

# Light and Airy



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Volume 49, Number 6

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### Committee of Management 2017/18

<b>Chair:</b>	Gerri Stemler	204-488-7386
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Jane Natrass	204-667-0814
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Heather Colquhoun	204-888-0834
<b>Secretary:</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
<b>Asst. Soc. Secretary:</b>	Pat Clubb	204-774-2796
<b>Publicity:</b>	vacant, pending review	
<b>Librarian:</b>	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
<b>Membership:</b>	Sharon Plaitin	204-661-1257
<b>Demo Secretary</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Light &amp; Airy:</b>	John Hayles	204-482-5249
<b>Teacher's Rep:</b>	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

### **Important Dates**

Extra General Dance (see note below)	Wednesday March 21, 2018
<i>Cancelled Class</i>	<i>Thursday March 29 – Parish commitment</i>
Wind Up Social	Thursday April 5th, 2018
Second Term Classes End	the week of April 9, 2018
Workshop Weekend	April 20th to 22nd, 2018 at <b>17 Wing</b> (see pg. 6)
RSCDS Winnipeg AGM	Wednesday 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.

***Please Note – Ken Natrass’s Music will live on***

As most of you know Ken Natrass was the musical director for the band Scotch Measure and he did all the arrangements which we as dancers enjoyed dancing to for many years. After Ken’s untimely passing in 2015, his family (Jane Natrass in particular) chose to donate Ken’s arrangements to Teachers Association Canada to benefit other musicians. Kathy Fraser Collins a well-known pianist in the Scottish Country Dance world has undertaken to catalogue all of the music and then make it available to musicians. This has become part of the TAC 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project. It is a massive undertaking, that will require much time and musicians will benefit greatly from.

On behalf of all of the dancers in Winnipeg, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane for your kind and thoughtful gift to musicians far and wide and for the next generation of musicians.

*Cheryl Durnin*

***A Word from the Chair.... Festival du Voyageur***

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to participate in dancing at Festival and to help “herd” the kids for the dance workshops, and a special thank you to Joyce Cormack for leading us through it all. Our presence seemed to be appreciated.



Photo : Gillian Hayles

Ten volunteers braved the somewhat cold temperature on Sunday afternoon for the participation dancing in Fort Gibraltar. A group of fiddlers had been asked if they wanted to play for us and they did

come from their warm cabin to join us in a jig and a reel. It was fun to dance to live fiddle music. We had quite a few people join in for a couple of rounds of Bramble Circle and then Riverside, and more watching from the battlements. James and May Kong Sutherland in voyageur costumes drew quite a bit of attention and photos!



Photo : Gillian Hayles

On Wednesday was the first day with the school groups in the Sugar Shack. There was not a lot of room to organize the dancing and it was quite noisy as the kids were on their lunch break. The first groups of kids were quite young and difficult to get into lines. After seeing what we were doing, more slightly older kids joined in. We tried the Bramble Circle and Riverside and then the Virginia Reel, with mostly the volunteers.

*Joyce provided the following:*

*(In reference to Friday morning)* "It went really well - better than Wed as we had a better idea of what to expect. Everyone showed up - in costume!! We had all the help required and from 12 to 1:00 PM we had lots of children participating. In fact, we did one last group just after 1:00 because they were so eager to do the dance. We had to cut it off then as our sound man had another commitment. There was about 5 minutes with no children so our dancers proceeded to do it on their own and we got the attention of the children and from then on we had all the children we could handle.



I would have liked to keep track of how many participated just because I am curious about these things. We did only the Bramble Circle dance. Kept it simple and kept repeating it. Monique (*Festival staff*) seemed most pleased with what we did and I reminded her that we would love to participate in a ceilidh evening if they were planning one.”

### ***Gerri Stemler***

#### ***Note from the Vice Chair*** – RSCDS Nominations Committee 2018

This is a notice to the general membership of the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch. Our Committee will be pleased to receive nominations for the following Committee of Management (COM) positions, for the year 2018-2019 :

- Vice Chair: This position is a one year term, and at the end of the term, the person then becomes the Chair Person for the year 2019-2020, therefore it is a two year commitment.
- Treasurer: Accounting and computer skills are required in order to fill the requirements of this position.
- Registrar: This position requires someone with computer expertise, working with Excel or a similar program. This person works closely with the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- Publicity: This has been a vacant position for several years. The publicity has been ongoing through the hard work of individual volunteers, and we would like to thank them for their work. We would, however, be pleased to fill this position on the COM.
- Assistant Social: The previous Assistant Social person has moved up to fill the position of Social Rep. The Assistant Social Rep works with and supports the Social Rep.

- Web Master: This position requires computer knowledge of how to setup and update the RSCDS, Winnipeg Branch web page.

All of these positions have voting rights at the COM meetings, with the exception of the Web Master. In the past, meetings have been held the first Wednesday of the month, in the evening, at St. Paul's Anglican Church. For more information regarding job descriptions, please contact a member of the Committee. We will also see if we can put the job descriptions on the website. If you know of someone who you think might be good in a certain position, please talk with them about it and encourage them to offer their services. Thank you for considering taking on one of these positions.

***Jane Natrass, Sharron Bettess, and Darrell Newediuk***

***General Class Wed. March 21, 2018 - St. Paul's 8-10 pm***

The theme for the next General Class will be 'Summer in March'. I plan on teaching some dances that I have done at Summer School in the 4 years that I have been going. These dances have not been on a social programme in Winnipeg since I've come back to dancing in 2011(that I can remember). There will be a mixture of easy dances and some that are for the more experienced. Which dances will be done will depend on who is able to attend the class. I may throw in a dance that is one of the many possible exam dances that I will have to teach in Minneapolis this summer for my unit 5 exam.

So mark your calendars for March 21st and I hope to see you there.

*Sheila Careless*

### ***Wind Up Social Dance Program Thursday April 5***

The Shetland Shepherdess	32-J-3C	Third Graded
Sandy O'er the Lea	32-S- 2C 3C Set	MMM 2
The White Cockade	32R-3C	BK 5
Mrs Stewart's Jig	32- J-3C	BK 35
Sharon's Strathspey	32-S-2C 4 C Set	Spark O' Water
J B Milne	32-R- 3 C	Collins
Interval		
Jessie's Hornpipe	32-R-3 C	BK 8
Annie Douglas	32-S-3 C	Prairie Gold
Hooper's Jig	32-J-3C	MMM2
Reel of the Royal Scots	32-R-3C	Leaflet

*Joyce Cormack*

## ***WINNIPEG BRANCH WORKSHOP 2018 CEILIDH,***

- An evening of fun to start the April 20-22th weekend.

Thanks to our willing and enthusiastic presenters, one of our weekend highlights is the Friday evening Ceilidh. Every year we have been treated with a variety of fun filled items. Once again we are looking for Ceilidh items from you. You won't find a more appreciative audience. Plan now and help us create another fun filled kick off with your gift of song, skit, poem, story or dance in the company of friends. Just include your entry on the Workshop Application form. Some sound equipment and accompaniment are available, also a keyboard if required.

Please call me, Ray Plaitin, 204-661-1257, [rayplaitin@gmail.com](mailto:rayplaitin@gmail.com) with your questions or needs.

### ***Spring Dance Workshop and Ball***

April 20-22, 2018

17 Wing Winnipeg Manitoba

Though it is brilliantly cold and bright today and difficult to imagine spring right now, it is coming in just a few weeks so, time to think about and plan to come to the April Workshop Weekend.

This year two wonderful teachers from British Columbia will be arriving on a warm breeze (we hope), to teach at the Weekend. Ruth Jappy has been here before, has taught internationally and we are very happy to welcome her back to Winnipeg. Gordon Robinson is from Victoria and in addition to teaching SCD, he lists playing the fiddle as another (perhaps related) interest.

The full Weekend package is \$140 and partial registrations are also available. The brochure/registration form along with crib notes for the ball is on the web site. There will be slightly longer classes on Saturday morning this year, lunch at 17 Wing and a free afternoon to rest your feet and prepare for the dinner and ball. Live music will be provided by the great duo we enjoyed last year, Ron Krug from Winnipeg, and Dennis Orr from Medicine Hat Alberta.

The annual workshops are a time to learn new things, meet new people and make lasting memories. Several years ago John Drewry, a well-known teacher and dance deviser was here from Scotland to teach; one of my favourite recollections is having him show me how to do "petronella in tandem" in our kitchen and then doing a pousette with our dog Meg in the photo below!



So come along and make some lasting friends and memories. Don't leave it too late, the registration deadline is April 11/18.

### **WORKSHOP 2018 Update**

Our workshop, 20 - 22 April, is less than six weeks away. Registrations are coming in, and we thank those who have sent them. If you haven't yet, please don't leave it too late. For those planning to attend workshop classes with Ruth and Gordon, it helps them to plan if we can give them class numbers ahead of time.

There are also the "social" parts of the weekend. Elsewhere, you can read a message from Ray about the Friday evening ceilidh, always a fun occasion. Perhaps you have your own "party piece" to contribute. Then there are the Ball on Saturday evening, and the Sunday brunch. Those who attended the Burns dinner will know that the layout of the main room at 17 Wing provides ample comfortable space for non-dancing partners and friends to enjoy visiting and watching and listening to the dancing and music on the Saturday evening. Some of our senior members, who no longer dance regularly attend the Ball for that opportunity to reconnect. The Sunday brunch, enhanced by the natural light in the dining room, provides the perfect finish, where people relax, visit, and say farewells to out-of-town guests.

*Class Notes*

***Any questions please contact Lynn McClure or Shirley Tinsley***

## *Ball Programme Saturday April 21, 2018*

### GRAND MARCH

It's Nae Bother	32J2Gr	Bk 2
Mary Branigan Nixon	32R3	In Mem Mary Nixon
Karin's Strathspey	32S3	Gr Bk 3
Tribute to the Borders	32J3	RSCDS Leaflet
Joanie's Hornpipe	32R3	TAC 50
The Paisley Weavers	32S3	GrBk 3
Piper and the Penguin	88RSq	Scotia Suite

### Interval

The New Year Jig	32J3	Bk 51
Bill Little's Strathspey	32S4	Gr Bk 3
Flowers of Edinburgh	32R3	Bk 1
Bethankit	32J3	Gr Bk 3
Wisp of Thistle	32S3	Bk 37
Granville Market	32J3	Gr Bk 2
Maxwell's Rant	32R3	Bk 18

### Monday Social Class

Firstly I must correct an error I had made in the February issue of the Light and Airy. It was brought to my attention that two of the dances I had mentioned in my report - Many Happy Returns and A Flock of Geese were both devised by Mel Briscoe and not by Peter McClure as I had incorrectly reported. My apologies to both Peter and Mel Briscoe.

With our very cold weather right up until almost the end of February we continued to have 16-20 in attendance each week, the weather obviously not deterring us from going out to dance! Some of us even braved the cold to join in participation dancing at Festival Du Voyageur led by Joyce Cormack. It was nice to see people from each of the three classes there. It was great fun and we had quite an audience both watching and participating.

Our classes for the month of February were both enjoyable and interesting. Continuing with variations on dances we did "Montgomery's Maple Sugar" - a combination of Montgomery's Rant and Maple Leaf Rant with a "twist". Peter also taught us Orpington Caledonians, The Paisley Weavers and The Silver Grey. We had a large turn out the Monday just before Valentines' Day on which we did dances to celebrate the occasion. These included an all-time favourite The Highland Lass, Marion's Fancy devised by the late Phil Campbell for his lifelong partner Marion, and Barbara's Strathspey featuring the lovely figure "the bourrel". I had not done this particular figure for some time and at one point in the dance I managed to end up with a different partner - not a good thing particularly for Valentines' Day! Among other dances we did were Mary Erskine by Roy Goldring, A Capital Jig devised by Tine MacKay for



Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania and Wisp of Thistle. This dance was devised by Pat Kent of the Nova Scotia Branch for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. When the Queen Mother had seen the SC dancers in the Tattoo in NS she described them as looking like wisps of thistle – hence the name given to this dance!

In other news we hope that Mary Holmen enjoyed her trip “down under”. I discovered at class a couple of weeks ago that coincidentally Reg and Joan Curle are on the same transatlantic cruise that my husband and I are on this spring. What are the chances of that happening! By the way our branch secretary and fellow class member Agnes Brydon is somewhat of a “celebrity”! As a volunteer for a local radio station her picture was in a Lifestyle 55+ magazine with regard to a New Year's Eve Gala that she and her co workers had attended.

At the time of writing this report I am looking forward to the upcoming spring social on March 6. Our thanks in advance to the Tues. technique class for hosting this social. We know that as always it will be another evening of good fun, good friends and good food!

*Marilyn Piniuta*

## **Tuesday Technique Class**

### DANCES

Machine without Horses	Trip to Bavaria
Sauchie Haugh	Aging Gracefully
The Floozie in the Jacuzzi	Firth o' Clyde

Well, I have been dreading putting this note together as one finger typing is not my style – so annoying!!!! Anyone at the spring social would have learned that your scribe has been circumscribed by a broken wrist. As dancers have noted, rights and lefts are challenging, my circles are broken, and Scott commented that I might have trouble “casting” off. Alas, the “cast off” probably won’t happen for another five weeks. So, I am hardly aging gracefully, am glad to have the benefit of horseless machines, would fail an audition to model as a floozie, but wouldn’t mind a trip to Bavaria.

Maureen has achieved a good balance between reviewing dances for the spring social and introducing something new. For a couple of weeks she had us dancing Floozie *in the Jacuzzi* – a challenging and fun dance. The name refers to a statue in Birmingham UK, featuring a nude reclining in a fountain (floozie in a jacuzzie). The dance involves Schiehallion Reels and also moves between a square formation and a longwise formation. I appreciated the review of *Sauchie Haugh*, which involves the rondel and the diamond pousette. *Sauchie Haugh* was devised by a Canadian, George Emmerson, who taught Scottish Country Dancing in London, Ont. One evening, Maureen finished the class with the dance *Trip to Bavaria* – obviously a well-known dance, but it was new to me. I love the way this dance keeps all couples busy. The Spring Social was well attended and Cheryl, looking tanned and summery, led us through the program. As usual, the nibbles at the end of the evening were delectable. Thanks to the Tuesday dancers who organized everything. I had the perfect excuse to stay out of the kitchen!

*Hilary*

## **Thursday Basic Class**

Thanks to Gerri Stemler and Joyce Cormack for the arrangements to dance @ Festival Du Voyageur. This went well and attracted many visitors that joined in the dances.

This term has been compellingly dramatic. Joyce teaching skill, with professional, beautiful demonstrations with Peter.

We were learning

- Mary Erskine
- Machine Without Horses
- Easy Peasy
- A Prairie Crocus (Devised by Peter McClure in 1966)

Our basic group, with May Kong Sutherland and Barbara Lambert leading, will set up for a Tartan Social on Thursday April 5th

Attendance has been low at times. (weather, sickness, and some of us going on trips.) Charles and Darlene Cameron have been missed for six weeks while they have taken a trip to Palm Springs.

*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.

## **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](http://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](http://www.avriel.com) Shoe shop for dancers.

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

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

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

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.

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

April 20 – 22, 2018 Glasgow, UK, Spring Fling and Spring Fringe  
<https://www.springfringe2018.com/spring-pling/>

June 8-10, 2018, Midwest Scottish Weekend at Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.  
(from email to Peter McClure) <http://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend/>

## ***Summer School 2018***

It's still winter outside but summer is coming! Along with that comes SUMMER SCHOOL!!

It's the 60th anniversary of the TAC Summer School. This year it will be held from July 29th to Aug. 5th at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

There are a number of benefits from attending Summer School. With that much concentrated dancing, your dancing will improve. It's good to hear from other teachers as they all bring their own perspectives on dancing. You will learn some great new dances. There is live music at every morning class and for every evening event. It's a great experience to dance in a large class and there is nothing like being on a dance floor with 150+ people! And I repeat - live music! You will get to meet people from all over the world. Most of the people are from North America but there are people from the UK, Europe, and other places. I have gone for a few years now and at the end of the week, I can hardly wait to go back. I've met some great friends and it's always fun to meet up again the next Summer.

Minneapolis is only about 8 hours from Winnipeg. Why not car pool and head south for a great week of dancing! Yes you will be tired at the end of the week but it is so worth it!

The TAC website is <https://www.tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school>. The registration information is not up there yet but should be soon so keep checking.

I will be there but will in the candidate class so I won't get to be involved in the regular Summer School activities this year but I will see you at meal times and be at the ball at the end of the week. Mark your calendars now. I hope to see a few Winnipeg faces on the dance floor in Minneapolis.

*Sheila Careless*

## ***L&A Submissions***

**Next L&A:** mid April

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](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca) **Simple .rtf or .txt formats preferred & separate JPEG images.** Deadline for submissions early April. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)