

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Note from Jean Highmoor: (This note should have been in the November issue but your editor forgot. Sorry.)

Thank you for the card of Good Wishes which the branch sent me. One of my nurse friends moved in with me and got me eating properly and so I have gained back my strength. It is nice to know that my dancing friends were thinking of me. - *Jean Highmoor*

Important Dates

First Term Classes End	the week of December 11th, 2017
Betwixt and Between Social	December 27th, 2017
Second Term Classes Begin	the week of January 8th, 2018
Burn's Social	January 20th, 2018 at 17 Wing
Mid Winter/ Spring Social	February 27th, 2018
Extra Dance Class	March 21, 2018
Wind Up Social	April 5th, 2018
Workshop Weekend	April 20th to 22nd, 2018 at 17 Wing (see pg. 7)
RSCDS Winnipeg AGM	May 23, 2018

Please note: All dances are at St Paul's unless otherwise noted. Dancing on Thursday March 29, 2018 is cancelled due to prior commitments by the Parish.

Betwixt and Between Dance - December 27

The Betwixt and Between dance evening will be on Wednesday, Dec 27, 2017 at St Paul's Church 8:00 to 10:00 pm. Maureen Burnham will be leading the dances. Family and friends are most welcome to join in. There is no set dance programme, and there will be something for everyone. There is no charge to attend and join in. Coffee and tea with goodies will follow the dancing. Donations of treats/goodies for the table would be appreciated.

A Word from the Chair....

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, and families and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays for whatever you celebrate.

Growing up in our house, Christmas was very quiet but come New Years, Hogmanay as the Scots call it, was a different story! All the Fraser relatives gathered in my grandparent's tiny house for dinner including shortbread and "Plum" pudding although it was made with potatoes and carrots and some fruit. Scots are very good at making something tasty from a few basic ingredients. My grandmother made pounds of shortbread and gave most of it away to all the neighbours.

We still try to carry on the tradition, but for the first time ever I will be away over New Year's, in Cuba, with the Chai Folk Ensemble. We are doing 3 or 4 shows there, and I hope have a bang up New Year's Eve with lots of rum!

Thank you to Maureen for the very enjoyable St. Andrew's social programme – we had a very good turn out and a good time was had by all.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the Burn's Dinner and Dance on January 20th, only available until January 11th. See you in the New Year!

Gerri Stemler

Note from the Vice Chair – Burns Night



A Celebration of Robert Burns

You should now be aware that the Burns Dinner and Dance is happening on Saturday, January 20, 2018. Please note that there is a slight change in the time. The Bar will be open for cocktails for 5:15 and Dinner will be starting at 6:00. For those who would like wine with their dinner, it will be available to purchase by the glass or the bottle, at the bar. There will be no wine provided at the tables this year. The event is once again being held at The Officers' Mess at 17 Wing, RCAF Base, Winnipeg.

Thank you to those who have already purchased your tickets. Tickets are \$50, and are now available at all classes and at the Betwixt and Between Social on December 27th. Classes start again the week of January 8th, and that week will be your last chance to get the tickets and names on the list.

Please note *** If you are purchasing tickets for someone who is not a member of RSCDS, and is coming with you as a guest(s), their names must be given to Agnes Brydon prior to January 11, 2018.

The deadline for tickets and names for the 17 Wing Gate is January 11, 2018, as our total number and names need to be given to 17 Wing on the January 12, 2018.

For your information, the dinner will be buffet style and will include:

Haggis, Neeps and Tatties
Salad Greens with Citrus Dressing
Buns and butter
Baron of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Prince Edward Island Vegetables
Chocolate Mousse
Coffee and Tea

Please be in touch with us if you have any allergies, or would prefer a vegetarian supper. Questions or concerns, please contact Heather Colquhoun, (204-888-0834, hcolquhoun@mts.net) or Jane Natrass, (204-667-0814, janenatrass@shaw.ca)

Class Notes

Monday Social Class

My report for this month is rather short and sweet as I have been away and unable to attend the last two classes in November. Unfortunately, although very much looking forward to attending the St. Andrew's Day social we hosted, I was unable to be there either due to severe jet lag upon our return! However from past experience I can say with complete confidence that there would have been plenty of delicious food, a nicely decorated hall and a good time would have been had by all!

With only two more classes remaining in this term on behalf of the class I would like to sincerely thank Maureen for all her efforts in teaching us. She provided us with excellent instruction, interesting dances, and in her typical humorous manner made this class a lot of fun thereby living up to its designation of social class. I recall one class in particular in early November that some of the sets were certainly enjoying themselves a lot (maybe even too much!) Just kidding of course. We were dancing Kersty's Jig, Maureen's favorite dance perhaps because it is named after a cat! It was Jo Anning's cat to be precise, Jo Anning (Hamilton) being a teacher from California whom many of the "old timers" remember. We did a lot of "prancing around" as a playful cat would do and with a lot of laughter!

We now look forward to having Peter as our teacher for the second term.

Hopefully many of us will be able to attend the dance between Christmas and New Years on Dec 27. Meanwhile best wishes to all for a wonderful Festive Season and Happy Dancing in the new year!

Marilyn Piniuta

Tuesday Technique Class

Dances:

Miss Eleanor	V and J's Maggot
Maple Leaf Rant	Alltshellach
Monymusk	Portnacraig Reel
Best Set in the Hall	Pelorus Jack
Dashing White Sergeant	The Glastonbury Tor
Asilomar Romantic	The Music Makars
Mr. William Brown's Reel	

Formations:

3 Couple Bourrel	Diamond Poussette
The Spoke	Tournée
Set to corners and cast	'Hello-Goodbye' setting
Set and rotate	Balance in line with corners
Dolphin reels	Set and link for 3

In the first couple of weeks in December, Joyce ran us through a couple of dances on the social program and, probably, we all benefitted from practicing The Maple Leaf Rant – definitely a fun dance. Joyce has also been reviewing some formations introduced in earlier classes, to give us another chance at getting them right (speaking strictly from this writer’s point of view – others in the class fly through these formations). Two examples are the “targe” and the “tourn e”. I am slowly coming to grips with the tourn e but it doesn’t help if you learn it as a lady and at the next exposure find yourself dancing as a man!

A couple of the dances Joyce put forth for our sampling had interesting names which just begged some research. One of these was Pelorus Jack. Pelorus Jack is the name of a dolphin, which guided ships through the treacherous Pelorus Sound in New Zealand for 24 years - from 1888 to 1912. The other dance with an interesting name was V and J’s Maggot, part of the Spark O’er the Water from Nova Scotia. Apparently, a maggot is a favorite tune that gnaws at you, like an earworm. Following V and J’s Maggot we danced the Alltshellach, and as I stumbled through this dance I thought a maggot might have been nibbling at my brain cells. Alltshellach was another interesting name, which I had to check out to find that it refers to a large country house in Scotland which is now a hotel.

Our instructor has kept us working till the last minute by introducing such dances as Miss Eleanor – an easy dance we were told to round out the evening, but no mention of the 3 couple bourrel lurking in the middle of the dance! Another last minute experience was Mr. William Brown’s Reel – involving lots of turning and pounding pulses considering we were minutes away from putting on the boots! Thank you Joyce for coming up with interesting dances and formations. You are keeping our senior brains humming – our toes and knees are sort of keeping up.

Hilary

Thursday Basic Class

Time flew by. The group have been good sports. Enjoying the learning of new skill Attendance has varied with the weather. Thank you to all the experienced dancers who have come to give us so much support.

The St. Andrew’s social was hosted by the Monday class on November 27th. Maureen Burnham led us. This was well attended.

Our Thursday basic class instructor, Cheryl Durnin flew to Edmonton to conduct a workshop that weekend. We missed her at the Monday social as she flew back late that night. Peter McClure was our instructor to replace Cheryl . Next term the instructor for Thursday will be Joyce Cormack.

December 14th will be the last Thursday class this term.

Donna Daniels

Branch News

Name Tags

Branch members should have name tags, with their name and Branch affiliation. New members receive these tags **at no further charge** after their first membership is paid. A returning member who has misplaced their tag can get a replacement by contacting the Registrar, Sharon Plaitin. The charge for replacements is \$8.

It is a courtesy to wear your name tag in any situation where not everyone may know you, e.g., when attending an “extra class” or a social.

The Branch on Facebook

Did you know that the Branch has a Facebook page? If you're on Facebook yourself, why not visit us at ***RSCDS Winnipeg***, and “like” us.

CANCELLATION POLICY FOR SNOW DAYS:

The COM has agreed to the following policy for cancellation of classes, when necessary because of inclement weather conditions:

- A decision to cancel that day's class will be made no later than 4:00 pm.
- An email will be sent out to all members as soon as possible.
- **IF THE WEATHER IS NASTY, PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL BEFORE HEADING OUT TO CLASS.**
- If you do not have access to email, please let your class teacher know and leave a phone number where you can be reached.

If in doubt, please call your class teacher or Gerri at (204) 488-7386.

Note: This policy will also apply to extra or special classes and socials that are not on a class day.

NOTICE FROM ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

The emergency door at the south west end of the hall is for emergencies only – as the sign reads.

The thermostat in the hall may be turned down at your will, and the exhaust fan may be switched on.

During the Spring, Summer and Fall, the entrance door must be kept shut or we will again have squirrels and mice. Also note: The windows can be opened during class but please ensure that they are all closed and locked and the fan is off before leaving the hall.

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. In the past, the Librarian has sent in Branch orders two or three times per year.

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.

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)

[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)

[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

[RSCDS Montreal Branch](#)

[RSCDS St. John's \(Newfoundland\) Branch](#)

[Teachers Association Canada](#) : for teachers of Scottish country dancing.

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.

Workshop 2018

We hope you have your calendars marked for the Branch workshop and ball next April. Dates are 20 - 22 April 2018, and we will again use the facilities at 17 Wing. Workshop staff are now all confirmed: teachers Ruth Jappy from Delta BC, and Gordon Robinson from Victoria BC; and musicians Ron Krug from Winnipeg, and Dennis Orr from Seven Persons AB. We're making one slight change in the format this year: both Saturday classes will take place in the morning. That makes for a slightly earlier start, but leaves the afternoon free after lunch. Watch for the brochure and registration form early in the new year. We hope to see you there. Meanwhile, best wishes for the holidays!
-- from the Workshop 18 Committee

Out of Town Events (a small sample)

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.

December 30, 2017 Hogmanay Montreal: <https://scdmontrealorg.weebly.com/index.html>

December 31, 2017 Hogmanay Calgary: <http://www.rscdscalgary.org/events-2>

February 16 -18, 2018 48th Annual Workshop and Ball Edmonton
www.rscdsedmonton.com

February 17, 2018 RSCDS Toronto Tartan Ball at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel
http://www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html

March 2 – 4, 2018 Belleville ,Ontario Workshop Weekend Phone 613 965 4212 email:
david.aston@kos.net

March 17, 2018 Vancouver Heather Ball <https://rscdsvancouver.org/dance/heather-ball/>

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: mid January

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Until further notice, please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to the Branch e-mail address: info@rscdswinnipeg.ca **Simple .rtf and .txt formats preferred & JPEG images. Please consider adding a photo with submissions.** Deadline for submissions early January. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca