

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Volume 46, Number 7

May-June 2015

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A Word from the Chair....

Our weekly Scottish Country Dance classes and socials have now concluded and I hope this was a fun and satisfying year of dancing for you. It certainly was an enjoyable year for me, and I am grateful for the good humour, friendliness, and grace of my fellow dancers whose attitude brought so much joy to each evening's programme. And of course our thanks goes to our teachers who planned and presented each evening, carefully taking us through the dances with diligence, skill, and at times, great patience!

This has not been an easy year for our Branch, and we are saddened with the passing of Adam Laird, our friend and the founder of Scotch Measure. Adam was an excellent musician and a true gentleman, and our love and sympathy are extended to Rena and the family in their time of loss. As we continue to remember Ken and Christine, and now Adam, the words the Queen offered to the people of New York after the 9/11 attack come to mind. She said: "Grief is the price we pay for love", and we certainly loved and cherished Adam, Ken and Christine. For all their many contributions to the life of the Branch and for their active promotion and advancement of Scottish Country Dancing, we give our heartfelt thanks to the One who gave them life and who put the spirit of the dance deep within each of them. With gratitude, grief, and profound love, we will remember them.

The summer months are now upon us and I trust that the time ahead will bring you refreshment and renewal. Dancing has all but finished until September, so until we meet again, may peace and joy be your daily companions, and may you move through the summer with safety and good health, ready and eager to return to another season of wonderful Scottish Country dancing in September. And may this Gaelic blessing be yours this summer and always.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

Don Johnson

2014/15 Dance Season

Watch this space ...

From the Editor

Normally, this piece won't be here, but as I'm new to the position, I want to let readers know that I plan to be an editor in the sense of assembling the newsletter, not in the sense of providing editor's comments. I depend on you, the readers, to supply the content – SCD related, and better still, with a local angle as well. Once the season starts again, L&A deadlines will follow COM meetings as usual, but during the summer, things are a little more unpredictable. At present, I'm planning a July – August issue for mid to late July, so a deadline for that will be 10 July. I look forward to hearing from you!

Peter

Branch News

Adam M Laird, 1918 – 2015

By the time you are reading the newsletter, probably you know that Adam died on Wednesday 27 May. A memorial celebration will take place at Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd, on Wednesday 17 June, starting at 11 AM.

He was first a dancer, later the first musical director of Scotch Measure, and was pianist with the band for several years, including the recording of the first Scotch Measure CD, Skip Change With Scotch Measure. He was also a

composer, and his tunes can be heard on both the CDs, including sensitive arrangements by Ken Natrass on the second CD, *Prairie Gold*.

If you have the CDs, get them out and play them. If you have any sheet music of Adam's tunes, get those out, too. It is a wonderful legacy to Scottish traditional music, and to Scottish Country Dancing in particular. His contribution was recognized by a life membership in the Branch.

He was a gentleman in the best sense of the word – gentle man – and he is missed. Our thoughts are with Rena and the family.

CHRISTINE M. WALLACE

May 10, 1939 - March 8, 2015

Christine was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, the eldest child of a Scottish surgeon and a Canadian nurse. Scottish Country Dance was a part of home life, as Christine's father would bring medical students home to teach them dancing, as well as medicine.

Christine came to Canada to pursue her chosen field of early childhood education. In Winnipeg, she found a fledgling group of Scottish Country Dancers being taught by David Williams and Archie Nixon. This group would become the Winnipeg Branch on May 11, 1963.

Christine went on to obtain her Teachers Certificate in 1965. She was an almost 50 year member of the Teachers' Association of Canada. She taught all levels of classes and groups in the Branch, including some Teacher Candidate classes. However, her favourite was always a childrens' class.

Recently, Christine was teaching the Demonstration Class. One of the more significant events was the planning and production of a pageant in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers in Manitoba.

Along with teaching, Christine was very involved with Branch development and had been chairman on many occasions. She participated in the formation of the band *Scotch Measure*. Christine played a leading role in the preparation for the Branch's 50th Anniversary in 2013. One of the enduring results is the Winnipeg Branch book of locally devised dances, *Prairie Gold*, with the accompanying CD by *Scotch Measure*.

Christine was our resource person for tradition, protocol, history, and whatever one needed to know about the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. She was also an avid Monarchist. One of the treasures Christine brought to Canada with her was the piece of cake from Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip's wedding.

Christine was awarded the Winnipeg Branch Life Membership in 1990, and the RSCDS Scroll of Honour in 2010.

Christine's death is so tragic in so many ways. A few years ago she was taken to hospital, and told she probably wouldn't walk again. When asked if she had plans, she replied that, indeed, she did. Her plan and goal was to dance again. And, she almost did.

Maureen Burnham

CHRISTINE WALLACE MEMORIAL EVENING OF DANCE

On May 12, Christine's dancing friends gathered together for an evening of remembrance and dance. We thought: what would Christine like?

Peter McClure had a program of dances favoured by Christine, along with music she had been involved in producing. There were the pictures of her favorite people: Queen Elizabeth, and Robbie Burns. A memorabilia

table was set up by Joan Curle – the local gathering spot for people to share memories. Both current and former dancers attended, so there was lots of visiting and sharing of memories.

Christine loved decorated cakes. This one had thistles on it, and the cake cutting ceremony was performed by Margaret Zadworny and Monique Henderson. We had china teacups and saucers for those drinking tea.

Chairman, Don Johnson, gave the speech and led the toast to Christine.

Many thanks to those who supplied “Scottish fare” for the following bun bash.

FYI: May 10 Christine’s birthday; May 11 Winnipeg became a Branch; May 12 Coronation of King George VI

Maureen Burnham

BeachScape 2015

The Beachscape Festival of traditional music and arts will take place Saturday 27 June at Winnipeg Beach. Our own dancers will be on stage at 11 AM, and their presentation will include participation dancing. Other displays include English and Irish dancing, and Japanese drumming, and there will be craft vendors as well. The evening concert features Plain Salt, a local band with celtic roots, and a varied repertoire. Visit www.scape.name to see an outline of the presenters. An overall description (but not a schedule) is at www.winnipegbeach.ca.

If you’re free, why not make a day of it. It’s an hour’s drive, more or less, so you could take in the day, maybe do some early Christmas shopping at the local craft vendors, take in (at least the first set of) Plain Salt, and still not be too late getting home. Support our own dancers and the community building efforts of the SCAPE folks at Winnipeg Beach.

BRANCH SURVEY TO MEMBERS

The Committee of Management has decided to send out a survey to all members in regard to branch activities. The survey results will be used as a planning tool for the Branch moving forward.

In order to ensure complete anonymity and make the survey accessible and easy to do, we will be using an on-line survey by Survey Monkey. You will receive an email from Scottish Country Dancers which will include a link to the survey. Click on the link and complete the survey. It should only take a few minutes. There is no identification as to who the response comes from.

If we do not have your email you will not receive the survey. If you wish to add an email address where you can be reached please contact the secretary Agnes Brydon at (204) 837-7346. If you wish, we can delete your email from the contact list after the survey is out. *Email addresses are not shared with other members or any other parties.*

When you receive the email (we hope by the end of June) please complete it as soon as you can. It is important to hear your opinions so that the COM can serve our members.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerri Stemler at (204) 488-7386 or email wpstem@mts.net.

Thanks ...

The Branch sent flowers following Adam Laird’s death, and we have received the following note from Rena.

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers – they are so bountiful that I separated them into two large vases – such a joy to look at.

I will miss Adam terribly but I'm grateful for our 72 years of happily married life and of course the many years of pleasure Adam had playing with Scotch Measure.

My best wishes to all,

Rena

Also, regarding our recent workshop, we received the following from Sharon Barker:

Jane, Cheryl and the Winnipeg Branch,

Thank you so very much for inviting me out to teach your weekend workshop. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself and hope you have too. I hope to see you all on the dance floor again in the very near future.

Thanks,

Sharon

Here and There...

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Out of Town Events

TAC Summer School

July 26 – Aug. 2,

Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia

More info at www.tac-rscds.org/summer-school

Saltzburg Workshop Weekend

Aug 28-Sept 2, 2015

The Flying Scotsman SCD Group of Saltzburg will warmly welcome Ron Wallace, Liam Smith, James Gray, and

you. Info: <http://goo.gl/BJj9hf>

Important Dates

COM meetings: Next meeting 19 August, 2015

Next L&A: Deadline for the July - August issue will be 10 July, 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 the several past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website www.rscdswinnipeg.ca.