor

Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca

Here and There...

SCD Books and Music

Anyone interested in buying books of Scottish country dances or recordings of SCD music should be aware of TACBooks and TACSound, two services maintained by Teachers' Association Canada (TAC). You can look at their catalogues on the TAC web site www.tac-rscds.org. If you want to order any items, please do it via the Branch Librarian, as there are discounts available to Branches, but not to individuals. In the past, the Librarian has sent in Branch orders two or three times per year.

Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and Pumps

www.avriel.com Shoe shop for dancers.

Clan Info and Scottish Shop

www.scotclans.com

SCD Online

In case you didn't know about these sites:

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Edinburgh, Scotland: <https://www.rscds.org>

A great site to link to other branches and everything in the world of Scottish Country Dancing.

[The Inter-City Scot](#) - lists events across Canada and the United States. For other parts of the world, use the link to SCD groups on the Strathspey site www.strathspey.org to find contact information.

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)
[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)
[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)
[RSCDS Vancouver](#)
[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)
[RSCDS Ottawa](#)
[RSCDS Montreal Branch](#)
[RSCDS St. John's \(Newfoundland\) Branch](#)
[Teachers Association Canada](#) : for teachers of Scottish country dancing.

Strathspey www.strathspey.org has a database where you can search for info about dances (including cribs and videos when available), music (some clips), people and more. Also, there is a link to the Strathspey e-mail list, in case you'd like to join an online mailing list about SCD.

SCD Dictionary www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com has info about steps and formations. We don't really need that, we get it in our classes; however, sometimes a video may help, and SCD dictionary has videos for steps and formations. Also, there is info about dances, as on Strathspey.

Some Out of Town Events

If you have an internet connection, browse for RSCDS & city. 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.

February 9, 2019 - Vancouver - Love to Dance Workshop and Dance

February 15 – 17, 2019 - Edmonton - Annual Workshop & Ball

February 16, 2019 - Toronto - Tartan Ball

March 23, 2019 - Vancouver - Heather Ball

April 13, 2019 - Ottawa - Ottawa Branch Annual Ball

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: February

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 Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca Deadline for submissions: January 19. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca