

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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February 2023

Important Dates

Dancing in 2023

Winter Term 2023

Mondays – evening class 7:30 – 9:30

Thursdays – afternoon class 1:30 – 3:30

Saturday, January 21 – social evening Churchill Park UC 7:30

Saturday, February 18 – social evening Churchill Park UC 7:30

Saturday, March 18 – social evening Churchill Park UC 7:30

Week of April 10 – Second Term Classes end

April 21, – 23, 2023 – Winnipeg Anniversary Weekend Workshop

Monday, May 15 – AGM at Churchill Park UC 7:30

A Word from the Chair of COM

My comments for this month begin with two events which occurred in December. Joyce Cormack resigned her Publicity position on the COM for personal reasons. We thank Joyce for her work on the Committee of Management and her continuing enthusiasm promoting Scottish Country Dancing. We were saddened to learn of the death of Jane Natrass' Mother, Maribette Dahl in her 101st year. We extend our sincere condolences to Jane and extended family. Observing the request of the family a donation in memory of Mrs. Dahl was made to Harvest Manitoba.

January. The halls have been "undocked", the Christmas decorations are being packed away and we are aware of the return to bright skies and longer days. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have been back dancing and hopefully I've had the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year in

person. Best wishes for a safe and healthy 2023! We welcomed 20 dancers on Monday evening including 2 first time dancers. Sheila planned a great class. The New Year Jig set the tone for the evening. A good time was had by all. We're looking forward to our Thursday afternoon classes led by Peter and Sharyl. I'm sure they have some surprises for us.

The COM received many positive comments with respect to the end of term classes, We have booked the Lounge again for our first social on January 21st. Barb Lambert and Ellen Graham our Social Convenors invite you to participate in providing refreshments for 'Teatime' and will have sign up sheets available at class. (just another step closer to our usual way of doing things.)

The Anniversary Workshop and Ball in April is undoubtedly our focus for the year. We thank the Workshop Committee for the many hours they have spent setting the plans in motion and there are many decisions that have to be finalized. We encourage you to register and be part of this event in the history of the Winnipeg Branch.

Shirley Tinsley

Next COM meeting – Feb. 1

Have you heard?

January Social Evening

Mark your calendars to attend the January Dance Social on Saturday, January 21st at 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:15 pm) at Churchill Park United Church (525 Beresford Ave). Admission \$5.00 (members) or \$10 (non-members) at the door (cash only).

From the Classes ...

Did you know Churchill Park United Church has an AED located inside the front door next to the entrance to the sanctuary? There is also a first aid kit beside the AED.

Monday

Looking for a scribe for Monday class.- ed.

Thursday

Happy New Year to all. We are in the month when we remember Robbie Burns! Our class has 2 teachers in this session...Peter McClure and Sharyl Eaglesham who are keeping us jiggling and learning.

We are back dancing as the New Year moves along with 14 dancers as we began to review and renew. We danced Burns' Night which included an allemande which came back to our minds and feet. We danced the New Year Jig - so appropriate for the first class. This dance features several figures of eight. We also enjoyed the Silver Tassie that had us dance the rondelle. At the end of the class 4 couples danced the Burns' Hornpipe as the man and lady took turns weaving in and out of the lines and ended up doing a poussette. It's a favourite to watch as those dancing in the men's line stand with arms folded and right foot counting the beat!

We are all looking forward to the Burns night social on Saturday, January 21. Hope to see you there.

I was so pleased to be in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick last fall for a visit. Gift shops, of course, are a must. At one shop I bought a book called Gaelic in Your Gob - four dozen English words that came from the Scottish Highlands by Michael Newton. (The publisher gives permission to use short excerpts or quotations.) Over the next few editions, I would like to share some of these words.

It might be most appropriate to start with **GOB**. Gob is a well-established slang term referring to the mouth, usually with mocking, sarcastic, or humorous overtones such as “gob-smacked”(astonished), gobstopper (hard candy), and “gobshite (loud mouth or indiscreet person). Gob is also familiar to the Irish and in northern England, but most common with the Lowland Scots who borrowed the word from the Scottish Gaelic *gob*, which refers primarily to the beak of a bird. It is also used for the human mouth. A common Gaelic admonition used by adults to silence a child is *Duin do ghob!* “Shut your beak!”

Heather Robbins

CANCELLATION POLICY FOR SNOW DAYS

The COM has agreed to the following policy for cancellation of classes, when necessary because of inclement weather conditions:

A decision to cancel that day’s class will be made no later than 3:00 pm on Mondays & 9:00 am on Thursdays.

An email will be sent out to all members as soon as possible.

IF THE WEATHER IS NASTY, PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL BEFORE HEADING OUT TO CLASS.

If you do not have access to email, please let your class teacher know and leave a phone number where you can be reached. If in doubt, please call your class teacher. If you cannot contact your teacher, then call the chair of the Committee of Management.

Note: This policy will also apply to extra or special classes and socials that are not on a class day.

2023 Winnipeg Anniversary Workshop



“YOUR” 50th ANNIVERSARY WORKSHOP AND BALL

When: April 21-23, 2023

Where: Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Why: Great company, Great teaching, Great music,

Great dancing, Great food!
A time to get together and haveFUN!!!!

How: On-line registration forms and information on Teachers
and Musicians are on the RSCDS Winnipeg website



QUICK!

Time is flying by!
Have you missed the DEADLINE?

Get your Workshop and Ball Registration for the full weekend event in by February 10, 2023. You could be the "won" to win a free registration!

**DRAW FOR A FREE FULL WORKSHOP AND BALL
REGISTRATION**

SOMEONE HAS TO WIN

From the Library ...

There will be a small selection of library materials at the social for browsing. There will be a box of recent donations which are duplicates of what we have in the library archives for dancers to take.

Plaids and Tartans. Congratulations to our December kilt contest winners. David Kroeker with his assistant Debbie identified the tartan as a Cockburn. I have included a photo of this month's kilt for our name the tartan contest. It has a 36 inch waist and is 27 inches long. \$15.00

Sashes. With our monthly socials and upcoming workshop ball you might want to dress up by wearing a sash. If you have a piece of family tartan you want to fashion it into a sash to wear on special occasions. If you look online there are several styles requiring different lengths of fabric.

The first sash I was shown by Jean Miller was a length of fabric 88 inches long and 12 inches wide. It was folded in half, edged, and gathered at one end with an elastic to make a half circle. Pin the sides to

the band to hold it into a half rosette and fringe the ends. Add your Scottish brooch and you are ready to pin it to your blouse.

One year at Folklorama a kilt maker was demonstrating how to make a full rosette. For this you need fabric 12 inches wide and about 100 inches of fabric. You fold the fabric lengthwise in half and then fold the top down 6 to 7 Inches depending how large you want your rosette and then gather across the middle of the folded fabric to make the rosette. This folding requires a bit of planning as you want your tartan lines to match on the outer edges to make the lines go in a circle. I usually pleat the layers of fabric before gathering it and hand stitching it. Then you join the outer edges to make of the rosette. You can trim the sash length to what you need and fringe the ends. I like the upper strip to be a bit longer as it needs a bit more length to cross to the side waist for pinning.

The length of your sash will vary depending on your skirt length. A floor length skirt looks better with a longer sash. Attaching the sash requires a few pins. It is pinned on your blouse under the rosette (in the hollow of the chest I was told), and a pin at the base of the neck secures the two lengths and you are almost done. The lower band is allowed to fall down your back and the upper length is pinned at the side waist. Some people use a small brooch here instead of a pin.

Et Voila! You are all set to dance out on the town!

Contest-

I have selected another kilt skirt for our monthly contest. Any guesses on this one?

If you are the first to name the tartan of this featured skirt from our donation collection correctly you can pick a prize of a donated CD or tea towel. The kilt skirt has a 36 inch waist and is 27 inches long and will be available for sale at the social for \$15.



Joan Curle
Librarian

Burns Dinner

The Robert Burns Club of Winnipeg is hosting their dinner in honour of Robert Burns. All our Robert Burns enthusiasts out there in Winter Wonderland, how about spending an evening with fellow comrades, enjoying Scottish fare consisting of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties. Listening to good music and having a sip of your favourite brew, be what it may...

Where: Holliday Inn South
When: 25 January 2023
Cost: \$85.00 per person
Time: 19:00 - 22:00 hours

For more information and tickets contact Charles Cameron.

Email at ccameron49@gmail.com or call 204-781-1757

TAC Summer School



TAC Summer School
July 30 – August 6, 2023



Teachers

Sharon Barker (Canada)
Gary Coull (Scotland)
Alan Twigg (USA)
Ron Wallace (USA)

Musicians

Kathy Fraser Collins (Director)
Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Judi
Nicolson, Gary Thomas, Don
Wood

*Enjoy a week of dancing in
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Dancers of all levels welcome

Celebrate!



Check website for updates and
online registration

tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers'
Association (Canada)

Registration
opens in
March

For dancers wishing to plan add-on travel, the links below, including the Nova Scotia branch website, offer useful information:

<http://www.rscdsnovascotia.ca>

<https://www.novascotia.com/>

<https://www.explorenovascotia.com/>

Unfortunately ...

Maureen Burnham has had a nasty fall and suffered a fractured leg. She is in the Grace Hospital and we wish her a full, albeit lengthy, recovery.

Sadly ...

Jane Natrass's mother Maribette Dahl passed away in early December shortly after her 101st birthday. The RSCDS Winnipeg Branch made a donation to Harvest Manitoba in Maribette's name. Jane sends her thanks for the support and hopes to join us on the dance floor soon.

From the editor's desk ...

Classes are up and dancing again for a new term. Our first class social is happening on Saturday January 21 so hope to meet you on the dance floor.

I hope to return to our system of having a class scribe to write a wee report each month about what the class has been doing. I have a volunteer from the Thursday class who has an idea for an ongoing bit of fun. Haven't heard of an interested dancer from Monday yet but maybe this week. It's not a big job, and one that can easily be shared.

We have received notice of a dance and music workshop weekend in Lethbridge which includes a ball (of course). It is wonderful that our fellow dance groups are getting back to hosting events. If you want more information please contact me or look on the Lethbridge website.

A friend sent me an email with amazing home remedies for tricky tasks. I will share some as I have room.

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

**AVOID CUTTING YOURSELF
WHEN SLICING VEGETABLES
BY GETTING SOMEONE ELSE
TO HOLD THE VEGETABLES
WHILE YOU CHOP.**

Here and There...

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.

February 10 – 12, 2023 – Edmonton – 51st Annual Workshop and Ball

February 17 – 19, 2023 – Hawaii – Aloha Winter Weekend Workshop

March 31 – April 2 – Lethbridge – Dance, Music Workshops, & Ball

May 26 - 28, 2023 – Toronto – 1st Spring Fling / Spring Fringe in North America

July 30 – August 6, 2023 – Halifax – TAC Summer School

August 13 - 20, 2023 – Prague – Prague Scottish Dance Week

Scottish Country Dancing and Walking Holidays – 5 tours scheduled in 2023. March, May, Sept., Oct., & Nov.
check <https://www.scottish-country-dancing-and-walking-holidays.com> for more information

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: March 2023 Deadline for submissions: February 10.

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