

# *Light and Airy*



## **Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg**

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### **Committee of Management 2015/16**

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

One of the highlights of our dancing year is, of course, our annual celebration of the life of Scotland's greatest poet, Robert Burns. Each year we assemble to enjoy a wonderful evening of food and

dancing, combined with ceremony and remembrance and good fellowship, all in honour of Robert Burns, a man who, I am sure, always enjoyed a good party.

This year's commemoration was no exception. Our location was the Officers' Mess at 17 Wing Air Force Base, a setting that splendidly lends itself to such festivities. The evening was organized by a committee headed by Betty Poole, with guidance from Margaret Zadworny and Peter McClure, and by all accounts it was an outstanding success. I am grateful to Betty and Margaret and Peter and all the other participants for planning and presenting so memorable an evening. Thanks also to all of you who were able to attend.

The next time we will be assembling at the Officers' Mess will be in the spring for our annual workshop. Until then we have our regular classes and socials to enjoy.

Happy dancing!

*Don Johnson*

### ***Editor's Note***

In a recent conversation, I found that some people were surprised to learn that the rules that we teach in our dance classes, about how we do various actions that occur in dancing, are set out in a Manual maintained by our society. Perhaps it's worth reminding ourselves that ours is a world wide society, and that those of us who travel can, if we wish, find groups dancing the same way that we do here, almost anywhere we may go. It can be a wonderful way to make new friends. These rules, or standards, are what makes this universality possible, so let's embrace them.

The creation and maintenance of the Manual is mentioned in the interview with the late Dr. MacFadyen, referenced below.

### **2015/16 Dance Season**

9 September Wednesday	Open House St Paul's, 8 PM	No charge
Week of 14 September	First term classes begin	
Week of 14 December	Last first term classes	
27 December Sunday	Tea Dance 2-4 PM, St Paul's Hall	Collection
Week of 11 January 2016	Second term classes begin	
15 January	Burns programme preview, 7:30-9:30 PM	
	Silver Heights Church Hall	No charge
23 January Saturday	Burns Dinner, at 17 Wing	Ticket \$50
1 March Tuesday	Social dance, 8 PM, St Paul's	\$5
6 April Wednesday	Social Dance, 8 PM, St Paul's	\$5
Week of 11 April	Last second term classes	
22-24 April	Branch Workshop and Ball, at 17 Wing	

Events will be added to the Calendar as they are scheduled.

## ***Class Notes***

### **Fort Garry Social Class (Monday)**

The Fort Garry Class came to the Branch Burns Dinner and Dance at 17<sup>th</sup> Wing on Saturday, January 23, with hearty appetites for the sumptuous food and practiced foot work for the delightful dances. Peter prepared us for the dance throughout the month of January. We learned to rant like the Montgomeries, not to be left in the pasture during Lea Rig or dwelling at the ridge of a hill in Corn Rigs. I just learned that *rigg* is an Old English language word meaning a bumpy ridge or dweller at a ridge or range of hills and couldn't resist working my knowledge into this report. The meaning of the jig – Just as I was in the Morning or The Deuks Dang Ow'er My Daddy – is thought to be the well-known Gaelic phrase 'deoch an darus' – the 'drams knocked over my Daddie', which must of happened to the night's honoree more than once. In his poem My Bonnie Mary, otherwise known as Fetch Me a Pint, Robert Burns calls for a silver tassie.

“Go fetch to me a pint o wine,  
And fill it in a silver tassie;  
That I may drink, before I go,  
A service to my bonnie lassie;  
The boat rocks at the Pier o' Leith,  
Fu' loud the wind blows frae the Ferry,  
The ship rides by the Berwick-law,  
And I maun leave my bonnie Mary.”

This Burns' poem inspired the strathspey Silver Tassie that we danced in memory of Robert Burns.

The Fort Garry Class held on Monday, January 25 celebrated Robert Burns' birthday through dance. We polished the set and link step dancing Robert McOwen's Burns Night, the La Baratte step in John Drewry's Haggis Tree, and the Bourrel in Bob Campbell's Frae A' The Airts, inspired by the Burns' poem of the same name.

“Of a' the airts the wind can blaw  
I dearly like the west,  
For there the bonie lassie lives,  
The lassie I lo'e best.”

We ended our wonderful evening of celebratory dance with the McClure Family Burns Supper. This dance was devised for Lynn and Peter by Doug Schneider after they had spent a term in Minneapolis.

Never forget that dancing can boost memory, improve flexibility, reduce stress, diminish depression, help your heart, burn calories, enhance balance, increase energy, and result in friendships. These are just a few of the benefits derived from Scottish Country Dance.

*Barbara LeBow*

## **Tuesday Technique Class**

Tuesday evening classes have enjoyed consistently good attendance. We have also experienced a change of teachers from Joyce to Maureen. With such good numbers and mostly experienced dancers, the classes have been filled with technique, interesting figures and complementary dances. In December, with Joyce, we worked on the figure set and rotate for the dance “Capital Jig” and double triangles for the dance “Starry Eyed Lassie”. Shiftin’ Bobbins” is a dance familiar to most people attending Tuesday evening but as a dancer experiencing “Shiftin’ Bobbins” for the first time, I was initially confused. I had little idea of the sequence of formations, but once we started dancing, the path just seemed to open up before me and I kept grabbing hands that were offered and before I knew it, the dance was done.

One of our first dances after Xmas was “The Deuks Dang Ow’er My Daddy” and the title intrigued me. I knew it was a line from a Robert Burns Poem. A little research with Google books turned up two different meanings - one reference had deuks meaning ducks - “the ducks knocked over my daddy”, and the other reference suggested a deuk was a drink – “the drink overcame my daddy”. So you can take your pick - ducks or drink.

For those dancers new to Tuesday evenings, Maureen reviewed the formation ‘set and link, in preparation for the jig “Burns Night”. Maureen said she loved the music for the dance, which was performed by a band from Boston with 28 musicians. In our last few classes, Maureen has been focusing on step practice. She chose *J.B.Milne* to practice transitioning from pas-de-basque to skip change. The last 16 bars of this dance keep three couples very busy, with the dancing couple doing petronella turns as the first and third couples change places in a square formation around the dancing couple. For strathspey step practice, Maureen introduced us to the dance *John McAlpin*, a dance with an interesting setting sequence and which also alternates right hand and left hand. We have been cooling down with the Bramble Circle.

*Hilary Hayles*

## **Wednesday Basics of SCD**

December and January classes have been a little low on numbers, but those who have been attending have had a chance to learn some new formations and to consolidate some previously learned formations. Cheryl introduced us to the rondel figure before Xmas and we reviewed it after Xmas with Sheila Careless. The dances “Haar on Skye” and “Silver Tassie” let us try out this new formation. Gaining familiarity with this figure was an asset to those attending the Burns night as “Silver Tassie” was on the program. We revisited the three couple promenade with a neat little jig entitled “Woo’d Married and ‘A” and Cheryl coached us through the three couple allemande in the dance “Joie de Vivre”. In the first class after Xmas, Cheryl introduced us to what she calls “foot fiddling” in preparation for a change of foot sequence in the dance “The Lea Rig”. There were a couple of formations in this dance that needed review, namely, the petronella, and the 1/2 diamond pousette. It took a while to get them all worked out, but eventually, we were able to enjoy this strathspey. Once again, attendance was low for the last class of January due to a combination of illness, vacation, and other commitments. Cheryl used this time to focus on refinement of steps and figures. She had us practice combinations of long and short steps in quick time then had us practice figures of eight with an emphasis on changing the length of our steps so ladies and men could pace themselves through this

figure. The dance, “Selkirk Settlers”, provided dancers with an opportunity to use what we had learned. So, despite smaller classes in December and January, attendees have reinforced common figures and learned many new dances.

*Hilary Hayles*

## ***Branch News***

### ***Tea Dance***

A small audience enjoyed the tea dance on 27 December. The dance programme had clearly been planned with care and with flexibility in mind – not easy, but a must when the invitation is open to all. A nice variety of dances was chosen by Maureen, and Sheila assisted with the presentation. The tea table was lavish and enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who contributed and participated.

### ***Burns Dinner and Dance***

On Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 many branch members and guests from Clan Ross and Kenora enjoyed our Burns Dinner & Dance at 17Wing in the Officers Mess. Welcoming our guests in the foyer was Jean Highmoor.

The dining tables were elegantly dressed, and the Haggis table was draped in the Air Force Tartan.

Once we were seated for dinner, Don Johnson welcomed everyone and introduced our M.C. for the evening – Ray Plaitin.

The Haggis was piped in by Kirby McRae, carried in by Reg Curle, and the address was given by Frederick Carsted.

The Blessing was given by Helen Barnes. Toast To The Queen was given by Maureen Burnham.

Dinner began with the traditional Haggis, Neeps, and Tatties. This was followed with a delicious roast beef dinner, and finished with trifle, tea & coffee. The over generous portions served defied anyone to leave the table hungry.

A Toast To The Lassies was given by Doug Durnin, and the reply by Cheryl Durnin. The Immortal Memory was presented musically this year by the Celtic Trio (Peter & Lynn McClure and Shirley Tinsley).

The dinner portion of the evening ended with an enjoyable rendition of the Star Of Robbie Burns sung by Frederick Carsted.

The second half of the evening began with Maureen Burnham introducing a tribute to Robbie Burns in the form of the dance Tribute to Talent, devised by Roy Goldring, prepared for this occasion by Margaret Zadworny, and danced by Doug & Cheryl Durnin, Peter & Lynn McClure, Frederick Carsted, Joyce Cormack, Don Johnson, and Shirley Tinsley. General dancing followed with a programme devised and briefed by Peter McClure.

Our band, Scotch Measure, was greatly missed this year, but Peter had us dancing to a set from their latest CD Prairie Gold.

Tea, coffee, and shortbread was available throughout the evening.

The evening ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne, and a Thank You to all those involved that helped make the evening a fun filled success.

*Betty Poole*

Editor's note: Betty didn't mention all the behind the scenes work that went into making the event the success it surely was (IMO): Margaret Zadworny provided valuable assistance with the music for the dance programme, Jean Highmoor printed tickets, Joan Curle prepared the table programmes, and Betty and Bob made several visits to 17 Wing in advance to ensure the arrangements, including finishing the table settings on Saturday afternoon. Thanks for all the hard work!

### ***45<sup>th</sup> Weekend Workshop***

Our annual workshop will be taking place April 22-24 this year. The committee has worked to make changes we believe will benefit everyone in one way or another. Check out the details on the website at <http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/> and print the brochure and registration form from there. If you know someone who does not have access to a computer, please let me know so I can get it mailed to them. There will be more information in future Light & Airy issues.

*Sharon Plaitin on behalf of the Workshop Committee*

### ***Branch Social March 1***

Watch for programme and cribs, coming soon on the Branch web site.

## ***Local Events***

### ***Irish Ceili***

Sunday 14 Feb, 2:30 – 5 PM,  
St Paul's Hall  
Admission \$10 (\$5 Comhaltas members & students, under 12 free)

Irish ceili dancing for all, called by Jeremy Hull  
Music by Flatland Ceili Band  
Performances by : McConnell Irish Dancers and Comhaltas Set Dancers  
Irish music session to follow

(Comhaltas is an organization dedicated to the preservation and performance of traditional Irish music; there is a local "branch".)

### ***Village Green Auction and Dance***

Saturday 20 February, 1 PM  
Silver Heights Church Hall

Rainbow, Silent and Live Auctions; all proceeds go toward the recording of a CD of English country dance music by Elizabeth Goossen for 12 English country dances, also composed by Elizabeth.

Tea dance follows the auctions; this will be the annual dance in memory of John Trevenen.

No admission charge - save your money for the auctions!

For more info, or to donate to the auctions, email Ann [annfriesen@gmail.com](mailto:annfriesen@gmail.com)

## ***Here and There...***

### ***Interview With Alastair MacFadyen***

For the information of all dancers I would like to draw your attention to an obituary in the October 2015 edition of the magazine. There is a writeup on Dr Alastair MacFadyen describing his life and his influence on the RSCDS which is most interesting.

An Editor's Note mentions an interview with Dr Alistair MacFadyen which is available on the RSCDS website at RSCDS.org. You can find it under the News section on the 2nd page of the news. This video is also posted on Youtube.

During this interview he describes his association with dancing which began at the age of five and continued throughout his whole life. Very interesting and I was particularly impressed with his comments on the future of dancing. How wonderful that we have this recording.

*Joyce Cormack*

For anyone interested, the Youtube link is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMYP5yaPNbo#t=2328>

The video lasts for about an hour, but for anyone interested in the society, it's worth watching, so set the time aside.

### ***Scottish Gear For Sale***

Your pdf reader may let you scale the image for better viewing ...

**Men's Full Kilt  
with Complete Ensemble**



Suitable for a male of 5'10 to 6', 185 to 205 lbs.  
The ensemble includes a locally made Kilt consisting of the Hunting MacPherson Tartan in ancient colours. It also includes a locally hand-made Sporrán, bearing the same crest as the Kilt Pin.  
Also included are a formal Jacket and vest, peasant shirt two pair of hose (off-white and light grey), and hose garters made from the matching kilt tartan.  
One Pair Gillies (size 11) also included but optional. Without them, reduce the price \$50

**Asking Price = \$750**  
For enquiries please call Terence  
**204-837-3223**

### ***Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and pumps***

[www.avriel.com](http://www.avriel.com)

Your one stop shoe shop for all your dancing needs.

### ***Clan Info and Scottish Shop***

[www.scotclans.com](http://www.scotclans.com)

### ***Dance Shoes Available***

One pair of men's dance shoes, jazz style, soft sole, a nicely made shoe, and in very good condition. Quite a large size – listed as 16 inside the shoe. Megan has been asking \$15 on Kijiji (which is a bargain price), but her priority is to see the shoes put to good use. If interested, call Megan at 204 291 9529.

### ***Out of Town Events***

Toronto, ON

2 April 2016

31<sup>st</sup> Annual West End Workshop

Details at [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

Wolfville NS

15-19 August 2016

Scotch on the Rocks: dancing and excursions!

Info from Duncan Keppie [keppie@eastlink.ca](mailto:keppie@eastlink.ca)

### ***Important Dates***

**COM meetings:** Next meeting 2 March 2016

**Next L&A:** Deadline for the February issue will be 4 March 2016. With COM meetings returning to a familiar schedule (first Wednesdays), L&A deadlines will go to the following Friday.

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

Please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to Peter McClure [joptmc@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:joptmc@cc.umanitoba.ca).

This and several past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website

[www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)