

# *Light and Airy*



## **Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg**

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

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**Volume 51, Number 5**

**February 2020**

### ***Important Dates***

#### **Winter/Spring Term 2020**

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

Spring Dancing 2020 – Tuesday, April 28

Tuesday, May 5

Tuesday, May 12

Wednesday, May 20 – RSCDS Winnipeg Branch AGM 7pm

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

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

This is the season where we normally look forward to a new year, and in this year, to a new decade. New Year's resolutions aside, we at RSCDS Winnipeg have much to look forward to. As I am writing this, the Burns Committee is putting the final touches on our Burns Celebration at St. Paul's Parish Hall. Next month the Tuesday Class will be hosting another Social on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. That will be followed by a March Social and in April we have our Dance Workshop April 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, our teachers are striving to bring us up to speed on new dances on the various programs. Teachers take note, your efforts are appreciated.

We all relish our Social events, but in doing so we should also remember that these happen because individual members, just like you, put shoulder to the wheel to make them happen. Nothing happens in a vacuum. In February the Committee of Management will strike a Nominations Committee, and when those Committee members approach you, seriously consider becoming a part of next year's slate of officers. A few hours of your time can translate into future social activities, and growth opportunities for RSCDS Winnipeg. We experienced a growth in membership this year, because busy active people like you contributed their time and talent. It is not hard, and makes for opportunities to expand your social circle to like-minded individuals while maintaining personal health and well-being.

I recently attended my first Scottish Heritage Council meeting. This body endeavours to bring together the various Scottish organizations in our city, and while they are not as yet a strong body, I see glimmers of hope for a more cohesive approach to Scottish cultural development here. Associations being part of this body include the St. Andrew's Society, the Manitoba Highland Dance Society, The Lord Selkirk Association of Rupertsland, The Robert Burns Association, and ourselves. Agnes Brydon and myself represented RSCDS Winnipeg, so if you are interested in future development of the Scottish community come speak to us. We can be more than the sum of our parts when we stand together.

John Giesbrecht

Next COM meeting is February 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

## ***St. Paul's Anglican Capital Fund Initiative***

St. Paul's Anglican Church is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> 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. Architectural drawings of the kitchen renovation are on display in the hallway. A collection box has been arranged and will be made available at our social events so members may contribute as they wish.

John Giesbrecht

## ***Burns Celebration***

The Branch celebrated the legacy of Robert Burns on January 18 with a gathering for honouring, eating, and dancing at St. Paul's Hall. The Haggis was piped in by Kirby McCrae, carried by John Giesbrecht, and the Address to the Haggis delivered by Callum Morrison. While we enjoyed a delicious buffet-style dinner which included sheppard's pie, haggis and turnip among other delights, the Celtic Trio (Peter & Lynn McClure and Shirley Tinsley) offered a musical tribute to Robert Burns. Joyce Cormack offered a toast to Burns. The hall was transformed from a venue for dining to dancing and we danced through a varied programme guided by Cheryl Durnin. We sang the traditional Auld Lang Syne and ended the evening enjoying tasty treats and coffee/tea.

Many thanks to all the committee for organizing the event, all those who stepped in to help, and the attendees – dancing and non-dancing – who made the event a success.

Doug Durnin

## ***February Social Programme***

**February 25, 2020**

Happy Meeting	32-J-2	Book 29
Seann Truibhus Willichan	32-S-2	Book 27
Laird of Milton's Daughter	32-J-3	Book 22
None So Pretty**	40-R-3	Book 19
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	32-S-3	Leaflet
Golden Boy	32-J-3	Prairie Gold
Kissing Bridge	32-R-3	Book 47
Barbara's Strathspey **	32-S-3	Book 46
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	32-J-3	Book 35
Da Rain Dancin'	32-R-3	30 Popular Dances Vol.2

\*\* for experienced dancers

## ***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?***

### ***Spring Weekend Workshop - April 17 – 19, 2020***

Just a friendly reminder that despite the wintry weather, plans are well underway for the April 2020 workshop. Like last year the events will be held at St Paul's Anglican Church, and the Holiday inn West. We would aim to provide any needed transportation to the two venues for any out of town workshop visitors.

The ceilidh will be at St Paul's on Friday evening, April 17 and Ray Plaitin, our ceilidh master will be looking for some volunteers to make contributions to the evening entertainment. A song, dance, music or any other items/ideas would be great additions and there will also be light refreshments plus some easy dances for all throughout the evening.

Shirley, Sharron Bettess, and myself recently met with the catering staff at Holiday inn West to talk details for the Saturday Evening Dinner and Dance, and our plans for the Sunday morning class and brunch at the hotel. The brochure is now available on the web site and if anyone has any questions feel free to call upon Shirley or myself and/or your class teacher.

As for now...keep warm and think of the April Workshop and spring (we hope!).

Lynn and Shirley  
Workshop 2020 Co-chairs

The workshop brochure and registration form can be found on the RSCDS Winnipeg website.

## ***Thirty Popular Dances***

This years "new book" from Headquarters is 30 Popular Dances. Last year all RSCDS Branches and groups were invited to submit their choices of favourite dances. Someone tabulated all the responses, and this is the result.

The book can be purchased through the Branch Librarian Joan Curle

How many have you done? Or remember doing? Or heard the name before? You can send in your numbers to the editor at ( [Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca)) and we'll see how many we've done. Actually, in counting up the dances there are 32 with the Other category being the extra two.

### **JIGS**

Pelorus Jack  
The White Heather Jig  
Joie de Vivre  
Postie's Jig  
Hooper's Jig  
The Cranberry Tart  
The Bees of Maggiecknockater  
The Dancing Master  
Torridon Lassies  
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder

### **REELS**

Mairi's Wedding  
J.B. Milne  
Shifftin' Bobbins  
The Highland Rambler  
The Irish Rover  
Miss Johnstone of Ardrosson  
Black Mountain Reel  
The Earl of Mansfield  
Da Rain Dancin'  
Bratach Bana

### **STRATHSPEY**

Culla Bay  
Delvine Side  
Miss Milligan's Strathspey  
Minister on the Loch  
The Dream Catcher  
The Gentleman  
Cherrybank Gardens  
The Wind on Loch Fyne  
Asilomar Romantic  
MacDonald of the Isles

### **OTHER**

Gaelic Waltz  
Britannia Two Step

## *Toronto Workshop*

This year the Toronto branch is hosting a Spring Fling (12-35 years of age) AND a Spring Fringe (36 and older) from May 15-17, 2020. I am planning on attending for the teachers that will be there: Gary Coull (Scotland), Linda Henderson (San Francisco), and Fiona Philip. Don't forget that there will be a live band to dance to - Scotch Mist (Laird Brown's band) will be there along with other musicians.

So who will join me on the dance floor in Toronto?

Sheila Careless

## *Georgie Balneaves*

Long time members of the Winnipeg Branch will fondly remember Georgie and Les Balneaves from many Scottish activities including Mug Pub. Les had passed away several years ago but Georgie just recently on December 28, 2019.

Never one to be idle, Georgie was heavily involved in the Scottish community in Winnipeg, including the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, the Manitoba Highland Dancers' Association, and working alongside Les at the souvenir booth, the Mug Pub Pavilion during Folklorama. They were both passionate about sharing their love for genealogy and Scottish culture and were often found at local shopping malls and community festivals manning the "Tartan Display" and helping others find their British roots.

## *Class Reports*

### **Fort Garry Social Class**

Here we are into another new year with Peter McClure as our teacher. I'm sure we're all happy to be back dancing and burning off those extra calories from the holidays! We enjoyed seeing some new faces at our first class, those being David Kroecker and Debbie Forrest as well as Wendy Land. We welcome Wendy back to class however she will be away for a month escaping the cold in Puerto Escondido, Mexico (lucky her!) so we will not be seeing her until her return. We hope David and Debbie will join us again.

At our first class of 2020 Peter greeted us with New Year's wishes and chose dances with which to ring in the new year and new dance season including The New Year Jig and Many Happy Returns. We polished up our dancing of The Wee Cooper O' Fife, the 40 bar jig comprised of 10 bar phrases which we had done toward the end of the last term when Robin Lynch was our guest teacher. The 10 bar phrases make this dance more challenging but somehow it was easier, for me at least, the second time around! At our second class, being the week of our Burns night, we did dances with "romantic" titles such as The Red Rose on our Burns program and My Love She's But a Lassie Yet. Another interesting one we did was The Dancing Man devised by Roy Goldring and dedicated to Bob Campbell.

There is not much to talk about after having had only two classes since my last report. By the time you read this we will have enjoyed yet another evening of fine food, friendship, music and dancing at our Burns night. Of newsworthy importance is the ordination of Donna Robinson's son Theo on Saturday afternoon, Jan 18 at St. John's Cathedral, the same date as our Burns celebration. Needless to say proud mom Donna will not be at Burns but attending another VERY special occasion and celebration! Congratulations to both Theo and Donna!

Marilyn Piniuta

### **Technique Class**

Well here we are into 2020 and our 2<sup>nd</sup> term, out with the old, goodbye Cheryl, in with the new, hello Sheila (our tag team teachers). Then bearing in mind our upcoming Burns Dinner & Dance Sheila put us through our paces with White Cockade and Burns Hornpipe. Wisely she continued second class, guiding us through Silver Tassie, Oh Whistle and I'll Come to Ye, Red Red Rose, and finishing with Da Rain Dancin. We must have been paying attention as I heard several complimentary comments at our Burns event. So few walk throughs. Kudos to Sheila, all the teachers and ourselves for an evening of fun dancing. Well done.

Ray Plaitin

### **Basics Class**

#### ***Of Reel Time Traveling Steps & Progressions***

*"I'm thinking of going back to Scottish dance class ... You want to come?"*

A text last September to my good friend, Ellen. Her response: *"Wow, that would be so fun!"* Thus began a conversation over many days concerning where, and what, and how ... & what about shoes?

I suppose I, Claire, am somewhat of an anomaly to RSCDS as being both a newbie and *somewhat* an oldie, which may sound curious so here's the back story ...

*Rewind to 2010*, and my youngest daughter's wedding plans. Her fiancé had immigrated as a preteen with his two younger brothers and physician parents to Manitoba from Scotland. Since there would be folks in kilts from the homeland and bagpipes playing at the ceremony – and since she was not Scottish but inclined to think outside the box – why not a Ceilidh at the reception? One thing led to another, she was in contact with RSCDS, then Joyce Cormack (along with her late husband, Lawrence, and a few other RSCDS'ers) was so kind to attend and lead the wedding guests, young and old, in an adventure into Scottish Country Dancing. Delightful & most memorable, our friends still talk about it!



Once again one thing led to another and having so enjoyed my first taste of a Ceilidh at the August wedding, I enrolled in the fall 2010 Basics Scottish Dance Class, your same local Winnipeg chapter. It was love at first ummmm ... step? I was bitten with the bug, and for the next year and a half thoroughly enjoyed the adventure and challenge of my dance class, not to mention the wonderful people I met! And then for one reason or another I fell off the rails ...

Claire Buys

To be continued in next issue of L & A Any guesses for the dance in the right-hand photo?

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

It is always wonderful to receive articles to include in our newsletter. This month Claire Buys from the Basics Class sent in a piece with the story of how she began Scottish Country Dancing and restarted several years later. I have split the story into two parts with the early beginnings this month and the recent beginnings held back for the next issue. Thanks Claire and I hope you all enjoy the story as much as I have.

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

### ***Committee of Management 2019/20***

<b>Chair:</b>	John Giesbrecht	204-489-8429
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
<b>Secretary:</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Linda Wingert	204-889-6319



<b>Asst. Soc. Secretary:</b>	Barbara Lambert	204-256-8738
<b>Publicity:</b>	Joyce Cormack	204-224-2291
<b>Publicity Asst.:</b>	Jane Natrass	204-667-0814
<b>Membership:</b>	Lorraine Watson	204-661-0112
<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

## ***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.

[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](#)

[www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org](http://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](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.

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

February 15, 2020 – Toronto – 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Tartan Ball

March 14, 2020 – Calgary – One Day Workshop

March 22, 2020 – Vancouver – Love to Dance Scottish Workshop & Dance

May 15 - 17, 2020 - Toronto Spring Fling & Fringe

May 29 – 31 - Peterborough, ON - Stoney Lake Scottish Country Dancing Weekend

June 2020 – Edmonton – Summer Solstice Ceilidh

July 24 – 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:** March

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: February 15. This and past

issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)