

# Light and Airy



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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[www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)

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### Committee of Management 2017/18

<b>Chair:</b>	Gerri Stemler	204-488-7386
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Jane Nattrass	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

### *A Word from the Chair....*

Welcome back to a new season of Scottish Dancing!

Welcome to all returning members and especially to the new members who have joined us this year. There was a great turn-out for the Open House in September; we have 17 people signed up for the Thursday Basic class, and the over-all number of dancers is up.

There are two events taking place in October – an extra class of dancing on October 25th and Cheryl's Ceilidh on October 28th. Look for the details in this edition of the Light & Airy.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY FOR SNOW DAYS:**

The COM has agreed to the following policy for cancellation of classes, when necessary because of inclement weather conditions:

- A decision to cancel that day's class will be made no later than 4:00 pm.
- An email will be sent out to all members as soon as possible.
- **IF THE WEATHER IS NASTY, PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL BEFORE HEADING OUT TO CLASS.**
- If you do not have access to email, please let your class teacher know and leave a phone number where you can be reached.

If in doubt, please call your class teacher or Gerri at (204) 488-7386.

Note: This policy will also apply to extra or special classes and socials that are not on a class day.

## **WORKSHOP WEEKEND 2018:**

The COM has agreed to move forward with plans for the 2018 Workshop Weekend and Ball with a similar format as the past few years. The event will be held again at the 17 Wing Officers' Mess in late April.

COM members were polled and it was felt that:

- The workshop benefits all members
- The Branch will subsidize any shortfalls
- Workshop helps with practice, preservation and promotes Scottish Country Dancing

The COM also noted that the invested funds have been specifically noted for use in providing live music for Branch events. The Workshop Committee will present a budget to the COM for approval in December.

Details will be announced as they become available.

*Gerri Stemler*

## ***Notes from the Vice Chair***

The COM meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- November 1, 2017
- December 6, 2017

Two dance classes have been cancelled due to prior commitments by the Parish.

- Thursday, October 12, 2017 and Thursday March 29, 2018

For your 2018 Calendar!

- AGM for RSCDS Winnipeg Branch is May 23, 2018
- Burns Night Social at 17 Wing Saturday, January 20, 2018 - TBA

## Ceilidh Saturday October 28

Cheryl Durnin has organized a Scottish Ceilidh with proceeds going to ALS Brummitt Feasby House. A poster advertising this event is attached at the back of this newsletter. It's an important cause.



## 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.**

## *Class Notes*

### Extra Class 25 October

For this class, we'll return to an idea that we haven't used for a few years, dances by a specific person, in this case, the late Barry Priddey. He was active during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, passing away in 1996. If you don't know his name, you may be aware of him through the fact that he invented the "tourbillon", a figure of progression used in "The Sands of Morar", a dance published by RSCDS. He published in The Scottish Dance Archives, a postal mailing list in the 1970s and 80s through which interested people could share new dances and ideas, as well as publishing a number of dance booklets with the support of the Sutton Coldfield Branch of RSCDS. I'm not sure whether he had original formations other than the tourbillon, but his dances do include a few interesting variations on known formations. We'll try to sample a couple of these, as time permits.

I think the class is most likely to be enjoyed by our more experienced dancers. More advanced formations will be reviewed, but time won't allow detailed teaching.

*Peter McClure*

### Monday Social Class

It's great to be dancing again and to see everyone back! We have had a good turn out with 2 to 3 four couple sets each week. Maureen, with her subtle sense of humour, teaches a fun class with just enough technique to "keep us on our toes" - for those of us who are able! She has been teaching dances from Book 51 including "Come What May" and "For the Young Ones" which of course applies to all of us! We have done a few old favourites such as "Maple Leaf Rant", perfect for Canada's 150th birthday year, "Mairi's Wedding" and "Reel of the 51st Division" in which Maureen informed us, in her typical humorous way, to all stand up straight and be real men!

We have enjoyed having a visitor and very nice dancer, Megan McDonald from the Twin Cities, MN on occasion. Some of our class members have travel plans already. Peter and Lynne McClure together with Shirley Tinsley and her husband Malcolm, and Jane Natrass are attending the Halifax workshop this Thanksgiving weekend. As well as dancing they will be performing at the Ceilidh where they will play and sing their prairie contribution of "Four Strong Winds". Another class member, Mary Holman, will

be spending the month of October in Italy!

Our best wishes go out to Peter McClure for a continued recovery from his back ailment.

We are all very saddened to hear of the recent passing of John Giesbrecht's wife Janet and we send our deepest sympathy to John and his family. Our thoughts are with you John.

*Marilyn Piniuta*

## **Tuesday Technique Class**

Attendance at Tuesday's technique class, led by Joyce Cormack, has been averaging about seven couples. The class is fortunate to have three returning dancers to swell the ranks. Lorraine is returning after an absence of twenty years or so and has recently participated in Joyce's classes at the Bronx Community Centre. Debbie and Elizabeth are returning after a shorter hiatus. Although Joyce has focused on inspiring us with some interesting dances, she has slipped in some brief technique reviews. A request has been made for a list of dances, so here it is:

### Dances

<i>Welcome to Ayr</i>	Calico Jig
<i>My Friend Joe</i>	Holyrood Strathspey
<i>Mr. Iain Stuart Robertson</i>	General Stuart's Reel
<i>Complete Gardener</i>	Neil M Grant
<i>Wedding Medley</i>	The Sheltered Cove
<i>Jean Martin of Aberdeen</i>	Best Set in the Hall
<i>Da Rain Dancin</i>	

### Formations

<i>bourel</i>	<i>hello goodbye setting</i>
<i>three couple allemande</i>	<i>the spoke</i>
<i>set and rotate</i>	<i>diamond pousette</i>
<i>corners pass and turn</i>	<i>Set to corners and cast</i>

Of particular note is the dance entitled *Wedding Medley*. The dance is on a new CD put out by RSCDS of Nova Scotia (Spark O' Water, Dances of Nova Scotia), to celebrate Nova Scotia RSCDS 35 years. Jean Miller devised this particular dance for Joyce Cormack's wedding. The formations evoke a traditional wedding ceremony. The first couple represent the bride and groom and as the dance evolves, they are encircled by the other couples and then lead under arches made by the supporting dancers. The accompanying book of dances includes some background for each, and alongside the instructions for the *Wedding Medley* is a picture of Joyce and Larry on their wedding day.

The spoke is another formation, which, as a relative newbie, I have rarely danced. This formation, followed immediately by diagonal reels of four with corners, made *Neil M Grant* an interesting dance flowing nicely from one formation to the other.

For me, and I hope for others, a highlight of Tuesday evenings has to have been the strathspey, *Sheltered Cove*. Not only is the music gorgeous, performed by Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith, (written by Muriel Johnstone) but also, the dance was composed by Margaret Zadworny of Winnipeg, and published in her collection, *Aye Afloat*. If you check out the accompanying video of this dance on the Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary website, you will find it is indeed performed on the muddy banks of a sheltered cove, by a group who call themselves The Extreme Dancers.

On our last evening prior to submission of this article, Joyce introduced us to *The Best Set in the Hall*, one of the most popular Scottish Country Dances worldwide. Its most interesting formation is *corners set and cast*. The old brain cells were taking a while to warm up to this formation, but here's hoping Joyce will continue with this dance in her October classes.

*Hilary*

### **Summer School 2017**

TAC Summer School this year was held at the beautiful campus at the University of British Columbia. The first weekend I was there for the Teachers Workshop was cold and rainy. The sun came out on Sunday and the weather for the rest of the week of regular Summer School was gorgeous. Cheryl Durnin and I arrived on the Friday, Don Johnson arrived on Saturday and Cheryl left on Sunday. So there was always a friendly face from home.

The dance halls were lovely to dance in and the floors were incredible. The main hall where the socials and larger classes were held had the best floor I've ever danced on. That floor was so sprung that if you were the 4<sup>th</sup> couple and not dancing, you could feel the floor move from the other dancers. You could even feel it if you were sitting at a nearby table!

The teachers this year were Gary Coull (Scotland), Jean Noble (Ontario), Tracy Applebee (Ohio) & Andrew Smith (Atlanta). The musicians were Lisa Scott (piano – Oregon), Ian Muir (accordion – Scotland) Don Wood (bass/piano – Toronto), Mary Ross (accordion – Vancouver), Deby Grosjean (fiddle – San Francisco) & Judi Nicholson (fiddle – Texas).

The great thing about Summer School is not only do you get to dance with 100 or so other dancers in one room (this year was 244) but you have the opportunity to experience different styles of teaching. There are 4 classes held at Summer School: basic, intermediate, Challenge, and Advanced Social. That may change in the future but that's what they did this year. So each morning Monday to Thursday you have a different teacher. Friday morning you will have one of the teachers you had during the week. These are very experienced teachers and you come home a better dancer for having danced so much and also with a pocket full of new dances that you loved! In the afternoons they hold optional classes so one can do as much or as little as one wants. The optional classes this year were: Evening dances - they do not walk the dances at the final ball and these afternoon classes give you the opportunity to dance 3 of the dances on the ball programme. This class is offered 4 afternoons in the week so they cover 12 of the dances on the programme. Another was individual critique: this class allows a dancer to get some feedback from a teacher that helps to improve their dancing. This year they offered 2 classes related to the books. One was a class to test out the dances that will be coming out in book 52 and the other was to dance the dances from book 51 that just came out. There was a variety of other classes such as dances popular in Japan (we had a few dancers from Japan), John Drewry dances, Water Dances, Boozy

Dances, and Sunday afternoon dances. One that I participated in was 'Not your usual Ceilidh dances' taught by Gary Coull. Some very interesting and fun dances were attempted by our group that afternoon! Wednesday afternoon was an afternoon off so everyone could do whatever they liked. A group of us went shopping (thanks to Don for the ride) and then for a stroll on the beach. Saturday offers a combined class in the morning and then another opportunity in the afternoon to walk through the ball dances.

There is a social (4 nights) or a ceilidh (2 nights) every evening at Summer School. The social programme includes some dances that are on the ball programme so you get a few chances to dance them. The entertainment ceilidh is always a great evening of fun and laughter. After the socials there is always the 'after party' held in the lounge. It's a great way to unwind and get to know people. The week ends with the final dinner and ball and of course the last after party.

There are a number of things I love about going to Summer School: connecting with friends from previous years, the variety of teachers, the opportunity to spend the week concentrating on improving my dancing, the socials, dancing in a hall with so many other people and last but not least, the live music at every class and social. After going to my first Summer School as a dancer and not a candidate in 2015 I was hooked. Next year Summer School is in Minneapolis. Not too far from Winnipeg so I hope people will car pool or rent a bus or something and head on down to Minneapolis. I have brochures if anyone is interested or you can keep checking the TAC Summer School website.

I am including a couple of pictures: the first is a picture of the hall during the second last dance of the last night. Quite a number of people had already left. The dinner was late so the Grand March didn't start until 8:30 so the dancing didn't start until well after 9. This picture was taken almost at midnight. The second picture is the group picture taken Saturday evening. Now the test: can you find Don and me in the picture?

Hope to see you on the dance floor in Minneapolis!

*Sheila Careless*



*Photo #1. See description in text above.*



*Photo#2. See description in text above.*

## **Folklorama: The Pavilion of Scotland Cultural Room**

August 13 to 19 Glenwood Community Centre  
27 Overton St Winnipeg

A short distance from the heat, loudspeakers and pipe bands in the arena is the Cultural Room – low key, with many posters, presenters and small groups of entertainers. RSCDS promotional posters and photos and handouts were on display. David Kroeker, Joan and Reg Curle, James and May Sutherland assisted with the display and managed to get a laptop based photo display up and running. They, with other performers, engaged the public and distributed information. The Celtic Trio consisting of Shirley Tinsley and Peter and Lynn McClure provided vocal and musical entertainment. The Wee Drappie, consisting of Reg Curle, Scott MacRae and Ray Plaitin performed Scottish tunes together with their vocalist, Alana Greene. Joyce Cormack led members of the audience in Scottish Country participation dancing every evening with the assistance of James and May Sutherland, and the Lads n' Lasses. J Hayles played his bagpipes briefly one evening and gave a short description on the physics of piping. The Lads n' Lasses performed a variety of Scottish Country Dances.

Heather Ferguson and Joan Curle deserve a big thank you for guidance in organizing the various displays and entertainment. Thanks to all our volunteers and attendees.

*David Kroeker, Debbie Forrest & Gerri Stemler*

## ***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.

## ***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 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.

## ***Out of Town Events*** ( a small subset of events)

Saturday, November 11, 2017 ~ 8:30am to 5:00pm  
Toronto Workshop and Afternoon Dance  
RSCDS Toronto Association celebrates its 60th Anniversary year:  
<http://www.dancescottish.ca/Workshop.html>

October 20-21, 2017 Arbrae Dancers 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Fun Shop  
Ashbury College 3362 MARIPOSA Ave, Ottawa, Ontario  
[www.arbrae.org](http://www.arbrae.org)

October 21, 2017 London Branch Day School  
Email: [dayschool@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:dayschool@rscdslondon.org.uk)

October 21 Saltspring Island, BC  
<http://www.saltspringscottishdancers.org/simply-scottish/>

October 27 – 29 Medicine Hat Workshop  
<http://nonprofit.memlane.com/scottish/>

November 3 – 5 Kingston Ontario Branch Workshop Weekend and Ball  
[www.rscdsKingston.org](http://www.rscdsKingston.org)

November 18, 2017 Calgary 134<sup>th</sup> Annual St Andrew's Ball and Workshop  
<http://standrewcaledonian.ca/upcoming-events-2/>

17-19 November 2017 Pacific Grove, CA, USA SF Branch Asilomar Weekend  
Details at [www.rscds-sf.org](http://www.rscds-sf.org)

November 25, 2017 Regina, Saskatchewan  
St Andrew's Day Banquet and Ceilidh  
[rscdssask.org](http://rscdssask.org)

December 28 – January 1 New Zealand Summer School  
<http://dancescottish.org.nz>

February 16 -18, 2018 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop and Ball  
[www.rscdsedmonton.com](http://www.rscdsedmonton.com)

March 2 – 4, 2018 Belleville ,Ontario Workshop Weekend  
Phone 613 965 4212 email: [david.aston@kos.net](mailto:david.aston@kos.net)

## ***Important Dates***

**Next L&A:** early-November

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 and .txt formats preferred & JPEG images.** Deadline for submissions early November. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)

# SCOTTISH CEILIDH

An evening of Scottish ceilidh dancing,  
Scottish Country Dancing,  
entertainment & fun  
for the whole family.

**Saturday, October 28, 2017**  
**at 7:30pm**

St Luke's Anglican Church Hall  
130 Nassau Street North  
Winnipeg, MB


(Use daycare entrance on Stradbrook Ave.)

Admission by Donation



**All proceeds to support:  
Brummitt-Feasby ALS House  
in memory of Doreen Mennie**

For more information, contact Cheryl Durnin

 [scottishceilidhwp@gmail.com](mailto:scottishceilidhwp@gmail.com)

 [events/1938741709782056/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1938741709782056/)