

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

info@rscdswinnipeg.ca

www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

Volume 52, Number 5

February 2021

Important Dates

Winter Term 2021

No Dance Events Scheduled As Yet

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

July 25 - August 1 – TAC Summer School 2021 in Calgary is being planned

A Word from the Chair of COM

A very Happy New Year to you and yours and all the very best in 2021. Let's hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us and we will soon be able to meet again and in time dance again.

Since classes were cancelled in March, your Committee of Management has sought ways to maintain and strengthen our membership connections. Last autumn we gathered together for an afternoon at Assiniboine Park and just before winter arrived several of us met to walk and catch up with one another. After that, provincial limitations took effect, which cancelled any gatherings, including our monthly Committee of Management meetings.

We look forward to the time when provincial restrictions will begin to relax and we can explore ways to be together.

As we wait for that time, the COM has a gift for you. We have decided to order 100 face masks, in blue cloth with the *RSCDS Dance Scottish* logo printed in white. We hope that this will be a gentle way of reminding you of your connection to our Branch, as well as a subtle form of advertising. So when you proudly wear your RSCDS mask, and someone asks about the *Dance Scottish* logo, you can share with them the joy of dancing and hopefully spark some interest with them.

Once the masks arrive we will find ways of getting them to you. By ordering 100 masks we will have enough to give to our present membership and to new members, as well as provide the opportunity for any who wish to buy an additional mask or two. The first mask is, of course, free.

Hope you enjoy this gift from the COM.

Until we can meet again, take care and stay healthy.

Don Johnson

Have you heard?

“Branching Out” Walks

We are still waiting for the opportunity to be able to organize another walk as a way to get together safely. COM will let you know when the next walk might happen.

In the meantime I hope you are staying active and getting out for your own walks around your neighbourhood or parks. Our weather in Winnipeg has been fabulous to be out and enjoy fresh air.

From the Teachers ...

Well here it is January 2021 and we should be getting back into dancing after a lovely relaxing Christmas break to review and learn some of the dances for the upcoming Burns Celebration. Sadly, that is not happening this year. There will be no Corn Riggs, no Silver Tassie, no haggis and no Burns recitations.

Luckily, we can remember the good times we have had at this event over the past number of years and we can look forward to Covid vaccinations and the gradual return to dancing even though it will look somewhat different.

In preparation for the return to dancing I know that COM has a special gift for all of its members. Watch for more details.

On behalf of the teachers I would like to wish each of you a very Happy New Year and we look forward to the day we can all get together for a walk in the park or a dance evening. Stay healthy and safe.

Cheryl Durnin

And in these days of outdoor exercise, don't forget to take your Haggis for a walk.



TAC Summer School 2021

Despite uncertainty, TAC continues to plan 2021 summer events in Calgary Canada

March 1 - online registration opens - no deposit required

July 25 - August 1, 2021

For dancers of all levels

Basic | Intermediate | Advanced

Daily classes | evening social dances | formal ball and banquet | evening after parties | accommodations and dancing at Mount Royal University

Teacher Candidates' Courses for Units 2 & 3 and for Unit 5

July 18 - August 1, 2021.

For info: tcc@tac-rscds.org

Teachers

Janet Johnston, Scotland
Ron Wallace, California
Alan Twigg, California
Barbara Johnston, Canada

Musicians

Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins,
Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins
Not pictured
Terry Traub, Mary Ross



Check our website for ongoing updated event status
tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)



Membership

Thanks again to all who completed and sent in Registration forms. I have put together the 2020-2021 Registration List and sent it out to those who have registered.

You can still register. 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.....

Getting to Know

Editor –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?

Gerri Stemler

Reading Sharon Bettess’ story (in last L & A issue) has prompted me to submit mine as well – my mother was a Fraser too! My grandparents (Helen and Robert) immigrated to Winnipeg from Bo’ness, West Lothian in the early 1920’s. Growing up I spent a lot of time with my granny as they lived just down the street and/or I lived with them. She loved to play her 45 rpm records of Scottish music which I now know as jigs and reels. She taught me to make shortbread and scones, to love mealy (white) pudding, a piece and cheese, and lunch on the lawn.

In 2005, our now son-in-law announced that he was accepted to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow and that our daughter Sheena was going with him. They spent a full year living in the dodgy east end (we visited in spring 2006) and then decided that they would have a Scottish wedding when they returned home, complete with kilts and Ceilidh dancing. Simon was fitted for his kilt before he left for home and chose the Fraser Hunting Ancient colours, which was the tartan that my grandmother had chosen for her skirt outfit, when she visited home in the 1960’s.

So in September 2006 I signed up for the beginner class. Sheena came to some of the classes but she had also signed up for university courses which conflicted. She has attended several Workshop events. Simon is not too interested in the country dances but he had done clogging with the Danseurs de la Riviere Rouge growing up. We enjoyed some Ceilidh dances like Strip the Willow and Gay Gordons, (which they had done at the pub in Scotland), at the wedding with the help of several of Sheena’s dancing friends. We danced to the Scotch Measure CD.

As we stayed apart this Christmas, our family recalled that Christmas of 2005 when Sheena and Simon could not come home for the holidays and our other daughter Kat went to Scotland to be with them, so we were by ourselves for the first time. We have a DVD of the Glasgow celebrations which they *mailed* to us to stay in touch! How much easier it is now to stay connected.

Happy New Year to all 'till we meet (and dance) again!

Gerri

Online dancing

Ladies Step Dance

Interested in trying Ladies Step Dancing? A teacher by the name of Atsuko is running a new virtual, introductory step dance class for 4 weeks in January.

Every week on Sun, from Jan 10 until Jan 31, 2021:

Jan 10, 2021 06:00 PM UK time

Jan 17, 2021 06:00 PM UK time

Jan 24, 2021 06:00 PM UK time

Jan 31, 2021 06:00 PM UK time

For more info, contact Atsuko at atsuko.stepdance@gmail.com.

There's always music for us

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.

A Wee Dram anyone?

Commemorating Bond Bowmore Distillery has released 25 bottles of 1964 Black Bowmore single malt, in a bottle crafted from an actual piston of a 1964 Aston Martin DB5 (Bond's classic ride). This stirring tippie can be yours, if you're not shaken by the price: \$65,000.

Pairs nicely with a good haggis.



From the editor's desk

Thank you to Gerri Stemler for her story to join Scottish Country Dancing. I hope more of you will consider forwarding a note about your start in SCD, 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.

Our daughter had the idea of a girls' DIY Christmas present. She was working at a wool shop and picked out a pattern, wool, and needles for the ladies to knit together via Zoom sometimes. My woolen present/project came pre-assembled (pre-knit) as a beautiful sweater which will look super with my kilt.

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.

Still no classes available locally. Just online possibilities.

In the meantime – stay safe!

Doug Durnin, Editor
Douglas.Durnin@umr.umanitoba.ca

The buttons on my jeans
have started social distancing
from each other.

Committee of Management 2020/21

Chair:	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
Vice-Chair:	Shirley Tinsley	204-256-3835
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
Treasurer:	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
Social Secretary	Linda Wingert	204-889-6319
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Barbara Lambert	204-256-8738
Publicity:	Joyce Cormack	204-224-2291
Membership:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Library:	Joan Curle	204-254-6697
Light & Airy:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Teacher's Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
Webmaster:	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. 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](http://www.inter-city-scot.com) - 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.

Ladies Step Dance – online until Jan. 31

July 25 – August 1, 2021 - TAC Summer School and Candidate Classes, Calgary AB

And a bit further/farther off for planning:

Sept 25 - Oct 2, 2022 - Australian Winter School 2022: Originally Scheduled for Sept 2020
<https://winterschool2020.com>

Unfortunately, dance branches and groups are waiting to see how dancing might resume.

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: March

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