

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
info@rscdswinnipeg.ca www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

Volume 57, Number 10

August / September 2026

Important Dates

Dancing in 2026

September – Dancing starts up! (In new locations)

Monday, September 14 – Open House and Registration at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall 8:00 pm

Thursday, September 17 – first Thursday afternoon class 1:30 – 3:30 at Harrow UC

Monday, September 21 – first Monday class 8:00 – 10:00 at St. Paul's Hall

Saturday, October 3 – Ceilidh Fundraiser for ALS Manitoba 7:00 at St. Paul's Hall

Sunday, October 4 – Essentials class 7:00 at St. Paul's Hall

Sunday, October 11 – Challenge class 7:00 at St. Paul's Hall

Monday, October 12 –no class. Thanksgiving Holiday Monday

Sunday, October 18 – Demonstration class 7:00 at St. Paul's Hall

Sunday, October 25 – Step Dance class 7:00 at St. Paul's Hall

Saturday, December 5 – St. Andrew's Social at St. Paul's Hall

Note: **Monday** events are held at **St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall** (830 North Drive at Point Road)
Thursday classes are held at **Harrow United Church** (955 Mulvey Ave. at Harrow St.)

A Word from the Chair of COM

Welcome to all for another season of Scottish Country Dancing.

Our **Open House** on Sept. 14 will be a special evening featuring live music by **Alister MacDonald** (accordion) and **Karen Steven** (fiddle). Come out to meet with old friends and bring some new ones out for a great evening. See the poster later in the newsletter.

Classes start up after the open house, Mondays at St. Paul's Anglican Church, and Thursday afternoons at Harrow United Church. New this year we will be having classes on Sunday evenings at St. Paul's with a special focus for each one. See the notice from the teachers in the newsletter and the Events page of the website for more information.

Be sure to look over the website! John has been busy updating information and links as a few of us have been carefully examining details and links. Good job all! If you notice something not quite right, let us know and we'll look into it.

There are reports in this issue on our dancers attending candidates training & exams, summer school, Folklorama. I'm sure you'll enjoy catching up on the summer's dance activities.

Doug Durnin

Next COM meeting – Sept. 10

News from COM

Even though COM has not met since July the committee members have been busy. The registration form is ready on the website to either download and print or register online. The website has been carefully scrutinized and brought up to date. Our display table at Folklorama Scottish Pavilion was set up and kept busy. Some members attended the TAC Summer School and teacher candidate course in Medicine Hat. Classes have been organized with teachers in place for the year including additional Sunday evening classes.

COM Members

The Committee of Management for the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch has been organizing for the upcoming dance season. If you have any questions or suggestions, be sure to speak to one of them. The COM members are:

Committee of Management 2026/27

Chair:	Doug Durnin	204-996-4716
Vice-Chair:	Ellen Graham	204-825-7891 / 204-744-2857
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
Treasurer:	Hilary Hayles	204-881-2711
Social Secretary	Sheila Careless	204-794-2092

Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Claire Buys	204-388-4832
Publicity:	May Kong Sutherland	204-256-2919
	James Sutherland	204-791-2906
Membership:	Elise Marie	204-583-1100
Library:	Debbie Peters	204-292-5527
Light & Airy:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Teacher's Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-291-4213
Webmaster:	John Hayles	204-482-5249

Halls for Dancing

We have arranged for two halls for dancing this year both with wooden floors.

St. Paul's Anglican Church - Monday evenings at 8 - 10 pm

Harrow United Church - Thursday afternoons at 1:30 – 3:30 pm

In addition to these regular classes on Mondays and Thursdays there will be additional classes on Sunday evenings with each class focussing on a different aspect of dancing.

St. Paul's Anglican Church - Sunday evenings at 7 - 9 pm

Addresses for the dance venues are given under the "Dancing Dates" on page 1.

Doug Durnin
Chair

From the teachers ...

This season will be an exciting new adventure with new Sunday evening classes and in new venues. For some of us long time dancers we feel like we are going home. It's lovely to have our Thursday classes at Harrow United Church and our evening classes at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

This year we are adding new classes on Sunday evenings for the months of October, November, January, February and March and I would like to highlight the classes so you, as dancers, can ponder what you might like to attend.

The First Sunday of the month will be devoted to an Essentials class. This class will focus on personal technique of the steps and figures at a pace that will suit new dancers and those who want to work on their own improvement.

The Second Sunday of each month will be a Challenge Class. This class is for experienced dancers who have been dancing for some time and have good understanding of the steps and figures and would like

the opportunity to work on finer points of the dancing including figures not usually done in the regular classes.

The Third week will be a demonstration class. This class will focus on developing a repertoire of dances for upcoming demonstrations and is a chance to review and expand what we have been working on over the past dance season.

The Fourth week will be a step dance class. This class is for dancers who have a good level of skill of the basic steps and figures and want the challenge of learning some solo and small group dances that feature a combination of Scottish Country and Highland steps.

We are also hoping to incorporate a Walk Scottish Class, the first of which will take place on November 29 as there are five Sundays in November. This will be a very relaxed evening of walking some of our favourite well known dances.

Cheryl Durnin

Class Schedule for 26/27 season

This year class teachers will share each term.

Monday Class First Term - Sharyl Eaglesham and Sheila Careless

Monday Class Second Term - Cheryl Durnin and Sheila Careless

Thursday Class First Term - Cheryl Durnin and Sharyl Eaglesham

Thursday Second Term - Sharyl Eaglesham and Cheryl Durnin

September 14 - Open House will be hosted by Sheila Careless

December 5 - St. Andrew's / St. Nicholas Social will be hosted by Sheila Careless

January 23 - Burns Social will be hosted by Sharyl Eaglesham

March 13 - Friends and Family Social will be hosted by James Sutherland

May 1 - Workshop Social will be hosted by Cheryl Durnin

April 19, 2027 - Spring Dancing will be hosted by Cheryl Durnin

April 26 - Spring Dancing will be hosted by Sheila Careless

Sunday Evenings

October 4 - Essentials Class

Oct 11 - Challenge Class

Oct 18 - Demonstration Class

Oct 25 - Step Class

More dates to follow.

Have you heard?

Congratulations ... Sharyl Eaglesham

Great News!

I am delighted to offer congratulations to Sharyl Eaglesham who is now our newest fully certificated Scottish Country Dance teacher here in Winnipeg.

Sharyl completed her Unit 5 at TAC Summer School in Medicine Hat this July.

Cheryl Durnin



TAC Summer School

Becoming a Scottish Country Dance Teacher: A Journey by Sharyl Eaglesham

Becoming a certified RSCDS teacher requires passing five units of training, each building technical skill and teaching confidence. My own journey began in 2023, continued through Units 2 & 3 in St. Catharines in 2024, and included a Unit 4 practicum with the Winnipeg Branch during the 2024–26 seasons.

This summer, I travelled to Medicine Hat College for **Unit 5**, an intensive two-week course led by Tutor **Rebecca Blackhall-Peters** and pianist **Gary Thomas**. Days ran from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, with evening preparation and morning warm-ups. Twelve candidates—eight in Units 2 & 3 and four in Unit 5—worked together, supported by volunteer “angels” who helped us practise teaching and dancing.

By July 31st, we were ready for exams: Unit 2 candidates completed their dancing exam, Unit 3 candidates taught steps and formations, and Unit 5 candidates delivered full dance lessons focused on observation, class management, and technique. Our examiners were **Ellie Briscoe** and **Jane Rose**.

Throughout the course, our small Unit 5 group—**Ethan Bailey, Katerina Brown, Elenor Walker, and myself**—bonded over lesson planning, footwork debates, and many shared laughs. Scottish Country Dancing truly brings generations together.





I am deeply grateful for the support of the **St. Andrew's Society Fund, Winnipeg Branch, TAC Jubilee Fund**, and especially the ten friendly Winnipeg dancers who attended TAC Summer School. Special thanks to **Rebecca, Gary, Cheryl Durnin**, and all TAC volunteers whose dedication keeps teacher training thriving. Congratulations to **Sheila Careless** for chairing another successful Summer School and Candidate Course.

With Unit 5 complete, I now begin the next step: learning how to teach. This journey has shown me how strong, generous, and inspiring our Scottish Country Dance community is—and how ready it is to carry the tradition forward for the next generation.

Happy Dancing.

Sharyl

Another perspective on Summer School

Don and I decided to go to TAC Summer School in Medicine Hat - was it a wise decision? It certainly was! As our Winnipeg group knows, we are new ones on the dance floor, and this was an experience. The teachers were from Scotland, Canada and the USA, all with different expertise. One wanted to work on foot work, another wanted to make sure that everyone lined up in straight lines, another wanted everyone to look at each other and smile, make eye contact ... but the most important thing we learned was that we should **have fun** and show that we are enjoying ourselves, which we did.

Getting up at 6:30am, breakfast at 7:30, dance class at 9:00 till 12:00pm, lunch, dance class 1:30 to 3:30pm then back to our dorm rooms where I collapsed, then back to the gym for dance with

everyone at 7:30 to 9:30. I was a bit worried when I was invited to dance with Lewis and then with Yoshi, finding out that they have dances published in a book ... yes I purchased it and got them to sign ... was able to complete the dance, with no problem.



Jeff (another Winnipeg dancer) was also there and he danced every single dance ... knew them all, easy and difficult ones - never had a problem getting a partner - taught me that I have to watch more videos.

Congratulations to Sharyl Eaglesham for passing her final exam - she is now a qualified teacher. Well Done Sharyl!

If ever you get a chance to go to Summer School ... GO ... it is a wonderful experience.

Sheena Buckner

Folklorama - The Pavilion of Scotland

The Pavilion of Scotland was held August 2nd to 8th at the Caboto Center. It was a great week of promotion of the Scottish Culture in Winnipeg.

Our Winnipeg RSCDS Branch again had a well attended table. We handed out our cards and posters for the Open House Ceilidh as we casually conversed with the crowd of attendees. Of course there was dancing. Participation, Ceilidh, Demonstration and even time for some practice.

Thanks to all our volunteers that helped this happen. Doug for first day setup, Paulina, Ray, Donald, Ellen, Diane, Sharyl, Sheila, Don, Donny, Sheena, May, James and help from the Lads N' Lasses.

May and James
Publicity



Upcoming Events

****Open House & Ceilidh****

September 14th!!

OPEN HOUSE CEILIDH

Scottish Country Dancing

Lively reels, graceful strathspeys, happy jigs, and the infectious energy of traditional Scottish dance.

Whether you are a seasoned dancer or brand new to the floor, you will be swept away by the music, movement, and camaraderie!

No partners needed; just bring your enthusiasm!

Enjoy Live Music
With
Karen Steven &
Alistair MacDonald
(Atlantic Firth SDB)



When: Monday, September 14, 2026
Time: 7:45 PM
Cost: Free
Where: St. Paul's Anglican Church
(830 North Drive, Fort Garry)

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

A warm welcome to all!
Come for the steps; Stay for the smiles.

More information



www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/info.html

Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss the opportunity to dance to the music of **Alistair MacDonald** (accordion) and **Karen Steven** (fiddle) who will be playing for our branch Open House on Monday September 14th starting at 7:30 pm. It all happens at St. Paul's Anglican Church hall on Point Road.

Bring your family and friends to join in this evening of Ceilidh and Scottish Country dancing.

Here is a sampling of what we'll hear. Can you name the dances?

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qfPyxcMNjG2ilqmLgXoJ7wl553flxZiF/view?usp=drive_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PFNDw2_BZWsV94q7TL9Tzgb-9JKaTzel/view?usp=drive_link

While attending bring your registration form and cheque. Applications will be received that evening.

The registration form is available on the website (<http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca>) in both downloadable and fillable formats.

Fundraising Ceilidh for ALS Manitoba



A Night of Dance, Music
& Scottish Cheer!

Scottish Ceilidh

Fundraiser in memory of Doreen Mennie

Join us for the silent
auction, and light
refreshments. An all
ages event that's fun
for the whole family!

**St. Paul's Anglican
Church**
830 North Dr., Winnipeg

Admission:
Donation to the ALS Society of Manitoba
The event is wheelchair accessible.

Saturday, October 3rd

7:30 pm to 10:30 pm

from the editor's desk ...

The busy summer is closing out. These are the dog days of summer.

Now take a partner and form sets as we resume our “normal” dance lives.

AND our first dance evening of the year will be marvelous! Not only will there be free admission but also the treat of live music! And dancing friends! And food! Be sure to come out.



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

The PUN / FUN Corner:



Here and There...

Some out of town events

February 12 - 14, 2027 - Honolulu, Hawaii - Aloha Winter Weekend

Planning to travel? 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: October 2026 Deadline for submissions: September 23.

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