

# *Light and Airy*



**Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg**  
[info@rscdswinnipeg.ca](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca) [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)

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Volume 57, Number 7

April 2026

## ***Important Dates***

### ***Dancing in 2026***

Thursday, April 2 – last afternoon class

Monday, April 13 – last evening class

Saturday, April 18 – Dance Workshop

Monday, May 4 – Wind-Up Social

Thursday, May 21 – AGM

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

## ***News from COM***

Next COM meeting – April 7

## **Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee (Doug Durnin, Shirley Tinsley, Sharron Bettess) is searching for members interested in joining the COM next season. Please speak to any of us if you are interested in any position on COM.

Positions are being filled, but we are still receptive to anyone who might put their name forward for a position on the 2026/27 Committee of Management (COM).

Please consider supporting your branch by volunteering on COM.

Questions? Contact Doug Durnin at [Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca)

## **Halls for Dancing**

Our dancing days at CPUC are coming to an end as they begin to renovate their building. A committee was formed to search out possible dance spaces for the 2026-7 dance season. Consideration in the search was given to available hall space, floor type (wood or concrete base), and cost.

Two halls have been selected for next season – one hall for Thursday afternoon and one hall for Monday evening. These halls have been tentatively booked with the facilities to keep our days and times available. These arrangements will be considered and (hopefully) approved by COM and the membership at our AGM in May.

If you have any suggestions for us, please call or email me.

[Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca) / 204-253-4213.

We'll keep you updated as progress is made.

Thanks to Ellen Graham, Ray Plaitin and Shirley Tinsley who helped out in the search for dancing space for next season.

Doug Durnin  
Vice-Chair

**Why is it a bad idea to iron your four-leaf clover?**

**'Cause you shouldn't press your luck.**

## *Have you heard?*

### *What a Blast!!!*

The **Friends & Family Social** held on March 14 was a wonderful evening. Some 60 folks gathered to enjoy a lovely programme arranged by Sheila Careless. There were ceilidh dances around the room, regular set dances for all, and even some Scottish Country dances for all to enjoy. The crowd was very enthusiastic and Sheila certainly needed to use the microphone to be heard.

As always there were plenty of goodies to enjoy after the dancing while visiting. Thanks to those who provided snacks.

Some people came because they were invited by family or friends who dance; some came because they saw our poster in a community space; some saw the sign outside. Many asked when the next ceilidh evening was coming up – they want to come again!



### *From the Classes ...*

#### **Monday Class**

The last class for Monday will be April 13 due to a missed class in February when the heat wasn't working properly.

The **Challenge Class** was held once a month again this year on Sunday evenings. It was very successful with the dancers enjoying the challenges presented and the opportunity to work on their own technique. Those who attended are looking forward to net dance season.

In January we tried a **Step Dance Class**. Eleven dancers came to the first class and it continued once a month for the duration of the second term. The dancers are keen to continue in the next dance season on a monthly basis.



The above two classes will hopefully be able to continue depending upon hall availability.

## Upcoming Events

### 2026 Spring Workshop

Register now for our **Spring Workshop** with guest teacher Alan Twigg. The workshop is coming up on April 18.

**STILL TIME! If you register before March 31 you might win your registration free!**



RSCDS Winnipeg  
**53rd Annual Workshop**  
Saturday, April 18, 2026  
*A One-Day Celebration of Scottish Country Dance*

**Workshop Schedule & Fees**

- Morning Class + Lunch — \$55
- Afternoon Advanced Class — \$15
- Evening Social Dance — \$10

**Early Registration Bonus:**  
Register by **March 31** for a chance to **win your registration free.**

**Guest Teacher: Alan Twigg (California)**

Alan has been teaching Scottish Country Dance since the 1980s and has instructed at workshops across North America and in Norway, the Czech Republic, and Russia. He also performs with the Red Thistle Dancers.



**Registration**

Scan the QR code or visit:  
[www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/wrkshp26](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/wrkshp26)



***Here's something new to try ...***



We are excited to announce a new collaboration. The Youth Branch and TAC are joining forces for the very first time to present a high-energy workshop weekend in New York City, May 29–31, 2026. This dynamic event brings together dancers of all ages for a truly unique experience. Dancers over 35 will enjoy inspiring classes with Robert McOwen, while those under 35 will be led by the ever-energetic Deborah Leary. Our Musicians for the weekend will be the very talented Torrent: Nadia Gaya, Ross and Sarah Parker

The weekend features a vibrant welcome dance and a spectacular Saturday evening ball—both open to everyone—creating the perfect opportunity to connect across generations and share the joy of Scottish country dancing. To round things off, Sunday morning offers a special workshop for teachers and aspiring teachers alike.

Building on the Youth Branch's successful "Youth Weekend Away" events over the past 10 years, and TAC's commitment to supporting youth dancers while expanding its own programming, this exciting new venture brings the best of both worlds together. Whether you're part of a multi-generational dancing family or simply love the energy and enthusiasm of dancing with younger dancers, this is a weekend not to be missed!

The classes and dances will be held in a central location in Manhattan, easily accessible by transit. Classes and Friday night dance at Ripley Grier Dance Studios 520 8th Ave and the Saturday night Ball will be held in the beautiful Sanctuary of Good Shepherd Faith Church at 152 W 66th Street

For full details and registration, visit:

- Over 35: <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/youth-weekend-away-2026>
- Under 35: <https://www.rscds-youth.org>

Please share this information with all your dancers and encourage them to attend. Space may get limited and so don't wait too long to register!

Any questions, please contact me at [moira.korus62@gmail.com](mailto:moira.korus62@gmail.com)

Thank you

Moira Korus, TAC Youth Coordinator

# ***RSCDS (Scotland) Management Board Meeting Highlights Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026***

## ***Branding and Digital Developments***

The Board approved the new RSCDS branding, marking a significant step forward in modernizing the Society's image. A launch event for the new brand and website is planned for May, with the rollout of branded toolkits and marketing materials for Branches to follow ahead of the start of the next dance season.

## ***Teacher Training Review***

A comprehensive review of the Teacher Training programme is underway, with the aim of creating a more flexible and accessible pathway. Proposals include a modular two-level structure covering teaching skills, music, steps and formations, supported by mentoring, video assessment and elements of online learning.

## ***Membership Structure***

Work continues on developing options to modernise the membership structure. Costings are now being developed, with proposals expected to be shared with Branches for consultation later in the spring.

## ***Membership and Finance***

Membership currently stands at 9,392 worldwide, and we anticipate the final membership number for the year will be just over 9,500. This represents a small decline on last year, and growth remains a key priority. Financially, the Society remains stable.

## ***from the editor's desk ...***

### ***It's Spring!!!***

Snow is melting. Geese are returning.  
Earth is appearing. Puddles and  
potholes abound.

*Fruit Cocktail*

*The most disappointing of all the cocktails.*

More dancing excitement is on the way! The [UpTown Waterloo Scottish Country group](#), a newly formed class that opened in September, is hosting their first Workshop and Ball on April 25. We received a lovely email packed with information about their day. The teacher will be **Gary Coull**, current Chair of the RSCDS, and musicians will be Elizabeth Anderson Howe and Victor Lanvin. I can forward the email if you would like further information.

Doug Durnin, Editor

[Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca)

## The PUN / FUN Corner:

While most puns make  
me feel numb.

Math puns make me  
feel number

I tried to walk like an Egyptian...  
Now I need to see a Cairo practor.

## *Here and There...*

### *Some Out of Town Events*

April 25, 2026 – Waterloo, ON – Waterloo Workshop & Ball (info at [scd.waterloo@gmail.com](mailto:scd.waterloo@gmail.com))

May 29–31, 2026 – New York City - Youth Branch and TAC high-energy workshop weekend

July 19 -August 2, 2026 – Medicine Hat, AB -TAC Candidate Courses

July 24 - 26 – Medicine Hat, AB -Teachers Conference Weekend (TCW)

July 26 – August 2 – Medicine Hat, AB -TAC Summer School

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](http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org)

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

### *L&A Submissions*

Next L&A: May 2026      Deadline for submissions: April 20.

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](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca) or to the editor at [Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca)

This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)