

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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From the Chair....

I always have the feeling that once January is over, winter will be as well! How wrong I was this year, for as classes continued into February, we had some interruption due to heavy snowfalls. Then March arrived quietly, for one day only, then it changed with the "Lion's roar!" I should know better after living in Manitoba for over fifty years!

Members of the Winnipeg Branch were very sorry to learn of the death of Lawrence Cormack, husband of Joyce, on March 3, after a long illness with cancer. Lawrence was a former member of the Branch, but continued to support us, with Joyce, in our many activities. Condolences have been sent to Joyce on behalf of the Branch. Lawrence will be sorely missed in the Scottish Community. Shortly afterwards, on March 16, Lawrence's sister Doreen passed away suddenly in Dryden at the age of 81. She was quite involved with the Dryden dance group for a number of years.

We were also saddened to hear that Christine Eveleigh, a former Branch member, had passed away in January 2013. Christine had been an active member of the Committee of Management and the Demonstration class. Condolences will be sent to her family.

In spite of the wild wintery weather, the attendance at the Technique Class Social on Tuesday March 5th was good, with 46 people attending, including the second Introductory Class. There was a lively atmosphere, with everyone enjoying themselves to the accompaniment of great music provided by the Band, “Scotch Measure”, who were in great form. The “goodies” provided at the end of the evening were delicious. Our thanks go to Donna McNamara, the class’s Social rep, and all her helpers, and to Anne Morrison, the Branch’s Social Convenor. The theme for the evening, as indicated on the wall programmes, so appropriately decorated by Jean Highmoor, was “March came in like a Lion.”

The By-Laws Review Committee has met once. There will probably be one more meeting required before their recommendations go before the Committee of Management.

A new type of CD player was tried out at one of the Tuesday classes. It needs more checking into with regard to the type of amplifier required to be used with it.

A second “Advanced “ class, taught by Margaret Zadworny, was held on Friday March 1st. Nine dancers came out and had a good time! The next one will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013.

This year, Tartan Day will be held at The Forks on Saturday, April 6, 2013, from approximately 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the Scottish Heritage Council, of which we are a member.

In the meantime, “Happy Dancing!”

*Sincerely,
Christine Wallace*

2012/13 Dance Season

Thursday March 21	Last Introductory class of Winter Term
Thursday April 4	Introductory Class - make-up class
Friday April 5	Advanced Class (last one of the Winter Term), \$5.00
Thursday April 11	Introductory Class – additional class (no charge)
Saturday April 13	Wind-up Social (hosted by the COM and Teachers)
Week of April 22	Last Regular classes of Winter Term
Monday April 29	Fort Garry Social Class - make-up class
Tuesday April 30	General class (Ball Program), 8:00 pm, \$2.00
Tuesday, May 7	General class (Ball Program), 8 pm, \$2.00
Tuesday, May 14	General class (Ball Program), 8 pm, \$2.00
Friday-Sunday May 17-19	50 th Anniversary Workshop, Dinner and Ball, and Tea Dance
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 Hall, North Drive and Point Road, at 8:00 pm, with admission of \$10.00, unless otherwise noted.

From the Editor

As the calendar for the 2012/13 Dance Season indicates, April and May will be full of dancing opportunities. In preparation for the Branch's 50th Anniversary celebrations on May 17 to 19, extra classes have been added on April 30, May 7 and May 14 to focus on the Ball program. These classes will cost \$2 and replace Spring Dancing this year.

There will also be three more dancing opportunities in April: two make-up classes (April 4 and 29) and an extra night of dancing for the Introductory Class (April 11).

This issue also includes information on other upcoming events, such as Tartan Day and the Wind-up Social, as well as the highly successful March 16 Ceilidh. Suggestions are provided for interesting books that can be borrowed from the Branch Library as well information on two projects that have direct relevance to our community - the Bicentenary of the Kildonan Clearances and the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Project. Plenty to keep everyone busy!

Heather Ferguson

Branch News

Memoriam – Lawrence Cormack

Lawrence was born in Canada, raised in Scotland and a true Scotsman to the end.

Joyce met Lawrence while dancing in Kenora and in 1997, after their marriage, brought him to Winnipeg. Lawrence joined the Winnipeg Branch and became involved in all facets of Scottish Country Dancing.

It seems, however, that Lawrence was more a talker than a dancer, and he frequently held "Kitchen meetings".

Not surprisingly, Lawrence eventually became involved with almost every Scottish group in Winnipeg. There he was able to share his enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, all things Scottish.

Lawrence and Joyce became totally immersed in the Scottish community.

Lawrence, you will be missed.

Joyce – our condolences.

Card of Thanks

On behalf of the family and myself, I would like to express our sincere thanks for the cards and messages of condolence received from the Committee of Management and our many friends in Scottish dancing on the sudden passing of my dear husband Lawrence.

We were blessed with his presence in our lives and are comforted to know how he touched so many people in dancing, and in the broader Scottish community. Your support at this difficult time is truly appreciated.

Joyce Cormack

Highland Welcome

*When Death's dark stream I ferry oe'r,
(A time that surely shall come),
In Heav'n itself I'll ask no more,
Than just a Highland welcome.*

Robert Burns

50th Anniversary Congratulations

The Winnipeg Branch received the following card of congratulations from RSCDS Headquarters:

Congratulations to Winnipeg Branch

*on your 50th anniversary as a Branch of
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.*

*With very best wishes for 2013
And many more years of happy dancing!*

John Wilkinson, Chairman

*The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh,
Scotland EH3 7AF*

Golden Jubilee Competition

The Winnipeg Branch held a competition to name the book and CD being prepared for the 50th Anniversary. The name was to include references to the Golden Jubilee and Winnipeg or the Prairies. It was announced at the Technique Class Social that the winner of the competition is Margaret Speer, who submitted the name *Prairie Gold*. Congratulations Margaret!

Library News

Take Advantage of our Branch Lending Library

As well as booklets and CDs for sale, the Branch Library has an excellent inventory of books about the history and music of Scottish Country Dancing and personalities that shaped our organization. Learn more about what makes our dancing unique and so widely popular. We also have a few CDs relevant to dance techniques. Check out our table at the next social or contact me directly. We will be reloading our supplies for the 50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball. Below are some books available for lending:

- *Dance With your Soul* - biography of RSCDS co-founder Jean C. Milligan
- *An Album for Mrs. Stewart* - biography of RSCDS co-founder Mrs. Stewart
- *Scotland Through Her Country Dances* - a history of the RSCDS, music for Scottish Country Dancing, Highland dress and Tartans. Also the history (social and political), folklore and poetry of Scotland.
- *Rantin' Pipe and Tremblin' String* - a history of Scottish dance music
- *A Social History of Scottish Dance*
- *The Story of Scottish Country Dancing*
- *The Traditional and National Music of Scotland* - this book covers all facets of dancing, including Gaelic songs and "fairy songs" reputed to be music composed by the "little people". Some references to the bagpipes and Scottish Harp. There is also a section on music of the Orkney and Shetland Islands.
- *Swinging Sporrán* - a lighthearted guide to the basic steps of Scottish reels and country dances
- *Wild Geese: The Irish Brigades of France and Spain* - soldiers self-exiled because of politics, religion, economics or temperament, who served as mercenaries to the world in battles between 1680 and 1860.

Added to the collection this fall is a CD of the pageant produced by the Winnipeg Branch at Lower Fort Garry for the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers in the Red River area.

Reg Curle

Upcoming Events

Advanced Class

April 5, 2013

The last Advanced Class of the Winter Term will be held on Friday April 5 at St. Paul's Church Hall, from 8:00-10:00 pm. The fee is \$5.00 per class. The teacher is Margaret Zadworny.

Tartan Day Celebrations

April 6, 2013

Tartan Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 6 at The Forks Market from 1 to 3 pm, with representatives from the federal, provincial and city governments bringing greetings. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Gordon Goldsborough from the Manitoba Historical Society.

Entertainment will be provided by our very own Demonstration Team as well as the Manitoba Highland Dancers Association, The Manitoba Pipes and Drums, The Southglen Fiddlers and vocalist Debbie Young (one of our new dancers).

Come out and support our dancers and Scottish organizations!

Wind-up Social

April 13, 2013

The Committee of Management and the Teachers will be hosting the Wind-up Social on Saturday, April 13, at St. Paul's Church Hall. Dancing will start at 8:00 pm. Admission is \$10.00 (\$5.00 for the Introductory Class); music will be provided by Scotch Measure. The dance program is as follows:

Wind-up Social		
The Flowers of Edinburgh	32R3	Book 1 - 6
A Trip to Sucker Bay	32J3	Leaflet
The Birks of Invermay	32S3	Book 16 - 2
Catch the Wind	32HP3	Book 45 - 5
Neidpath Castle	32S3	Book 22 - 9
The Convict Ship	32R2 rtr	Leaflet
The Golden Boy	32J3	Leaflet
The Rakes of Glasgow	32S3	Book 11 - 11
Catch as Catch Can	32R4	LAD
The Reel of the 51 st Division	32R3	Book 13 - 10

Crib notes are available on the Branch website

Ado About Something
Village Green's Shakespearean Spring Ball
April 20, 2013

The Village Green English Country Dancing organization is holding a Shakespearean Spring Ball on Saturday, April 13 at the Khartum Shrine Centre, 1155 Wilkes Avenue. The bar opens at 5:30 pm, dinner is at 6:00 and dancing begins at 7:30. There will be Elizabethan Entertainment during intermissions.

The cost of the event is on a sliding scale, ranging from \$45 to \$60. The cost of dancing without dinner is \$25. Deadline for ordering tickets is April 10. For further information, contact Sandra Johnston, Ball Committee Chair (204-889-8780), or check the Village Green ECD website (www.villagegreenenglishcountrydancing.org).

RSCDS Winnipeg Branch
50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball
May 17-19, 2013

Teachers: Robin Lynch, Quadra Island, BC
Simon Scott, Vancouver, BC
Workshop Musicians: Ken Natrass, Accordion
Ron Krug, Piano
Band: Scotch Measure

For application forms and further information,
go to our website at www.rscdswinnipeg.ca.

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO !!!!!!!!

It is time to send in those registration forms for the 50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball. If you so desire, you are welcome to post-date your cheque to May 3, 2013. **We must have the registrations for all the weekend's activities by this date in order to meet the security requirements of 17 Wing.**

Registration forms are on the RSCDS website. A few are available at classes. The cost of the weekend activities has been subsidized by your RSCDS Winnipeg Branch. Come out and help us celebrate, renew acquaintances, enjoy photos of the past, laugh, share stories and dance your "tootsies" off. Sounds like too much fun to me!

Reminders:

We may require assistance with **billeting** and **transportation** to and from events. If you are able and willing to assist in some way over that weekend, please contact Jean Highmoor (accommodation) and Bob Poole (transportation).

Photos are being collected by Debbie Forrest to be part of a *slide presentation* of the past 50 years of RSCDS activities. If you have any you would like to share, please contact Debbie by e-mail, at forrestparalegal@mymts.net.

Have you given any more thought to sponsoring a prepared basket for the raffles?! Think of themes – Spring, cottage, lake, garden, golfing, tea and scones! These **raffle baskets** help to reduce the cost of the weekend, as the proceeds act as part of our revenue for the weekend. We have a few already! What about something for the **silent auction**? We have two items already! It will be a surprise!

Well, I think that is all for now!! Get the registration forms in!!! Sharon is waiting!!!

Jane Natrass
Chair, 50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball

Event Reports

Ceilidh

March 16, 2013

The Growth and Development Committee, along with the general membership of the Branch and the Transcona Thursday afternoon class, hosted a ceilidh on March 16 at the Transcona Retired Citizens Centre. The evening was very successful, with over 80 people in attendance.

Thanks to:

- Joyce Cormack for organizing the program and briefing the dances,
- Christine Wallace for playing the music,
- Agnes Brydon and Jean Highmoor for manning the table at the door and greeting our guests,
- Debbie Forrest for entertaining us with the *Accordion Reel* tap dance,
- Margaret Fentum for telling us her wee story about the haggis,
- Sheila Careless for singing the St. Anne Reel, accompanied by Reimer6, and
- Debbie Young for singing *Flow Gently Sweet Afton* while accompanying herself on the piano.

Our friends, Reimer6, also entertained us with a few sets of music and played the music for some of our dances.

The music was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and the dance floor was packed with young and old, experienced and inexperienced. The evening concluded with a sing-song led by Sheila, Ray, Debbie, Scott and Maureen, accompanied by Debbie on piano, and followed by the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Thank you to Betty Poole and Donna Robinson and all those who assisted in the kitchen, David Kroeker for setting up the sound system, and everyone who brought contributions for the food table. A good time was had by all.



Reimer6



Everyone enjoying Riverside

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

Attendance at the Fort Garry Social Class remains strong, despite the challenges of a Manitoba winter.

Peter McClure had us preparing for the Technique Class Social (which unfortunately I was unable to attend) with dances such as *Burns Night*, *Catch the Wind* and *St. John River*. I remember doing these dances years ago, but it was nice to dust them off and refresh our knowledge of them. Now that we have entered the month of March, Peter has gone Irish on us: *Rory O'More* and a square set dance titled *Father O'Flynn*. The best I can say for that dance is that Father O'Flynn must have been a man of many parts, if he was anything like the dance: 48 bars long, with lots of different bits and pieces!

Speaking of bits and pieces, that well describes the present state of my luxury car. On March 7, I was T-boned by someone going through a red light at Waverley and Taylor, leaving yours truly temporarily without wheels. Happily, neither of us drivers were seriously hurt, but it did throw my normal schedule completely out of whack. Having a new rental car just isn't the same. As a consequence, I had to miss a number of planned events.

That week also marked the loss of one of the stalwarts of our Winnipeg Scottish community, Lawrence Cormack. My memories of Lawrence go back to my own early years at RSCDS Winnipeg. Lawrence was a regular at Fort Garry Social until his health dictated otherwise. We all used to try to engage him in conversation just to hear his wonderful heavy Scottish brogue. Always the gentleman, Lawrence indulged us and represented all that was best in our Scottish community. Our hearts go out to Joyce and his extended family; he was a positive life force that all of us would do well to emulate.

John Giesbrecht

Technique Class

The March Social, hosted by the Technique Class, was great fun, enjoyed by over 40 dancers and guests. Christine Wallace, the teacher of the Technique Class (and illustrious Chair of the COM in this, our 50th Anniversary year), set a lively program which allowed for participation from all levels of dancers.

Our home band, Scotch Measure, was in fine fettle, with Ron Krug on piano (newly returned from Arizona), Jim James on bass, Jay MacLeod on drums, and leader Ken Natrass on accordion. The magic of dancing to a live band of such talent brings out the best in every dancer. The theme of the evening was "In like a lion, and out like a lamb" which certainly suited the weather. The groaning tea table was quickly lightened, sending all home out into the frosty night with warm hearts, undaunted by the March lion.

Christine's teaching skills were put to the test at the March 5th class. Many of the dances had lovely features, including the Grand Chain and Petronella in Tandem, to name a few. But all the dancers were thrilled to dance to the music of the pipes in *Flights of Fancy*. Christine was impressed with our enthusiastic dancing but less so with the "chatter". She managed to control our pipes with her usual good humour and sent everyone home having learned a "new" dance which was devised in the 18th century, a John Drewry dance called *Cherry Bank Garden*, and another called *The Golden Pheasant* (and a couple more, whose names I can't remember).

The dancing year is quickly coming to an end which always comes as a surprise. Soon it will be Workshop Weekend. The Spring will soon be upon us. But despite weather and absent dancers on holiday, the Technique Class continually provides a wonderful environment of learning with friendly folk and superb teachers.

Pat Clubb

Introductory Class

The 10-week Introduction to Scottish Country Dancing class was supposed to end on March 21. However, a make-up class will be held on April 4 and an extra class has been added on April 11. Branch members are welcome to attend these classes and assist the new dancers - just remember to wear your name tag. Contact Maureen Burnham or visit the Branch website for more information.

Demonstration Team

Upcoming Demonstration Team performances include:

April 6	Tartan Day (The Forks)
June 19	Autumn Meadows

Agnes Brydon

Here and There

Kildonan Clearances Bicentenary

The Timespan Museum and the community of Helmsdale in Scotland will be commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Kildonan Clearances with a full program of events throughout 2013, culminating in the Translocation Festival in August.

Many of the tenant farmers who were removed from their homes in the Kildonan Clearances made their way to Lord Selkirk's newly created settlement along the Red River area (now Winnipeg) to start a new life of farming. This link to Scotland is found in the names of many Winnipeg streets and landmarks, such as Kildonan, Helmsdale, Selkirk and Sutherland.

The Timespan Museum website advises that *"if you attended the Red River 200 commemorative events earlier this year in Winnipeg then this is your opportunity to come to Scotland to learn more about the lives of the Kildonan Selkirk Settlers and explore the beautiful and atmospheric landscape of Sutherland."*

The Translocation project began in January 2013, with the commemoration of the "Kildonan Riots" of January 1813. The riots led to a mass exodus of people from the Strath of Kildonan to the Red River area. The typhus-ridden ship carrying the Kildonan people arrived at Churchill on the coast of Hudson Bay on August 12, 1813, where some of the unfortunate party who succumbed to illness were buried. It took nearly another year for the remainder of the intrepid group to reach Red River, which they did in August 1814.

The Translocation Festival will be held in the historic fishing village of Helmsdale from August 2 to 18, 2013. More information on these events can be found on the Timespan website (www.timespan.org.uk) or by contacting Jacquie Aitken, Project Manager of the Timespan Museum and Arts Centre

archive@timespan.org.uk). The Bicentenary also includes other projects, such as the Sock Sampler Project, in which some of the Winnipeg Branch members participated.

Jacque was in Manitoba in September 2012 for the Selkirk Settler Bicentennial celebrations and visited many of the sites linked to the Strath of Kildonan, such as Kildonan Community Church in north Winnipeg, which is a replica of the Kildonan Church in Helmsdale. Jacque also visited Churchill, Manitoba.

Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Project 2012 - 2014

Winnipeg has been chosen as one of the 25 communities featured in the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Project. The project will involve communities from around the world in the celebration of Scottish heritage and culture. Scots have migrated all over the world and have often had a profound impact on the areas where they settled. This Diaspora project will see 25 such communities documenting their Scottish connections on a series of embroidered panels. Hundreds of volunteers from around the globe are expected to participate in the development of the panels.

The Scottish Heritage Council of Manitoba is the contact for the Winnipeg site. Stories and pictures depicting the experiences of Scots who immigrated to the Winnipeg area are being developed into themes for five to ten panels. Artists in Scotland will develop these themes into designs which will then be returned to Winnipeg, along with the linen, wool and instructions for the embroidery.

The project began in 2012. Over 200 panels will come together in Scotland in February 2014 and then tour the country until November as part of the Homecoming Scotland 2014 celebrations. After 2014, the panels are expected to tour the Diaspora communities involved in the project.

More information on this exciting project can be found on the project website (<http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org>).

Out of Town Events

Halifax, NS

April 13-14, 2013

RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch

Halifax Spring Workshop

Teachers: Alicia Manson (Oakville, ON) and Maggie Keppie (Kentville, NS)

Contact: Lydia Hedge (902-827-2033 or lydiahedge@accesswave.ca)

St. Paul, MN

April 20 -21, 2013

RSCDS Twin Cities Branch

37th Annual Grand Ball and Music Workshop

Music: Katie McNally (fiddle), Sherry Ladig (piano), Don Ladig (flute)

Contact: www.rscds-twincities.org

Vancouver, WA

May 3-5, 2013

RSCDS Southwest Washington State Branch

Youth Weekend

Ceilidh, classes, dinner and dance

Teachers: Linda Mae Dennis and Jim Maiolo

Music: Lisa Scott, Leslie Hirsch, Linda Danielson

Contact: Kathleen Mintz (kzmintz@yahoo.com) or Susan Shaw (bcjs.susanshaw@gmail.com).

Plymouth, MA

July 12-20, 2013

RSCDS Boston Branch

Pinewoods Camp

Dance and music classes, evening dances

Session I: July 12-15 Session II: July 15-20

Contact: Kendra Eshleman (617-987-0198 or scdPinewoods2013@gmail.com)

Sackville, NB

July 28-August 4, 2013

TAC Summer School

Teachers: Elaine Brunken, Linda Henderson, Jimmie Hill, Antoine Rousseau, Bill Zobel

Musicians: Muriel Johnstone (Director), Jim Lindsay, Keith Smith, Ian Robertson, Judi Nicholson, Angela Young

Contact: www.tac-rscds.org

Prague, Czech Republic

August 23 – September 1, 2013

Dance Scottish Week in Prague

Teacher: Ron Wallace

Music: Muriel Johnstone

Dance classes and sightseeing in Prague

Contact: dvorana@dvorana.cz or www.dvorana.cz

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: COM meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May. Exceptions are Tuesday, November 6, 2012 and Thursday, January 10, 2013.

Next L&A: Deadline for the April 2013 issue is **April 5, 2013.**

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).