

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Important Dates

Dancing in 2022

January 13 to April 7 – Thursday afternoon class at Churchill Park United Church

A Word from the Chair of COM

*“Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la la la la!
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la la la la!”*

The New Year has always held special significance for Scots. The last day of the Old Year, which we know as New Year’s Eve, is also known as Hogmanay, a celebration with its own particular practices.

In the [Collins Encyclopedia of Scotland](#) we find an interesting description of the origins of Hogmanay as written by John MacTaggart in 1824.

“I think *hog-ma-nay* means *hug-me-now*. Kissing, long ago, was a thing much more common than at present (present being 1824!). People in the days gone by saluted others in churches with *holy kisses*; and this *smacking* system was only laid aside when priests began to see that it was not *holiness* alone prompted their congregations to hold up their *gabs* to one another like *Amous dishes* as Burns says. At weddings too what a kissing there was; and even to this day, at these occasions much of it goes on; and on the happy nights of *hog-ma-nay* the kissing trade is extremely brisk, particularly in *Auld Reekie*; then the lasses must kiss with all the stranger lads they meet, while phrases not unlike to ‘John, come kiss me now’ or ‘John, come hug me now’ are frequently heard. From such causes, me thinks, *hog-ma-nay* has started. The *hugging day*, the time to *hug-me-now*.”

I'm not sure how any of that described above fits into our current COVID restrictions or your own Hogmanay observances.

However you celebrate these days, I wish you a Happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Don Johnson

Have you heard?

December Meeting of COM

We have been dancing on Thursday afternoons at Churchill Park United Church in November and on through three weeks in December. The space will be booked for these Thursday afternoon classes to continue in the new year until April 7. The church is still waiting to hear from the previous Monday evening user of the hall to possibly let us use that time as well for dancing.

There is still no word from St. Paul's regarding opening their facility to renters.

Thirty-nine registrations have been received. The membership list has been distributed to registered dancers. The membership list to be forwarded to RSCDS HQ in Scotland has been prepared.

The position of Assistant Social Secretary is open. If anyone knows of someone (or even themselves) who might like to step into the position, please encourage them to come forward. COM is not a scary group, and you could help organize our dance year.

I don't have an Advent calendar so I'm just opening cupboard doors and eating whatever's in there.

Committee of Management 2021/22

Chair:	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
Vice-Chair:	Shirley Tinsley	204-256-3835
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
Treasurer:	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
Social Secretary	Barbara Lambert	204-256-8738
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	vacant	
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

Membership ...

Thus far 39 registrations have been received. Thank you to all those dancers eager to get back on the dance floor. It was great to see the response for a Thursday afternoon class.

The registration form is posted on the branch website (<http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/>).

We are collecting only the registration fee of \$60 at this time. COM will determine a class fee schedule once dancing resumes in the New Year. And hopefully we can continue dancing – both on Thursday afternoons and maybe an evening class too.

Getting to Know ...

My SCD Story – Mary Holmen

I was introduced to Scottish Country Dancing as a theology student at Trinity College in Toronto in the 1970's. The young woman in the residence room next door to me had been dancing since she was a child and invited me to come and try out the class that was taught at the College. I already knew the teacher – our Professor of New Testament Studies, John Hurd. It was a multi-level class; new dancers were included at the beginning of class and invited to stay to watch and learn from the more experienced dancers after the break. Having taken ballet lessons for nine years as a kid, I found the steps easy to pick up; it was remembering the sequence of the figures that was challenging. Many evenings, as I slogged my way back to residence in the slush and muck of a Toronto winter, I would think, "Oh, I really don't feel like going out tonight." But I would pick myself up and get out to class, where I inevitably found the cobwebs blown out and my spirits lifted. It was an early example of the now well-known saying, "Movement is medicine!"

When I graduated and moved back to Winnipeg, I joined the local branch of the RSCDS and attended the Monday Social Class. Winnipeg has been my dancing home ever since, with time out when I married and moved to Minnesota for a couple of years before John and I relocated to Selkirk, and after the births of my two children. I even remember dancing at a spring social while about 7 months pregnant, and John Trevenen wondering if they should start boiling water!

Sadly, advancing arthritis in my knees means I cannot continue dancing. I suppose I'll be lining up for new knees down the line. Hopefully the waiting list will have become more manageable by then. I truly value the community I've found through dancing. I wish the Winnipeg branch many more years of happy dancing.

Ed.: we hope Mary continues to join us when she can for sociability, if not actively dancing.

From the Classes ...

Thursday Afternoon

Best wishes to you from the "Thursday Afternoon Dancing in the Park Class."

We have had the good fortune to be able to enjoy 6 weeks of dancing at Churchill Park United Church. We began our afternoon sessions on November 11th and have had good attendance (12-16) each week. We are grateful to and appreciate the care that Peter and Cheryl have taken in easing us back into dancing. Thanks also to Doug Durnin who has done a fantastic job with registrations and vaccination verification. Keeping true to RSCDS tradition, we of course ended the "term" with some

light refreshment and Christmas goodies following our December 16th class. It has been wonderful to have the opportunity to spend time with members our dancing family and we invite you to come out and join us.

We are pleased to let you know that with encouragement and support from COM this class will continue in the new year. Our term will start on Thursday January 13th, 2022 for 1:30pm - 3:30pm. The last class being held April 7th, 2022.

Blessings to you this Christmas Season, stay well and we'll meet on the dance floor in 2022!

Shirley Tinsley

Howdy from Calgary

I just got back from there playing for the St. Andrew's Society ball. Quite an experience as plans changed along the way. Most of you know Dennis Orr who has played accordion here in Winnipeg on a few occasions. Well, Dennis, myself and Scott Duncan (an incredible fiddler) were to play the ball program. However, Dennis

has a medical condition that no longer gives him the ability to play accordion. So that left Scott and I. We have never before played – just the two of us. He lives in Calgary and here I am in Winnipeg, so we were unable to practice in advance. However, we agreed to forge along. Let me tell you that Scott is such an amazing fiddler, it all worked out fine. At least we did not have any negative feedback. After a delicious prime rib dinner, the entertainment got underway. The Calgary club has about 8 or 9 pipers who blew the roof off for about 15 minutes. Then the first set of 3 dances. That's how the evening dancing was laid out. 12 dances in total with a break for entertainment after each group of 3. Entertainment consisted of 4 very skilled highland dancers, a young man from Tennessee doing a PhD in Gaelic studies (he sang a folk song in Gaelic) and the Calgary Fiddlers. This was a group of about 24 young fiddlers. They are fantastic – check them out on YouTube at [Calgary Fiddlers Perform on Australia's TODAY Show - Traveller - Bing video](#)

All in all, a great evening with about 90 in attendance, double vax checked and masked for the most part.

Cheers,

Ron Krug

**Weight Watchers will meet
at 7 PM at the First
Presbyterian Church.
Please use large double
door at the side entrance.**

**- Somewhat appropriate after the holiday
feasting?**

Upcoming dancing ...

The **2022 TAC Summer School** is scheduled for July 24 -31, 2022 at Mount Royal University in Calgary. A great line-up of teachers and musicians is organized.

Get ready ... get set ... and plan to join the fun at

2022 TAC Summer School
Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada
July 24-31, 2022

Welcoming, supportive classes
For dancers of all levels
Basic | Intermediate | Advanced

Daily classes | evening social dances | formal ball and banquet |
evening after parties | ceilidh | silent auction

Teachers
Raphaëlle Orgeret (France)
Robert McOwen (USA)
Jeanne Moody (USA)
Barbara Johnston (Canada)

Musicians
Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins,
Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins,
not pictured:
Terry Traub, Mary Ross

tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)



From the editor's desk ...

Let's All Dance!!

I am so excited to have some local dance news for the Winnipeg Branch.

Thanks to Mary Holmen for her SCD story.

Some Out of Town dance events are listed for those wishing to plan their travels.

Wishing One and All a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2022!

Doug Durnin, Editor

Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

I think I promised I would
have 2 glasses of wine and
be home by 8.

I always get those two
things mixed up.



**PREMIER
ESTATES**

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.

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.

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.

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

February 18-22, 2022 – Hawaii Aloha Winter Weekend

April 2022 – Lethbridge Scottish Country Dancers 25th Weekend Workshop

June 10-12, 2022 – Beaver Dam, Wisconsin – Midwest Weekend Workshop

July 8-16, 2022 – Boston, Mass. – Pinewoods Scottish Sessions

July 17 – July 30, 2022 – Mount Royal Univ. Calgary – TAC Teacher Candidates Course

July 22-24, 2022 – Mount Royal Univ. Calgary – TAC Summer Teachers' Conference Weekend

July 24 – 31, 2022 – Mount Royal Univ. Calgary – TAC Summer School

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: February 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: January 13. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca