

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 56, Number 1

October 2024

Important Dates

Dancing in 2024

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 all RSCDS members, Winnipeg Branch, to the 2024-25 season! The season started with the Open House on September 9th at Churchill Park United Church featuring lively dances organized by the Teachers' Committee and attended by members, friends and folk new to Scottish Country Dancing. Refreshments were provided by the Social Committee and all the members of the COM (Committee of Management).

Dance classes started on September 16th in the evening and on September 19th in the afternoon. Classes will continue at CPUC twice weekly until December 9th. The classes include all levels of dance with enthusiastic and experienced teachers (Cheryl Durnin and Sheila Careless).

Summer School in July/Aug 2024(TAC) in St. Catharines was attended by 11 dancers from the Winnipeg Branch. Plus there were two RSCDS dancers (Sharyl Eaglesham and James Sutherland) at the school studying and being examined for dancing certificates. A good time was had by all!

The COM would like to take this opportunity to thank all the RSCDS members for their continuing support and love of the music and dance of Scotland.

The principles of Fun, Friendship and Fitness are open to all! And underscore the activities of RSCDS.

Pat Clubb

Next COM meeting – October 3

Have you heard?

Memorial Dance Night - Robin Lynch

There will be a Special Tribute Dance evening in honour 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 members 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.

New COM

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

From the Classes ...

We are delighted to have our teacher candidates Sharyl Eaglesham and James Sutherland joining in the teaching of our classes as they continue the work toward their teaching certificates.

Monday Evening

Teacher – Sheila Careless

Classes have gotten underway, beginning with the Open House on September 9. Over 40 folks were out to have a fun evening.

The first regular class was Sept. 16 but with a substitute teacher. Sheila was ill and Cheryl stepped up to get the season underway. There were 19 out for the class with a few regulars away and three new dancers trying out the dancing.

Unfortunately, Sheila was still ill the next week and Cheryl again came to the rescue to take the class. There were a few more dancers as folks get into the fall activities. The class was shared as Sharyl Eaglesham, our teacher candidate working on her Level 4 certificate, who taught a portion on Sept. 23.

And from Elise ...

Hello again fellow dancers, I hope everyone had a great summer. We're excited to be back on Mondays. The open house was very well attended and we have some new dancers who are picking up super fast already.

We also have James and Sharyl back from their intense learning experience at summer school, they're full of new knowledge and confidence and are bringing a renewed spirit of growth. With the upcoming Challenge Classes, the coming year sounds like a great opportunity for us to develop as individual dancers and as a team. I look forward to living it with you awesome people!

Elise

Thursday Afternoon

Teacher – Cheryl Durnin

There were 18 dancers on the floor for the first class on Sept. 19. Cheryl kept us under control and emphasized technique and phrasing. The second week of classes had lower attendance as a few regulars were missing. James Sutherland, teacher candidate, had his first opportunity to do some practice teaching in class.

Cheryl is pleased to have the opportunity to share dancing with this wonderful group of dancers.

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.

Cheryl Durnin

Humerous anecdote from the 2024 Summer School Ceilidh



What a Scottish Country Dance MC Briefing Sounds Like to a Non-Dancer

by Caroline McCaskey

“Codgers on the Front Porch” is a 47-man squamish, for four throuples in an octagonal set.

All throuples dance a parallelogram right shoulder reel, ones crossing over to their partner’s side, finishing in second place, paying odds of 7 to 1.

First Lady encourages the president to veto, then casts off and turns alone 2 and 7/8 times while everyone else just stands there.

Ones and twos set, all rotating round, carrying the one to solve for X.

Fourth throuple sets to each other, as retiring out to home place is impossible in many parts of the country these days.

Third throuple takes possession of the ball.

Second throuple steps up for once, and all set and forget.

Rook to D4.

All join hands and circle, except the third gent, who will resume the game of “Duck, Duck, Goose” begun in the previous round.

Oh sorry, I’m getting this confused with another dance. I’m going to have to back up to the beginning of the Carter Administration, we’re going to start over. Thank you.

Caroline McCaskey is the 2019 U.S. National Scottish fiddle champion. She runs AltStrings Academy, an online community for amateur adult string players who are ready to improve their technique, musicianship, and style. She loves to play for dancers; she is not, however, a Scottish country dancer herself (yet.)

Cheryl shared this interpretation of an MC Dance Briefing Sounds Like to a Non-Dancer at class. I thought you might enjoy reading it as well. - Ed.

And more Summer School is coming!

The 2025 TAC Weekend and Summer School is planned for August 3 – 10, 2025 in Sherbrooke, Quebec.




SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 3-10, 2025

Join us at Bishop's University,
Sherbrooke, Quebec

Teaching Staff
Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, BC Canada
Linda Henderson, California USA
Andrew Nolan, UK
Cecily Selling, Pennsylvania USA

Music Director
Gary Thomas, California USA

Registration opens Spring 2025
For more information and registration
updates check our website

 **tac-rscds.org**
Scottish Country Dance
Teachers' Association (Canada)

The Blether

In the latest Dance Scottish Together newsletter (September 2024) episode of The Blether (a chat) the monthly video from William Williamson and Gary Coull, they are joined by Jennifer Cruickshank, long-standing producer of BBC Radio Scotland's Take The Floor.

Copy this link and paste it into your browser to open the Blether video.

<https://rscds.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5ec57552b339d6fc1de5f6c53&id=4ec6cd3077&e=ce22a873a2>

From the editor's desk ...

Summer has zipped by and we are back into the dance season. It's great to reconnect with fellow dancers we haven't seen since the spring. Our teachers have been inspired by Summer School and have some new dances for us to try.

Now invite a partner and join a set!

Doug Durnin, Editor
Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca



Them: What inspires you to get out of bed every morning?

Me: My bladder mostly.

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

August 3 – 10, 2025 – Sherbrooke, Quebec – 2025 TAC Weekend and Summer School

Planning to travel? If you have an internet connection, browse for RSCDS & city for dancing where you are going. 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.

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: November 2024 Deadline for submissions: October 18.

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