

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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June / July 2024

Important Dates

Dancing in 2024

Monday, September 9 – Open House / Registration evening, 7:30 – 9:30 at CPUC

Monday, September 16 – evening classes start 7:30 – 9:30 at CPUC

Thursday, September 19 – afternoon classes start 1:30 – 3:30 at CPUC

Saturday, October 5 – Ceilidh Fundraiser for ALS Manitoba 7:30 at CPUC

Monday, October 14 – no class. Thanksgiving Holiday Monday

Saturday November 23 – St. Andrew's Social

Thursday, December 5 – last afternoon class

Monday, December 9 – last evening class

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

A Word from the Chair of COM

Greetings from the Committee of Management, RSCDS Winnipeg Branch.

Since our last AGM (Annual General Meeting) in May 2024, the Branch welcomes a new COM with a few new members! The Chair is now Pat Clubb with Vice-Chair Heather Robbins and the Social Secretary is Ellen Graham with Assistant Social Secretary Claire Buys. A big thank you to Lynn

McClure, the out going Chair, for all her work and gracious smiles. She left us with big shoes to fill! Also, the Branch thanks Barb Lambert for her five years at the helm of the Social committee.

The summer is upon us now! Summer School in southern Ontario will see eleven Scottish Country dancers from Manitoba join in the “Fun, Friendship and Flexibility”. Sharyl Eaglesham and James Sutherland will also be there as they work towards their RSCDS teaching certificate. The Branch is wishing all the dancers good cheer!

The Scottish Pavilion at Folklorama will be in the first week of festivities: Aug 4 to Aug 10th. Come join in the fun.

Pat Clubb

Next COM meeting – July 3

Have you heard?

Did you hear our Society news?

His Majesty The King to become Patron of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

We are honoured to confirm that, after receiving correspondence from Buckingham Palace, a review of the Patronages of The Late Queen has taken place and His Majesty King Charles III has accepted the Patronage of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

The King will be the Society’s second Royal Patron, succeeding The late Queen Elizabeth II, who was Patron of the Society from 1947, as HRH Princess Elizabeth until her death in 2022.

New COM

Committee of Management 2024/25

Chair:	Pat Clubb	204-774-2796
Vice-Chair:	Heather Robbins	204-295-1542
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
Treasurer:	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
Social Secretary	Ellen Graham	1-204-744-2857
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Claire Buys	204-388-4832
Publicity:	May Kong Sutherland	204-995-2388
Membership:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Library:	Joan Curle	204-254-6697
Light & Airy:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Teacher’s Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
Webmaster:	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

Notes of Thanks

At the recent AGM (May 13) I was given a lovely thank you card with many signatures and cheerful thoughts along with a gift card for my favourite bookstore at Grant Park. I really appreciate this thoughtful gift from the Branch and I can assure you this will not be a card I will forget about using. With good food/deserts, interesting books, cards, and CDs, visits to McNally Robinson should keep me happily occupied over the summer!

Thank you so much and best wishes for a good summer to all.

Lynn McClure

Thank you so much to the Monday class for the card and the gift card for McNally's. Have not had a chance to go yet but I am looking forward to shopping. Thank you to all for your patience in the class and your willingness to try different things. You are a wonderful bunch of people to teach and to dance with. I look forward to the fall.

Sheila Careless

I would like to thank you all for the lovely and very generous gift card to Lacoste Green House and Garden Centre. I have used the gift card to purchase some "extra lovely" additions to some pots and flower beds.

From the bottom of my heart I thank you for thoughtfulness and generosity and I invite you to stop by to see your contributions to our backyard oasis.

Cheryl Durnin

Another Loss - Robin Lynch

We were saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend Robin Lynch on April 26, 2024. Robin and Michael Lynch had lived in Winnipeg for 47 years and moved to Quadra Island, BC in 2011, but certainly retained many friendships with dancers in Winnipeg.

The Lynch's moved to Winnipeg in 1964, and while their children were growing up, Robin returned to her childhood passion of Scottish Country Dancing. She received her Teacher's Certificate in 1979 and taught classes for children and adults at all levels for many years. She also encouraged the growth of dancing in Winnipeg as Robin mentored and tutored several of our branch's dance teachers. She was highly sought after as a teacher for dance workshops and travelled widely sharing her love of dance.

Drawn from the obituary printed in the Quadra Island newsletter May 3, 2024.

A few words from Lynn & Peter McClure

When we began dancing, in the late 1970s Robin was a teacher trainee, tutored by Archie Nixon. In our second year, and particularly third year (when Archie's time was taken up caring for his partner Mary), Robin did quite a lot of the teaching. So, we can attest to the high quality of her teaching from the beginning. We think that part of what made her such a good teacher was the warmth of her

personality. Quick to applaud a good effort, and kindly and encouraging when delivering corrections. And of course, a first-rate dancer herself, able to give clear instruction and good demonstrations.

I (Lynn) recall as a novice dancer being at Robin's final certification exam. At that time it seemed like the whole branch turned out for an occasion like this. She was partnered with John Trevenen for the required dances in a selected set with whom they had practiced, and they were a great team together! Robin with her beautiful auburn red hair wore a full skirted frothy sea-green dress that swirled around her, enhancing both the dance and the dancer. How could any examiner not be impressed! I felt nervous for her in this very public moment although we were all there to support Robin, but she appeared cool, calm and carried on in true British style. A few weeks later we heard she had been successful.

Of course, one didn't get the same teacher every session, but it was always a good session when Robin was assigned to our class. End of term parties often happened at the Lynch's, always warm and happy occasions. Not to say that others were not equally welcoming, but the team of Robin and Mike seemed to have a particular talent in that regard.

When I (Peter) was in teacher training, Robin was a mentor, in the sense that some of his practice teaching was done in her classes. She always gave interesting assignments, and constructive feedback.

We had an opportunity to re-acquaint with Robin and Mike a year or two after the Branch 50th anniversary in 2013. Robin was one of the teachers at the anniversary workshop, and she and Mike offered a stay at their B&B on Quadra Island for the silent auction. We were the lucky winners! We had a lovely time, visiting with Robin and Mike (and their dog plus two donkeys!) and exploring the island in the vicinity of their home. A favourite memory.

To sum up Robin and her impact would be impossible; she was unique with her lovely accent, red/auburn hair, humour, intelligence, literary skills (little poems and song lyrics that appeared without apparent effort) and most important good sense and kindness toward people and pets. I am sure that Mike and Robin's children carry forward many of these attributes and we send our condolences to them all with Robin's passing. She will be missed and remembered fondly.

Lynn & Peter



For many years Robin and Maureen (Burnham) attended summer school. They certainly had fun and enjoyed themselves.

One feature of the event was the Granny Bus, piloted by Robin and Maureen with Bob Blackie wearing out his shoes as brakeman. This photo of the Granny Bus delivering Alastar MacFadyen was taken in 1984.

Teacher Candidates

Our two candidates Sharyl and James have been very busy of late. On line zoom classes, practicing their 12 set dances, and doing some practice teaching. And now it will get really busy.

They will be heading to Brock University in St. Catherines Ontario for 10 days of intense classes and finally their Unit 2 Dancing exam and their Unit 3 teaching exam.

I am sure you will all want to join me in wishing them all the best as they continue to work toward the completion of the first half of their teaching course. The next parts Unit 4 will be completed here at home, and then the final section Unit 5 at a later date.

The support of the branch has been an integral part of the process and I thank all who have supported Sharyl and James in any way they were able.

Thank you all and all the best of wishes to Sharyl and James.

Cheryl Durnin

And from the perspective of a new dancer ...

This month we had the opportunity to dance with our teacher candidates, Sharyl Eaglesham and James Sutherland, so they could practice teaching a class ahead of their exams in St. Catharines next month. They worked very hard and I must say, so did we. It's actually quite difficult to really listen to the teacher and try to do exactly as we're asked! (without interpretation as to what we think we should do) Cheryl gave them some fairly tricky things to teach us, where we really had to count and be alert ahead of the transitions.

And for an extra challenge, the first week we had live music with Ron Krug on the piano which was set up near the entrance of the gym... so the top of the set was at the opposite end of the room from what we're used to! Still we managed not to have any collisions, so you know Sharyl and James led us right. They also got quite detailed with the technique they taught us, which was very interesting. I learned a lot about the strathspey travel step. It was a great learning experience and a great team effort by everyone to support our candidates on their journey.

I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say, thank you so much Sharyl and James for your hard work and dedication, we're very very proud of you and you're going to do great in St. Catharines.

Elise Marie

Logic will get you from A to B.
Imagination will take you everywhere.
Albert Einstein

NEW from HQ The Blether

The RSCDS publishes a monthly newsletter called Dance Scottish Together which is sent to all dancers registered with the society. The April issue contained the first episode of *The Blether*, a new monthly video from William Williamson and Gary Coull. Each month they will have a blether (a chat) with a special guest and the first episode sees Jon Berridge join them, the Society's Chief Operating Officer.

The special guest for May was Lucy Fallon from Derbyshire North East Branch who chatted about recruiting new members.

From the editor's desk ...

Our candidates have been dancing and practice teaching and are ready to head off to Summer School Candidate sessions in St. Catharines in July. Best of Luck to Sharyl and James!

A person who never made a mistake
never tried anything new.
Albert Einstein



"The older I get, the earlier it gets
late."

The flowers in the garden are looking beautiful!

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

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

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

February 14 – 16, 2025 – Hawaii - Aloha Winter Weekend

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

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: August / September 2024 Deadline for submissions: August 12.

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