

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 55, Number 10

August / September 2024

Important Dates

Dancing in 2024

Monday, September 9 – Open House / Registration evening, 7:30 – 9:30 at CPUC

Monday, September 16 – evening classes start 7:30 – 9:30 at CPUC

Thursday, September 19 – afternoon classes start 1:30 – 3:30 at CPUC

Saturday, October 5 – Ceilidh Fundraiser for ALS Manitoba 7:30 at CPUC

Monday, October 7 – Memorial Dance Night remembering Robin Lynch

Monday, October 14 – no class. Thanksgiving Holiday Monday

Saturday November 23 – St. Andrew's Social

Thursday, December 5 – last afternoon class

Monday, December 9 – last evening class

Note: all events are held at Churchill Park United Church (CPUC) 525 Beresford Ave. unless otherwise stated.

A Word from the Chair of COM

Welcome back to all the members of the Winnipeg Branch who participated in the Summer School this year in St. Catharines, ON. There were 11 Winnipeg dancers in total – a quarter of our membership!

Sharyl Eaglesham and James Sutherland attended and worked/studied hard for a busy ten days leading up to their examinations for Level 2 and 3 teaching certificates.

RSCDS participated in the Scottish Pavilion during Folklorama Week 1 (August 4 to 10) at the Caboto Centre. Thank you to May and James Sutherland for organizing the RSCDS table and the volunteers at the venue. The lively participation dancing was enjoyed by all.

The Winnipeg Branch is having an Open House on Monday September 9, 2024 at 7:30 pm at Churchill Park United Church. All are welcome! Bring your family and friends to the event which will include participation dancing to lively Scottish music! It is an opportunity to learn about Scottish Country Dancing and the wonderful music we dance to.

Regular dance classes will start the next week on Monday evening Sept. 16 and Thursday afternoon Sept. 19 at Churchill Park United Church. For \$20, new dancers can experience Scottish Country Dancing for 3 dance classes before committing to the regular membership fee. (\$20 will go towards the regular fee.)

I hope everyone had a great summer! Now on with the dance!

Pat Clubb

Next COM meeting – August 28

Have you heard?

Open House / Registration Evening evening is Monday September 9 at 7:30 at Churchill Park United Church. The registration form is available on the website. Please print your copy to fill in and bring it to the Open House or to your first class. There is also an on-line fillable version of the form only a click away on the website.

Hope to see you there!

New Committee of Management 2024/25

Chair:	Pat Clubb	204-774-2796
Vice-Chair:	Heather Robbins	204-295-1542
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
Treasurer:	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
Social Secretary	Ellen Graham	1-204-744-2857
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Claire Buys	204-388-4832
Publicity:	May Kong Sutherland	204-995-2388
Membership:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Library:	Joan Curle	204-254-6697
Light & Airy:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Teacher's Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
Webmaster:	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

Folklorama 2024!



The Scottish Pavilion at Folklorama ran from August 4 to August 11, 2024 at the Caboto Center on Wilkes Avenue. Set up was on August 3rd. May, Dylan, Pat and Jody did the setup of displays. This year we had our own room indoors for dancing, both participation and demonstration. Thanks to all the volunteers: Pat, May, Jody, Sheila, Don, Sharyl, Sharron, Lynn, Maureen, Donald and Ellen. We had good participation dancing with the crowds. Good interest was shown in our Branch dancing. We handed out Branch Cards and invitations to the Open House. Thanks to all those who attended.

James Sutherland

Scottish Ceilidh Fundraiser for ALS Manitoba

Once again, I am inviting all members and friends to join in the fun on Saturday October 5, 7:30 pm at Churchill Park United Church as we raise money for ALS Manitoba while having a very good time.

This event is held in memory of my mother Doreen Mennie who had ALS and passed away in 2011. As always there will be dancing for all, some entertainment, 50/50 draw, silent auction and of course, refreshments.

Please come and join in the fun and help support this very worthwhile cause.

Friendship improves happiness and
abates misery, by doubling of our joy
and the dividing of our grief.
Cicero

Cheryl Durnin

Memorial Dance Night - Robin Lynch

There will be a Special Tribute Dance evening in memory of Robin Lynch on Monday October 7 starting at 7:30 pm at Churchill Park United Church. It will be an opportunity to enjoy some of Robin's favourite dances and share stories. Mike and some family member will be in attendance and I am sure all who knew Robin would want to attend. If you know of anyone who might not receive the newsletter please share the details of the evening. There will be time for visiting and refreshments in the lounge.

Come out to dance, reminisce, and enjoy the evening.

Another Friend Has Passed - Catherine (Rena) Laird

Rena Laird died peacefully on 24 July, just months short of her 102nd birthday. According to her wish, there has been no obituary, and no funeral or memorial. However, we did not want to let the occasion pass without some notice. Some of the following was published at the time of her 100th birthday. We think it bears repeating.

Rena and her husband Adam came to Winnipeg from Scotland in the 1940s when Adam took on a position with the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. We became friends with Adam and Rena after we began Scottish Country Dancing in the late 1970s and for many years were fortunate recipients of the famous Laird hospitality. Rena herself became involved with SCD and attended classes while Adam, an excellent pianist, was recruited by John Trevenen to be involved with the creation of a Scottish Country Dance Band which was named "Scotch Measure". They produced a CD in 1997 entitled "Skip-Change With Scotch Measure", and for many years we were able to have wonderful local live music for all our socials, workshops and balls.

Rena was a wonderful friend to many of us; funny, smart and accomplished at so many things including her "Address to the Haggis", delivered often at our RSCDS Burns Dinners. One of the "good ones"!!

Rena also had a great love for 4 legged furry friends within her home and family over the years. Our dogs, Maggie, Jessie, and now Hachi, were always welcomed by Rena when we visited and the lucky recipients of Rena's very generous handfuls of doggy treats (and occasionally something sweet made by Doreen or Rena was passed under the table!)

She is, and will continue to be missed and remembered by all of us who knew Rena, but most especially by her caring and attentive Winnipeg family, Doreen, Rod and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and we send our sincere condolences to the family.

Lynn & Peter McClure

Summer School 2024

Brock University in St. Catharines Ontario was the locale for the 2024 TAC Weekend and AGM, followed by a week of Scottish Country Dance Summer School.

The Teachers' weekend included dancing, instruction, and much learning for attendees. (Yes, teachers also keep learning just as we do in our classes.) Saturday evening had the dance floor full with everyone dressed in their finest following a lovely dinner in Inlet Pond Hall.

Summer School ran from the welcoming dance on Sunday through to the Saturday Dinner & Ball where the dance floor was even fuller! Each evening there were dance programs, except for Wednesday (musician's concert) and Friday (ceilidh night). Throughout the week there were dance classes in the morning, followed by other related sessions in the afternoon which might give information about the music, dance phrasing, step dancing, or other topics. On a few afternoons there were ball rehearsals to help dancers clear up uncertainties regarding the Saturday ball dances.



Our Winnipeg Branch was very well represented with eleven of our members attending the Saturday Ball. That's a quarter of our membership!

Summer School 2024 – another's perspective

Well once again, Summer School did not disappoint. It was a great 9 days of dancing and fabulous music.

The teachers taught us new dances or reviewed ones we knew. They helped us to improve our footwork, and our phrasing and of course to focus on the social aspect of SCD.

The teachers this year were Graham Donald (not Donald Graham, our local dancer), Jen Schoonover, Rachel Shankland & Barbara Johnstone.

The musicians were Elke Baker, Phil Jones, Liz Donaldson, Ralph Gordon, & Caroline McCaskey (who plays the saw and also did a very funny monologue at the ceilidh on what a dance briefing sounds like to a non-dancer – I have the ceilidh videos if you would like to see them).

It is such a great time of hearing different voices from the front of the classroom and experiencing different teaching methods, dancing to live music in every class and at every evening dance, and of course, seeing friends that we only see once a year. There is nothing like being on the dance floor with so many dancers!

There were 5 of us from Winnipeg at the TCW (teacher's weekend) and at the end of the week, there were 11 representing our wee branch.

Wrapping up the week there were 200 people at the final ball. A wonderful way to end Summer School.

Can hardly wait for next year!

Sheila Careless

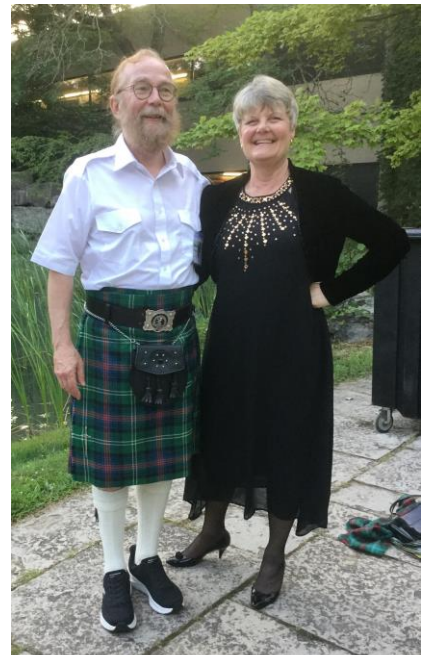


Teacher Candidates

I am very pleased to share the successes of our two candidates. Sharyl Eaglesham completed both Units 2 & 3 and will now work on her Unit 4 and will be eligible to complete her Unit 5 at Summer School 2026. James Sutherland gained valuable knowledge and skills that will assist him as he continues working on Unit 2 & 3.

I am sure you will all join me in offering appreciation and encouragement to them both.

Cheryl Durnin



Notice James & Sharyl are still smiling after their grueling ten days of teacher candidate classes!

Have you seen - The Blether ?

The RSCDS publishes a monthly newsletter called Dance Scottish Together which is sent to all dancers registered with the society. The April issue contained the first episode of *The Blether*, a new monthly video from William Williamson and Gary Coull. Each month they will have a blether (a chat) with a special guest.

From the editor's desk ...

What a busy summer it has been! We drove from Winnipeg to Summer School in St. Catharines – a two-day journey. We visited with a friend in Port Dover before arriving at Brock University. Cheryl spent all week at Brock residence 8 while I stayed at the Inn at Lock Seven for 5 nights.

This quaint motel overlooks the seventh lock of the Welland Canal. ALL ships sailing upstream or downstream between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario pass through this waterway. (The alternative is Niagara Falls!) From small pleasure craft, to sailing ships, tugs pushing barges, cargo ships (some that barely fit into the lock), and even cruise ships. This prairie boy was very entertained by the floating traffic.

My sister joined me for three days for some touring through the area to Niagara on the Lake. The wineries are lovely and the fresh fruit amazing! Following the summer school we visited our daughter in Toronto for a few days before returning home to Winnipeg via a different route. Sounds kind of Magi-like.

I changed my passwords to "incorrect".
So now whenever I forget, it will tell me
"Your password is incorrect."

Now we are donning our shoes for another dance season.

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Won't you join the dance?

Doug Durnin, Editor

Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca



The Light & Airy editor about to dance Light & Airy at the Summer School Ball!

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

October 20 – 24, 2024 – Hortonville, Nova Scotia – Scotch on the Rocks music & dance festival

February 14 – 16, 2025 – Hawaii - Aloha Winter Weekend

February, 2025 – Edmonton – Workshop Weekend and Ball

Planning to travel? If you have an internet connection, browse for RSCDS & city for dancing where you are going. Almost every city in Canada has an RSCDS group. Many have a Facebook site as well.

Here are links to some branch sites:

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)

[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)

[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)

www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: October 2024 Deadline for submissions: September 17.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members.

Submissions for the *Light and Airy* can be sent to the Branch e-mail address: info@rscdswinnipeg.ca or to the editor at Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca