

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Committee of Management 2012/13

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From the Chair....

In June, we were suddenly into “summer” weather which has continued on into July. Since taking over as Chair, the new Committee of Management has been kept busy catching up on all the details of the various committees and projects. First of all, a special thank you to the outgoing COM members - to Pat Clubb, our immediate past Chair who has done a great job of all that needed to be done throughout the year, with her calm manner and warm smile. One never wanted to say “no” to her. To Glen Colquhoun, our Webmaster, who has done such an excellent job of maintaining our website since the beginning, plus recently redesigning it to give it a fresh look! Thank you to both of you. To our new COM members - Joyce Cormack, who stepped up to the plate to be Vice-Chair; to Sheila Careless, our new Webmaster; and Maureen Burnham, the new Teachers’ Rep - a warm welcome. To our returning COM members, thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Branch.

Although regular classes are now over (except for Demonstration rehearsals), the work behind the scenes and in public carries on. We have recently just attended “Heritage Days” at Lower Fort Garry. Over these seven days, 1,537 Grade 5 children from various school divisions, in groups of approximately 8 to 24, came through the doors of the “Married Settlers’ Quarters”, where Joyce Cormack taught them a simple Scottish

Country Dance that might have been danced in the early days of the Settlers. Joyce did a great job of teaching all these children, helped by members of the Branch who came out regularly to support her. Our thanks to all of you.

As you know, we are in the throes of preparing for the Winnipeg Branch's 50th Anniversary next year. The special project we are working on is the recording of a CD of dance music by Scotch Measure, for dances submitted by Branch members, plus the accompanying book of the chosen dances. We had two evenings of reviewing the dances at St. Paul's Church Hall, and members who participated voted on each dance. The final review of the dances chosen was held on July 19th.

Our Jubilee Social was held on Friday, June 15th, to honour HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. HM the Queen is Patron of the RSCDS. The hall was appropriately decorated in red, white and blue, including two large Union Jack shields (from Mug Pub days) and a table display of "Royal Memorabilia". Everyone who came was "dressed up" in some fashion for the occasion – sparkling tiaras, long dresses with long white gloves, pearl necklaces, and the men in Highland dress! The music for the special program of dances, played so well by Ken Natrass on accordion and Ron Krug on piano, added greatly to the occasion. Towards the end of the evening, when we sang *God Save the Queen*, followed by *Auld Lang Syne*, there were a few "lumps" in the throat and a "tear in the eye".

We enjoyed fare fit for a "Queen"! There were tea and coffee poured from silver tea/coffee pots into lovely china tea cups, cucumber sandwiches, egg sandwiches, pancakes and jam, fruit platter, dainties to name but a few and a lovely cake to top off the evening. Nobody wanted to go home! A very big "thank you" goes to Anne Morrison, our Social Convener, and all her many helpers, for arranging this delicious fare with that touch of elegance, plus all the decorating of the hall. It all added up to make the Jubilee Social a special event.

Earlier that same evening, we bade "au revoir" to Maggie Careless, one of our new Branch members this past year (she is the daughter of Sheila and Bruce Careless). Maggie was leaving for the UK in a few days time, for approximately two years, to work and travel, and we hope dance, around the country. She has been a great supporter of the Branch events throughout the year. We will miss her, but we wish her well and good luck in her travels.

On June 23rd, some of us were at The Forks celebrating Multicultural Days, where we had a booth and also did a short demonstration. I hope that you all had a happy time on July 1st, celebrating Canada Day. Wasn't it hot? The Demonstration Team, wearing their Selkirk Settlers' costumes, danced at Lower Fort Garry. They were joined by the Windsor Children Scottish Country Dancers. The children have been joining us out there for the past few years. It is always a delight to have them, and they are so warmly received by the audience. Later that afternoon, the Demonstration Team travelled to Teulon to join the local Métis group in their Canada Day celebrations. In spite of the heat, we managed to find a lovely shady spot under a large tree with overhanging branches and, as a plus, there was a gentle breeze blowing! It was so pleasant to sit there and relax as we waited for our turn to go on stage. All in all, a lovely day.

The main celebrations of the Bicentennial of the Selkirk Settlers will take place during the first two weeks of September, including the Branch's contribution of a Pageant/Ceilidh on Friday, September 7th at Lower Fort Garry. Further information regarding this event is printed in this issue of the *Light and Airy*.

Also included in these celebrations is a Formal Dinner on Saturday, September 8th at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, coordinated by the St. Andrews Society, on behalf of the Bicentenary of the Red River Selkirk Settlement Committee. Lord Selkirk and other dignitaries are expected to attend. Further information regarding Bicentennial events can be found in the *Light and Airy*.

In the meantime, enjoy the "Happy Days of Summer"!

Christine Wallace

2012/13 Dance Season

Friday September 7, 2012	Bicentennial Pageant, Lower Fort Garry (tickets required)
Friday September 14	Welcome Dance, 7:30 pm – No charge
Week of September 17	Fall Term Regular classes begin
Thursday September 20	Fall Term Introductory classes begin
Monday November 26	St. Andrew's Social (hosted by the Fort Garry Social Class)
Thursday November 29	Last Introductory class of Fall Term
Week of December 10	Last Regular classes of Fall Term
Thursday December 27	Betwixt and Between Dance
Week of January 14, 2012	Winter Term Regular classes begin
Thursday January 17	Winter Term Introductory classes begin
Saturday January 26	Burns Dinner and Dance, Silver Heights Church Hall
Tuesday March 5	Class Social (hosted by the Technique Class)
Thursday March 21	Last Introductory class of Winter Term
Saturday April 13	Wind-up Social (hosted by the COM and Teachers)
Week of April 22	Last Regular classes of Winter Term
Friday-Sunday May 17-19	50 th Anniversary Workshop, Dinner and Ball
Wednesday May 22	AGM

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

From the Editor

A motion was passed at the AGM in May for the *Light and Airy* to be put into a one column format to make it easier to read online. Since some members still print their newsletters, both one column and two column versions are provided this month. Your feedback on these formats would be appreciated.

This has been a busy spring and summer for our Branch, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Big Bike, and the Bicentennial of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers providing additional opportunities for dancing, demonstrations and promotion of Scottish Country Dancing. There are more events still to come, with Folklorama in mid-August and the Bicentennial celebrations in early September. Look for more information on these events in the *Light and Airy* and on the Branch website. We hope to see you there!

Heather Ferguson

2012/13 Membership Registration

The 2012/13 membership registration form will be available on the website towards the end of summer. Your completed registration form and cheque may be dropped off at the September 14th Welcome Dance, or mailed to the Registrar.

Structure for Branch Classes 2012/13

The proposal for the 2012/13 class structure, which appeared in the March issue of the *Light and Airy*, was approved at the AGM on May 16. The proposal was then reviewed by the Teachers' Committee and approved by the COM on June 6.

This year, the Branch will offer two 10-week terms of Introductory classes, along with two 13-week terms of Social and Technique classes.

The teachers for 2012/13 are as follows:

Introductory	Maureen Burnham
Fort Garry Social	Joyce Cormack (first term) Peter McClure (second term)
Technique	Cheryl Durnin
Demonstration	Christine Wallace

Descriptions for the classes can be found on the Branch website.

Demonstration Team

The Demonstration Team has had a busy summer, with the following demonstrations completed to date:

May 30 – June 19	Heritage Days (Lower Fort Garry)
June 23	Canadian Multicultural Day
June 24	McBeth House Centre
July 1	Lower Fort Garry
July 1	Teulon Métis Gathering
July 14	L'Union Nationale Métisse
July 18	West Park Manor
July 21	Lower Fort Garry (Parks Day)
July 26	Golden Door

Upcoming demonstrations include:

August 14	Pavilion of Scotland
September 1-8	Bicentennial Celebrations
September 7	RSCDS Bicentennial Pageant

Agnes Brydon

Upcoming Events

Folklorama

This year the Pavilion of Scotland will be open during Week Two of Folklorama – August 12th to 18th. The Pavilion will again be located at Glenwood Community Centre, which is located at 27 Overton Street in St. Vital.

Volunteers are needed for the RSCDS booth, located in the quieter, air-conditioned gymnasium. We will also be leading participation dances each evening in the gymnasium at 7:30 pm. Members are encouraged to join in the dances and illustrate the fun of Scottish Country Dancing to the uninitiated.

If you are interested in volunteering at the booth, please contact David Kroeker at wander@mts.net or phone 284-4667.

Bicentenary of the Red River Selkirk Settlement *September 2012*

The following is a little information on an upcoming event that the Winnipeg Branch is presenting as a part of the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Red River Selkirk Settlers in what is now Manitoba.

The bicentennial celebrations will be held from September 1-9, 2012 at various venues. The RSCDS event will be a pageant/ceilidh to be held at Lower Fort Garry on September 7, 2012 at 7:00 pm. The pageant will depict the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers at York Factory in August 1812 and their subsequent journey to The Forks. This will be followed by a ceilidh, with participation dancing and a sing-a-long. To end the evening, refreshments of light Scottish fare will be served.

Admission is free but you must have a ticket to get in. Due to the limited space and the tremendous interest in the pageant/ceilidh, **there are no more tickets available for this event.** However, a waiting list is being kept in case there are cancellations. If you would like to be put on the waiting list, please contact Agnes Brydon at 837-7346 or e-mail at brydona@yahoo.com.

Agnes Brydon

Bicentennial Events

Information on the history of the Selkirk Settlement and special events to celebrate the Bicentenary can be found on the Bicentenary of the Red River Selkirk Settlement website at www.redriver200.ca.

RSCDS 50th Anniversary 2013

May 17-19, 2013

First of all, we are delighted that Jane Natrass has agreed to be the Chair of the 50th Anniversary Workshop, which will take place on the long weekend in May 2013. The actual dates are Friday evening, May 17th to Sunday afternoon, May 19th. The classes will be held at Silver Heights United Church Hall and across the street at St. Stephen's and St. Bede's Church Hall. The venue for the Dinner and Ball and the Sunday events will be announced later by the Workshop Chair, as will the Guest teachers.

A special Burns Dinner and Dance will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at Silver Heights United Church Hall. This will be the "Kick Off" Celebration to our Golden Anniversary year.

Advance Planning Committee for 50th Anniversary

Event Reports

Heritage Days – Lower Fort Garry

May and June 2012

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Branch members for coming out to Lower Fort Garry to help teach the children *The Virginia Reel* at the Heritage Activity Days. The children were all Grade 5 students from various school divisions, such as Lord Selkirk School Division, Lakeshore School Division, Sunrise School Division, Louis Riel School Division, and Pembina Trails School Division, to name a few. There were seven sessions this year, which kept us pretty busy.

Events were held on May 30 and 31 and June 1, 4, 7, 12 and 19.

Joyce Cormack did the briefing at every session and the volunteer dancers helped with getting the children into sets and demonstrating the figures to be done.

The following Branch members gave freely of their time, some on many occasions. The number of events that each dancer attended is indicated in parentheses.

Sheila Careless (3), Maggie Careless (2), Reg Curle (1), Debbie Forrest (1), Jean Highmoor (2), Margaret Jones (2), Rose Klusowski (2), David Kroeker (1), Wendy Land (1), Barbara LeBow (2), Scott MacRae (2), Donna McNamara (1), Anne Morrison (2), Betty Poole (2), Bob Poole (4), Donna Robinson (2), Gerri Stemler (2), Christine Wallace – Music Lady (6), Joyce Cormack – Teacher (7), and Agnes Brydon – organizer (7).

Following is a listing of the number of children that attended our "Station":

Wednesday May 30	268 children	35 adults
Thursday May 31	188 children	10 adults
Friday June 1	218 children	12 adults
Monday June 4	141 children	14 adults
Thursday June 7	263 children	34 adults
Tuesday June 12	225 children	26 adults
Tuesday June 19	234 children	20 adults

**Grand total for the seven days:
1,537 children and 151 adults***

* these adults were either teachers or parents who participated in the dance.

Thanks again to everyone for a successful event.

Agnes Brydon



*"Music Lady" Christine Wallace at
the Lower Fort Garry Heritage Days*



Some of the volunteers at Heritage Days

Standing: Bob Poole and Reg Curle

Seated: Agnes Brydon, Betty Poole, Joyce Cormack, and a Lower Fort Garry volunteer

Big Bike 2012

June 20, 2012

Wednesday, June 20 was a gorgeous day, though somewhat cloudy down at The Forks. The frequent rain we had been having held off just for us. Our team of 22, consisting mostly of RSCDS dancers, with a few family and friends, met under the canopy to submit our envelopes of money raised for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and to make sure we were all displaying some lovely tartans. After all, we want to take every opportunity to advertise Scottish Country Dancing to the public. Some wore sashes and some kilts. Two cyclists wearing the official red-coloured shirts led the way, slightly ahead of the 30-seat Big Bike.

After mounting our seats, the driver in charge got us smiling and in the team spirit by leading us through several hand signals and accompanying cheers. We started out from in front of the Explore Manitoba building, went down Waterfront Drive, past the developing Human Rights building and Shaw Park, and then turned around at the beautiful Selkirk Settlers monument.

In addition to our voices, we had been given maracas and our handle bars had bells we could ring, so I believe we made our presence known loudly. Of course, we waved like royalty as we passed pedestrians and honking cars. For those who looked like they had had a long hard day at work, our fanfare brought a smile. Reg Curle brought CDs of traditional Scottish music, some of which had a more modern flavour, which was played through the bike's speakers.

The seats were a little uncomfortable in that a few of us thought we kept sliding forward, but the pedaling was easy. A fun time was had by all, and it's always enjoyable to see Branch members again over the summer! Upon returning to the canopy, we noted the total money raised (our team raised \$2,118), and were given a delicious chicken wrap and a Big Bike cloth bag. A big thank you goes to Heather Ferguson for organizing our involvement in the event!

Rose Klusowski

Note: The Big Bike event raised \$114,000 in Winnipeg (a record and far exceeding the goal of \$100,000), over \$25,000 in Brandon and almost \$5,000 in Morden/Winkler. The Big Bike ride will continue in rural Manitoba in September.



Scottish Country Dancers Big Bike Team



The Big Bike Team Ready to Roll Through The Forks

Diamond Jubilee Social

June 15, 2012

The Winnipeg Branch hosted a social evening to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The social was held on Friday, June 15 at St. Paul's Church Hall. Music for the special program of "royal" dances was provided by Ken Natrass on accordion and Ron Krug on piano.

Those who attended the celebration dressed for the occasion, with tiaras, fascinators, pearls and long gloves. The evening ended with a lovely tea, complete with silver tea service and china cups.

Photos provided by David Kroeker.



Branch Chair Christine Wallace pouring tea



Our "Queen" - Branch Chair Christine Wallace



Cake prepared for the Diamond Jubilee celebration by Joan Curle



Dancers in their finery

Here and There

Lost and Found

Found after the workshop: A size Large, hip length cardigan. It is black with long sleeves and pockets. If it is yours, please contact Sharon Plaitin at 204-661-1257.

50th Anniversary Banners

We are looking for 50th Anniversary banners for the Branch's Golden Anniversary celebrations in 2013. Please contact Anne Morrison at 488-9548 if you have banners that can be used for this purpose.

Introducing Scottish Country Dancing

What is it that has made this dancing so attractive to so many people who have no connection with Scotland? It is perhaps, first of all, the social intercourse not found in so many other forms of Ballroom Dancing. In Scottish Country Dancing, the form of the dance, in sets of four or more couples, allows dancers to meet and dance with all the people in the set, and so friends are made, for it is quite correct to ask anyone in the set to dance without further introduction.

Next is the music ... No country in the world has a richer store of dance music than has Scotland.

Thirdly, the technique, which offers a real challenge and keeps people interested and alert. The better the technique, the more pleasant and easy becomes the dancing, and this fact keeps the dancers on their toes mentally and physically.

Jean Milligan

Submitted by Debbie Forrest. Reprinted from the May 2012 edition of *The Ghillies Gab*, Calgary RSCDS

Out of Town Events

Saskatoon, SK

September 29-30, 2012

RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch

32nd Annual Workshop, Banquet and Ball

Teachers: Irene Paterson and Fred Demarse

Musicians: Ken Natrass and Ron Krug

Contact: Bob McNaughton (info@rscdsSask.org or www.rscdssask.org)

Banff, AB

October 6-8, 2012

RSCDS Calgary Branch

Dancing in the Rockies

Teachers: Marjorie McLaughlin (USA), Simon Scott (Canada), Sue Porter (Scotland) and Ron Wallace (USA)

Music: Laird Brown and the Scottish Accent

Contact: Ilo Torgerson (Torgeri@shaw.ca)

Santa Fe, NM

November 2-4, 2012

RSCDS New Mexico Branch

Gala Scottish Dance Weekend

Teachers: Bill Zobel and Tine McKay

Music: Muriel Johnstone and Judi Nicholson

Contact: Rob Sanders (RobTaosSCD@ao)

Pacific Grove, CA

November 2-4, 2012

RSCDS San Francisco Branch

Asilomar Weekend Workshop and Ball

Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Roberta Gotfried, Dwayne McQuilliams, Antoine Rousseau, and Janet Lois Walker

Music: Calum MacKinnon & Andy Imbrie, Fiddlesticks and Ivory

Contact: Julee Montes (650-722-0473 or julm-hcs@pacbell.net)

Christchurch, NZ

December 28, 2012 – January 6, 2013

RSCDS New Zealand Branch

Ilam Summer School

Dancing classes, Teacher's Preparation Class, Musicians Course

Teachers: Gaye Collin (Wellington) and Mechthild Timmins (Adelaide)

Contact: Doug Mills (doug.mills@rscdsnz.org.nz or +54 3 356 2698)

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: Next COM meeting is August 30, 2012. COM meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May. Exceptions are Thursday, November 1, 2012 and Thursday, January 10, 2013.

Next L&A: Deadline for the August - September 2012 issue is **August 24, 2012.**

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).