

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

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Important Dates

Fall Term 2020

No Dance Events Scheduled As Yet

Winter/Spring 2021? – RSCDS dancing resumes in some format?

Committee of Management 2020/21

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A Word from the Chair of COM

The chair is without words this month, and will return next issue.

Don Johnson

Have you heard?

“Branching Out” Walks

Greetings from the Committee of Management! We have been reflecting on the great success of the gathering in the Park in September and thinking of new ways of continuing to connect, while keeping COVID precautions a priority. The committee agreed that our Branch enjoys music, being active and socializing. With this in mind, we met at St. Paul’s parking lot for **“Branching Out” Walks** on Friday, October 16th and Sunday, October 18th. Music was available to enjoy as we gathered and headed along our route led by Sharon Bettess. We dressed for the weather including our masks.

We were hoping to get out for more walks but with Winnipeg now into code red restrictions we will just have to wait and see when we might be able to plan another chance to be together.

We'll send out an email notice for the next one!

Membership

Thank you to all those who completed and sent in Registration forms. So far I have recorded 46 folks and have emailed to acknowledge and confirm email addresses. I have put together the 2020-2021 Registration List and sent it out to those have registered.

It's not too late to get your form in! The registration form is available on the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch website (<http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/>). We are only accepting registration fees (\$60) for now as we still do not know when we might be able to resume any classes.

Doug Durnin, Membership

From the Classes.....

Editor – Last dance season I had asked Clare from our Thursday class to write something for the L & A. She composed a wonderful description of her experiences starting and returning to SCD that I included over two issues.

Let's continue along those lines! I invite one and all to write a note about their experiences in SCD. You might include how you first heard about the dancing, when you started, what you most enjoy about SCD, and memorable times. And what have you been doing during this time away from dancing? Have you taken up a new hobby, or gotten back to one you had set aside? Did you work on any projects about the home or cottage? I'll start this issue with how I began Scottish Country Dancing.

Hi,

I've now been dancing for over 40 years. Seems a long time but it has gone by quickly when you look back. How it all began –

In the fall of 1980 my fiancée wanted to get out and do something active so found the contact information for SCD. I thought I would tag along for a “couple of weeks”, as she wanted to try Scottish Country dancing. We went out to the Basics class, starting about the third week of classes. That year’s class was a good size with perhaps a couple of dozen enthusiastic beginners. We were a varied group from different backgrounds, but nimble of foot and eager to learn and improve. Our teacher was Christine Wallace who showed us poise, grace, and patience as we progressed. Soon we were hooked.

We learned so much as our dancing improved over that first year and subsequent years as we became sufficiently skilled to move onward to more challenging classes. We are still learning. There are a seemingly endless number of dances, techniques to work on, and so many figures and formations. Many figures not commonly found are in the category “heard of it, danced it, don’t recall how it goes off the top of my head”.

Some dancing highlights through the years include dancing for the Queen in the Royal Manitoba Festival in the old Winnipeg Arena, dancing at the Centennial Concert Hall to the Alwyn Suite played by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and dancing to music by the Manitoba Philharmonic Choir. Dancing at the Renaissance Festival with our friends in Minneapolis was a lot of fun. Father Mac put a For Sale sign on our daughter sleeping in a hammock in the Scottish Croft. Price was firm: \$100 cash, Canadian only!



Dance workshops have always been fun. It was very satisfying when organizing our own event and it went off well. Travelling to other dance events has been wonderful not only for the meeting and dancing with new friends, but also to experience the dances and techniques brought by the visiting guest teachers.

Away from the dance floor, during this time of limited social contact I retired from nearly forty years working in a research lab at the University of Manitoba. My retirement had been planned for several months but seemed rather surreal with so few people in the department and building. Even retirement was done remotely! As things turned out my timing was very fortuitous since restrictions were in place and increased over the summer and fall.

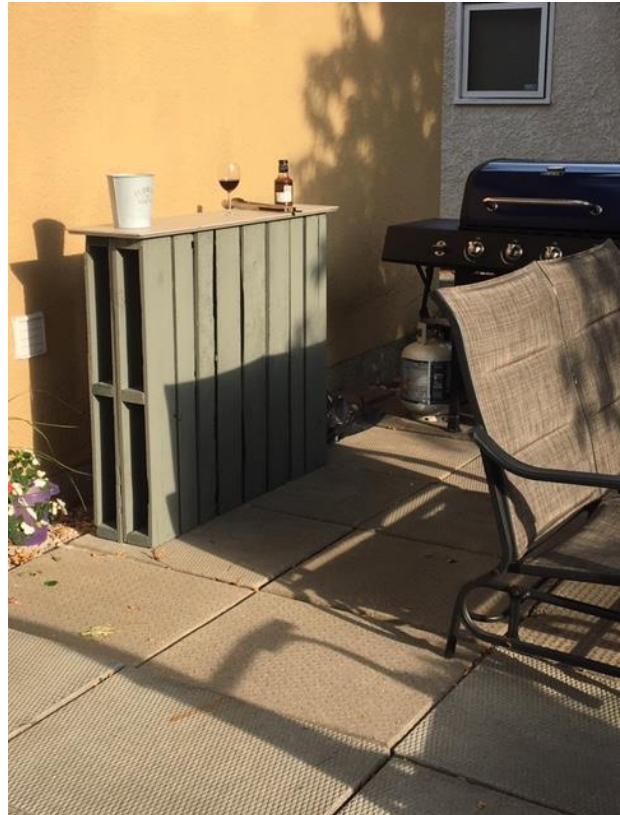
I played more golf this summer but didn’t reduce my handicap. I had a couple of backyard projects

this summer to keep me occupied. One was a backdrop for a corner of our patio. The other was a side table for the barbecue using two pallets as a starting base. I think they turned out very well. The backdrop makes for a cozy looking corner, and the table is great to hold bbq supplies and wine.

This fall my curling leagues started up for 3 games and have now shut down. We don't know for how long so we wait to hear.

Unfortunately our dancing came to an abrupt halt in March due to the pandemic. With access to our dance space closed, and our handing and closeness involved, it is a longer wait to resume our dancing than for some other activities. For now we all hope to return to dancing but must wait until it is safe to take partners and "Join the Dance".

Doug Durnin



ALS Manitoba Fundraiser

Here it is November - the time of year that I am usually busy planning a Scottish Ceilidh fundraiser for ALS Manitoba in memory of my mom, Doreen Mennie.

This year due to Covid I am unable to host such an event but the need for those battling ALS and their families is just as great this year as ever.

I am asking my dancing friends who have so generously supported the event in the past to consider a donation to ALS so that ALS Manitoba can continue its much needed work.

Donations are being accepted any time but if you make a donation before December 15th your name will be entered into a draw for a Sobey's gift card. The winner will be notified and arrangements will be made to get the card to you.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this message and for responding as you are able.

You can donate on line at ALS Manitoba (<https://alsmb.ca> click Donate Now, and then choose In Memory/Honour).

Or you can mail a donation to
ALS Society of Manitoba
1717 Dublin Ave #2A
Winnipeg MB R3H 0H2

Cheryl Durnin

There's always music for us

Callum Morrison who entertained us with song at the ALS Ceilidh last year and also sang at our Burns evening is a PhD student in Plant Science and was interviewed last month by a number of media outlets regarding his research on use of cover crops. These include the Manitoba Co-operator, Toronto Star, Western Producer, and CBC Radio Noon.

The headquarters website continues to have weekly classes to keep us interested. Look up The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society info@rscds.org for the weekly Dance Scottish at Home. It also contains a number of links to follow to open up the various goodies they have included such as the link to the online classes, At Home Podcasts, and more.

From the editor's desk

Thank you to those who took time to send me a note on how you have been getting along. I hope more of you will consider forwarding a note possibly including how you started dancing, what you like about the activity, how you have been keeping busy since the shutdown took place. Have you started or resumed any hobbies or projects? I can include them in future issues of L&A.

The registration form can also be found on the RSCDS Winnipeg website on the first page or (<http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/index.html>) under Members/Newsletter.

Congratulations to Gerri and Peter Stemler on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Ps. Until further notice the days of the week are now called:

Thisday, Thatday, Otherday, Someday,
Yesterday, Today, and Nextday.

In the meantime – stay safe!

Doug Durnin, Editor

Douglas.Durnin@umr.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.

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.

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.

EVENTS STILL HAPPENING (AT THIS TIME)

Check out the Toronto Branch website at <http://www.dancescottish.ca/> for all their virtual events coming up including a Virtual Family Christmas Dance on Dec. 12.

There are online classes but that is all. Unfortunately all dance branches and groups are waiting to see how dancing might resume.

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: January

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 Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca Deadline for submissions: December 12. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca