

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

Volume 50, Number 1

October 2018

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



Welcome back to everyone! We had a great evening at our Open House on September 6. I'm not sure how many were in attendance however, it looked like a full house, with lots of laughter and chatter. *Such a lovely way to start off our year of dance!* I would like to thank Joyce Cormack for providing the dance program and music for our enjoyment. Also to Ray Plaitin who provided the sound system. Watch for more information in this newsletter about the Open House.

By now, many of you will have already been to a couple of classes. Registration began the night of the Open House and will continue until the end of the month. Please mail your registration form (on the web site) to Lorraine Watson or bring to your class and leave the form and cheque with your teacher.

\$ As you will have seen on the registration form, the COM has decided that the fees for membership and classes will remain the same as last year. The total fee is \$175. This can be broken down into \$60 for annual membership and \$60 for each dance term, with a discount of \$5 if the full year class fees are paid in September. Please remember that a member pays \$175 a year which allows one to attend 28 classes (this year 29), the September Open House, Betwixt & Between (or The Third Day of Christmas), and usually 3 spring dancing sessions. Last year we had four general classes and this year the teachers are looking at some alternatives that may better suit your needs. Keep reading and you will learn more about this exciting venture. Mathematically, this works out to about \$5.15 a night, not bad for a dance class and a great social evening! \$

? This next little tidbit of information is coming to you, because I asked the question at the last COM meeting, “*What is our Annual Fee giving us?*”

A little over 50% of your \$60 Annual Membership fee goes to Headquarters in Edinburgh, Scotland (depends on the exchange rate). The rest is used by the Winnipeg Branch for items such as hall rentals, administration, and benevolence, TAC, publicity, our web site, insurance and any other expenses not covered by class fees. If you have a few minutes, you should take a trip on the Internet to Scotland to the RSCDS Headquarters web site. You get two very professional magazines and a new Book of Dances every year. As well, their involvement in all areas of Scottish Country Dancing becomes evident as you sort through all the Branches across the world (ask Ron Krug, who has visited many either as a musician or a participant). In order to become a teacher of Scottish Country Dancing, HQ have very rigorous rules, regulations and expectations of their teacher candidates around the world, and as such the examinations are extremely taxing. ***Congratulations to Sheila Careless who was successful this summer in completing her exams.*** There are wonderful instructions for teachers who may be teaching the very young i.e. elementary school to the young at heart and everyone in between. I urge you to visit the web site and look at each item and the detail under each of their menu headings. www.rscds.org It is truly quite amazing!

Enjoy your classes and keep in touch through your Light and Airy class Rep!

Jane Natrass

Have you heard?

Teachers for this dance season

Fort Garry Class - First term Maureen Burnham and second term Peter McClure

Technique Class - First term Joyce Cormack and second term Cheryl Durnin

Basics Class - First term Cheryl Durnin and second term Sheila Careless

The teachers ask that if you are not able to attend a class that you are registered for please let the teacher know prior to the class. It helps in planning if they know numbers of attendees prior to the start of the class.

Open House held September 6



The Open House on Sept. 6th, hosted by the COM of the Winnipeg Branch RSCDS, was great fun! Joyce Cormack set and led the dance program to an enthusiastic company of dancers. "Gentlemen on your right....no! the other right!" There was lots of laughter, meeting old friends and making new ones. As usual, delicious home baked goodies graced the refreshment table at the end of the evening. The dance year is off to a rousing start with classes starting the week of Sept 11th.

Pat Clubb
Social Convenor

Note the Date for the Winnipeg Branch 2019 Weekend Workshop!

It seems a long way off right now but time flies, so mark it on your spring calendar!
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.
The venue is being organized 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. The Piper is booked! 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. If there is enough interest we will undertake to establish a class when hall and teacher availability can be confirmed.

Thank you note from Sheila Careless

Sheila Careless, our newest dance teacher, sent a lovely note to the Winnipeg Branch COM thanking the Branch for the support provided to her during her preparation and living through her dance exam. Sheila writes...

I would like to say a sincere Thank You for your generous funding to help pay for my candidate class in Minneapolis. Since returning home I have received scholarship money from TAC and would like to return the scholarship amount to RSCDS Winnipeg.

Sincerely,

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

At our last COM meeting we were made aware that the Fort Garry Social Class has a 50th anniversary coming up in 2019. This class was started in January 1969 at St. Paul's Parish Hall. Among the early supporters of this group was Monique Henderson, who we all remember as a long time teacher and mentor to RSCDS Winnipeg branch. COM members thought it would be appropriate that we have a modest anniversary event to celebrate our 50 years. I have spoken to Peter McClure, who is teaching second term at Fort Garry Social, and he would be willing to develop a dance program appropriate to such an anniversary. COM members suggested we invite Monique Henderson as a special guest for that evening; and include some of the dances she has devised such as "Annie Douglas" in our program. This could be followed by a dessert reception after the dancing.

Given that January is a busy month for RSCDS Winnipeg with our Burns Dinner running that same month, the suggestion was that we use one of our regular Fort Garry Monday night Social classes as a venue for that anniversary. Also, if we use a class night, we would not have to pay for an extra night's rental of St. Paul's Parish Hall.

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

A further note on the Fort Garry Social Class:

Generally, this class is for those who already know how to dance. Each evening is planned for those who attend. Dancers are welcome to drop in (if one knows all the basics of SCD).

The Fort Garry Social Class started in January, 1969. Monique Henderson was involved in this as a teacher. The class was independent and paid their own hall rental, provided records and equipment for the class and honorariums for the teachers. The catchment area for members was along Pembina Highway. An integral part of this social class was the tea at end of class. Each class member took a turn at making the tea and providing the refreshments.

In the early '70's the Fort Garry Social Class approached the Branch to become a full fledged Branch class. There were some benefits to this. But it was to remain a social class. It continued with its tea and refreshments for many years.

Maureen Burnham

Class and Social Etiquette for Today's Scottish Country Dancing

1. Arrive on time whenever possible.
2. An invitation to dance may be extended by either a man or a woman. It should be worded in a clear and friendly way. A friendly hand should be extended to the partner.
3. Always join a set at the bottom, but avoid walking through the set to get there or to another set. Also, don't pass a set in need of a couple, or leave a set once you have joined it. (Except under the direction of the MC, in order to allow more people to dance--such as a fourth couple leaving to join two couples, making two 3-couple sets.) Stay in lines and places while sets are forming, as it is hard to count if everyone is moving about. The first couple in a set traditionally counts off the number of couples lined up.
4. Listen quietly during all instructions. If you have any questions, ask the instructor, not other dancers. The question may also be of interest to others. This applies to classes, as well as to socials.
5. If you are watching from the sidelines listen quietly while the teacher or MC is briefing a dance or giving instructions so as not to be a distraction to the dancers or teacher / MC. Again, this is important in classes, as well as socials.
6. At the end of every dance, you should thank your partner and clear the floor.
7. Do not form new sets until the next dance is announced by the MC. This allows for a better exchange of partners and distribution of ability in sets, which is so important for a sociable evening. Also, it is more flexible and friendly NOT to line up partners for all of the dances ahead of time.
8. Be sure to ask a variety of partners to dance. Remember especially:
 - o the person you came with
 - o dancers frequently sitting out
 - o women often dancing as men, or men often dancing as women
 - o beginning dancers and visitors
 - o the party MC and class teacher, as a way of showing your appreciation for the evenings they have planned for your enjoyment
9. Notes or "cheat sheets" should be studied off the floor. The dance floor is a place for sociability.
10. It is courteous not to join in a set if one does not know the dance that has been announced. The catastrophes that result can be embarrassing to the dancer and may be irritating to the set.
11. Friendliness is a part of the good manners which Scottish Country Dancing promotes. A pleasant smile, a friendly word, general mixing, and good spirits are the hallmarks of a successful evening.

Dances submitted to Headquarters for new book

In June dancers were asked to submit their favourite dances for submission to headquarters for possible inclusion in next year's book of another 30 popular dances. Here is the list received and forwarded to headquarters. Thank you for your excellent suggestions.

Cheryl Durnin

The Golden Boy
Promise of Spring
Shiftin' Bobbins
The Piper and the Penguin
MacDonald of the Isles
Just As I was in the Morning (The Dueks)
The Sailor
Neidpath Castle
St John River
Fugal Fergus

Branch Publicity

It was wonderful to see so many of our members out at the Open House for another year of dancing and to see everyone having a wonderful time. There were about 45 in attendance! I wondered if the program I had planned was too simple but it turned out fine for our first night back together. We did have some visitors but were hoping for more after our efforts in trying to spread the word about our great Scottish Country Dancing! This whole issue of publicity is a difficult one. Now people have so many other options. Nevertheless we need to keep doing publicity and again, our dancers are our most important asset. Keep spreading the word to the people we encounter in our daily lives! Bring them out to see what our dancing is all about! Perhaps we could have another ceilidh afternoon/evening to which we could bring our friends/acquaintances! Cheryl Durnin is hosting one in November! Put it on your calendar and bring a friend!

The Renaissance Festival (Sabres and Swords) August 18th at Coronation Park was great fun - a huge crowd in a great setting. As Maureen Scurfield noted in the Free Press "a smashing and bashing success" with lots of people in period costume. The general public participated in our dancing throughout the day and some of them seemed quite keen. Most of our 14 dancers, seen in the photo, were there participating throughout the day and I thank them for coming out.



We are on the list to participate next year and if we do perhaps we can come in costume so as to fit in with others there in costume. Hopefully, next year, with more time to prepare, we can dance on the stage and have a higher profile (and perhaps do some dances from the 1700's??).

Joyce Cormack

Class Reports

Here are the first words from our classes.....

Fort Garry Social Class

It was good to be back and see dancing friends again on the first evening of the term. It had been a warm day, so the hall was quite hot - a reminder of why we don't have dance classes in the summer! Maureen had another event to attend - there was a rumour that cake may have been involved - so Sheila took the class, and kindly recognized the warm temperature by stopping a few minutes early. Among other things, she renewed our acquaintance with chain progressions, both two- and three-couple. We're all happy that she has completed her teacher training, and look forward to seeing more of her in other classes, as we look forward to seeing Maureen with us next week.

Peter McClure

Technique Class

Sixteen dancers were introduced to a new season of Scottish Country Dancing by Joyce Cormack. Joyce put us through a set of warm-up and technique exercises to start and taught us several dances:

A Wee Nothin (Jig) by Elaine Brunken, The Provost Wynd (Reel) by Roy Goldring, Glasgow Lassies (Strathspey) by Walsh, and Three Creeks Shore (Jig) by Margaret Zadworny.

The Wee Nothin has simple elements and makes a good beginning as the later dances became more challenging. The Provost Wynd and Glasgow Lassies were moderately more complex dances. I find remembering multiple right or left handed actions like reels, turns, and passings difficult without considerable study and repetition.

The Three Creeks Shore is an interesting dance named for a particular area or landform in/near Portknockie, Scotland where Margaret Zadworny lived when she was young. Like many things in the UK there is a long and colourful history and many interwoven connections.
John Hayles

John also included some further music info:

James Robertson's tune "Farewell to the Creeks" for the bagpipes refers to this same area and was composed in about 1916 in a German POW camp. Apparently he tried to escape the POW camp several times and ended up in solitary confinement where he then had time to compose this great tune. Cullen Bay, just to the east, is also a pipe tune with the same title and, as you might have guessed, there is an associated dance named 'Cullen Skink' ! I guess we all honour our home in song, dance and other arts.

I haven't visited the 'creeks' but the coast line is rugged with 500 to 1000 million year old metamorphic sandstones named the *Cullen* quartzites and Devonian age (355 - 420 my) *Spey* conglomerates. The quartzite layers are tilted from horizontal and form resistant ridges jutting out into the Moray Firth. The conglomerates may be quite tough too. Creeks would tend to form along the softer layers at surface. Apparently this area was covered by 100's of meters of ice during the Quaternary glaciations; not the 1000's of meters that covered most of Canada.

Basics Class

The first class of Thursday September 13th was led by Cheryl Durnin. Cheryl guided us through figures of 8 both across the set and on our own side, allemande, hands across and back, circles, and more. Quite a workout for feet and brain! We had 14 dancers out comprised of several returnees and a new dancer to keep the "old pros" alert and on their toes. A good start to the season!

Donna Daniels

From the editor's desk

I had wondered since the last issue of the newsletter if and what I might receive to fill the pages of this L & A. I need not have worried. There have been many contributions to more than fill the pages, and have called into play the "editor" aspect of my position. My apologies to any finding their submissions trimmed a bit. It is fortunate the newsletter is now primarily read online so I don't have severe page restrictions for printing and mailing.

And again, keep those articles and suggestions coming.

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](#)

[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.

September 28 – 30, 2018 - Saskatchewan RSCDS - 36th Workshop, Banquet and Ball,
Moose Jaw, SK. workshop@rscdssask.org
Registration deadline is September 21!

October 5 – 7, 2018 - RSCDS Calgary - Scots' Gathering in Canmore, AB
<http://www.calgaryscots.org/>

Travelling west? - Medicine Hat Branch dances on Wednesdays!

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

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

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: November

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: October 13. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca