

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Important Dates

Dancing in 2022

Fall Term 2022

Mondays – evening class 7:30 – 9:30

Thursdays – afternoon class 1:30 – 3:30

Saturday, September 24 – Ceilidh Fundraiser for ALS Manitoba 7:30
at Churchill Park United Church

Monday, October 10 – Thanksgiving Day – no class

Week of December 5 – First Term Classes end

Winter Term 2023

Week of January 10, 2023 – classes resume

April 21, – 23, 2023 – Winnipeg Anniversary Weekend Workshop

A Word from the Chair of COM

We along with the rest of the world were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8th. The crowds that gathered at Buckingham Palace cheering and taking part in the Jubilee Celebrations in June became part of the tens of thousands of mourners lining up for miles, waiting to pay their respects to say thank you and farewell to the Queen, as she lay in State in Westminster Hall. The queues became part of the pageantry and those who were strangers have become friends. We also give thanks for the Queen's service, duty and devotion. It was my honour to sign the Book of Condolence at the Legislature on behalf of the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch.

A verse from one of the readings at the service from St. Giles Cathedral: "There is a time to mourn and a time to dance." On September 12th we did just that at our Open House. It was so good to see everyone. We welcomed 45 people and enjoyed the program of dances that Cheryl Durnin had selected for the evening. Light refreshments were provided by Barb Lambert, Ellen and Donald Graham. Thank you.

Our dance season began on Thursday September 15th with 14 members attending. Cheryl Durnin chose dances for our first class featuring double figures of eight and reels. "The Castle of Mey" was a most interesting dance, in more ways than one. I read a bit more about its history and learned; "The Castle" (circa 1600) was purchased by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in 1952. She refurbished and restored it as one of her summer residences and spent time there in August and October from 1957-2001. In more recent years, our now King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla visit the Castle for several days each August.

Monday evening classes began this week, and we enjoyed seeing you again.

Shirley Tinsley

Have you heard?

Committee of Management 2022/23

Chair:	Shirley Tinsley	204-256-3835
Vice-Chair:	Lynn McClure	204-489-7712
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
Treasurer:	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
Social Secretary	Barbara Lambert	204-256-8738
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Ellen Graham	1-204-744-2857
Publicity:	Joyce Cormack	204-224-2291
Membership:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Library:	Joan Curle	204-254-6697
Light & Airy:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Teacher's Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
Webmaster:	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

From the Classes ...

"Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it."

Henry Daviv Thoreau

RSCDS Open House and Registration

Our dancing season got off to a fine start on 12 September with our Open House. The attendance of 45 included 5 new faces, people who heard about us via Folklorama, facebook, or personal connection. We were kept busy, and the floor at Churchill Park United filled with people walking or dancing a nicely paced programme organized by Cheryl Durnin, including new items such as The Cell Phone Jig, and standards such as The Linton Ploughman and The Flowers of Edinburgh. Lots of smiles as people renewed acquaintance after a long absence. Light refreshment was enjoyed, thanks to Barb and Ellen.

And on to classes ...

With just enough time to draw breath, the **Thursday PM class** began on 15th. No new members at this one, likely the younger people have work or school during the day, but 13 "Thursday regulars" enjoyed a gentle return to dancing. Class teacher Cheryl went easy on the step work for the first class, and carried on with an old favourite, Corn Rigs. Nice to have 3 couple sets for a two couple dance. Cheryl joined in to make a 7 couple set for the strathspey Ross Meor. Interesting transition, as first and third couples finishing with rights and lefts are then immediately first and second to begin the repeat. Rounding off with The Castle of Mey made a nice finish.

The **Monday evening class** welcomed out regular dancers, some familiar faces, and one new dancer, 18 in all. Teacher Maureen Burnham started off the evening warming up with the Bramble Circle. After a brief session of step practice/reminders the first dance was RSCDS Book #1, Dance #1 – Petronella. Maureen informed us it was one the late Queen Elizabeth's favourites, and we would not have to dance it again. We refreshed our strathspey travelling steps and danced Rakes of Glasgow. Some fun music – A Woodland Wanderer aka Teddy Bear's Picnic – accompanied Catch as Catch Can. We ended off the evening with a progressive Gay Gordons in which some progressed to new partners but others lost them. Good fun for all!

Scottish Ceilidh Fundraiser for ALS

Scottish Ceilidh fundraiser for ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) is back.

After a long covid break I am again hosting a Scottish Ceilidh on Saturday September 24, 7:30 to 10 pm. at Churchill Park United Church (525 Beresford Ave). Admission is by donation to ALS.

It will be an evening of music, dancing, entertainment, light refreshments and a chance to raise some money for the ALS Society of Manitoba. Admission is by donation to ALS.

Cheryl Durnin

On the Way Home from Summer School ...

...The Rest of The Story... of Our Calgary 2022 Summer School Adventure-

We left Calgary on a beautiful hot day and an hour later, while stopped at a red light in Strathmore, were rear ended by a car going full speed. A man, 2 lanes over, stopped, called 911 and jumped out to help. He stayed beside the lady (other driver), talking to her until the ambulance arrived.

They checked us out, and fortunately we were not hurt, and took the lady to the hospital.

Our truck was classified as totalled, and everything had to be taken out and piled on the ground before the tow truck arrived, a mountain of luggage and all the tools that a farm truck has.

Even though it was a Sunday, the fire chief called the local car rental guy about a car, but there was nothing. He did check and said there were a few cars available at the Calgary airport.

The town of Strathmore was celebrating its Rodeo and there wasn't a hotel room to be had, so the fire chief decided to drive us (and said luggage) to Calgary, to check at the airport for a car.

He and a partner brought a bright red half ton truck over (VERY large letters saying FIRE, and LOTS of lights) and loaded everything in. I thought it was so nice of them to take the smaller back highway to Calgary through the countryside.

I was a little tense.

At the airport, they said there would be NO PROBLEM parking, right in front, as they put on their flashing lights. (That works GREAT!)

Inside, we found very few rental cars available, due to the holiday weekend and what they did have, could NOT be returned in Manitoba.

So, back to the truck. On their phone, they found us a hotel close by. (NOT the \$500 a day one) and they drove us there.

We parked in front of the lobby windows (to the great delight of a small boy inside) and they loaded our gear onto two trolleys and dragged them inside. Where they waited, to be sure that we had a room and were settled.

I tell you, they deserved a medal.

At the hotel, we tried various options, – U-Haul,(none), fly home (see aforementioned mountain of luggage), the train (no).

Of course, we had immediately been in contact with Donald's brother, Wilfred, and he said that he would just drive out and pick us up. This worked well, because we then had a chance to go to the tow compound and get our stainless steel cargo box (and meet two more really nice guys, the operator and his young son.)

Everyone we met was so kind and helpful, from the emergency services, the RCMP, the local people who stepped up to give witness statements, and the hotel people.

They all left a wonderful impression on us.

Donald says that if he had to write this, it would have taken two sentences. LOL - Ellen

Ps, we wrote a glowing letter of appreciation to the mayor of Strathmore, especially mentioning the stellar example of public service shown by those two young men, Fire Chief David Sturgeon and Safety Codes Officer, Justin Mansbridge.

(more than 2 sentences long! LOL)

Ellen & Donald Graham

Editor's note: If Ellen is planning to attend next summer's Summer School in Halifax she will either have a much longer drive, or will have to pack much lighter if flying down! (see aforementioned mountain of luggage!)

2023 Workshop

The workshop committee is continuing plans for the celebration of the 60th Branch and 50th Workshop Anniversaries. The hotel venue has been booked for April 21 – 23, 2023.

Teachers are confirmed – Jim Stott, Scotland and Linda Henderson, California.

Musicians: Mary Ross – Victoria, BC, Jeanette Polson (Vancouver Island), and Ron Krug – Winnipeg.

The committee is looking to the current membership for their support in making this another successful Winnipeg event.



Victoria Inn, Winnipeg MB

Teachers: **Linda Henderson & Jim Stott**

Musicians: **Mary Ross, Janette Polson & Ron Krug**

We would love to see you in Winnipeg!
Get a group of friends and travel together.

St. Paul's Anglican Church Centennial Celebration and Community Kitchen Opening

The COM recently received information and thanks from St. Paul's Anglican Church regarding the formal opening of their new Community Church Kitchen on Saturday September 24. They extend an invitation to interested individuals and groups to attend this event in order to recognize the support they have received. The church hopes that this expansion will allow for increased utilization of the kitchen in the wider community.

As many of our members assisted with the fund raising effort to support the new kitchen, we are forwarding this message of thanks to all, from St Paul's. The Branch has replied with best wishes on the completion of this project. If you would like more information about this occasion feel free to contact Lynn McClure or Shirley Tinsley, COM.

From the Library ...

Our librarian Joan had some of her goodies out for our Open House night. There was interest in all the items she had brought along and displayed, including the dance shoe box. The library will be out again at the next general gathering of dancing but not at regular classes.

Wasn't that a Party!!!

The branch received a request for some ceilidh dancing at a wedding reception at a venue outside Winnipeg. Ok, we can do that. Do a few dances after the dinner and speeches, try to encourage folks to participate.

WELL! It didn't quite work out that way!

Sheila Careless took charge of organizing our dancing with the music and dances. As is often the case, the formalities ran later than expected, then there were the usual 1st dances for bride & groom and bride & father. Then a row of tables was removed to enlarge the dance space.

Sheila asked for folks to take the floor for the first round-the-room dance. The floor was packed! Everyone had a great time and so it continued throughout the evening. A full floor all the time. Only two dances had a show & tell but all the rest were on the fly. Sheila's experienced dance friends admired from the sidelines on several dances.

Sheila turned out to be the dj and entertainment for the evening! We left after the bride & groom exited the venue!

It was a great time and hopefully the guests will remember the dancing as a unique touch to the day.

Doug Durnin

From the editor's desk ...

DANCING AGAIN!

Classes have started on Monday evening and Thursday afternoon at Churchill Park United Church. It was wonderful to be out enjoying dancing again.

We have the story from Ellen & Donald Graham of their adventurous trip home from Summer School. No idea when they may get a replacement truck or what colour it might be.

Doug Durnin, Editor

Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

<p>"We did not change as we grew older; we just became more clearly ourselves." Lynn Hall</p>

Here and There...

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.

Fall, 2022 - dance classes resuming/continuing in various centers. Check local branch websites for specific details as restrictions permit dancing together in person.

November 4 – 6, 2022 – Pacific Grove, Calif. – RSCDS San Francisco Asilomar Weekend (Asilomar.rscds-sf.org)

November 5, 2022 – Glasgow – RSCDS annual general meeting

February 10 – 12, 2023 – Edmonton - 51st Annual Workshop and Ball

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: November 2022

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 Deadline for submissions: October 12. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca