

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Important Dates

Spring 2021

No Dance Events Scheduled

Spring 2021 –Vaccinations?

Fall 2021 ? –Hoping RSCDS dancing resumes in some format?

A Word from the Chair of COM

The announcement was a shock, but perhaps not unexpected, when on Friday 9th April, we heard the news: “It is with deep sorrow that Her Majesty The Queen announces the death of her beloved husband, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh. His Royal Highness passed away peacefully this morning at Windsor Castle. Further announcements will be made in due course. The Royal Family join with people around the world in mourning his loss.”

Many in our Branch will be counted in that number who are mourning his passing and some of us might have our own Prince Philip stories.

My only experience of him was during my time as a piper with the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders. Philip was visiting Winnipeg and our regiment was providing the guard at Government House. It was a cold October afternoon and the band was keeping warm in

the garage. An officer raced in to tell us Philip was early and they were holding his car at the entrance to Government House. We quickly assembled ourselves at the appointed spot and hoped our pipes were still in tune. His car approached and then the ceremonial inspection began. Philip was led through the ranks and every so often spoke to someone or other. Philip had a keen eye and I remember his eyes meeting mine as he surveyed the band. I would not have wanted him to find fault with my uniform.

He also had a sharp sense of humour. At the time of his visit, the band was eagerly waiting for new green doublets (jackets) because our existing ones (World War II era) were literally falling apart. Since new doublets were expected at any time, no one bothered to repair what we had. During the inspection, the time came for the Pipe Major to salute His Royal Highness. In raising his right arm in salute, Prince Philip could see that almost the entire sleeve was torn, exposing the lining. With his usual wit, Philip said to the embarrassed Pipe Major: "I see they make these jackets to last".

The story is told of a visit Philip made to the RSCDS headquarters in Edinburgh in the early 1960s. Miss Milligan was showing him a map of the world, which had pins marking each branch location. Philip saw this broad expanse of the prairies with no pins and he asked why there were no branches identified. With justifiable pride Miss Milligan informed His Royal Highness that a new branch was just about to be formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Let's conclude this remembrance of Prince Philip with this prayer from the United Church of Canada.

"Loving God, in this muted Eastertide, when we celebrate symbols of new life, hope, and resurrection amidst a global pandemic, we mourn the death of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, while celebrating the love His Royal Highness shared during his long life of public service.

We are especially grateful for the ways His Royal Highness worked to empower young people, and for the continued legacy of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

Every Eastertide, we are reminded that nothing, neither life nor death, can separate us from your love, and the love that we share with each other.

With this assurance, we commend His Royal Highness's passion to our hearts, and extend our prayers to the Queen, the other members of the Royal Family, and all who knew and loved the Duke of Edinburgh. Amen."

Until we meet again, take care, stay healthy, wear your RSCDS mask, and may the blessings of this season of joy and hope be with you.

Don Johnson

Have you heard?

Remember when ...?

“Branching Out” Walks

Spring is here! The weather is warm, the sun is bright.

CORRECTION!

Spring is away this week. We have 8 inches of snow on the patio!

In the meantime I hope you are staying active and getting out for your own walks around your neighbourhood or parks. What birds have you noticed returned from their winter home?

A black rectangular box containing white text that reads: "I'M SO BORED I WENT OUTSIDE TO KNOCK ON MY OWN DOOR THEN CAME BACK IN AND SAID 'WHO IS IT'"

TAC Summer School is going virtual!

“We can’t meet in person this year, but we’re excited to announce there will be a ‘virtual’ Summer School in July.”

Check the TAC website for ongoing updates and details
tac-rscds.org

From the Classes

Getting to Know

Editor –Do you have a dancing story to share? Let’s continue along those lines! I invite one and all to write a note about their experiences in SCD. 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?

We’ve Moved!!!

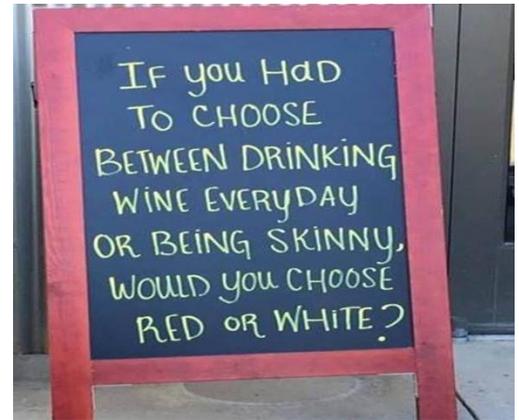
We lived in our house for over 35 years and never broke a window. It took our movers about one hour. But nothing could stop the feelings of anticipation and sadness going into another phase of our lives and leaving our home behind.

It was October 2016 that we made our initial down payment to reserve our condo unit, and on June 2017 we signed the offer to purchase which promised delivery on April 1, 2019. What a cruel April Fools’ joke that has been. We finally moved in on March 17, 2021.

We now have a lovely, spacious condo with a beautiful kitchen complete with wine cooler. We're settling in, stowing stuff, and meeting the neighbors, particularly when congregating at the exit after being awakened by a false fire alarm at 5:00 am.

Thanks to all the members who commiserated with us when we complained about the developers missing another deadline. The next time we're asked "have you moved yet?" we can answer "Yes!"

Heather & Glen Colquhoun



John Bowie

John Bowie passed away on Feb 11, 2021, age 87, in Courtney BC, following a brief illness. He was predeceased by his wife Margaret Feb 16, 2012.

John immigrated from Dundee to Toronto in 1949, working in the financial field, and moved to Montreal a few years later. There he joined a church choir and met Margaret Gibson, a fellow Scot, and the soprano soloist of The Church of Andrew and St Paul. So they met, married, and moved to Vancouver.

In 1966, they moved to Winnipeg and joined Knox Church (which is where all our classes took place) and Margaret was again a soprano soloist. The best part for us was that they were both dancers, and Margaret an RSCDS teacher, and that they joined the Branch.

They were known by some as the dynamic duo. Margaret was the dreamer and visionary, John was the facilitator, and it all worked out well. They started, for the Branch, Dancing in the Park, the float for the summer parades, a proper Demonstration Class, but most of all, Mug Pub.



John and Margaret left Winnipeg in 1972 to follow another dream - a restaurant in Comox, BC. Many Branch members never met this duo, but do know them by reputation.

John's ashes will be interred beside his beloved wife Margaret in the Mount Royal Cemetery, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal.

Maureen Burnham



Maureen sent me pictures of Margaret and John Bowie dancing at Polo Park in the summer of 1969. Apologies for the clarity from the old pictures.

There was also a photo of the ladies in the set. More familiar names in the Winnipeg Branch history. The ladies in the set were Mary Nixon, Margaret Bowie, Shirley Taylor, and Monique Henderson.

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.

Online dancing

Join the RSCDS Online Class – keeping moving and connected!

Get ready to dance with us from your living rooms, kitchens, spare rooms, offices – wherever you have room to move – and connect with dancers from around the world.

A class every week.



From the editor's desk

Have you had your vaccination against Covid-19 yet? I'm sure some have and others are waiting with their sleeve rolled up. Still others are waiting until their age group is called. Manitoba has eased some restrictions but the variant strains are on the rise. Hopefully we keep up our safe practices and stay healthy.

Thanks for a follow-up from Heather and Glen regarding their move into their condominium. Early morning false fire alarm, eh? Bet you never had that happen in your house! We look forward to checking out (and helping to fill) your wine cooler.

Thanks for the replies regarding skipping an issue. It's encouraging to know people enjoy reading the L & A.

It seems my little quips mostly seem to relate to wine. Not intentional, I'm just working with what I've received.

Meanwhile – stay safe!

Doug Durnin, Editor
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MY DILEMMA IS 25% OF ME
WANTS TO BE SLIM AND TRIM,
BUT THE OTHER 75% OF ME
WANTS PASTA, CHEESECAKE AND
UNLIMITED GLASSES OF WINE.



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 2021 - Virtual TAC Summer School, 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: June/July

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: May 29. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca