

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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A Word from the Chair....

Hello to all the dancers of the Winnipeg branch. I welcome everyone back to the world of Scottish Country Dancing for another year. The dance season started well with the Branch open house held recently with close to forty bodies on the dance floor. Maureen Burnham provided a very good program and it was good to feel the muscle pains of another night of dancing. It was noticed that several new people attended who wanted to see what this dancing is all about and everyone in attendance had a good time. Now classes have begun for the regular dancing season. Hopefully everyone has a good year. Also, think about Thursday, September 22 which is to provide more dancing opportunities for all dancers.

I hope our new dancers have good experiences and everyone one has good and challenging experiences in Scottish Country dancing this year.

Scott MacRae

2015/16 Dance Season

7 September Wednesday	Open House and registration	
Week of 12 September	Autumn term classes begin	
27 October Thursday Extra class	St Paul's Hall	
24 November Thursday Extra Class	St Paul's Hall	
29 November Tuesday	St Andrews Social	
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	charge TBA
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.

Branch News

The Branch calendar as known to date is listed above. The "extra classes" in the autumn term are an initiative decided at COM in July. These are intended as an outreach, open to friends and family. As usual, the classes will be 8-10 PM at St Paul's, and there will be no charge. Also, there will be no charge for Branch socials this season!

TAC AGM

With branch support I represented the Winnipeg Scottish Country Dance teachers at the annual Teachers Association Canada (TAC) weekend in Sherbrooke Quebec this past July. It was a weekend to connect with teachers from many areas of Canada, USA and other parts of the world. This included an area reps meeting (as soon as I arrived on Friday evening), a welcome dance, classes on Saturday

morning, the annual general meeting, dinner and dance on Saturday evening, Sunday class and discussion with Jim Healy (chairman of the RSCDS) on Sunday afternoon. It was a very busy weekend and one that I enjoyed very much. It is important to be apart of this larger community sharing ideas, being inspired and to know we all share the same concerns of declining numbers in our branches.

Cheryl Durnin

TAC Summer School 2016
Bishop's University - Sherbrooke, Quebec

Summer School 2016 was, as usual, great fun and exhausting! While at Summer School, one can choose to do as much or as little as one wants. The week starts with a welcome dance on the Sunday evening. There are classes every morning. This year they had 4 classes - Basic, Intermediate, Social and Challenge. The afternoons offered a variety of classes such as personal technique, step dancing, highland dancing, quadrilles to mention a few. There is always a chance to learn a few of the ball dances as they don't walk the dances at the ball. So one could do many different things in the afternoon or do nothing at all. There is a social every evening where they do a few dances from the ball program plus many others. A evening of ceilidh dancing was held on Wednesday evening and the band played some pieces for us to sit and listen to and enjoy. Actually Laird Brown sang a song on Wednesday evening. You never know what the band will do. Friday evening was another ceilidh but this one was just entertainment. And entertaining it was! I have some videos if anyone is interested. Saturday morning brought an opportunity to go through all the dances on the ball program or go to a combined class. Of course, Saturday evening we had the dinner and the ball to close out the week. Oh yes, we need to mention the after parties every night after the social (or maybe we shouldn't mention them!). It is great dancing with so many people on the floor. I think the average was 8-10 sets for every dance. We had 12 up for Mairi's Wedding!

One of the best things about Summer School is reconnecting with people that you'd met the year before. Every time I go, I meet someone new and then look forward to seeing them the next year. It was really great to have another person from Winnipeg there this year and seeing that familiar face every day. The other great thing about Summer School is the opportunity to learn from different teachers and teaching styles and learning new dances. Probably the highlight for me was having William Williamson from Dumfries Scotland. He was the teacher for the teachers' weekend and one of the 4 for the rest of the week. Not only was he an exceptional teacher but he was very entertaining at the after parties and at the Friday night ceilidh.

The 4 teachers this year were William Williamson (Scotland), Fred DeMarse (US), Janet Walker (US) and Mary Murray (Canada). It was thrilling to have a full band every evening for the socials and to have a live musician in every class.

One person at Summer School this year was Jim Healy, chairman of the RSCDS Headquarters. There was a session one afternoon where he talked to people about what's happening at headquarters and answered questions. His focus was on the fact that we are an international organization. It's not them and us. We are all part of the same organization. Membership at headquarters has been on the decline so they are looking at how they can turn that around.

So hopefully I've created some interest in Summer School. Next year it's at UBC in Vancouver. I can hardly wait! If you want to know more you can go to the TAC website. Start saving your pennies (well nickels I guess) and hopefully we'll see more Winnipeg faces at Summer School 2017. It's a great experience. Feel free to ask Don or I any questions about it. I'm sure he will have more to say about his experience.

I'll close by adding a few photos. *Sheila Careless*



Don Johnson, Jim Healy (chairman RSCDS Headquarters) Sheila Careless
TAC Ball July 2016



TAC Summer School 2016 teachers:
Fred DeMarse, Mary Murray, William Williamson, Janet Walker



The band! Don Wood, Judi Nicholson, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser-Collins, Heather Cameron
(Bobby Brown Scholarship), Fred Collins, Laird Brown

Editor's Note: I think it's a good omen that we have members attending the TAC Summer School. There is a cost, and it does take a week (or more) out of our short summer, but dancing with new people, and new teachers can be eye opening, and the experience and enthusiasm you bring back enriches us all.

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

Your one stop shoe shop for all your dancing needs.

Clan Info and Scottish Shop

www.scotclans.com

SCD Online

In case you didn't know about these sites:

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.

Inter-city Scot 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

7-10 October 2016

Canmore, AB

Calgary Scottish Cultural Gathering

Dance workshop and more!

Whisky tasting, or celtic knotwork, anyone?

Details at calgaryscots.org

28-30 October 2016

Medicine Hat AB

Annual Workshop, Banquet & Ball

Details and forms at <http://nonprofit.memlane.com/scottish/workshop.html>

28-30 October 2016
Asilomar, CA, USA
RSCDS San Francisco Branch
Asilomar Weekend
Details and forms at www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org

4-6 November 2016
Kingsron, ON
Kingston Branch 50th Anniversary Workshop
Details at <http://rscdskingston.org>

12 November 2016
Toronto, ON
Annual Workshop and Afternoon Dance
Details and form at www.dancescottish.ca

17-19 February 2016
Honolulu, Hawaii
Aloha Winter Weekend
Details at www.rscdshawaii.org

Late 2017
Dancing tour of New Zealand
Visit www.toursbychris.com for contact info.

Important Dates

COM meetings: Next meetings 12 October and 2 November.

Next L&A: Deadline for the next issue 4 November.

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. This and several past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website www.rscdswinnipeg.ca