

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

info@rscdswinnipeg.ca

www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

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Committee of Management 2017/18

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

Important Dates

AGM RSCDS Winnipeg

Wednesday May 23, 2018

A Word from the Chair....

A full report of the work of the Committee of Management and sub-committees is available in the Combined Annual Reports to the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on **Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 8:00 pm at St. Paul's Church. Doors open at 7:30 pm.**

The Annual Reports, Agenda, Minutes of the 2017 AGM, and the By-law Amendment were emailed to members on May 8th, 2018. The Financial Statements will be available before the meeting. **Please print off the documents and bring them with you to the meeting as copies will NOT be available at the meeting.**

Gerri Stemler

Presentation of Life Membership to Maureen Burnham by Cheryl Durnin April 21, 2018

This evening, as has been done occasionally in the past, we would like to take a moment or two to honour a branch member who has contributed greatly to the life and work of our branch.

This individual has been very active in the branch for many years and has worn many hats. But the most famous and most recognizable hat is that of Mrs. Mop. That hat should be enshrined.



Maureen Burnham, aka Mrs. Mop, started her dancing at the Winnipeg General Hospital while working the night shift. Her nursing partner, Jean Highmoor, taught Maureen skip change of step. While doing rounds and checking on their patients Jean took one side of the ward and Maureen the other. Together

they would skip change of step from one patient to the next, meet at the end, and skip change back to the top of the ward.

Maureen joined the Winnipeg branch in the late 60's. Soon after, she was invited to join the demonstration team under the guidance of Margaret Zadworny. Her dancing partner quite often was Charlie Inglis. Rehearsals were held on Saturday afternoons from 2-4 pm. Then all went to the Salisbury House on Ellice Ave. for burgers. They worked very hard on the dancing which was top notch and the group had many enjoyable social times together. Each summer the Team danced on the RSCDS float at several parades including Charleswood In Motion Days and the long Red River Ex parade to the piping of Doug Will who was the branch piper. I am sure they all had a few blisters after dancing on a moving, bouncy, carpeted float.

Maureen gained her prelim teaching certificate in Scotland and completed her full certificate in Winnipeg at Knox Church in 1975, having to teach Triumph, under the watchful eye of Miss Milligan. And as I understand, Miss Milligan saw something in the class and took over Maureen's time with the class to make her own point known. I can only imagine the fear of then standing in front of Miss Milligan awaiting critique and wondering if you would pass or not.

Maureen went on 2 Bob Blackie trips back in the day. One trip was to Hawaii and the other to Barbados.

Did you know she is a champion dancer? On one of the Bob Blackie trips Maureen and her partner won the Jive competition, and for her efforts, won a bottle of rum.

At one of the many ceilidhs in Winnipeg, Maureen and Charlie Inglis premiered the one eyed yellow idol of Katmandu and it is still being perfected with her new partner Ron who is a little too tall for the part.

How many remember the ceilidh in Winnipeg with her sing along..... Complete with song sheets... of cowboy songs.

A number of years ago at one of our workshops a guest teacher informed us he was not coming..... on the Fridaythe start of the workshop. Robin Lynch was the teacher rep on that workshop committee and phoned Maureen and asked her "Guess who's teaching our workshop?" Then she proceeded to inform Maureen, "You are". Maureen, you did a great job teaching that weekend. On Sunday morning you taught Neidpath Castle. I remember how well we all danced that dance, and to this day it is still one of my favourites.

Teachers Association Canada (TAC) was always a highlight for Maureen. It was an opportunity to get together with teachers from then around Canada to share stories and discuss pertinent issues related to SCD in their home groups. This helped with the continuity of how dance formations were to be danced and perfected. This was long before the days of internet and You tube. So getting together for a weekend once a year was The Only Way to learn and share. What was learned was then taken back to the local groups and shared with the local teachers so all the classes would gain from this knowledge. This was also the time for the AGM where issues were discussed that helped bridge the gap between headquarters and local groups. They were the voice for North America in the beginning but now stretch around the globe.

TAC members for many years were assisted to their room after the parties on "The Bus" - a hotel luggage cart. Maureen and Robin Lynch were in charge and drove the bus. They would run the bus up and down the hallway; Bob Blackie was the able brakeman. They drove members to their rooms and took their job very seriously. No DUI (that's dancing under the influence) under their DD service. I have

heard some of the riders were terrified as they went at break neck speeds. Maureen and Robin on the front providing the power and speed, then the call would come BRAKE....Bob probably wore out a pair of shoes each night as he dug in his heels at the back of the bus to ensure it stopped before careening into the wall at the end of the hallway. No TAC AGM was ever complete without Maureen adjourning the meeting. Even last year a comment was made at the AGM that Maureen was not there to adjourn us all. As the current teacher rep for Winnipeg, I wasn't sure if I could adjourn on her behalf or not. "A big responsibility that would have been."

As an aside, Maureen's daughter Sydney danced in the Children's class and carried the haggis at a Burn's dinner one year.

Over the many years that Maureen has been a member of our branch she has strived to uphold the standards as set out by the RSCDS with her own dancing, and with her teaching. She has taught at all levels from Beginners to Advanced and everything in between including a children's class. She has been an active teacher rep on the COM throughout the years and because of her many years in the branch has been a valuable resource regarding what happened in the branch and when, as well as what should be happening and when.

And Mug Pub would not have been complete without Mrs. Mop.

At some point she coined the phrase "You're going to have fun whether you like it or not"

So, Maureen it gives me great pleasure in asking you to come forward and accept this life membership to the Winnipeg Branch in recognition of all that you have contributed to SCD in Winnipeg and I say to you "You're now going to come up and have fun whether you like it or not"

Cheryl Durnin

Reply by Maureen Burnham

The awarding of Winnipeg Branch Life Membership at the Workshop on April 21, 2018, was a complete surprise to me. I am so appreciative of the consideration accorded me, and am still sorting my thoughts and memories. The primary thought is: what a wonderful world SCD gives us. I don't know what life would be like without the RSCDS. The Winnipeg Branch has always been my focus, and I owe so much to all of you. My next thought is: I'm so old. I remember so much from the beginning. I officially joined the Branch in 1969 when the basic class changed to a Tuesday. Jean had been taking me to the Socials prior to that, so I knew some stuff.

Memories: Cheryl brought out so many things, but this one I would like to share. The Grannie Bus at TAC Summer School. Thirty four years ago, Ruth Jappy came to Summer School, a little conflicted by the fact she had just become a GRANDMOTHER. (The first grannie of the group). We reassured her – "you canna' throw your grannie off a bus". Then I found a luggage cart, Robin and I put Ruth on the bus, and the rest is history. The most serendipitous thing was that I was sitting beside Ruth at the dinner as Cheryl told the bus story. It couldn't have been better planned.

To the Committee of Management and the membership: thank you

Maureen Burnham

Thoughts After the Workshop

At time of writing, it is almost a week since our 47th Workshop. It was a busy weekend, also rather special for us, because of our visit from Mieko Hori.



We first met Mieko nearly twenty years ago, at a workshop in Halifax. During our recent visit, we learned that at that time Mieko had just begun Scottish Country Dancing. She had come with her teacher to the Halifax workshop, but still, imagine coming as a new dancer half way around the world to a dance workshop!

We re-connected at the Nova Scotia 35th Anniversary Workshop last autumn; it was a great pleasure to see each other again. We, of course, were advertising our upcoming workshop, and were quite surprised when, later in the autumn, we had correspondence from Mieko indicating that she was interested in coming. We kept in touch about the details, and, as you know, she did come.

Initially, she had planned to come just for the weekend. We persuaded her to add a few days, and to stay with us. We could tell that she was a bit concerned about having dogs in the house - she had no experience with that. We sent photos, and did our best to give her the idea of waiting for them to approach, and it all went very well. A few words from a letter she left with us: "... I like Maggy and Jessy. They are calm and gentle. I felt so relaxed being with them. ..."

She was able to visit the Human Rights Museum, The Forks, Fort Whyte, and Ikea, and shop for souvenirs, as well as attending the workshop, so it was a busy few days. She left for home on the Tuesday after the weekend. Here are a few more words from the letter mentioned above.

"... [You] kindly introduced me to your Winnipeg members. They are kind and openhearted to me. ... Please give my best regards to your wonderful Winnipeg Branch members. ..."

That's the thing about workshops. They're a lot of work, but they provide opportunities to connect that wouldn't exist otherwise, and we see the "openhearted" nature of our community as dancers meet and greet and welcome visitors.

Thanks for your support of the Workshop, and especially for your warm welcome to Mieko and other visitors.

Lynn, on behalf of co-chair Shirley and the Workshop Committee

Class Notes

Class notes will resume with classes in the autumn.

Summer School 2018

The clock is a-ticking to register for Summer School and get the early registration discount. The deadline is May 18th!!

Don't walk - DANCE to your computer to sign up and join lots of other dancers for a great week of dancing. You'll meet people from all over the world and make new friends that you can go back and see next year. You will be dancing in a large room with a bunch of sets and there is nothing like it. Also the live music at every class is great but the full band at the social evenings and at the Ball is wonderful to dance to. You will have 4 different teachers and therefore 4 different teaching styles and a pocket full of new dances to bring home to your teacher to try in class.

***TAC Summer School is open to ALL Scottish Country Dancers
from basic to advanced and from beginner to experienced.***

**TAC Summer School 2018
will be held at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minnesota, USA
29 July - 5 August 2018**

Teaching staff:

Antoine Rousseau from Paris, France, Ellie Briscoe from Alexandria, VA, Jody Kulas (Poapst) from Kars, Ontario, and Alan Twigg from Mountain View CA

Musical staff:

Barbara McOwen (Music Director) joined by *Tullochgorum and Friends*: Anne Hooper, Robert McOwen, Terry Traub,

Campbell Webster, Laird Brown, and Don Wood

Go to <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school> to register. Sharron Bettis and Joyce Cormack are going so perhaps you can carpool. Please contact one of them to get the details of travel times.

I hope to see a number of Winnipeg faces on the dance floor!

Sheila Careless

Mina Corson

We are saddened to learn of the passing of an icon of the RSCDS. Mina Corson passed away in Edinburgh, Scotland, at the age of 101 years. She was a Phys Ed teacher and Scottish Country Dance was a requirement at that time. Mina joined the RSCDS and became a teacher, tutor, and examiner. Mina taught internationally. Her niece mentioned that she had travelled to many places, including South Africa and Winnipeg.

Mina's first trip to Winnipeg was as an examiner for the Candidate class of 1969. (Monique Henderson, Shirley Taylor, and Bill Young) This was the beginning of Mina's connection with the Winnipeg Branch. Over the years Mina taught at several Winnipeg workshops, including the Branch 25th Anniversary Celebration in 1983.

For many years Mina was the Winnipeg Branch representative to Headquarters. This service was recognised with the award of an Honourary Life Membership in the Winnipeg Branch. Eventually, she had to step down from this position but still kept in touch with the Branch. For "special events", Mina would send a donation for "something special".

Mina had been in a care home for a while now. In the pictures of her 100th Birthday Party, Mina looked the same as ever – bright eyed and a big smile.

There is more about Mina in the April edition of the RSDCS members' magazine.

Maureen Burnham

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. 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 Shoe shop for dancers.

Clan Info and Scottish Shop

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 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 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 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.

June 5, 12, 19, 26 - Dancing In The Park – Toronto - Edwards Gardens, 7pm to dusk.

<http://www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html>

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/>

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: mid June

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 **Simple .rtf or .txt formats preferred & separate JPEG images.** Deadline for submissions early June. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca