

# Light and Airy



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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### Committee of Management 2011/12

<b>Chair:</b>	Pat Clubb	774 2796
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Christine Wallace	478 1026
<b>Secretary:</b>	Gerri Stemler	488 7386
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joan Curle	254 6697
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<b>Social Secretary:</b>	Anne Morrison	488 9548
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<b>Membership:</b>	Debra Forrest	284 4667
<b>Publicity:</b>	David Kroeker	284 4667
<b>Demonstration:</b>	Agnes Brydon	837 7346
<b>Library:</b>	Reg Curle	254 6697
<b>Teacher's Rep.:</b>	Christine Wallace (Interim)	478 1026

### From the Chair....

February has slipped away but not many cold nights by a toasty fire! With mild weather, dance classes have been generally well attended. The Thursday evenings of Scottish dancing have been lots of fun, with usually 10 or more dancers. Each teacher has introduced new dances and music around their particular interests, which have been a real treat. The Festival de Voyageur featured great music, dancers, and musicians. The influence of the Scottish settlers in Manitoba rang through Voyageur Park with toe-tapping jigs and reels.

There are lots of events coming up for those interested in participating in celebrating our Scottish Heritage, our Manitoba history, and just enjoying Celtic music and dance. Tartan Day, this year being celebrated on April 5th in the Rotunda at the Legislative Building at 5:30 pm, will feature a number of Scottish organizations, including our own Demonstration Team. There was a Ceilidh on March 24 at the Red River Community Club (corner of Main and Murray) sponsored by Kildonan Church, as part of the Selkirk Settlers Bicentennial 2012, with our Demonstration Team performing. Heritage Days at Lower Fort Garry in May and June will again include RSCDS performing and teaching Scottish dancing to school children. If you are interested in helping, contact Agnes Brydon.

The Growth and Development Committee (a new subcommittee of the COM), organized to address the issue of revitalizing the Branch, especially building the Basic Class and attracting new members, has met twice in February and are already working! Debbie Forrest has kindly agreed to chair the committee. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Debbie or any of the committee members (Pat Clubb, Christine Wallace, Joyce Cormack, Wendy Land, David Kroeker, Agnes Brydon, and Donna Robinson).

*Pat Clubb*

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### **2011/12 Dance Season**

<b>Week of January 9, 2012</b>	Winter Term classes begin
<b>Thursday, February 2</b>	Thursday Social Evenings begin
<b>Tuesday February 28</b>	Class Social (hosted by the Technique Class)
<b>Thursday, March 15</b>	Thursday Social Evenings end
<b>Thursday March 22</b>	Whisky Tasting Evening, St. Paul's Church Hall, \$25
<b>Thursday March 29</b>	Thursday Social Evenings Wind-up (hosted by the COM and teachers)
<b>Week of April 16</b>	Last classes of Winter Term
<b>Saturday April 28</b>	Workshop and Dance
<b>Wednesday May 16</b>	AGM

Please note: All dates are subject to change – please check the calendar each month. All socials are at St. Paul's Church at 8:00 pm, with admission of \$10.00, unless otherwise noted.

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### **From the Editor**

Many of our Branch members have been busy travelling this past winter, with some including Scottish Country Dancing activities in their trips. In this issue, Sharyl Eaglesham, Agnes Brydon and Reg and Joan Curle share their dancing experiences in Edmonton, British Columbia and New Mexico. Scottish Country Dancing provides an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. As Joan observes, "one of the biggest benefits of a branch RSCDS headquarters affiliation is the uniformity of class structure and protocol which makes you feel you are in familiar territory even when the surroundings are different." In addition to these travellers, Ron Krug and Ken Natrass were the musicians at the recent Edmonton Workshop and Peter McClure was the guest teacher at the Regina Mini Workshop.

The last page of this issue includes a list of activities commemorating the bicentennial of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers in the Winnipeg. Many other events are planned that don't appear on this list so check the Red River 200 website and the *Light and Airy* for new events.

Don't forget the Big Bike event on June 20 at The Forks! Our Branch has entered a team this year to highlight both the Bicentennial and the health benefits of Scottish Country Dancing. This fun event raises money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. More information and pictures of last year's team appear in this issue. Come out and support our team – ride the Big Bike, provide a financial donation to help the team meet its fundraising goal and/or cheer on the team at The Forks.

*Heather Ferguson*

## **Margaret Bowie – an influence on all of us!!**

Margaret Bowie passed away February 16, 2012, in British Columbia, but will remain a strong memory to many of us.

First – she was someone who didn't know the meaning of "No", or "I quit". The Winnipeg RSCDS Branch owes much of its success to her. She basically started the first Mug Pub single handedly. Not only did she organize the first pavilion – she went as far as to sleep overnight in it, along with Alan Blanchette and her dog Thane, in order to provide security. She was one of the main teachers of the Branch, instructed the demo team, and organized RSCDS participation in City parades as well as staged productions showcasing Scottish talent and heritage.

Second – she was a successful business woman, attending college as a mature student and opening her own restaurant near Polo Park. She excelled as a soprano soloist in church and in shows at the Hollow Mug.

Third – she was the reason I became involved in Scottish Country Dancing. I had known Margaret from musical circles, and when I returned to Winnipeg it was Margaret and John who housed me – on one condition. Margaret was the coordinator of the demo team, and had a demonstration coming up the Friday following my arrival, at the University of Manitoba. Well, wasn't she short one man! She said she would teach me to country dance in five days, but I would not be allowed to walk in the house at all. Every movement had to be a dance step. I danced with the team that following Friday.

So Margaret – you will never be forgotten – and we are grateful to you every time we dip into the Mug Pub funds and, for myself, whenever I do a Strathspey travelling step.

*Ron Krug*

## **Branch Web Site Updated**

The Branch's web site at [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca) has been updated. Every page has been revised and a new page and video have been added.

When you visit the site, you may have to click on the *Reload* button on your browser to load the new pages. If you have any problems, please contact Glen at 888-0834.

## **Health and Safety Report**

The CPR Workshop scheduled for April 14, 2012 is now full but please contact Lynn McClure if you are interested in attending, as there is always a chance that someone will have to drop out.

The Branch has purchased a small first aid kit, which is stored in the broom cupboard in the kitchen at St. Paul's. Please take it to any function where members will be performing. There are ice packs in the fridge at St. Paul's for general use. As we age, our bodies lose that lovely padding between the joints and consequently we don't bounce like we used to do. Just look at the young dancers who just seem to float.

Ice is a very effective and noninvasive method of pain relief and joint repair when used properly. Never apply ice to bare skin. Apply 20 minutes to large muscle areas and 10 minutes only to hands, fingers, feet and toes. Ice left on too long can cause blisters (just like burns) and tissue death, which can require skin grafting. Always ice an acute injury, if possible, to reduce inflammation and bruising.

There has been some thought about having a membership contact list (name and phone) available - perhaps in the locked cupboard with the CDs and music equipment rather than in the broom cupboard. What are your thoughts, people?

Legislation was passed in June 2011 (not yet in force), requiring that an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) be available in all public buildings. However, "public buildings" is a rather imprecise term and more information should be coming soon. The Branch has been discussing the importance of emergency preparedness, which would include access to an AED (should we have our own or should St. Paul's Anglican Church have one on site?). We did hire St. John's Ambulance to attend our Burns Event in 2011. It was their suggestion that we have members certified in CPR, which we have done and will continue to do.

Lynn McClure, Pat Clubb and Maureen Burnham have been working on a simple "disaster plan/critical incident protocol" for the Branch. It is still in draft stage but here are some of the points so far:

1. In the event of any injury or illness, always have someone stay with the victim.

2. A COM member or teacher should self-identify as the person responsible and recruit helpers.
3. Call EMS (911) in cases where the individual is unconscious, not breathing, choking, seizing, has open fractures, or is displaying signs of a stroke, heart attack or neurologic impairment. Do not be afraid to call for help if, in your opinion, the situation is warranted.
4. Start CPR if the individual is unresponsive, after calling EMS.
5. Identify someone to prepare the area for safety and quick entry of emergency personnel.
6. Contact family/support person of the injured individual.
7. For events outside St. Paul's, take the first aid kit, and identify resources in the facility, e.g., fire exits, fire extinguishers, elevators, phones. There is usually a COM member or teacher at events. If not, take responsibility for yourself and make sure that a person is designated as "responsible" in case of an emergency or injury.

That's our thinking so far. Let us know how to improve.

*Pat Clubb*

### **Update on the Sutherland - Manitoba Project: Music, Dance and Knitting Traditions**

Christine Wallace has been corresponding with Jacquie Aitken from Timespan regarding a project started by the people of Sutherland who wish to share their music, dance and knitting traditions with the people of Manitoba. The second group of Selkirk Settlers, who left Scotland in 1813, came primarily from the parishes of Kildonan and Helmsdale in Sutherlandshire.

Jacquie has been following the Bicentennial events on the Red River 200 website. She will be visiting Manitoba in September, staying in Winnipeg for the first week in September, and then she hopes to go up to Churchill for a week or so. This is where the Kildonan people landed on their way to the Red River Settlement in 1813. She has met quite a few of the Canadian descendants, who have come to the old "Strath" of Kildonan to find the homes of their ancestors.

In the next few months, a plan will be developed to identify individuals and organizations interested in participating in the various projects. Jacquie would like to exchange information (e.g., song and dance sheets, knitting patterns and yarns, letters) by mail, in the same way that the settlers communicated with folks in Scotland 200 years ago, and hopes to receive similar packages in return. There are plans to develop a display, exhibition or joint publication and maybe link up through Skype for a joint session.

The Timespan knitting group meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00 – 4:00 pm and anyone can join them. They knit traditional fisherman's jumpers called ganseys, with each area (including Helmsdale) having its own distinctive pattern, as well as woolen. The community still has some Gaelic words in their songs and the Sutherland Country Dancing Association is always keen to give demonstrations.

Research is being undertaken with respect to traditions of the area and relevant dances, songs and knitting patterns, and anything else that comes to light (such as cross-stitch patterns, poems, old letters). Jacquie hopes that the project can begin this summer and continue until March 2013, when an exhibition in Timespan and online is planned so that everyone can access the information.

Jacquie hopes to meet with Branch members when she comes to Winnipeg and discuss the project in more detail. She has offered to do a presentation if that would stimulate more interest. She would also like to link up with one of the schools in Winnipeg so that the Helmsdale school children (aged 8-12 years) can do a similar project. Please advise Christine if you are interested in any of these projects or if you have suggestions for schools that might like to be involved.

### **Proposal for Branch Classes 2012/13**

As members are aware, due to the small class size this past fall, the Basic class members joined the Fort Garry Social class in January. By all accounts, this has been a successful integration. Since February, "Social Evenings of Scottish Dancing" have been held at St. Paul's on Thursday evenings.

The COM and representatives of the Teachers' Committee have met and, through discussion which will be on going, are developing a Proposal for Class Structure for next year.

The proposal as it stands at present is as follows:

1. Two 10-week Basic Class courses, one in the fall and the other starting in January, with a fee reduction (no Headquarters membership for that year, but insurance will be carried) and a shorter class time (1 1/2 hours).
2. The Basic Class may require support from the experienced dancers to provide a solid and pleasurable introduction to Scottish Country Dancing, depending on numbers.
3. No decision will be made until all Branch members have had a chance to review the proposed changes to the class structure.
4. The Teachers will be reworking the descriptions of the present classes offered, to clear up any misinformation or misunderstanding.

Before finalizing the proposal, the COM would like feedback from the members at large, i.e., members of the Technique and Fort Garry Social Classes, including the members of the recent Basic Class who joined the Fort Garry Class.

Please forward your opinions/suggestions to Christine Wallace, Vice-Chair, Winnipeg Branch, directly by email ([kilty100@mts.net](mailto:kilty100@mts.net)). It is really important to the future of the Branch that we hear from you - the Membership! Thank you.

*Christine Wallace,  
Interim Teachers' Representative*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Thursday Social Evenings Windup**

*March 29, 2012*

The COM and the teachers will be hosting a Wind-up social for the Thursday Social Evenings on Thursday, March 29 at St. Paul's Church Hall. Music will be provided by Scotch Measure.

The program will be "Branch Easy", and include some dances from the social evenings. There will be a Tartan Day tribute during intermission, which will include a recitation from the *Treaty of Arbroath* and singing of *The Flower of Scotland* (see the words on page 11 of this issue). The program will end with *Auld Lang Syne*.

The Dance Program for the social is as follows:

<b>Dance Program</b>		
Gay Gordons	r-t-r couples	Collins
Dashing White Sergeant	32R3 persons	Book 3-2
St. John River	32S4	NB Collect.
Catch As Catch Can	32R4	Let's All Dance
St. Bernard's Waltz	r-t-r couples	Collins
Intermission		
Riverside	32J-long set	Leaflet
Rakes of Glasgow	32S3	Book 11-11
Maxwell's Rant	32R3	Book 18-10
The Convict Ship	32R rtr	Leaflet
Reel of the 51st Division	32R3	Book 13-10
<i>Crib notes for the dances are available on the Branch website.</i>		

### **Tartan Day Celebration**

*April 5, 2012 – Legislative Building*

Tartan Day will be celebrated on Thursday, April 5 this year since the official day (April 6) falls on Good Friday. There will be a celebration under the Rotunda at the Legislative Building, starting at 5:30 pm. The Demo team will be performing.

### **RSCDS Spring Workshop and Dance**

*April 28, 2012*

The brochure and registration forms for the Branch's Annual Workshop and Dance are now available on the Winnipeg RSCDS website.

Items are still needed for the silent auction. Also, a portable 88 key electric piano (keyboard) is required for the Ceilidh evening on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have one and would be willing to lend it, please contact Jane Nattrass, Workshop Chairperson.

In addition to Jane, the Workshop Committee 2012 consists of Joan Curle, Donna McNamara, Jean Highmoor, Christine Wallace, Margaret Zadworny, Anne Morrison, and Sharon and Ray Plaitin.

Please note the following information on the Friday and Saturday evening events.

### *Friday Evening Ceilidh – April 27*

We are trying to resurrect the Friday ceilidh evening. Do you have talent – can you sing, dance, play an instrument, act, or direct a very short skit? Don't be shy! If we don't get offers, we will recruit you! There will be a set program that will include four dances from the Saturday program, several other dances to help us limber-up and socialize, and entertainment provided between the dances. The line-up will be posted on the website and hopefully in the *Light and Airy*. Watch for further information.

### *Saturday Evening Dance – April 28*

As you are all probably know, Manitoba is celebrating the Bicentennial of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers this year. Because of this, the Workshop Committee has chosen the Bicentennial as their theme for decorations, etc. For the Saturday Evening Dance, we invite you to come dressed in the attire that was worn at that time. (200 years ago). We do not wish anyone to go to a lot of expense, so here are some suggestions. You may already have appropriate items in your wardrobe.

Please remember that prior to that time, the tartan was forbidden to be worn in Scotland after the Jacobite Rebellion in 1745, so any tartan that the Selkirk Settlers may have brought with them would have been small pieces that could be worn around the neck, or over the ladies' shoulders, like a very small three-cornered plaid. These could have easily been hidden before they left Scotland.

The ladies have a choice of wearing a long, full-skirted dress, with a long apron (if desired), long or ¾ length sleeves, and a mop style cap or bonnet with ties.

Alternatively, they can choose to wear a long, full skirt of darkish colour, a light-coloured blouse (white or cream) with long or ¾ length sleeves. A small, triangular tartan scarf or plaid was often worn over the shoulders and pinned at the front with a brooch.

For the men, self-coloured pants can be of a darkish colour, open-necked shirt (can be peasant style), a vest and a small, triangular piece of tartan worn tied around the neck.

We have made these suggestions as simple as possible. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Workshop Committee, who will be happy to help in any way possible.

We hope that you will join us in costume, to celebrate this special anniversary of our Scottish forbears and at the same time commemorate this important landmark of Manitoba's history.

*Winnipeg Branch Workshop Committee 2012.*

### **Heritage Days at Lower Fort Garry** *May/June 2012*

We would like to invite any and all that would be interested in volunteering at the Heritage Days at the Lower Fort Garry on the following days: May 30 and 31, and June 1, 4, 7, 12 and 19. We would be teaching Grade 5 students a dance as part of their experience at the Fort. You could sign up for any number of days that you can spare - even only one day would be appreciated. We have to be at the Fort by 9:00 a.m. and we are usually finished between 2:30-3:00 pm. The dancing takes place inside the Fort walls. We bring our own lunches and water.

If anyone is interested or has any questions, please contact me at 837-7346 or by email at [brydona@yahoo.com](mailto:brydona@yahoo.com).

*Agnes Brydon*

### **Big Bike 2012** *June 20, 2012*

The Heart and Stroke Big Bike will roll through Winnipeg on June 20-22. The 30-seat bike will ride through The Forks from 1:00 – 8:00 pm on June 20 and downtown in the vicinity of the Legislative Building from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm on June 21 and 22. Money raised by the event goes to support the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Manitoba.

The Winnipeg Scottish Country Dancers have entered a Big Bike team this year to highlight the Bicentennial of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers as well as the health benefits of Scottish Country Dancing. The June 20 date at The Forks has been selected to accommodate members who have commitments during the day.

Each rider must collect at least \$50 in pledges. Those raising \$100 or more will receive a Big Bike t-shirt and have their name entered into the Grand Prize draw for a six-night trip to Honolulu, Hawaii (including return airfare and accommodations). Riders earn one more Grand Prize entry for every additional \$100 raised. Since our team registered by March 16, we have also been entered to win a Canadian First-Aid Heartsaver AED package.

It is easy to raise pledges as everyone has been touched by heart disease or stroke. Chances are that this month, this year, or this decade, either you or someone you know will be affected by heart disease or stroke.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact me at 795-2337 for information on how to register. Further information can be found on the event website, [manitobabigbike.ca](http://manitobabigbike.ca).

The following are pictures of my last year's Big Bike team, which included some Winnipeg Branch members. Do you see any familiar faces?

*Heather Ferguson*



2011 Big Bike Team

## **Selkirk Settlers Bicentennial Pageant** *September 7, 2012*

The Winnipeg Branch will be presenting a pageant on the immigration of the Selkirk Settlers to Manitoba in 1812. The event will take place on the evening of September 7 at Lower Fort Garry. Watch the *Light and Airy* for further information

## **Bicentennial of the Selkirk Settlers Events**

The last page of this issue of the *Light and Airy* is a list of events commemorating the Bicentennial of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers. Look for information on other events in future issues. Two new events are:

*Millennium Library Bicentennial Events*  
Display of Selkirk Settlers artifacts  
Main Floor ~ until the end of April 2012

*Lady Jean Selkirk Tea and Fashion Show*  
May 6, 2012 ~ 2:00 pm ~ Norwood Hotel ~ \$50.00  
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (Margaret -219-5974)

## **RSCDS 50th Anniversary 2013**

The 50th Anniversary Committee continues to plan the 2013 weekend workshop and ball. The workshop will feature two out-of-town teachers.

The Committee is reviewing this year's Burns Dinner and Dance to see if any details need to be altered for our anniversary year Burns event.

The Committee is still looking for dances that were composed by or about Winnipeggers, or about Winnipeg or Manitoba. Suggestions for dances should be forwarded to Christine Wallace by the **end of March 2012**.

*Joan Curle*

## **Class Reports**

### **Fort Garry Social Class**

Is spring really here? It sure feels like it out there today. While I love spring, it also means the end of the dancing season will be here before we know it.

Although I have had to miss several classes over the past 6 weeks, we are continuing to learn new dances and new pattern sequences ... some of them

trickier than others. And, of course, just when you think you've got it all figured out, there's that pattern that's just a little bit different and makes you feel like a beginner all over again.

The Technique Class social was held on February 28<sup>th</sup> and many of our class members were in attendance. We enjoyed a great dance program, the wonderful live music of Scotch Measure and as always a table full of goodies at the end of the evening. Thank you to all members of the Technique Class for hosting a fabulous evening.

Our new class members – Sheila, Maggie and Paula – have settled into the Social Class very well and it's like they've been with us all season. I asked each of them to introduce themselves.

Sheila Careless writes "I was first introduced to Scottish country dancing around 1985 when the man I was dating (and have since married) brought me to dancing in the park. Well I was hooked! I took classes in 1986-87 under the teaching of John Oliver. For the next couple of years I danced occasionally but life got busy and I was [unable] to take regular classes any longer. This past year we went to a Mug Pub reunion and I was once again bitten by the Scottish bug. I decided to sign up for regular classes this year and it feels great to be back! I love Scottish Country Dancing because it's fun, a little bit of exercise and the people are great. It also helps to keep the brain cells active!" Sheila also notes she has three adult children (two still at home) and two grandchildren. When not dancing, Sheila loves to read, watch movies/musicals, and sports.

Maggie Careless came to her first Scottish Country Dancing event at the invitation of her mom and writes "My parents were part of the RSCDS for several years before I was born, including being involved with Mug Pub. This past year, my Mom decided to start dancing again and she invited me to come along to try it out. I came to the first social and I've been having lots of fun since!" Maggie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Winnipeg. When she's not dancing, Maggie likes to read novels, re-create movie costumes and watch science fiction TV shows (usually the sci-fi shows!).

Paula Ferreira writes "I do Tai Chi for health reasons, but I had been wanting to do some dancing for quite awhile. I heard about the September Open House on the radio and thought, 'this could be fun.' I had been to a ceilidh years ago, when I lived in Calgary, and I remember really

enjoying that evening. I have low tolerance for hard, repetitive exercise. I once took a jazz dance class and, in retrospect, I don't think it was very good for my neck. So Scottish Country Dancing is perfect: it engages the body and the mind, pleasantly! ... everyone is very kind and generous. I appreciate everyone's patience, especially the teachers".

Welcome Sheila, Maggie and Paula to the Fort Garry Social Class.

Dwayne and I will be off to the Mini Workshop in Regina on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Since we were heading to Regina for wedding plans for our youngest son, we figured the workshop would be a great way to break up the weekend. I will report back on that in the next newsletter.

Hope everyone enjoys all the great weather we are supposed to be getting in the coming weeks.

Until next time ....

*Sheila Somers*

### **Technique Class**

With our last dance we welcomed spring last night (just a bit early) by doing an interesting dance to herald the arrival of maple sap in some parts of Canada. It was called the "Maple Syrup Frolic" and was a challenge to frolic and end up in the right spot after a vigorous circle and then back, ending up in quite a different spot from where you started this unusual circle. Anyway, it got better as we did it a few times and despite the difficulties it was nice to think about spring and maple syrup.

I think everyone enjoyed the February social and kudos to the band for wonderful music and to Cheryl for taking us through the great program developed by Margaret. I spoke with Margaret this week, she is feeling much better and we hope she will continue to do so and perhaps get to some events later in the term.

There are quite a number of Tuesday dancers who are taking winter breaks and some who have been away are now back. Our numbers have been down a bit from the fall term but should start to level off now that the travellers are starting to return. Usually, we have 16-20 dancers.

Cheryl has been working on some interesting figures which we do occasionally but not often enough to keep them in the forefront of my



memory. One we reviewed last night, and used in a dance, was set and link for three couples, which involves being alert to one's position in the threesome and being able to quickly identify whether you are at the left end of the trio as that leads to a different path. Prior to this, we did lots of set and cast off in both quick time and strathspey. Which reminds me of the caption on a t-shirt (Maureen Burnham's?)....."Scottish country dancers never die, they just cast off".

On that uplifting note, that seems to be all the news I can think of from the Tuesday class for this month.

*Lynn McClure*

## **Demonstration Team**

Upcoming demonstrations:

April 5	Tartan Day (Legislative Bldg)
June 16	Manitoba Highland Gathering
July 13-14	Union National Métis
September 1-11	Selkirk Settlers Bicentennial Celebrations
September 7	RSCDS Bicentennial Pageant

*Agnes Brydon*

## ***Here and There***

### **Why Did I Choose the Edmonton Workshop?**

I had the opportunity to attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> Edmonton Caledonian Branch Dance and Annual Workshop on February 17-19. The Friday evening Ceilidh was a mixture of old-time party dances and performances by the children's class, youth group and ladies' step dancers. What a great opportunity to feature the various ages and stages of branch dancers and to support their demonstration confidence. The ceilidh was a welcoming introduction to the branch and its members, and it set the stage for an enjoyable weekend. '

The teachers for the weekend were Robin Lynch (British Columbia, formerly Winnipeg), Graham Donald (Leeds, UK) and Elaine Brunken (Washington DC). Why did I choose the Edmonton workshop? Robin was my first teacher

in Basic Class, and I knew I would enjoy her class again. I was not surprised that the instruction by Robin, Graham and Elaine was first-rate.

From Graham's class, I took away the significance of footwork (of course) and the responsibility experienced dancers have to those learning/imitating the steps and posture of the dancer. This became evident at the evening ball by the elegance of the dancers in their finery and easy movements. There was a feeling that everyone was standing a little taller and feet pointing a little stronger. Elaine Brunken will be a great draw to the Winnipeg workshop in the spring. She is enthusiastic and has the spark to keep us on our toes and our minds engaged.

The Edmonton Branch is applauded for their welcoming atmosphere. Members took responsibility to greet visitors, explain what to expect, make personal invitations (i.e., the "after party"/hospitality room), and generally step out of their own "comfort zone" to take interest in a stranger. These are some of the reasons I will return another year, and I would highly recommend the Edmonton Caledonian Branch weekend to any dancer.

It you can't get out of the city, the Winnipeg one-day workshop on April 28th is a great way to get exposure to another instruction style by a visiting teacher. In addition to Elaine, our own Cheryl Durnin will be teaching, with music by Ron Krug and Ken Natrass. The weekend will also provide you an opportunity to welcome and maybe start a life-long connection to dancers from outside the Winnipeg Branch. Happy Dancing.

*Sharyl Eaglesham*



*Musicians Ron Krug and Ken Natrass*



*Robin Lynch and Sharyl Eaglesham*

Apart from the dancing, Norma and I had tea and coffee cake with Peter's brother, George McClure, and his wife Linda, in Campbell River. They were very involved in Mug Pub in the day. From there, we carried on to the ferry over to Quadra Island where we spent 1 1/2 days with Mike and Robin Lynch. They are most gracious host/hostess and we enjoyed our visit very much in their lovely B&B. If anyone is planning on a trip to this part of the world, don't miss the chance to see their new residence. The Lynchs managed to attend the Tea Dance as they were on their way to meet friends from Winnipeg in Nanaimo later that day.

All in all, it was a most enjoyable sojourn from the humdrum of everyday life. I had a wonderful hostess in Norma, who took me to every place she could think of. I even got a chance to play in a cribbage tournament at the Senior's Centre – AND I WON – got the highest total score.

*Agnes Brydon*

## **Comox Visit**

*February 2012*

Here are the further ramblings of your traveling Demo Secretary. I spent 10 days visiting a friend, Norma Sharp (former member of the Winnipeg Branch for many years). While there, I got to attend two evenings of classes that were taught by Evelyn Nixon and Heather Flint - very enjoyable classes with very friendly participants. These classes were held on Monday evenings. On Saturday, February 25, the Comox Branch hosted a Tea Dance from 12:00 to 4:30 pm. The event started off by savouring five wonderful choices of homemade soups prepared by the Comox members, accompanied by buns, cheese, tomato slices and lettuce.



*Mike and Robin Lynch at the Comox Tea Dance*

When all were sated, the dancing began. The program included *The Piper and the Penguin*, *Jessie's Hornpipe*, *Dalkeith's Strathspey*, *The Royal Daeside Railway*, *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*, *Old Nick's Lumber Room*, *John of Bon Accord*, *Finlay Stewart Skinner*, *The Cranberry Tart (a fugue)*, *The Button Boy*, *Sugar Candie*, *The Luckenbooth Brooch* and *the Reel of the Royal Scots*.

The Tea Dance was attended by approximately 45 dancers from Victoria, Salt Springs Island, Powell River, Nanaimo, Courtney-Comox, and Quadra Island. I won the prize for coming from the farthest point to attend this event. I am sorry if I have missed any areas I was not aware of.

## **Dancing in New Mexico**

On our recent trip to Mesa, Arizona and Albuquerque, New Mexico we found a dance class on our way home at a branch in Los Alamos, New Mexico which is north and west of Santa Fe. What an experience it was dancing at 7,300 feet with a group of friendly fellow dancers. The class had seven couples and was a mixture of experienced and new dancers. One dance we did was Liz Goosen's *Whistling Wind*. The teacher, Marilyn Thayer, said it was a dance favourite in the area and frequently danced, and was included in their upcoming workshop.

We learned *Falkirk Lass*, which was a dance by Elaine Brunken, who will be our guest teacher at our spring workshop. Last week at our Tuesday night class with Cheryl Durnin, we were learning a dance which seemed familiar--it was *Gang the Same Gate*, which we had learned in Los Alamos. I think one of the biggest benefits of a branch RSCDS headquarters affiliation is the uniformity of class structure and protocol which makes you feel you are in familiar territory even when the surroundings are different.

Los Alamos is the former site of a boys' ranch taken over by the U.S. government for the "Manhattan Project". The city is currently a centre of research on a wide variety of projects on health, environment, energy, and space. We visited two museums which gave the history of the area and the "secret city". And we found another restaurant serving New Mexican food.

*Reg and Joan Curle*



*Joan Curle (3rd from left) with the Los Alamos Branch*

## **Fishing Story**

*Provided for your enjoyment by David Kroeker*

I went fishing this morning, but after a short time I ran out of worms. Then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a snake with a frog in his mouth.

"Frogs are good bass bait" I thought to myself.

Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in his mouth, I grabbed him right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket.

Just then, I realized I had a problem, how was I going to release the snake without getting bit?

So, I grabbed my bottle of Scotch whisky and poured a little in its mouth. The snake's eyes rolled back and he went limp. I released him into the lake without incident and carried on fishing using the frog.

A little later, I felt a nudge at my foot. There was that same snake with two more frogs in his mouth.

## **Flower of Scotland**

*Flower of Scotland* is considered to be Scotland's unofficial National Anthem. It was written in 1965 by the late Roy Williamson of the folk group, The Corries, and refers to the victory of the Scots, led by Robert the Bruce, over England's Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

The song was the overwhelming choice for Scotland's national anthem in a poll conducted by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 2006. It is also the official anthem of both the Scottish Football Team and the Scottish Rugby Team.

### *Flower of Scotland*

*O Flower of Scotland,  
When will we see your like again,  
That fought and died for  
Your wee bit hill and glen,  
And stood against him,  
Proud Edward's Army,  
And sent him homeward  
Tae think again.*

*The hills are bare now,  
And autumn leaves lie thick and still,  
O'er land that is lost now,  
Which those so dearly held,  
That stood against him,  
Proud Edward's Army,  
And sent him homeward,  
Tae think again.*

*Those days are past now,  
And in the past they must remain,  
But we can still rise now  
And be the nation again,  
That stood against him,  
Proud Edward's Army,  
And sent him homeward,  
Tae think again.*

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

### **Seattle, WA**

*May 4-6, 2012*

Youth Weekend West

Teachers: Linda Mae West (WA), Terry Harvey (PA) and Jim Maiolo (WA)

Music: David Knight (DC) and Andy Imbrie (CA)

Contact: yww2012registrar@gmail.com

### **Beloit, WI**

*May 18-20, 2012*

Chicago, Madison & Milwaukee Scottish Country Dancers

Midwest Scottish Weekend

Teacher: Bruce Hamilton

Music: Waverley Station

Contact: Diana Hankes (262-679-8522 or midwestScottishWeekend@gmail.com)

### **Hopewell Junction, NY**

*May 18-20, 2012*

RSCDS New York Branch

Pawling Weekend

Teachers: Mervyn Short (UK), Rebecca Blackhall-Peters (Vancouver), and Carole Skinner (Toronto)

Music: The Scottish Accent Band and Jim Stevenson-Mathews

Contact: Sally Clayton at PawlingWeekend@gmail.com

### **Salt Spring Island, BC**

*June 15-17, 2012*

Salt Spring Scottish Dancers

Simply Scottish on Salt Spring II

Teachers: Elaine Brunken, Mary Murray and Geoffrey Selling

Music: John Taylor, David Mostardi, Mary Ross

Contact: Catherine Bennett (cdBennett53@gmail.com)

### **Banff, AB**

*October 6-8, 2012*

RSCDS Calgary Branch

Dancing in the Rockies

Teachers: Marjorie McLaughlin (USA), Simon Scott (Canada), Sue Porter (Scotland) and Ron Wallace (USA)

Music: Laird Brown and the Scottish Accent

Contact: Ilo Torgerson (Registrar) at Torgeri@shaw.ca or 403-273-6579

### **Santa Fe, NM**

*November 2-4, 2012*

RSCDS New Mexico Branch

Gala Scottish Dance Weekend

Teachers: Bill Zobel and Tine McKay

Music: Muriel Johnstone and Judi Nicholson

Contact: Eileen Green (505-661-9661) or Rob Sanders (575-751-0191 or RobTaosSCD@ao)

### **Pacific Grove, CA**

*November 2-4, 2012*

RSCDS San Francisco Branch

Asilomar Weekend Workshop and Ball

Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Roberta Gotfried, Dwayne McQuilliams, Antoine Rousseau, and Janet Lois Walker

Music: Calum MacKinnon & Andy Imbrie, Fiddlesticks and Ivory

Contact: Julee Montes (650-722-0473 or julm-hcs@pacbell.net) or Margaret Mitchell (805-610-4274 or mMitchel@msn.com)

Be sure to check the Inter-City Scot website for more information on dancing events in other cities (there is a link on the Winnipeg Branch website).

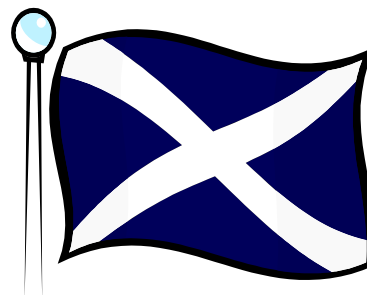
## ***Important Dates***

**COM meetings:** the first Wednesday of the month from October to May.

**Next L&A:** Deadline for the April 2012 issue is **April 6, 2012.**

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members.

This and the past 11 issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website (rscdswinnipeg.ca).





# The Bicentenary of the Red River Selkirk Settlement

*For information about the history of the settlement and special events to celebrate the Bicentenary, visit*

[www.redriver200.ca](http://www.redriver200.ca)

*Watch for these and other exciting events in 2012*

Date	Event
28 April (noon)	A Scottish Luncheon, presented by the Seven Oaks Historical Society at St. John's Cathedral, Tickets \$20 adults, \$10 children
May to October 2012	Museum Of Man and Nature exhibit on the Red River Selkirk Settlement, organized by the Manitoba Historical Society, Manitoba Museum, and Hudson's Bay Company Archives.
16 May 2012	Academic symposium on immigration, hosted by the Manitoba Historical Society at Dalnavert Museum
16 June 2012	46th Annual Manitoba Highland Gathering
Labor Day Weekend 2012	A full week-end of events at The Forks including a Friday night kick-off featuring music and other activities, a Saturday focus on First Nations, Métis and French cultural activities, and a Sunday focus on Scottish culture and entertainment including the annual Selkirk Settlers Parade and a huge ceilidh
4 September 2012	Re-enactment ceremony in historic La Verendrye Park to commemorate, exactly 200 years later, the event in which Miles MacDonnell, on behalf of Lord Selkirk and the Hudson's Bay Company representatives, met to turn over the administration of the track of land known as Assiniboia to Lord Selkirk, presented by the Manitoba Living History Society
5 September 2012	Reception hosted by the Lieutenant Governor to provide an opportunity for the direct descendents of the Selkirk Settlers to meet with the current Lord Selkirk to tell him about the people who came here and the importance of his ancestor's support for their plight
7 September 2012	Visit of Lord and Lady Selkirk to points of interest around Selkirk, Manitoba
	Rededication Ceremony at historic old St. Peter's Dynevor Anglican Church and Cemetery, a tribute to the memory of Chief Peguis, friend and benefactor to the settlers
	<i>Journey to the Red River, The Story of the Selkirk Settlers in Dance, Songs and Poetry</i> , a colorful pageant presented by The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Winnipeg Branch at historic Lower Fort Gary (location to be confirmed)
8 September 2012	Formal dinner to accommodate up to 1000 guests at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, coordinated by the St. Andrew's Society on behalf of the Bicentenary of the Red River Selkirk Settlement Committee. Lord Selkirk and other dignitaries expected to attend.
9 September 2012	Service of Thanksgiving, at St. John's Anglican Cathedral where the early settlers worshipped and where many were buried.
10 November 2012	Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs a Red River composition, commissioned by the Seven Oaks historical Society in Winnipeg
12 November 2012	Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs Red River composition in Brandon