

# Light and Airy



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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[www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)

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Volume 50, Number 3

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### *Committee of Management 2018/19*

<b>Chair:</b>	Jane Natrass	204-667-0814
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	John Giesbrecht	204-489-8429
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Heather Colquhoun	204-888-0834
<b>Secretary:</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Pat Clubb	204-774-2796
<b>Asst. Soc. Secretary:</b>	Barbara Lambert	204-256-8738
<b>Publicity:</b>	Joyce Cormack	204-224-2291
<b>Librarian:</b>	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
<b>Membership:</b>	Lorraine Watson	204-661-0112
<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

### ***Important Dates***

#### **Fall Term 2018**

Week of December 14 – First Term Classes end

Thursday, December 27, 2018 – The Third Day of Christmas

## **Winter/Spring Term 2019**

Week of January 7, 2019 – Second Term Classes begin

Monday, January 14 – Fort Garry Social Class 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary evening

Saturday, January 26 – Burns' Night Gala at the Masonic Memorial Centre

Tuesday, March 5 – March Social - hosted by the Tuesday Class

Thursday, April 4 – Spring Social - Hosted by the Thursday Class

Week of April 16 – Second Term Classes end

Friday to Sunday, April 26 - 28, 2019 – Spring Dance Workshop

Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21 – Spring Dancing 2019

- All dance events are at 8pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall unless otherwise indicated.

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

By now the St Andrews Social is over and I hope everyone had a great time! Did you know that the Apostle Andrew was crucified on a diagonal cross? When Scotland chose to make Andrew the Patron Saint of Scotland, the diagonal cross was chosen. Just a little history for you!



**Headquarters:** Since our last newsletter, the COM has been developing the membership lists and the fees have been sent to Headquarters in Edinburgh.

A couple of on-line surveys related to Branch membership and recruitment were received from Headquarters. Responses were expected prior to the AGM so the Secretary and Chair of COM responded to the requests. There was a 22 page report sent and you can access this through the HQ website.

**Classes:** The possibility of an afternoon class is still being explored, so if you have any interest in this class, please contact Cheryl Durnin.

**Socials:** A question was brought forward to COM regarding who could attend socials. Of course all members can attend and at this time there is no extra cost.

***However, what about non-members?*** Non-members could include former SC dancers who would like to attend and dance, as well as guests with no SC dance experience who would like to attend and watch. After much discussion, we felt that we want to encourage as much participation as possible, but there needs to be clarification on expectations. Non-members are not covered by our insurance policy. Because of this, the individuals would need to sign a waiver when they come to a social event. Depending on the event, the cost of the venue is not always covered, but is covered by your membership fee. Therefore, as a non-member, there would be a cost of \$5 assessed for non-members to attend a social. Guests are welcome but should not be dancing. If there are specific dances that are appropriate for our guests, the teacher will identify them as such. Otherwise, sit back and enjoy listening to the music and watching the display of dances.

**Publicity:** During the summer, we rifled through a great deal of publicity materials which are now out of date. In January, we are hoping to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fort Garry Social Class. At this time, we are going to put out some of this material, mostly photos, for people to peruse. We are hoping that you will feel free to take the photos you are interested in, keeping them for your own treasure chests.



COM wishes you all a safe, healthy and happy time over the coming holiday period.

Next COM meeting is December 5 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

Jane Nattrass

## ***Membership Report***

**Name Tags** - Branch members should have name tags, with their name and Branch affiliation. New members receive name tags at no further charge after their first membership is paid. A returning member who has misplaced a name tag can get a replacement by contacting Lorraine Watson, Membership, by e-mail ([glm@live.ca](mailto:glm@live.ca)) or by phone (204-661-0112). The charge for replacements is \$9. It is a courtesy to wear your name tag in any situation where not everyone may know you, e.g. when attending an extra class or a social.

An order for name tags will be made soon and new members should receive them shortly.

Lorraine Watson

## ***Library News***

As the branch librarian, I oversee a small lending library of books about Scottish Country Dancing – the dances, the history and the music. I will be bringing these books to the various dance socials we enjoy throughout the year, starting with the November 19 St. Andrew's Social, and dancers are encouraged to peruse and check out any of these books. I also have a few books and CDs available for sale, and a number of surplus dance and music books for giveaway. Please visit my table at the social and see if there is something that interests you. Another duty of the librarian is to place orders for any member that wants to purchase books or music from TAC Books or TAC Sound. Please note the Branch discount is only available through the librarian. The inventory of available books can be viewed at [www.books.tac-rscds.org](http://www.books.tac-rscds.org) and music at [www.sound.tac-rscds.org](http://www.sound.tac-rscds.org). Should you wish to order anything, please contact me at [sbettess@mts.net](mailto:sbettess@mts.net).

Sharron Bettess

## ***St Andrew's Social***

The St. Andrew's Social took place November 19. Bravos to the Fort Garry Class for hosting a great evening of dancing and fellowship. The next upcoming branch event is .....

## ***The Third Day of Christmas***

Formerly called Betwixt and Between, The Third Day of Christmas promises a fun time on December 27, after Christmas and before the New Year. Location is St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall beginning at 8:00pm. There is no charge for the event. (I consider this to be our Christmas present from the COM.)

The evening is open to all Branch members and their friends and family. There is no set dance programme. Dances will be chosen to suit the attendees.

Share your leftover Christmas snacks and baking. Contributions for the social aspect would be appreciated.

Maureen Burnham

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

**How Winnipeg! Branch snow policy.** Early wintry weather brings out branch snow policy for classes. Check the website or October issue of L & A for the policy.

### **Winnipeg Branch 2019 Weekend Workshop Update!**

The 48th Weekend Workshop will be held April 26-28, 2019 so mark those dates for next year!

For the past 5 years we have held the workshop at 17 Wing Air Force Base and it was a very comfortable space for our event. However as of the spring this year the base is no longer able to provide food catering services for any outside groups. As a result we are holding the Workshop next spring at two venues. The Friday ceilidh, Saturday Classes and lunch will be at St Paul's Anglican Church (our usual dance class space) where the church hall and Narthex room will be used for the two classes offered. The afternoon period is free time. The Saturday dinner and ball will be at the Holiday Inn West where there is a wood floor and dining space at the periphery of the dance floor. On Sunday the combined class will be again at the Holiday Inn West, followed by lunch or brunch. We hope this dual venue arrangement will meet our needs as we respond to the changes at 17 Wing.

The brochure and registration form should be available on the website before the end of the year and the workshop committee is looking forward to an enthusiastic response. We have two wonderful teachers coming this year, Rebecca Blackhall Peters from Summerland, BC and Craig Williams from Ottawa. With their experienced teaching and the music we've enjoyed from Ron Krug (Winnipeg) and Dennis Orr (Seven Persons, AB), it looks like a great weekend.

Lynn McClure/Shirley Tinsley

Workshop Committee

### **Afternoon Class**

There are now 12 people who have expressed interest in an afternoon class. If you are interested and have not yet let me know, please contact me by the end of November so COM can make a decision whether to proceed with an afternoon class in the New Year. Please phone Cheryl Durnin at 204-253-4213 or email at [durninch@gmail.com](mailto:durninch@gmail.com)

## **Burns' Night Celebrations**

Save January 26th, 2019 on your calendar! RSCDS Winnipeg Branch is organizing a Burns' Night Dinner and Dance to celebrate with Scots all over the world. Robert Burns, 18th century poet, is remembered by a night of eating, drinking, reciting of poems, singing of songs, dancing and of course an appreciation of malt whiskey! It is an evening steeped in ritual. The haggis is piped in followed by the recitation of the famous "Ode To A Haggis". The meal (always including neeps 'n tatties, haggis, and beef) is rounded out by a special "Toast to the Immortal Memory".

The Burns' Night Gala will be held this year at the Masonic Memorial Centre, 420 Corydon Avenue (at Confusion Corner). Please join in for an evening of good food, good friends, dancing, and some impromptu recitation of Burns' poetry! Everyone is welcome! Tickets will be on sale in December at the classes or from the Burns' Committee.

Pat Clubb  
Burns Night Committee

## **Dancing about the country - Ottawa**

Doug and I were in Ottawa in October and had the opportunity to join in their Monday night Advanced Social class taught that evening by Betty Anderson. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed the evening of dancing very much.

If you find yourself traveling I recommend you take along your dance shoes and find a class to join. It is a great way to meet new people and generally you have a chance to do some local favourite dances from another area.

Cheryl Durnin

## **Scottish Ceilidh for ALS on November 10**

On Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> a Scottish Ceilidh fundraiser was held for ALS Manitoba. ALS has touched my family deeply and it is an honour to give back so others suffering from this disease and their families may receive supports they need.

Although this is not a branch sponsored function, it was wonderful to have so many branch members support this event. There were many non-members who also attended and participated in all aspects and enjoyed the evening. All in all there were just over 60 people who attended. My thanks to all who came and especially the Celtic Trio - Shirley Tinsley, Peter & Lynne McClure, Charles Cameron, Ray Plaitin & Sheila Careless for providing entertainment, Sharon Plaitin who sold the 50/50 tickets, Doug Durnin and his "Behind the Scenes" crew who

looked after the kitchen and the donation table, and Mike Kubasiewicz who tallied the donations.



This event raised \$1342 in donations and another \$209 in 50/50 ticket sales and there are still donations coming in. Mirna Sainz (pictured) from the ALS Society of Manitoba attended the ceilidh, bringing gifts, a door prize, and receiving the proceeds at the end of the evening. I am so humbled by the generosity of all who have supported this fundraiser and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Cheryl Durnin

(Also, Thanks to all the scribes who mentioned the ceilidh in their submissions. ed. Doug)

### **Fort Garry Social Class 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

January 2019 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fort Garry Social Class, which came into being in late January 1969 right here at St. Paul's. My understanding is that the class was initially a free standing entity, separate from RSCDS Winnipeg Branch.

Members of the current Fort Garry Class suggested we mark this event with a modest celebration. An Anniversary Committee was struck to put this into place. We decided to stage an evening of abbreviated dance instruction led by our present teacher par excellence, Peter McClure, followed by a dessert and tea reception. My own association with the Fort Garry Social Class doesn't go back quite fifty years, but even I remember a very civilized tea and dainties after classes with Gerry Mayes. Sadly, that is no longer our regular practice, but we thought this occasion called for a revival of sorts. We especially look forward to having some former class members join us, and hearing some their recollections of the "early days". Those early members are a Winnipeg treasure that set a standard for RSCDS Winnipeg, although they may not have recognized the fact in 1969.

Come out and join our class on the evening of Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Parish Hall for 8:00 p.m.

John Giesbrecht

## A History of the Winnipeg Branch 1963 - 1988

With acknowledgement to Monique Henderson and Marge Krip

### Part 1.

The Winnipeg Scottish Country Dance Society was formed in 1959 on the initiative of two young men. David Williams, of Winchester, England and Archie Nixon, a Canadian then living in Stockholm, Sweden, met at the Summer School in St. Andrews in 1958 and again in 1959. When they discovered that they both were planning to settle later that summer in Winnipeg, they decided to form a group of Scottish Country Dancers there. They placed an advertisement in the Winnipeg Tribune September 1959 and much to their amazement discovered some response, sufficient to form a group, including Marge Krip, Jeannie Merriman and Betty Redfern.

As the story goes, in 1961 H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, while visiting Headquarters, was shown a map of the world by Miss Milligan, who explained that the coloured pins indicated places where Scottish Country Dance groups were active. The Duke said, pointing to the middle of North America, "Why, Miss Milligan, do you not have anything here?" "Oh, but we do, Sir." she replied, "We have a new group in Winnipeg and I'm to visit them this autumn on my trip to America."

As a result of Miss Milligan's visit and examinations September 17 and 18, 1961, there were then two Certificated Teachers in the area. With these teachers and the growth in interest, the group applied for and received Branch Status in May of 1963, when their membership had grown to 60.

The following year, 1964, was the start, thanks to Shirley Taylor, of this great communication vehicle, "The Light & Airy."

That same year was also the beginning of the monthly socials, our Christmas parties and in the spring of 1965 our first "Ball" which was held at the Royal Alexandra Hotel, now demolished.

Nineteen Sixty-Five was also the start of Saturday Socials and Children's Classes. Doug Will accepted the position of Official Piper. In that same year we started holding 2 classes in one night, a basic class and another class for more experienced dancers. As these were held in the same building, it made it possible to combine the two classes for the last hour.

In 1966 The Honorable Eric F. Willis and Mrs. Willis became the Branch's first patrons and attended our second Annual Ball. Mr. Willis had just completed his term as the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba (1960 to 1965).



## ***Class Reports***

### **Fort Garry Social Class**

By the time everyone reads this issue of the Light and Airy we will be anticipating the arrival of Christmas and the many festivities associated with the season. It seems as though the fall dance season just began!

I was concerned that I would not have enough to report this month, partly due to our class being cancelled on Thanksgiving Monday and also to the fact that I was away for two weeks. I would like to express my thanks to John Giesbrecht for taking notes in my absence and consequently it turns out that I have more to report this month than originally thought. It was nice to see Mary Holmen back from visiting her family in Ontario and also to see Margaret Speer from the Tuesday technique class attending our social class.

Our Monday evening classes are always well attended and very sociable. We have been practising the dances on our upcoming St. Andrew's Day social program, as well as other dances that are interesting both for their figures and for the stories behind the dances. City Lights from Book 52 is one that we have been trying to perfect and that I believe, or at least hope, we now have down pat. It contains a very lovely figure called the Allemande turn. This dance was inspired by the film named City Lights, a 1931 silent movie starring Charlie Chaplin. John Giesbrecht tells me that the WSO performed the sound track from the movie live earlier this year. Also from Book 52 we danced Farewell to Balfour Road which is a 96 bar jig danced in a similar way to a song sung in a round, with a new top couple beginning every 16 bars. This had the potential to become a bit chaotic at times however I thought we managed it quite well! For Guy Fawkes Day on Nov 5 we danced Roaring Jelly, the meaning of which is gunpowder and the dance was devised by Hugh Foss. Guy Fawkes Day, also known as Gunpowder Day or Bonfire Night is a wild British celebration with fireworks commemorating the foiled attempt to kill the king and blow up Parliament back in 1605. These dances were all great fun to do and of course we are always treated to Maureen's humorous antics as an added bonus!

In closing I would like to say Merry Christmas to all and we'll be looking forward to a new dance term as well as the Burns dinner and dance later in January.

Marilyn Piniuta

(Further to last month's report: In the SCD Magazine of October 2018 there was a letter to the editor regarding Ysobel Stewart of Fish Hoek. The letter, written by Andrew Hodgson of the Fish Hoek SCD Cub, South Africa, describes the story of Mrs. Stewart in Cape Town, South Africa. ed. Doug)

## **Technique Class**

No volunteers from the class so you're stuck with me again this month. I must hand out pencils.

Attendance on Tuesdays continues to average around 2 sets per night - give or take a few. We have enjoyed doing the dances from the St Andrew's Social program. Last week we had great fun doing Slytherin House, a strathspey from the new Book 52. This dance was written by Chris Ronald of New York in 2016 and some of our dancers had the pleasure of doing it before at one of the workshop ceilidh evenings. A great dance "named after the {house} in the Harry Potter books that features a snake as its emblem." The music, which is fantastic, is described as traditional, but certainly not the traditional Scottish music that we are used to. The dancers also enjoyed the very simple and basic dance Highland Fair and the floor was vibrating when all were dancing.

Joyce Cormack

## **Basics Class**

This last month has been most enjoyable as the weather gets colder and more windy!

The week before the ALS Ceilidh (November 10th) I attended 2 funerals and was feeling down. I went to the Basics class Thursday evening. Cheryl was the instructor that evening. We walked, stretched, warmed up and danced! I saw all the new friends and lifted my spirits. Life is good.

We have 4 new dancers since the start of the term.

Cheryl Durnin and Sheila Careless have been helping us to learn some dances for the St. Andrews Social as well as figures to use for a lifetime.

Donna Daniels

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

I have some space in this issue to include an installment of the early years of the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch as compiled in 1988 by Monique Henderson and Marje Krip. Enjoy a stroll back in time. The next issue (January 2019) will be available just in time for Christmas.

All the Best for the Holiday Season and New Year!

Doug Durnin, editor

[Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca)

## ***Here and There...***

### ***SCD Books and Music***

Anyone interested in buying books of Scottish country dances or recordings of SCD music should be aware of TACBooks and TACSound, two services maintained by Teachers' Association Canada (TAC). You can look at their catalogues on the TAC web site [www.tac-rscds.org](http://www.tac-rscds.org). If you want to order any items, please do it via the Branch Librarian, as there are discounts available to Branches, but not to individuals. In the past, the Librarian has sent in Branch orders two or three times per year.

### ***Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and Pumps***

[www.avriel.com](http://www.avriel.com) Shoe shop for dancers.

### ***Clan Info and Scottish Shop***

[www.scotclans.com](http://www.scotclans.com)

### ***SCD Online***

In case you didn't know about these sites:

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Edinburgh, Scotland: <https://www.rscds.org>

A great site to link to other branches and everything in the world of Scottish Country Dancing.

### **RSCDS Virtual Festival 2018**

This is an online dance festival sponsored by the Youth Services Committee of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Dance groups from various locales around the world submitted videos for consideration. If you would like to see them check the link at [www.rscds.org/article/virtual-festival](http://www.rscds.org/article/virtual-festival)

[The Inter-City Scot](#) - lists events across Canada and the United States. For other parts of the world, use the link to SCD groups on the Strathspey site [www.strathspey.org](http://www.strathspey.org) to find contact information.

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)

[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)

[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

[RSCDS Montreal Branch](#)

[RSCDS St. John's \(Newfoundland\) Branch](#)

[Teachers Association Canada](#) : for teachers of Scottish country dancing.

Strathspey [www.strathspey.org](http://www.strathspey.org) has a database where you can search for info about dances (including cribs and videos when available), music (some clips), people and more. Also, there is a link to the Strathspey e-mail list, in case you'd like to join an online mailing list about SCD.

SCD Dictionary [www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com](http://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com) has info about steps and formations. We don't really need that, we get it in our classes; however, sometimes a video may help, and SCD dictionary has videos for steps and formations. Also, there is info about dances, as on Strathspey.

### ***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.

December 9, 2018 - Vancouver - 55th Annual Gleneagles Ball

<https://rscdsgleneagles.org/2018gleneaglesball>

February 15 – 17, 2019 - Edmonton - Annual Workshop & Ball

### ***L&A Submissions***

**Next L&A:** January

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 [Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca) Deadline for submissions: December 15. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)