

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Volume 50, Number 6

March 2019

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Important Dates

Winter/Spring Term 2019

Tuesday, March 5 – no dance class - hall unavailable

Tuesday, March 12 – March Social - hosted by the Tuesday Class

Thursday, April 11 – Spring Social - hosted by the Thursday Class

Week of April 15 – Second Term Classes end (no class April 18)

Monday, April 22 – Afternoon Class ends

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

see workshop brochure on website

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

Wednesday, May 22 – AGM 7:30 start at St. Paul's Hall

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

A Word from the Chair of COM



Are we ready for spring yet? Frozen cars, ruts, ice, more snow, more minus 35 degree weather and I don't know about you, but I have had it! It's a good thing that we have warm and welcoming personalities, otherwise we would be in trouble.

Since the last newsletter, we have had our Burns Celebration. There was a great attendance, 67 in total. A big thanks to our organizers Pat Clubb, Heather Colquhoun, John Giesbrecht, and Barbara Lambert. A special thanks to all who participated throughout the evening.



"My Heart's
In The
Highlands"
Robert Burns

Our afternoon class started on one of our coldest and most miserable weather days, but nine of us showed up. We were in great spirits, as we had all arrived in one piece, including our cars! Five brand new dancers! Please read our class report for further information.



This month has been a beehive of activity, trying to organize for our participation at the Festival du Voyageur. What started out to be a possible one hour spot on three different days, materialized into a one hour spot on February 17th from 5:00-6:00. Our teachers, Sheila Careless and Joyce Cormack organized the volunteers for this event.

At our last COM meeting, and Ad Hoc Committee was struck to review our By-Laws. The individuals who volunteered to be on this committee are Pat Clubb, John Giesbrecht, Jane Natrass and Gerri Stemler. The By-Laws had been reviewed several years ago but had never

been finalized and presented to the Membership. Our goal is to have these presented to the membership at our AGM in May 2019. This will be our main goal over the next two months.

Talk to you soon!

Jane Nattress

Next COM meeting is March 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

March Social – Tuesday Class

Programme

Flowers of Edinburgh	32-R-3	Bk 1-6
Shiftin Bobbins	32-J-3	Ormskirk Bk
The Paisley Weavers	32-S-3	3 rd Graded
Trip to Timber Ridge	32-R-3	Bk 52
Fair Donald	32-S-3	Bk 29-4
Joie de Vivre	32-J-3	Bk 39-2
Intermission		
Mary Erskine	32-H-3	Roy Goldring
Glasgow Lassies	32-S-2(3 cple sets)	Bk 34-3
The Dancing Man	32-R-3	2 nd Graded
Jig to the Music	32-J-3 couple set	2 nd Graded

Have you heard?

How Winnipeg! Branch snow policy. The winter weather can sometimes cause havoc on the streets. Check the website or October issue of L & A for the branch snow policy for classes.

Margaret Fentum

We were saddened to hear Margaret Fentum passed away January 13, 2019 in Deer Lodge Hospital after a short struggle with Alzheimers.

Born in 1931, Margaret's home was Southampton, England. She trained in Physical Education, and this was how she met Miss Jean Milligan. Margaret taught swimming, field hockey, fencing, and Scottish Country Dance. She competed at the Olympic level in fencing.

Margaret was a frequent attendee at St Andrew's Summer School, and qualified as a teacher of Scottish Country Dance. She also became a Life Member of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. At that time, her name was Maggie Paul. Maggie was known as one of "Miss Milligan's Girls". Miss Milligan selected a team of dancers who would travel to demonstrations, competitions and cultural exchange events.

Maggie met, and married Brian Fentum in England. Brian's forte was Ballroom Dancing, but he soon learned SCD! To see them dancing together, whatever the genre, was wondrous. When Margaret and Brian moved to Winnipeg in 1967, they found us and joined the Winnipeg Branch. Margaret taught classes at all levels, including Demonstration. As years passed, Margaret was no longer available to teach classes on a regular basis, and later, not able to dance as she once had. However she could still teach technique and assisted me with the new dancers. She attended our ceilidh events and told stories - the haggis with 2 short legs was a classic.

A very memorable item I learned from Margaret: foot positions indicated what activity one had been doing that day. Toes turned out: Scottish. Toes straight ahead: English/Irish. Toes turned in: Swimming. One foot straight, the other turned out: fencing.

With two young children, Moira and Alison, the focus changed to horses and what would become a family lifestyle. The girls rode, Brian organized, Margaret sewed horse things. Brian tragically passed away in 1993.

Margaret is survived by her daughter, Alison, granddaughter Rebecca, and daughter, Moira, son in law Jamie.

The concept of degrees of separation is flourishing in Winnipeg. Here is the history:

Rev. Donald Bruce MacDonald was the minister at Knox Church, the Winnipeg Branch Chaplin, and a Life Member of RSCDS Headquarters. He baptised Moira and Alison.

His son, Ian, also a minister, and his daughter Cathy were Branch members for a while. Ian officiated at Brian's funeral in 1993.

Ian's son, Jamie, was in the children's class I taught at Knox Church. Moira and Alison were "home schooled" in SCD. Moira and Jamie are married to each other.

Maureen Burnham

Jay McLeod

I have received some news regarding Jay McLeod, the drummer of our Band, Scotch Measure. He has been recently hospitalized due to health issues related to severe migraines. As well as severe migraine, Jay has experienced some paralysis of his left hand/arm. He is being followed by Dr. Doug Hobson, Neurologist at St. Boniface Hospital. Jay has had an MRI and there is no sign of a stroke. The Doctor has diagnosed him with "transient headache and neurologic deficits with cerebrospinal fluid lymphocytosis". Apparently there are three other patients with this type of migraine, being treated in the hospital at this time. Now that treatment has started, Jay is showing some improvement with a slight decrease of pain so that he can at least get some sleep. Eileen (Jay's wife) says that Jay would say, "Hug those you love, and take care of each other". At this time Jay is in St Boniface Hospital on the 6th floor. He is having visitors on a short visit basis. We will keep in touch with Eileen and let the membership know how Jay is progressing.

Jane Natrass

Burns Dinner and Dance

The RSCDS Winnipeg Branch held a grand Burns Night Dinner and Dance on Jan 26th/19 at the Masonic Memorial Centre in Winnipeg. The evening, steeped in tradition and ritual, included the piping in of the Haggis by Kirby McCrae (Branch piper), followed by the Address to the Haggis given by Rena Laird, a long time branch member, escorted by John Giesbrecht and Peter McClure. A wee dram was enjoyed by the Haggis 'party' before the haggis was piped out to be prepared for the buffet dinner. The evening program continued with the Immortal Memory presented by Charles Cameron, the Toast to the Lassies by Mike Kubasiewicz, followed by the Reply by Mary Knight. The dancing program, devised and led by Maureen Burnham was wonderfully inclusive with Scottish country dances interspersed with waltzes, two steps, and polkas; all 67 guests were accommodated on the ample dance floor! The evening ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne accompanied by Betty Poole on piano. Thank you to Jane Natrass who played host. The Tartan banners decorating the hall were created many years ago by Lawrence Cormack and his mother.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making this Burns dinner and dance such a success.



Peter McClure

Rena Laird

John Giesbrecht

piper Kirby McCrae

Thinking of the 2019 Spring Workshop "Tulips and Tartan"



Hard to see many signs of spring yet on these cold days but the official date of spring equinox isn't too far away and we have already started to receive some registrations, so dancing folk the SPRING WORKSHOP is coming! The dates are April 26-28 2019 and the events will be held at St Paul's Anglican Church on Friday and Saturday and then moving on to the the Holiday Inn West. The ceilidh will be at St Paul's Friday evening and our ceilidh master, Ray Plaitin is already looking for eclectic items of entertainment to be offered at this informal evening with snack food, drink, dance and music, etc. The Saturday morning after, our two classes will be at St Paul's followed by lunch in the hall. The afternoon is free time, perhaps to soak your feet!

The dinner and dance will be held this year at The Holiday Inn West where there is a good sized non-carpeted dance floor. The Sunday morning combined class will be at the Holiday Inn, always a fun easygoing class run jointly by the two guest teachers with great music provided by Ron and Dennis. Following the class

we will have a buffet brunch. Because the venues and catering arrangements this year are new for us after several years at 17 Wing, the Workshop committee felt we should do a little quality assurance research. So recently, four 'dedicated' members of the Workshop committee made a field visit to the Holiday Inn to have breakfast and sample the food we plan to request for the brunch. In summary we had a fun time, enjoyed the interaction with our waitress and most importantly shared our opinions and enjoyed the food. Some tweaks and suggestions in the menu were made as a result.

Anyway all seems to be on course, so get your registrations in for the complete workshop if you can manage that, or a la carte. Any questions or suggestions please contact Lynn (204 489 7712) or Shirley (204 256 3835).

Lynn and Shirley
Workshop Committee

Fort Garry Social Class 50th Anniversary

Accolades are still coming in for the wonderful evening hosted by the Ft. Garry Social Class to commemorate their 50th Anniversary. Here is a photo missed in the last L & A issue of Monique Henderson, Rena Laird, and Maureen & Quinton McNaught.



Festival du Voyageur 2019

Nine souls braved the Winnipeg winter weather (OK, it was -14°C) and walked across the great expanse of snow (OK, it was from the parking lot to the Fort) to show others the joy of SCD. We were asked to do a workshop from 5-6pm upstairs in the big house inside Fort Gibraltar. We did 6 participation dances and 2 demonstration ones. People came and went through the room so we did not have a large group for the whole hour but we did have up to 9 couples for one dance. Thank you to all who came out to dance. Joyce & I appreciated the help and enthusiasm. It was a very good afternoon.

Sheila Careless



Joan Curle, Sharron Bettess, Peter McClure, Joyce Cormack, James Sutherland, Sheila Careless, Lynn McClure, May Kong Sutherland, Reg Curle



Dancing in the Big House at the Festival du Voyageur

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

Despite the challenges of a prairie winter, Fort Garry Social moves forward with less or more dancers. No doubt our intrepid teacher, Peter McClure, is challenged to adjust his teaching program to fit the number of dancers present on any given evening.

One of the dances we are working on is the Scallywag, which is being well received in our class. For now the real challenging dance is the Linneas Strathspey. Love it or hate it, we will accomplish its intricacies over time!

Also, Peter has taken us back to the early days of Fort Garry class with dances taught by Liz Goosen and Gerry Mayes, such as the Whistling Wind and New Abby. Some of us may remember Gerry Mayes referring to it as Dear Abby.

John Giesbrecht

Technique Class

January ended with extreme -40 °C temperatures, however the spirits were high and dancing always warms the fingers and toes. Maybe someone can write a dance called the "Polar Vortex" or maybe "Square Wheels Reel" 😊. We enjoyed preparing for the very popular Burns Evening dances as well as learning some new dances such as The Glittering Caves and The Withywindle from the Lord of the Rings Collection. The Withywindle contains a new figure (for us) called the Philabeg. Cheryl has also been sampling from a book called Just Desserts with dances Red Wine & Truffles, and the Merry Lad's Affair, a dance devised following a misunderstood enunciation of the Merry Lads of Ayr. Welcome back everyone who was able to get away in the month of February and are now ready to prepare for our class social on March 12th. Thank you always to our teachers for making our classes a welcoming and learning experience.

Sharyl Eaglesham

Basics Class

The wind is chill. And we're dancing still!

Sheila Careless is instructing this term, having us practice our basic steps, basic dances and some a little more advanced dances. She watches all. Reminds me of the days of childhood. (We were sure mother had extra eyes in the back of her head!)

Ellen and Donald Graham joined us at the end of last term. They both have a long Gaelic family history. They live on the old homestead near Altamont which is west of Miami, Manitoba. Ellen wears the Graham Tartan with pride, also the clan badge or crest with the clan motto: Ne oublie (Do not forget). From her mother she wears a MacKay Clan badge, a small dagger, on her tartan skirt bearing the motto *Manu forti* (with a strong hand). Thank you Donald and Ellen.

We look forward to our Thursday evenings, and some of us are also dancing in the Monday afternoon class.

Donna Daniels

Afternoon Class

On a freezing, snowy, windy, bumpy afternoon, February 4th, nine very hardy souls arrived at St. Paul's for the first Monday afternoon class. What a very enthusiastic bunch! Nine included the teacher, Sheila.

So, Sheila had a four couple set, with four experienced dancers, three brand new beginners and one beginner from Basic class. Sheila started with Bramble Circle, and although our circle was not very big, we were still able to do what was required.

Sheila started by reviewing foot positions, first, second, third and fourth, and then proceeded to demonstrate skip change of step and then had us dance the same. Later, after a demonstration of Strathspey travel step and setting we were then required to practice these steps in pairs! Over the afternoon we completed three dances that included learning how to cast off, a figure of 8 on the side, an allemande, a circle round and back, slip step, hands across to the right and hands across to the left, rights and lefts and polite turns! By the time the afternoon was finished there were a few people with crossed eyes and a dazed kind of look, but everyone was smiling and laughing! Not sure if that was from the brain overload or from our drive to class and knowing we had to drive home again. Looking forward to next week and getting together with the rest of the group who were unable to make it to our first class. It was a blast!

Jane Natrass

From the editor's desk

It seems we have a theme in this issue – every report mentions the chilly weather.

Burns evening reminded me of some Burns Dinners in the past. Remember wearing sweatpants under your kilt going to & from the venue?

How about starting the cars between the dinner portion and the start of the dancing? This year we could park close to the door, and now some of us enjoy a remote starter in our vehicles.

Oh, the good old days!

The afternoon class seems to be off to a great beginning. I am amazed at all the figures they have worked on in so few classes!

Again, a reminder of the date changes for the class socials. Because there is no dancing on March 5, the Tuesday Class Social has been moved to March 12. As well, the Thursday Class Social has been moved to April 11.

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.

March 23, 2019 - Vancouver - Heather Ball

April 6, 2019 - Victoria - Vancouver Island SCDS Workshop & Ball

April 12-14, 2019 - Lethbridge - Dance, Music Workshops and Ball

April 13, 2019 - Ottawa - Ottawa Branch Annual Ball

May 11, 2019 - Edinburgh - Edinburgh Branch 95th Anniversary Ball

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: April

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: March 16. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca