

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Committee of Management 2012/13

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From the Chair....

Looking back over my term as Chair of the Winnipeg Branch, I am very proud of all that the Branch has accomplished during this busy year. My term started with celebrations of the Bicentennial of the Selkirk Settlers, with the main events held at the beginning of September. The Branch's contribution to this event was a pageant depicting the journey of the Settlers from Scotland to Manitoba, through music, song and dance. This event was put on by members of the Demonstration Class, with help from many other members of the Branch, and held at Lower Fort Garry. The evening ended with a Ceilidh. We were delighted to have the current Lord Selkirk as our guest of honour and, from all accounts, he enjoyed the evening thoroughly, staying until the Ceilidh was over!

This year, we tried a different type of "Basic Class". It was a 10-week course, titled "Introduction to Scottish Country Dancing", which was held on Thursday evenings. Towards the end of the second term, an "Advanced Class" was held on three Friday evenings, a month apart. My sincere thanks to all the Teachers for their dedication to their classes, which were enjoyed throughout this year.

The Committee of Management held meetings every month throughout the year, with the usual Standing Committees. There were also Ad Hoc Committees, set up for special reasons and/or events. Once the event was over, the Committee disbanded (e.g., The Selkirk Settlers Bicentennial Celebration Committee). The other Ad Hoc Committee that was disbanded was the Advance Planning Committee established for the Branch's 50th Anniversary. This committee was made up of a cross-section of Branch members, who came up with ideas to celebrate this special event. They planned the very successful Burn's Dinner and Dance, which was held at the beginning of 2013, to "kick off" this special year. They also came up with a different location for the 50th Anniversary Dinner and Ball, and incorporated the workshop into the long weekend in May, winding up the weekend events with a Brunch and Tea Dance on Sunday, May 19th.

This advance planning committee was absorbed into the 50th Anniversary Workshop Committee. With the permission of the Branch, we planned a special project for the 50th Anniversary year. Since we are so fortunate to have our band Scotch Measure, comprised of Ken Natrass, Ron Krug, Jim James and Jay MacLeod, we thought that a second CD was long overdue. After approaching the band, we put out the call to Branch members, past and present, to submit dances, which were then tried and voted upon. Margaret Zadworny organized this part and prepared the original dance scripts. Altogether, this was a mammoth task. Ken Natrass was in charge of the "music", and the design of the CD insert and book cover was a joint effort by Lynn McClure and Glen Colquhoun. Peter McClure was also involved in overseeing the project. Thank you to all, especially the band members, for their hard work. The CD and the Book of Dances are now for sale. A financial statement was distributed at the AGM.

One of the Ad Hoc Committees, the Growth and Development Committee, will continue, doing exactly as its title suggests. The Committee was responsible for organizing two very successful Ceilidhs during this past year.

My term ended with the Branch's 50th Anniversary celebrations. I hope everyone enjoyed the Ceilidh, Workshop, Dinner and Ball, Brunch and Tea Dance.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee of Management and the Ad Hoc Committees for all their hard work and support during this past year. It has been very much appreciated.

Happy Dancing.

*Sincerely,
Christine Wallace*

2012/13 Dance Season

Wednesday May 22	AGM, 7:30 pm
Tuesday June 4	<i>Prairie Gold</i> dances, 8:00 pm, \$2.00
Tuesday June 11	<i>Prairie Gold</i> dances, 8:00 pm, \$2:00

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 my term as *Light and Airy* Editor draws to a close, I would like to thank all the Branch members who contributed to the newsletter, by providing reports on Branch events, information of interest to members, amusing stories and photos. I would particularly like to thank John Giesbrecht for reporting on the Fort Garry Social Class activities this year and Joan Curle for organizing a roster of reporters for the Technique Class. Finally, I would like to thank Christine Wallace and Barbara Lebow, who proofread each issue.

Sheila Careless will be assuming the position of Editor, in addition to her responsibilities as Webmaster. Thank you, Sheila, for taking this on.

In closing, I would like to thank the Branch for allowing me the privilege of producing the Branch newsletter for the past three years.

Heather Ferguson

Branch News

Goodbye

To all those I have had the pleasure of dancing with, I would like to thank you so much for welcoming me into your group. I have had such a wonderful time learning how to dance, and it has been a pleasure getting to know each and every one of you.

For those of you who don't know, I am moving to the UK for up to two years this summer. I wanted to take this opportunity to let all of you know how thankful I am for all of your kindness and encouragement over the last year. Dancing has become such an important part of my life, and if it wasn't for all of you, I may never have had the courage to put on my dancing shoes. For me, dancing has been a light in the darkness. It has changed the way that I look at life and at myself. It has given me the confidence that I needed to follow my dreams and has taught me that when you go outside your comfort zone and try something new, wonderful things can happen.

Although I do not know what the next few years may bring, I do know that I will continue to dance wherever I go. I will miss all of you very much but will think of you often, every time I join in a dance.

*All the best,
Megan Cordeiro*

Lifetime Membership – Glen Colquhoun

Glen Colquhoun was presented with a Lifetime Membership in the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch at the 50th Anniversary Dinner and Ball, held at 17 Wing Officers' Mess on May 18, 2013. Glen has been a faithful member of the Branch for 25 years, active in many capacities, such as the following:

COM - Membership Chair, Treasurer (a few times) and Webmaster (revamped the website twice).

Demonstration Team - Many years as a member of the Demo team. Now retired, he is always graciously available to fill in when needed at events.

Video - Instrumental in the production of the Branch Video in 2010. The video is used at many Branch functions to showcase the Fun, Friendship and Fitness aspects of Scottish Country Dancing, especially at Folklorama.

Prairie Gold CD and Dance Instruction Book - Actively involved in the CD production, design and execution. Every time you see the logo on the dance booklet, think of Glen! He created it. Using his skills as Webmaster and computer whiz, Glen used our website to showcase the music and dances from the new CD.

Glen was ever the calm voice of reason. He could always be counted on to cut through issues and present ideas in a way that helped members make decisions. Committee work is always filled with contentious issues, as you well know. We always went home with smiles and satisfaction when Glenn was there to guide us through. I, personally, want to thank Glenn for his support.

Glen is always there when asked, always in a quiet, unassuming way, never pushing himself forward. Congratulations on this well-deserved award!

Pat Clubb

RSCDS *Scottish Country Dancer*

The April 2013 edition of the RSCDS *Scottish Country Dancer* includes two items from Winnipeg Branch members. There is a report from Joan Curle on the Branch's 50th Anniversary (page 21). As well, the insert on the 90th Anniversary AGM and Conference Weekend includes the Saturday night formal ball dance program, which was devised by Christine Wallace, with input from the other teachers. The program includes many favourites of the Winnipeg Branch.

Upcoming Events

Prairie Gold Dances

June 4 and 11, 2013

Two nights of dancing are planned to do the dances in the Branch 50th Anniversary publication, *Prairie Gold*. Dancing will take place at St. Paul's Church Hall on Tuesday, June 4 and 11, beginning at 8:00 pm. There will be a charge of \$2.00 at the door.

The CD and accompanying book of dances may be available for sale at the event. The cost of the CD is \$20 and the book is \$15. If purchased together, the CD and book of dances are \$30. The Branch website has more information on ordering these materials as well as samples of the music and a brief description of the dances.

Big Bike 2013

June 18, 2013

The Winnipeg Scottish Country Dancers have entered a team in the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Big Bike event again this year. Our team will be riding on **June 18 at 7:30 pm** from The Forks.

Our team needs more riders to fill up the 30-seat bike. The ride is a fun trip around The Forks and takes only 20 minutes to complete. Each rider must collect at least \$50 in pledges. Those raising \$100 or more will receive a Big Bike t-shirt and have their name entered into the Grand Prize draw for a trip for two to Vancouver. Riders earn one more Grand Prize entry for every additional \$100 raised.

It is easy to raise pledges as everyone has been touched by heart disease or stroke. Further information can be found on the event website at manitobabigbike.ca. If you can't ride, please consider supporting our team through a donation to Manitoba Heart and Stroke. Last year our team raised \$2,168.00 and we'd like to beat this amount.

If you are interested in joining the Scottish Country Dancers Big Bike team, or would like more information on how to donate to the team, please contact Heather Ferguson at 204-795-2337.

Come out and have a great time! Support research into heart and stroke, promote the health benefits of Scottish Country Dancing, and celebrate our Branch's 50th Anniversary!

Heather Ferguson

Robert Burns Annual Memorial Service

July 21, 2013

The Annual Memorial Service and Celebration of the life and works of Robert Burns will be held on Sunday, July 21, 2:00 pm, at the Burns statue located on the Kennedy Street side of the Legislative grounds. This is the actual date of Burns' passing in 1796. For further information, contact Joyce Cormack at 204-224-2291.

Participation Dancing

August 1, 2013

The Winnipeg Branch has been invited to lead participation dancing at the Millennium Gardens on Thursday, August 1 at 7:00 pm. The Gardens are located at 260 Douglas Avenue in the River East area. If you are interested in participating, please contact Joyce Cormack for more information.

Pavilion of Scotland - Folklorama

August 4 - 10, 2013

This year the Pavilion of Scotland will be open during Week One of Folklorama, on August 4 -10. The Pavilion is located at Glenwood Community Centre, 27 Overton Street in St. Vital.

Volunteers will be needed for the RSCDS booth, which will be located in the Cultural Area in the quieter, air-conditioned gymnasium. The Scottish Country Dancers will also be leading participation dances each evening in the Cultural Area. Members are encouraged to join in the dances and illustrate the fun of Scottish Country Dancing.

The Demonstration Team will be performing on the Main Stage on Tuesday, August 6. In addition, a number of Branch members will be performing on the stage in the Cultural Area during the week.

Branch members can also be found volunteering in many areas of the Pavilion, particularly the Cultural Display. The theme this year will be the influence of Scotland on Canada.

If you are interested in volunteering at the RSCDS booth, please contact David Kroeker (204-284-4667). For more information on activities in the Cultural Area, contact Heather Ferguson (204-795-2337). Information on performance times and volunteer opportunities can be found on the Pavilion website (www.pavilionofscotland.ca).

Heather Ferguson

Event Reports

2013 Workshop and 50th Anniversary Dinner, Ball and Tea Dance

Well, the event of the 50th Year has come and gone!

Well attended, with 89 at the Dinner and Ball and 77 at the Brunch and Tea Dance, all who came had a great weekend of dancing, socializing, vying to get their gift basket or silent auction item, reminiscing with friends, lining up to watch the PowerPoint picture history, and filling our tummies with wonderful delicacies provided for our pleasure at 17 Wing!

Only one thing was out of place. Where was our Christine Wallace? After all her preparation, planning and dreaming, Christine's health issues got the better of her and she landed up in the hospital! Everyone felt unbelievable disappointment for Christine, so imagine how she must have felt!

Through the hard efforts of several people, specifically Jean Highmoor, arrangements were made for Christine to attend for several hours on the Sunday afternoon. There, Christine enjoyed the company of many individuals who wished her their best, listened to Ken and Ron play for the Tea Dance and watched enthusiastic dancers for two hours. The highlight of the afternoon was the cutting of the 50th Anniversary cake by Monique Henderson, Marge Krip and Christine.

The following are my closing thank you remarks at the end of the celebration and a great letter we received from our friends, Jeanne and Gordon McGregor of Victoria Harbour, Ontario.

Hope you all have a great summer.

*Jane Natrass,
Coordinator of the 2013 Workshop and
50th Anniversary Events*

2013 Final Thank You and Goodbye

Closing Remarks at the 50th Anniversary Celebrations

As coordinator of the Workshop Committee, I would like to thank you all for coming and supporting our 50th Anniversary Extravaganza!

First, I would like to thank my Committee. A huge thank you to my Committee for all your hard work, making this weekend a success.

To Joan Curle and her helpers, for the decorations and lovely gift baskets prepared for your enjoyment.

To Agnes Brydon, for keeping us all in line and reminding us what we said we were going to do.

To Heather Colquhoun, who told us we needed to spend more money!

To Sharon Plaitin and her helpers, who worried because nobody registered and then who had to go out and get more name tags!

To Anne Morrison, who made sure we didn't go hungry or thirsty.

To Jean Highmoor and Betty Poole, who found places to sleep, provided beautiful gift baskets for hosts and thank you notes, and arranged for our Anniversary Cake.

To Debbie Forrest, Heather Colquhoun and their helpers, for the amazing PowerPoint presentation of our history.

To Bob Poole, who transported people and things across the city.

And last but not least, to Christine Wallace, who mentored all of the above, even when not in good health.

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and take down tables at lunch, and for cleaning up.

To Agnes Brydon and Ken Natrass, who introduced our teachers.

A special thanks to all who participated in our evening's dinner program, assisting with Grace, Toasts and MCing responsibilities. A special thanks to Bruce and Sheila Careless, who videotaped a great portion of the weekend events.

Thanks to Kirby McRae, who piped us in admirably, and to Peter McClure, who MC'd the Ball and organized the teachers who briefed our dances last evening.

To our Workshop musicians, Ken and Ron, what would we do without you! 4 Bars, ready and Don't know how you do it! From experience, I know where, when and how you practice But, we still shake our heads in your awesomeness!! We continue to be blessed to have you both year after year. Thanks so much to you both.

To our workshop teachers, Robin and Simon, Thank you so much for agreeing to assist us in celebrating our 50th Anniversary, by sharing your dancing expertise with all of us. You both have provided us with the opportunity to learn new aspects of technique, movement, of the importance of music and the social gift of dancing. For those of you who were not at our Friday evening Ceilidh, we presented Robin and Simon with their gift of the *Prairie Gold* CD and Dance Book. Thanks so much for a great weekend.

We thanked our Band, Scotch Measure, last evening, however, once again we would like to thank you for your music, that makes our dancing experience so full and rewarding. We also would like to thank you for the huge amount of time and effort you and the rest of the Band, put into producing your new CD, *Prairie Gold*. We will enjoy dancing to this music during our classes over the years to come.

I would now like to introduce Monique Henderson, Marge Krip and Christine Wallace, who have agreed to cut our Anniversary Cake. Please form a circle, and after the cake cutting, we will sing together *Auld Lang Syne*. Afterwards, stay and chat and have a safe journey home.



*Monique Henderson, Christine Wallace and Marge Krip
cut the 50th Anniversary Cake*

The cake featured the 50th Anniversary logo, surrounded by thistles. Purple crocuses adorned the sides of the cake.

Hello from the McGregors

Just a note from Jeanne and I to thank you and your members for a fabulous experience!

Our visit with family, friends and old colleagues was fun, but it was eclipsed by the warm welcome of the Winnipeg Scottish Country Dancers.

At the Ball practice session on Tuesday night, we met wonderful folks who helped us overcome some of our concerns about some of the dances that we hadn't done before.

The Ceilidh had such a variety of activities that we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly and in such a relaxed atmosphere had plenty of opportunity to get to know more people.

Thank you for letting us bring our friends on Friday night. We hope they might take an interest in Scottish Country Dancing.

The workshops brought to light the many areas needing improvement in our dancing. Ah, the joys of being confronted by our technique 'demons'. The quality of instruction and the dances taught were very much appreciated.

The Dinner and Ball were superb. The program was well chosen, in our view, with some challenges, but with plenty of room for relaxed enjoyment and socializing.

The Brunch and Tea Dance provided lots of opportunity to enjoy the afterglow and say goodbye to new friends.

You can be sure that when we are in Winnipeg, we'll check out your website and drop in for a visit.

Since we're on the way to many points east, we extend an invitation to anyone who might be passing by to drop in for a visit and perhaps an evening of Scottish Country Dancing.

Thanks again for a wonderful experience.

Regards,

*Jeanne and Gordon McGregor
Victoria Harbour, Ontario*



*Participants at the 50th Anniversary Brunch and Tea Dance on Sunday, May 19th
(Photo by Sheila Careless)*

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

Our class has been practicing a number of figures of progression – the helix, the knot and now the espanol. While unfamiliar, these progressions proved quite manageable after a few false starts. They also go to prove that despite many years of Scottish Country Dancing, some of us still have new things to learn. We have also enjoyed dipping back into the Tokyo Twenty-five CD, to re-create some of the splendid dances from that anniversary compilation.

We also sampled one or two of the dances from our own new *Prairie Gold* compilation, released in celebration of our Branch's 50th Anniversary. This CD represents an enormous amount of work by our house band, Scotch Measure, and members of the Committee of Management. Only those directly involved can appreciate the work it took to bring this to fruition; kudos to all of you for your selfless achievement!

With all the celebrations up-coming, there definitely is a buzz about the Branch. Hopefully, anyone who can will make the effort to attend some or all of the events. Others, who can only wish they could be there (myself included), will have to wait for the retelling of these special moments in our collective life. Happily, the Committee of Management has arranged for this legacy to be recorded for posterity and make us all proud to have been part of RSCDS Winnipeg these many years.

John Giesbrecht

Technique Class

This last quarter has been most perplexing! The weather is so changeable that my coats are confused about what is required of them – warmth, water repelling, wind proofing, etc. and the tulips, crocus, and daffodil plants are really confused. “Do we come out, do we stay put or do we retreat?” I spent three weeks with friends in the south of Spain and was shocked to return home to such large banks of snow.

Joyce went to visit her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren in British Columbia. This must have been a comfort to her after the very sad passing of her dear Lawrence. He was a joy to be around and would engage us in the most interesting anecdotes in his mischievous Scottish brogue. We'll not forget him.

Debbie and David were off cruising and Yvette and her husband returned from a cruise where they enjoyed the volcanoes and coastlines off the Hawaiian Islands.

We had a great time at the Social hosted by the COM and the Teachers. And we loved the dances, conversations and yummy “tidbits”. Many thanks to all involved.

At present, we are earnestly practicing our dances for the Ball in connection with our 50th RSCDS Branch Anniversary. We look forward to Robin Lynch coming as one of the teachers; she was my first class teacher and we adored her for her kind and cheerfully wry humour in molding our feet, posture and musical awareness of things Scottish. She never gave up on us and we strived (not reached) for perfection.

Well it is a little late to see if March went out like a lamb! I'm just nervous that May was a little lionish upon onset and will not go out like a lamb. Now that's Manitoba!

Cheers, happy dancing and have a great and healthy summer.

Jan MacPhail

Demonstration Team

Upcoming Demonstration Team performances:

June 22 Manitoba Highland Gathering
August 6 Pavilion of Scotland

Agnes Brydon

Here and There

Why Pixar Employees Wear Kilts on Friday

When Mark Andrews became director of the Pixar animated movie *Brave* in late 2010, the part-Scottish animator and filmmaker took the project to heart and instituted a new office policy: Kilt Friday. He had been wearing his kilt for every party or event at Pixar since joining the company 12 years before because he was very proud of his Scottish heritage. Sometimes, he'd come to work in his kilt.

When he was asked to take over directing *Brave*, which is set in the Scottish Highlands, some of the animators had already started wearing kilts so he instituted Kilt Friday, to get into the spirit. More people bought kilts, and started wearing them. It was a great morale booster, allowing employees to show their commitment to the project. It started spilling over to other departments. Although they wouldn't wear kilts, on Fridays they'd come in with tartan ties or tartan shirts. The practice seems to have paid off as *Brave* won the Academy Award for Best Animated Picture in 2012. Mark Andrews accepted the award dressed in his kilt.

Out of Town Events

St. Louis, MO

June 21 -22, 2013

Highland Mist Scottish Country Dancers

Love at First Poussette

Dancer and Teacher Workshops and Ball

Teacher: Sarah Harriman (TX)

Contact: Douglas Schneider (ParadiseDouglas@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

Port Townsend, WA

September 6-8, 2013

RSCDS Seattle Branch

Fort Worden Scottish Country Dance Weekend Welcome Dance, Classes, and Ball

Teachers: Barbara Johnston, Elinor Vandegrift, Andrew Smith, and Fred DeMarse

Music: Waverley Station

Contact: Kathi Ploeger (fwreg@rscds-seattle.org)

Pacific Grove, CA

November 1-3, 2013

RSCDS San Francisco Branch

Asilomar Weekend Workshop

Dance & Ceilidh, Classes, and Ball

Teachers: Barbara Johnston, David Newitt, Jennifer Reiner, Mervyn Short, Ron Wallace.

Music: Red Thistle Music, Ian Muir Dance Band

Contact: Julee Montes (650-722-0473 or

julm-hcs@pacbell.net)

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.

Next L&A: Deadline for the June/July 2013 issue is **July 12, 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).