

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

info@rscdswinnipeg.ca
www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

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Committee of Management 2017/18

Chair:	Gerri Stemler	204-488-7386
Vice-Chair:	Jane Natrass	204-667-0814
Treasurer:	Heather Colquhoun	204-888-0834
Secretary:	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
Social Secretary	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Pat Clubb	204-774-2796
Publicity:	vacant, pending review	
Librarian:	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
Membership:	Sharon Plaitin	204-661-1257
Demo Secretary	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
Light & Airy:	John Hayles	204-482-5249
Teacher's Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
Webmaster:	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

A Word from the Chair....

As I sit here watching the first snow fall of the season, gently but surely covering the ground for a new season, for some reason I got to thinking about one of our past chair's and how she always started her remarks for the *Light & Airy* with the above reference. I'm not sure exactly what she was saying, but my thought was something like – truth or saying what you think “from the mouths of babes”, so here goes....

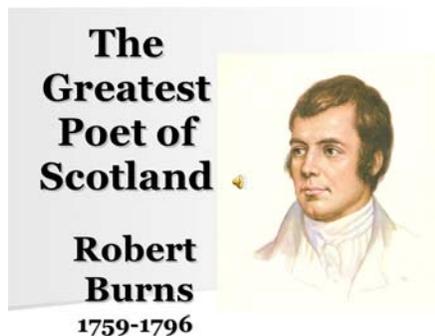
Why do we come together for Scottish Country Dancing? Exercise and health benefits? The lively music? Camaraderie and socialization with like-minded people? To enjoy challenging ourselves to learn something new and to hopefully become if not perfect, at least proficient at what we do.

We have continually tried to make the Winnipeg Branch welcoming to all members and visitors, continuing and newcomers, in a safe and friendly environment. One of the hallmarks of SCD is the civility and friendliness in everything from finding a dance partner, engaging everyone in the hall, thanking your partner, your set, the teacher and the musicians. There is no place for animosity or disrespect of any dancer or the teacher. Let's all remember this as we move forward.

Mark your calendar for the social event of the month – St. Andrew's Social hosted by the Monday class on November 27th. All members are welcome to our first branch social of the season. The dance program and crib notes are, or will soon be up on the website. Did you know that St. Andrew's Day has become something almost equivalent to our Canada Day in Scotland? A celebration of all things Scottish!

Gerri Stemler

Note from the Vice Chair – Burns Night



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Winnipeg Branch, invites you to our annual celebration and commemoration of the life and work of Robert Burns, Scotland's greatest poet. Please save the date on your 2018 Calendar.

When: **Saturday, January 20, 2018**
5:30 Cocktails
6:30 Dinner
8:00 Dance

Where: **The Officers Mess 17 Wing, RCAF Base, Winnipeg**
Why: **Tradition & we like to party**
Who: **Everyone welcome**
Cost: **TBA**

Bring a cheque with you to the St. Andrews Social, November 27th. The tickets will be hot off the press and we hope you will all come prepared to purchase them. They will also be available to purchase at classes and at the Betwixt and Between Social on December 27th. Questions, please contact Don Johnson or Jane Natrass.

Class Notes

Monday Social Class

Our second month of dancing has gone by quickly with a great member turn out again! We have been averaging anywhere from 14 to 22 people each week. Some of the dances we have done are "Red River Welcome" by Betty Redfern which is in the Prairie Gold Book of Dances, and "The Delta Borderers" by Ruth Jappy. For Halloween Maureen taught us "Old Spedlington's Castle's Ghost's Dance" (now that's a mouthful!). The tale goes that someone had been thrown into the dungeon of this castle where he eventually died and where his ghost continues to reside. We seemed to dance it ever so frantically, almost as if to escape the ghost! However after much anticipation the ghost never did make an appearance! More recently we have been practising dances on the upcoming social program including old favourites such as St. Andrew's Fair, The Edinburgh Castle Reel, the "postal code dance", the title of which is the postal code for the RSCDS headquarters in Scotland, Highland Fair and others. We are looking forward to hosting the St. Andrew's Social on Nov 27, meeting new members and seeing old ones once again.

In other class news, it's nice to see John Giesbrecht back dancing again. We again have some travelling members. Shortly after her return from the Nova Scotia workshop Lynn McClure was off on a road trip to Vancouver with her sister, this time leaving Peter at home to look after their dogs! On their return they encountered some challenges due to the forest fires out west but thankfully arrived home safe and sound. Reg and Joan have also been in Vancouver visiting with family and Scott and his wife Denise have been in Calgary. Yours truly will be on a tour in China with my husband for part of Nov. so I may or may not have a social class contribution for the Dec. issue of the L&A. Therefore I will take this opportunity to wish all branch members a Merry Christmas, even though it seems much too early for that!

Our teacher Maureen happily reported to us that the mother cat and kittens she rescued are all happy, healthy and doing fine. She is such a good "foster mom"!

To end on a sad note again this month we offer our condolences to Donna Robinson whose dad passed away recently. Our thoughts are with you and your family Donna. As well our condolences go out to former member Linda Clark whom many of us will remember, following the passing of her husband George.

See you all Nov 27 at the social!

Marilyn Piniuta

Tuesday Technique Class

Dances

Miss Hadden's Reel	Follow Me Home
The Wishing Well	Argyle Strathspey
The Tri-Mariner	Red House
Best Set in the Hall	Quarrie's Jig
Glasgow Lasses	Mist O'er The Loch
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran	The Clansman

Formations

3 couple Allemand	Grand Chain
Diamond Pousette	Balance in Line with corners
3 couple promenade	Tournée
Set to corners and cast	Pass and Turn with corners
Inveran Reels	Targe

On October 10th, we had a visitor, Megan, originally from Canada, but living in Scotland for the last seven years, and as we were few in number, her presence and dancing prowess was welcomed as we pranced through *Miss Hadden's Reel*, *The Wishing Well* and *The Tri-Mariner*. *The Wishing Well*, a strathspey, is notable for its unique progression formation, involving dancers in a diagonal line and rotating somewhat similar to the spoke. *The Tri –Mariner* is a lively dance to music resembling a hornpipe. In addition, the dance begins with a “staggered” start, whereby the first couple start on bar one, the second couple come in on bar three, and the third couple on bar five.

The following Tuesday, Joyce coached us through the formation “*set to corners and cast*” so we could do justice to the dance *Best Set in the Hall*. Then we engaged in *Glasgow Lasses*, a dance from 1748 – amazing that this dance is still being performed today. *Glasgow Lasses* is not difficult but has a unique formation involving a line of four moving up the dance and is visually appealing from a spectator's point of view.

One notable dance during October was the *Argyll Strathspey* – notable because it involves the *Tournée*. I can't say I was encouraged when Janet whispered to me that she had danced the *Tournée* only three times and disaster had ensued on each occasion. However, the formation does have promise and by the end of the evening we were beginning to get it right – maybe! Although a bit more practice might be necessary to project the grace and beauty inherent in this formation. Thank you Joyce for introducing this challenge!

At the end of one evening with only 10 dancers present, we embarked on Domino Five - a very cute and satisfying dance, unique because all five dancers participate more or less equally - no standing around waiting for your turn as number ones. A big thanks to Sharon P. who was in our group of five and shepherded us through the dance.

Halloween was truly scary as Joyce introduced the *Targe* at the end of the evening – not sure if it was a trick or treat. This formation appears in *The Clansmen*. We managed to fly through this once successfully before calling it a night. During the course of teaching us the *Targe*, Joyce dropped a tasty tidbit concerning Derek Haynes - the deviser of *The Clansman*. Derek Haynes is the star of a YouTube clip wherein he performs a step dance entitled “Come Ashore Jolly Tar”. If you are bingeing on Netflix and need a wee break, I suggest checking this out. Derek Haynes also devised Domino Five.

Hilary

**ST. ANDREW'S SOCIAL PROGRAMME
NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

1	ST ANDREW'S FAIR	R Goldring 5 SCDs
2	RAKES OF GLASGOW	Preston RSCDS Bk 11
3	MAPLE LEAF RANT	
4	THE HIGHLAND FAIR	Bk of Graded SCDs
5	HOLYROOD STRATHSPEY	RSCDS Bk 52
6	THE DASHING WHITE SERGEANT	RSCDS Bk 3
7	THE EDINBURGH CASTLE	SCDs for Children
8	SEANN TRUIBHAS WILLICHAN	T Wilson RSCDS Bk 27
9	IT'S NAE BOTHER	D Haynes Carnforth Coll 4
10	THE DEIL AMANG THE TAILORS	RSCDS Bk 14

Sheila Careless

A Trip to the East

A few years ago, Jo Anning (now Jo Hamilton) wrote a dance with the above title, on the occasion of attending a workshop in one of the Maritime Provinces. More recently, during Thanksgiving weekend, five of us from Winnipeg made another trip to the east. The occasion was the Nova Scotia Branch RSCDS 35th Anniversary Workshop and Ball. Shirley and Malcom Tinsley, Jane Natrass, and Lynn and Peter McClure travelled down on the Thursday, arriving in time to check in at the designated hotel and go out in search of an evening meal. We didn't find what we were looking for that evening – although we did meet a couple of dog walkers who gave us a brilliant tip for a restaurant for the next night. We made it back to the hotel just before the bar kitchen closed, so we did get to eat, and also met Fiona and David Miller from Lethbridge in the bar. Small world!

Friday we walked down to the Dartmouth waterfront and took the ferry across to Halifax. The day was spent touring in Halifax – Spring Garden Road, the Nova Scotia Art Gallery – to see the Maud Lewis exhibit – and the rum distillery – of course! Back across on the ferry in time to have dinner at the

excellent restaurant we'd heard of the night before, then catch a bus back to the hotel to change for the Ceilidh. We were a bit late arriving at the Ceilidh, spending quite a bit of time waiting for a bus, but still managed to deliver our prairie party piece, "Four Strong Winds", and enjoy the dancing.

Saturday – well, you all know how workshops go: classes in the morning (Malcolm watched boat races on Lake Banook, a short walk from the hotel, and a world class rowing and canoe/kayak racing site), various choices in the afternoon (more classes, ball prep, or more touring), then change and back for the dinner and ball. Jane delivered greetings from our Branch, and made a presentation of our own anniversary project, Prairie Gold, and we made a pitch for our own upcoming workshop. After all, if we could make it to the east coast, maybe some of them might come here. The buffet dinner was excellent, and the ball capped the evening. An unexpected bonus was meeting Elizabeth Frenette's Mom during the dinner and ball.

Sunday: morning classes, then the farewell lunch. Some of us had been to summer schools in Halifax in the past, so this weekend was a wonderful opportunity to connect again with friends made years before. An unexpected treat for Lynn and Peter was to meet up again with our good friend Mieko, from Japan. We first met at a Halifax summer school some years ago, had corresponded with her for many Christmases, but had not seen each other since the first meeting. Jane, Lynn and Peter travelled back to Winnipeg on Sunday, while Shirley and Malcom stayed on for a few more days of sight-seeing.

Did we mention the weather? It was summer weather in October. Perfect for touring, and not too hot for the dance workshops. How did they arrange that? Must get back to them to see if we can manage the same thing for our workshop. Also worth a mention, the wonderful hospitality and support from the host Branch: good advice when needed, assistance in organizing rides Altogether, a memorable, all in a good way, Trip to the East.



Peter, Lynn, Jane, Shirley and Malcolm on the harbour ferry to Halifax.

Photo by kindness of a stranger.

Peter McClure

Branch News

CD/booklet sale

Be sure to bring your wallet to the November 27 St. Andrew's Day Social. A large selection of CDs featuring dance music will be on sale for \$10, and dance booklets will be free. Copies of the Prairie Gold CD will also be available at no charge to members who do not already have one. This CD was produced by the Winnipeg Branch for their 50th anniversary in 2013, with music from local band, Scotch Measure. Cash or cheques will be accepted.

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.

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.

CANCELLATION POLICY FOR SNOW DAYS:

The COM has agreed to the following policy for cancellation of classes, when necessary because of inclement weather conditions:

- A decision to cancel that day's class will be made no later than 4:00 pm.
- An email will be sent out to all members as soon as possible.
- **IF THE WEATHER IS NASTY, PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL BEFORE HEADING OUT TO CLASS.**
- If you do not have access to email, please let your class teacher know and leave a phone number where you can be reached.

If in doubt, please call your class teacher or Gerri at (204) 488-7386.

Note: This policy will also apply to extra or special classes and socials that are not on a class day.

NOTICE FROM ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

The emergency door at the south west end of the hall is for emergencies only – as the sign reads.

The thermostat in the hall may be turned down at your will, and the exhaust fan may be switched on.

During the Spring, Summer and Fall, the entrance door must be kept shut or we will again have squirrels and mice. Also note: The windows can be opened during class but please ensure that they are all closed and locked and the fan is off before leaving the hall.

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. In the past, the Librarian has sent in Branch orders two or three times per year.

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.

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)

[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)

[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Montreal Branch](#)

[RSCDS St. John's \(Newfoundland\) Branch](#)

[Teachers Association Canada](#) : for teachers of Scottish country dancing.

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.

Out of Town Events (a subset of events)

Saturday, November 11, 2017 ~ 8:30am to 5:00pm
Toronto Workshop and Afternoon Dance
RSCDS Toronto Association celebrates its 60th Anniversary year:
<http://www.dancescottish.ca/Workshop.html>

November 18, 2017 Calgary 134th Annual St Andrew's Ball and Workshop
<http://standrewcaledonian.ca/upcoming-events-2/>

17-19 November 2017 Pacific Grove, CA, USA SF Branch Asilomar Weekend
Details at www.rscds-sf.org

November 25, 2017 Regina, Saskatchewan
St Andrew's Day Banquet and Ceilidh
rscdssask.org

December 28 – January 1 New Zealand Summer School
<http://dancescottish.org.nz>

February 16 -18, 2018 48th Annual Workshop and Ball
www.rscdsedmonton.com

March 2 – 4, 2018 Belleville ,Ontario Workshop Weekend
Phone 613 965 4212 email: david.aston@kos.net

Important Dates

Dancing on Thursday March 29, 2018 has been cancelled due to prior commitments by the Parish.

The AGM for RSCDS Winnipeg Branch is May 23, 2018

Next L&A: mid December

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Until further notice, please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to the Branch e-mail address: info@rscdswinnipeg.ca **Simple .rtf and .txt formats preferred & JPEG images.** Deadline for submissions early December. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca