

Light and Airy



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

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Important Dates

Dancing in 2023

Monday, May 8 – Wind-up dancing evening at Churchill Park UC 7:30

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

A Word from the Chair of COM

Congratulations all around. The long awaited Workshop and Anniversary Weekend was a huge success. Thank you again to Jane and her Committee for making this weekend so special. The Ceilidh was a spirited occasion as we were treated to a variety of entertainment by members and guests alike. We were pleased to see and be able to visit with friends and former members. A terrific start!

It was a pleasure meeting and getting to know our guest teachers Jim Stott and Linda Henderson. We thank them for sharing their time and talent with us, offering a challenging and fulfilling dance experience. Mary Ross and Janette Polson joining with our own Ron Krug, arranged and provided us with wonderful music for both classes and the Ball. It truly is a luxury to dance with a band and in the words of ABBA we say "Thank You For The Music."

We were honored when Jim read for us a message from William Williamson, Chair of the RSCDS Edinburgh expressing his personal greetings and citing our 60th Branch and 50th Workshop Anniversaries as remarkable achievements. He also thanked us for all we have done and continue to do in spreading fun, fitness and most importantly friendship that is the essence of Scottish Country Dancing.

The Anniversary dinner was marked with toasts to the founders of the RSCDS and the Winnipeg Branch and Peter McClure paid tribute to Ron Krug as he was presented with the Headquarters Branch Achievement Award in recognition of his contributions to not only Scottish Music but also to the music community at large in Winnipeg and across Canada. The Grand March was led by Kirby McRae; the skirl of the pipes carried down the hallway and suddenly a group of youngsters raced out from an area nearby, lined the doorway and waved as we passed by. A delightful start to the Ball.

Sunday morning was made special with a surprise visit from Gerry Mayes, a long time member and teacher with the Branch. It was an opportunity to chat with Gerry and recall memories of her teaching the Fort Garry Social Class and the years when Bert Mayes played with Scotch Measure. Thank you to Doug and Cheryl for setting the plan in motion.

**It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.
- Henry David Thoreau**

Thank you to everyone, from near and far, who joined us this weekend for the celebration. We are fortunate that SCD has provided us with a common interest and value and the opportunity to make new and form lasting friendships. We trust this will be the case for many years to come.

Shirley Tinsley

Next COM meeting – May 3 (via zoom)

Have you heard?

From the Library ...

The winner of last month's kilt tartan identification contest was drawn from a number of correct answers. Sharon Plaitin correctly identified the tartan as dress Manitoba. The tartan is similar to the previous month's Manitoba tartan except it has a white background instead of green.

This month's tartan for the contest is one some of you may recognize. It is the pattern on a man's kilt with a size 34 waist. The kilt has been taken in by a dressmaker and could be several inches wider when the buckles are lengthened and the darts are let out. It is 22 inches in length. It will be available at the May 8 social. You can email me your answer or give your answer at the social. Men's kilts have sold for \$75.

Joan



The Show in Winkler!

12 dancers + 2 musicians + 2 singers + 11 rehearsals = 1 show.

And what a great show it was!

Some background: Late in the fall Sheila Careless had been approached by the Winkler Performing Arts Centre about presenting a show of Scottish Country Dancing on Sunday afternoon March 26th. Cheryl Durnin took on the challenge of pulling together an exciting list of dances to showcase Scottish Country Dancing that also included live music and singing for the 1 hr performance. A request for dancers went out in late December and rehearsals started in January. The show was a unique blend of Scottish Country Dancing, step dancing, hard shoe dancing, singing, and fun.

This amazing group worked very hard in a short time to put together a very polished performance. We started with virtually no costuming for the ladies and by the dress rehearsal they were all outfitted with the help of Jo Hamilton in California and Mary Knight here in Winnipeg. It was an amazing experience for all and I do hope we have the opportunity to present the show again.

Friend Jody Morgan filmed the entire show and it will soon be available for viewing.



Excerpts from messages about the show:

I wanted to say how proud I am of all of you. You are truly an amazing group of dancers, musicians and singers and I am so pleased and privileged to have had the opportunity to put together a show that you managed so very well.

Cheryl

This performance was another example of what a group of people moving toward a goal can accomplish together. Fortunately, we have teachers with so much talent and dedication, along with friends who want to help us succeed. The perfect dancers and entertainers stepped up for the challenge, beautiful costumers appeared, and the show happened. It was an amazing opportunity that became so much more than the performance itself. Thanks for the reminder of how enthusiastic we can be in demonstrating the joy of Scottish Country Dancing!

Sharyl

I'm so glad I was part of this. I got to be a better dancer and got to know the other participants better, as well as having a great time. I hope we are able to perform these dances again for other audiences.

Cheryl, there were so many different requirements for this to work out well and you handled them all like a pro!

Sharron

I think we all had fun. Glad for Cheryl's vision and hope we can do it again.

Sheila

This was a huge commitment given the complex programme and the short time to rehearse. But when we hit the stage any doubt evaporated. Performing is so much different than rehearsing. "We're here, let's go". We became a team.

Ray

It was a great show and a great deal of fun. Loved the choreography and music. Flowed very well. Thanks to Cheryl and Doug and all our performers, musicians and supporters. I enjoyed it very much. Hopefully we can perform it again soon!

James

I was a great show and wonderful venue. Thanks to Sheila for seizing the moment and to Cheryl for organizing everything and setting it up! An outstanding moment for me was behind the scenes and reminder of how important the support people for our group are. I had a necklace I planned to wear with my costume and it came apart in my bag during our trip out to Winkler. I had just about given up fixing and wearing it when Mary reappeared, and offered a solution. "What about dental floss?" She was right and I felt better being able to wear the necklace!

Thanks to Mary for all her involvements in our performance and her very timely intervention with dental floss.... you might be able to see my dental floss necklace in the photos! In future I too will carry floss.... you never know when the support, kindness, and a piece of dental floss can make a difference!

Lynn

I believe the consensus is "a good time was had by all!"

Teamwork with a purpose. Cheers!

Shirley

Overheard in the Men's Change Room:
"I think yours is longer."
"No, yours is still longer than mine."
Elevate your mind, dear reader!
This was regarding trying to lengthen a kilt belt for a more comfortable fit.
Context is Everything!

2023 Winnipeg Anniversary Workshop

RSCDS Winnipeg Branch 60th Anniversary **50th Workshop and Ball April 21-23, 2023**

How do you set the stage for a WOW weekend? With a ceilidh of unending talents and laughs. Over 60 people gathered on Friday evening for visiting, ceilidh dancing and sing a-longs. We enjoyed recitations and musical presentations, SC dance demonstrations and step dancing.

Saturday morning classes with 35 dancers; teachers Linda Henderson and Jim Stott along with musicians Ron Krug and Mary Ross started right at 9:00 am. Level 1 dancers were stretched in their skills to remember a 3 couple Rights&Lefts in the dance *Welcome to Argentina*, devised by Jim. They also had the pleasure to dance *Welcome to Winnipeg*, an inaugural dance modified for this weekend by Linda. Linda led the Level 2 dancers in a new figure to our branch “Promenade (Chaperoned) Chain progression” in the dance *Sandy’s Scotch Broth*. New formations were the theme with Jim guiding Level 2 dancers through “The Roulette” in a strathspey *The Ladies of Banffshire* and the unnamed formation or “Jim’s formation” in *The Insurance Man from BA*.

What a joy to be together again for the Winnipeg Branch 50th Anniversary Ball. What a sight we were - all in our finery, proudly grand marching into the hall to Kirby McRae’s bagpipe music. It was an evening of acknowledging those from the past: founders from the Society – Miss Milligan and Mrs. Stewart and friends/co-founders from Winnipeg – Archie Nixon and David Williams. It was also time to acknowledge current achievements by presenting Ron Krug with an RSCDS Branch Award recognizing his contributions to RSCDS and Branches. We were honored to receive greetings from William Williamson, Society Chair acknowledging our 60th Branch anniversary and 50th Workshop anniversary during the 100th anniversary of RSCDS.

Saturday evening was a blur as Cheryl Durnin briefed us through 14 ball program dances with live music by Ron Krug, Mary Ross and Janette Polson. Each dance was carefully picked with stories from the branch’s past. How fortunate we are to have dances devised by our own members: *The Sheltered Cove* – Margaret Zadworny; *A Prairie Crocus* – Peter McClure; *A Trip to Sucker Bay* – Maureen Burnham. The unexpected hotel electrical blackout as the *Reel of the 51st Division* was to begin was viewed as just an opportunity to catch our breath before the light returned and we were dancing again.

Because we love dancing so much, we were back at the hotel again at 10:00 am Sunday morning. In an hour and a half Linda and Jim guided all the dancers through six dances: Border Meeting; Toshogu Shrine; Lochindorb Strathspey; A Trip to Crinan; Grimaldi 700; and A Touch of Tartan. We did it – WOW!

The Workshop and Ball Committee led by Jane Nattress planned an outstanding 50th Anniversary Weekend. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated people who were willing to do the work and worry, so that our membership could celebrate these milestone anniversaries together. We are forever grateful and we will remember these many WOW moments!

Sharyl E.



Anniversary Workshop Committee with Anniversary Cake at Winnipeg Workshop & Ball – April 22, 2023

Comments on the weekend

Woo hoo!! Well done all!

Sheila C.

I really enjoyed the evening of great music, dancing, food and camaraderie. So good to see everyone again after 3 long years and be welcomed like it was just the other day!

Margaret S.

The first word that came to me was exhaustion lol!

However, the next words were elation, success, friendship, community. I thought it was an excellent weekend. The hotel was very very accommodating, an excellent place to have the event. Having such an occasion is a great reminder of just how awesome RSCDS can be!

Sharon P.

It was a great weekend. I am sure all are as tired as I am.

Cheryl D.

I remember Katie (from Quebec) dancing with her two-year-old daughter Amelia on Sunday early afternoon after the brunch. Katie, who is quite tall, had Amelia's feet on top of her feet and they were having a good time in the middle of the empty dance floor. Nothing like starting early to build the future of SCD!

Lynn Mc.

So wonderful to have former members stop by for a visit. Myrna McCrae came with son Kirby (piper) for Saturday dinner and part of the evening. Gerry Mayes (with son Brian & daughter Alison) came Sunday morning to watch some dancing and visit with friends.

Doug D.

How big will "Light and Airy" be this month!!! – from Alex and Jan Coats

- Sparkles, on hotel room floor, socks, carpets and bathroom floor at home – from the tissue-wrapped Manitoba glass in the "goodie bags". Every sparkle made us smile.
- Being made so welcome, seeing old friends, making new acquaintances.
- Teachers and musicians with Scottish roots, Mary and Janette from areas of Glasgow that we know.
- Excellent music, the pleasure of seeing Ron's contribution to RSCDS being officially recognized.
- A happy, buzzing-with-energy weekend.
- Most of all, the exciting realization that we can still dance!
- Only criticism – the lovely dinner before the Ball was too much food!

Alex and Jan

TAC Summer School



TAC Summer School
July 30 – August 6, 2023

**Register
now!**

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

Dancers of all levels welcome

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

Celebrate!



Register online at:
tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers'
Association (Canada)



TAC 50th
Summer School

From the editor's desk ...

The dance season is nearing the finish line. The show in Winkler (Sunday March 26) and the Anniversary Workshop & Ball (April 21 – 23) are in the books. A final dance evening happens on Monday May 8 and the AGM on Monday May 15 will wrap up the year. Where has all the time gone?

**Chocolate comes from
cocoa, which is a tree.
That makes it a plant.
Chocolate is a salad.
- anonymous**

As Sharyl asks in her write-up about the weekend – “How do you set the stage for a WOW weekend?” What an amazing time we all had as a result of a super job by the Workshop Committee. A huge Thank You to you all.

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

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.

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

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 2023 Deadline for submissions: June 26.

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