

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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From the Chair....

It is hard to believe that our dancing classes are coming to an end. Where does the time go? As our very long winter exits and spring arrives, along with warmer weather, we anticipate outdoor activities such as walking, golfing or cycling, spending time in our yards and at our cottages. Our last social of the year was held April 3rd and we enjoyed a lovely program devised by Maureen Burnham. Thank you Maureen for briefing the dances and sharing with us the significance of these dances to you. Thank you Scotch Measure for providing exciting music and thank you to the COM and Teachers for hosting the social and to everyone who provided delicious refreshments. There was an excellent turnout of the Basic class and we welcomed our guests from the Transcona ladies dance class, who enjoyed the evening very much!

Although our formal classes come to an end, there are many exciting events to look forward to beginning with our Annual Workshop and Ball May 2-4. The deadline of April 23rd is fast approaching so get those registrations in! Additional dance evenings, to which all dancers are invited, are scheduled for May 13 and 20. Sheila Careless will be off to Colorado in July to take the course leading to the second part of her teacher's certificate and these evenings are intended to help her prepare for that course. Also, mark you calendars now for the AGM on May 28th. We look forward to a good turnout of members.

On June 21 we will be participating in the Commonwealth Ceilidh which is an initiative of headquarters to celebrate dancing and the Commonwealth Games that will be held in Glasgow this summer. Ceilidhs will be held round the world at 7:30 local time following a program devised by headquarters. Our COM has decided to invite other dance organizations to join us in this event. This evening promises to be a lot of fun and to help dancers prepare for the evening there will be two dance evenings June 10 and 17 so mark your calendars now!

The branch is currently reviewing our involvement in the new United Kingdom Pavilion which is sponsored by the McConnell Irish dancers. Emails were recently sent out inviting dancers to help out with the pre stage show and to volunteer for other jobs in the pavilion. Remember, if members volunteer for these jobs, there could be a financial benefit to the branch due to the profit sharing based on volunteer hours. You are also welcome to invite your family and friends to join you in volunteering. Perhaps the most important reason for being involved would be the fun that you would have!

The COM continues to discuss issues regarding the length of the dancing terms, the fees and policies regarding how new dancers will be integrated into our regular classes. Our final decisions will be announced at the AGM. The COM is giving careful consideration to each of these issues as our decisions could have serious implications on the future well-being and health of our organization. Our future strength will depend on our ability to increase our membership and to retain those who enroll as basic dancers.

See you all at the workshop and ball! Happy Dancing!

Joyce Cormack

2013/14 Dance Season

Week of April 15	Last week of classes (except Tues class make-up class)
Friday-Sunday May 2-4	<i>Workshop Weekend</i>
Tuesday, May 13	General Class - Open to everyone 8 pm \$2 at the door
Tuesday, May 20	General Class - Open to everyone 8 pm \$2 at the door
Wednesday, May 28	Annual General Meeting 7:30, St. Paul's Church
Tuesday, June 10	Commonwealth Ceildih Practice 8 pm \$2 at the door
Tuesday, June 17	Commonwealth Ceilidh Practice 8 pm \$2 at the door

Saturday, June 21

**Commonwealth Ceilidh
Silver Heights United Church
7:30 pm FREE**

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

From the Editor...

It's hard to believe that dance classes are almost over until the fall. I mean, dance classes go until the spring right? Well, spring isn't here yet so we'll just keep dancing until it arrives!!

I hope everyone had a good time at the April social. Once again, a great program of dances. Although from my perspective, SCD is so much fun it would very hard to put together an awful program. I'm sure it can be done but there are so many fun & beautiful dances, that there is surely something on every program for everyone.

There was a good turnout for Tartan Day at the Forks on April 6th. They didn't put out enough chairs so it was standing room only. A good problem to have! There was a good variety of Scottish flavour for the afternoon and quite a few stayed around right to the end for some participation dancing.

Looking forward to the weekend workshop.

Now if you'll excuse me, by what I'm seeing outside, it's time to put up my Christmas lights!!

Sheila Careless

❖ Branch News

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class (Mondays):

Yes, it's April but still feels like March; winter is still here. Fortunately, we have SCD to distract us and keep us warm on frosty evenings.

Fort Garry Social has been working on dances for various class socials and the up-coming Ball programme over the last period of weeks.

In so doing we have traversed many different formations – double and diagonal cross over reels, three couple rights and lefts and that thing called the Knot. One dance in particular, "The Kissing Bridge" has popped up several times in

classes. Perhaps Peter is suggesting another way for us to keep warm in Winnipeg!

Speaking of winter, here is a little poem sent to me by a former colleague that hits the mark on our weather.

IT'S WINTER IN WINNIPEG

AND THE GENTLE BREEZES BLOW

SEVENTY MILES AN HOUR

AT TWENTY- FIVE BELOW

OH, HOW I LOVE WINNIPEG.

WHEN THE SNOW'S UP TO YOUR BUTT

YOU TAKE A BREATH OF WINTER

AND YOUR NOSE GETS FROZEN SHUT.

YES, THE WEATHER HERE IS WONDERFUL

SO I GUESS I'LL HANG AROUND

I COULD NEVER LEAVE WINNIPEG

BECAUSE I'M FROZEN TO THE GROUND.

John Giesbrecht

Technique Class (Tuesdays):

We may not have many May flowers if we don't have April showers soon! And, if we don't get spring in our step before classes end soon, we'll have to start from square one next fall!

I had told Joan way back when that I would write something for April Light and Airy and here it is ladies and gentlemen, the dreaded deadline. It arrived when I was not looking and I don't feel any

more ready than I do when Christmas arrives and I am not totally ready.

Our teachers for both terms have had their work cut out for them. For the fall term, the newest teacher at our branch, Joyce Cormack, did a great job 'cutting her teeth' on us "techniquers" and I hope she has survived well enough to tackle us again one day. For our spring term, (not spring as we normally know it), one of our experienced teachers, Cheryl Durnin took us by the hands, arms, legs and feet to teach us both new and old techniques. I believe I speak for everyone when I say that it has been another successful year both in the teachers we have had and what we have been able to accomplish.

On the news front, I don't seem to know very much. I noticed that Joan and Reg are finally back from the rain in Vancouver to the snow in Winnipeg. Glad to see they made it safely and soundly. Also, Darrell Newediuk has been back in dancing mode and it appears he is healed and able. For any of you who have important news and I didn't hear it, I apologize.

As Registrar for the workshop I can't help but say, get your registration forms in to me. We are looking forward to a great workshop being held in a great place with hopefully a great attendance!

Yours in dancing,

Sharon Plaitin

United Kingdom Pavilion.

August 10 to 16 at 1770 King Edward Street

We are continuing to evaluate branch participation in the United Kingdom pavilion at Folklorama sponsored by the McConnell Irish Dancers. This organization has all of the funding required to get the pavilion up and running and requires no financial input from the organizations that have been invited to participate. The application for this pavilion was approved on the condition that Britain, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are equally represented in all facets of the pavilion. This will include the stage show, cultural display, food and drink. Two organizers of the pavilion attended our meeting, gave a detailed presentation and answered questions. They envision a stage show that will tell a story - possibly The Gathering of the Clans - and will be high tech with audio, video and narration. They plan to have two different shows with each show expected to be 40

minutes long and each segment of the UK involved in 10 minutes of each show. The Scottish portion would include highland dancing, pipe bands and Scottish country dancing. We can be involved as much or as little as we are able to manage.

There will also be an opportunity to be involved in the pre-show, which will feature groups for 20-30 minutes in front of the main stage area and where we might get the crowd involved in participation dancing. If this happens, we will be prominently identified in the stage area and this would be great publicity (venue capacity approx 700/show). We will need dancers to be involved in both the main stage show and the pre-show. We can also include information about SCD in the cultural display which is another opportunity for publicity.

All volunteers that RSCDS (including friends or others associated with us) is able to provide will be welcome. Volunteers will be needed in every facet of the pavilion - more details on this to come. The hours put in by RSCDS will be logged and at the end of the week we will be entitled to a share of the profits based on the # of hours that we have logged. So with no financial risk there is an opportunity to realize revenue for the Branch.

Many of us feel that this is an amazing opportunity for exposure for Scottish Country Dancing and ask dancers to support us in this endeavour. It should be a lot of fun to be involved in this United Kingdom pavilion.

Honorariums will be paid to organizations that have performers in the main stage show.

Any comments or questions or to indicate your willingness to volunteer: call or email Joyce 224-2291 rljcormack@gmail.com or Sheila 233-8808 careless@mts.net.

❖ Upcoming Events



RSCDS

Winnipeg Branch

43rd Annual Workshop and Ball

May 2-4, 2014

Although Spring has NOT sprung, the Workshop and Ball are fast approaching and we need your support. Remember the great time and food last year! Everything is at one venue this year. Another great looking meal has been planned for the Saturday evening and the dance floor is just waiting for your twinkling toes! Cheryl Durnin and Ruth Jappy are preparing to challenge you with their teaching prowess! Are you ready! **Please send in those registrations ASAP** to Sharon Plaitin. Please note that, for security reasons, applications must be received by **April 23rd**.

Ray Plaitin is busy lining up people for the Friday, Ceilidh evening. Don't be shy! We are planning on having a great evening of socializing, relaxing, snacks and entertainment!

Paula Ferriera and Pat Clubb will be asking for volunteers to provide some snacks and goodies for the Ceilidh evening as well as some muffins for the morning coffee break. Please watch for the sign-up sheets.

DONATE A BASKET! Raffle and silent auction items have been harder to come by this year! Community organizations are not as forthcoming as in the past, so we need your HELP! Individuals, or two or three people could go together to make a basket of goodies that could be put on our table for the ticket raffle! Think Spring and Summer! Gardening, fishing, golfing, beach, cottage, birds, picnics, tea, lemonade, sports, whatever comes to mind! It is actually fun to see what you can come up with. Debbie Forrest is collecting items for baskets or completed baskets for our raffle table. Please be generous.

Thanks for your hard work! It will be worth it in the end. Looking forward to dancing with you! Jane Natrass, Chair Workshop Committee

Winnipeg Beach

June 14, 2014

A festival is being organized at Winnipeg Beach on June 14. It will be a Traditional / Roots music, dance & arts festival showcasing the tradition music/dance/arts of the wide variety of cultures that make up Canada. Groups/performers will have a chance to do a demonstration/performance plus there will be instructional/participatory workshops, children's activities, themed vendors market etc.

We have been invited to provide a demonstration of our dancing and are welcome to do participation dancing with adults and/or children throughout the

day. More details to come. Save the date - It could be a lot of fun if many of us go out for the day! Something like when we went to Lower Fort Garry with the school children??

The Commonwealth Ceilidh

June 21, 2014

To celebrate the Commonwealth games in Scotland, Creative Scotland has commissioned the RSCDS to create a 2 hour dance programme with three new, specially commissioned "Commonwealth Games" dances. *The Commonwealth Ceilidh* was launched officially by Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture & External Affairs, on Dec. 12th in Edinburgh. It will be a mass event on June 21, 2014 starting at 7:30 local time and performed as widely as possible throughout the Commonwealth and elsewhere. More details to follow but save the date!

❖ Here and There...

Note from Headquarters:

Headquarters has decided to postpone the vote regarding the re-structure until November 2014.

Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Project

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Project involves the creation of an embroidered tapestry comprised of 150-200 panels depicting Scotland's diaspora and their influence around the globe. Scots have migrated all over the world and have often had a profound impact on the areas where they settled. Originally, 25 communities (including Winnipeg) were invited to document their Scottish connections on a series of embroidered panels. As word of the project spread, more communities became involved in the project.

The panels will be created by hundreds of volunteers around the world. Once completed, they will be assembled and displayed in Scotland as part of the 2014 Home Coming celebrations and then displayed around the world in the following year. The first exhibition will be on May 31, 2014 in Prestonpans. The tapestry will be completed in stages, as completed panels are submitted.

The Scottish Heritage Council of Manitoba was contacted to develop panels for the Winnipeg site. John Perrin, Harry Duckworth and Heather Ferguson developed a list of themes that could be used and forwarded them to organizers of the project in Scotland, where artist Andrew Crummy developed them into seven beautiful panels. After the designs were reviewed for historical accuracy, they were returned to be finalized. We have now

received kits for all seven projects. Each kit contains a 50 cm x 50 cm linen panel with the design, a full-size coloured copy of the design, and wool for stitching.

We are looking for individuals or groups who are interested in working on the Winnipeg panels. Stitchers can work on a small section of a panel or larger sections, depending on their availability and skill. People of all ages and skills are invited to participate. A member of the Winnipeg Embroiderers' Guild is assisting with identifying appropriate stitches to be used in various sections of the panels. Our goal is to complete the seven panels before the summer.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting project, please contact Heather Ferguson at 204-795-2337 or heather.ferguson@gov.mb.ca. More information is available on the project website www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org

The Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band

The Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band will be hosting their Annual Spring Concert on Sunday April 27 at 2:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Performances by students, the current LSRFMPB, the alumni band and highland dancers. Coffee and dainties will be served.

Winnipeg Police Pipe Band

Winnipeg Police Pipe Band annual Scotch Tasting night will be held on Sunday, May 25 at the Metropolitan Entertainment Centre (the MET). This is a very popular event and always sells out, you will want to get your tickets early! Contact Dan Sloan at DSLOAN@MONARCHINDUSTRIES.COM for more information.

Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and pumps www.avriel.com

Your one stop shoe shop for all your dancing needs. H11's and H splits are on sale now.

Scottish Screen archive of the Nat'l Library of Scotland

<http://ssa.nls.uk/film> (Note that there is no "www" in the url.)

A huge archive of historical videos on all things Scottish. Some, but not all, can be viewed on your screen.

To see a particular film, you add a number to the url above. For a general film about Scottish

dancing, add /2224 to the above; I think this is something some of us have seen before.

To see Rakes of Glasgow, add /0313.

To see The River Cree, add /0850.

And for a short look at The Duke of Perth, add /3270. This also shows a really nice view of a formal ball "back in the day". Note the speed of the music!

There may be other SCD clips as well, but it will take some searching to find them. There are also SCD references, e.g., Mrs MacLeod, for which the video is apparently not available on screen.

❖ Out of Town Events

Jersey, Edinburgh

May 22-25, 2014

RSCDS Edinburgh

Jersey Caledonian Dance Weekend.

Tickets: Joy Carry 01534 862205

chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk

or Alan Nicolle 01534 484375

alan.nicolle88@gmail.com

<http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com>

Leeds, England

July 12, 2014

RSCDS Leeds

White Rose Festival

60th anniversary of the Festival of Scottish Country Dancing

The Festival is held just outside Leeds on the playing fields of Gateways School in a rural setting opposite to the Harewood estate. There will be massed open air dancing for adult and junior teams, opportunities for demonstrations of pre-selected dances and ladies' and men's Highland displays, and an evening social dance. Dancing will be to Luke Brady and his Scottish Dance Band with piping from Alan Harrison. Ian Slater will play for the juniors if the event is held indoors because of wet weather.

Full details of the dances and additional information can be found at

<http://tinyurl.com/owonk3e> or contact our

Secretary Irene Dracup

glyn.cup@virginmedia.com <<mailto:glyn.cup@virginmedia.com>>

Kitchener/Waterloo, ON

June 14, 2014

RSCDS Kitchener/Waterloo

Bi-annual Ball

The Grand Ballroom, The Crowne Plaza KW

Music by Scotch Mist

For more information contact:

David Murison (519) 576--4262
Susan McTavish (519) 743--4143
Email: kwbball2014@rscds.kitchener.on.ca

TAC Summer School, Greeley, Colorado

July 27- Aug. 3, 2014

The University of Northern Colorado will be home to TAC Summer School in 2014. Teachers: Keith Bark, Tim Wilson, Helen Russell, Graham Donald, and Marjorie McLaughlin.

Music: Marian Anderson, Keith Smith, Judi Nicolson, Max Ketchin, Steve Carcary, Graham Bell, and Isobelle Hodgson.

A full week course for musicians on how to play for Scottish Country Dancing. Candidate classes for Units 2/3 and 5 are offered.

www.tac-rscds.org/summer-school

Scotch On The Rocks

Aug 18- 22, 2014

RSCDS Nova Scotia

Presents a week of Scottish Country dance (5 half-day classes & a dance with live music); half-day excursions and a 1-hour massage. In Wolfville, NS. Your teachers are Maggie and Duncan Keppie.

www.rscdsnovascotia.ca

Canberra, Australia - Winter School

Sept. 28-Oct 4, 2014

RSCDS Canberra & District Branch

Teachers: Eric Finley (Scotland), Doug Mills (New Zealand), Martin Mulligan (Canada), Jeanette Stephen (Sydney)

Musicians: Jane Ellis (New South Wales), James Gray (Scotland/Norway), George Meikle (Scotland), Bob McInnes (New South Wales), Kate Scott (Canberra)

Contact: Jack Arthur - jarthur@apex.net.au;
www.rscds-canberra.org

Fall Workshop Weekend

Oct 18-19, 2014

RSCDS Nova Scotia

A half-day workshop with Marjorie McLaughlin

(San Diego, CA) and Maggie Keppie (Wolfville, NS) followed by an afternoon social with live music; Sunday afternoon Challenge Class with Marjorie.

www.rscdsnovascotia.ca

Next L&A: Deadline for the March issue will be May 10, 2014.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to Sheila Careless at careless@mts.net. This and the past 11 issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website (rscdswinnipeg.ca).

❖ Important Dates

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