

# *Light and Airy*



**Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg**  
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## ***Important Dates***

### **Dancing in 2024**

Saturday, March 16 – St. Patrick’s Social 7:30

Monday, April 8 – last evening class

Thursday, April 11 – last afternoon class

Saturday, April 20 – Dance Workshop

Saturday, May 6 – Wind-Up Social

Monday, May 13 – AGM

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

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

All our comments about the unusually warm November/December weather quickly vanished by the second week of January when the wind, snow and freezing temperatures caused us to cancel the first two Thursday afternoon classes. The first for snow, and the second for boiler problems at CPUC. Clearly things have changed in the past couple of weeks!

Actually compared to many parts of North America and especially western provinces we were rather lucky in terms of snowfall. Our cold snap has passed and the days are now getting noticeably longer.

Apparently we are past the halfway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox....hopefully heading towards warmer temperatures.

The Burns social took place January 27 at CPUC and we enjoyed a great program/music prepared by Sheila plus the 'presence' and memories of "Robbie" who was waiting in the wings at Churchill Park gym. Refreshments after the dance were provided by volunteer contributions - all very welcome and appreciated. This was not a full Burns dinner and celebration as COM decided that for this year our focus on would be on one special event, the one-day Workshop on April 20, so please note that day and evening. The committee organizing this has been busy this past month and the application forms and details will soon be available and distributed. If you have any questions, James Sutherland and Cheryl Durnin, would be key people to ask.

I think this is all to report for now.

If any of you are traveling to warmer climates, be safe and warm ..... we will look forward to welcoming you back!

Lynn McClure

Next COM meeting – February 1, March 7

## ***Have you heard?***

### ***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 COM.

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



## ***Betwixt and Between***

On December 30 about two dozen members and friends gathered in the CPUC lounge for this season's version of our holiday Betwixt and Between social evening. No dancing this time, plenty of music, socialising, and tasty treats. Ron played a medley of seasonal tunes as people were arriving, and accompanied the sing-alongs. There were songs such as Deck the Halls, Frosty the Snowman, and Jingle Bells, and those assembled sang "lustily, and with good cheer".

There were musical presentations. Scott and Reg played a medley of Scottish tunes on guitar and harmonica, and Shirley and Jane sang In the Bleak Midwinter, accompanied by Ron, Lynn and Reg. John rounded off the music with a medley on his shuttle pipes, ending, appropriately, with Auld Lang Syne.

A highlight of the evening was an expression of appreciation to Maureen Burnham and Joyce Cormack, both having withdrawn from teaching due to health concerns. Claire came prepared with a song, composed by herself, saluting Maureen and Joyce, and set to a Scottish melody with a chorus of "We're no' awa'..." for the audience to join in. That led naturally to remarks of appreciation prepared by Cheryl Durnin. Cheryl and Doug were unable to attend, having come down with a virus (not covid!). As Cheryl could not be there, her remarks were read by Peter, and were roundly applauded by the audience. Cheryl's appreciation:

*Maureen, we have all learned so much from your style of teaching, which came from the technical style, that was strongly emphasized by Miss Milligan ... your examiner.*

*You have shared that knowledge and love of dance for many years. And for that, we thank you. I remember the year that a guest teacher at the very last minute did not get on the plane to come to our workshop and you were volunteered to fill in. That was not an easy weekend to pull off but you did it with grace and skill which made the weekend very enjoyable for the dancers.*

*Joyce, you conquered many hurdles to become a teacher. From not being able to finish up in Scotland due to a fall. To travelling to Minneapolis to complete your dream.*

*You then went on to work diligently in outreach starting the Transcona ladies' group. You showed them the love of Scottish music and dance and encouraged them to come to branch socials. For all of your contributions we thank you.*

*So, thank you both for all you have shared with our branch and I, for one, look forward to having you join us in the dance when you can.*

And that was nicely rounded off by Ron playing a couple choruses of "For they are jolly good fellows" with enthusiastic participation by the audience.

After the "scripted" part of the evening was over, there was still a good period of time for visiting and sampling the wonderful array of seasonal baking and other treats laid out for us. And tea from the big brown teapot. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and to Barb and Ellen for arranging the display,

and to Donald, who was anywhere and everywhere as needed. And thanks to Lynn for imagining and arranging the evening, and to all who came and made it a success.

Peter

*Words for the song Claire Buys composed in tribute for Maureen and Joyce.*

## WE'RE NO AWA' TAE BIDE AWA'

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### CHORUS

Oh we're no' awa' tae bide awa'  
We're no' awa' tae leave ye,  
We're no' awa' tae bide awa',  
We'll aye come back an' see ye.

### VERSE 1

As one by one we joined the dance,  
The fun, the music and the company,  
Maureen and Joyce we'd come to know,  
Both teaching us so ably.

### CHORUS

And we're no' awa' tae bide awa'  
We're no' awa' tae leave ye,  
We're no' awa' tae bide awa',  
We'll aye come back an' see ye.

### VERSE 2

Through sets and steps, reels, jigs, strathspeys,  
Promenade, poussette and petronella  
We'd hear the voice of Maureen and Joyce  
They knew just what to tell ye!

### CHORUS

And we're no' awa' tae bide awa'  
We're no' awa' tae leave ye,  
We're no' awa' tae bide awa',  
We'll aye come back an' see ye.

### VERSE 3

Here's tae these ladies, Bless them hearts.  
And where e're we for gather,  
We'll celebrate, and shout hurra,  
For time we've spent together!

### CHORUS

We're no' awa' tae bide awa',  
We're no' awa' tae leave ye,  
We're no' awa' tae bide awa',  
We'll aye come back an' see ye.

### CHORUS (REPEAT)

We're no' awa' tae bide awa',  
We're no' awa' tae leave ye,  
We're no' awa' tae bide awa',  
We'll aye come back an' see ye.

*Meaning of unusual words:*

tae bide awa' = to stay away

aye = always

*\*adapted from Andy Stewart's version*

## **Upcoming**

### **St. Patrick's Social**

**March 16 at Churchill Park United Church**

#### **March Social Programme**

- |                         |                      |              |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Warm up mixer        | 32-J-4 single circle |              |
| 2. Flowers of Edinburgh | 32-R-3               | Bk 1         |
| 3. Prairie Crocus       | 32-S-3 3 cpl set     | Prairie Gold |
| 4. The Wild Geese       | 32-J-3               | Bk 24        |
| 5. The Shamrock Girl    | 32-S-4               | Goldring     |
| 6. Rory O'More          | 32-J-2               | Bk 1         |
| 7. The Summer Assembly  | 88-R-4 sq            | Bk 35        |
| 8. The Lairds' Diamond  | 32-S-2               | Prairie Gold |
| 9. Trip to Timber Ridge | 32-R-3               | Bk 52        |
| 10. Waltz               |                      |              |

## ***From the classes ....***

### ***Monday Evening***

Sheila Careless has taken over teaching the Monday class for this term. We look forward to enjoying some of her chosen dances.

### ***Thursday Afternoon***

First class – cancelled due to snow conditions

Second class – cancelled due to boiler problem at the church

Third class – DANCING! Enjoyed brushing up on a couple of dances on the Burns Social programme.

## ***Coming Sooner Than You May Think***

### ***The Winnipeg Spring Workshop!***

The committee is finalizing the details and will have the application/registration form ready soon.



**SPRING WORKSHOP – APRIL 20, 2024**

Mark your calendar for the  
one-day spring branch workshop  
on **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
at Churchill Park United Church

**Guest Teacher: David Booz**  
RSCDS Toronto Branch

The graphic features a blue background with a light green border. On the left is a circular portrait of David Booz, a man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a black tuxedo and bow tie. To the right of the portrait is the text for the workshop, including the date, location, and guest teacher information.

## ***From the Library ...***

Congratulations to May Kong Sutherland for correctly naming our last contest entry. She had said MacLeod and I thought no, it's not the loud McLeod. Usually I have identified the pattern before it is displayed but not last time. And yes, she was right. It was the MacLeod of Harris.

## ***Tartan or Plaid?***

Is this month's contest entry a plaid? Yes it is. But is it also a tartan? Time will tell if it is identified as a unique pattern registered in Scotland. It has a 28 inch waist and is for sale for \$15.00.



## ***Making it fit?***

If you no longer have a 28 inch waist there are a few ways to make it bigger. One way to use a kilt skirt you like but you can no longer do up is to unstitch the under waistband until you can let out a couple of pleats for more length. Extend the waistband by adding similar fabric to the end.

A simpler way of enlarging the waist if there is an under apron is to move the button over to where you need it. The large overlap protects your modesty. You will have a narrower under apron putting you at risk of not having enough coverage. If you stitch through both layers for about 12 inches half way down it can't open. The dominant pattern may no longer be centred which will require some adjustment while wearing.

A kilt pin goes through only the top layer of fabric to protect the fabric. It is often 4 inches from the hem and two inches from the fringe.

The library has listings of our cd's for sale and our books on Scottish dancing and music which can be borrowed, as well as the titles of donated records which are available for free.

Joan

## ***Committee of Management 2023/24***

<b>Chair:</b>	Lynn McClure	204-489-7712
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Pat Clubb	204-774-2796
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Barbara Lambert	204-256-8738
<b>Asst. Soc. Secretary:</b>	Ellen Graham	1-204-744-2857
<b>Publicity:</b>	May Kong Sutherland	204-995-2388
<b>Membership:</b>	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
<b>Library:</b>	Joan Curle	204-254-6697
<b>Light &amp; Airy:</b>	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
<b>Teacher's Rep:</b>	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

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

It's great to be back dancing after the Christmas break, albeit a bit delayed for Thursday classes. We had a surprise the first Thursday class as two dancers from the Joyce Cormack's Transcona class came out. Welcome to Margaret and Susan!

Following along Joan's tips to "make it fit", I recently purchased a kilt from her consignment collection. It had been made smaller to fit but I needed that extra inch or so. I undid the stitching to regain the larger waist. I wore it to the Burns social and loved it. My other kilt was a bit longer than it maybe should have been. Now I am showing more knees & leg!

Lynn mentioned traveling to warmer climates in her Word from the Chair. The next issue of the Light & Airy may come to you from the Mayan Riviera. "Hola!"

Doug Durnin, Editor  
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### ***Here and There...***

### ***Time to think ahead to July 2024 and Summer School!***

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

**July 28 – August 4, 2024 – St. Catharines, ON – TAC Summer Dancing in Canada**

**October 20 – 24, 2024 – Hortonville, Nova Scotia – Scotch on the Rocks music & dance festival**



Planning to travel? If you have an internet connection, 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:** March 2024      Deadline for submissions: February 23.

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)