

# *Light and Airy*



**Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg**  
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## ***Important Dates***

### ***Dancing in 2022***

**March 3 to May 19** – Thursday afternoon class at Churchill Park United Church 1:30 – 3:30

**May 18** - AGM at Churchill Park United Church at 7:00

### ***A Word from the Chair of COM ....***

Is it just me or does it seem that we have been given an extra helping of winter and bad weather this year? Just as the snow and ice of our back lanes and streets and sidewalks melt away, yet another blast of snow threatens to return us back to the depths of mid-winter. And if it's not snow, then it's rain.

So we listen to the weather forecasts and adjust our plans accordingly. The recent promised storm of the century had lost much of its terror by the time it hit Winnipeg, but it certainly put us into a panic mode as the store shelves were emptied and most everyone hunkered down for a long hiding under the covers. The storm came, the storm went, and life carried on, mostly calmly except for places like Costco.

For the past two years all of us have had to “adjust our plans accordingly”. That has certainly been the experience of your Committee of Management. As the pandemic conditions worsened, then changed, and then improved, the COM made decisions always with the best interests of our dance community in mind. We did some dancing outdoors, held a refreshment-free gathering in Assiniboine Park, and organized walks so that we could socialize with our friends. We reluctantly handed over the keys to the St Paul's Anglican Church Hall, wondering how long might it be until we could dance once more in a building which had been our home for decades. Then we discovered the hall at Churchill Park United

Church and weekly afternoon dance classes began. In everything we faced and planned and hoped for, we always knew that we needed to “adjust our plans accordingly.”

Soon my term as Chairperson of the Committee of Management will come to an end. I am grateful for my fellow members of the COM who have served with me, especially during the challenges of the pandemic, grateful for their ability to be flexible and optimistic, for their devotion to Scottish Country Dancing, and for all they do to support and encourage our Branch. We are very fortunate to have such a skilled and wise Committee of Management.

May all the blessings of springtime be yours.

Don Johnson

## ***Have you heard?***

### **RSCDS Winnipeg Branch AGM – May 18 7:00pm**

After two year’s absence we are now able to hold an Annual General Meeting. It will take place at Churchill Park United Church on May 18 at 7:00 pm. Reports will be available in early May. Please plan to attend to help guide our steps in dancing in Winnipeg.

### **Margaret Jones**

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Margaret Jones.

Margaret was a former long time member of the branch who was very active in the Monday Fort Garry Class. Her smile would light up the room. She will be missed by all who knew her. Our sympathies go out to her family and friends.

## ***From the Classes ...***

### **Thursday Afternoon**

The Thursday afternoon class at Churchill Park United Church has been a very successful venture. We had weekly classes during November and December, then paused them for January and February due to the Omicron variant surge, then restarted at the beginning of March and have had weekly classes (except for the April 14 return of winter) since. We average about 14 people each week. Peter McClure and Sharyl Eaglesham are sharing the teaching duties and are guiding us back to normal with easy reels, jigs and beautiful strathspeys. Everyone acknowledges that a two-year hiatus from dancing has necessitated a slower start and more review of formations that we formerly breezed through.

Remember pousettes, reels of four on the side, reels of three across the set, corner pass and turn? It is so wonderful to be dancing again, even with the few restrictions still remaining (we wear masks and sanitize our hands after each dance). It's not St. Paul's and it's not our Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening classes, but this is what is available right now. Hopefully we can start an evening

class in the fall, so that the rest of our members can return as well. Maybe even some spring or summer dances to help make up for the lost companionship of our fellow dancers.

Sharron Bettess

## **Thursday Afternoon Dance Class Details:**

**Thursday afternoon dance classes are held** at Churchill Park United Church at 525 Beresford Ave. 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. **To ensure we have lots of dance time, warm-ups will begin right at 1:30 pm.**

With the Province of Manitoba easing Covid-19 restrictions, the branch will continue to meet or exceed the required health orders to ensure the safety of our members. Classes will be held with the following safety precautions:

- You must wear a mask during class.
- Proof of vaccination will be requested for first time participants
- Bring your own water bottle.
- If not feeling well, please stay home.

Regards,  
Committee of Management

## ***From the Library ...***

TACBook and TACSound Orders for Summer Delivery

If any of our branch members want materials from TACbooks or TACSound they are listed online. I can order them for you so you get the members' discount. Cheryl will be in Calgary the end of July for the TAC Teachers' weekend and has offered to collect orders from TACBooks / TACSound and transport them from Calgary to Winnipeg when she returns, eliminating postage.

Joan Curle  
Librarian

## ***Upcoming dancing ...***

### ***Summer School at St Andrews***

**24 July ~ 14 August**

**Three weeks of dancing fun and instruction in beautiful St Andrews, Scotland.  
Directors Jim Stott & Janet Johnston.**

**Morning classes at all levels, optional afternoon classes,  
evening social dances, and serendipitous ceilidh evening fun.**

<https://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2022>

**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.

## Registration Is Now Open!



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)

For more information check the TAC website <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school>

### *From the editor's desk ...*

It was great to be back dancing in class if only for two of six classes. Yours truly was away on vacation for one class, had a meeting on another, and was in Covid isolation for two. My wife picked up the virus from a spare at her last ladies' curling game, and subsequently shared it with me. I suppose we're all bound to get it sometime. (Being double vaccinated & boosted we both had only mild cold symptoms.) This past week our Manitoba blizzard/snow storm cancelled the class; this week I missed for an optometrist appointment. Hopefully next week? Must remember my nametag!

As I prepare this newsletter we are experiencing another Colorado low. Fortunately for this one the temperatures are warmer and we are receiving rain, lots of rain. But the rain also helps to melt/wash away our snow of which we still have piles laying about.

Stay safe, and stay healthy!

Doug Durnin, Editor  
[Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca)

## ***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.

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

**Going to be in Toronto?** – check their newsletter Set & Link for possible dance evenings.

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

**July 3 – 10 – Appalachian State University, Boone NC** – Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School

**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](http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org)

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

### ***L&A Submissions***

**Next L&A:** June/July 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](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca) or to the editor at [Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca) Deadline for submissions: June 15. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)