Light and Airy

Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

info@rscdswinnipeg.ca

www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

Volume 47, Number 1 **September 2015**

Committee of Management 2014/15

Chair:	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
Vice-Chair:	Scott MacRae	204-885-7111
Treasurer:	Heather Colquhoun	204-888-0834
Secretary:	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
Social Secretary	Bob Poole	204-888-3173
Asst. Soc. Scty:	Paula Ferreira	204-475-7001
Publicity:	vacant, pending review	
Librarian:	Reg Curle	204-254-6697
Membership:	Sharon Plaitin	204-661-1257
Demo Scty	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
Light & Airy:	Peter McClure	204-489-7712
Teacher's Rep:	Maureen Burnham	204-786-7767
Webmaster:	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

A Word from the Chair....

Welcome friends to another year of Scottish Country Dancing. I hope this finds you rested and refreshed by the summer break, ready to come out to the Open House on September 9th and eager to begin classes the following week. Registration forms are now available and we encourage you to mail in your registration in advance of the Open House, if possible.

For our branch, and for many cultural organizations in Manitoba, Folklorama was a major focus of attention during the summer. Once again a group of our dancers performed at each stage show at the U.K.

Pavilion during the first week of Folklorama. In preparation for the week Maureen Burnham took us through our part in the show, working with the band and making changes and modifications as necessary. Our display table, complete with people to be at that table, was organized by David Kroeker and Debbie Forrest, and scheduling and other arrangements were taken care of by Agnes Brydon. I am grateful for all the hours everyone put in to help create such an enjoyable show, an effort that also helps present our dancing tradition to the general public.

During the second week of Folklorama, our Branch maintained a presence at the Pavilion of Scotland with a display table in the cultural room, once again brought in and organized by David and Debbie. Other members of our Branch were also involved in the pavilion in various ways, including being at the display table, and one evening the *Lads and Lasses,* a new group formed by members of our Branch, performed in the cultural room. On behalf of the Branch, thanks to all who so freely give of their time and skill to advance the cause of Scottish country dancing at these two pavilions.

Each time we gather to dance we are not only practicing our own particular art form and getting some good exercise, but we are also enjoying each other's company and deepening our friendships. And as friends, we rejoice with each other in good and happy times, and we also support and care for one another in times of sadness and loss. Since my last message, two members of our Branch have suffered loss and we offer to them our sympathy and love. On June 15th Michael LeBow, husband of Barb LeBow died, and on the same day, June 15th, Don Robbins, husband of Heather Robbins, also died. May their memory and their legacy be a comfort and strength in the days to come. "Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord…."

I wish you well as together we begin a new year of Scottish Country Dancing.

Don Johnson

P.S. On YouTube there is a very clever and funny short video on Scottish Country Dancing. To find it, open YouTube and then type in "Stanley Baxter-Alan Whicker presents Scottish Country Dancing." There will be two options. Choose the longer at 5:16. The reproduction is much better. Hope you enjoy this very tongue-in-cheek presentation.

2014/15 Dance Season

9 September Wednesday	Open House St Paul's, 8 PM	No charge
Week of 14 September	First term classes begin	
30 November	St Andrews Social, 8 PM, St Paul's	Door charge TBA
Week of 14 December	Last first term classes	
Week of 11 January 2016	Second term classes begin	
23 January 2016	Burns Dinner, at 17 Wing to be confirmed	
Week of 11 April 2016	Last second term classes	
22-24 April 2016	Branch Workshop and Ball, at 17 Wing	to be confirmed

Events will be added to the Calendar as they are scheduled.

Branch News

Day Change – Basic Class

Please note that for the 2015-16 season, the Basic Class will meet on Wednesdays; still 8PM at St Paul's.

Two Major Events

As noted in the Calendar, COM has approved holding both the Burns Dinner and the Branch workshop at 17 Wing in 2016. At time of writing, bookings are to be confirmed. Watch for further details!

Survey of Members

There was quite a good response to the survey circulated earlier in the summer – 52 members responded. Our thanks go to Gerri Stemler for organizing the survey and collecting the results. A brief summary follows.

Level of the class was the most common reason mentioned for choice of class. A smaller, but still significant number cited day of the week. There was relatively little interest in an afternoon class.

Members felt very positively about the contribution of Branch socials. Most attend when they can; time conflicts are the most common reason for missing a social. There was little interest in replacing class hosted socials with dances on another night. While there was interest in having extra nights of dancing, there was no majority opinion about what night should be used.

A clear majority of respondents attended the 2015 workshop. Among those who did not attend, time conflict was the most common reason, while some mentioned the cost. Most respondents favour continuing to hold workshops. While a full weekend workshop was the preference of the largest number (35%), that was not a majority. Other preferences were divided between one day workshop, less formal event, and alternate years. The COM has opted for the full weekend in 2016, and assuming that options are provided of choosing parts of the package (e.g., Saturday only), that seems to cater to a majority of the preferences expressed.

Regarding the Burns dinner and dance, the dinner and dance at 17 Wing was the most preferred, although not by a majority. Smaller numbers preferred other options, although there was a majority in favour of some form of catered dinner. Discussion at COM reflected a hope that the event could be modified to appeal to a broader audience.

Summary prepared by Peter McClure

UNITED KINGDOM PAVILION
AUGUST 2-8, 2015, PUNJAB COMMUNITY CENTRE

Thanks go to Debbie Forrest, David Kroeker, Reg Curle, Joan Curle, Scott MacRae, Bob Poole, Sharyl Eaglesham, Donna Robinson, Barbara LeBow, Glen Colquhoun, Heather Colquhoun and Don Johnson for their support as part of the stage show.

This year, we danced Mairi's Wedding with a twist. The music The Barefoot Ceili Band played “Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh” for our performance, as the usual tune was already used elsewhere in the show! That was a last minute discovery, and it is a tribute to Maureen for having come up with an alternate, and to the musicians for learning it with very short notice.

It was quite an exhausting week with 5 shows on Sunday, Monday, Friday; three shows on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday and 6 shows on Saturday. We all managed to get through all the shows without any major mishaps.

Maureen was present every night putting us through our paces and occasionally adding a new little twist to our performance. Thank you Maureen.

We were welcomed by the McConnell Dance group and certainly enjoyed being part of their production. We were given a generous $700 honorarium for our participation.

Agnes Brydon, RSCDS Demo Secretary

Here and There…

Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and pumps
www.avriel.com
Your one stop shoe shop for all your dancing needs.

Out of Town Events

Medicine Hat AB
30 October – 1 November 2015
40th Weekend Workshop
Teachers: Gordon Robinson (Victoria), Irene Townshend (Edmonton), Jody Williams (Carp, ON)
Details and forms at http://nonprofit.memlane.com/scottish/

Asilomar Weekend Workshop
13 – 15 November, 2015-06-19
50th Anniversary of this workshop!
Five teachers, including Elaine Brunken and Ruth Jappy
Info and forms at www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org

Important Dates

COM meetings: Next meeting 18 August, 2015

Next L&A: Deadline for the September issue will be 21 August, 2015.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to Peter McClure joptmc@cc.umanitoba.ca.
This and several past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website www.rscdswinnipeg.ca.