

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Volume 50, Number 2

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Committee of Management 2018/19

| | | |
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Important Dates

Fall Term 2018

Monday, November 19 – St. Andrew's Social hosted by the Fort Garry Class

Week of December 14 – First Term Classes end

Thursday, December 27, 2018 – The Third Day of Christmas

Winter/Spring Term 2019

Week of January 7, 2019 – Second Term Classes begin

Saturday, January 26 – Burns Dinner at the Masonic Memorial Centre

Tuesday, March 5 – March Social - hosted by the Tuesday Class

Thursday, April 4 – Spring Social - Hosted by the Thursday Class

Week of April 16 – Second Term Classes end

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

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

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

A Word from the Chair of COM



October is here and has not brought us much sunshine or warmth! Hopefully the warmth of the season of Thanksgiving has wrapped you in hugs and love of family and friends! Although I have been noticeably absent this Fall due to the “*COLD*” that has been going around as well as the end of the golf season, I have actually been to a total of three classes. As well, I have now visited all the classes, welcomed everyone back and given a short lecture on **READING YOUR LIGHT AND AIRY!**

Our dancing season has been jigging and reeling along for more than a month now. We have had a chance to catch up with our friends and their summer activities and we are now getting ready for what is to come! ***SNOW? No! Dancing, Socials and Socializing!*** Get those shoes and name tags and keep them in your car! Classes continue weekly with the odd exception due to other church activities. As long as we are given enough notice, we try to make sure the website is updated.

Several notes of interest from the COM include:

- RSCDS Headquarters is having their AGM in Perth on November 3, 2018. At the AGM there will be an election for the position of Convenor Elect for Education and Training, and for three open positions for members of the Education and Training Committee. Information on the individuals running for these positions can be found on the RSCDS HQ website. We have two delegates, the Secretary and the Chair. Your COM voted and sent in our choices. The votes will be delivered by proxy vote through the Chairperson.
- A letter was written and sent to St. Paul's Anglican Church regarding the AED machine. It was noted that it has not been working since June 2018. We have requested that this needs to be in working order ASAP and we have asked for a prompt reply to our request.

Have a Spooktacular October and have fun on Halloween! It doesn't even interfere with a class this year!



Remember the Fundraising Ceilidh for ALS, coming up on Saturday, November 10th, at St. Paul's. This is open to the public so invite friends and family and enjoy!

Next COM meeting is November 7 at St. Paul's.

Jane Natrass

Membership Report

Greetings, dancers! Here is how Membership in our Winnipeg Branch stands at present:

This year there are 64 current members. This number includes 5 Life Members and 1 Honorary Member.

We welcome two new members, Donna O'Toole and Susan Thorpe, to the Basics Class. We hope you will love Scottish Country Dancing! We also welcome back Susan Kroker and Deborah Peters who have both returned after more than a year. They have both chosen Technique as their Home Class. We are glad you are back!

Lorraine Watson

St Andrew's Social

The Fort Garry Social Class looks forward to welcoming you to the first Branch social dance of the 2018-19 season:

Monday November 19, 2018
St Paul's Hall Dancing 8 PM (sharp) to 10 PM (or so)

Programme

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | The Highland Fair | 32J2 | RSCDS (first) Graded Bk |
| 2. | Jenny's Well | 32S3 (3 cpl set) | Aye Afloat |
| 3. | The Kenora Reel | 32R3 | Bankhead |
| 4. | A Trip to Sucker Bay | 32J3 | Prairie Gold |
| 5. | Invercauld's Reel | 32S3 | RSCDS Bk 11 |
| 6. | Mrs Macleod | 32R3 | RSCDS Bk 6 |
| 7. | St Andrews Fair | 32J3 | RSCDS 5/82 |
| 8. | Mary's Strathspey | 32S3 | Mem. Mary Nixon |
| 9. | Napier's Index | 40J3 | RSCDS Bk 45 |
| 10. | Reel of the 51 st | 32R3 | RSCDS Bk 13 |

Refreshments to follow; we hope to see you there.

Dance notes can be found on the branch website.

Have you heard?

How Winnipeg! Branch snow policy. Early wintry weather brings out branch snow policy for classes. See further in the L & A for the policy.

Date for the Winnipeg Branch 2019 Weekend Workshop!

The Winnipeg Branch 2019 Weekend Workshop **will** take place on April 26-28, 2019.

Guest Teachers **will** be Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and Craig Williams.

Music **will** be provided by Ron Krug and Dennis Orr.

These details are confirmed.

The venue is proving to be a challenge but is being pursued by the co-chairs and will be announced when confirmed.

Lynn McClure and Shirley Tinsley

Co-Chairs Weekend Committee

Burns Night Dinner, Toasts and Dancing

Greetings to lovers of the poetry of Robert Burns, Scotland's beloved rascal and poet. The Burns Night Committee, comprised of Pat Clubb (social convenor COM), Barb Lambert (assistant social convenor COM), John Giesbrecht (vice-chair COM), Heather Colquhoun (treasurer COM), has already started planning the event: January 26th, 2019 at the Masonic Memorial Centre. Everyone is welcome to get involved and participate in the evening of toasts, roasts, poetry and of course dancing. The menu for the meal is not set yet, but be assured it will include: haggis, neeps, tatties, and "a wee dram".

Pat Clubb

Burns Night Committee

Afternoon Class

It has been mentioned that there are some dancers who would like to attend an afternoon class of Scottish Country Dancing. The teachers and COM want to know if there is enough interest to offer an afternoon class. If you or anyone that you know would prefer to attend such a class please contact Cheryl Durnin at 204-253-4213 or durninch@gmail.com. If there is enough interest we will undertake to establish a class when hall and teacher availability can be confirmed.

“Harvest Moon Spectacular” RSCDS Saskatchewan Workshop, Moose Jaw

Seven folks from Winnipeg - 5 dancers, a spouse and a musician (Ron Krug) braved an icy stretch of highway at Elie Friday morning heading out to Moose Jaw. Is it me, or is there always inclement weather for driving for the Saskatchewan workshop? Remember the blizzard coming home from Fort San a number of years ago?

However, once we got past that patch of road there was a great weekend of friendship and dancing. Teachers were Fiona Miller (Lethbridge), Bev Will (Saskatoon), and Mike Blanchard (Moose Jaw). The Friday ceilidh was a full program with dancing and music. We learned and danced the theme dance The Harvest Moon, a 32-bar reel. (I wish they would have included it on Saturday's Ball Programme.)

We had three classes on Saturday and then enjoyed an ambitious evening ball programme to music played by Ron Krug, Dennis Orr, and Doug Major. Sunday morning we enjoyed all three teachers guiding us through dances in a combined class.

Friday evening and Saturday there was an on-going written auction of perhaps as many as two dozen items. Yours truly made an investment in classic automobiles. Perhaps I'll bring my new Audi R8 LMS to class for a spin one evening!

There was a Scottish shop at the Moose Jaw weekend with all sorts of merchandise from jewelry, shawls, clothing, to kilts and skirts, and dance shoes. However the shop did not have a kilt in David Miller's size. David often accompanies his wife Fiona when she goes off teaching

workshops. He sometimes leaves something at home. This trip it was his kilt. Saturday evening at the ball there he was dressed in his finery – shirt, tie, dinner jacket, belt, and blue jeans!

Two T-shirts the shop had were:

It's a **KILT!**

If I wore underwear it would be a skirt.

and

NUMPTY

Someone who (sometimes unwittingly) by speech or action demonstrates a lack of knowledge or misconception of a particular subject or situation to the amusement of others.

They didn't have my size for the KILT one, but I did bring home a NUMPTY one. Many thanks to all the organizers for a wonderful weekend in Moose Jaw!

Doug Durnin

Canmore Workshop

The workshop in Canmore is interesting because it is not just Scottish Country Dancing from basic to advanced. They offer Highland, music classes, whisky tasting, long swords dance, lectures and many others that I have not mentioned. The teachers for the SCD were Mary Murray from Vancouver and Jim Stott from Scotland. They were both excellent teachers with totally different teaching styles and the classes were very good. The Friday night ceilidh had a few entertainment acts but was mostly dances for everyone. Saturday morning consisted of 2 classes - intermediate and advanced with the two teachers switching off. Saturday afternoon, besides classes that were not dancing classes, they offered a basic class taught by Jim and the ball walk through taught by Mary. Saturday ended with the dinner and ball. We were served a full turkey dinner and then worked it off with the great dances. On Sunday we enjoyed a combined class with Jim and Mary alternating the teaching. Out of all the dances taught in the classes (not including the ball or ceilidh), there were only 2 dances that I had done before. That is why I love going to workshops or summer school. You come home with new dances and have spent time improving your dancing. On Sunday afternoon, they offered a teachers class. I expected to be dancing but we had an information session with Mary and Jim. Mary talked about warm ups, cool downs and exercises. Jim spent time talking to us about the DAA (dancing achievement award). This is a program that allows a dancer to have their dancing assessed. Jim gave us the criteria sheet and put on some training videos and we had to mark the dancers! This was very good for my observation skills! The music for the weekend was provided by Dennis Orr and his band Glen Morin along with Scott Duncan on the fiddle. Canmore is an absolutely beautiful location to spend the weekend. Even though we were inside most of the weekend the views outside our class room windows were breathtaking. All in all it was a great weekend. I was so thankful for Sharon Barker that taxied me from the airport and around town to the classes.

Sheila Careless

Ceilidh for ALS on November 10

As some of you know ALS has touched my family deeply and I am again hosting a Scottish Ceilidh on Saturday November 10, 2018 at St. Paul's Hall starting at 7:30 pm. This is a fundraising event for the ALS Society of Manitoba. Admission is by donation at the door. It is a fun evening of Ceilidh dances, easy Scottish Country Dances, entertainment and of course, light refreshments.

I do hope you will consider this your invitation to join in the fun while helping raise money for a great cause.

Cheryl Durnin

Fort Garry Social Class 50th Anniversary

The Fort Garry Social Class has a 50th anniversary coming up in 2019. COM members thought it would be appropriate that we have a modest anniversary event to celebrate our 50 years. Peter McClure, who is teaching second term at Fort Garry Social, would be willing to develop a dance program appropriate to such an anniversary. An evening of dancing could be followed by a dessert reception.

I would ask that anyone interested in working with Peter and myself to stage such an anniversary event get in touch with me before the end of October.

John Giesbrecht

THE SCD ETIQUETTE QUIZ

Please circle the correct answers.

1. Should you review dances before attending a social?
 - a) Not really - just find an experienced partner.
 - b) Isn't that what briefings are for?
 - c) Yes, so you can support your set and enjoy the dance more.

2. How do you ask a partner to dance at a social?
 - a) Hey babe, or dude - wanna dance?
 - b) Would you like to join me for the next dance?
 - c) I am so amazed by your incredible footwork that I simply have to experience the joy of dancing with you.

3. When should sets be formed at a social?
 - a) When the M.C. announces the dance.
 - b) As soon as possible after each dance so you don't miss the next one.
 - c) Any time you feel like it.

4. How should sets be formed when the dance is announced?
 - a) Just join in anywhere you like.
 - b) Squeeze into whatever position in the formed line that will allow you to "learn" the dance (preferably 4th).
 - c) Join from the bottom of the sets being formed.

5. How should sets line up?
 - a) In straight lines to help the top couple who are counting.
 - b) Any old way they like.
 - c) On either the men's or the women's side to facilitate chatting.

6. When you are the standing couple and the other 3 couples are involved in a formation such as Allemande, what should you do?
 - a) Talk to your partner across the set and ignore the others.
 - b) Yawn and look at the floor.
 - c) Acknowledge the other dancers in your set with a smile and eye contact as they approach you.

7. At the end of a dance what should you do?
 - a) Drop your partner and rush off to find a new one.
 - b) Thank your partner and the rest of the set.
 - c) Ask the person next to your partner if they would like to do the next dance.

- Betty Anderson

RSCDS Ottawa Branch

Used with permission.

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3a, 4c, 5a, 6c, 7b

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

Well, fall is definitely here and in fact at the time of writing this it seems more like winter! The weather is certainly much cooler than that very warm evening of our first class! We are back into the swing of things with our regular teacher Maureen adding her usual touches of humour to our Monday evenings. It's nice to see all the old familiar faces back again and we have had an average of 18 people each week so far.

We have been so fortunate to have had all of our teachers attending one or another of our Monday evening classes. In fact one evening we had 4 teachers present including our own so an abundance of help was available if and when needed! This was particularly useful in the dance Ysobel Stewart of Fish Hoek in which there is the figure the tourbillon. This dance is more widely known as Ysobel Stewart of Fasnacloch and has an interesting story behind its name of Fish Hoek. Ysobel Stewart was one of the co-founders of the RSCDS along with Jean Milligan and it began as the Scottish Country Dance Society in 1923. Ysobel moved from Scotland to South Africa in 1955 to be with family several years after the death of her husband. She settled in Fish Hoek, a town near Capetown, which partially translated from Dutch means fish corner or fish glen. Another dance Maureen taught us was Tokyo 25 otherwise known as The Tokyo 25th Reel celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Tokyo Branch of the RSCDS. Another dance we have done was Green Grow the Rashes which is a very old country dance, the title of which comes from a song of the same title written by Robert Burns. We have also been honing our skills for dances on the St. Andrew's Day social in November which we look forward to hosting.

In class news, Virginia Lockett returned from a wonderful trip touring Scotland. Several of our branch members attended the weekend workshop and ball in Moose Jaw, Sask at the end of Sept. These were Peter and Lynne McClure, Malcolm and Shirley Tinsley, Doug and Cheryl Durnin and Ron Krug who was one of the musicians there. They had a great time and I understand the theme was "Harvest Moon Spectacular" - I love the name! I have fond memories of travelling to many Saskatchewan weekend workshops which are held in a different town or city each year, this being the first for Moose Jaw. I have many stories I could tell about it if space permitted but always a wonderful time was had there!

In closing I would like to say we will miss Barbara LeBow who will be away and therefore not dancing with us this year. We look forward to Scott MacRae's return to our class again soon. Several of us including Lynne McClure, Shirley Tinsley and yours truly will be away for a couple of the upcoming weeks but we can look forward to our social on November 19 seeing old members and meeting new. Until then, Happy Dancing!

Marilyn Piniuta

Technique Class

Thank you to John Hayles for submitting a write up for last month's L&A. He and Hilary were out of town for the last few weeks so I am filling in for this edition.

The Tuesday night class is progressing quite well with approx.14-16 dancers out each week. 24 people are registered for the class and I look forward to the day when all are out on one night. The numbers might overwhelm me but I would do my best to cope. I have been including one dance per class from the very lovely program that Peter has devised for the November social. As well, each class includes some step practice (please don't let that deter you from joining us). I have been stressing phrasing, covering, handing and all of those things that make our dancing so much fun.

Joyce Cormack

Basics Class

The weather has turned cold and damp! Charles and Darlene left us and went to Hawaii.

The rest of us are warmed by the joyful dances (instructions) provided by Cheryl Durnin and Sheila Careless. We have been taught standard right shoulder reels of three; the class improvised to create the variations. One of the dances was renamed, tongue in cheek, Kendell's Scramble.

Several experienced dancers participate in our class and help us learn. We are so thankful for all the great sports with kind hearts that join us.

After warm up, figures to learn are walked through. Then the music of Strathspey, jigs and reels take us through the evening. We leave at the end of the evening with warm and joyful hearts, having enjoyed the exercising of mind and body.

Donna Daniels

From the editor's desk

Since the last issue of the Light & Airy, winter has lifted its head and given us a blast of north winds, cold temperatures, and snow falling and accumulating, albeit briefly for the most part. That means it is time to brush off the snow policy for cancellation of dance classes due to inclement weather. You will find it here as well as on the branch website. Hopefully any storms we receive will occur on non-dance nights because we want to get out and point our toes, not shovel our snows.

Doug Durnin, editor

Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca

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, or Jane at 204-667-0814.

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

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](#)

[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 10, 2018 - Toronto - Workshop weekend (registration form available)

November 24, 2018 - Edmonton - St. Andrew's Workshop & Social

December 9, 2018 - Vancouver - 55th Annual Gleneagles Ball

<https://rscdsgleneagles.org/2018gleneaglesball>

February 15 – 17, 2019 - Edmonton - Annual Workshop & Ball

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: December

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: November 17. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca