

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

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Important Dates

Fall Term 2019

Thursday, October 3 – no class – hall not available

Monday, October 14 – no class - Thanksgiving

Monday, November 18 – St. Andrew’s Social hosted by the Fort Garry Class

Week of December 9 – First Term Classes end

Saturday December 28 – Fourth Day of Christmas

Winter/Spring Term 2020

Week of January 6, 2020 – Second Term Classes begin

Saturday, January 18 – Burns Celebration

Tuesday, February 25 – February Social - hosted by the Tuesday Class

Thursday, March 26 – March Social - hosted by the Thursday Class

Week of April 6 – Second Term Classes end

Friday April 17 – Sunday April 19, 2020 - Winnipeg Weekend Workshop

May Spring Dancing 2020 – dates to be confirmed

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

A Word from the Chair of COM

This Word from the Chair comes to you in part from the Scottish National Gallery in New Town, Edinburgh. I was there to view a unique collection of paintings and sculptures from the fifteenth through to the early twentieth century, a remarkable collection spread over several floors. Most of the works represent Scottish painters, but I wanted specifically to view one painting, that being Sir Henry Raeburn’s SKATING ON DUDDINGSTON LOCH, circa 1795. The subject of this work is the Reverend Dr. Robert Walker and the inspiration of a dance known as the MINISTER ON THE LOCH. Yes, that very same dance introduced to us by Peter McClure many years ago! I always thought the painting to be very dark and somber, but seeing the original here in the gallery I came to a different understanding. It is not a large painting, only about twenty four by eighteen inches. The background is very misty and monochromatic, but the face of the subject is pure light and joy! There I detect that sense of release from everyday responsibility, and the pure exhilaration of a quiet morning skate by the subject, in full clerical dress. He has not shed his responsibilities, but is still able to find the joy and exhilaration that comes from the value of healthy exercise in our lives. He is not a young man, but still manages to carve joy out of the life that is left to him. Memories of Peter drilling this dance into us flood my mind, such beautiful memories that I have been party to over many years.

My first few days in Edinburgh meant a bit of adjustment for this prairie boy. My arrival in Edinburgh coincided with a rare heat wave, and the humidity and dampness was something that took some adjustment, having come from our dry climate. I learned quickly never to go anywhere without an umbrella and rain jacket. Of course, no trip to Edinburgh would be complete without attending the Edinburgh Tattoo, a concert of marching bands, pipes and drums from all over the world including Canada, the U.S., Germany, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, a three hour show complete with fireworks. The one thing the Tattoo attendance demands is physical stamina, uphill climbing all the way through a crush of humanity. And coming down is no easier.

Once again I find myself rambling on, but now back to dancing. Our classes have started and we are back on the floor turning, and stepping, and visiting once more. There is dancing here in Winnipeg and also in other cities too if you happen to be travelling. I have decided to register for the Edmonton Branch 50th anniversary celebrations happening on the Valentine's day weekend this coming February. I recall a number of Edmonton Branch members came to our Branch 50th anniversary celebrations a few years ago. It only seems fair that we reciprocate their kindness.

John Giesbrecht

Next COM meeting is October 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

DEMONSTRATION DANCING

In the spring, dancers interested in demonstration dancing came out for several rehearsals to learn a repertoire of easy dances that could be adapted and used for demonstration purposes. It was very successful and the dancers performed at two demonstrations over the summer.

The dancers are keen to continue and the COM has agreed to offer a short course again this fall. This will be an opportunity to expand the repertoire and offer other branch members the opportunity to join in this group. The following is part of the notice provided in the spring for your perusal and consideration.

Dancers often think of demonstrations as entertainment, and no doubt, they serve that function. However, they should also serve the objectives of an RSCDS Branch, including "to advance the education and engagement of the public ... in traditional Scottish dancing". Accordingly, the dancing should be to reasonable Society standards. Dancers involved in demonstrations should be able to adequately perform the steps of contemporary SCD, and should be familiar with the common formations used in the dances, so that rehearsal time need not be spent on teaching basics. A necessary, but not always sufficient, condition for that level of competence is at least two years regular attendance at Branch teaching classes –

Basics and Technique - and active engagement in the learning process of those classes. Regular attendance means every week, barring occasional absence – say at least 11 weeks out of each 14 week term, not counting the “party class” at end of term.

Demonstrations can be fun, if you’re well prepared – which is the point of the short course. If you would be willing to participate in Branch demonstrations, including attendance at a short course to learn the repertoire, and feel that you meet the requirement of adequate steps and acquaintance with common formations, please contact the Teacher Rep Cheryl Durnin at 204-253-4213 or email durninch@gmail.com.

Cheryl

WORKSHOP 2020

It's not too soon to mark your calendar for the 49th Branch Workshop and Ball, 17 - 19 April 2020. One notable change for this workshop, rather than having two levels of classes on Saturday, there will be a single combined class, building on the good experience the Branch has had with levels coming together at various Branch events. Teacher Ruth Jappy from BC, and musicians Ron Krug (Winnipeg) and Dennis Orr from AB have been confirmed. If you've enjoyed previous workshops, you won't want to miss this one, and if you haven't been before, this is a great opportunity.

Lynn McClure and Shirley Tinsley
Workshop 2020 Cochairs

Magazine from HQ

Good news! In order to help save the planet, members can now opt for receiving the magazine in a digital format. At present all members receive the magazine by post twice a year, April and October. For this October edition, a digital version of the Scottish Country Dancer magazine is being offered. Members can opt to receive the digital copy instead of the paper copy. Members can tick an option to receive the digital magazine once logged into the website by clicking 'Edit my profile' on the left-hand side and ticking the relevant boxes that apply. If the option is not ticked then members will continue to receive the paper copy of the magazine.

Need more dancing???

Evening of Contra Dancing

Winnipeg Contra Dancers are having an evening of dancing, live music, food and socializing on Saturday October 5 at Churchill United Church at 7pm.

Ceilidh for ALS

Once again, I am hosting a fundraising Scottish Ceilidh with proceeds going to ALS Manitoba in memory of my mother Doreen Mennie. This event will be held on Saturday November 9, 2019 at St Paul's Church Hall starting at 7:30. Admission is by donation at the door. Tax receipts (as appropriate) will be issued by the ALS Society of Manitoba. There will be dancing, entertainment, door prizes, and of course light refreshments.

Please mark your calendars and join in the fun while raising some monies for a very worthwhile cause.

Thank you,
Cheryl Durnin

St. Paul's Anglican Capital Fund Initiative

As St. Paul's Anglican Church moves toward celebrating their 100th anniversary, they are launching a Capital Funds Initiative to raise a total of \$120,500 to address a number of needed upgrades in their church facility, including replacing the grand piano, upgrading the kitchen facilities, hall entrance, roof repairs over the kitchen, and some exterior upgrades. Our branch has been a beneficiary of St. Paul's facilities for many years for our classes and Branch social events, and as a goodwill gesture to St. Paul's a contribution might seem appropriate. The availability of the hall and the sprung wood floor for dancing are luxuries we have become accustomed to over the years.

I put forth a proposal to the Committee of Management at our September meeting that they consider making a token goodwill contribution to this Capital Fund Initiative on behalf of RSCDS Winnipeg. This item has been added to our October meeting agenda for discussion. I would appreciate getting input from individual branch members on this matter.

Moreover, individual branch members are also encouraged to consider making contributions to this Capital Funds Initiative. Such donations would have the benefit of a tax receipt being issued by the church.

John Giesbrecht

Class Reports...

Classes have just gotten going for the year so no direct reports are yet available. However, all classes were well attended on the first week.

Teachers for this term are

Monday Fort Garry Social Class – Maureen Burnham

Tuesday Technique Class – Cheryl Durnin

Thursday Basics Class – Joyce Cormack

From the editor's desk

Summer is easing into fall and dancing has started up. As I complete this issue I have turned on the air conditioning once again. The registration form and dancing dates for the season can be found at the beginning of the L & A, and on the website <http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca> Welcome back and I hope you are looking forward to a great dance year.

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.

October 5 – Montreal – RSCDS Montreal Fall Workshop & Dance

October 11 – 13 – Canmore, AB – Calgary Scots Gathering

November 9 – Toronto – Toronto Workshop

November 23 – Edmonton – St. Andrews Workshop

November 30 – Toronto – St. Andrew's Ball

December 8 – Vancouver – 56th Annual Gleneagles Ball

February 14, 2020 – Edmonton – 50th Anniversary Caledonian Ceilidh, Workshop & Ball
– Hawaii – Workshop in a warmer climate

February 15, 2020 – Toronto – 57th Annual Tartan Ball

July 26 – August 2, 2020 – Calgary – Teachers' Conference AGM and Summer School

December 4 – 6, 2020 – Portugal – Curia 2020

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 12. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca