

# *Light and Airy*



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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### ***Important Dates***

#### **Fall Term 2020**

### **DANCE EVENTS ARE CANCELLED until Further Notice**

Wednesday, May 20 – RSCDS Winnipeg Branch AGM **postponed**

Fall 2020 (hopefully) – RSCDS dancing resumes

### **Teacher Selection Committee Report**

We are hoping you are staying healthy and we are looking forward to getting back to dancing in September. The teachers for the classes are usually announced at the AGM, but because the AGM has been postponed until further notice, the Committee will confer with the Teacher Rep and other members of the COM to decide when to make this announcement.

Teacher Selection Committee

Agnes Brydon, Charles Cameron and Jane Natrass

## 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Workshop and Ball update

In preparation for what was anticipated to be the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop and Ball in 2021, Jane Natrass and I took on the task of co-chairing the Workshop Committee for 2021. We started to look at possible venues, and out of town musicians were booked for the event. Then everything stopped.

During the past few weeks, however, both of us came to the conclusion that holding a major workshop event in Spring 2021 was less and less likely to be possible or successful. Social distancing and stay at home recommendations are slowly being lifted, but as virtually all group events began to be cancelled through September with no indication that a return to group events will be lifted even then, it became clear that it is likely that any recovery to normal activity may not begin until January at the earliest and may last well into 2021.

We have, with regret, come to the conclusion that holding a major event in 2021 that would involve out of town teachers, musicians, and guests is not feasible. We both agreed that it was only fair to cancel our commitment to the musicians that were booked for 2021 and to move tentative dates to 2022. We were pleased that consultations with the COM and the 2020 Workshop Committee supported this plan.

Gerri Stemler & Jane Natrass

Co-chairs 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workshop Committee

## *Have you heard?*

**TAC Summer School - CANCELLED** another pandemic casualty.



### Cancellation of TAC Summer Events

It is with great regret that we announce the cancellation of TAC Summer Events for 2020 (Teachers Conference Weekend, teacher candidate courses and Summer Dance Week). We thank you all for your understanding and the supportive messages that we've received as we've dealt with first the possibility and then the certainty that we would have to cancel.

Looking ahead, we are happy to announce that next year we will return to Mount Royal University in Calgary, Canada. The 2020 teaching and music staff have all happily agreed to join us in 2021 and we all look forward to a time when we can dance together again.

Best regards from everyone on the Summer Events Committee,

Kathy Simonsen - Director [sedirector@tac-rscds.org](mailto:sedirector@tac-rscds.org)  
Lin Pettengill - TCW Director [tcw@tac-rscds.org](mailto:tcw@tac-rscds.org)  
Eric MacKay - Treasurer [setreasurer@tac-rscds.org](mailto:setreasurer@tac-rscds.org)  
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Linda Mae Dennis - Examinations Coordinator [tcc@tac-rscds.org](mailto:tcc@tac-rscds.org)  
Sharon Barker - Local Hospitality Chairman [sehospitality@tac-rscds.org](mailto:sehospitality@tac-rscds.org)

## **Frank Taylor**

Frank Taylor passed away May 2 in Ottawa, age 87. He was predeceased by his wife, Shirley, in 2016.

Frank and Shirley were both Branch teachers and along with Monique Henderson, started the Fort Garry Social Class in January, 1969, on Mondays at St Paul's Church in Winnipeg. Shirley's forte was communication and public affairs. She initiated the start of the Branch newsletter, the Light and Airy.

Frank was my first teacher - Basic class in September 1969. It's a blur now. What I remember is the joy, and worry if I had "passed". The odd part was remembering to call him Dr. Taylor when we'd meet in the halls of the Winnipeg General Hospital.

Frank was a pharmacist researcher with a focus on Nuclear Pharmacy. Frank and Shirley left Winnipeg for other research centres – London, Los Angeles, Toronto & Ottawa where he retired. He and Shirley found Scottish Country Dancing wherever they went.

- Maureen Burnham

## **Hello from the teachers**

I want to start by saying we know you are missing seeing your dancing friends and being able to dance together. We teachers are missing all of you and our weekly time together as well. We do hope you have had the opportunity to try a zoom class that is being offered by the society. This Covid pandemic ended our season very early and left us all wanting more time together. We also know that the pandemic will end and we will be able to meet and dance together maybe even as early as this fall. (No promises!)

To that end the teachers have prepared a schedule for the fall/winter of 2020-2021. Once we know it is safe for us to meet in the new reality and the church is open for gatherings the schedule will be posted and we will be ready to go.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay connected and we look forward to our times together again.

- Cheryl Durnin

## **The Spring Dancing we missed out on .....**

From Sheila Careless

The first of the spring dancing would have us up on the floor again after resting a week following the workshop & ball. Unfortunately, the evening of dancing was not to be. The theme for the dance selection was centered around hometown favourites. We'll have to dance that program of dances another time.

From Cheryl Durnin

I would have been the teacher doing the evening of spring dancing on May 5.

I was planning on doing some dances that were related to retirement and flowers. As most of you know my retirement happened at the end of May which coincides with planting flowers. I

am disappointed I could not celebrate with you doing dances like Aging Gracefully, Catch the Wind, Flowers of Edinburgh and A Bottle of the Best.  
Oh well, we can do these again another time. Until then.....

From Maureen Burnham

Alas the May 12 "Spring Dancing" was cancelled. However unfortunate and beyond my control, I had been looking forward to an entertaining evening of music and dance and fellowship.

The programme I had in mind included:

The Bramble Circle- a big circle with inspiring music.

Catch as Catch Can -- The Teddy Bears' Picnic song.

Monymusk -- recording by Don Barlette, with Alec Jappy on accordion.

Haymakers Jig--- there is an English version that can be seen in the movie A Christmas Carol Reel of the 51st Division-- devised by British soldiers in a German POW camp, and published in the RSCDS Victory book in 1945.

Fair Donald--- Robin Lynch and I would always take turns dancing this strathspey with Bob Blackie.

Dashing White Sergeant-- a sergeant is a British police officer

Shifftin' Bobbins. Bobby Brown's music. I think this is the all time favourite of our Branch.

As the song goes: we'll meet again.

### ***Notes from our Dancers***

I sent out an email for any news our dancers might like to share and received several replies. Thank you!

*From Mary Holmen*

I am now a Grandma! Beatrice Kennedy Holmen was born to Martha Holmen and Andrew MacDonald on May 20 in Toronto, about 2 ½ weeks ahead of schedule and weighing just over 7 lbs. They decided to use Holmen as her surname, as Martha says, to ensure another generation of Holmens. Kennedy is Andrew's mom's maiden name, and Beatrice is just because they like it. I can hardly wait till I can get on a plane and go meet my first grandchild.

*From Charles & Darlene Cameron*

After our gruelling work on Teacher Selection and various comments on how to keep our RSCDS in fine form for all, beginner or intermediate and professional....

Lady Di and I, Lord Charles, have been keeping busy with yard work, going on walks daily...sometimes a few kilometers and other times over 12,000 steps...each step is approximately 65 centimeters. Figure it out if you may...we are averaging 40 – 50 kilometers a week, Sunday to Saturday.

Not only was our Scottish Dancing cancelled, our Square Dancing was cancelled.

Our Scottish Country Gentlemen's Club of Winnipeg has shut down, the St Andrew's Society of Winnipeg and Robert Burns Club, as well... great ways to spend an evening or Luncheon with some of the finest Ladies and Gentlemen on this Planet...

All the Scottish events cancelled, no getting to wear our Plaid, trying to impress the Ladies...lol....

Of course, both Darlene Diane and I are Paddy Bahing and Skip Changing down our Hallway and around the Island in the kitchen....NOT....if we did that, then our Teachers wouldn't have anything to do at our Classes....

So far we have only been able to see our beautiful Grand Bairns once, but at least twice a week via FaceTime.

*From Lynn McClure*

Here is a project that kept me busy during March and April when, if there had been no virus to worry about, we would have been getting ready for the Workshop. Had heard an owl quite loudly hooting during the past few weeks at night so here is my "pandemic owl" done to inspire patience and wisdom! Still waiting for both ..... so in the meantime, cooking and walking helps.

Best to all



## ***Class Reports***

### **Fort Garry Social Class....Just Keeping in Touch**

Greetings to my fellow class members and on behalf of the Fort Garry Social Class greetings to all branch members!

It has been a long time since we danced and it seems even longer! I trust that everyone is enjoying the outdoors now that the nice weather has finally arrived. I hope everyone is doing what they like to do most whether it be golfing, cycling, camping, going to a cottage, boating, gardening, walking or just simply enjoying all nature has to offer us. Among various other things I particularly enjoy observing nature and more specifically - birds. We are fortunate (or some may say NOT!) to have had a pair of Canada geese make their nest at the base of our willow tree in the backyard. That was April 15 and after watching the comings and goings of the pair for a month or so, as of about a week ago the goslings emerged and made their way into the retention pond directly behind our property. The nest was in a very convenient location for them unlike many! You can see them in the attached photo if you look closely. We have also enjoyed watching a variety of different types of ducks, pelicans, sandpipers, many song birds and soon to be making their annual summer home in our willow tree a pair of great horned owls





which we have had now for about four years. This tree has been a popular home to many!

One of our class members, Pat Clubb, who unfortunately had her scheduled knee replacement surgery cancelled due to the pandemic, is now back at the top of the waiting list. So let's all wish her the best of luck. By the time this issue is published she may have already had it! Meanwhile she is thrilled to tell everyone about her nifty new bicycle which she calls her "Patmobile" She tells me that the centre of gravity on it is lower than normal and the step through is only about 6" off the ground making it easy for her to ride even with her knee problem. There is a picture of her with her new bike attached and she receives many compliments she says. She has since added a woven basket made by a women's collective in Nicaragua. A great way to exercise and enjoy the summer!



Well, the one thing we are unable to do and I know we are all missing is Scottish Country Dancing. On a more positive note, the situation is improving and we can all continue to enjoy the summer in the hopes that things will gradually return to the way they were, modified perhaps, prior to this challenging time.

Meanwhile.....keep healthy and keep smiling!

Marilyn Piniuta

### ***Request from our Librarian .....***

I haven't heard if Joan has had any offers for a display table so I will include this request again.

Our branch library table could use a V-shaped table-top book shelf. If anyone has one they would like to donate for the lending library please contact Joan Curle ([jcurle11@hotmail.com](mailto:jcurle11@hotmail.com)).

### ***There's always music for us***

We can enjoy the wonderful Scottish Dance music we love anytime. Visit The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society website [info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org) where you can listen to various At Home Podcasts of musicians playing from their living rooms for the online audience. And also a dance class via Zoom! Every week!

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

Again there is not a lot of local dance news but I have received a few notes from some of our dancers to include.

Unfortunately our dance year came to an abrupt halt. A date for the branch AGM will be decided once we can get back together again. The Teachers and COM are looking ahead to the time we CAN get together to dance and are planning for a dance season with classes, socials, workshop and more. We just don't know when or how that will be organized yet.

In the meantime – stay safe!

Doug Durnin, editor

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### ***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 Nattrass	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.

### ***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.

Anytime??? 2020??? – dancing will be happening again!

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

**Next L&A:** August/September

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@rsedswinnipeg.ca](mailto:info@rsedswinnipeg.ca) or to the editor at [Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca) Deadline for submissions: August 8. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)