

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Important Dates

Fall Term 2019

Week of December 9 – First Term Classes end

Saturday December 28 – Fourth Day of Christmas – CANCELLED – hall not available

Winter/Spring Term 2020

Week of January 6, 2020 – Second Term Classes begin

Saturday, January 18 – Burns Celebration

Tuesday, February 25 – February Social - hosted by the Tuesday Class

Thursday, March 26 – March Social - hosted by the Thursday Class

Week of April 6 – Second Term Classes end

Friday April 17 – Sunday April 19, 2020 – Winnipeg Weekend Workshop

May Spring Dancing 2020 – dates to be confirmed

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

A Word from the Chair of COM

I was personally saddened to read about the passing of John Willard Oliver on Friday, October 18th. In 1981, when my late wife and I first joined RSCDS Winnipeg, John was a young teacher going through the rigours of teacher certification and exams. He was both an accomplished teacher and a genuinely nice person. Later John married and took on the responsibility of step children, not unlike myself. With his new responsibilities as a father, and a demanding job at Gerdau (MRM) Steel in Selkirk, John withdrew from teaching and Winnipeg Branch. I was heartened to know that a number of our branch members managed to attend his funeral. I immediately sent a card of sympathy to his family on behalf of our Branch.

For those of us who have been part of RSCDS Winnipeg for many years, the Winnipeg Branch is more like a family than a fitness or recreational club. Being a small branch, we know and care about our members, and when someone in our midst faces a family loss or injury, it affects us all. Such was the recent case when Helen Barnes and Shirley Tinsley both suffered injury. Immediately, cards of encouragement went out to these individuals, signed by class members. Also, it has come to my ears that some members of our branch have milestone birthdays and anniversaries coming up. Let's guess who that could be!

Now that we are well into our dance season, socials are cropping up here, there and everywhere. On Monday, November 18th the Fort Garry Class will host our St. Andrew's Social with an easy program prepared by Maureen Burnham, and sweets and savories prepared class members. On Monday, November 25th, a well-known Country Dance teacher, Robin Lynch,

will be in town and will take on the task of teaching the Fort Garry Social class. Those of you who remember Robin, are invited to attend and say hello to an old friend. December follows with individual class wind-ups, with tea and Christmas dainties. Oh, my poor waistline! At this rate, the only thing I will be able to wear is a Santa suit.

John Giesbrecht

Next COM meeting is December 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's Anglican Capital Fund Initiative

St. Paul's Anglican Church is celebrating their 100th anniversary and have launched a Capital Funds Initiative to raise a total of \$120,500 to address a number of needed upgrades in their church facility.

It was decided by COM to have a silver collection plate available at each of our socials this year with funds collected going to the Capital Initiative Fund. In addition, individual branch members may wish to make personal contributions to this Fund. Such identified donations would have the benefit of a tax receipt being issued by the church.

John Giesbrecht

Library

Several copies of the new book *Thirty Popular Dances, Vol.2* have been ordered as well as the accompanying cd. Our teachers will have them soon for our enjoyment. (The cd's have been received.)

Joan Curle

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 4:00 pm.

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.

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

Have you heard?

John Willard Oliver

We were saddened to learn of John's passing in October. It has been some time since he last danced with the Branch, and I regret not trying harder to keep in touch with him.

John lived in Selkirk and found the Branch through events our members held in Selkirk. He joined the Branch in the early 70's, and soon availed himself of all the activities we had to offer.

John became one of the Branch's best male dancers, especially strathspey. The next adventure was the Teacher's Certificate: the first certificate with Jo (Anning) Hamilton, and Full Certificate with Robin Lynch, all in the early 80's. Now we had 2 teachers named John -- Oliver and Trevenen. Hence John O and John T.

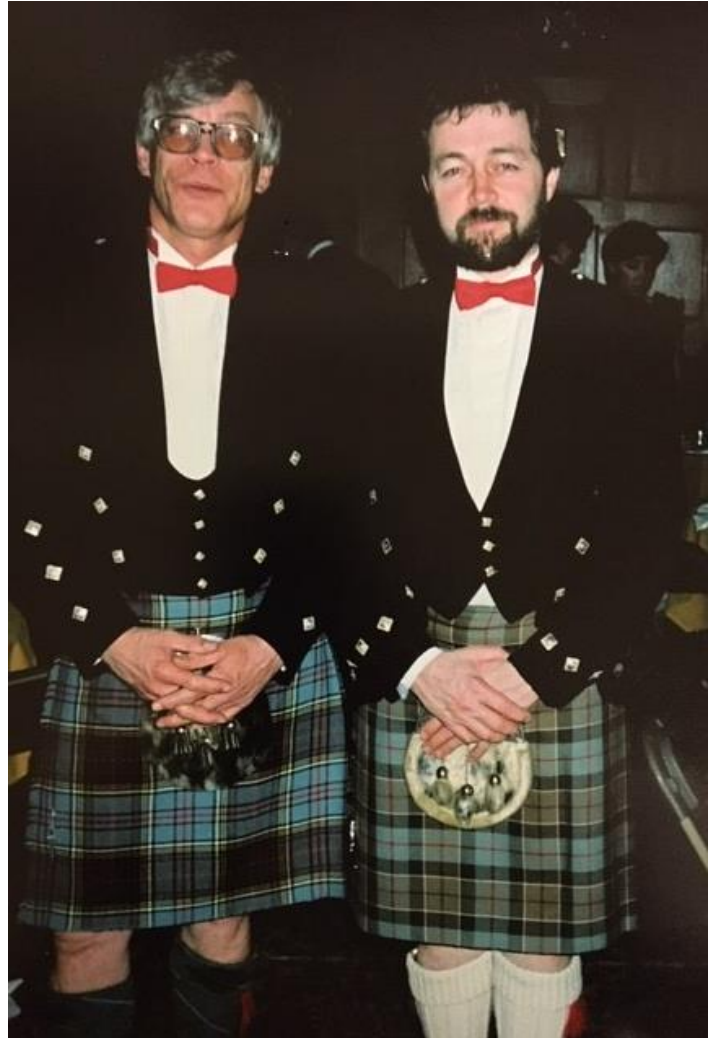
John was a really nice gentleman. He is missed.

Maureen Burnham

A note from Robin Lynch

Thanks for letting me know. I was fond of John, considered him to be one of the Branch's best male dancers, and a thoroughly nice person, who managed to keep himself above the inevitable 'fray' of Branch politics!

Once Wendy had come in to the picture, he seemed to loosen his ties with dancers and dancing, but perhaps that is somewhat understandable now that we know there were three children in the mix! John was a dark horse too in many ways!



John Oliver & John Trevenen

WORKSHOP 2020

Despite the cool weather and presence of snow we don't want you to forget about spring and the mid-April dates for the 49th Weekend Workshop April 17-19th 2020 at St Paul's Anglican Church and the Holiday Inn West. As per last year the Workshop will start with the Ceilidh on Friday evening at St Paul's, and this year, Saturday morning general class and lunch at the same venue, thence to Holiday Inn West for dinner and Ball followed by Sunday morning brunch and dancing. The guest teacher Ruth Jappy from BC is well known to many of us and well loved for her expertise across the world in teaching large and diverse classes. In Japan, she taught a class of a thousand, so ours should be a breeze! (Unless you surprise us with more registrations than usual!) We feel very fortunate that she has agreed to be our teacher for this Weekend. A very fun person!

Ron Krug and Dennis Orr from Alberta will once again be our musicians and their wonderful music has been a great hit at the ceilidh, classes, and of course the Ball.

Our workshop committee has had one meeting so far and we would like to welcome Sharron Bettess to the group. Sharron is now the Branch Treasurer and will be Treasurer for the Workshop Committee. Thanks to Sharron for taking on this additional responsibility. Heather and Glen Colquhoun are in the process of getting ready for moving house so have resigned from the Workshop committee, and we want to say how much they have contributed in the past several years and we will miss their presence and contributions as Treasurer (Heather), and Registrar (Glen). Don Johnson (Social) also had to resign due to work concerns so we wish them all the very best and send sincere thanks for their past support. We hope they might be lured back in the future.

In the next couple of weeks we will be getting a budget for workshop ready for the COM to review in early 2020 and preparing the brochure and registration form, which will be posted on the web site around the same time.

So in the anticipation of the Winter Solstice.....think SPRING and the joys of the Workshop!

Lynn and Shirley
Workshop 2020 Co-chairs

ALS Ceilidh

On November 9, 2019 I hosted a Scottish Ceilidh fundraiser for ALS Manitoba. This is not a branch sponsored function but is open to anyone who wishes to come. Advertising goes out, door prizes are put together, baking is made, friends are asked to provide a little entertainment to fill out the evening. The only request is that admission is by a donation to ALS Manitoba.

This year we had over 65 attend the event. Dancing was done, entertainment was provided by Celtic Trio (Peter, Lynn and Shirley), The Shetland Reel dancers (Sharon, Sharyl, Lynn and Shirley), Callum Morrison (all the way from Dundee Scotland), Sheila, Ray and Scott (our own Peter, Paul and Mary), and in the end we raised \$2,150 for ALS Manitoba.

I am again humbled and grateful for all the support for this event from branch members who came out to join in the fun, to all who provided entertainment, to all who helped in any way to make this event so successful. There are just too many to mention and I don't want to forget anyone.

ALS Manitoba was delighted with the donation that will help provide assistance for those battling ALS.

Let's Have A(nother) Ceilidh in 2020!

Cheryl Durnin

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

Having been away earlier in October and not aware until recently that I was going to be the class scribe, I did not take notes until this week or pay much attention for that matter to the "goings on" in the class - other than listening to the teacher's instructions OF COURSE! So I will try to remember things to the best of my ability!

In addition to reviewing dances on our November social program we have been enjoying dancing some of the old favourites among which were Hooper's Jig, EH37AF (the postal code of the RSCDS headquarters in Edinburgh), and Mairi's Wedding. For our Remembrance Day class our teacher Maureen very appropriately had us do dances with a military connection such as Reel of the Royal Scots, The Sailor, Reel of the 51st Division, Bridge of Nairn from The Victory book, and Wild Geese which Maureen informed us was the name given to Irish mercenaries. We ended the class with a practice of the Glasgow Highlanders setting step.

We have a very relaxed and fun class Monday evenings which I, as well as the other members I'm sure thoroughly enjoy. Maureen, with her usual wit and sense of humour jokingly refers to us as her "handicapped class". Joking aside, I guess one could say this is partially true as some of us, myself included, now suffer from various joint issues that come with age I guess. As a result, speaking for myself some of the steps are difficult to do - properly that is! However Maureen as well as the "non-handicapped" members are very forgiving and the focus of the class continues to be the enjoyment of the dance and the music, and, as always, the comradeship. Thank you everyone!

At the time of writing this report we are now looking forward to hosting the St. Andrew's Day social on November 18 and welcoming new members to our branch. See you there!

Marilyn Piniuta

Technique Class

It's time to wake up dance-brain! The teachers are taking us out of our comfort zone and the dancers are accepting the challenge. Sheila introduced the Chain progression (straight up or down) in the *Countess of Dunmore Reel* and the Peter complimented that with the dance *Forty & Counting* with a variation - Chaperoned Change Progression on the diagonal. Cheryl continues to encourage dancing with self-awareness and technique. The extra challenge was learning the Highland Schottische step and then using this step in {dance?} Looking forward to more dance-brain challenges next month.

Sharyl

Basics Class

Time sure flies when you're having fun, so they say. Hard to believe that we are at mid-November and there are only 4 weeks of scheduled classes remaining in this term. So we better make the most of them and try to be out for every remaining class! We lost one week in early September due to hall booking error, then there was the Art Show, one night of bad weather with nine dancers braving the elements and Hallowe'en cutting into our numbers. I sure wish there was room on the calendar for a make-up class but this probably will not work.

We have had pretty decent attendance over the past few weeks (20 dancers out Nov. 14th) and it feels so wonderful to have so many dancers on the floor. Over the past few weeks we have been working on the dances on the St. Andrews Social Program so that dancers will feel comfortable trying these dances at the social. This is, by the way, a very enjoyable program devised by the teacher of the Social Class, Maureen Burnham.

There have been a few disappointments. One of the people who signed up has been unable to attend classes for personal reasons and we hope that she will be able to join us in the future. Five new dancers had registered in September and on a positive note two new dancers joined a few weeks ago. One of them is Claire Buys, who had previously danced with us a few years ago, and her friend Ellen Byggdin who is trying this for the very first time and loves it. We are most thankful to have more experienced dancers from other classes join us from time to time to support and help the less experienced dancers. Special thanks to Sharron, Sheryl and Peter for coming out on a regular basis.

It was good to see some of the Thursday night dancers at Cheryl's ceilidh for ALS. What a successful event that was! The hall was packed with people, a great dance program, talented entertainment, delicious refreshments and a record amount of money raised for ALS! Thank you Cheryl!

A highlight of the evening was to see two fine looking gentlemen dressed in their Family Tartan...kilt, hose, brogues, jacket and tie. Donald Graham was, of course, smartly attired in the Graham tartan and Ron Livingston was wearing the Weathered MacKenzie tartan as his mother was a MacKenzie. This was the first time they had appeared in public so attired and are looking forward to doing so again at all semi- formal and formal events. These two new

dancers, Ron (first year) and Donald (new last year), were very proud and handsome, and it is so exciting to see them so keen on things Scottish.

Happy Dancing!
Joyce

From the editor's desk

Last month a Snow Policy reminder. New for December? Actually, our Thanksgiving dump of snow melted away, and our subsequent small amounts of snow have also melted. Is that it for winter? I do doubt we would be that fortunate and I intend to keep my snow shovel handy. Thank you to those who have sent in class reports. Perhaps two or three could combine their thoughts for reports. The more the merrier!

Doug Durnin, editor
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. 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 Shoe shop for dancers.

Clan Info and Scottish Shop
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.

[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 to find contact information.

[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](#)
[RSCDS Montreal Branch](#)
[RSCDS St. John's \(Newfoundland\) Branch](#)
[Teachers Association Canada](#) : for teachers of Scottish country dancing.

Strathspey 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 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.

November 30 – Toronto – St. Andrew's Ball

December 8 – Vancouver – 56th Annual Gleneagles Ball

February 14, 2020 – Edmonton – 50th Anniversary Caledonian Ceilidh, Workshop & Ball
– Hawaii – Workshop in a warmer climate

February 15, 2020 – Toronto – 57th Annual Tartan Ball

July 26 – August 2, 2020 – Calgary – Teachers' Conference AGM and Summer School

We have received information for Summer School. Contact editor Doug for more.

December 4 – 6, 2020 – Portugal – Curia 2020 – some dancing in Europe?

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: January 2020

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 Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca Deadline for submissions: December 14. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca