

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 57, Number 8

May 2026

Important Dates

Dancing in 2026

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.

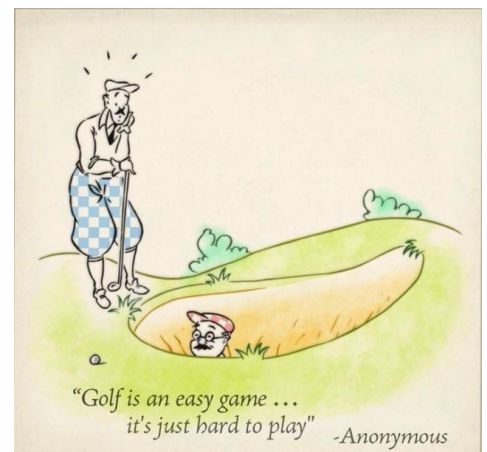
September – Dancing starts up! (In new locations) Check the next Light & Airy issue for details.

September 14 – Open House and Registration

A Word from the Chair of COM

The chair has been busy writing cards and letters.
Basically catching up on paperwork we have given her.
Thanks Heather!

Next COM meeting – May 5



News from COM

Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Winnipeg Branch, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2026** at Churchill Park United Church, 525 Beresford Avenue Winnipeg MB **starting at 7:30 PM**. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Plan to attend this meeting to complete the year and celebrate another successful dance season together.

Grant from the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Trust Fund



The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Trust Fund

An application for funding was submitted to the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg (SASOW) and the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Trust Fund for support towards the training and certification of new dance teachers. The SASOW approved our application and forwarded \$1000 which will be applied to support for candidate attendance at TAC Summer School in Medicine Hat, AB.

The RSCDS Winnipeg Branch greatly appreciates this support of our efforts to further the tradition of Scottish Country Dancing in Winnipeg. A key part of our dance enjoyment is having qualified teachers to prepare and guide us through classes improving our dance steps and teamwork.

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). Nominations from the floor are also welcome at the AGM.

Please consider supporting your branch by volunteering on COM.

Questions? Contact Doug Durnin at 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 with wooden flooring 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 / 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

A Note on Climate Change

With our changing weather patterns and variable temperatures, we are all concerned about where these changes are heading. Attached is a link to a fact sheet from the En-ROADS climate simulator from M.I.T. and Climate Interactive. This simulator represents the world's best science and we could look at it and consider its message.

https://img.climateinteractive.org/2020/01/Climate-Change-Fact-Sheet_v4.pdf

There are two pages with four colour graphs and a short explanation on each page.

John Hayles

Have you heard?

March Friends & Family Ceilidh Social - the last word?

The Friends and Family Social on March 14th, was well named.

What a crowd!!

So many dancers and guests said "That was SUPER! When can we do it again?"

John Hayles, our piper, stood at the head of the stairs to welcome everyone with music, using the Big Pipes.

The dance program put together by Sheila Careless was a mix of easy dances for guests, and some of our regular dances, so the guests could see what we do at class. (and we could whip around with some of our favourites.)

The For Sale tables, made so attractive by Joan Curle and Deb Peters were of interest to everyone. Their scarves are a big hit with members and visitors alike.

Downstairs, the food was a wonderful display. And we appreciate everyone's contributions, and our visitors certainly did too!

And the noise was wonderful - The enthusiastic participation in the last dance "Riverdance" shook the dust off the kitchen ceiling below!

And later, the warm and happy buzz floated up from the Lounge.

A Great time was had by all - And we think our Treasurer was very happy.

Ellen Graham & Claire Buys

RSCDS Winnipeg Branch 2026 Workshop

Our 53rd annual workshop weekend was a great success thanks to the help of our many volunteers.

Friday night an evening supper was held at Lyncrest Airport. Members of COM, workshop committee, teachers and our guest teacher welcomed Alan, socialized and enjoyed a potluck supper. There was Atholl Brose both to try and learn of its mythical history.





Saturday morning the workshop class was well attended by 30 plus dancers. Our guest teacher, Alan Twigg, led us through warm-ups, stretching and step practice. The first dance was Edinburgh Jigs, followed by May the 4th be with You, a reel with double triangles. A strathspey Midsummer Moon with two couple allemande and double figure of eight formations tested our legs. The last dance of the morning was a jig The Milngavie Maestro which was written for the book The Diack Dances. Easier to say than to spell.

This was followed by a wonderful lunch in the lounge downstairs. Ellen and her helpers set up a wonderful spread for us.

The afternoon advanced class led by Alan challenged us all. The first dance was Linking Fun, a review of set and link for two and set and link for three, with set and link for two done on the first diagonal with two couples. I think we'd like more time to perfect this one. The last dance was a strathspey The Ladies of Banffshire. This started with an espagnole and ended with the roulette formation.

Espagnole is a brown sauce with tomatoes and a caramelized mixture of minced carrots and onions and celery seasoned with Madeira; the roulette figure is named for its similarity to a casino roulette wheel. – ed.

It all made for a good challenge.

After some rest we returned for the evening social attended by dancers, their spouses and several guests. After a warm up dance led by Cheryl we moved into the main dances for the night. By the end of the programme we were all ready for the potluck desserts, food and refreshments. And a group photo opportunity.



Finally on Sunday our guest teacher Alan was able to tour Winnipeg, which he was not able to do on Friday due to the stormy weather with very icy roads that greeted him to Winnipeg - a proper Manitoba welcome.




Thank you to our workshop committee: Ellen, Sharron, Breanne, Cheryl, John and James. And to our many helpers; the ever-present Donald, Claire, Sheena and Debbie who made the wonderful gift shoe bags, Ray, Doug, May and all those who helped set up and brought food for the various functions. Many hands made for easy work and provided great enjoyment for our community of dancers.

James
Workshop Chair

Upcoming Events

Wind-Up Social



*Coming together is a beginning,
Keeping together is progress,
Working together is success.
Happy Dancing!*

Wind-up Social
Saturday, May 4th 7:30 PM


Programme

Warm Up Dance		
A Trip to Crinan	3/4L · J32	Coast to Coast with Scotch Mist
Maxwell's Rant	3/4L · R32	Book 18
The Orchards of Co. Armagh	3/3L · S32	Book 53
The Yorkshire Rose	3/4L · J32	Book 54
On the Shores of Echo Lake	3/4L · S32	Cheryl Durnin

Intermission

The Montgomeries' Rant	3/4L · R32	Book 10
St Andrew's Fair	3/4L · J32	Five Scottish Country Dances
Miss Ogilvie's Fancy	3/4L · S32	Book 20
Flowers of Edinburgh	3/4L · R32	Book 1

Celebrating the 2025/26 Season



Our final dance evening of the season – don't miss out!

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 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>

Any questions, please contact me at moira.korus62@gmail.com

Moira Korus, TAC Youth Coordinator

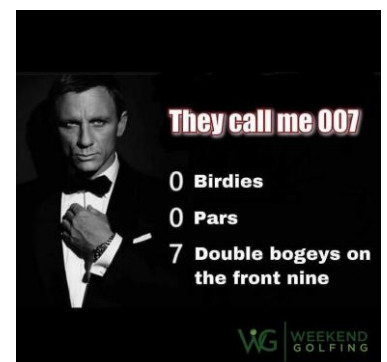
from the editor's desk ...

Dance season is coming to a close. Take your Bows and Curtsies!
Next we have the Wind-up Social and the AGM to finish off the season.

Weather report: We had great weather until Alan arrived for our workshop. The next day we tried touring and went sliding on icy streets about 10 blocks, managed to stop at a traffic light. The car in the next lane slid through and hit a delivery van mid-section. We turned around and went home! Not worth the hazardous roads. Alan reviewed his lessons for the workshop, Cheryl reviewed the evening dance programme & music, and I worked on the Light & Airy. Alan left on Monday and the next 4 days were beautiful with temps in the 20°C range!
Oh, the joys of Spring in Manitoba!

Now get out the golf clubs!

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



The PUN / FUN Corner:

**Where do lizards go after their
tail falls off?
The retail store.**

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

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

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: June / July 2026 Deadline for submissions: June 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 or to the editor at Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

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