

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

info@rscdswinnipeg.ca

www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

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Important Dates

No Dance Events Scheduled As Yet

July 28 - 31 – TAC virtual Summer School 2021 in Calgary

A Word from the Chair of COM

*Ev'ry road thro' life is a long, long road,
Fill'd with joys and sorrows too,
As you journey on how your heart will yearn
For the things most dear to you.
With wealth and love 'tis so,
But onward we must go.*

Many of you will remember these lyrics by Sir Harry Lauder. Sir Harry, who lived from 1870 to 1950, was a famous music hall singer and author of songs such as “I Love a Lassie” and “Roamin’ in the Gloamin’”, both of which were inspired by his love for his wife Nancy.

The song quoted above is the first verse of “Keep Right on to the End of the Road”, a piece he wrote after the death of his son John, who was killed in action during World War I. Certainly the reference to life being filled with joys and sorrows would have held true for Sir Harry, as he and countless others mourned the loss of loved ones during the war.

I was thinking of this song as I reflected on this long, long pandemic road we have all been on. It has been a long journey, with much sorrow and fear, loss and disappointment. But we have not been alone in this journey, and though presently separated from one another, the time will come when we will gather again, when we will dance again, when we will reconnect with one another and pick up where we left off, all those months ago.

Until that time when we can walk together as we did last autumn, until that time when this danger is past, we carry on, we keep right on, and hope for a new day and a brighter, safer tomorrow. Until then, perhaps we might wish to take to heart the chorus of this song.

*Keep right on to the end of the road,
Keep right on to the end,
Tho' the way be long, let your heart be strong,
Keep right on round the bend.
Tho' you're tired and weary still journey on,
Till you come to your happy abode,
Where all the love you've been dreaming of
Will be there at the end of the road.*

*As summer arrives, do we
dig out shorts or do we cut
the legs off our pajamas?*

Asking for a friend.

May you have a safe and rejuvenating summer and let's all hope that the end of the road of this pandemic is just round the bend.

Don Johnson

Have you heard?

June Meeting of COM

Cheryl and I held a June meeting of COM at our house.

Unfortunately with the Covid-19 restrictions we are under, other members could not attend. As such, a quorum was not attained so no business was conducted. The snacks and wine were fine. Maybe we can gather before too long, and once we are vaccinated.



TAC Summer School 2021

Registration is now open for TAC virtual summer school July 28 – 31, 2021

There are a lot of new details available on the TAC website.

For dancers of all levels. Single online registration gives access to any or all sessions. All sessions are free.

Join us for a welcome dance, music concert, classes, ceilidh, interactive events, social time, Grand Ball and silent auction.

To register and see the event schedule, including dance programs, musician and teacher information and more see: <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school>

Hope you're able to participate!

Thank you and kind regards,

Lin Pettengill

Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)
TAC ad coordinator

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?

Another Move!!!

We've heard from **Tara Newton** that she is moving into a condo. Congrats on the new place!

Marilyn Piniuta - Memories

My love of Scottish Country Dance began 36 years ago. It was the fall of 1985 when my former neighbor and Scottish Country Dancer Ruth asked me if I would like to join the RSCDS to which I replied "Oh but I can't do that – I'm not Scottish"! She assured me that being Scottish

was definitely not a prerequisite and persuaded me to join. I attended the beginners' class held at Westminster United Church at the time and Maureen Burnham was my first teacher. Joyce Cormack began at the same time and following class a large group of us would go for coffee each week to the Westminster Motor Inn, now the Sherbrook Inn. After a few years of dancing I loved it so much that I went on to attend as many classes as I could, often dancing three nights each week- my technique class, the Fort Garry social class and demonstration class. My very patient and non Scottish Country Dancing husband never once complained about this. We did go on to take ballroom dancing together but I could not convince him to join the Scottish!

Looking back over the years my fondest and most vivid memories of my years of SCD are the weekend workshops I attended both in Winnipeg and in neighboring provinces, namely the ones in Regina and Kenora. I would like to share with you some of these wonderful memories which some of you will also have.

In Winnipeg the annual weekend workshop/ball was held each spring at the former International Inn, now the Victoria Inn. In addition to the great classes, guest teachers and Sunday brunches, we enjoyed the hospitality room which was the "go to" place after classes or following the ball. This is where the ceilidh was held and there are certain ceilidh acts which stand out in my mind. One was Alex Coats who attended each year with his wife Jan and others from Kenora. I recall his poems and witty jokes, always with a little smirk on his face and a twinkle in his eye! Then there was the game led by Maureen Burnham called "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean", which I am really not sure if it was made up by her or a real game, but in any case was always fun. Of course there were the cowboy singalongs which happened after most people retired to their rooms so some may not know of these!

Maureen led this as well and even had a pretend horse she rode. The late David Stevenson drove all the way back to his home on Inkster near Main St. to bring back not just one pair but about a dozen pair of cowboy boots for all of us! Those were the days!

I asked my Doctor today how long he thinks this COVID thing will last. He responded with: "How should I know? I'm a doctor, not a politician".

Then there were the Regina Workshops held each October at Fort Qu'Appelle. Our drives there were always full of enthusiastic anticipation as we reviewed the dances on the ball program. Before Sat. morning classes we were always awakened bright and early by the sound of bagpipes played by Fern, one of the teachers who made her way up and down the hallways of the rooms where we slept. One trip that stands out in my mind is the one in which I travelled there with Scott MacRae, the late David Stevenson and the late Janis Platts. Now that was a hoot! David, the designated driver going back to Winnipeg, decided to take the scenic route back. He got lost and we ended up further west before he realized that we were on the wrong road! He even picked up hitchhikers (those were the days when that was done!) It's a good thing we were in a large van!

One year we decided at the last minute to skip class (please forgive us teachers!) and go hiking instead in the surrounding hills of the beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley with Reg Curle as our guide.



At the ceilidh a group of us danced "The Wild Geese" and we even made goose costumes (and one Donald Duck!) out of plastic garbage bags as you can see in the photo. All attached photos were taken in 1989 at the workshop in Fort Qu'Appelle.

Of course we also dressed for the evening ball.

(See how many faces you recognise in this photo.)



I also recall the Kenora workshops and all the friendly welcoming people. Alex Coats was his usual witty self. We were always treated to a wonderful Sunday brunch at the home of Don Fraser and Judy Little. There were memorable happenings at the Kenora ball too! It was

at one of these that Joyce Cormack met her late husband Laurence from Dryden, and where former dancer Iona McPhee singed her hair on the candle on the table by leaning too far over. There is much more I could tell but this is already too long!

Last but not least there was the bond of lasting friendship formed with a group known as “the girls”. Scottish Country Dancing is much more than just the music and the dance. It's the people and all the wonderful memories of good times had together. I am so grateful to have had Scottish Country Dancing as a part of my life for the past 36 years and look forward to more dancing and good times when we are able.

Marilyn

Online dancing

Not quite dancing but here is Danny Bhoy's hilarious description of a Scottish Ceilidh dance.

Ctrl+Click to follow the link to the utube video. You can choose to skip the ads shortly after it starts.

[Danny Bhoy's hilarious description of a Scottish Ceilidh dance - YouTube](#)

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.

From the editor's desk ...

I couldn't resist this one!

The Black Eyed Peas can sing us a tune, but the chick peas can only hummus one.

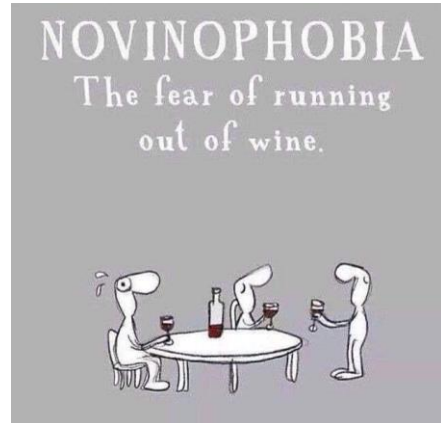
A big Thank You to Marilyn Piniuta for her memories of her years in SCD, and the photos too.

I haven't had much correspondence or contributions lately to add into the L&A. Some (numerous?) of us have received our Covid-19 vaccine. Some a first dose, and others their second dose as well. Hopefully this will lead to lower infection rates which may allow easing of restrictions. Now there is a vaccine card being considered.

At the time of writing, the only activity we can do as a “group” in Manitoba is golf with members of your own household. Fortunately Cheryl & I enjoy each other’s company and that extends onto the golf course.

In the meantime – stay safe!

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



Committee of Management 2020/21

Chair:	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
Vice-Chair:	Shirley Tinsley	204-256-3835
Secretary:	Sharyl Eaglesham	204-888-6662
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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](#) - 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.

July 28 – 31, 2021 - TAC virtual Summer School, online from Calgary AB

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

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: August/September

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: August 14. This and

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