

# *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 6**

**March 2020**

### ***Important Dates***

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

Tuesday, March 3 – “February” Social - hosted by the Tuesday Class – **DATE CHANGE**

Thursday, April 2 – Spring Social - hosted by the Thursday Class– **DATE CHANGE**

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 ....***

Are you ready for Spring yet? I certainly am, after this yo-yo weather of up and down. The only consistently happy place in my life right now is RSCDS, and the warm friendships and activities it brings.

Ten dancers from Winnipeg headed to Edmonton to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Caledonian Workshop and Ball this Valentine's weekend. Several years ago when we celebrated our Branch 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a contingent from Edmonton came to celebrate with us, so it is only fitting that we reciprocate; after all we are all one body under RSCDS.

At our last COM meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> we voted in favour of making our 2020 and 2021 Workshop Committees Ad Hoc Committees for purposes of regular reporting to COM. Current COM treasurer, Sharron Bettess, has agreed to serve as treasurer for both committees, thus assuring fluid communications for all concerned.

Agnes Brydon and I attended the Scottish Heritage Council meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion at COM we decided to withdraw from SHC, given the lack of any discernable benefit to RSCDS Winnipeg. John Perrin of the SHC will be so advised.

Also at COM, we struck two Committees. Current Vice-chair, Don Johnson, will form a Nominations Committee to seek out a new Vice-chair, Recording Secretary, and Membership Chair. Jane Nattrass will head up the Teacher's Selection Committee to help teacher class assignments for next year.

John Giesbrecht

Next COM meeting is March 4, 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. A collection box has been arranged and will be made available at our social events so members may contribute as they wish.

John Giesbrecht

## ***February / March Social Programme***

**March 3, 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

## ***April Spring Social Programme***

**April 2, 2020**

Flowers of Edinburgh	32-R-3	Bk 1-6
Machine without Horses	32-J-3	Bk 12-12
Prairie Crocus	32-S-3 couple set	Prairie Gold
A Trip to Sucker Bay	32-J-3	Prairie Gold
Sugar Candie	32-S-3	Bk 26-9
Promise of Spring	32-R-3	Martello Tower Bk#7
Linton Ploughman	32-J-2 (3 couple set)	Bk 5-6
St. John River	32-S-4	New Brunswick
Mary Erskine	32-H-3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Graded
The Summer Assembly	88-R-Square set	Bk 35-8

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

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

We have begun to receive registrations for the Workshop and the very first one was from Saskatchewan! So, come on Manitobans, home of the Grey Cup, time to get registrations flowing in.

Several of us from Manitoba enjoyed a great workshop in Edmonton this past weekend and it was wonderful to dance and be part of a Grand March that included 200 dancers! The teachers and music were excellent and because one of the guest teachers, Ruth Jappy will also be teaching here in April, we know it should be a very fine time. Our musicians, Ron Krug and Dennis Orr are well known here and we are delighted to have them back again.

Ray Plaitin is on the hunt for ceilidh items, so please contact him if you might have a song, little skit or musical contribution.

I think I misspoke in last month's L@A when I referred to Winter Solstice, it should have been the Spring or Vernal Equinox that we are all looking forward to, and it is only a few weeks from now. That time will quickly fly by so if you have any questions about the Workshop please call either myself or Shirley. All for now

Lynn (204-489-7712) and Shirley (204-256-3835)

## ***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.

I have heard from two dancers regarding how many of these dances they have done. I have looked through the list and think I have done (or heard of) 25 on the list. One respondent had 27 danced.

Peter McClure replied:

I think I've done all but four. Of the 26 I think I've done, I might list 12 as "popular". I guess I lead a narrow life. `

Interesting to compare "Thirty Popular" - the new version - with Campbell's lists, which you can look at on the RSCDS International Branch web site. The Whistling Wind, which didn't make it into Th P, beats Da Rain Dancin

on Campbell's list of popular reels. Also, Miss Gibson's S'spey beats Miss Milligan's. I guess "popular" is a variable notion.

There is still time to look through the list and add your comments. –ed.

### **JIGS**

Pelorus Jack  
The White Heather Jig  
Joie de Vivre  
Postie's Jig  
Hooper's Jig  
The Cranberry Tart  
The Bees of Maggieknockater  
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 Ardrrosson  
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

## ***Teachers Selection Committee***

*From the RSCDS, Winnipeg Branch Operating Guidelines Revised and Approved June 2019*

'Every February, the Teacher Selection Committee is formed. It is comprised of one member from the COM and two experienced, active members of the Winnipeg Branch, RSCDS. The purpose of this Committee is to:

- Obtain from the teachers their availability to teach in the next season
- Obtain a list of days/evenings they are available
- Receive an indication of class/level which is preferable to them (with a second choice if possible)

An attempt shall be made to share the teaching responsibility as equitably as possible over the longer term.'

Although this is not listed in our guidelines, we feel we would benefit from feedback from each of the classes, and so we are in the process of forming a Committee of three, each of whom will

represent their class level. This person will be asking for feedback from individuals in their class. Feedback could include information such as:

- What style of teaching did you find most useful?
- Were instructions clear and concise?
- Was time well used and class well organized, realizing there are always extenuating circumstances (ie. not enough attendees to make a set for the dance chosen)?
- Did you feel that the dances were too hard or too easy for your level of dancing?
- Did you enjoy coming to class and feel a part of the group?
- Have you been coming to the socials, and if not, why not?
- Any other comments?

Teacher Selection Committee  
Agnes Brydon, Charles Cameron and Jane Natrass

## ***Class Reports***

### **Fort Garry Social Class**

After enjoying a very successful Burns night on Jan. 18 our social class, being only two days later, boasted a good attendance despite the cold, windy and wintry weather that evening. Appropriately our teacher Peter chose the dance The Whistling Wind devised by former Winnipeg branch teacher Liz Goossen on a cold night in January 1984 for the Fort Garry class who regularly braved the cold and wind to come dancing – just as we still do now! Since that evening our attendance has dwindled somewhat due to members escaping the cold to warmer climes. Our former teacher from last term joins us again this term but as a dancer. Our present teacher Peter continues providing us with relaxed, sociable and fun filled evenings, always with a touch of humour while at the same time challenging our brains so it's all good! Incidentally has everyone noticed on the bulletin board the picture of our class taken just before Christmas by Maureen who enlarged it for all to see? Such a handsome group we are!

We have done some interesting dances which I certainly enjoy looking up online and finding information on prior to doing the report. For example Balquidder Strathspey is named after a small village in Stirling, Scotland about 80 km north of Glasgow. When looking at the picture I immediately recognized it as being a place we had passed through on a tour of the Scottish Highlands last spring. Loch Toridon, another dance we did is in the North West Highlands. The dance Inchmickery by Roy Goldring has a fascinating name to me and upon looking it up I see that it is a tiny island in the Firth of Forth about 1 km north of Edinburgh. It was used in both world wars as a gun emplacement but is now a nature preserve and a bird sanctuary. I find the dances much more meaningful after reading about them and also after having been to Scotland and seen some of these places for which the dances are named. A couple of other fun dances we did were Domino Five by Derek Haynes, a reel done in a 5 person square set and The Piper and the Penguin by Roy Goldring, an 88 bar reel also done in a square set. Among the more challenging dances I thought was Kinfauns Castle, a strathspey with diagonal reels of 4 done in a 5 couple set. We also practised dances on the upcoming Edmonton ball program.

Thank you to Virginia who continues to be my “extra set of ears” at class when trying to remember what to jot down for my report! Always something to look forward to!  
Marilyn Piniuta

## **Technique Class**

Now that Burns had gone so well I suspect we thought everything was cool. Well, Sheila brought us back to reality January 21<sup>st</sup> with a jig called Peloris Jack which included tandem dolphin reels and reminders not to cut those reels too short. Then came a Strathspey called Orchard of County Armagh, an interesting dance from the Belfast Branch. I wonder if Guinness was meant to be included as it may have helped. Then came Forty and Counting. What a challenge. After much confusion Sheila decided our brains were scattered enough and it best be put on the “to be continued” list. Sure enough, the first thing we did January 28<sup>th</sup> was Forty and Counting with a little more success. Then we did Miss Gibson’s Strathspey and ended the evening with a jig, The Laird of Milton’s Daughter.

I missed Feb 4<sup>th</sup>’s class which included The Braes of Busby a strathspey in a highland step, more of Forty and Counting, and ending with a reel called None So Pretty. (I wonder if Sheila chose it referring to Forty and Counting.)

On February 11<sup>th</sup> Sheila treated us to Caberfei, a reel with a half set and skip to the left. Then we did Bon Viveur and MacDonald of Keppoch, two square set medleys moving us from strathspey into reel time. We finished the evening with Sean Truibhus Willichan, a lovely strathspey.

Thanks to Sheila for choosing dances that tested our skills. For me the lesson of the month was that counting my way through the dance is extremely important to remain in sync and on time.

All told the classes were fun and challenging and as always a reason to gather with our friends.

Ray Plaitin

## **Basics Class**

### ***Of Reel Time Traveling Steps & Progressions - part II***

*Fast forward to last September* when one thing led to another – again! The same daughter and her Scottish husband now of nine years, ventured out to your RSCDS Basics Class. They realized that unfortunately they could not sign up to attend regularly. But when I was reminded of the RSCDS opportunity, wheels began spinning and I invited Ellen, saying, “*It was so great last time, I loved it. That was [almost] 10 years ago ... but I think I can still do it!!!*” She was persuaded to try.

So that is how Ellen Byggdin and I came to join the Basics Dance Class this year, albeit a little late into the first term once we navigated previous commitments! Ellen lives in Niverville and myself rurally nearby, so we travel together in to St. Paul’s Thursday nights. Anyone who has met Ellen will be thinking what a lovely addition she is to the group, and I couldn’t agree more! She is doing really great, and all of you have been so helpful and accommodating to both of us

as we catch onto (and as I coax out of my memory from eight years ago) the steps and specifics of Scottish country dance.

Ellen grew up regularly attending local country dances in the Wapella/Moosomin area of Saskatchewan with her dad. People would travel from the surrounding area to enjoy what she remembers to be “*pattern*” dances, complete with a live band. Ellen also took one year of Scottish dancing as a six year old (Highland and Sword Dancing), participating in the St. Andrews Scottish Catholic Church Fair held annually in July. The event entailed good food, baseball games & much more, including “*all the Scottish dancing*”. While I only wish I had some Scottish roots, especially after experiencing Scotland firsthand and visiting ‘family in-laws’ there, Ellen’s maternal grandfather really was Scottish, from Brora, a small town with woolen mills in the northeast of Scotland! James McKay stepped off the train an immigrant in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, and walked until he found land, settling near Corning, Sask. There is also a Scottish thread in Ellen’s husband’s ancestry!

When asked her impressions of the Scottish dance class, Ellen replied, “*It is a rare gem. There are not many places you can just walk in and people are so accepting, and you can enjoy not only exercise but so much fun while also entering into so much history.*” I second all the above! What a fantastic challenge to both brain and body, and amazing individuals to interact with as well! Both Joyce and Cheryl have proven to be the most engaging and patient instructors ... where do you find such great people? From warmups and step practices to jigs, reels, strathspeys, sets, progressions - and beyond to every person we have met and likely danced with - Ellen and I have enjoyed every minute. Thank you to the local RSCDS community for a wonderful experience, certainly worth the trip, and we look forward to every class, social, ceilidh (maybe even a workshop?) and conversation yet to come!

Claire Buys

### ***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.

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

A few noteworthy things this issue. First, note the date changes for the socials with both being moved a week later to March 3 and April 2. Both programmes are included in this L & A and they are also on the website along with crib notes.

I hope you have enjoyed the story of how Claire and Ellen came to join our set for a dance or two. The second installment is in this issue.

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 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.

March 14, 2020 – Calgary – One Day Workshop  
March 22, 2020 – Vancouver – Love to Dance Scottish Workshop & Dance  
April 4, 2020 – Victoria, BC – VanIsle Workshop & Ball  
April 25, 2020 – Ottawa – Ottawa Branch Spring Ball  
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

### ***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](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca) or to the editor at [Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca) Deadline for submissions: March 14. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)