

# Light and Airy



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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### Committee of Management 2016/17

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<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Gerri Stemler	204-488-7386
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<b>Secretary:</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
<b>Asst. Soc. Secretary:</b>	vacant	
<b>Publicity:</b>	vacant, pending review	
<b>Librarian:</b>	Reg Curle	204-254-6697
<b>Membership:</b>	Sharon Plaitin	204-661-1257
<b>Demo Secretary</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Light &amp; Airy:</b>	Peter McClure	204-489-7712
<b>Teacher's Rep:</b>	Maureen Burnham	204-786-7767
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

### ***A Word from the Chair....***

The dancing season has been running smoothly now for the last three months. I managed to attend the last "Thursday" dance night and got to meet many of our new dancers from the Wednesday night class. Good group and good teaching from Joyce. I hear the St. Andrews Social went well and was enjoyed by all. Classes will be winding up very soon so I will mention to everyone that there is a dance evening on Dec 29 and also to keep in mind the Burns Evening on Saturday, Jan 21. Tickets will be sold on class nights. Meanwhile, I hope your classes continue to go well and everyone has a wonderful Christmas season.

*Scott MacRae*

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### **2015/16 Dance Season**

Week of 12 December	Last Autumn term classes	
29 December Thursday Extra Class	St Paul's Hall	
Week of 9 January 2017	Winter term classes begin	
21 January Saturday	Burns Dinner and Dance at 17 Wing	\$50
27 February Monday	Spring social	
29 March Wednesday	Branch social	
21-23 April, Friday – Sunday	Weekend Workshop at 17 Wing	

Events are at St Paul's Hall except as noted. Events will be added to the Calendar as they are scheduled.

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### ***Class Notes***

#### ***Fort Garry Social (Monday)***

The Fort Garry Class will hold a make-up class (re Thanksgiving cancellation) on Monday 19 December. As this is the last class of the term, we will have refreshments after the dancing. We invite all members who are free on that evening to join us, and if you have a bit of holiday baking to share, that will be welcome.

#### ***Technique (Tuesday)***

We've had an interesting and challenging month. We usually have 14-16 dancers, and as usual, Cheryl found dances "off the beaten track" to make us think, as well as making us use good technique. Notable were Borders Traditional, with a variation on the usual quick time poussette, In the Clover, which involved three couples in an unusual triangular formation, and Mennie Hands Around, actually written by Cheryl herself, in memory of her mother.

A notable formation that we encountered was the Schiehallion reel. I was sufficiently interested to seek out information about the name. The original dance Schiehallion is a medley of strathspey and reel, and I found this in the SCD dictionary: "This Schiehallion dance depicts the slow steady climb to get to the top of the mountain in the first part with the strathspey step, and the faster descent with the reel in the second part." The mountain, in question, is 'Sidh Chailleann' a conical mountain (peak elevation 1083 m) in Perthshire very popular with hikers. The name means "Fairy Hill of the Caledonians". The rocks of this

mountain were originally shallow oceanic sand and sandstone prior to the closing of the Atlantic Ocean 490 - 400 million years ago due to continental drift. With the collision of the North American plate the sandstones were buried deep and greatly deformed and metamorphosed to quartzite and thrust into a high and complex mountain chain. When the Atlantic Ocean opened again it left the Caledonian mountains on the European side and Acadia and the Appalachians on the North American side. Several glacial advances greatly eroded and sculpted these mountains to the roots that remain for present day hikers and dancers.

The class hosted the first Branch social of the season on November 29. We had 16 – 18 couples, and nine dances, with some easier ones to start and finish, and some challenges in the middle. Speaking of challenges, I might mention Gates of Edinburgh. For some reason we just did not execute that dance. Or, rather, we did execute it! Still, it was a fun night.

We were sorry to miss class due to weather on December 6; now we hope that Cheryl and Doug can dig themselves out to make it to their flight to NY on December 9, and we look forward to next term.

*John Hayles*

Ed. note: On behalf of all who attended, a “thank you” to Cheryl and the class for putting on a great social. From my observation, all who attended enjoyed the evening very much.

### ***Basics of SCD (Wednesday)***

Class continues to go well. The challenges never stop, and neither does the good effort and good humour. We were disappointed about the weather cancellation on 7 December, but happy not to have to fight the blizzard. Now looking forward to the last class of this term, and to next term.

### ***Extra Class 29 December***

The last of the “extra classes” mandated by COM for the autumn term will take place Thursday 29 December, 8-10 PM at St Paul’s, with teaching by Maureen and Joyce. Normally, there have not been refreshments at these classes, but as we have usually held a social evening during Christmas week, we plan to “put the kettle on” this time. If you have any leftover holiday baking that would grace the tea table, that would be welcome. As usual, there is no charge for this class.

## ***Branch News***

### ***From Jean Highmoor***

To all my friends in the RSCDS, Winnipeg Branch:

A big Thank You for the wonderful gift that Don Johnson delivered to my house recently. It always helps to know that friends are wishing you well. I will toast you all each time I drink a “Wee Dram”. Keep dancing - I still miss it. With many thanks for the gift and your thoughts,

*Jean (Highmoor)*

### ***Tutors Weekend***

November 11-13, 2016 was not only a fabulous weekend weather-wise but also offered a warm welcome for our out of town guests as a Tutors Course was held in Winnipeg. This course is sanctioned by the RSCDS headquarters and is essential for Scottish Country Dance teachers who will one day tutor dancers who want to become teachers. This was made possible through the Joan Cameron Muir

Scholarship Fund. The attendees included Betsy Brydon from Regina, Lara Friedman-Shedlov from Minneapolis, Claire Collier from Buffalo, Lydia Hedge from Three Fathom Harbor, David Kroeker and Cheryl Durnin from Winnipeg. This course was led by Ron Wallace from Santa Clara California. We had a wonderful time sharing and learning from each other as we all had varied experiences and knowledge. Ron also led a dance class on Saturday night which local dancers were welcome to attend and enjoy Ron's expert teaching.

Thank you to all the dancers who came out on Saturday night to share in this weekend. Thanks also to the organizing committee who made this weekend possible – Margaret Zadworny, Shirley Tinsley, Doug Durnin, Don Johnson and Cheryl Durnin - all of whom contributed greatly to the success of this important course. Thanks to the hosts of our out of town guests: Elizabeth Goossen, Ray and Sharon Plaitin, Shirley and Malcolm Tinsley, Doug and Cheryl Durnin and Margaret Zadworny. RSCDS headquarters is now aware that there are tutors in the areas mentioned who will be able to assist in the growth of Scottish Country dancing through assisting and encouraging new teachers.

*Cheryl Durnin*



Betsy, Lydia, Lara, Ron, Cheryl, Margaret, Claire and David.

Ed. note: The Joan Cameron Muir Scholarship was presented by the late Dorothy Dykin, in memory of Joan Cameron Muir, to be used in support of Scottish dancing. Joan Cameron Muir was deeply involved in Scottish cultural activities in Winnipeg, among other things, directing the School of Celtic Studies at St John's College in the 1980s and 90s, and directing her Gaelic Choir.

### ***Burns Dinner and Dance***

Be sure your calendar is marked for the Branch Burns Dinner and Dance on 21 January, 2017. As last year, the venue will be the base at 17 Wing. Dinner will include the traditional haggis and roast beef, and wine will be provided. We will try to negotiate more modest dinner portions, as several people felt that servings were too large last year.

SCD dances will include Montgomeries' Rant, Silver Tassie, Talisker, Deuks Dang Ower My Daddie, The Lea Rig, and Corn Rigs, and the dance programme will be a blend of Scottish country and couples' dances, so you can be comfortable in bringing non-SCD partners and friends to enjoy the evening.

Tickets are \$50, and will be available either at classes, or directly from Heather Colquhoun (204 888 0834) or Don Johnson (204 885 9879), and must be purchased by 11 January. Once again, to comply with 17 Wing security protocol, we will need to get your name as it appears on the ID that you will use, and similar information for any guests, when you get your tickets. The list of names is forwarded to the base, and everyone must be prepared to show either photo ID, or two pieces of ID, at the gate.

We're looking forward to another very enjoyable evening; don't miss it!

### ***Scottish Country Dancing in California***

Jan MacPhail and I had a fabulous trip to San Francisco and the Monterey Peninsula. Having an interest in attending an out of town workshop, Asilomar seemed to fit the bill - a gorgeous setting on the Pacific, excellent teachers and a large number of dancers from round the world. Being relatively close to San Francisco meant we could explore this famous city as well.

We started out with a bang by being picked up at our hotel by Laura and Paul Bennett who drove us through the scenic parts of San Francisco, across the Golden Gate Bridge, through beautiful countryside, past Silicon Valley and en route treated to us to a fabulous oceanside lunch in the famous village of Capitola, where we saw seals and various wonderful birds. Upon arrival at Asilomar, we discovered a seaside version of Jasper Park Lodge with beautiful assorted buildings for dining, conferencing, i.e. dance classes, accommodations and a magnificent ballroom around a welcoming administration center.

The weekend started with a great casual dinner, a super friendly welcome dance followed by an incredible ceilidh and a lavish reception. Saturday AM consisted of classes (Advanced Social for us) with the teaching of Andrew Smith and Sara Gratiot. This class suited us really well and the warmups were especially fun and the teaching was very stimulating. After lunch, more classes for ball prep/review and a teachers' reception for Joyce! After dinner and a quick change into our ball gowns we were off to the Masquerade Ball, the truly grand Grand March with 250+ people transitioning smoothly into the 1st dance. To be part of so many masked dancers dressed in elegant ball gowns and in fine highland dress was a thrill, especially dancing to the music of Tullochgorm, the SCD band based in Boston. A truly wonderful night!

Sunday morning and one last hurrah allowed all the participants and teachers to dance to the combined music provided by all class musicians and band members. What a great way to end the dancing before a quick goodbye lunch to all our new friends. So back to San Francisco with Jeanne Sole, a SF dancer, who very kindly drove us right to our hotel, stopping at a well known spot viewing seal lions, sea otters and many sea birds.

What fun we had exploring San Francisco - riding the cable car down to Fisherman's Wharf, exploring the waterfront and enjoying famous sourdough sandwiches on the patio at Boudin's. An open air bus took us over the Golden Gate Bridge, we walked the grounds of the famous Art Institute and passed through upscale area of Pacific Heights with such residents as Nancy Pelosi and Mrs Doubtfire.

We ate at the Cheesecake Factory made famous by the Big Bang Theory, walked up and down the streets of SF (literally) as it is very hilly! through famous Chinatown (many times), up Nob Hill to the Fairmont with its fine statue of Tony Bennett, singing "I Left Mt Heart in San Francisco", across from the "Top of the Mark" Hopkins Hotel, climbed up and down the Crooked Street, viewed the Painted Ladies Houses of Full House fame and with a beautiful view of the Bay, took the Bawdy and Naughty Tour and learned about the importance of the ladies to the "mining industry" in the late 1800's. One of best deals was riding a city bus to Cliff House, the most western point of North America, for \$1.00 with a transfer that should have expired after 90 minutes but the driver couldn't be bothered to check the transfer.

The trip would not have been complete without a tour to California wineries. We were picked up by a Bordello-like stretch vehicle, were served mimosas and a 2nd breakfast and drove towards the wine country of Sonoma and Napa Valley. Visited and sampled wine at four wineries and were served a sumptuous lunch. A great day!

The highlights other than the dancing weekend were the happy hour wine and cheese receptions at our hotel from 5: 00 to 6:30 (or later), the delicious meals and the very friendly and helpful people we met.

*Joyce and Jan*

### ***Name Tags***

Branch members should have name tags, with their name and Branch affiliation. New members receive these tags **at no further charge** after their first membership is paid. A returning member who has misplaced their tag can get a replacement by contacting the Registrar, Sharon Plaitin. The charge for replacements is \$8.

It is a courtesy to wear your name tag in any situation where not everyone may know you, e.g., when attending an "extra class" or a social.

### ***Dancing Achievement Award***

We recently received the following from TAC (Teachers' Association Canada). As we have published reports on TAC Summer Schools in past issues, we thought this might be of interest to some of our members. The next TAC Summer school will be in Vancouver 23 30 July 2017.

- Have you been dancing for a while and wonder what level you are dancing at?
- Do you enjoy a challenge and want to improve your dancing technique?
- Do you enjoy working towards and achieving goals as a team?
- Have you ever considered taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate but are not sure if your technique is good enough?



If you answered yes to any of these questions then the Dance Achievement Award Test is the class for you. Join us at the TAC Summer School in Vancouver, British Columbia and attend an intermediate DAA course next July. The class will run for three afternoons followed by the assessment on Friday afternoon.

Participants are expected to know the six prescribed dances prior to arrival so that they can concentrate on “polishing the finer points of their performance” while working together as a team.

You do not need to be a member of the RSCDS and this opportunity is open to any dancer.

For more information and to read the requirements and expectations check the RSCDS website:  
[www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa](http://www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa)

Registration for this course will begin on February 15, 2017 in conjunction with the TAC Summer Events registration. The application form and more information will be available on the TAC website:

[www.tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school/summer-school-2017](http://www.tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school/summer-school-2017)

### ***The Branch on Facebook***

Did you know that the Branch has a Facebook page? If you're on Facebook yourself, why not visit us at RSCDS Winnipeg, and "like" us.

### ***Here and There...***

#### ***Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and Pumps***

[www.avriel.com](http://www.avriel.com)

Your one stop shoe shop for all your dancing needs.

#### ***Clan Info and Scottish Shop***

[www.scotclans.com](http://www.scotclans.com)

#### ***SCD Online***

In case you didn't know about these sites:

Strathspey [www.strathspey.org](http://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](http://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.

Inter-city Scot [www.intercityscot.org](http://www.intercityscot.org) for travellers; lists of classes and events in places that you might be visiting in North America. For other parts of the world, use the link to SCD groups on the Strathspey site to find contact information.

There may be other useful sites that I don't know about. Let me know!

*Peter*

## ***Out of Town Events***

10-12 February 2017  
Edmonton, AB  
Annual Workshop and Ball  
[www.rscdsedmonton.com](http://www.rscdsedmonton.com) for details and forms

17-19 February 2016  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
Aloha Winter Weekend  
Details at [www.rscdshawaii.org](http://www.rscdshawaii.org)

7-9 April 2017  
Lethbridge, AB  
Dance and Music Workshops and Ball  
Details at [www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org](http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org)

6-8 October 2017  
Dartmouth, NS  
NS Branch 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workshop and Ball  
Details at [www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/35th-Anniversary.htm](http://www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/35th-Anniversary.htm)  
Note that this is the beginning of Celtic Colours week in Cape Breton.

Late 2017  
Dancing tour of New Zealand  
Visit [www.toursbychris.com](http://www.toursbychris.com) for contact info.

## ***Important Dates***

**COM meetings:** Next meeting 4 January 2017.

**Next L&A:** Deadline for the next issue 6 January 2017.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to Peter McClure [john.mcclure@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:john.mcclure@umr.umanitoba.ca). This and several past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)