

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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From the Chair....

I hope that by the time that you read this, "Spring will have really Sprung!!"

The Tartan Day Celebrations were held this year at the Forks, on Saturday April 6, which most people agreed was a great location to have this annual event, to be able to share our Scottish Heritage with the general public.

Classes for this year are gradually winding down. The Wind-up Social, hosted by the COM and the Teachers' Committee, was held on Saturday April 13, with a good attendance. The theme was "April Showers will bring May Flowers!" The weather outside may not have agreed with us but the dance programme, with great music provided by Scotch Measure, more than made up for it.

The CD entitled *Prairie Gold*, recorded by Scotch Measure for the Branch's 50th Anniversary, is now ready. The accompanying book of Dances should be ready within the next two weeks. Our thanks go to all involved with this project.

We were disappointed to learn from Parks Canada that Heritage Days, held every year at Lower Fort Garry, will not take place this year. The Branch has been involved with this event for approximately 10 years.

Plans are well underway for our special Weekend Workshop and Ball being held from May 17 to 19th, 2013, celebrating the Branch's 50th Anniversary. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Workshop Committee, under the leadership of our vivacious Jane Natrass, is planning an exciting Weekend to commemorate this milestone in the history of the Winnipeg Branch.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Workshop!

Happy Dancing.

*Sincerely,
Christine Wallace*

2012/13 Dance Season

Thursday March 21	Last Introductory class of Winter Term
Thursday April 4	Introductory Class - make-up class
Friday April 5	Advanced Class (last one of the Winter Term), \$5.00
Thursday April 11	Introductory Class – additional class (no charge)
Saturday April 13	Wind-up Social (hosted by the COM and Teachers)
Week of April 22	Last Regular classes of Winter Term
Monday April 29	Fort Garry Social Class - make-up class
Tuesday April 30	General class (Ball Program), 8:00 pm, \$2.00
Monday May 6	General class (Ball Program), 8 pm, \$2.00 ** NEW DATE**
Tuesday May 14	General class (Ball Program), 8 pm, \$2.00
Friday May 17	50 th Anniversary Ceilidh, Silver Heights United Church
Saturday May 18	50 th Anniversary Workshop, Silver Heights United Church
Saturday May 18	50 th Anniversary Dinner and Ball, 17 Wing
Sunday May 19	50 th Anniversary Brunch and Tea Dance, 17 Wing
Wednesday May 22	AGM, 7:30 pm

Please note: All dates are subject to change – please check the calendar each month. Socials are at St. Paul's Church Hall, North Drive and Point Road, at 8:00 pm, with admission of \$10.00, unless otherwise noted.

From the Editor

As the 2012/13 Dance Season draws to a close, with the Wind-up Social on April 13 and individual class events, the Branch's attention now turns to the celebration of our 50th Anniversary. The planning committee has been working hard all year to make this a special event. The April issue includes last minute reminders regarding the Workshop and Ball as well as information on the *Prairie Gold* CD.

This issue also includes information on other upcoming events, such as The Big Bike, and reports and pictures of recent events, including Tartan Day and the Wind-up Social. There is also information on an exciting Dance Mapping project that is being conducted by the Canada Council for the Arts and interesting events in Scotland – the Bicentenary of the Kildonan Clearances in 2013 and Homecoming Scotland 2014. Happy Reading!

Heather Ferguson

Branch News

Library News

In anticipation of our 50th Anniversary workshop, we have ordered a number CDs from TAC Sound as well as publications from TAC Books. This will give some of our newer members and out-of-province visitors a chance to upgrade their Scottish Country Dance resources. As referenced in other parts of our newsletter, we will also have copies of our new Branch CD, *Prairie Gold*, and the accompanying dance booklet.

Reg Curle

Prairie Gold

The Branch has produced a CD and accompanying book of dances to celebrate its 50th year of dancing. The music is played by Scotch Measure and all the dances have a local connection, with all but one devised by a past or current Branch member.

The cost of the CD is \$20 and the CD and book of dances is \$30. Visit the Branch website to hear samples of the music, read a brief description of the dances, and obtain ordering information.

There are plans to hold a couple of additional classes in June to try out the dances in the *Prairie Gold* collection. Further information will follow.

New Arrival

Gerri and Peter Stemler are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild, Felix Pierre Miron. Felix was born on April 12, 2013, weighing 6 lb. 15 oz. Proud parents are Sheena and Simon Miron.

Upcoming Events

Additional Classes

April 30, May 6 and May 14

In preparation for the Branch's 50th Anniversary celebrations on May 17 to 19, three general classes have been added to focus on the Ball program. These classes will be at St. Paul's Church and replace Spring Dancing this year. Dancing will begin at 8:00 pm and cost \$2.

RSCDS Winnipeg Branch 50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball *May 17-19, 2013*

Teachers: Robin Lynch, Quadra Island, BC
Simon Scott, Vancouver, BC

Workshop Musicians: Ken Nattrass, Accordion
Ron Krug, Piano

Band: Scotch Measure

For application forms and further information, go to our website at www.rscdswinnipeg.ca.

Come and join us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration!

It is time to send in those registration forms for the 50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball. *We must have the registrations for all the weekend's activities by **May 3, 2013** in order to meet the security requirements of 17 Wing.*

Right now, the out-of-town registrants outnumber the locals, so show your support and get those forms in to Sharon Plaitin. Registration forms are on the RSCDS website. We have a few at classes. The cost of the weekend activities has been subsidized by your RSCDS Winnipeg Branch.

Come out and help us celebrate, renew acquaintances, enjoy photos of the past, laugh, share stories and dance your "tootsies" off.

Fabulous baskets of goodies are being put together for you, so bring your change and buy tickets for the draws. A couple of silent auction items have been donated, one of which is a two night stay on Quadra Island at Lynch's B&B.

The Ceilidh evening will be in a larger venue this year. Such good response last year caused us to be squished and so we will be at Silver Heights United Church. We already have several new performers ready to strut their stuff as well as an enjoyable evening of social dances.

Reminders:

- Registration deadline is May 3, 2013.
- Please make sure that your name on the registration form is exactly the same as on your ID (Driver's license, passport).
- Bring your ID with you for events at 17 Wing.

Well, I think that is all for now!! Get the registration forms in!!! Sharon is waiting!!!

Jane Natrass
Chairperson, 50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball

Annual General Meeting *May 22, 2013*

The Winnipeg Branch's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22 at St. Paul's Church Hall, starting at 7:30 pm. Please plan to attend.

Big Bike 2013 *June 18-21, 2013*

The Winnipeg Scottish Country Dancers will be entering a team in the Heart and Stroke Big Bike event again this year.

The Big Bike will roll through Winnipeg on June 18-21, 2013. The 30-seat bike will ride from The Forks on June 18 and 19 (1:00 – 8:30 pm) and from the Legislative Building on June 20 and 21 (11:00 am – 4:30 pm). Money raised by the event goes to support the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Manitoba.

We are looking at riding on June 18 in the evening (between 7:00 and 8:30 pm) or around lunch (11:00 – Noon) on June 21. The ride takes only 20 minutes to complete.

Each rider must collect at least \$50 in pledges. Those raising \$100 or more will receive a Big Bike t-shirt and have their name entered into the Grand Prize draw for a trip for two to Vancouver. Riders earn one more Grand Prize entry for every additional \$100 raised.

It is easy to raise pledges as everyone has been touched by heart disease or stroke. Further information can be found on the event website manitobabigbike.ca.

We need more riders for our Big Bike team. If you are interested in joining the Scottish Country Dancers team, please contact Heather Ferguson at 204-795-2337. Come out and have a great time, while supporting research into heart and stroke and promoting the health benefits of Scottish Country Dancing!

Heather Ferguson



*Winnipeg Scottish Country Dancers
2012 Big Bike Team*

Event Reports

Tartan Day Celebrations *April 6, 2013*

Tartan Day was celebrated on April 6 at The Forks Market from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The MC for the event was Barry Burns. Greetings were brought by representatives of the federal government (MP Shelley Glover), the Province (The Honourable Christine Melnick) and the City of Winnipeg (a letter from Mayor Sam Katz).

The keynote address was given by Dr. Gordon Goldsborough from the Manitoba Historical Society. Entertainment was provided by the Winnipeg Branch Demonstration Team, the Manitoba Highland Dancers Association, the Manitoba Pipes and Drums, the Southglen Fiddlers and vocalist Debbie Young (one of our new dancers). The event ended with participation dances, led by Joyce Cormack and the Demo Team, to the music of the Southglen Fiddlers.

The venue proved to be an excellent place to acquaint the public with our Scottish heritage. A good crowd watched the performances, participated in the dances and viewed the Pavilion of Scotland display of tartans.

Thank you to all the Winnipeg Branch members who came out to support this event.



A lively crowd dancing Riverside at the Tartan Day Celebrations at The Forks

Wind-up Social

April 13, 2013

The teachers and members of the Committee of Management were the hosts for our April social, held on April 13. *April Showers Bring May Flowers* was deemed a more appropriate theme than the other choice of Spring Fling, with the amount of snow still on the ground.

Forty-five attended. Maureen Burnham chose the dance program, which included two dances from the recently produced Branch CD. One of the dances was a *Trip to Sucker Bay*, written by Maureen. The evening program had a good mix of dances suited to our newer dancers as well as our more experienced ones.

Catch the Wind was well danced by all levels. The Introductory Class was well represented at the social, with most of the class attending. Several brought items for the food table, to add to the evening— perhaps this was a class wind-up as well.

As well as dancing and music and food, there's the sociability of a social evening to hopefully encourage our newest dancers, as well as the more experienced dancers, to come out to our Branch socials.

Joan Curle



Enthusiastic dancers at the Wind-up Social

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

Fort Garry Social Class has boldly declared Spring, despite the weather outside. We have taken up that most universal of Spring rites – courtships and weddings. Peter concentrated on a number of dances that reflect this theme: *Debbie's Chase*, *Antje Erben's Reel* and that most recent contribution to this genre, *The Royal Wedding*. *The Royal Wedding* is a stately strathspey worthy of its name, with music to match. Once accomplished, dancing *The Royal Wedding* becomes an ethereal experience. Even though the weather outside tells us Spring isn't here just yet, it is such a treat just to indulge the thought. Thank you, Peter.

Rumour has it that our next class theme will be the Flower Show. I wonder, are there also dances to reflect a Spring Flood theme? Sorry Peter, I couldn't resist the temptation! We do, after all, live in Manitoba.

By now all of you will doubtlessly have adjusted to another rite of Spring, the change to Daylight Saving Time. Only in Saskatchewan is this re-jigging of daylight not done. I am told on good authority that they subscribe to the reasoning of the Old Indian who said, "Only the Government would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket, sew it to the bottom, and come away with a longer blanket!"

Happy Dancing!

John Giesbrecht

Technique Class

This has been quite a month, weather-wise, but we certainly warm up when we arrive at the hall and meet and greet fellow dancers again.

We have been doing some interesting, intriguing dances this month. Peter has taken over the class in Christine's absence on one occasion. Christine had us all trying to remember the proper way to do reels and wheels in a dance called *Miss Irene Whyte*. She is a member of the Inverness Branch and is our delegate to the AGM. Christine also had us doing *Waverley* – an old-time favourite of the Branch. It used to be done quite frequently. We also did *Selkirk Settlement* from the new CD – a set-chase-turn partner-chase beginning.

We also did the four couple square dance, *Round Reel of Eight*. We kept asking to do it ONE MORE TIME. Everyone enjoyed it.

Debbie and David are off on their exciting adventure, winding up in Spain. I received an e-mail from David the other day to let us know they are in Cadiz and doing a walking tour.

As our dancing season is coming to an end, we are wondering what we will be doing on Tuesday evenings for the next couple of months. We do have the excitement of looking forward to the 50th Anniversary Workshop coming up on the long week-end in May. Has everyone mailed in their registrations?

That's about it for me as I did not know I would be asked to write up a wee report and had not been taking notes on the happenings.

Until next time,

Agnes Brydon

Demonstration Team

Upcoming Demonstration Team performances:

June 19 Autumn Meadows
June 22 Manitoba Highland Gathering

Agnes Brydon

Here and There

Dance Mapping Project

On March 15, I was invited to Ottawa to attend a meeting of the Canada Council for the Arts, Dance Section, all expenses paid. I was representing the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch as a non-professional organization of dancers who would be targeted by the Dance Mapping Project. Others at the meeting were staff, researchers, web designers, and marketing, arts administrators, executive directors of dance companies, and representatives of arts councils.

Background

In 2011, we received an email through the Branch website in regard to the Dance Mapping project. In 2012, we received another email regarding a meeting that was held in Winnipeg at the RWB building. Only about a half dozen people showed up for the meeting, including myself and my daughter Sheena, who is connected to two dance groups. The others represented professional dance companies and the Manitoba Arts Council.

Dance Mapping Project

The stated purpose of the project is to find out who is dancing in Canada, where, why, how many, type of dance (genre) and to produce an on-line interactive map providing the data. The project is modeled after a similar study completed in Britain a few years ago. The RSCDS initiatives, such as Dance Scottish and the more recent promotion in regard to health benefits, seem to have come out of the British study.

Vocational Survey

An on-line survey is being designed to collect the data. Discussion at this meeting centered around the wording used in the survey, and how to get the survey out to everyone so that all dancers can be counted, including recreational groups, aboriginal dancers and pow wow dancers, for example, as well as the traditional dance schools and dance performance groups of all genres. RSCDS Branches were easy to locate because we are well organized and data were obtained through headquarters.

We may be asked to provide further feedback and to assist in getting responses to the survey when it is issued.

Gerri Stemler

Kildonan Clearances - Helmsdale

The Timespan Museum and the community of Helmsdale in Scotland will be commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Kildonan Clearances throughout 2013.

The village of Helmsdale is a product of the Highland Clearances, having been planned to provide accommodation and employment to those evicted from their lands to make way for sheep.

Early in the 19th century, the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland decided that they needed to "improve" their estates to make them more productive and profitable. They were advised that the best course of action would be to clear their tenants from the straths and glens and turn the land over to sheep farming. The people themselves were to be moved to planned settlements, such as Helmsdale, on the north and east coasts.

Clearances took place throughout Sutherland and are remembered as the most notorious of all the clearances throughout the Highlands. The Strath of Kildonan runs northwest from Helmsdale for over twenty miles. Today there are very few houses in the strath but two hundred years ago it was very different, with a relatively large population living in many small scattered communities throughout the glen. In 1811, the population was recorded as 1,574. Between 1813 and 1819, the strath was forcibly cleared of its inhabitants. Many went to live in the new settlements built on the coast but others decided to emigrate to the new world. Many left for Canada, and it was Kildonan settlers who founded what is now the City of Winnipeg in Manitoba. By 1831, the population of the Strath of Kildonan was reduced to just 257 people.

Today, in Helmsdale, on a hill just to the southwest of the road bridge stands a statue which commemorates the people who were forced to leave their homes and lands, and emigrate to the new world. The monument was originally planned as a 30 foot tall sculpture to stand on top of Creag Bun-Ullidh, the hill above Helmsdale. Its size and position would have rivaled the 100 foot statue to the notorious First Duke of Sutherland on Ben Bhraggie, above Golspie. However, these plans fell through but the original 10 foot tall bronze sculptures have been mounted on a stone plinth.

The inscription reads:

The Emigrants

Commemorates the people of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland who, in the face of great adversity, sought freedom, hope and justice beyond these shores. They and their descendants went forth and explored continents, built great countries and cities and gave their enterprise and culture to the world. This is their legacy.

Their voices will echo forever thro the empty straths and glens of their homeland.

In 2008, a twin of these sculptures was erected on Waterfront Drive in Winnipeg as a monument to the Selkirk Settlers, who came from the Strath of Kildonan to settle in the Red River area.



*The Emigrants
Helmsdale, Scotland*



*Selkirk Settlers 1813
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

Homecoming Scotland 2014

In 2014, *Scotland welcomes the world* to a year of homecoming events. About 100 events are planned in all parts of Scotland, including a concert to open the Ryder Cup, a flotilla to celebrate the Forth Road Bridge's 50th anniversary, Europe's biggest brass band festival in Perthshire, World Sheepdog trials in Tain, and a re-enactment to commemorate the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. For more information, check the VisitScotland.com website.



You think English is easy?

English is a difficult language to learn. One reason is that it is full of homographs, which are words of like spelling but with more than one meaning. A homograph that is also pronounced differently is a heteronym. The following are common examples of homographs and heteronyms:

The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.

The farm was used to **produce produce**.

The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.

We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.

He could **lead** if he would get the **lead** out.

The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.

Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the **present**.

A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum

When shot at, the **dove dove** into the bushes.

I did not **object** to the **object**.

The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.

There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.

They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.

The buck **does** funny things when the **does** are present.

A seamstress and a **sewer** fell down into a **sewer** line.

To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.

The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the sail.

Upon seeing the **tear** in the painting I shed a **tear**.

I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.

How can I **intimate** this to my most **intimate** friend?

Out of Town Events

Plymouth, MA

July 12-20, 2013

RSCDS Boston Branch

Pinewoods Camp

Dance and music classes, evening dances

Session I: July 12-15 Session II: July 15-20

Contact: Kendra Eshleman (617-987-0198 or scdPinewoods2013@gmail.com)

Sackville, NB

July 28-August 4, 2013

TAC Summer School

Teachers: Elaine Brunken, Linda Henderson, Jimmie Hill, Antoine Rousseau, Bill Zobel

Musicians: Muriel Johnstone (Director), Jim Lindsay, Keith Smith, Ian Robertson, Judi Nicholson, Angela Young

Contact: www.tac-rscds.org

Prague, Czech Republic

August 23 – September 1, 2013

Dance Scottish Week in Prague

Teacher: Ron Wallace

Music: Muriel Johnstone

Dance classes and sightseeing in Prague

Contact: dvorana@dvorana.cz or www.dvorana.cz

Port Townsend, WA

September 6-8, 2013

RSCDS Seattle Branch

Fort Worden Scottish Country Dance Weekend

Welcome Dance, Classes, and Ball

Teachers: Barbara Johnston, Elinor Vandegrift,

Andrew Smith, and Fred DeMarse

Music: Waverley Station

Contact: Kathi Ploeger (fwreg@rscds-seattle.org)

Pacific Grove, CA

November 1-3, 2013

RSCDS San Francisco Branch

Asilomar Weekend Workshop

Dance & Ceilidh, Classes, and Ball

Teachers: Barbara Johnston, David Newitt,

Jennifer Reiner, Mervyn Short, Ron Wallace.

Music: Red Thistle Music, Ian Muir Dance Band

Contact: Julee Montes (650-722-0473 or

julm-hcs@pacbell.net)

Be sure to check the Inter-City Scot website for more information on dancing events in other cities (there is a link on the Winnipeg Branch website).

Important Dates

COM meetings: COM meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May.

Next L&A: Deadline for the May 2013 issue is **May 3, 2013**.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members.

This and the past 11 issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website (rscdswinnipeg.ca).