

# Light and Airy



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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### *Committee of Management 2019/20*

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<b>Teacher's Rep:</b>	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

### ***Important Dates***

#### **Fall Term 2019**

Thursday, September TBA – Open House and Registration

- All dance events are at 8pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall unless otherwise indicated.

## ***A Word from the Chair of COM ....***

Thank you to the many Branch members who attended our AGM on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; no problems achieving a quorum with this bunch! As your new chairperson, I feel tremendously encouraged by your loyalty and commitment. You ushered in a sea of change.

Firstly, you approved a set of newly revised By-Laws, a giant leap forward for the Winnipeg Branch! This was a process begun in the 1980's, carried forward by successive reviews, and finally brought to fruition this year. We owe a debt of gratitude to the committee—Gerri Stemler, Jane Natrass, Pat Clubb and myself—in bringing these By-Laws into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They have been vetted through Headquarters in Edinburgh, and now set a standard for Branch operations. Gone are the outdated elements of previous years. That being said, you all should have received copy of these By-Laws. If not, let us know and we will deliver.

Secondly, you now have, or will have available shortly, a copy of written updated Operating Guidelines for each position on COM. These are the more detailed descriptions of the responsibilities of each position found in abbreviated form in our Revised By-Laws. They are what, as your new chairperson, I will use to hold your feet to the fire, to achieve overall Branch goals and objectives.

Thirdly, you elected a COM second to none! We have two immediate past chairs who, from that perspective, see new opportunities lurking in roles of Publicity and Vice-Chair. Also on COM, we have three currently active teachers, who are on the front lines of dance instruction and committed to moving forward the technical expertise of as many dancers that we, as a branch, can supply. As a Branch, we always need to maintain a symbiotic relationship with our teachers; they are our life blood. You also brought into COM a real librarian into the library position (imagine that!), while the previous librarian has been coached by the outgoing Treasurer, to take on Treasury. Two members from our basics class are now Social Secretary and Assistant Social Secretary. Their roles have also been expanded somewhat. Let's give them our full support and encouragement. Overall, the COM you elected is now my new dream team!

I apologize if my Mennonite long windedness got the better of me today. I am convinced that as members of Winnipeg Branch you have by your votes, initiated change that will hopefully revitalize and re-energize us in the year to come. When you are approached for membership, climb aboard and enjoy the ride!

John Giesbrecht

Next COM meeting is June 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

## **2019 Spring Workshop “Tulips and Tartan”**

Though cool outside we soon got warmed up at St Paul's on the Friday night where we had the first "workshop" ceilidh with Ray Plaitin very ably organizing and being MC, resulting in a very enjoyable evening. This year we had more than 60 attending, a record for this event.

On Saturday morning many of us were at St Paul's bright and early, but unfortunately without the key for the hall. So we had some fresh air time before Jane Natrass arrived around 8:30 am to let us in and we committee members could hustle around to get coffee brewing. The classes were held in the main hall and Narthex Room, and our teachers and musicians gave us very interesting dances and lovely music to dance to. A buffet lunch was catered by Bertha Brant and members of the committee with Don Johnson leading a pack of workshop committee in setting out the sandwiches and dainties. Clean up went very smoothly with help from many of the dancers.

This weekend was different, held at two venues, so like a progressive party, on Saturday evening we moved to Holiday Inn West for the dinner/dance, and then a combined class and brunch was at the hotel on Sunday morning. With any new venture there are always some surprises and so it was a last minute decision, sparked by Ray Plaitin, to expand the room we were dancing/dining in. Always hard to see an event like this come and go by so quickly, but we applaud our out of town friends and teachers/musician for making the effort in coming to Winnipeg and helping make it a memorable time. The Winnipeg contingent however, deserve a big thank you for all the willing "fetching and carrying" after the Thursday night rehearsal to set up our ceilidh atmosphere, and carrying this through to Sunday afternoon in assisting Ray and Dennis pack up the sound system and equipment. We could not have done this without you!

Lynn, Shirley, and the Workshop Committee

### **Workshop from a Fresh Perspective**

A review of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Workshop by Ellen and Donald Graham (newcomers to Scottish Dancing).

Thursday night Peter McClure led a class reviewing the dances to be on the Workshop Ball program. We appreciated the extra practice time.

We stayed at the hotel from Friday to Sunday. (ed. note Ellen & Donald drive 1½ hrs from outside the city for weekly classes.) This gave us a chance to get to know our fellow dancers better and to concentrate on our workshop classes.

The Ceilidh Friday evening was a super event with Ray Plaitin in charge. What a wonderful variety of talents on display. Maureen Burnham's recitation (with her nearly invisible partner) was priceless.

Saturday morning classes were divided into basic and advanced. Teachers Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and Craig Williams were sources of information and skill. They were also very approachable, especially important for us as newbies. Dennis Orr, the musician was

particularly kind and helpful. He took the time to explain and demonstrate to Donald (the non-musician) what to listen to in order to hear the beat more clearly and hopefully it works. After the classes there was a wonderful lunch and time for visiting.

Then the Big Night. We were apprehensive (Donald was terrified) about dancing at the Ball. We appreciated the more experienced dancers (especially Jane Nattrass and Sharon Plaitin, partners from Thursday night practice) expressing confidence that we could manage the more difficult dances. Everyone dressed in their finery and having a good time, the lovely meal, meeting out of town guests, the fantastic music and the dancing-IT WAS A WONDERFUL EVENING.

Sunday morning was a joint class. We were put through some simple and fun exercises. The live music by Ron Krug and Dennis Orr at every class was fabulous and such a support to the dancers. At the end of this class we had brunch. Then it was departure time for everyone.

What a great job the committee did!

Our evaluation of our first workshop: WHEN IS THE NEXT ONE? SIGN US UP!

Ellen and Donald Graham

### ***RSCDS SUMMER IN THE CITY***

These are some memories of summers with the Winnipeg Branch, starting in the late 60's, early 70's.

**DANCING IN THE PARK** on Monday evenings, July and August, Assiniboine Park. Margaret Bowie was the instigator and would arrive early to set up the fire pit for those who wanted to barbecue. We had use of one of the picnic shelters, so had power, water, bathrooms. Someone made a big urn of coffee. Attendees were Branch members with their children, grandchildren, dogs, friends, visitors, and passersby. And, yes, we did get new members. Some people even met their future spouse.

There were a few challenges. In that era we used records. If it was a gusty day, records could fly away, so someone had to keep watch. On occasion, the power hadn't been turned on yet. Once, John T sang the music for the dance. Another time David K moved his car closer and played a tape at full blast.

This is where I learned the merit of accurate publicity. In response to the ad in the paper about the barbecue and dancing, some strangers showed up looking for the free barbecue.

**PARADES** and dancing on the float. I don't know how Margaret managed to find that flatbed trailer or how she set up Joe Duthie, from Selkirk, to pull it with his tractor. The 3 main parades: Manisphere, Charleswood in Motion, and Selkirk. The first parade, we had a piper (Robin McComb I think. His mother Joyce made him do it). When we realised how difficult that was for a piper, John T made a battery operated amplifier and a tape that ran nonstop for 1/2 hour. Dances were chosen carefully as there could be an inopportune bounce in the road. We won several trophies over the years. When Joe was no longer able to drive the tractor, Don Brydon took over. Every year there was a float decorating party organised by the men of the

Branch. The float spent the winter exposed to the elements, and eventually could not be revived. That was sad but sort of OK because Margaret had a new plan.

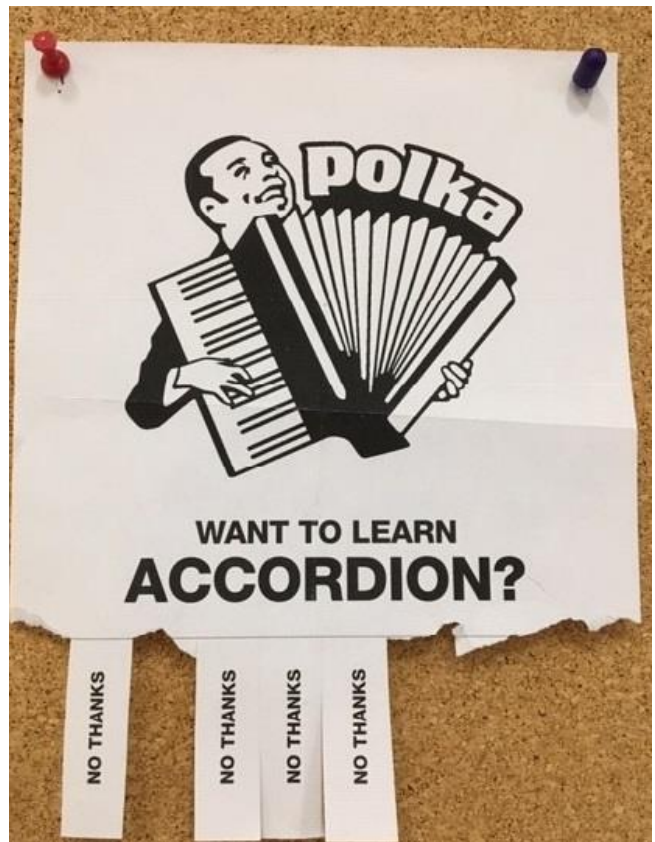
**FOLKLORAMA.** A centennial project. Margaret couldn't find any other groups to join us, so took out a loan to start Mug Pub. There were only 5 pavillions that first year. Margaret booked River Heights, but we couldn't have Tuesday as that was Weight Watchers meeting. Janie Burpee was our first Queen. Because of the lack of security, Margaret, Alan Blanchette, and Thane (Margaret's dog) slept at the community club for the week.

Who knew Mug Pub would take over our lives. Many people worked year round, and took holidays for that week. 20 years later, it was time to say goodbye. Such memories, but it's a case of "you had to be there". After Mug Pub, people sort of got their lives back and moved on to other things. Cabins, lakes, summer vacations.

Maureen Burnham, with tears for the "good old days"

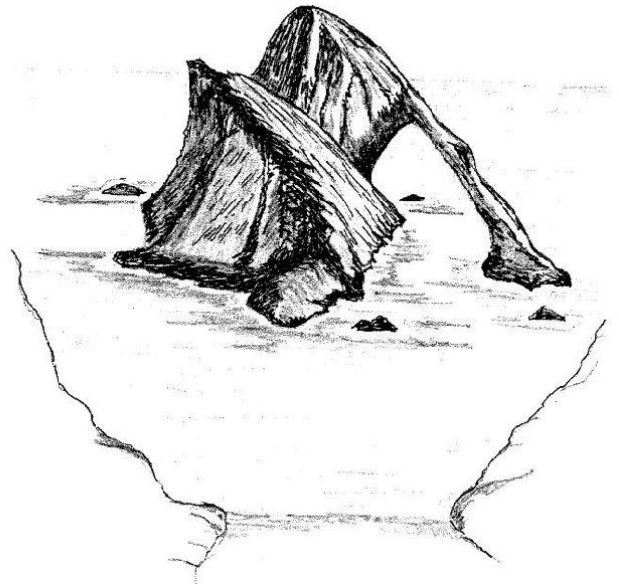
Seen on St. Paul's bulletin board .....

With sincere apologies to our very accomplished players whose music we so thoroughly enjoy dancing to.



## Portknockie

Cheryl Durnin saw a photo from a relative in Scotland on Facebook of her wee trip along the coast to the village of Portknockie. One picture was of Bow Fiddle Rock. This immediately brought to mind the book of dances *Aye Afloat* devised by Margaret Zadworny based around her home – Portknockie. This Portknockie Collection of Scottish Country Dances features instructions for 12 dances devised by Margaret, music composed by Muriel Johnstone, and a sketch of the theme drawn by her husband Victor Zadworny. One of the dances is Bow Fiddle Shore, a medley of Strathspey-Reel-Strathspey for 4 couples.



The description with the sketch reads:

The Bow Fiddle Rock is the village's most visited tourist attraction. It provides a classic example of a sea stack with a natural arch.

## *May Dancing*

All 3 classes had a 4 and a 5 cpl set. worked well as 3 3 cpl sets.

I had the privilege of teaching the first Spring dancing class. I was thinking "summer" a much anticipated event in Winnipeg.

I chose to do the following dances related to summer - Up The Pond from All Around the Circle, The Lightnin' Bug from Just Desserts, The Summer Assembly from Bk 35, The Falkirk Lass from Moments in Time. Our warm up walking dance (sort of) was The Lassie Wi' The Yellow Coatie from the Border Book. I enjoyed the evening very much and I believe the dancers did as well.

Cheryl

And on the second week they also came. We danced.

I focused on dances that will be done at TAC Summer School this year. My reasoning was so the people in Winnipeg could get a small taste of what we will be doing at Summer School. The



dances we did were: Come What May, More Bees A'Dancing, Castle Douglas, Packhorse Rant, Cutty Sark, and Music and the Dance.

Sheila

The third week featured a Canadian, local and personal connection.

The Pride of Dunblane is dedicated to Andy Murray to celebrate his achievement in becoming the first Canadian Wimbledon men's singles champion in 77 years. My brother was an avid tennis player which is why I chose this rather quirky dance.

Other dances were Trip to Sucker Bay - written by Maureen Burnham. I attended this weekend in Minnesota in 1986, St John River, Currie Mountain, Spark O' Water, and The Wedding Medley - written by Jean Miller (former dancer with the branch) on the occasion of Lawrence's and my wedding August 3, 1997.

Joyce

Cheryl, Sheila, & Joyce

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

Jewelry was scattering across the dance floor at the Workshop Ball.

One lady's pearl necklace had the string come apart. All pearls were recovered.

A cufflink was also found on the dance floor. It was reunited with its mate and owner.

The Sunday brunch at the workshop was delicious. The potatoes were my favourite.

The dates for our Open House and Registration in early September were not settled as this issue was being prepared. Dates will be in the next issue (August/September) and on the website

<http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca>

I hope you have a great summer.

Doug Durnin, editor

[Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca)

### ***Here and There...***

#### ***SCD Books and Music***

Anyone interested in buying books of Scottish country dances or recordings of SCD music should be aware of TACBooks and TACSound, two services maintained by Teachers' Association Canada (TAC).

You can look at their catalogues on the TAC web site [www.tac-rscds.org](http://www.tac-rscds.org). If you want to order any items, please do it via the Branch Librarian, as there are discounts available to Branches, but not to individuals. In the past, the Librarian has sent in Branch orders two or three times per year.

#### ***Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and Pumps***

[www.avriel.com](http://www.avriel.com) Shoe shop for dancers.

#### ***Clan Info and Scottish Shop***

[www.scotclans.com](http://www.scotclans.com)

## **SCD Online**

In case you didn't know about these sites:

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Edinburgh, Scotland: <https://www.rscds.org>

A great site to link to other branches and everything in the world of Scottish Country Dancing.

[The Inter-City Scot](#) - lists events across Canada and the United States. For other parts of the world, use the link to SCD groups on the Strathspey site [www.strathspey.org](http://www.strathspey.org) to find contact information.

[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](#)

[RSCDS Montreal Branch](#)

[RSCDS St. John's \(Newfoundland\) Branch](#)

[Teachers Association Canada](#) : for teachers of Scottish country dancing.

Strathspey [www.strathspey.org](http://www.strathspey.org) has a database where you can search for info about dances (including cribs and videos when available), music (some clips), people and more. Also, there is a link to the Strathspey e-mail list, in case you'd like to join an online mailing list about SCD.

SCD Dictionary [www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com](http://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com) has info about steps and formations. We don't really need that, we get it in our classes; however, sometimes a video may help, and SCD dictionary has videos for steps and formations. Also, there is info about dances, as on Strathspey.

## ***Some Out of Town Events***

If you have an internet connection, browse for RSCDS & city. 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.

July 26-28 – Calgary – TAC Teachers' Conference Weekend and AGM

July 28-August 4 – Calgary – TAC Summer School Week

September 20 & 21 – Mississauga – SCD ceilidh with Maggie and Duncan Keppie

## ***L&A Submissions***

**Next L&A:** August/September

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 [Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca) Deadline for submissions: July 30. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)