

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg
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Volume 56, Number 7

April 2025

Important Dates

Dancing in 2025

Monday, April 7 – last evening class

Thursday, April 10 – last afternoon class

Sunday, April 13 – challenge class (7:00 -9:00)

Saturday, April 26 – Dance Workshop

Monday, May 12 – Wind-Up Social

Thursday, May 22 – AGM (7 pm – 9:30)

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

A Word from the Chair of COM

Spring is here! The Winnipeg Branch of the RSCDS held its Spring Social with a St. Patrick's Day theme on March 16th to a small but enthusiastic group of dancers. The wonderful program was devised by Cheryl Durnin, our teacher from the afternoon class. Cheryl, complete with a shamrock hat, led all the dances with great flair. The Social Committee, chaired by Ellen Graham, prepared a lovely table of sweets and savouries, in the Lounge after the dancing. The many treats were contributed by the dancers and enjoyed by everyone!

The One Day Workshop is coming soon on April 26th! So please register now!

The Twin City RSCDS Branch is celebrating their 50th anniversary complete with workshop on that weekend of April 26, 2025. Winnipeg Branch has been invited to the festivities! Unfortunately, it conflicts with our own Workshop. We wish them all the best in the next fifty years!

The final dance classes will be on April 7th (Monday eve) and April 10th (Thursday afternoon). The last Social will be held on May 12th.

The RSCDS Winnipeg Branch AGM will be held at CPUC on May 22, 2025.

Pat Clubb

Next COM meeting – April 2

Have you heard?

Nominations for COM

Hi! Heather Robbins here, dancer on Thursday afternoons, and current Vice-Chair of the Committee of Management making me in charge of Nominations.

I don't know many of the dancers in the Monday evening class and would appreciate some help in finding someone to fill the following positions:

Secretary: 5 year term is up

Treasurer : 5 year term is up

Webmaster: wishes to be released.

Vice-Chair : moving up to chair.

If you have questions please phone or email me. We do need people at the decision making level to keep the RSCDS - Winnipeg Branch viable.

No one is expected to jump into these positions without being mentored or supported by the outgoing person.

Thank you for your consideration and suggestions.

Heather Robbins

hrobbins@mymts.net

204-295-1542

Spring Workshop - April 26 - It's Here!!!

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY!
TIME IS TICKING!
OUR YEARLY WORKSHOP IS COMING!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
APRIL 26TH!
SIGN UP NOW!
A CHANCE TO DANCE AND LEARN!
WITH REBECCA BLACKHALL-PETERS!
IT WILL BE A GREAT DAY OF DANCE WITH FRIENDS!



**RSCDS Winnipeg Branch
One Day Workshop
April 26, 2025
Churchill Park United Church
525 Beresford Ave Winnipeg R3L 1J4**

Class registration deadline is April 18.

Workshop Pricing

Full workshop includes morning class, lunch, evening social	\$55.00
Morning workshop only	\$50.00
Evening Social only	\$10.00

Workshop Programme

Class

Classes are for all levels of dancers
Recorded music

8:30 am	Doors Open
8:30 - 9:00	Registration Coffee will be available
9:00 - 10:15	Class
BREAK	
10:30 - 11:45	Class
12 noon - 1:00	Lunch Sandwiches, fruit platter, goodies

Social

Social is open to everyone,
class registration is not required

7:15 pm	Doors Open
7:30 - 9:30	Dance Program
9:30 - 11:00	Socializing, snacks will be available

Our remarkable Workshop teacher!



Rebecca Blackhall-Peters

Rebecca was born in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. She has moved to the Okanagan Valley and resides in Summerland, BC.

In 1995 she took up Scottish Country Dancing and earned her Teacher's Certificate in 2001. As she had a background in classical ballet, pointing her toes was not a problem; however it took quite a bit longer to learn the formations and dances!

She has taught a general class in Fort Langley for the last 18 years and has taught for the Vancouver Branch. She now teaches the Naramta Scottish Country Dance class in Penticton.

She has taught workshops throughout North America and has been a core teacher at TAC, St Andrews, and New Zealand Winter School.

Workshop Dance

Programme

1. Warm Up Mixer	32-J single circle	
2. Mr. Diak's Measure	32-R-3	RSCDS Collection
3. Suzanne's Strathspey	32-S-2 (c couple set)	Goldring
4. Joie de Vivre	32-J-3	30 Popular 2
5. Prairie Crocus	32-S-3 couple set	Prairie Gold
6. Shiftin Bobbins	32-R-3	30 Popular 2
7. McDonald of the Isles	32-S-3 couple set	30 Popular 2
8. Wild Geese	32-J-3	Bk 24
9. 12 Coates Crescent	32-S-4	Bk 40
10. Trip to Timber Ridge	32-R-3	Bk 52

March Social – a Great Evening.

Although numbers were few the dancing was greatly enjoyed and the food was delicious as always. It is interesting how many different snack foods come for the table, and always something new to try!

Here are some photos from the evening.



From the Classes ...

Classes continue to skip along for all to enjoy.

Thursday class

Thursday attendees have enjoyed a variety of dances. Have you danced the “Thing-a-ma-Jig” before? If you were in attendance at one of our Thursday afternoon classes, you would have been thrown into this little gem, devised by Cheryl to trick us into practising phrasing. As we cycled through the formations, to the tune of a bicycle built for two, we paid attention to the timing of double figures of eight and rights and lefts. “Birks of Invermay” is a dance named after a grove of trees along a river in Scotland. A bit of googling, yielded the fact that “birk” is a scots word meaning “birch” as in birch tree. Here I was thinking that the “Birks of Invermay” was devised for a rich family who sold jewelry, but it was all about trees. The instructions for “Birks of Invermay” first appeared in 1789. So, perhaps Cheryl’s “Thing-a-ma-Jig” might be still going strong a couple of hundred years from now.

With Cheryl and Doug away in Mexico, our teacher candidates, Sharyl and James, and Peter stepped in to hold the fort. Sharyl put us to work perfecting pas-de-bas to prepare us for double triangles for the dance The Beeswing and the following week, Lady Dumfries. James led us through cross over reels for Maxwell’s Rant and Peter closed the class with Granville Market, a fun and easy dance. Our teacher candidates also reviewed some of the dances on the March Social.

There are a lot of people who work behind the scenes to ensure RSCDS Winnipeg runs along smoothly, and there is actually a dance named “Behind the Scenes” which was devised for Kathleen Johnston, who worked behind the scenes for the Dufftown Scottish Country Dance Club. This dance had an interesting turn partner, turn corner figure. For a cool down dance, we were whisked away to a Quebec sugar bush with the happy, sappy, Maple Syrup Jig – a great way to end a class.

Joyce Cormac who has been attending Thursday classes, is recovering from fall and broken hip. She is happy to be back in her suite at Bergen Gardens and is able to get around with a walker.

Adieu mes amis,

Hilary

From the Library ...

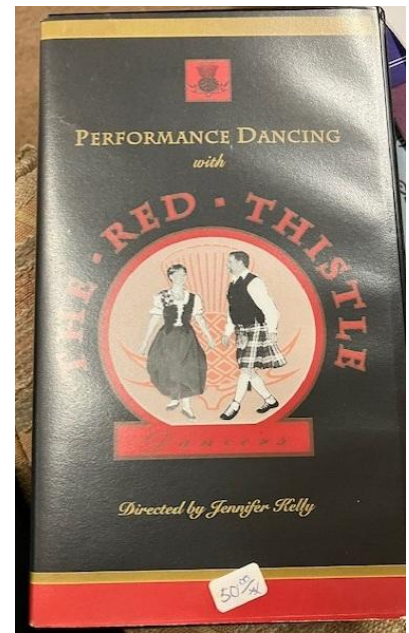
The branch library has books for loan on the technique and history of Scottish country dancing and music. Anyone who has felt the thrill of the pipes may have wondered how the enduring tradition of Scottish music began. If you want to read about it you could check out Rantin Pipe and Tremblin’ String, a history of Scottish Dance Music, 1972. In this book George Emmerson traces the history of Scottish music.

As dancers we know music and dance are inseparable. Can you imagine there being dance without music?

Clearance item from years past ...

This item is part of the library collection and I am wondering if it's time has passed. It has never been sold and never been used. You can tell by the price tag it was priced by Christine Wallace. Perhaps it could be yours for a modest donation?

- Joan



TAC Summer School 2025

Registration is open for a great week of summer dancing and fun and friendship!

Early Bird Registration starts
February 15
**SUMMER SCHOOL IN
CANADA!**
AUGUST 3-10, 2025
Bishop's University
Sherbrooke, Quebec
For dancers of all levels
Partial week attendance options

Teaching Staff
Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, BC Canada
Linda Henderson, California USA
Andrew Nolan, UK
Cecily Selling, Pennsylvania USA

Music Director
Gary Thomas, California USA

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
tac-rscds.org
Scottish Country Dance
Teachers' Association (Canada)



This just in! Tartan Day Ceilidh!

It's sure to be a great time!



from the editor's desk ...

Springtime travels!

We enjoyed a stretch of perfect weather in the Riviera Maya, then returned to winter in Winnipeg. A dose of fresh air, and reality! But Spring is here, the snow is disappearing and it will soon be time to enjoy the deck and bbq.

We also have dancing to enjoy with the Workshop classes and dance evening on April 26, and wind-up social on May 12.

Spring also brings about the branch AGM which will be held May 22 at Churchill Park United Church beginning at 7 pm. Annual reports are due April 17 (for those of us on COM).

Doug Durnin, Editor

Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

**It doesn't matter how old
you are, buying snacks
for a road trip should
always look like an
unsupervised 10 year old
was given \$100.**

Here and There...

Some Out of Town Events

April 5, 2025 – Victoria – Vancouver Island SCD Society - Workshop & Ball

April 26, 2025 – Minneapolis, Minn. – Semicentennial Ball

August 3 – 10, 2025 – Sherbrooke, Quebec – 2025 TAC Weekend and Summer School

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: May 2025 Deadline for submissions: April 21.

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

A thought for Spring ...

