

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Committee of Management 2014/15

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A Word from the Chair....

Once again we enjoyed a lovely Burns' Supper and Dance, held on Saturday, 24th January at Silver Heights United Church, and we are grateful to all who contributed to the success of the evening. The Church Hall was nicely decorated, as were the tables; the meal was tasty and well-served; the haggis was properly piped in and skillfully addressed by Alex Coates; Christine Wallace, with the musical assistance of Ron Krug, inspired us with the history and the beauty of Burns' poetry; Scotch Measure was as splendid as ever and their music encouraged us to dance with joy; and at intermission the music of the Celtic Trio (Shirley Tinsley and Lynn and Peter McClure) was a real treat. All in all it was a great evening, organized on our behalf by our social convenors Bob and Betty Poole and Paula Ferreira, with help from several other members of the Branch. So we offer our thanks to all who planned and prepared for the evening, to those who sold tickets and made arrangements, brought in supplies, set up the hall and cleaned up afterwards. Without the help of many people, such events cannot happen.

Similarly, all of our Branch activities, our classes and social events, all are organized and overseen and encouraged by a dedicated group who make up the Committee of Management-better known as the COM. On the front page of the Light & Airy you can see the positions that comprise the COM and the names of those who currently serve on the COM. However, by the time of the Annual Meeting in May, several of those positions will

become vacant. Those positions are Vice-Chair, Branch Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Social Convenor, Publicity, and Light & Airy Editor. A nominating committee is in the process of being formed to fill those vacancies, and I would hope that if you are asked to serve on the COM you will take seriously that invitation.

Personally I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to work with the other members of the COM, and this experience has certainly deepened my involvement in, and appreciation of, Scottish Country Dancing. And I suspect that if you accept the opportunity to serve on the COM, you may just enjoy the same experience. I hope you will consider saying yes if the nominating committee calls upon you.

Don Johnson

2014/15 Dance Season

Monday, March 2	Spring Social (hosted by the Fort Garry Class)
Wednesday, April 1	Wind-Up Social (hosted by the COM and Teachers)
Week of April 13	Last Regular classes of Winter Term
Friday-Sunday May 1-3	Workshop Weekend

Please note: All dates are subject to change – please check the calendar each month. Socials are at **Silver Heights United Church - 199 Garrioch**, at 8:00 pm, with admission of \$10.00, unless otherwise noted.

From the Editor...

Since I don't have much to say this month (yes, I know, first time for everything!), I 'm going to put in a little item that I found humorous. Thank you Maureen for passing it along. Also, I would like to say a huge thank you for the support I have felt from everyone in the branch as I work on the second part of my teaching certificate. It helps to calm the nerves...a little anyway ☺.

The Laws of Scottish Country Dancing: Beginner Laws
By Barb & Bob Anglin, Ottawa Branch.

MacMurphy's Law:
If anything can go wrong in a dance, it will.

Pauline's Principle:
If you are ready to begin on the next repeat of the dance, it isn't your turn.

Corollary:
If you are not ready,, it is your turn

Roger's Rule:
If you have just walked "Lead down the middle and up," when the dance begins, you will cast off while your partner leads down alone.

Anderson's Axiom:

The probability of a wrong hand being given increases with the need to move quickly.

Sheila Careless

Branch News

Current Class Schedule

Mondays – Fort Garry Social Class
Term 2: Joyce Cormack
Tuesdays – Technique
Term 2: Margaret Zadworny
Thursdays – Basic Class
Term 1 & 2: Cheryl Durnin

Name Tags

It is requested that everyone remember to wear their name tags to classes and Branch events. When name tags became part of the membership package many years ago, Archie Nixon suggested a fine for those who didn't wear their name tag, with the proceeds to go to the Irish dancers.

Replacement name tags, with magnetic backing, can be ordered through the Membership Secretary .

Maureen Burnham
Teachers' Rep to COM

Teacher Selection Committee

Long ago, there was an abundance of teachers in Winnipeg who wanted to teach one of the Branch classes. A fair and equitable way of dealing with the situation was to set up the Teacher Selection Committee.

The mandate of the TSC is to select teacher for classes for the upcoming year by assessing what the different classes need and who is best suited, and available, to fill that need.

The Committee is made up of 3 people: a teacher, a representative from the COM, and a dancer who has experienced all levels of classes in this Branch.

This year, the Committee members are Maureen Burnham (Teacher), Don Johnson (COM), and Betty Poole (member at large). If you have any questions/concerns, please call one of us.

Final decisions won't be made until early May.

Maureen Burnham

Teachers' Representative to COM

Inclement weather cancellation policy:

The COM discussed the cancellation of events situation and came up with the following: Members should be aware of the possibility of cancellation, and check for email notification. If it is a class, someone in the class should have the list and a process for contacting class members. Not everyone has email.

If it is a Branch event, as in the Betwixt and Between, an email will be sent to all members, facebook will be updated as well as the website. If you have invited people that are not part of the branch, please notify them of the cancellation.

Thank you

Committee of Management

Fort Garry Social Class Report

The second semester of our dancing year is well underway at Fort Garry Social with Joyce Cormack putting us through the paces, in place of Christine Wallace and David Kroeker. Also, this week we welcomed back Wendy Land from winter holiday in Puerto Escondido.

We are now working on dances for our upcoming Social programme, making sure we are

conversant with at least the geography of dances such as Australian Ladies, Davey Nick Nack (an old class favourite), and Neidpath Castle among others. It is simply amazing to see how dances we butchered on first try come to life (and enjoyment) in a subsequent class. I guess it goes to prove the old adage "Practice makes perfect".

Those of us who have been part of Fort Garry Social for many years, see this class almost as family. We catch up with each other's activities and partake of a camaraderie we can only share with people we have known and admired for many years. We come to know each other's idiosyncrasies (yes, even teachers have them!) and their willingness to help us through an unfamiliar dance or pattern, despite our own idiosyncrasy. Some of us even have a few memory lapses from time to time (we won't mention any names). For me personally, I come to class and feel welcomed as into the bonds of a family, and find respite from the tedium of everyday caregiving. While I am not able to take as active a part in RSCDS Winnipeg as I would like, and have missed most of the branch social events, I always come away feeling refreshed and energized, just as I do from my exercise classes at Reh-Fit. In fact, Fort Garry Social is now an integral part of my weekly exercise programme, and I am living proof that it's working.

For the regular readers of Light & Airy, I will let you guess who will be next month's correspondent.

John Giesbrecht

Technique Class Report

"An optimist is someone who figures that taking a step backward after taking a step forward is not a disaster, it's a cha-cha." Robert Brault

At the Technique class on Tuesday, February 3rd, we had the pleasure of having Sheila Careless lead the warm up and had us do some up and down the hall step practice. She then taught us a dance called The Moudiewort, a jig for three couples. She did a fine job and we look forward to much more of her budding expertise!

While it is not actually difficult to travel to and from The Isle of Benbecula in Scotland, trying to learn the strathspey called Leaving Benbecula was not that simple. Margaret used her best gentle guidance and we dancers did her justice.

David Kroeker has been 'handymanning' for Anne Gavin and reports that she is doing well and gives her regards to anyone who remembers her.

Joan and Reg Curle will be away from mid-February for close to a month and Sharon and Ray Plaitin will be gone for most of the month of March.

There is a need for someone to write this column for the March and April editions. I know

that several of you have been anxiously waiting to contribute to the Light & Airy so here is your opportunity to do so. Please turn yourself in to either Joan or myself. If you see one of us heading in your direction at dance class, you can expect we are going to ask for your commitment.

Sharon Plaitin

Upcoming Events

Social

March 2, 2015

Hosted by the Fort Garry Social Class

EH3 7AF (J8x32) 3C (4C set)
Roy Goldring RSCDS Bk 40

SANDY O'ER THE LEA (S8x32) 2C (4C set)
MMM 2 (8xthrough)

THE WHISTLING WIND (R8x32) 3C (4C set)
Elizabeth Goosen RSCDS Bk 36

JOIE DE VIVRE (J8x32) 3C (4C set)
Irene Van Maarseveen RSCDS Bk 39

MISS OGILVIE'S FANCY (S8x32) 3C (4C set)
William Campbell RSCDS Bk 20

DAVY NICK NACK (R8x32) 3C (4C set)
Robert M Campbell Glasgow Assembly

Interval

ROUND REEL OF EIGHT (R88) Sq.Set
RSCDS Bk 27

BALQUIDDER STRATHSPEY (S8x32) 3C (4C set)
Rutherford RSCDS Bk 24

PELORUS JACK (J8x32) 3C (4C set)
Barry Skelton RSCDS Bk 41

KELSO RACES (R8x32) 3C (4C set)
MMM 2

The crib notes are on the website.

Ceilidh Evening March 14, 2015

The Transcona Ladies afternoon dance group, in conjunction with the Transcona Council for Seniors, is holding a Ceilidh Evening Saturday March 14 at

the Transcona Retired Citizens Hall 328 Whittier Ave West. .

Doors will open at 6:30 with activities beginning at 7:00.

Admission is \$5.00. Families are most welcome to attend.

The evening will be comprised of participation dancing which will be simple Scottish folk and social dancing for everyone to enjoy.

Entertainment will be provided by the band, Reimer 6, who will also provide music for some of the dancing.

We hope that you are able to join us.

Any questions? Give me a call.

Joyce Cormack 204 224 2291

RSCDS

Winnipeg Workshop and Ball 2015

May 1-3, 2015

17 Wing Air Force Base, Bldg #76
Whytewold Rd., north of Ness Ave.

Teachers:

Sharon Barker, Calgary, Alberta
Bob Anderson, Victoria, BC

Put the dates on your new, 2015 calendar and get ready to boogie!

Come to a weekend filled with Ceilidh entertainment, dance instruction, a chance to wear your finery, enjoy a scrumptious meal, and then proceed to **The Ball** (no *glass slippers* required!). Delight in dancing to the live music of Scotch Measure, more dancing on Sunday morning finished off with a yummy brunch, all happening in the classy environment of 17 Wing.

For \$150, you are guaranteed to have a wonderful time. Remember that putting aside \$25 a month, if you started in December, will pay for the weekend. Please show your support and commitment to Scottish Country Dancing by attending. Our numbers will help to determine whether this format should be ongoing for the next few years or whether a one day workshop format with one out of town teacher should be reinstated.

The brochure and registration form is on the website.

Questions or comments may be directed to Jane Nattrass, Coordinator of the Workshop Committee.

2015 Workshop Ceilidh Reminder



Now is the time to plan you Ceilidh item.

Last year's Ceilidh was a fun experience for performers and audience. We already know there is talent among us, but there's more I'm sure. For you seasoned artists here's another opportunity. If you've never done this before take the leap and share your artistic talents.

Here and There...

The Thistle

Nemo me impune lacessit

This Scottish motto meaning "No one provokes me with impunity" has been associated with the thistle since the Danish raiding party in ancient times. The Scots were alerted to the presence of the raiders by a cry of pain by one of the marauders who stepped on a thistle. The "guardian thistle" thus had a great influence on the history of the nation.

*The rough bum-thistle spreading wide
Amang the bearded ear –
I turned the weeding heuk aside
An' spared the emblem dear!!*

Robert Burns

Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and pumps

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Out of Town Events

Golden Jubilee Ball

March 21, 2015

RSCDS Vancouver

Hellenic Centre

4500 Arbutus Street, Vancouver, BC

Contact Mary Ann McDevitt at 604.929.2944

mamcdevitt@shaw.ca.

Annual West End Workshop

Mar 28 – 30, 2015

RSCDS Toronto

Teachers: Ron Wallace (California), Scott Reid (Hamilton),

Keith Bark (Mississauga).

Info at www.dancescottish.ca or
theresamalek@rogers.com

30th Annual West End Workshop

Saturday, March 28, 2015 ~ 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

Turner Fenton Secondary School, Brampton

Teachers: Ron Wallace (California), Scott Reid (Hamilton), Keith Bark (Mississauga). Musicians:

Don Bartlett, Laird Brown, Fred Moyes

Cost: \$58 Workshop, lunch and Tea Dance, \$30

Youth, \$20 Tea Dance only. Ron will also teach at

Erin Mills, Friday, March 27 and at a Teachers'

Workshop Sunday, March 29. More info in the

new year. Contact: theresamalek@rogers.com

Budapest Scottish Dance Weekend and Ball

Apr. 24-26, 2015

Teacher Janet Johnston, music by David

Cunningham's

band. Optional tour of Hungary is available.

Info: www.bstk.hu/ball2015 .

TAC Summer School

July 26 – Aug. 2,

Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia

More info at www.tac-rscds.org/summer-school

46th Annual West Toronto Ball

Saturday May 9, 2015

Columbus Event Centre, Lawrence Ave. & Dufferin St.

Save the date for the 46th annual West Toronto Ball. NEW

LOCATION - The 2015 West Toronto Ball will be held at the

beautiful COLUMBUS CENTRE at Lawrence Avenue West and

Dufferin (www.columbuseventcentre.com)

Music by Scotch Mist. More info soon.

Saltzburg Workshop Weekend

Aug 28-Sept 2, 2015

The Flying Scotsman SCD Group of Saltzburg will warmly

welcome Ron Wallace, Liam Smith, James Gray, and you. Info: <http://goo.gl/BJj9hf>

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 March issue will be **March 7, 2015.**

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@mymts.net

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

This comes from the RSCDS Toronto Newsletter

Ten Commandments for Balls and Socials
(modified from the Frankfurt Scottish Country Dance Club website)

1. Thou shalt not overestimate thyself when asking people to dance lest thou be embarrassed if the set breaketh down because of thee.

2. Thou shalt dance now and then with people other than thy spouse or clan. Entreat yon wallflower from the outer reaches of the hall, or a stranger — stranger only until welcomed by thee.

3. Thou shalt not assemble on the dance floor too early, neither shalt thou do thus alone, for lo! the MC will announce the dance when 'tis time, and even in Scotland it taketh at least two to dance.

4. Thou shalt join a set at the foot and not in the middle (especially if it hath already been counted), lest thou cause wailing and gnashing of teeth even before the dance hath started.

5. Thou shalt count the lines if thou art the top dancer, for knowledge of one's station in the set produces good will in all.

6. Thou shalt cheerfully engage thy partner during the dance so that she or he may be disposed to dance with thee in future.

7. Thou shalt not mar thy neighbour's dance by returning from thy down-the-middle-and-up on bar 9, nor by otherwise not acting as a team player.

8. Thou shalt honour thy musicians, that thy dance may be long into the night and that they might repeat a dance thou hast liked. Entreat thy MC to cry reprise by clapping loudly and long and aerial gesturing.

9. Thou shalt not chide, lest thou be chided — for nobody hath appointed thee judge of thy neighbour's dancing ability. If thou must chide, become a dance teacher and chide thy class; at balls, chiding is an abomination.

10. Thou shalt — in spite of these tedious commandments — above all enjoy thyself and help others enjoy themselves, too.